



Environment Strategy 2013-16

What has the council
done? What do we plan
to do next?



Foreword by Councillor
Rosemary Doyle, Portfolio
Holder for the Environment

**Welcome to our three year
Environment strategy for the district.**

Our strategy is in three sections. The first section sets out why we have produced the strategy and how its content reflects what you have told us. The many achievements and improvements made since our last Environment Policy, published in 2009 can be found in the second section. The third sets out our ambitions for the next three years and how we will go about achieving the main aims under themes related to our past, present and future:

- Valuing our built and natural heritage
- Living well within our environmental limits, and
- Preparing for the future.

We are concentrating on the practical things that the council itself can implement or significantly influence and so it does not include activities and actions that would be best achieved by others.

Our Environment Strategy is key to supporting the council's Corporate Plan pledge to 'make our district cleaner and greener and lead by example on environmental issues'. And, despite significant reductions in government funding over the coming years, we remain ambitious, will continue to secure value for money and to invest our scarce resources wisely for the benefit of our community.

We are very grateful for the help our community gave to delivering our last policy and look forward to your continuing support in making this strategy just as successful!

Contents

Introduction	3
Background	3
Why do we need a new 2013 –16 Environment Strategy?	3
What does the Environment Strategy cover?.....	3
How does the 2013 – 16 Environment Strategy relate to wider strategic aims?	4
Consultation.....	4
Monitoring and reporting progress	7
What we have achieved so far	9
Our key achievements since 2009.....	9
Key themes and priorities	16
Valuing our built and natural heritage	16
Priority 1.1 Valuing our built heritage.....	16
Priority 1.2 Valuing the natural environment.....	18
Living 'well' within our environmental limits	21
Priority 2.1 Waste and recycling.....	21
Priority 2.2 Reducing our environmental footprint	23
Priority 2.3 Tackling pollution.....	25
Priority 2.4 Changing behaviour.....	27
Preparing for the future	28
Priority 3.1 Infrastructure	28
Priority 3.2 Environmental leadership	30
Glossary.....	31
Appendices	
Appendix 1 Legislation, Policy and Guidance	
Appendix 2 Kent Environment Strategy themes and priorities	
Appendix 3 2011-16 Corporate Plan actions and pledges	
Appendix 4 Our wider environmental work	
Appendix 5 Local wildlife sites	
Appendix 6 Advice and further information	
Appendix 7 Canterbury City Council greenhouse gas emissions 2011-12	
Appendix 8 Climate Local Kent targets	

Introduction

Background

Environment Policy 2009

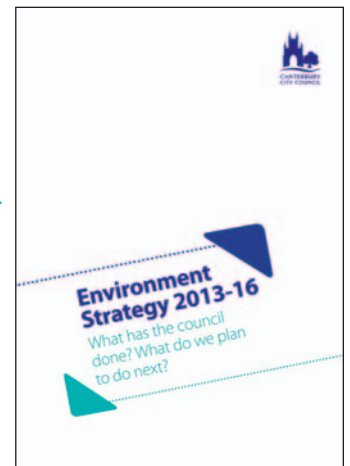
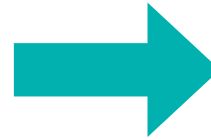
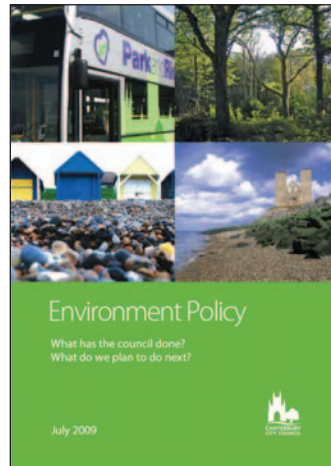
In our last Corporate Plan (2008 to 12) we said we would prepare an Environment Policy.

We produced our final Environment Policy in July 2009 and have achieved much of what we set out to do. It is now time to look at what we should do next.

Why do we need a new 2013 –16 Environment Strategy?

There are a number of reasons why we have developed a new environment strategy. These include:

- Our Corporate Plan 2011 – 16 provides a five year plan for the Canterbury district. We made a commitment in the plan to develop an Environment Strategy that matches the lifespan of the Corporate Plan.
- There have been many changes since we published our 2009 Environment Policy, for example the economic recession and the development of Climate Local Kent (see glossary). We need to develop a new strategy to take appropriate account of these and other changes.
- We have achieved much but not all of what we set out to do in the Environment Policy. We believe it is important to be open and transparent about what we have achieved, and where progress still needs to be made and so the new strategy includes a summary of our progress against the 2009 Environment Policy.



What does the Environment Strategy cover?

The strategy concentrates on the things that the council is planning to achieve over the next few years and which it can control or significantly influence. So it does not include activities and actions that would be best achieved by our partners.

We have chosen three broad themes for the strategy to reflect our past, present and future. The themes help us to value what we have inherited from the past, what action we can take now, and how we can better prepare for the future.

Under the three themes there are eight priority areas which provide a focus for what we are seeking to achieve through this strategy.

For each priority area there is an action plan that shows the major issues we plan to address and how we will measure our progress and achievements. The action plan also explains our reasons for the actions and how we expect things to have changed by 2016.

There is a lot of legislation which applies to local councils, including national legislation and European Directives.

Appendix 1 provides a very brief summary of some of the legislation, policy and guidance which is relevant to our strategy and the reasons why they are important.

This includes information about new legislation and anticipated new legislation.

We want this Environment Strategy to be a useful source of information about environmental issues. Where possible, the electronic version of this document provides links to related policies and strategies, and websites for other organisations.

There are also a number of appendices that provide supporting information.

How does the 2013 – 16 Environment Strategy relate to other strategic aims?

The direction and content of our strategy has been planned to meet the wider strategic aims the council is committed to. There are many other related strategies relevant to this one, and it is not possible to list them all.

The diagram below shows how the development of our Environment Strategy has been guided by other major strategies that are particularly relevant. Further information about each of these key strategies is provided below.

Each theme section also includes information about some of the related strategies that are of particular importance to that theme.

The **Kent Environment Strategy** is just one of a range of related countywide strategies on environmental issues. Examples of other strategies include the Integrated Transport Strategy, the Low Carbon Sector Strategy and the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan.

The Kent Environment Strategy was agreed in July 2011. Appendix 2 provides details of the three themes and ten priority areas in the strategy.

The **2011-16 Corporate Plan** sets out the council's main aims until 2016. It covers a wide range of issues affecting the Canterbury district. The Corporate Plan includes actions that will help us to contribute to the aims of the Kent Environment Strategy (and other strategies).

Environmental issues, to varying degrees, are relevant to all ten Corporate Plan pledges and the new Environment Strategy will help us to meet these pledges. Of the ten pledges, two pledges are particularly relevant to environmental issues (Appendix 3).

We made a commitment in the **2011-16 Corporate Plan** to develop an Environment Strategy. The actions and targets in the strategy will therefore make an important contribution to the Corporate Plan, the future development of our local area, and will help us to contribute to wider ambitions across Kent.

Consultation

How have we developed the Environment Strategy?

The strategy has been developed by the cross-party Environment Strategy Working Group. This brings together councillors and officers with responsibility for, and knowledge of, environmental issues.

We have developed the Environment Strategy by considering a range of information sources. These include:

- Reviewing the original Environment Policy and taking account of relevant changes and developments since 2009.

- The results from public consultation, for example our 2012 Residents Survey, reports we had commissioned and the results of public consultation. Together these are helping us to develop our new Local Plan.
- The knowledge and experience of our councillors and officers.

The consultation on the draft Environment Strategy included suggestions for environmental issues that respondents thought should be included.

It is impossible to cover all the work we do that is relevant to the environment in this single document, and there are many other related plans, strategies and policies which are relevant.

This means that some major environmental issues which respondents to the consultation suggested should be part of the Environment Strategy are addressed elsewhere. Appendix 4 explains where these issues are covered by some of our other major plans, strategies and policies.



What are local people telling us about our district?

2011-12 Local Plan research

The Local Plan to be adopted in 2015 will set out how we will plan the land use development of the Canterbury district up to 2031. To help us prepare our Local Plan we commissioned several surveys and reports including one with our residents and businesses. We also held workshops with community representatives and our Councillors. The Public Opinion Research (full report and summary report) looked into local attitudes towards future development in the district.

2012 Residents Survey

In autumn 2012 we invited a representative sample of 6,000 residents to complete our 2012 Residents Survey. We received 1,766 responses. The survey results helped us to understand how important environmental issues are to local people, and how much they thought environmental issues needed improving.

We asked local residents to tell us which issues they thought are most important in making somewhere a good place to live. The environmental issues that were chosen in the top ten issues (from the list of 20 issues) are set out below:

Rank	Issue	%
3	Clean streets	44%
6	Public transport	30%
8	Access to nature	26%
9	Parks and open spaces	24%

Access to nature was the eighth most important environmental issue for residents.



Clean streets was the most important environmental issue, and the third most important of all the issues.

Public transport was also identified as an important environmental issue for local people. Around 160,000 vehicles travel to and from the city each day and the layout of medieval streets, historic buildings and railway crossings presents a challenge that makes traffic management solutions very difficult.

Access to nature was the eighth most important environmental issue for residents. We have 15 internationally important wildlife areas Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). These are all in good or improving ecological condition, which is an improvement since 2008. We also have 49 local wildlife sites across the district (Appendix 5).

In addition to parks and open spaces, the natural landscape in the district includes 12 miles of coastline and three special landscape areas: North Kent Marshes, Blean Woods and the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which together cover about a third of the district. We have spent £11.8 million on improving coastal defences over the last ten years including major capital schemes funded by central government at Whitstable, Tankerton and Herne Bay.

We also asked local residents to tell us which issues they thought most needed improving. The environmental issues



Celebrating our Green Flag Award at Reculver

which were included in the top ten issues are set out in table 1.1.

We are taking action to address traffic congestion and reduce air pollution related to traffic. This includes providing new transport infrastructure such as cycle routes and bus lanes and encouraging greater use of sustainable transport. The Canterbury District Transport Strategy currently being developed will set out the actions of our partners, including Kent County Council to help address transportation issues.

To help keep our streets clean, we have introduced weekly collections of waste to

10,000 properties in the district which are situated in neighbourhoods with a high number of shared properties. We are also clearing litter late into the evenings within the town centre to match the demands created by the night time economy.

The survey asked residents how satisfied or dissatisfied they are with the environmental services the council provides, see table 1.2.

The survey found that local residents have good levels of satisfaction with our recycling and other environmental services. In June 2013 we introduced our new waste and recycling scheme. Our estimated recycling rate is approaching 50% but we will not be able to confirm the actual recycling rate for the first year of the new scheme until June 2014.

Satisfaction with parks and open spaces was also high. The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks in England and Wales, and recognises well managed and high quality green spaces. The council has been awarded four Green Flag sites in the district: Duncan Down, Reculver Country Park, Curtis Wood Park and Whitstable Castle.

Rank	Issue	%
2	The level of traffic congestion	51%
7	Clean streets	21%
9	Public transport	19%

Table 1.1

Environmental service	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Recycling collection	67%	22%
Bin collection	68%	22%
Keeping public land clear of litter and refuse	70%	15%
Parks and open spaces	70%	10%
Park and Ride	52%	5%

Table 1.2



High levels of satisfaction with parks and open spaces and other parts of the natural environment such as our coastline mean that our district is likely to be more attractive to visitors, who make a significant contribution to our local economy.

Tourism South East has done research looking at the economic impacts of tourism on the city of Canterbury. Their 2011 study found that there were an estimated 605,000 overnight tourism trips made to the city and 6.5 million day trips. In total, around £349 million was spent by overnight and day visitors, an increase of 3% compared to 2009.

Tourism is also important to the coastal towns and we take steps to promote all of the district's attractions to residents and visitors.

Other studies

The Canterbury Development Requirements Study was carried out (full report and summary report) to evaluate a range of potential development options for the future. These options were assessed to help us understand which options provide the best balance between social, economic and environmental factors. Some examples of the environmental issues included in the assessment are: air and water quality; historic environment; climate change; flood risk and coastal erosion; and sustainable living and reducing the need to travel.

The study concluded that the development option giving the best balance would provide about 15,000 houses and just under 100,000 m² of business land up to 2031. This will help to



deliver sustainable transport, a significant amount of new open space around the district, and it could support the creation of up to 6,500 new jobs.

Monitoring and reporting progress

Progress reporting

Our Environment Strategy has been developed to take account of the issues, policies, proposals and statistics which were known about at the time of writing. We have also tried to anticipate the possible implications for the council of future developments, for example, the likely impact of forthcoming legislation.

But the environmental agenda is constantly and rapidly changing. This means that we will need to:

- Regularly monitor our progress towards achieving the aims and targets in the strategy.
- Take appropriate account of changes that happen throughout the lifespan of the strategy, such as the introduction or abolition of legal requirements placed upon the council.
- Update the strategy when appropriate.
- Report progress against the strategy annually.

Advice and further information

A large number of council officers are involved in dealing with the environmental issues covered by this strategy. If you would like any advice or further information please contact the council officers listed in Appendix 6.



Comments and suggestions

If you have any comments or suggestions about this strategy we would like to hear them! Please contact:

Velia Coffey
Deputy Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury
CT1 1YW

Telephone: **01227 862 149**
E-mail: velia.coffey@canterbury.gov.uk

Matt McLellan
Policy Officer
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury
CT1 1YW

Telephone: **01227 862 058**
E-mail: matthew.mclellan@canterbury.gov.uk



What we have achieved so far

Our key achievements since 2009

We have made a lot of progress since we produced our first Environment Policy in 2009. Our policy had seven themes, and here are some examples of our main achievements and case studies:

Theme 1: Waste and recycling

1



We gained funding to help us to introduce a commercial recycling scheme.

We prepared site waste management plans for flagship projects such as the Marlowe Theatre and Beaney House of Art and Knowledge redevelopments. Our plans considered the types of waste these construction projects would produce, and how the waste should be disposed of (reusing, recycling, or going to the waste tip).

New recycling facility

We worked with our waste contractor, Serco, on a trial project to increase the amount of waste material recycled. We used a Mini Material Recycling Facility (MRF), which is a machine that helps to sort out different types of waste for recycling and produces bales of waste paper or cardboard.

We used the MRF to recycle materials from 'Recycle on the go' bins in public locations, which have separate sections for different types of waste, such as paper, plastic bottles, cans and glass. Our waste contractor used the machine to separate waste from our Trade Waste Recycling Service ready for recycling.

The trial led to over three tonnes of aluminium cans and several tonnes of cardboard being recycled rather than being sent to the waste tip. This helped to make people more aware of the benefits of recycling, and our waste contractor has now extended the recycling service to many businesses.

Litter enforcement pilot scheme

Our 2012 Residents Survey told us that keeping the streets clean is an important issue for local people.

We recently started a pilot scheme to issue fixed penalty notices to people dropping litter in Canterbury city centre. Before starting the scheme we provided supporting publicity and warning notices.

During December 2012, as the scheme was new, we issued warnings to 48 people after being seen to drop litter. In the following three months we issued 117 fixed penalty notices for the offence of dropping litter. We also warned 16 people under the age of 18 about littering.

Theme 2: Tackling pollution key achievements

2



To help us to understand air pollution emissions from vehicles in Canterbury, we worked with Leeds University to carry out a Vehicle Emissions Survey.

Air pollution from vehicles is a major problem for Canterbury. We developed an Air Quality Action Plan which included a range of possible ways to tackle this issue. Some examples include improving traffic management, testing vehicles at the roadside to see how polluting they are, encouraging cycling, and considering the use of electric vehicles.

To reduce congestion in Canterbury and to help people travel around rather than across the city, we worked with Kent County Council, the Highways Agency and Canterbury 4 Business (C4B) to construct the new A2 London-bound on slip at Wincheap.

Vehicle emissions survey

We analysed information from over 15,500 vehicles. Some of the main findings were:

Cars and vans

- Around two thirds of cars are petrol, and one third diesel.
- There are early signs that ownership of hybrid cars is growing. These are cars which can run on both electricity and diesel or petrol.
- Petrol cars had lower emissions of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), but diesel cars had higher emissions.
- Emissions from vans are similar to cars.

Lorries, buses and coaches

- Two thirds of buses were less than five years old.
- The scheduled bus service had the highest emissions of NO₂ (oxides of nitrogen).
- Newer buses that meet what is at present the highest European standard for vehicle emissions (Euro 5) have up to 50% lower emissions of NO₂ compared to older buses
- 24% of buses surveyed met this highest (Euro 5) standard.

We helped to reduce congestion and pollution by installing variable message signs on the main routes into Canterbury. The signs display information about car parking spaces available at the different car parks around the city centre.



Theme 3: Sustainable Transport

Oyster Bay Trail

The Oyster Bay Trail coastal cycle route linking Reculver to Whitstable was completed in March 2013 and forms part of Regional Cycle Route 15.

Already well used, the coastal cycle route will become an even more important transport route for weekday users on their way to work, school or shopping. The route is also promoted as a tourist trail, with interpretation material and sculptural artwork commissioned from local artists providing interest and information along the way. The increased connectivity has also attracted more people to Reculver Country Park from elsewhere in Kent, the rest of the country and Europe.

The route was constructed in two phases. Phase 1 was completed in April 2011 providing a 6.5 mile cycle route from Reculver to Swalecliffe, through picturesque areas such as Reculver Country Park and around Bishopstone Glen and along the traffic calmed Western Esplanade and Central Parade in Herne Bay.

Phase 2 was completed in March 2013, providing a further two miles of traffic

free cycle route along from Swalecliffe to Whitstable.

At its western extent the 8.5 mile route links directly with the Crab and Winkle Way (National Cycle Route 1) at Whitstable railway station, which itself provides an eight mile direct cycle route link to Canterbury. At its eastern extent the route links with the Viking Coastal Trail which provides an extension of the coastal cycle route for nine miles to Margate.

The benefits of the scheme include:

- Reductions in pollution and traffic congestion.
- Increased tourism and economic benefits.
- Greater access for disabled people. Improved health.
- Greater cycling connectivity across Kent.
- Improved cycle links to Canterbury and Whitstable railway stations.

The total scheme cost £250,000, with £125,000 of this funded by the Sustrans Connect2 Big Lottery Fund and £125,000 by Canterbury City Council.

We are working to tackle congestion by encouraging people to use alternative transport such as Park and Ride, public transport, and bicycles rather than their cars.

Bus travel has been Canterbury's transport success story and we have helped to deliver many improvements through a Quality Bus Partnership (this partnership between Kent County Council, Stagecoach and ourselves aims to improve local bus services). While bus use across the UK has declined, Canterbury has seen rapid growth. Since 2004 the number of people boarding buses in the city centre has nearly trebled and usage continues to grow each year.

We have made a number of cycling improvements. These include completing the Great Stour Way cycle route linking Chartham to Canterbury and the final phase of the Oyster Bay Trail between Swalecliffe and Whitstable. The coastal cycle route now extends from Reculver, where it links with the Viking Bay Trail, to Whitstable where it links with the Crab and Winkle Way. Better cycle routes can bring many benefits, such as helping to reduce traffic congestion and pollution, and improving health.

Our Park and Ride service continues to provide a sustainable alternative to parking in the city centre. Over 960,000 people used the service during 2012.

The start of high speed services from Canterbury West to London reduced the journey time to London to 54 minutes, which has helped to increase rail use at the station by 70%. We are supporting this success by allocating resources and working with Southeastern and Network Rail to help improve the station forecourt to enhance this important 'gateway' to the city.



Theme 4: Reducing energy use and the consumption of natural resources

4

Kingsmead swimming pool water filters

We have improved the pool water quality at Kingsmead Leisure Centre by rebuilding the bathing water circuit for the swimming pool, which included replacing older equipment and installing new water filters. Over the next 25 years we expect the new filters to save us around £845,000 through reductions in chemical, energy and water use.

The filters now in operation are the same specification as those used at the swimming pool for the London 2012 Olympic Games!

We have installed a woodchip boiler at our main council office building in Canterbury. We expect this to save more than £3,700 per year and reduce carbon emissions by 26 tonnes per year. Our woodchip boiler and the log burner at the Reculver Visitor Centre help to increase demand for local coppiced wood products.

When we redeveloped the Marlowe Theatre we wanted to achieve very good environmental standards. Our theatre was specifically designed to incorporate a range of features to reduce energy use and environmental impacts, such as using high efficiency lighting, high efficiency boilers and water efficient appliances. Our flagship project won the Royal Institute of British Architecture (RIBA) Downland Award for architectural excellence, and it achieved a 'Very Good' Building Research

Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) rating.

We have improved life for our council housing tenants by investing in energy efficiency measures to help them to reduce their energy bills. We have installed 1,247 energy-efficient boilers, fitted new windows to 522 homes, and improved loft insulation for 988 homes. We have invested over £1.7 million overall.

We have also helped local residents in private housing enjoy a better quality of life and lower energy bills. We improved 323 homes by installing energy-efficient heating systems and insulation where the householder was in fuel poverty. We spent £1.3 million awarded to us by the former Regional Housing Board.

Theme 5: Protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment

5

The Local Plan is a comprehensive development plan for our district that determines land use over future years. To help us to make sure that the Local Plan provides the best balance between social, economic and environmental factors we commissioned a Sustainability Appraisal study to look at the environmental impact of the range of possible options for development. This took into account a range of environmental issues, such as air and water quality, historic environment, climate change, flood risk and coastal erosion and sustainable living and reducing the need to travel.

We have worked with communities under the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Fields scheme to help protect open space in the district by designating a number of sites in Canterbury, Herne Bay, Whitstable and the rural area. The benefits of Diamond Jubilee Fields include increasing usage of open space and encouraging communities to get involved in their local open space.

The Green Flag Award is a national scheme which recognises high environmental standards and excellent management for parks and open spaces. We have worked

with our community to achieve Green Flag Awards for Reculver Country Park (2002 to 2013), Curtis Wood Park (2011 to 2013), Duncan Down (2006 to 2013) and Whitstable Castle (2012 and 2013).

We have prepared a Master plan (strategy) for managing Reculver Country Park. Our Master plan won an award from the Landscape Institute. We made two successful bids for European funding, and also gained some funding from Vattenfall, the developers of the Kentish Flats wind farm which can be seen from the coast at Reculver.

We used the funding to help us to extend the Reculver Visitor Centre, which has won an award from the Royal Institute of British Architects. The Centre has several types of renewable energy including a log burner fuelled with logs from the local Blean woodland, photo voltaic panels (which convert sunlight to electricity) and solar panels (which use sunlight to heat water). We also used the funding to provide equipment and train staff. This has improved the educational resources available, and the Reculver Centre provides guided educational visits for over 2,000 students each year. We are also seeking opportunities to extend the country park and enhance the local character

of the Reculver Towers and Roman fort. We work closely with our environmental partnerships to lobby, attract funding, manage, tidy and improve our nature reserves and beaches. For example, our Foreshore Service provides guided beach visits. Our partnership arrangement with Kent Wildlife Trust was reviewed in 2012 and we continue to work with Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership who helped create the popular Great Stour Way cycle route in 2011.



Theme 5: Protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment

5

Seasalter Levels

Seasalter Levels is currently the largest area of the north Kent marshes in poor condition for wildlife. This area of land has national and international designations to conserve it as wet grazing marsh for migrating birds that use the marshes over the winter and for the animals and insects that live in the ditches on the marshes.

This important area of land for nature was split into leisure plots in the 1970s and there has been inappropriate activities and development since this time. It has suffered from a long history of enforcement action, including breaches of planning, flytipping and other antisocial behaviour, costing tens of thousands of pounds over many years.

We own around half of the area covered by the plots, and since 2007 the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has been managing parcels of land that we own and lease to them. The RSPB has also been making improvements on the local nature reserve.

We have pioneered an innovative partnership between the RSPB, Swale Borough Council and Natural England. This aims to acquire the remaining plots and to bring the land to good condition for wildlife as a grazed wetland marsh.

We have allocated a budget of £40,000 to enable us to purchase land, which is part of the total investment of £380,000 in this work.



We also work directly with local groups and individuals to increase the level of community engagement in enhancing the appearance of urban nature reserves. For example, Duncan Down friends group has accumulated up to 500 volunteer hours a year. This partnership has been used as an example to create similar benefits on other sites such as Prospect Field, Whitstable.

The Duncan Down friends group also helps to provide education about the environment. The group supports a Forest Schools initiative in Whitstable. It also runs nature talks, walks and pond dipping for Rainbows, Brownies and Beavers, and St Alphege Infants School. The Prospect Field friends group provide educational materials and educational visits for Joy Lane School in Whitstable.

Other volunteer groups, such as the Friends of Broomfield and Herne Ponds help to look after the local area. Herne and Broomfield Parish Council has a wildlife area which is used as a Forest School for Little Acorns Pre School and other groups.

Local residents and organisations such as the City Centre Partnership and the Canterbury Society worked with us during our Big Clean week to make the city centre more attractive.

'In Bloom' campaigns

Working closely with the local community, we have organised campaigns that tackle environmental themes of making neighbourhoods look clean, attractive and well cared for by promoting horticulture and sound environmental management. The campaigns run all year round and are assessed externally against set standards by independent practitioners. The campaign is organised along regional and national lines and is administered by the Royal Horticultural Society.

In Herne Bay successful campaigns involving local groups and schools have been run over several years and they won best in category in both regional and national campaigns, regularly winning the highest awards.

The Reculver Country Park achieved South East in Bloom gold awards in 2012 and 2013, and in 2013 it also won their Heritage Park of the Year award.

In Canterbury the city centre business community have been engaged as well as local residents, and has reached silver award accreditation. In Whitstable a number of local groups have been supported in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category as a means of getting local people involved.



Theme 5: Protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment

We are working with other organisations to improve Herne Bay Memorial Park. These improvements include removing the existing pavilion and developing the seating area, installing a new toilet block and providing new information boards about the park. We have provided funding of £500,000 between 2009 and 2011 for these improvements.



The Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Fields Challenge

The Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Fields Challenge aims to protect outdoor recreational spaces and facilities for communities now and for generations to come whilst providing a focal point for the celebrations in 2012.

The scheme is promoted and administered by Fields in Trust. This is a registered not for profit organisation whose primary aim is to secure better access to outdoor space for sport, play and recreation for everyone. Part of their core work involves campaigning to strengthen the statutory protection of outdoor recreational space.

The challenge is part of a high profile national campaign that has a real impact and benefit on local communities. It represented an excellent and cost effective way for local authorities to mark both the Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012

Olympics in their area whilst also securing a platform to help achieve key targets around increasing physical activity and promoting the sustainability agenda.

Five open spaces in the district have successfully been adopted as Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Fields:

- Hollow Lane in Canterbury,
- Mariners View in Whitstable,
- Tankerton Slopes,
- Herne Bay Coastal Park from Reculver to Hampton, and
- Cherry Orchard Playing Field in Herne.

The designation came after being nominated by the city council and receiving a total of 146 votes of support from local people – the highest in Kent!

When the size of the five areas is added together, the district has one of the biggest designations in the country.

Theme 6: Adapting to changing climatic conditions

6

To help protect the environment, we need to conserve water and to minimise our use of natural resources. We are encouraging the wiser use of water resources and more recycling of water in new developments through the planning system.

Through our planning application process we introduced the aspiration for all new house building in the district to meet the Code for Sustainable Homes level 4, a very high standard compared to other local councils.

Herne Bay sea defences improvements

Major sea defences at Herne Bay were carried out in 1990 including the rock breakwater now known as Neptune's Arm. The rear seawall was kept as low as possible to enhance its visual appearance and this resulted in significant improvements to the seafront. Since the defences were originally designed the sea level has risen by about 100mm. It is now possible that a very severe storm could spill over the defences

and lead to flooding to properties along the seafront. We have been successful in obtaining funding from the Environment Agency to upgrade the sea defences and this work started earlier this year and were opened in July. The rear seawall has been raised by 225 to 300 mm to keep pace with the rise in sea level over the past 25 years and the expected future rise for the next 25 years or so.

Theme 7: Public information and promotion

7



We promoted sustainable transport initiatives, such as Green travel day and Bike week from June 2010 which is now an annual event.

Our staff are encouraging local communities to take an active role in looking after the environment. This has included community clean up days at Greenhill and Hales Place, arts projects, allotment projects, helping residents form a Residents' Association and setting up a resident warden scheme.

We worked with Canterbury 4 Business (C4B) and the Canterbury Partnership Environment Group (now Canterbury 4 Environment) to organise an environmental conference in February 2011 and subsequent to this several clean ups have been organised.

We supported the 2013 United Nations Earth Day event. We had a promotional stand to provide local people with information and advice about our environmental services. This included 'power down' devices to help our residents to save energy when electrical equipment such as televisions is on standby.

Local businesses have been encouraged to join the EnviroPlus green business scheme, including associate members of Canterbury 4 Business (C4B). The EnviroPlus scheme aims to provide businesses with essential information about their legal obligations concerning waste, and encourage them to take steps to become more environmentally aware. Once a business has joined the scheme, the owner can enter for an EnviroPlus Award.

Improving energy efficiency in homes

Energy efficiency in homes is key to helping people stay warm and reduce their energy bills. In 2008 the east Kent councils put in a successful bid for funding to spend on energy efficiency improvements, and our share was £1.3 million.

The work took place between 2009 and 2011. We included Park Homes in our scheme (large mobile homes that look like small bungalows) because they are poorly insulated and are often occupied by vulnerable, elderly owners.

We offered 229 households a grant to achieve a SAP rating (energy efficiency measure) of 65, often in conjunction with a Warm Front grant. In addition, we offered 94 households an interest-free loan, repayable on the sale of the property, to achieve the same improvement in their SAP rating. We improved a total of 323 homes with the money, against an original target of 275 homes.

Key themes and priorities

Valuing our built and natural heritage

Overview

Under this theme we emphasise the need to value the fantastic heritage and natural environment in our district.

Priorities	Priority 1.1 Valuing the built environment	Priority 1.2 Valuing the natural environment
What we are aiming to achieve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect heritage • Increased use and appreciation of heritage • Improved public realm in key locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect natural environment • Increased use and appreciation of nature • Increased volunteering

Priority 1.1: Valuing the built environment

Context

The Canterbury district is rich in built heritage, with a wide range of buildings and monuments of local, national and global importance. Examples include the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Canterbury (which incorporates Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine’s Abbey and St Martin’s Church), the Westgate Towers, Reculver Towers in Herne Bay and numerous conservation areas and listed buildings.

As the Canterbury district grows and develops, we need to ensure that our plans and activities give sufficient protection to heritage sites and the built and natural environment. We also want to encourage local residents and visitors alike to have a greater appreciation of our rich built heritage.

Our draft Local Plan includes policies for managing and controlling the historic environment. For instance, Policy HE1 states that unless there are exceptional circumstances we will not permit development which is likely to cause harm to the significance of heritage assets or their settings.

Herne Bay Clock Tower



The Herne Bay Clock tower is the oldest known freestanding, purpose built clock tower in the world. It was built in 1837 at a cost of around £4,000, which would be an estimated cost of around £2.9 million if it was built today. The tower stands approximately 82 feet high, and includes a memorial plaque to commemorate the men of Herne Bay who volunteered for the Boer war.

Although the history of the clock tower is well known to interest groups in the town, its heritage value is underdeveloped with limited information available to the general public.

The Herne Bay community is aware of the clock tower as an important seafront landmark but tend to be unaware of its history and wider heritage value.

The clock tower is a grade II listed Heritage Asset and is managed in accordance with the guidelines set out for the preservation and conservation of these buildings. Since it was built, the clock tower has been exposed to the rigours of the marine environment and some areas have been eroded. A recent condition survey identified some major works which need to be undertaken if the Tower is to be preserved for future generations.

Herne Bay Clock Tower passed the first round of a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding in April 2013, and we received funding of around £20,000. We submitted our funding bid for the second round in November 2013, and we hope to find out if we have been successful by April 2014. We will receive funding of around £248,000 if our bid succeeds. Canterbury City Council has also set aside £110,000 for the works.

Actions

1.1 Valuing our built heritage

ID	Action	Measures	What we are aiming to achieve by 2016
1	Herne Bay Clock Tower refurbishment (beginning March 2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in heritage £358,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fewer heritage buildings on the at risk register An improvement in the condition of our heritage buildings (conditions survey)
2	Establish the condition of Heritage Buildings so they are properly conserved by 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition Survey completed by April 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect heritage
3	Protect and preserve the Westgate Towers to prevent further physical deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy of traffic management to protect Towers Investment £250,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of the Westgate Towers from vehicular damage Pedestrian and cycle improvements
4	Reduce council buildings on the Canterbury district heritage at risk register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in heritage £15,500 Repairs completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fewer heritage buildings on the at risk register
5	Identify up to three Environmental Improvement Areas*, after the Local Plan is adopted in 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental improvement schemes in place by 2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved public realm in key locations



* Environmental Improvement Areas are areas where we will seek environmental improvements that benefit physical and visual connections and enhance the environment through the use of landscape and surface treatments, street furniture and signage.

What we are aiming to achieve

We are aiming to achieve the following:

- Protect heritage
- Increased use and appreciation of heritage
- Improved public realm in key locations

Related strategies

2011-16 Corporate Plan
 Economic Strategy for Canterbury district (to be developed after Local Plan consultation)
 Local Plan
 Protecting England’s National Treasures 2011

Priority 1.2: Valuing the natural environment

Context

As well as a rich built heritage, the Canterbury district has a diverse range of natural environments. Our natural landscape includes 12 miles of coastline and three special landscape areas: north Kent marshes, Blean Woods and the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which cover about a third of the district. We support the work of the Kent Downs AONB as a partner organisation, by providing funding and as a member of the Joint Advisory Committee helping to manage the Kent Downs area.

The Kent Downs AONB's Woodfuel Pathfinder programme is promoting coppicing on privately owned land to encourage sustainable woodland management, woodfuels and biomass heating.

The natural environment is important for our physical and mental health and wellbeing. We need to conserve and enhance our beautiful towns, coastal and rural landscapes for future generations. But we also need to balance the protection of the environment with the need to provide housing, services and jobs for our local community.

We have three quality coastal award areas – Tankerton slopes, Herne Bay and Reculver. They are national awards that reflects the quality of the coastal management in those areas.

We work with partners to provide opportunities for our residents to learn more about the environment. For example, the Kent Wildlife Trust and Blean Initiative have run a successful Forest Schools initiative at the Blean Woods. We also support the Kentish Stour Countryside Project which is providing education and involvement opportunities through the Wild Sites on Your Doorstep project.

Our Open Spaces Strategy 2009 – 2014 covers a wide variety of projects for protecting the natural environment, and improving parks and open spaces around the district, including our Westgate Parks project.

We have been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £800,000 for the Westgate Parks. Our project is helping to increase biodiversity and provide a range of wildlife learning opportunities. Examples include the research study of insects on Bingley Island which found 160 insect species including a rare carrion beetle, our work with a local school to develop a physic (herb) garden, and we are recruiting a parks development officer to work with the local community to develop a wildlife education programme.

Seasalter Levels

At present we own around half of the leisure plots on the Seasalter Levels. Following years of preparation by the Seasalter Levels partnership (Canterbury City Council, the RSPB, Natural England and Swale Borough Council), we served Compulsory Purchase Order papers on the remaining plots by February 2014. We will lease the remaining land acquired on the Whitstable Bay Estate to the RSPB for long term management. This will create a new nature reserve and wetland habitat, and prevent future flytipping, squatting, antisocial behaviour, and unauthorised development on the land.

Coppicing...did you know?



Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management, undertaken to create timber for fuel, fencing and other uses. Coppicing is a process by which trees are cut close to the ground so that new shoots can grow from the base. We undertake this activity with the volunteers of Kent Wildlife Trust at the council owned Larkey Valley Wood it is also undertaken by other partners in the Blean Initiative including the RSPB, Woodland Trust, and Forestry Commission, in the Blean Woods.

One of the benefits of coppicing is the enhanced woodland habitat which is a result of opening up the woodland to let in light for ground flora and insects. When small areas of the wood are coppiced in rotation on a 10 to 20 year cycle, this will

provide a range of habitats depending on the year of growth. From cutting to three to four years growth, woodland ground flora such as bluebells, woodland anemones, and other woodland flowers will thrive. These lighter areas are also good for butterflies and other insects. There will then be bushy growth from four to eight years, good for ground nesting birds, while fruiting shrubs and trees provide food for other woodland birds and mammals. Once the canopy regenerates the stems are traditionally re-cut as a sustainable source for timber, allowing the cycle to start again. Cut fuel piles can be good habitats for invertebrates and fungi, and some may be sold for logs, providing a sustainable source of income and a source of renewable energy benefitting the environment. Coppicing takes place outside of the bird nesting season, from October to March each year, and anyone can volunteer to take part in the coppicing activity that takes place in these woodlands.

Larkey Valley Wood has spectacular displays of wildflowers from March to May, including many species of orchid. Regular monitoring of the wood has shown that this is one of the best in the country for dormice.

Volunteers coppice logs in the Blean Woods each year and some are used to heat the log burner at the Reculver Centre and at the council's main office.

What we are aiming to achieve

We are aiming to achieve the following:

- Protect natural environment
- Increased use and appreciation of nature
- Increased volunteering

Actions

1.2 Valuing the natural environment

ID	Action	Measures	What we are aiming to achieve by 2016
6	<p>Deliver Herne Bay Memorial Park project by March 2014. To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbish lighting • Install traditional style energy efficient lighting along main thoroughfares 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital investment in parks £13,000 	<p>Increase in percentage of local residents (Herne Bay) saying parks and open spaces most important</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in percentage of local residents (Herne Bay) saying parks and open spaces need improving • Increase in personal safety (surveys) • Decrease in anti-social behaviour
7	<p>Deliver Westgate Parks project by 2017. To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical works • Westgate Parks officer in place • Developing programme of activities such as walks, digs and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital investment in parks £1,077,000 • Attain and retain Green Flag • Works completed • Staff employed • Activity and education programmes established • Volunteer groups established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in percentage of local residents (Canterbury) saying parks and open spaces most important • Decrease in percentage of local residents (Canterbury) saying parks and open spaces need improving • Increase in visitor numbers • Improved visitor satisfaction • Reduction in incidents of anti-social behaviour • Increase the range of people who take an active part in looking after the parks through volunteering
8	<p>Achieve and then retain Green Flag accreditation for the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herne Bay Memorial Park by 2014 • Dane John Gardens by 2015 • Westgate Parks by 2016 • Retain Green Flag accreditation for the following sites: • Reculver Country Park • Duncan Down • Curtis Wood Park • Whitstable Castle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new Green Flags achieved • Number of existing Green Flags retained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in percentage of residents satisfied with parks and open spaces
9	<p>All council sites to be in positive ecological management by 2015 (sites where there is a management plan or other agreement in place. Site is in a good condition for wildlife to thrive)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of council owned sites which are positively managed • Percentage of council owned sites which are positively managed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved habitats for wildlife • External funding for management • More information and better access for visitors (where appropriate)

10	Restore Seasalter Levels to favourable condition by 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whitstable Bay Estate to be acquired and leased to RSPB as a nature reserve in its entirety by 2016 Number of plots acquired for use as a nature reserve Percentage of plots acquired for use as a nature reserve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less anti-social behaviour Reduced enforcement cases Improved environment and landscape for local people Improved condition of habitats managed by RSPB
11	Work with partners including Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership and Kent Wildlife Trust to involve local people in identifying and improving local biodiversity and habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of conservation task events undertaken on sites in the district each year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More community and volunteer involvement Reduced management and maintenance costs for council Better standards of access, awareness and education about our local environment
12	Support wildlife gardening scheme in Canterbury district as part of the "Wild About Gardens" countywide initiative in partnership with Kent Wildlife Trust (this will improve types of planting for different species of wildlife, e.g. bees)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of entries in Canterbury district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of new wildlife habitats Better education and community engagement Encourage healthier lifestyles
13	Restore camping and Caravan Club site to leisure and environmental use as an extension of Reculver Country Park, also improving the setting of the Reculver Towers and the Roman fort scheduled monument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of project to remove caravans and protect site for access, leisure and amenity use in keeping with the country park and objectives of the Reculver Master Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of caravans Capital project to develop access, play and grazing
14	Involve schools and other children's groups, and broader initiatives to improve appreciation and understanding of our local environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Forest School educational visits Number of Kent Wildlife Trust educational visits Number of educational visits conducted by 'Friends' groups Number of other initiatives in the district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better education and community engagement

Related strategies

Allotment Strategy 2010 - 2014

Biodiversity Strategy for England 2011

Local Plan

Open Spaces Strategy 2009 - 2014

Play Strategy 2009 – 2012

Living 'well' within our environmental limits

Overview

Under this theme we are focusing on activity we should take now that has a positive impact on our environment.

Priorities	Priority 2.1	Priority 2.2	Priority 2.3	Priority 2.4
	Waste and Recycling	Reducing our environmental footprint environment	Tackling pollution	Changing behaviour
What we are aiming to achieve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in household waste produced Increased recycling and composting Highest recycling rates in Kent Reduced environmental nuisance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced energy use and associated costs Reduced greenhouse gas emissions Reduced use of paper and printing consumables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved air quality measures City and town centres meeting or exceeding cleaning standards Increased satisfaction with cleanliness of area Increased volunteering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced fuel poverty Growth in the level of domestic retrofitting and renewable energy installations Reduced greenhouse gas emissions

Priority 2.1 Waste and recycling

Context

Waste is a growing problem. There is an increasing shortage of sites able to take rubbish tip waste and increasing recognition the impact of this has on the production of greenhouse gases. To reflect this growing issue, landfill tax was set at £48 per tonne in 2010 and has increased to £72 per tonne in 2013 with increases expected every year.

We empty more than 300,000 bins each week and collect more than 300 tonnes of food waste each month. In June 2013 we introduced our new waste and recycling scheme. We will be able to calculate the amount (tonnes) of recycling collected from households during the first year of the scheme in June 2014

We raise awareness of waste issues and promote recycling, such as our work with letting agents, landlords and students.

We will continue to promote our new recycling scheme, for example by giving talks and advice to community groups, and to monitor usage of the scheme.

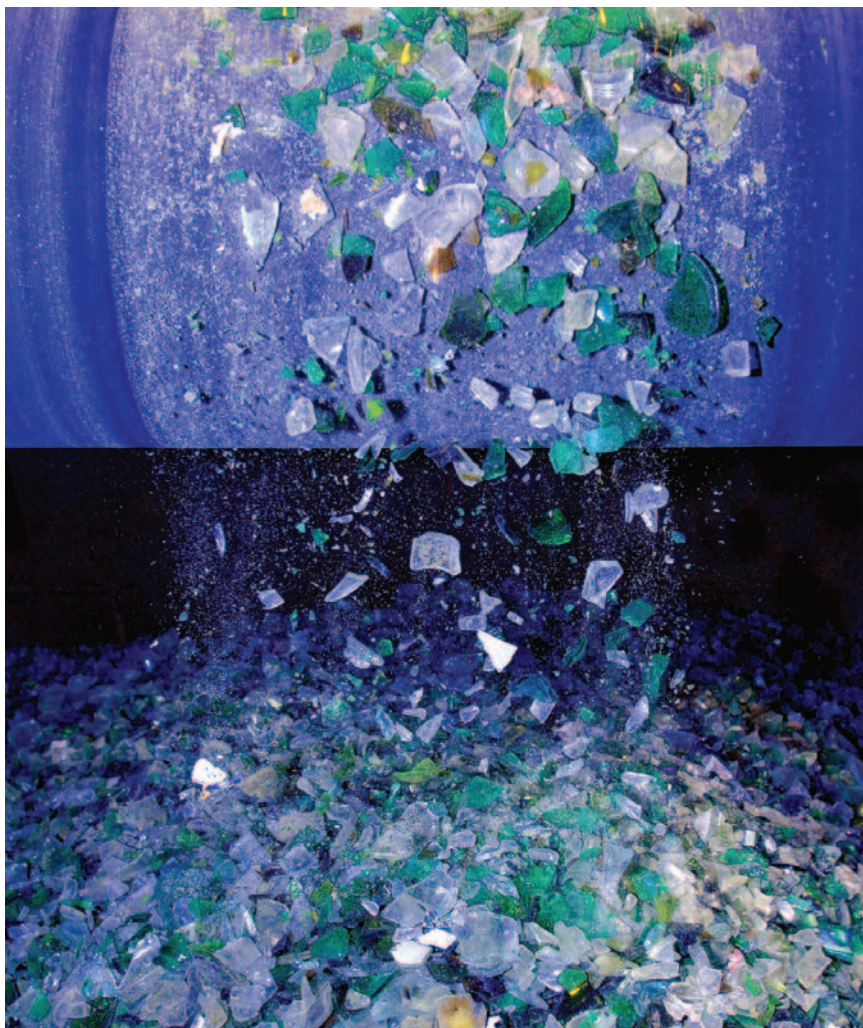
We also help to educate and raise awareness through our contributions to the Kent Resource Partnership and the Kent Environment Strategy, such as lobbying for reducing packaging for goods.

What we are aiming to achieve

We are aiming to achieve the following:

- Reduction in household waste produced
- Increased recycling and composting
- Achieve the highest recycling rate in Kent
- Reduce environmental nuisance





Actions

The Kent Resource Partnership (previously the Kent Waste Partnership) brings together the district and borough councils across the county that collect domestic waste, and Kent County Council which disposes of it. Working with the other councils in the Kent Resource Partnership we aim to minimise waste, increase recycling and make improvements to waste management across the county.

The Partnership has its own strategies for making progress towards these aims. As part of the Kent Resource Partnership, we support these related strategies. For example, we can help to reduce the amount of waste that has to be disposed of by lobbying manufacturers to reduce waste at source. The Kent Resource Partnership Strategy can be found on Kent County Council’s website.

The principal targets that we will contribute to over the next four years are shown below. We will mainly achieve this by a new waste collection and recycling system introduced in June 2013.

2.1 Waste and recycling

ID	Action	Measures	What we are aiming to achieve by 2016
15	Fully introduce new waste collection scheme by November 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5% reduction in household waste going to rubbish tips by 2015/16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased satisfaction with recycling collection Increased satisfaction with bin collection
16	Extend the range of materials recycled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glass, cartons and food waste collections introduced by November 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of people recycling Reduction in amount of domestic waste going to rubbish tips
17	Increase the recycling rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of waste recycled increased to 50% by March 2014, and to 55% by March 2015 Participation rate in recycling increased to 90% by 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of people recycling Reduction in amount of domestic waste going to rubbish tips
18	Introduce weekly collection of waste sacks and communal bins to shared properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced to 10,000 shared properties by September 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce environmental nuisance in affected neighbourhoods which currently have fortnightly collections

Related strategies

Kent Waste Strategy 2007

Kent Waste and Minerals Core Strategy

There will be a consultation on this Strategy in spring 2014.

Priority 2.2 Reducing our environmental footprint

Context

We provide over 70 services to a population of around 151,000 people. We provide and run some services directly, whilst other services are provided on our behalf by other organisations, for example by Active Life running our leisure centres.

The provision of our services has environmental impacts, such as using energy in buildings, using fossil fuels to run vehicles, or the use of natural resources to supply office products such as paper. Our environmental footprint is the overall impact our services have on the environment.

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 placed a legal duty on councils to consider how the services they provide or buy may help to improve the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of an area.

As an organisation, we are always seeking ways to reduce our environmental footprint, for example by using vehicles that are more fuel-efficient.

Since 2008-09 we have reduced our greenhouse gas emissions by more than 750 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent. In 2008-09 our emissions were 8,598 tonnes, and this had fallen to 7,829 tonnes by 2012-13. (Appendix 7).

Building Regulations generally apply to new buildings and buildings where controlled building work is being carried out. Looking ahead, proposed amendments to Part L of the Building Regulations will require new homes to be 'zero carbon' by 2016, which means they must have zero net carbon emissions from energy over a year. This may be extended to include all other buildings from 2019.

What we are aiming to achieve

We are aiming to achieve the following:

- Reduced energy use and associated costs
- Buildings greenhouse gas emissions per square metre reduced by 2.6% per year

New water filter installed at Kingsmead Leisure Centre to improve water quality and save energy.



- Transport greenhouse gas emissions per kilometre travelled reduced by 2.6% per year
- Reduced use of paper and printing consumables

Actions

2.2 Reducing our environmental footprint

ID	Action	Measures	What we are aiming to achieve by 2016
19	Review and update the council's staff travel plan by 2014, and then implement the travel plan	Reduce staff single occupancy car journeys by 20% by 2016 (measured by Staff Travel Survey)	Reduced transport-related greenhouse gas emissions from our operations
20	Installation of fresh air ventilation to replace air conditioning for equipment at council offices in Military Road by 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in buildings projects to reduce energy use by 2.6% per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions • Reduced energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions per person
21	Upgrade ventilation plant in public areas at the Roman Museum by 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in buildings projects to reduce energy use by 2.6% per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions • Reduced energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions per visitor
22	Ensure that a redeveloped Kingsmead Leisure Centre proposal incorporates measures to significantly improve the energy efficiency of the building by 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in buildings projects to reduce energy use by 2.6% per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions



23	Maximise use of paperless communications and encourage more online communications and transactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage reduction in volume of prints from printers Percentage reduction in volume of prints from Canterbury City Council to Print Room Reduction in costs £s 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced use of paper and printing consumables, and associated costs Reduced energy costs
24	Include environmental standards/criteria in the new cleaning contract for the council offices by 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise water use Introduce more fuel efficient vehicles Maintain ISO14001 accreditation Transport greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes CO₂e) per km travelled reduced by 2.6% per year 25% reduction in paper towels used from paper towel dispensers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in carbon emissions for cleaning contractor
25	We will take measures each year to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buildings greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes CO₂e) per square metre reduced by 2.6% per year Transport greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes CO₂e) per km travelled reduced by 2.6% per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions

Related strategies

- Canterbury City Council Staff Travel Plan
- Canterbury Parking Strategy 2006 - 2016
- Local Plan
- Canterbury District Transport Strategy
- 2011-16 Corporate Plan

Priority 2.3: Tackling pollution

Context

Tackling pollution is a complex and difficult challenge, with many different potential sources of pollution. The various types of pollution include air pollution, contaminated land, pollution of waterways and coastal bathing waters, light pollution and noise pollution. Pollution may cause damage to the natural environment and ecosystems, to the built environment, and to human health.

Most successful towns and cities suffer from traffic congestion and Canterbury is no exception.

Canterbury is recognised as a regional 'hub' for education and shopping and is a major visitor centre attracting millions of visitors a year.

Around 160,000 vehicles travel to and from the city each day and the layout of medieval streets, historic buildings and railway crossings presents a challenge that makes traffic management solutions very difficult.

One of the main pollution problems in the Canterbury district is air pollution related to traffic congestion. Therefore taking action to address traffic congestion, for example through planning transport infrastructure such as new cycle routes or encouraging sustainable transport will help to address this.

We have used the findings of our recent Vehicle Emissions Survey to identify further work which could be carried out to reduce vehicle emissions, using approaches targeted for the different vehicle types. Some examples of possible policies and projects that could be considered include:

- Using mechanisms included in the current air quality action plan, such as the Quality Bus Partnership and Freight Quality Partnership
- Re-routing buses so only cleaner buses go through Air Quality Management Areas
- Using buses with cleaner technology
- Providing incentives to renew the taxi fleet with less polluting vehicles such as hybrid vehicles

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 addresses many different types of pollution, including littering and fly tipping. Littering is described as 'anything that is dropped, thrown, left or deposited that causes defacement, in a public place', such as cigarette butts. Fly tipping is the illegal disposal of waste that is too large to be removed by a hand-sweeping barrow, for example a dumped mattress. Littering and fly tipping are both offences under the Act, and cause pollution in both urban and rural areas.

We have a legal duty to control littering and we work to tackle both littering and fly tipping in a number of ways. For example, we can use our enforcement powers to take legal action against fly tippers. We also support the community to carry out litter picking and tidy ups by providing equipment such as gloves, litter pickers and sacks, and we deal with the waste that is collected.

What we are aiming to achieve

We are aiming to achieve the following:

- Improved air quality measures
- City and town centres meeting or exceeding cleaning standards
- Increased satisfaction with cleanliness of area
- Increased volunteering



Actions

2.3 Tacking pollution

ID	Action	Measures	What we are aiming to achieve by 2016
26	Enhance and promote access to Air Quality data to allow subscribers to receive an alert when air quality is poor, following launch of the service during 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of subscribers to service (Kent) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved information to the public on air quality
27	All regular Park and Ride buses to be compliant with the highest emission standards (Euro 5) by October 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbers of buses compliant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of fuel efficient buses Reduced transport-related greenhouse gas emissions
28	Introduce Love where you live (community led groups which will take part in activities such as litter picks) during 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase number of people involved by 10% per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased percentage of people volunteering their time Increased percentage of people satisfied with the cleanliness of the area
29	Introduce mobile technology to interested residents to facilitate real time reporting of litter problems and flytipping, by March 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of residents reporting problems Number of problems reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in litter and flytipping Increased percentage of people satisfied with the cleanliness of the area Decreased percentage of people saying rubbish or litter lying around is a problem
30	Facilitate four beach cleaning activities by engaging with the local community and special interest groups by 2013-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people volunteering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased percentage of people volunteering their time in creating a clean foreshore

Related strategies

Canterbury District Transport Strategy
Local Plan



Love Where You Live

Whitstable BIG CLEAN

18 to 22 March 2013

Do something to make a difference to the town
Be part of a beach clean, a community litter pick, clean your shop front or plant some flowers.

Let us know what you are doing?

For more information on what's happening and to register visit www.canterbury.gov.uk/bigclean.

Make a difference to Whitstable.

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Priority 2.4: Changing behaviour

Context

In the Corporate Plan 2012-2016, we pledged to 'make our district cleaner and greener and lead by example on environmental issues'. While the council is a relatively large organisation locally, and aims to improve its own environmental performance, acting alone we will have limited impact. It is important the council uses its unique position to encourage residents and local businesses to act. The business sector, for example, is responsible for 35.6 per cent of the carbon emissions from the district.

The challenge therefore is to raise awareness of the council's commitment, work, and support of partners to deliver this, and to plan a number of campaigns promoting the council's environmental agenda.

We work with Canterbury 4 Business to promote Kent County Council's Kent Excellence In Business Awards (KIEBA) to local businesses. The Award aims to promote business commitment to the environment.

What we are aiming to achieve

We are aiming to achieve the following:

- Reduced fuel poverty
- Growth in the level of domestic energy efficiency
- Growth in renewable energy installations
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions

Actions

2.4 Changing behaviours

ID	Action	Measures	What we are aiming to achieve by 2016
31	Work with Kent County Council and East Kent Housing to make the most of Energy Companies Obligation (ECO) funding for improving the energy efficiency of homes in our district.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of households receiving ECO funding • Value of ECO funding £ • Number of energy efficiency measures installed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More energy efficient homes • Reduced energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions
32	Promote the new waste and recycling collection scheme to ensure successful implementation across the district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste communications campaign undertaken by March 2014 • Participation rate in recycling increased to 90% by 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More residents recycling • Increased percentage of people agreeing that the council is working to make the area cleaner and greener
33	Improve awareness and understanding of environmental issues across the district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four environmental communications campaigns undertaken by March 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local residents feel better informed and empowered • Local community more involved in volunteering and outdoor activities
34	Investigate the implementation of 20mph speed limit for residential areas and villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of "20's Plenty" areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of streets with a 20pmh speed limit • Increase in cycling and walking
35	Support the economic potential of High Speed 1 rail by encouraging and enabling sustainable and active travel choices to/from neighbouring education and employment sites.	Number of businesses signing up to Kent County Councils New Ways 2 Work travel planning service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support economic growth while reducing carbon emissions • Improve sustainable access to and from Canterbury West Station • Reduced transport-related greenhouse gas emissions
36	Evaluate the results of the litter enforcement pilot scheme and decide on future policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued • Application of new policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in percentage of people who agree that the area is cleaner and greener

Related strategies

Kent Environment Strategy

Preparing for the future

Overview

Action we take now can help protect the environment for future generations and provide a response to changing climate conditions.

Priorities	Priority 3.1 Infrastructure	Priority 3.2 Environmental leadership
What we are aiming to achieve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased use of sustainable transport Reduced risk of flooding and erosion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved energy efficiency within homes Reduced greenhouse gas emissions

Priority 3.1 Infrastructure

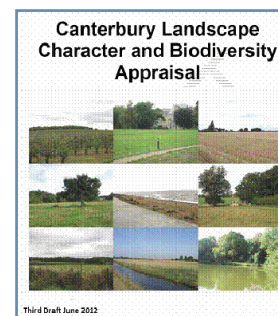
Context

As the local planning authority Canterbury City Council has an important role in shaping the future development of the district. We have a legal duty to prepare a new Local Plan, which we are aiming to adopt by 2015. Our plans need to consider the possible infrastructure that may be needed in future as the district develops, for example new cycle routes or perhaps a new Park and Ride site, or social infrastructure such as schools or medical facilities. This will be brought together in an Infrastructure Plan alongside the Local Plan, and this will include ways to deliver

infrastructure. This could include schemes designed into new developments, S106 planning agreements or Community Infrastructure Levy.

We also need to consider the potential impacts of the climate changing and what this means for the design and provision of infrastructure the district may need in future.

We have used funding from developers to help us to make a range of improvements to sites around the district for the benefit of residents and visitors. Some examples include the Thanington Recreation



Ground, Westmeads Recreation Ground and Herne Bay seafront playgrounds, Memorial Park and Whitstable Castle parks, Victoria Recreation Ground and Cherry Orchard sports pitches. We have used more than £572,000 of funding from developers to help us to make these improvements.

We have prepared the 'Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal' to make sure that areas of value for nature are protected and improved, when changes to the landscape (for example, new development) occur. We consulted on this document in June 2013, we are considering the comments received and we will adopt the final document by spring 2014.

What we are aiming to achieve

We are aiming to achieve:

- Increased use of sustainable transport
- Reduced risk of flooding and erosion



Actions

3.1 Infrastructure

ID	Action	Measures	What we are aiming to achieve by 2016
37	Provide a Herne Bay to Canterbury cycle route by 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment of £160,000 in sustainable transport infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of local people who cycle Reduced number of car journeys on A291
38	Extend Park and Ride provision for Canterbury by providing a suitable site to accommodate the north-western approach into the city by 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase Park and Ride capacity Increase Park and Ride passengers by 25% by 2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park and Ride site provided
39	Progress coastal defence works at Studd Hill and Hampton, with first works at Hampton by 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment of £1 million in coastal defence infrastructure Improve protection against coastal erosion for 480 homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the risk of erosion
40	Identify and enhance multi-purpose green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare draft Green Infrastructure Strategy in 2014, linked to the Local Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt a Green Infrastructure Strategy by 2016 (to include the amount of green space expected from strategic development sites)

Related strategies

Climate Local Kent

Climate Local is a national initiative to help councils to take action to reduce carbon emissions, to improve resilience to the effects of climate change and extreme weather, and to capture the benefits of taking action.

Climate Local Kent is supported by all the councils in Kent, and other partners who make up the Kent Council Leaders. Climate Local Kent was officially launched on 18 September 2012.

Appendix 8 provides the Climate Local Kent targets that have been agreed. Canterbury City Council is contributing to these targets via this Environment Strategy.

Green Infrastructure Strategy

We will look into a draft Green Infrastructure Strategy in 2014. This will involve identification and enhancement of green space that can be used for different purposes and play a key role in supporting the local ecology and improving the health and well-being of individuals and communities. Green space contributes to protecting local habitats and makes our biodiversity less sensitive to the impact of climate change. Large development sites will be expected to play a significant role in the provision of green infrastructure.

Kent Environment Strategy

Priority 3.2 Environmental leadership

Context

We are ideally placed to provide environmental leadership within the local community. We can achieve this in a variety of ways, for example as an organisation we will lead by example by reducing our own environmental footprint. In response to public concerns about the environment, we will also encourage better energy efficiency schemes such as home insulation and solar panels. Further developing the so called 'green' economy and promoting the district as a green visitor destination will also be essential.

We consider possible energy saving measures and potential renewable energy opportunities when we refurbish council buildings and have resources to

make improvements. We have recently installed new LED lighting in part of the main council offices in Canterbury. The LED lights use less energy than the older fluorescent tube lights, and they automatically adjust to natural lighting levels to reduce energy use.

We help local people to get involved with managing local open spaces around the district, for example Broomfield Park, Duncan Down, Curtis Wood Park, Prospect Field, Mariners View and Westgate Parks. We also support the 'In Bloom' awards, such as Canterbury in Bloom, Herne Bay in Bloom and Whitstable in Bloom.

We need to be prepared in future for the predicted impacts of a changing climate, such as wetter winters and drier summers,

and an increase in extreme weather events such as heatwaves and floods. For example by developing contingency plans to deal with flooding and by raising awareness.

What we are aiming to achieve

We are aiming to achieve the following:

- Improved energy efficiency within homes
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions from our own buildings
- We will develop an aim specific to the local plan after the plan is adopted.

Actions

3.2 Environmental leadership

ID	Action	Measures	What we are aiming to achieve by 2016
41	Continue with the ongoing programme of increasing loft and cavity wall insulation in accordance with the council's Housing Revenue Account business plan (HRA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in buildings projects to reduce energy £ • Number of cavity wall insulations completed • Number of loft insulations completed • Annual targets will be set when the Warm Homes and ECO contract is let 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved energy efficiency within homes • Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
42	Continue programme to replace back boilers and lower rated gas boilers with 'A' rated energy efficient ones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in buildings projects to reduce energy £ • Number of boilers replaced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved energy efficiency within homes • Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
43	Top up cavity insulation settlement as part of guttering and roofing works where possible and full funding available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in buildings projects to reduce energy £ • Number of cavity wall insulation top-ups completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved energy efficiency within homes • Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
44	Local Plan: to develop a group of environmental targets to be met through development identified in the draft Local Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan to be adopted in 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific environmental targets to be developed alongside the Local Plan
45	Promote this Environment Strategy to our partners and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy provided on our website and promotion of individual initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness of what we do linked to the Environment Strategy • Partners and staff, and local residents feel better informed

Related strategies

Climate Local Kent

2011-16 Corporate Plan

Glossary

BREEAM®

BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) is a widely used environmental assessment method for buildings, setting the accepted standard for best practice in environmental design and performance.

Climate Local Kent

Climate Local is a new initiative by the Local Government Association to help support councils to reduce carbon emissions and to improve resilience to the effects of climate change. Climate Local Kent is supported and will be delivered by the Kent Leaders' Council and was officially launched on Tuesday 18 September 2012.

Code for Sustainable Homes

The Code for Sustainable Homes is the national standard for the sustainable design and construction of new homes. It aims to reduce carbon emissions and promote higher standards of sustainable design above the current minimum standards set out by the building regulations. The code is voluntary, but local councils may choose to require developers to comply with the code by including a requirement in their planning policy.

Decent Homes Standard

The Decent Homes Standard sets minimum quality criteria for social housing to be considered 'decent'. For example, decent homes should be in a reasonable state or repair, have effective insulation and efficient heating.

Defra

The government's Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs. The work of the department covers areas such as the natural environment, sustainable development, the green economy, food, farming and fisheries, animal health and welfare, environmental protection and pollution control, and rural communities and issues.

East Kent Housing

In April 2011, the four councils of Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Thanet set up East Kent Housing to manage and improve public sector housing services across east Kent.

Energy Companies Obligation (ECO)

The Energy Companies Obligation (ECO) was introduced in January 2013 to help reduce energy consumption and support people living in fuel poverty. Energy companies with more than 250,000 customers are required to provide funding for making energy efficiency improvements in homes. The ECO will run until March 2015 and will provide funding worth around £1.3 billion every year.

Environment Agency

The Environment Agency is a public body that is responsible for protecting and improving the environment in England and Wales. The Environment Agency has many different responsibilities in relation to the environment. Some examples include protecting people from flooding, helping businesses use resources more efficiently, taking enforcement action against polluters, protecting wildlife, fishing licensing and working with farmers.

Environmental Improvement Areas

Environmental Improvement Areas are areas where the Council will seek environmental improvements that benefit physical and visual connections and enhance the environment through the use of landscape and surface treatments, street furniture and signage. Opportunities for the integration of high quality public art should be pursued, and treatment of the public realm should be informed by the heritage values of the place, where appropriate.

Euro 5 standard

European Union legislation sets "Euro" standards for new vehicles to control the emissions of a range of pollutants, such as nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particulates (PM). At present Euro 5 is the highest standard that new vehicles must meet.

Forest Schools

The Forest Schools initiative is a national scheme run by the Forest Schools Association. It is described by the Association as 'an inspirational process that offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees.'

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) runs a certification scheme for timber and other wood products. When you see the FSC logo on a label you can buy timber and other wood products, such as paper, with the confidence that you are not contributing to the destruction of the world's forests.

Green Flag Award®

The Green Flag Award® scheme is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK. It was first launched in 1996 to recognise and reward the best green spaces in the country.

Green Infrastructure

The Green Infrastructure Planning Guide defines green infrastructure as:

'the physical environment within and between our cities, towns and villages. It is a network of multi-functional open spaces, including formal parks, gardens, woodlands, green corridors, waterways, street trees and open countryside. It comprises all natural resources, and thus a green infrastructure approach also contributes towards sustainable resource management'.

Greywater

Greywater is wastewater from all sources in a property other than toilets. Most greywater recycling systems collect and treat wastewater from showers, baths and wash basins, but exclude more contaminated water from washing machines, kitchen sinks and dishwashers.

Kent Environment Strategy

The Kent Forum (now the Kent Councils Leaders) approved and published the 'Growing the Garden of England: A strategy for environment and economy in Kent' strategy on 22 July 2011. This new strategy sets out how the Kent Council Leaders and its partners will achieve a high-quality Kent environment, low carbon, resilient to climate change, and that has a thriving 'green economy' at its heart.

Kent Council Leaders (previously the Kent Forum)

The Kent Council Leaders is a partnership of local councils and other public sector organisations in the county. It aims to help manage the future development of the county at a strategic level.

Kent Resource Partnership (previously the Kent Waste Partnership)

The Kent Resource Partnership is made up of the district and borough councils that collect domestic waste in Kent, and Kent County Council, which disposes of it. The partnership is responsible for the Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, which is the long-term plan for dealing with domestic waste over the next 15 years.

Localism Act 2011

The Localism Act 2011 devolves greater powers to councils and neighbourhoods, and gives local communities more control over housing and planning decisions.

Material Recycling Facility (MRF)

A facility which uses a range of technologies to sort mixed recyclable waste into individual waste streams (such as glass or plastic) for recycling.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework was published in March 2012. It sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

Quality Bus Partnership

Canterbury City Council, Stagecoach, and Kent County Council established a quality bus partnership in 2004 to improve bus services in Canterbury.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) give legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to conserve and protect the best of our wildlife, geological and physiographical heritage for the benefit of present and future generations. There are over 4,000 SSSIs in England, covering around 8% of the country.

Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP)

The Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) assesses and compares the energy and environmental performance of homes. It considers the amount of energy used and the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emitted.

Sustainable development

The definition of sustainable development that is often used is that developed by the United Nations General Assembly, which defined sustainable development as 'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

The National Planning Policy Framework (above) provides definitions for both 'sustainable' and 'development' from a planning viewpoint.

Appendix 1: Legislation, policy and guidance

There is a huge range of legislation, policy and guidance which are applicable to local councils. This includes both national legislation and European Directives.

We can therefore only provide a very brief summary below of some of the legislation, policy and guidance which are relevant to our Environment Strategy and the reasons why they are important to local councils.

As a guide, the information below is grouped under broad environmental areas such as planning or pollution, although many of the issues listed could naturally appear under more than one area.

Waste and recycling

Controlled waste regulations

These regulations allow local councils to make a charge for the collection and disposal of certain types of waste.

Environmental Protection Act 1990

This places a duty on councils to collect waste and to separate collections of at least two recyclable waste streams.

Pollution

Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006

These regulations set out provisions relating to the identification and remediation (cleaning) of contaminated land.

Environment Act 1995

Under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, and the Air Quality Strategy published by the government in January 2000, Canterbury City Council has to review and assess the air quality in the district.

Pesticides Act 1998

This legislation is designed to control the use of pesticides.

Buildings, energy and climate change

Climate Change Act 2008

This sets specific targets for reductions in carbon emissions for central and local government. The Act requires that emissions are reduced by at least 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels.

Decent Homes Standard

The Decent Homes Standard sets minimum quality criteria for social housing to be considered 'decent'. For example, decent homes should be in a reasonable state of repair, have effective insulation and efficient heating.

Energy Act 2011

The Energy Act covers several key areas, including energy efficiency measures for homes and businesses, the security of energy supplies, and reducing carbon emissions.

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010

This European Union legislation that requires member states to reduce the energy consumption of buildings. It includes a range of requirements nationally for councils, such as reducing energy consumption, producing Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and air conditioning inspections. It also includes a requirement for larger public buildings to display a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) showing actual energy use and the energy efficiency of buildings.

From January 2013 the size of public buildings required to have a DEC was reduced from 1,000m² to 500m². This change meant that we had to provide Certificates for another four public buildings in addition to the existing Certificates for our eight buildings of at least 1,000m².

Home Energy Conservation Act

Councils had to prepare a report by April 2013, and they now have to monitor improvements and report on progress every two years.

Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS)

This includes duties and powers to require improved energy efficiency in dwellings.

Natural environment and outdoor spaces

Allotments Acts of 1922 and 1950

This Act sets out the requirements for local authorities to set aside land for allotments

and satisfy a local demand, a system of fair rents and compensations.

Allotments: Growing in the Community

This sets out best practice and advice for managing and developing allotment sites.

Amendments to Part L of the Building Regulations.

These amendments are proposed for introduction in April 2013 and to be implemented in April 2014. There are possible additional costs to capital schemes, and the council needs to be mindful that local policies proposed should not contradict national legislation.

Biodiversity 2020 – biodiversity strategy for England, 2011

This strategy has a 2020 mission to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people. It has led to the development of Local Nature Partnerships, which the council is required to support due to the National Planning Policy Framework.

CABESpace guides

The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) published a range of useful policy documents and guidance for the greenspace sector. These are still used as 'industry standards and national best practice' concerning the management and development of greenspaces.

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

This includes the protection of species and habitats, and the powers to make Byelaws.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

The CROW Act covers access to open spaces.

Environmental Damage (prevention and remediation) Regulations 2009

These regulations are designed to prevent environmental damage. They bring into force rules to force polluters to prevent and repair damage to water systems, land quality, species and their habitats and protected sites.

The Habitats Directive and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
National Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) can be further protected at European level through designations under the Habitats Directives. Sites will either be classified as Special Protection Areas (SPA), such as the Seasalter Levels in the Canterbury district, or as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), such as the Blean Woods in the Canterbury district. This legislation also protects various species and their habitats.

Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2009-2014

The Kent Downs AONB unit in the Canterbury district aims to conserve and enhance the landscape and environment of the AONB designated area in our district. During the life of this Environment Strategy the Kent Downs AONB management plan will be reviewed and the policies recognised by CCC when considering planning policy and applications.

National Ecosystem Assessment

The National Ecosystem Assessment sets out the 'values' for greenspaces, and the contribution to economic well being. It includes an investigation into the monetary and non-monetary value to the economy, society and individuals from various ecosystem services.

Natural Environment White Paper – "The Natural Choice"

This Paper emphasises valuing natural capital and recognises the contribution of green spaces to public health. It also promotes initiatives including Wild about Gardens and the Green Flag Award. It sets out new 'Green Area Designations', 'Nature Improvement Areas', 'Local Nature Partnerships' and promotes the development of green opportunities for businesses.

DEFRA has not yet published its recommendations and action plan.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

This places a statutory duty on local authorities to consider biodiversity in all its functions (section 41), and relates to planning, land management, project development, committee templates. It

includes a duty to conserve biodiversity, protect birds and sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs).

UN Convention on Biological Diversity 1991, Rio + 20

This states that local authorities are key in delivery.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan - Conserving Biodiversity the UK approach

This includes an emphasis on local delivery.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended, but currently being revised)

This is national legislation which protects species such as nesting birds, slow worm, and common lizard in the Canterbury district.

Planning

Localism Act 2011

The Localism Act 2011 devolves greater powers to councils and neighbourhoods, and gives local communities more control over housing and planning decisions.

National Planning Policy Framework 2012

The Framework has a presumption of development that is sustainable. Development should contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy. It also covers flood risk assessments.

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (amended by the Planning Act 2008)

This sets out the requirement to produce local development documents such as the Local Plan and the issues that need to be considered in those documents, including the need for Sustainability Appraisal.

Planning Act 2008

The Planning Act 2008 aimed to speed up the process for approving major new infrastructure projects, such as roads, energy facilities or waste facilities. It also established the Infrastructure Planning Commission, which was a new body to take major planning decisions about infrastructure.

This Act also amends some of the Local Plan requirements of the 2004 Act.

PPG17 (Planning Policy Guidance) – Open Space, Sport and Recreation

Although now officially withdrawn, it is still considered "industry standard and national best practice", with regard to assessing greenspace needs in the local planning framework.

New legislation

Amendments to Part L of the Building Regulations

Proposed changes to Part L of the Building Regulations will expect all new buildings to be zero carbon after 2016 (the zero carbon target for non-domestic builds applies from 2019, with earlier dates for schools (2016) and public sector buildings(2018)). The definition of zero carbon requires new dwellings to take into account: emissions from space heating, ventilation, hot water and fixed lighting; and exports and imports from the development (and directly connected energy installations) to and from centralised energy networks. By following this policy the Government will expect new buildings to have net zero carbon emissions from regulated energy use over a course of a year.

Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 came into force in March 2013. This placed a legal duty on councils and some other public sector organisations to consider how the services they provide or buy may help to improve the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of an area.

Display Energy Certificates

The European Union's Energy Performance of Buildings Directive requires larger public buildings to display a Display Energy Certificate (DEC). The certificates show the actual energy use of buildings, and also the energy efficiency of buildings from A (best) to G (worst). In January 2013 the size of public buildings required to have a DEC was reduced from 1000m² to 500m².

Low emission zones

The UK is considering Low Emissions Low Emissions Zones that restrict or deter older vans buses and HGVs from accessing environmentally sensitive areas.

Appendix 2: Kent Environment Strategy three themes and ten priorities

Living 'well' within our environmental limits

- leading Kent towards consuming resources more efficiently, eliminating waste and maximising the opportunities from the green economy

Throughout the Kent Environment Strategy the ecological footprint priorities are referred to as 'EF':

EF Priority 1 Make homes and public sector buildings in Kent energy and water efficient, and cut costs for residents and taxpayers.

EF Priority 2 Ensure new developments and infrastructure in Kent are affordable, low carbon and resource efficient.

EF Priority 3 Turn our waste into new resources and jobs for Kent.

EF Priority 4 Reduce the ecological footprint of what we consume.

Rising to the climate change challenge

- working towards a low carbon Kent prepared for and resilient to the impacts of climate change

Throughout the Kent Environment Strategy the climate change priorities are referred to as 'CC':

CC Priority 5 Reduce future carbon emissions.

CC Priority 6 Manage the impacts of climate change, in particular extreme weather events.

CC Priority 7 Support the development of green jobs and business in Kent.

Valuing our natural, historic and living environment

- optimising the real economic and social benefits of high environmental quality while protecting and enhancing the unique natural and built-in character of Kent.

Throughout the Kent Environment Strategy the valuing the natural environment priorities are referred to as 'VE':

VE Priority 8 Utilise the full social and economic potential of a high quality natural and historic environment in Kent

VE Priority 9 Conserve and enhance the quality of Kent's natural and heritage capital.

VE Priority 10 Ensure that Kent residents have access to the benefits of Kent's coast, countryside, green space and cultural heritage.

Appendix 3: 2011-16 Corporate Plan pledges and actions

The information below provides further details about the pledges and actions within our new 2011-16 Corporate Plan which are of particular relevance to this Environment Strategy. The Corporate Plan should be referred to for information about all the pledges and actions.

Pledge 2: We will strive to keep our district a safe place to live

Where we aim to be by 2016:

By 2016 our communities will feel safe both in their homes and in public places. They will enjoy clean, safe and well maintained parks, beaches, town and city centres.

Measures:

In order to meet this aim, we would expect to see progress on the following measures during the next five years:

- City and town centres meeting or exceeding cleaning standards.

Pledge 4: We will support improvements to tackle traffic congestion and the state of our roads and pavements

Where we aim to be by 2016:

By 2016 more people will choose to travel sustainably, (for example by public transport) congestion will remain at 2011 levels and air quality will not have worsened.

Measures:

In order to meet this aim, we would expect to see progress on the following measures during the next five years:

- keeping traffic movements on Canterbury's ring road to 2011 levels.
- increasing the number of people using park and ride.
- improving air quality measures.

- seeing a reduction in the proportion of people saying that traffic congestion needs to be improved.

We will do this by:

1. Working closely with the Kent County Council in the management of roads and pavements and taking action to discourage inappropriate parking on pavements.
2. Championing improvements to support the district's road networks including completing the fourth A2 slip road at Wincheap.
3. Reviewing our parking strategy to increase car parking spaces at our park and rides, reduce city centre parking spaces and set parking charges to influence travel choice.
4. Ensuring new building development occurs in the right places to support broader travel options and promoting alternatives to reduce traffic across the district.
5. Improving traffic flow through greater use of interactive signs, better linking of traffic signals and creation of transport hubs.
6. Encouraging sustainable travel by supporting improvements to public transport, increasing cycling and walking routes, car clubs and charging points for electric and hybrid cars.
7. Encouraging businesses to develop plans that minimise congestion and parking problems.

Pledge 5: We will make our district cleaner and greener and lead by example on environmental issues

Where we aim to be by 2016:

By 2016 the Canterbury district will be a cleaner, greener place to live and visit.

Measures:

In order to meet this aim, we would expect to see progress on the following measures during the next five years:

- A reduction in our energy usage and carbon emissions as an organisation.
- An increase in the proportion of people agreeing that the council 'is working to make the area cleaner and greener'.
- An increase in the proportion of people saying that they are satisfied with the environmental services provided by the council (such as recycling and street cleanliness).
- An increase in the proportion of local sites where conservation management has been or is being implemented.

We will do this by:

1. Reducing our own impact on the environment through the efficient use of resources.
2. Increasing the range and amount of materials collected for recycling and composting.
3. Publishing and monitoring annual targets for reducing carbon emissions from our own operations.
4. Ensuring that our plans and activities give sufficient protection to heritage sites and the built and natural environment.
5. Working with communities and partners to reach the highest possible standards of maintenance and cleanliness for our streets, parks, open spaces and beaches.
6. To work with partners to identify and improve local biodiversity and habitats.
7. Support and encourage renewable energy generation and energy efficiency initiatives.

Appendix 4: Our wider environmental work

The consultation on the draft Environment Strategy included suggestions for environmental issues that respondents thought should be included.

It is impossible to cover all the work we do that is relevant to the environment in this single document, and there are many other related plans, strategies and policies which are relevant.

This means that some major environmental issues which consultation respondents suggested should be part of the Environment Strategy are (also) addressed elsewhere. This Appendix explains where these issues are covered by some of our other major plans, strategies and policies.

Air Quality

We have a statutory requirement to review and assess air quality in the district and report the results to the Department of Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) at regular intervals. Where air pollution exceeds our target levels we have to declare an Air Quality Management Area and prepare an action plan to reduce pollution. Some of the major environmental issues covered by the Air Quality Action Plan include:

- Traffic congestion, including the impacts of the 'school run'

Canterbury District Transport Strategy

We are currently developing the Canterbury District Transport Strategy, which we aim to publish in spring 2014. Some of the major environmental issues covered by the draft Canterbury District Transport Strategy include:

- Buses (for example, real-time bus information)
- Cycling (for example, new cycle routes)
- Park and Ride (for example, a fourth Park and Ride site, and a regular, seasonal service for Whitstable)
- Reducing traffic congestion in and around Canterbury city centre

- Walking (for example, 20mph zones)
- Westgate Towers (the decision about whether or not to close the towers to traffic will be taken by Kent County Council after the public consultation which ended in December 2013)

Local Plan

The draft Local Plan sets out a vision for the Canterbury district and how it will develop up to 2031. It is an important document as it will shape the future development of our district covering homes, businesses, shops, leisure facilities, countryside. The public consultation on our draft Local Plan finished at the end of August 2013. We are now reviewing all the feedback we received. Some of the major environmental issues covered by the draft Local Plan include:

- Code for Sustainable Homes
- Housing density levels
- Policies for considering environmental/'green' measures in urban areas, for example tree planting, living walls and green roofs
- Policies for managing and controlling the historic environment
- Renewable energy installations, including solar photovoltaics

(examples include policy CC1 covering renewable and low-carbon energy sources, policy CC2 (subject to government 'zero carbon' guidance) covering reducing carbon emissions from energy, and policy DBE2 covering development of renewable and micro-generation equipment)

- Transport infrastructure for new developments
- University and college developments and student numbers

The Local Plan aims to balance the need to provide land for development with the importance of protecting agricultural land.

Subject to the allocation of development land required by the Plan, we will seek to protect the best and most versatile farmland for the longer term (Policy EMP12).

We also need to prepare an Infrastructure Delivery Plan alongside the Local Plan.

Procurement

Our procurement process takes account of environmental considerations, which includes:

Pre Qualification Questionnaire

Organisations that want to bid for larger council contracts have to complete our Pre Qualification Questionnaire. This specifically considers the environmental credentials of prospective suppliers, for example whether they have:

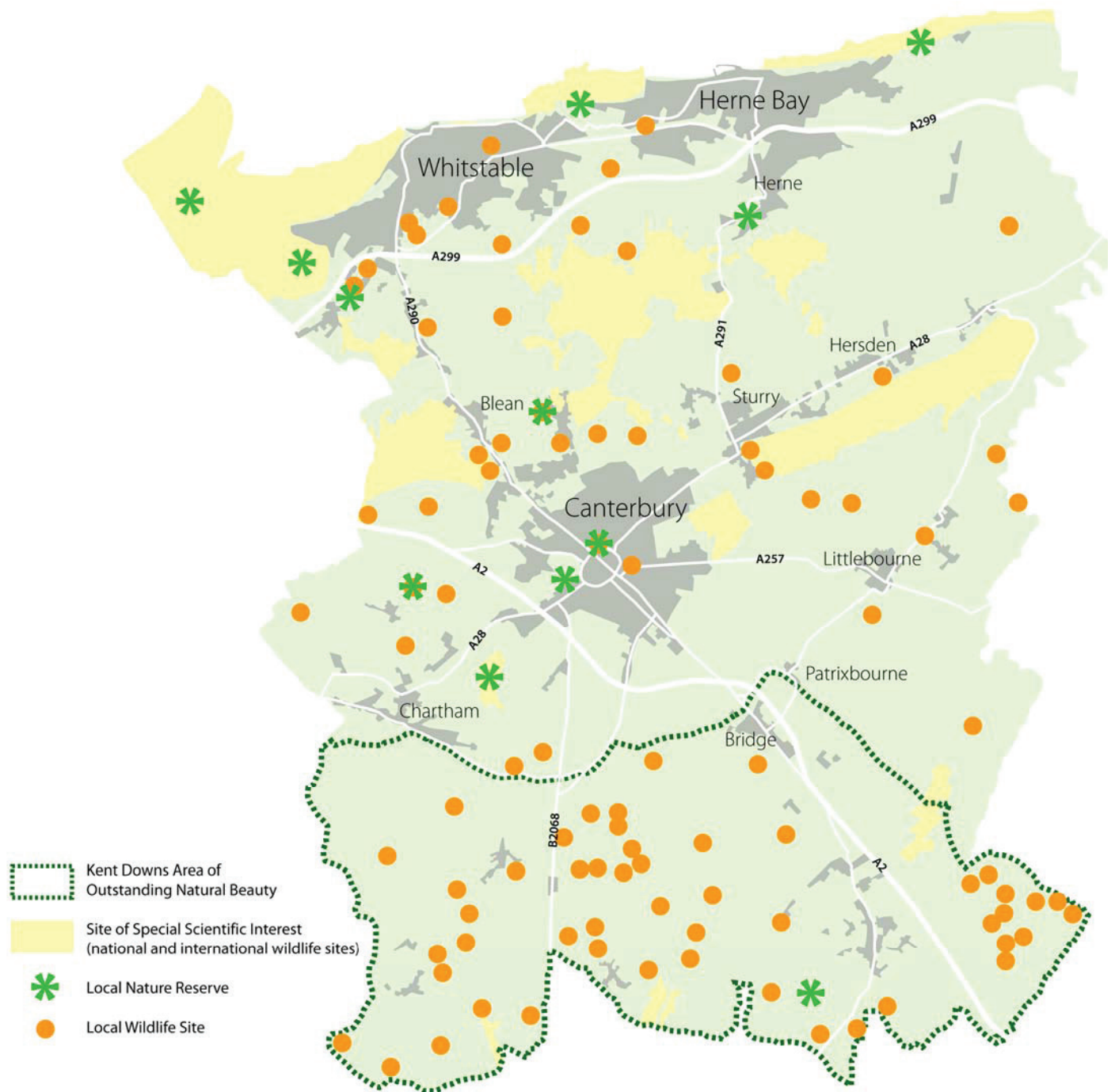
- Carbon Reduction Policy
- Environmental Policy
- Recognised environmental management system such as ISO14001 or EMAS

Method Statement

Tendering organisations also have to provide a Method Statement that explains how they will deliver the service or project they are bidding for. This includes a specific section about corporate responsibility and sustainability which covers issues such:

- Education and awareness
- Environmental management
- Sustainable communities

Appendix 5: local wildlife sites



Appendix 6 Advice and further information

For advice and further information please contact the following council officers:

Overall strategy

Velia Coffey

(Deputy Chief Executive)

01227 862 149

velia.coffey@canterbury.gov.uk

Matt McLellan

(Policy Officer)

01227 862 058

matthew.mclellan@canterbury.gov.uk

Flooding

Ted Edwards

(Engineering Manager)

01227 862 448

ted.edwards@canterbury.gov.uk

Housing: Private Sector

Larissa Reed

(Head of Neighbourhood Services)

01227 862 213

larissa.reed@canterbury.gov.uk

Steve King

(Assistant Head of Neighbourhood Services)

01227 862 235

steve.king@canterbury.gov.uk

Housing: public sector

Tim Goss

(Asset Manager, East Kent Housing)

01304 872 233

tim.goss@eastkenthousing.org

Minimising waste and increasing recycling

Chris Wallis

(Environmental Services Manager)

01227 862 245

christopher.wallis@canterbury.gov.uk

Natural and built environment

Anna Palmer

(Senior Countryside Officer)

01227 862 473

anna.palmer@canterbury.gov.uk

Planning Policy

Adrian Verrall

(Planning Policy Manager)

01227 862 196

adrian.verrall@canterbury.gov.uk

Jill Barr

(Planning Officer)

01227 862 197

jillian.barr@canterbury.gov.uk

Public information and promotion

Kathryn Hearnden

(Senior Marketing Relationship Officer)

01227 862 264

kathryn.hearnden@canterbury.gov.uk

Reducing energy use and buildings

Colin Pengelly

(Senior Surveyor)

01227 862 483

colin.pengelly@canterbury.gov.uk

Philip Kiss

(Building Services Engineer)

01227 862 481

philip.kiss@canterbury.gov.uk

Sustainable transport

Richard Moore

(Transportation Manager)

01227 862 419

richard.moore@canterbury.gov.uk

Josh Theobald

(Senior Transportation Officer)

01227 862 422

joshua.theobald@canterbury.gov.uk

Tackling pollution

Julie Oates

(Environmental Protection Manager)

01227 862 230

julie.oates@canterbury.gov.uk

Appendix 7: Canterbury City Council greenhouse gas emissions 2012-13

2012-13 greenhouse gas emissions

Every year we publish an annual greenhouse gas report on our council website. Our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for 2012-13 are shown below:

2012-13 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: TOTAL		
Emissions source	Tonnes CO2 equivalent/yr	%
TRANSPORT		
Business	92	4.2%
Fleet	49	2.3%
Lease	1	0.0%
Mears contract vehicles	296	13.5%
Park and Ride buses	476	21.8%
Serco contract vehicles	1,273	58.2%
Transport total	2,188	100.0%
BUILDINGS		
Leisure centres	1,880	33.3%
Museums	333	5.9%
Offices	619	11.0%
Theatres / entertainment	633	11.2%
Housing	1,614	28.6%
Other	405	7.2%
Mears depot	3	0.0%
Serco depots	154	2.7%
Buildings total	5,641	100.0%
COMBINED FOOTPRINT		
Transport	2,188	27.9%
Buildings	5,641	72.1%
Total	7,829	100.0%

Changes since previous year

We have previously reported our annual greenhouse gas emissions and set targets based on our total emissions (tonnes CO2e per year).

Our greenhouse gas emissions vary from year to year due to a number of factors, such as changes to our vehicle fleet, changes to our property portfolio and weather conditions. This means that measuring our total energy use and emissions is not be the best way to understand changes in our environmental performance from one year to the next.

We are proposing to change the way we measure our emissions and set targets. Instead of measuring total emissions, we will use the energy intensity approach to set targets and to report emissions on a unit basis:

- Buildings greenhouse gas emissions per square metre reduced by 2.6% per year
- Transport greenhouse gas emissions per kilometre travelled reduced by 2.6% per year

We have analysed the emissions from our own public buildings for 2012-13 and compared them to the previous year (the figures below do not include the emissions from the depots used by our contractors, Mears and Serco):

PUBLIC BUILDINGS EMISSIONS						
Source	2011-12		2012-13		% change 2012 vs 2011	
	Tonnes CO2e	Tonnes CO2e/m ²	Tonnes CO2e	Tonnes CO2e/m ²	Tonnes CO2e	Tonnes CO2e/m ²
Public buildings	3426	0.109	3,870	0.107	11%	-2%
Sheltered housing	1,299	0.046	1,471	0.050	12%	9%
Hostels	144	0.095	144	0.095	0%	0%
Total	4,869	0.079	5,485	0.082	11%	3%

Although the total emissions from our public buildings have increased by 11% since 2011-12, our emissions per square metre have only increased by 3%.

Appendix 8: Climate Local Kent targets

We will work towards a cut in emissions of 2.6% annually in Kent by 2020 which will see an overall reduction of 34% in our emissions.

We will encourage renewable energy installations and we want to see Kent increase its energy from renewable sources by 10% by 2020.

We will work towards the retrofitting of homes across Kent, beginning with 1,000 households in 2013, through the work of the Kent and Medway Green Deal Partnership.

We will work with at least 500 local companies by 2015 to help them cut their energy, waste and water bills. We will give them guidance on how climate change could affect their company and they can plan for it.

We will support activity to reduce water consumption in Kent from 160 litres to 140 litres per person per day by 2016.

We will work to support an increase in jobs within the Low Carbon sector by 10% by 2020.

We will ensure that 60% of our local wildlife sites are being positively managed.

We will work to ensure that 95% of Kent's Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) are in 'favourable' state or 'recovering'.

We will encourage an increase in volunteering, with a target of a 20% increase in hours spent, AND a 20% increase in Kent residents taking part in organised outdoor activities.

We will increase flooding resilience in 4,500 Kent homes and bring in £5.6m in partnership funding for flood measures.

We will assess all our services for risks and opportunities and build resilience to climate change into our work.

We will support local communities in preparing for climate change through the development of 15 community plans for those most at risk or with greatest opportunities.



