

ELES Implementation Plan 2024-25

Theme 1: Emissions reduction pathways to 2050

1.1 Agree evidence/baseline and set 5-yearly carbon budgets for Kent and Medway as a whole. Monitor delivery against the five-year carbon budgets for Kent and Medway as a whole.

1.2 Develop Kent and Medway emission reduction pathway to Net Zero by 2050. Monitor delivery against the high ambition pathway and the 1.5° compliant pathway set by the Tyndall Centre.

1.3 Develop local strategies that set out how Net Zero will be achieved in their area, using carbon budgets and emission reduction pathway report to inform the evidence base where appropriate.

1.4 Continue to develop and refine detailed emission reduction pathways for key sectors based on emerging policy and good practice, incorporating estimated costs where possible.

1.5 Monitor and publicly report progress against net zero targets

1.6 Consider how emissions from consumption could be calculated and incorporated into future area pathways/targets. Incorporate consumption-based emissions into ELES targets and implementation

Theme 2: Public sector decision making

2.2 Develop recommended requirements to be included within public sector contracts to align to net-zero ambition and support use of local goods and services where possible.

2.3 Review contracts and commissioning processes to implement recommended requirements, tailored to organisation/ local needs, as necessary.

2.4 Develop, test and rollout a comprehensive climate change impact assessment and social value framework for public sector decision making, with associated policies, guidance, training and support.

2.5 Encourage and support SMEs within public sector supply chains to effect positive environmental change by utilising Low Carbon Kent and linked support programmes across the county.

Theme 3: Planning and development

3.1 Refresh the Kent Design Guide to reflect clean growth, net-zero targets, and climate change adaptation.

3.2 Adopt and/or reference the refreshed Kent Design Guide as Supplementary Planning Documents, in line with Local Plan updates.

3.3 Secure agreement and identify scope and resource requirements to develop a shared Kent and Medway clean growth evidence-base and strategic planning policy and guidance framework.

3.4 Using the outputs from action 3.3, develop a shared Kent and Medway clean growth strategic planning policy and guidance framework that identifies latest evidence, good practice, position statements and policies for Local Plans and Development Management.

3.5 Raise clean growth / climate change awareness and skills of planners, planning committees, developers, and supply chain

3.6 Develop tailored Kent and Medway public sector building design guidance for new build and

Theme 4: Climate Emergency Investment Fund

4.1 Review existing internal and external funding streams, expertise and opportunities that could be used to deliver ELES actions. Develop into a central collaborative resource.

4.2 Accelerate the 'supply and demand' of nature-based climate solutions (understand demand, assess skills/ capacity gaps, develop resources to support delivery).

4.3 Create the framework for a SE-wide 'brokerage hub' that can bring together 'buyers' and 'sellers' to co-develop nature-based carbon sequestration projects.

4.4 Review and act on the outcomes of the SELEP Sector Support Fund project, and Accelerating Nature Based Climate Solutions conclusions.
4.5 Grow and maintain a portfolio of 'shovel-ready' renewable energy projects suitable for external funding.
4.6 Develop a portfolio of quick wins and 'shovel-ready' natural capital / carbon sequestration projects suitable for delivery through Net Gain or other external funding.
Theme 4: Buildings retrofit programme
5.1 Develop organisational action plans to deliver net zero public sector estate by 2030 at the latest. Monitor and report progress.
5.2 Implement a public sector building retrofit programme (energy and water), identifying joint projects that maximise economies of scale where possible.
5.3 Develop a Kent and Medway Domestic Retrofit Action Plan (excl. social housing) that identifies the actions and financial mechanisms for all income levels, to reduce emissions (electricity, heat, and water) from all property types, with evidence-led targets and costed actions where possible.
5.4 Secure funding and implement projects identified in the Domestic Retrofit Action Plan (exc. social housing).
5.5 Develop costed action plans for Net Zero social housing by 2030. Monitor and report progress. (new builds & retrofit)
5.6 Support and facilitate Registered Providers to develop costed action plans to decarbonise their housing stock. This should include the costs of material and labour.
5.7 Implement projects to improve the energy efficiency of social housing, focusing on whole house retrofit to PAS2035 standards and identifying joint projects that maximise economies of scale where
5.8 Update & deliver Kent Fuel Poverty Strategy (see: 5.3); supporting vulnerable and fuel poor households to access affordable energy.
5.9 Provide advice and guidance to private sector property owners, taking enforcement action where necessary, to ensure improvements are made on privately rented properties.
5.10 Support SMEs to retrofit energy efficiency and renewable technologies in business premises through Low Carbon Kent support and signposting to local solutions. (LoCASE grant funding ended in
5.11 Assess the feasibility and funding mechanisms for 'place-based' retrofit schemes (e.g. street-by-street, whole business park, community scale), combining business, residential, public realm retrofit
Theme 6: Transport
6.1 Review business mileage, set challenging reduction targets in light of COVID ways of working and expand sustainable travel policies that reduce the need to travel, encourage modal shift to active travel/public transport or increase car sharing.
6.2 Work in partnership to influence and develop plans to transition public sector fleets to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV).
6.3 Implement pedestrianisation & Rights of Way Improvement Plans for Kent and for Medway.
6.4 Update and implement the (KCWIP), related strategies, and the Medway Sustainable School Travel Strategy to promote and incentivise active travel through the provision of infrastructure, facilities,
6.5 Prepare and implement local walking and cycling strategies. Measure the amount of new and improved walking and cycling infrastructure delivered in Kent.
6.6 Work with public transport providers to achieve EURO VI emissions standards or better.

6.7. Trial new transport projects that drive the transition to Ultra Low Emission Vehicle public transport.

6.8 Trial and implement projects that support modal shift away from car ownership and/or reduce car dependency.

6.9 Work with private transport sector, including school transport providers and taxi licencing to incentivise and switch to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles.

6.10 Consider future opportunities and interventions for reducing emissions from freight and international traffic including use of rivers and wharfs, improved journey efficiency, improved efficiency of vehicles and Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme and ECOStars schemes.

6.11 Work collaboratively with the public and private sector to roll out electric charging points across Kent and Medway, in line with local EV strategies.

6.12 Support local SMEs to switch to ULEV vans through the Kent REVS Up for Cleaner Air scheme. : Support further measures to encourage Kent business to switch to electric vehicles.

6.13 Support progress in Kent regarding “low carbon multimodal transport hubs” to include measures such as multimodal integrated transport next to Fastrack electric BRT network, train stations, key bus corridors, public EV infrastructure, bike/e-bike share schemes, secure bike storage, electric car clubs with associated EV infrastructure, ecargo bike trials.

6.14 Tackle poor air quality hotspots through the implementation of Air Quality Action Plans.

Theme 7: Renewable energy

7.1 Undertake a Local Area Energy Plan for Kent (or multiple smaller LAEP's) that focus on all existing and emerging technologies.

7.2 Work in partnership to identify, support and promote new renewable energy projects across Kent and Medway, maximising funding from the Growth Fund, future Prosperity Fund and SE Energy Hub.

7.3 Continue to install solar panels on suitable public sector buildings and land, including offices, schools, and landfill sites.

7.4 Develop and implement the Maidstone Heat Project.

7.5 Identify the barriers and local authority role in supporting households to install renewable heat and electricity technologies. Incorporate findings into action 5.3 (Domestic Retrofit Action Plan, exc. social)

7.6 Develop and implement projects to support households to install renewable heat and electricity technologies.

7.7 Provide technical support for community renewable energy projects to include recommendations from Community Energy South on how to support community energy generation across Kent and

7.8 Support the development of future housing micro-grids, smart energy grids, and low carbon heat networks for new build homes.

Theme 8: Green infrastructure

8.1 Undertake an assessment of Kent and Medway's opportunities for natural solutions to climate change.

8.2 Develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Kent and Medway that agrees priorities for nature recovery, maps the most valuable existing areas for nature, and maps opportunities for creating or improving habitat for nature and delivering wider environmental goals (nature-based solutions).

8.3 Develop and implement a strategy to establish 1.5 million new trees (or their carbon sequestration equivalent) in Kent and Medway.

8.4 Develop cost effective and innovative approaches to establishing trees outside woodlands whilst strengthening biosecurity, through the Promoting Trees Outside Woodlands Project.

Theme 9: Supporting low carbon business

9.1 Utilise the Clean Growth South East supply chain analysis to help realise and link the economic opportunities from the low carbon sector across Kent and the wider South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) area.

9.2 Support local SMEs (small and medium sized enterprises) and public sector suppliers to progress through Steps to Environmental Management (STEM) training accreditation and enhance their knowledge of the key themes through Low Carbon Kent's Sustainable Business Toolkit.

9.3 Offer a low carbon support programme for SMEs, including support to signpost to funding, reduce costs, and carbon, and actively contribute to growth of the low carbon and renewable energy economy (LCREE) and environmental goods and services sectors (EGSS) through tailored support and

9.4 Support continued development of onshore & offshore wind sector, green hydrogen, and related local supply chains.

9.5 Drive an increase in the local circular economy within Kent's resident and business communities through effective support, benchmarking, collaboration, and business case support.

9.6 Investigate workforce upskill/ training requirements for retrofit and green business.

9.7 To consider the environmental impact of tourism in Kent and work with partners to measure the impact and benefit of tourism. Also, support tourist business to be more sustainable.

Theme 10: Communications

10.1 Develop a joint communications, engagement and behaviour change strategy and action plan

10.2a Develop a communication working group/network to ensure consistency of messages and facilitate joint working.

10.2b Consider the impact of reviewing and potentially rebranding the annual environment conference.

10.3 Maximise the impact of Great Big Green Week in Kent by promoting a shared calendar of events and supporting local activities.

10.4 Implement joint communication campaigns to raise awareness of the health impacts of air pollution and ways to protect health and improve air quality. Include progress on Kent air quality funding

10.5 Implement joint communication campaigns to increase modal shift to active travel / public transport.

10.6 Support joint communication campaigns on behaviour change projects focused on tackling residents carbon emissions.

10.7 Implement joint communication campaigns to help residents reduce their water bills / save water.

10.8 Implement joint communication campaigns to reduce resident's environmental impact

10.9 Implement joint communication campaigns to encourage and support SMEs to adopt environmentally sustainable practices.

10.10 Develop shared resources for public sector staff engagement.

10.11 Monitor and review effectiveness of communication campaigns and develop targeted behaviour change programmes.

10.12 Investigate the training, skills and education needs for climate awareness for Kent & Medway (including schools, residents)

2024 Status	Commentary
Red	REMOVED - following recommendations from KMEG. Local authorities have little control over major emission sources tracking of carbon budgets deemed ineffectual.
Red	REMOVED - as above.
Amber	AMENDED / MERGED with 1.5. NEW ACTION CREATED
Red	REMOVED - beyond scope of the strategy, stakeholder influence or ability
Amber	AMENDED / MERGED with 1.3. NEW ACTION CREATED
Red	REMOVED - beyond scope of the strategy, stakeholder influence or ability
Green	MERGED with 2.3 & 2.4. NEW ACTIONS CREATED
Amber	MERGED with 2.2 & 2.4. NEW ACTIONS CREATED
Amber	MERGED with 2.2 & 2.3. NEW ACTIONS CREATED
Amber	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions (supporting local carbon business)
Red	MERGED with 3.3. NEW ACTION CREATED
Red	MERGED with 3.1. NEW ACTION CREATED
Amber	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions
Red	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions
Amber	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions
Red	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions
Red	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions (Nature based solutions, Renewable energy)
Amber	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions (Nature based solutions)
Red	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions (Nature based solutions)

Red	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions (Nature based solutions)
Amber	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions (Renewable energy)
Amber	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions (Nature based solutions)
Amber	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions (carbon reduction)
Amber	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions (carbon reduction)
Red	ACTIONS 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.7,5.9,5.11 MERGED. NEW ACTION CREATED
Red	ACTIONS 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.7,5.9,5.11 MERGED. NEW ACTION CREATED
Amber	ACTIONS 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.7,5.9,5.11 MERGED. NEW ACTION CREATED
Amber	ACTIONS 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.7,5.9,5.11 MERGED. NEW ACTION CREATED
Amber	ACTIONS 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.7,5.9,5.11 MERGED. NEW ACTION CREATED
Red	RETAINED / UPDATED
Green	ACTIONS 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.7,5.9,5.11 MERGED. NEW ACTION CREATED
Green	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions (low carbon business)
Red	ACTIONS 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.7,5.9,5.11 MERGED. NEW ACTION CREATED
Red	RETAINED & UPDATED
Amber	Retained, unchanged.
Green	REMOVED - no additionality provided / covered in other strategies
Green	REMOVED - no additionality provided / covered in other strategies (specifically, Local Transport Plan)
Amber	REMOVED - no additionality provided / covered in other strategies (specifically, Local Transport Plan)
Amber	RETAINED & UPDATED

Green	RETAINED & UPDATED
Green	REMOVED - lack of influence
Red	RETAINED & UPDATED
Amber	REMOVED - no additionality provided / covered in other strategies (specifically, Local Transport Plan)
Green	RETAINED & UPDATED
Green	RETAINED & UPDATED
Amber	REMOVED - no additionality provided / covered in other strategies (specifically, Local Transport Plan)
Green	REMOVED - no additionality provided / covered in other strategies (specifically, Local Transport Plan)
Amber	RETAINED & UPDATED
Amber	RETAINED & UPDATED (MERGED with 7.3)
Green	RETAINED & UPDATED (MERGED with 7.2)
Amber	REMOVED - local project not of regional interest.
Amber	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions (resident and community support)
Green	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions (resident and community support)
Amber	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions (resident and community support)
Red	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions (planning and development, and resident and community support)
Green	RETAINED & UPDATED
Green	RETAINED & UPDATED
Green	RETAINED & UPDATED
Green	REMOVED - covered in Local Nature Recovery Strategy
Amber	RETAINED & UPDATED

Amber	RETAINED & UPDATED 9.2,9.3, 9.4 MERGED
Red	RETAINED & UPDATED 9.2,9.3, 9.4 MERGEDD
Green	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions (renewable energy)
Green	RETAINED & UPDATED 9.2,9.3, 9.4 MERGED
Amber	REMOVED - work programme is referred to in other actions (resident and community support)
Green	REMOVED - beyond scope of the strategy or stakeholder influence or ability / covered in other strategies (Visit Kent Sustainable Tourism Action Plan)
Green	RETAINED & UPDATED, ACITONS 10.1,10.2a,b 10.3 MERGED
Amber	RETAINED & UPDATED, ACITONS 10.1,10.2a,b 10.3 MERGED
Red	RETAINED & UPDATED, ACITONS 10.1,10.2a,b 10.3 MERGED
Green	RETAINED & UPDATED, ACITONS 10.1,10.2a,b 10.3 MERGED
Green	RETAINED & UPDATED, ACITONS 10.4, 10.5, 10.6, 10.7 10.8 MERGED
Green	RETAINED & UPDATED, ACITONS 10.4, 10.5, 10.6, 10.7 10.8 MERGED
Green	RETAINED & UPDATED, ACITONS 10.4, 10.5, 10.6, 10.7 10.8 MERGED
Red	RETAINED & UPDATED, ACITONS 10.4, 10.5, 10.6, 10.7 10.8 MERGED
Green	RETAINED & UPDATED, ACITONS 10.4, 10.5, 10.6, 10.7 10.8 MERGED
Green	RETAINED & UPDATED 10.9,10.10 MERGED
Green	RETAINED & UPDATED 10.9,10.10 MERGED
Green	REMOVED/REDUNDANT - all actions in the plan are monitored and removed for effectiveness
Green	RETAINED & UPDATED 10.9,10.10 MERGED

REVISED ACTIONS ELES Implementation Plan for 2026

NEW THEME 1: Carbon reduction

1.1. Continue to deliver local energy efficiency and emission management strategies across owned estates and local areas, monitoring progress regularly.

Theme 2: Public Sector Decision Making

Design, test, and implement a Sustainable Procurement Toolkit and an Environmental Impact Assessment framework to align public sector operations with environmental objectives. Provide targeted training and support to upskill staff across Local Authorities in their effective use.

Develop a standardised approach to Scope 3 reporting.

Theme 3: Planning and development

Refresh the Kent Design Guide to reflect clean growth and climate resilience. Integrate advice into Local Planning Authority decision-making by advocating with planners.

NEW THEME 4: Resident and Community Support

Develop and implement a Kent and Medway Homes Retrofit Plan. Outline collaborative actions to improve health, environment and reduce domestic emissions across a range of property types and tenures, while improving the skills capacity within Kent and Medway.

Update the Kent and Medway Fuel Poverty Strategy, supporting fuel poor households to reduce their energy consumption, access social tariffs and other available support.

Collaborate with local residents and communities to promote and champion energy efficiency and renewable technologies.

Support community groups on community-owned energy projects with information, advice and resources.

Theme 5: Transport

Collaborate with public transport providers to develop and implement opportunities that transition petrol and diesel vehicles to sustainable alternatives.

Utilise taxi licensing regulations and Council procurement policies to increase the adoption of EVs in taxi services and school transport, aiming for a reduction in emissions.

Revise staff travel benefits and car user policies to support sustainable transport, including car clubs, EV lease options, and incentives for low-emission vehicles.

Explore and develop council-owned fleet efficiency options that optimises costs, involving a mix of technologies.

Develop a shared EV charge point master plan for Kent and Medway.

Theme 6: Renewable energy

Undertake Local Area Energy Planning for Kent and Medway that focuses on all existing and emerging technologies.

Develop a strategy for renewable energy generation and storage across Kent and Medway.

Theme 7: Green Infrastructure

Support opportunities and ongoing delivery of nature-based solutions within the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Continue to deliver Kent Plan Tree for 1.5 million new trees in Kent and Medway, reporting on progress.

Develop a Kent and Medway Adaptation Plan.

Theme 8: Supporting Low Carbon Business

Work with supply chains to enhance understanding of sustainable opportunities, particularly business resilience and economic growth. Signpost to local solutions and training.

Work with higher energy-consuming businesses and clusters to ensure low-emissions solutions. Explore renewable energy, heat and resource-sharing within growth plans, by including this in the Kent and Medway Economic Framework.

Support SMEs to improve energy efficiency in premises to reduce emissions by offering financial assistance or signposting to local or other solutions.

Theme 9: Communications

Maintain a communication network to ensure consistency of messages and facilitate joint working, including the development of shared resources for public sector staff engagement.

Drive engagement and behaviour change through initiatives such as energy and water saving, active travel, climate-related health awareness.

Investigate the training, skills and education needs for climate awareness for Kent & Medway (including schools, residents).