

[plan will be designed following input from Members and officers. All images and infographics currently included are temporary]

# Kent County Council

## (Draft) Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2025 - 2028



| <b>Governance Route</b>   |             |                |
|---------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| <b>Place</b>              | <b>Date</b> | <b>Version</b> |
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## **1. Introduction**

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Kent's climate is changing. More extreme weather, such as extended periods of excessive precipitation, periods of exceptionally hot or cold weather and prolonged spells without precipitation, is already being experienced across the county. Conditions are expected to shift significantly further away from what Kent has previously enjoyed, towards an increasingly disruptive and challenging climate.

Changes in extreme and average weather conditions are already affecting life in Kent and impact the built environment, communities, economy, natural environment, and public services that shape the county. Climate change adaptation can help to limit the potential harm caused by changes to Kent's climate, as well as harness any of the potential opportunities<sup>1</sup>, whilst also delivering other benefits across the county.

The cumulative effect of historic emissions and land use change mean that global temperatures are likely to continue to rise until the middle of this century<sup>2</sup>. This means that action to adapt is needed now to ensure that Kent is prepared for an unpredictable climate that will last throughout the rest of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Kent County Council (KCC) is committed to working with partners, communities and other stakeholders to deliver a countywide response to adapting to the impacts of climate change. KCC aspires to be an organisation that is climate resilient, that works effectively with others in different sectors to build collective resilience and fulfils its role as a community leader across Kent.

As part of this work, KCC must first focus on the assets that it manages, the services that it delivers, and the areas that it can influence across the county. That is what this plan seeks to deliver, with the overarching aim of the KCC Climate Change Adaptation Plan being:

***“To ensure that KCC is resilient to the negative impacts and well-positioned to benefit from any opportunities that arise from Kent's changing climate.”***

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<sup>1</sup> CCC. 2021. Technical report (CCRA3-IA). Glossary: <https://www.ukclimaterisk.org/publications/technical-report-ccra3-ia/glossary/#section-1-glossary-for-the-technical-report-of-the-third-uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-ccra3-ia>

<sup>2</sup> IPCC. 2021: Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/#SPM>.

## 2. Policy landscape

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### 2.1. National context

The Climate Change Act was passed in 2008. It sets out what the government is required to do to limit the extent of climate change and its impacts. Part 4 of the Act outlines how the government needs to plan for the impact of climate change and what it will do to adapt. The government is committed to producing a national climate change risk assessment every five years, followed by a National Adaptation Programme (NAP), which outlines what action will be taken to address any identified risks during the risk assessment<sup>3</sup>.

Part 2 of the Act outlines the role of the Climate Change Committee (CCC), an expert advisory group who undertake the national climate change risk assessment and review the implementation of the NAP<sup>4</sup>. The CCC has set out required outcomes for different sectors across the UK. The communities sector, the most relevant to local government, requires that 'good local authority adaptation planning' occurs, enabled by 'understanding and skills in managing climate risks in local authorities'<sup>5</sup>.

### 2.2. KCC context

KCC recognised the UK climate emergency on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 in response to the threats and opportunities presented by climate change<sup>6</sup>. In doing so, the council is committed to providing resources and aligning its policies to deliver on adapting to and mitigating climate change.

The following year, KCC published the Climate Change Risk and Impact Assessment for Kent and Medway (CCRIA). The CCRIA outlined some of the threats and opportunities that climate change presents to the area and provided recommendations for future action.

The four key recommendations from the CCRIA were:

- Undertake more in-depth research into localised and specific climate risks and impacts to build the evidence base, awareness and capacity to take action.

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<sup>3</sup> Climate Change Act 2008, Part 4: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/part/4>

<sup>4</sup> Climate Change Act 2008, Part 2: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/part/2>

<sup>5</sup> CCC. 2023. CCC Adaptation Monitoring Framework. Assessing the effectiveness of adaptation action across the UK: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/ccc-adaptation-monitoring-framework/?chapter=3-how-we-monitor-progress-on-preparing-for-climate-change#3-how-we-monitor-progress-on-preparing-for-climate-change>

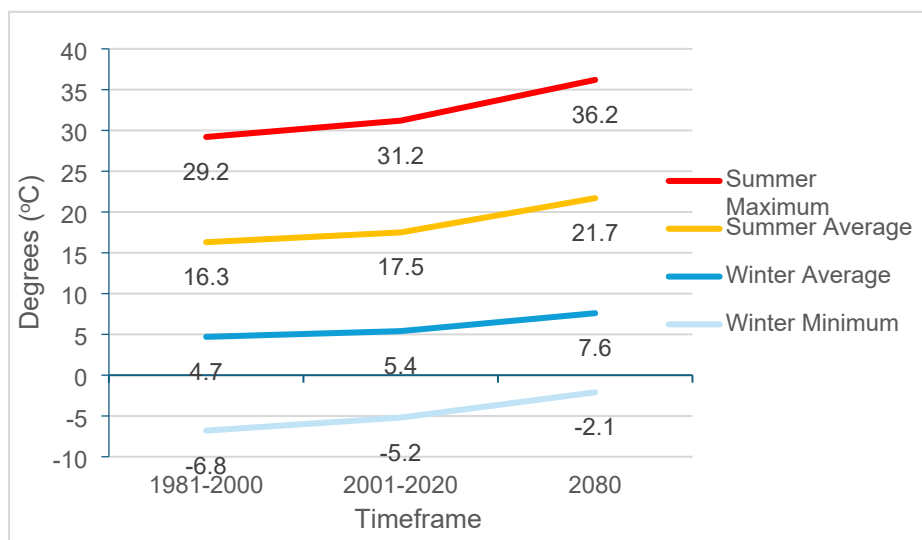
<sup>6</sup> KCC. 23 May 2019. 145. Motions for Time Limited Debate – Climate Emergency: <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=91285>

- Ensure projects, plans and processes have considered climate change and are resilient to climate risk in the long-term.
- Take action to reduce future financial costs.
- Invest in cross-sector co-benefits.<sup>7</sup>

### 3. Kent’s changing climate

#### 3.1. Climate projections

Climate projections are an estimation of what future climates may look like. They can be produced by combining weather data with future greenhouse gas emission scenarios, land use changes, and aerosols<sup>8</sup>. In 2018, the Met Office Hadley Centre published the most recent UK climate projections. As referenced in the Met Office’s Local Authority Climate Service<sup>9</sup>, under the worst-case scenario Kent could experience:



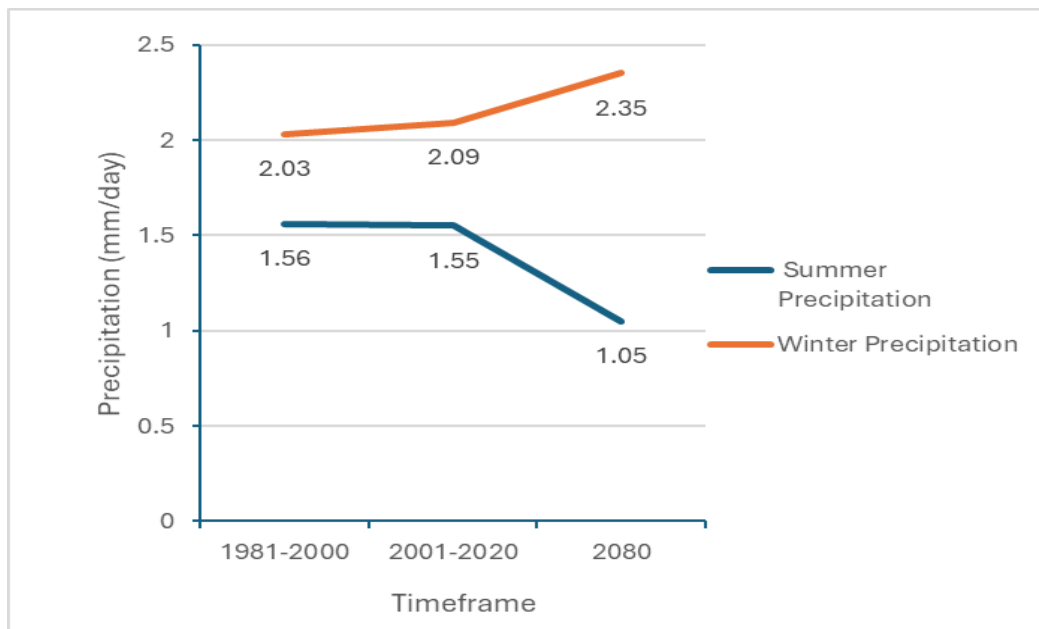
| Temperature    | Change (°C)        |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Summer Maximum | +7 (+6.2 - +8.2)   |
| Summer Average | +4.2 (+3.7 - +5.0) |
| Winter Minimum | +4.7 (+3.5 - +6.1) |
| Winter Average | +2.9 (+2.1 - +3.5) |
| Annual Average | +3.4 (+3.0 - +4.0) |

<sup>7</sup> JBA Consulting. 2020. Climate Change Risk and Impact Assessment for Kent and Medway. Part 1: Methodology and Summary of Findings: [https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0015/111381/CCRIA-for-Kent-and-Medway-part-one-methodology-and-summary-findings.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/111381/CCRIA-for-Kent-and-Medway-part-one-methodology-and-summary-findings.pdf)

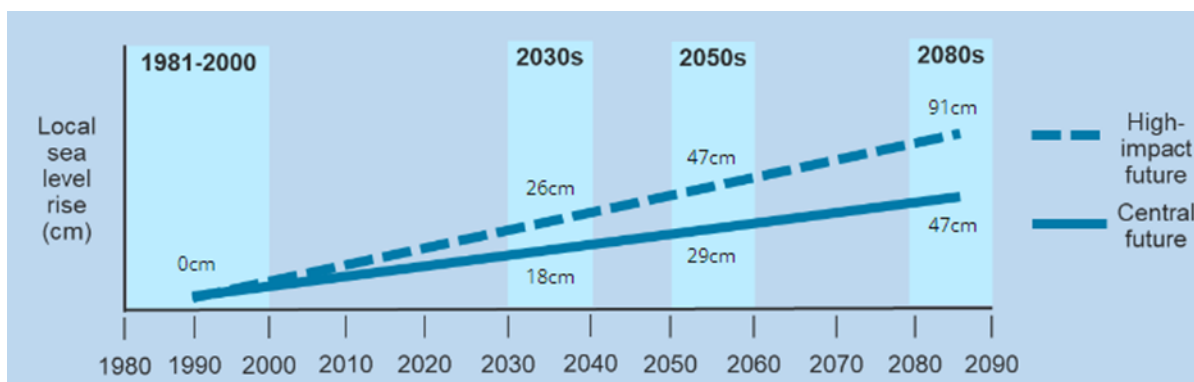
<sup>8</sup> IPCC. 2021: Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Glossary: [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGIII\\_Annex-I.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_Annex-I.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> The Met Office. 2024. Local Climate Adaptation Service. Version 1.0. Available at: <https://climatedataportal.metoffice.gov.uk/pages/lacs>

| Precipitation | Change (%) |
|---------------|------------|
|---------------|------------|



|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Summer rate                                      | -33 (-46 to -22)   |
| Winter rate                                      | +16 (+4 to +27)    |
| Regional hourly extreme (20mm/h) events per year | +207 <sup>10</sup> |



| Sea Level Rise | Change (cm) |
|----------------|-------------|
| Local level    | 47 - 91     |

<sup>10</sup> Kendon, E.J., et al. 2023. Variability conceals emerging trend in 100yr projections of UK local hourly rainfall extremes. *Nat Communications* **14** (1133).

### 3.2. Potential impacts

These changes to average temperatures, precipitation, and sea levels will increase the variability of weather that Kent experiences. This is likely to lead to both positive and negative impacts that will increase in frequency and intensity over time. Some of the climate hazards that are likely to occur in Kent include:

- Landslips and soil erosion.
- Coastal, fluvial, groundwater, and surface water flooding.
- Heatwaves.
- Wildfires.
- Drought.
- Storm events.

Climate hazards cause climate impacts, which are felt by businesses, communities, ecosystems, and organisations. In recent years, the following impacts have occurred in Kent:

- Over 6,000 homes were left without power due to Storm Ciarán in 2023<sup>11</sup>.
- Midges carrying bluetongue disease infected livestock in 2023 and 2024<sup>12</sup>.
- The Road of Remembrance, Folkestone was closed throughout the entirety of 2024 due to a landslip<sup>13</sup>.
- 172 excess deaths were recorded during heat periods of Summer 2022<sup>14</sup>.
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service responded to 399 grass fires in July 2022<sup>15</sup>.
- Bewl Water's reservoir levels dropped to 42% in October 2022<sup>16</sup>.

Whilst the negative impacts of climate change outweigh any potential benefits, there are still positive outcomes that could arise from Kent's future climate. Examples of these include:

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<sup>11</sup> BBC News. 2023. Kent: Delays at Port of Dover as Storm Ciarán lashes county: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-67287143>

<sup>12</sup> BBC News. 2024. Bluetongue: South East livestock farmers warned over virus risk: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clynr9r5v1vo>

<sup>13</sup> Folkestone & Hythe District Council. 2024. Folkestone landslips 2024: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/parks-beaches-open-spaces/folkestone-landslips-2024#:~:text=The%20number%20taking%20place%20during%20February%20and%20March,makes%20it%20prone%20to%20erosion%20and%20being%20unstable>

<sup>14</sup> ONS. 2022. Excess mortality during heat-periods, England and Wales: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/excessmortalityduringheatperiodsenglandandwales>

<sup>15</sup> BBC News. 2022. UK wildfires: Firefighters on tackling flames moving faster than you can run: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-62485130>

<sup>16</sup> Bewl Water. 2022. Recovery for Bewl Water reservoir levels: <https://www.bewlwater.co.uk/recovery-for-bewl-water-reservoir-levels/>

- Longer growing seasons.
- Reduced winter mortality.
- New tourism and commercial opportunities.
- Reduced winter energy consumption.

### 3.3. Reducing the impact

Identifying the risk that climate change poses, and implementing ways to proactively manage the risk, can help to limit potential damage and disruption before impacts occur. Climate risk is typically broken down into 3 aspects: the climate hazard, the level of exposure to the hazard, and the ability to cope with the hazard.

#### **Climate Risk = Climate Hazard x Exposure x Vulnerability**

This means that whilst there is very little that can be done to reduce the extent of a climate hazard when it occurs, it is possible to reduce exposure and vulnerability to a point where climate risks are less impactful.

### 3.4. Considerations for KCC

The most recent UK Climate Change Risk Assessment identified 61 cross-sectoral risks and opportunities<sup>17</sup>. Some of these physical risks are applicable to KCC and emphasise areas of consideration for this plan. These include:

- Risks to health and wellbeing.
- Risks to building fabric and other structures.
- Risks to IT assets.
- Risks to the highway and public rights of way assets.
- Risks to natural capital and landscapes (tree stock, grass verges, etc.).
- Risks to utilities (gas, electricity, water, permitted/licenced wastewater systems).
- Risks to social care provision.
- Risks to educational service provision.
- Risks to external service provision and supply chains.

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<sup>17</sup> CCC. 2021. Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk. Advice to Government for the UK's third Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3): <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Independent-Assessment-of-UK-Climate-Risk-Advice-to-Govt-for-CCRA3-CCC.pdf>



Physical risks are linked to financial and reputational risks. Increased expenditure to repair damage to assets, maintain safe working environments, cover rising insurance premiums, provide new or additional services to residents who through their vulnerability are disproportionately affected, and reduced service user and resident satisfaction are all possible if physical climate risks are left unmanaged.

## **4. Responding to the climate emergency**

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### **4.1. Seizing the opportunity of adapting**

Through effective climate change adaptation, Kent could become a healthier, safer, more sustainable and prosperous place to live. There is an opportunity to make beneficial change across the county through co-benefits and added value, which can help KCC and partners to not only increase resilience to the impacts of climate change, but also make progress towards achieving other strategic objectives and priorities, all while benefitting Kent's residents.

An example of this is how implementing nature-based solutions to reduce heat stress, such as installing green walls on buildings or targeted tree planting in urban areas, can deliver the following benefits:

- Creation of new habitats for wildlife.
- Absorption of carbon dioxide.
- Improvements in surface water management.
- Improvements in air quality.
- Creation of more attractive spaces and amenities.

Adapting to some of the negative impacts of climate change can deliver economic benefits, such as productivity gains from reduced weather-induced disruption and cost savings from less expenditure on healthcare. Similarly, harnessing opportunities arising from a changing climate could lead to reduced expenditure on treating winter illnesses in the health sector, new commercial opportunities for the agricultural and tourism sectors, and less expenditure on gas and electricity to power domestic and non-domestic buildings

during colder months. These economic benefits can act as a potential stimulant of economic growth in Kent, assuming that savings are reinvested into Kent's economy and productivity gains lead to greater consumption or investment.

However, adapting to climate change will present a financial cost to KCC, as adjustments to service delivery and asset management are needed to mitigate additional service demands and pressures driven by climate change. KCC services are impacted by climate change to varying degrees of extent, but those that are responsible for vulnerable residents and assets are most likely to experience increasing budgetary pressures, due to the combined effect of climatic, demographic, and societal changes.

Without adapting, it is likely that over time these budgetary pressures would exceed the cost associated with adapting to climate change. The incidence of costs and benefits can mean that expenditure on adaptation measures may not directly benefit those that make the initial investment. However, when considered in totality, there is evidence to suggest that certain climate change adaptation interventions deliver positive benefit-to-cost ratios, as shown in Figure 1:

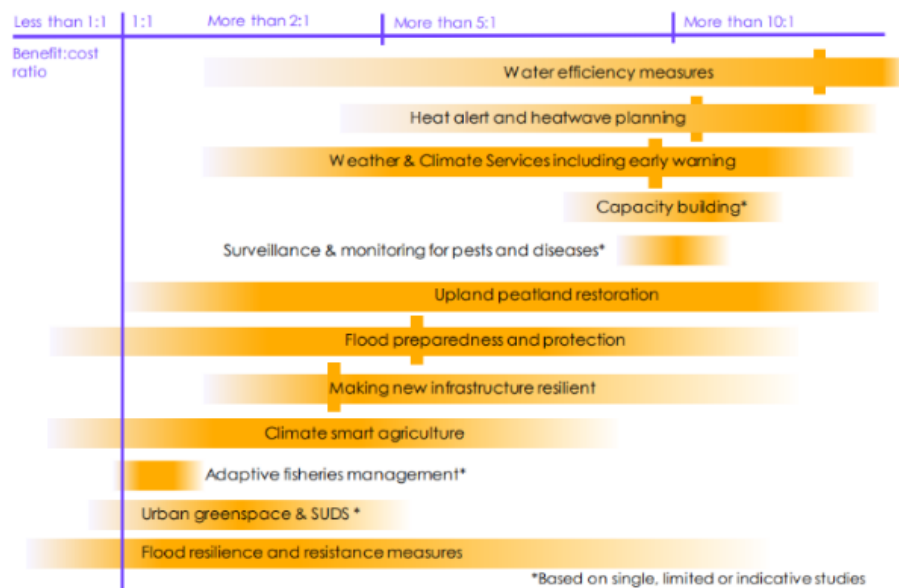


Figure 1. Benefit-cost ratios of adaptation measures included in the UK Government's Third Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3).

That is why it is vital that KCC explores opportunities to adapt to climate change and considers not just the cost of action, but also the value of any potential benefits that may arise to both KCC and partners across the county.

#### **4.2. Action to date**

Since recognising the climate emergency and publishing the Kent & Medway CCRIA, KCC has taken numerous steps to address climate impacts.

KCC has led and participated in match-funded EU Interreg projects that have sought to increase resilience to climate change within Kent. Reduced heat stress, increased resilience to flood risk and improved water resource use have all been achieved through nature-based and technical solutions, such as urban tree planting and the creation of a rainwater harvesting calculator.

KCC has delivered projects to reduce flood risk in areas where Kent residents have experienced flooding, such as those at Catts Place in Paddock Wood, St Katherine's School in Snodland, and George V Park in Margate. KCC has also coordinated water audit visits, in collaboration with Thames Water and South East Water, to increase water efficiency across its estate, schools, and non-KCC schools, within Thames Water & South East Water supply areas.

KCC has also factored the potential impact of climate change into corporate strategy and processes. KCC's Strategic Statement Framing Kent's Future (2022-2026) includes 'ensuring that Kent is well placed to adapt to climate change' within the 3<sup>rd</sup> key priority 'Environmental Step Change'<sup>18</sup>. In 2022, climate change was identified and listed as a risk on KCC's Corporate Risk Register for the first time. In 2024, KCC's Environment Plan listed adapting to climate change as one of six areas of environmental work that the council delivers.

#### **4.3. What next?**

KCC has done some great work through pilots and individual projects to increase resilience to climate change and embed climate change into corporate processes. The next step is to upscale activity across the council so that adapting to climate change becomes a part of KCC's business-as-usual activity.

This will involve capacity building through training and upskilling staff and the provision of support and guidance across the organisation, so that services feel empowered to plan for climate change and act upon climate risks and opportunities. Services will

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<sup>18</sup> KCC. 2022. Framing Kent's Future – Our Council Strategy 2022-2026: [https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/136431/Framing-Kents-Future-strategy-document.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/136431/Framing-Kents-Future-strategy-document.pdf)

be supported in this by officers who have a strong knowledge and understanding of climate adaptation, who will be able to help to guide services through the process of applying climate change to service delivery.

To achieve this change in approach, the following objectives have been selected, based on recommendations provided by the Climate Change Committee and the Climate Change Risk and Impact Assessment for Kent and Medway, as described in Section 2.

**Objective 1: Raise awareness of the risks and opportunities of climate change across KCC.**

**Objective 2: Integrate climate change adaptation into KCC's decision-making and service delivery.**

**Objective 3: Explore opportunities to act upon climate risks and impacts affecting services.**

**Objective 4: Encourage climate change adaptation through KCC activity across Kent.**

#### **4.4. Funding**

KCC's Climate Change Adaptation Plan has been developed by base funded staff from the Environment and Circular Economy Division, and at no additional cost to the council. Staff time will be the main resource required to deliver the objectives and actions that are set out in this plan and will be undertaken by base funded staff from all services involved. The objectives and actions are predominantly focused on capacity building through upskilling and knowledge transfer, as well as practical support and adaptive planning. This is why no additional expenditure is anticipated in the short term.

The plan will help to identify the risks and implications of climate change on KCC and the services that it delivers. The understanding gained from this process can be used to determine the appropriate service adaptation and mitigation in future spending reviews. Changing approaches to how activities are undertaken could lead to a spend-to-avoid approach, which could then present the opportunity to invest further in climate change adaptation measures. This will be entirely dependent on the development of robust business cases, which is what this plan seeks to facilitate, and where match funding, or in-kind funding, may be required, it will be assessed on a project-by-project basis.

Financing options underpinned by KCC's emerging green finance strategy will provide an alternative route to funding for adaptive measures. This will be crucial in funding climate change adaptation interventions moving forward, as current budgets are highly unlikely to be able to fund the measures that are needed to meet the scale of the challenge that climate change poses to KCC, unless there are significant changes to how local government is funded.

## 5. Implementation and monitoring progress

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This plan will be assessed against the progress made on each action and corresponding key outcome listed in the action plan. Progress made on each action will be considered and reviewed by the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on an annual basis.

To facilitate this process, annual reviews and workplans will be developed. The first of these annual workplans will be developed once this plan has been adopted and they will be published in March 2025, prior to the start of the 2025/26 financial year. These documents will define the specific yearly activity that will be undertaken for each action. Milestones will be revised after each review to inform the workplan for the following year.

The KCC Environment Board will oversee the implementation of the plan and monitor its progress. The Environment Board will receive mid-year updates on advancements made over the first and second halves of each annual workplan. This will aid risk and issue management processes and allow for escalation, if required. A full breakdown of the governance structure that the plan sits within can be found in Appendix 1.

The criteria for reviewing the progress of each action are set out in Table 1. This follows a similar methodology used by the Climate Change Committee to evaluate progress on implementation of the National Adaptation Plan.

Table 1:

| Scoring criteria for delivery and implementation |          |
|--|----------|
| Score  | Criteria |

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Completed          | Actions have been completed or are being maintained at a high level.           |
| Ongoing            | Actions are progressing but are yet to be completed.                           |
| Incomplete         | Actions are not progressing or were not completed within the agreed timeframe. |
| Unable to evaluate | Work streams yet to commence.  |

## 6. Action plan 2025 - 2028

Although the focus of this climate change adaptation plan is on KCC, the council understands that it cannot achieve its aim of adapting to climate change by working in isolation. That is why the work required to deliver on the objectives set out earlier in this Plan will require collaboration from across the organisation, alongside partners, and throughout Kent's wider community. To start this process, KCC will aim to deliver on the following actions:

| Action  | Description   | Responsible Division             | Key Outcomes  |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Objective 1: Raise awareness of the risks and opportunities of climate change across KCC</b>   |   |                                  |   |
| <b>Assess the risks and impacts of climate change across all services</b>                         | To better understand the risk that climate change poses to KCC, climate change officers will work with officers across all services to undertake service-level climate risk assessments.                              | All divisions                    | Quantity of climate risk registers for each KCC service completed   |
| <b>Brief services on the impact of climate change</b>   | Climate change officers will provide briefings and presentations to services that seek support in developing their understanding of climate change and how it impacts their work.                                     | Environment and Circular Economy | Quantity of briefings and presentations delivered.  |
| <b>Discuss climate change adaptation at relevant environmental, leadership, and member groups</b> | Climate change adaptation will be discussed at environmental groups for KCC staff and members, such as: Environment Boards, Environmental Champions Network, and Kent Environment Strategy Cross-Party Members Group. | Environment and Circular Economy | Quantity of agendas of relevant internal environmental, leadership, and member groups, with climate change adaptation featured. |

**Objective 2: Integrate climate change adaptation into KCC's decision-making and service delivery**

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Create action plans to address risks identified during risk assessments</b></p>   | <p>As part of the risk assessment process, controls and actions will be established that mitigate identified risks. Controls and actions will provide the basis for service-level action plans, which services will write and outline what they need to do to adapt to climate change moving forward.</p>  | <p>All divisions</p>  | <p>Quantity of service-level action plans created.</p>   |
| <p><b>Embed climate change adaptation into decision-making activity</b></p>   | <p>KCC has numerous environmental commitments, including climate change adaptation. Climate change adaptation will be considered in future KCC decisions through the use of an assessment and guidance tool.</p>   | <p>Environment and Circular Economy</p>                             | <p>Quantity of future key decisions with climate change adaptation considered.</p>   |
| <p><b>Embed justified and proportionate contractual requirements for climate adaptation into commissioning and procurement frameworks</b></p> | <p>KCC contracts with a range of organisations from different sectors to deliver services on behalf of the council. Contractual requirements for climate adaptation will be embedded within commissioning and procurement processes to ensure that suppliers build climate resilience into the services they deliver.</p>  | <p>Environment and Circular Economy, Commercial and Procurement</p> | <p>Justified and proportionate contractual requirements and supporting guidance for procurement and commissioning staff. Quantity of awarded contracts with climate risk considered.</p> |
| <p><b>Explore implementing enhanced proactive maintenance and continuing improvement in Kent's Highways Asset Management Plan</b></p>         | <p>Increased degradation of road surfaces is likely to occur as a result of changes in precipitation patterns due to climate change. Preservation works to seal road surfaces are extremely cost-effective treatments and on average extend the life of a road by about 8-10 years. By increasing preservation works KCC undertakes, the decline in the condition of our network can be slowed whilst maintaining the resilience of our highway network.</p> | <p>Highways and Transport</p>                                       | <p>Percentage change in Highways maintenance budget invested in preservation over renewal.</p>   |



| <b>Objective 3: Explore opportunities to act upon climate risks and impacts that affect KCC services.</b> |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Participate in adaptation-related projects funded by external partners</b>                             | Opportunities to participate in adaptation-related projects will arise throughout the life cycle of this plan. Services will seek to explore externally funded opportunities that can help to build climate resilience within their area of work, as and when they become available.  | All divisions  | Quantity of adaptation-related projects that are participated in across the council.  |
| <b>Create pilots or projects that build climate resilience</b>  | Certain KCC services may already be aware of and experiencing climate change impacts. Resource availability permitting, services will look to create project work that addresses climate risks that are affecting service delivery and asset management, in order to improve resilience to climate change.                              | All divisions  | Quantity of new climate change adaptation project work created from within the council.   |
| <b>Objective 4: Encourage climate change adaptation through KCC activity across Kent</b>                  |   |  |   |
| <b>Promote climate change adaptation policies in planning</b>   | The planning system plays an important role in shaping what Kent looks like moving forward. By making recommendations on what will be included in future planning, KCC can steer activity towards including more considerations for climate change.   | Environment and Circular Economy, Growth and Communities | Quantity of corporate responses to local plans, housing applications, other developments, and countywide guidance, featuring climate change adaptation. |
| <b>Deliver climate change adaptation benefits through nature recovery activities</b>                      | KCC is responsible for coordinating local nature recovery across Kent. Adapting to climate change is not the primary reason for restoring nature, but it is one of many co-benefits that arises from doing so. By delivering on activities to restore nature through partnership work, KCC can help upscale climate resilience in Kent. | Environment and Circular Economy                         | Quantity of nature recovery activities with climate change adaptation benefits overseen.  |

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Input into regional flood risk and water management activities</b></p>  | <p>KCC works with the local water supply companies and the regional water resources alliance (WRSE) and national charities to promote water efficiency and water savings. KCC will encourage more ambitious targets to save water and use it more efficiently.</p>   | <p>Environment and Circular Economy</p>                         | <p>Quantity of responses to non-KCC strategy and creation of KCC strategy.</p>                                 |
| <p><b>Support Southern Water's Clean Rivers and Seas Plan</b></p>   | <p>Southern Water established the Clean Rivers and Seas Task Force to reduce storm overflow releases. KCC will work with Southern Water to retrofit sections of Kent's highway network with SuDS to reduce combined sewage overflows and surface water flooding.</p>   | <p>Environment and Circular Economy, Highways and Transport</p> | <p>Quantity of planned implementation of Pathfinder Projects on KCC assets.</p>                                |
| <p><b>Continue to produce messaging on public health risks associated with climate impacts</b></p>                          | <p>KCC is responsible for helping to improve the general health of everyone in Kent. Climate change is one of many wider determinants of health. KCC produces messaging for residents on how climate hazards, such as extreme heat or cold, can affect their health. KCC will continue delivering this messaging to ensure that residents are aware of what they can do during periods of climatic extremes.</p> | <p>Public Health</p>  | <p>Quantity of climate-related public health messaging campaigns delivered.</p>                                |
| <p><b>Create relevant guidance for how Kent's businesses and third sector organisations can adapt to climate change</b></p> | <p>The Kent &amp; Medway Economic Framework (KMEF) is the Kent &amp; Medway Economic Partnership main strategy, and it recognises the economic impact of climate change within its SWOT analysis. KCC will seek to provide guidance and information to businesses, where required, to help them adapt to climate change.</p>   | <p>Environment and Circular Economy, Growth and Communities</p> | <p>Quantity of guidance documents provided to Kent's businesses, quantity of interactions with businesses.</p> |
| <p><b>Support schools with including climate risk management into climate action plans</b></p>                              | <p>As part of the Department for Education's strategy for sustainability and climate change, schools across Kent are expected to produce their own climate action plans. To ensure that schools are including climate adaptation in their plans, KCC will provide school sustainability leads with guidance on how to undertake risk assessment and examples of actions to mitigate risks.</p>                   | <p>Environment and Circular Economy</p>                         | <p>Quantity of guidance sessions given and interactions with school sustainability leads.</p>                  |

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| <p><b>Engage a wider stakeholder network across Kent for future countywide planning</b></p>                 | <p>If KCC is to deliver a countywide climate change adaptation plan with partners in the future, it must first establish who needs to be a part of that process and what is required of them. KCC will start engaging stakeholders before prospective strategy planning begins.</p> | <p>Environment and Circular Economy</p> | <p>Quantity of stakeholders engaged. Mapping and engagement completed.</p>      |
| <p><b>Update KCC's website to provide residents with relevant climate change adaptation information</b></p> | <p>KCC is in a position to provide effective, reliable, online resources that provides households with insights with what they can do to adapt to Kent's changing climate.</p>  | <p>Environment and Circular Economy</p> | <p>Quantity of relevant, up-to-date resources made accessible to residents.</p> |

## 7. Appendix

Appendix 1 (Environment Plan Governance Structure)