



Local Plan Climate Change Workshop

28th November 2019

Introduction

Dover District Council declared a Climate Change Emergency at a Cabinet Meeting on the 4th of November 2019. A Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan are to be prepared and Dover District Council are to become a net zero carbon emitter by 2030 at the latest.

The Planning Policy team at DDC undertook a Climate Change Workshop on the 28th of November 2019. As it is a key duty to cooperate issue, and climate change knows no borders, Kent Authorities, along with delegates from other external organisations were invited to discuss a range of topics relating to the how the Local Plan can tackle climate change.

Participants

- Royal Town Planning Institute
- Town and Country Planning Association
- WSP Consultants
- Client Earth
- Kent County Council
- Dover District Council
- Ashford Borough Council
- Canterbury City Council
- Dartford Borough Council
- Folkestone and Hythe District Council
- Gravesham Borough Council
- Lee Evans Partnership
- Maidstone Borough Council
- Medway Council
- Swale Borough Council
- Sevenoaks District Council
- Thanet District Council
- Tonbridge and Malling
- Tunbridge Wells
- The Environment Agency
- Conker Conservation
- Carbon Free Group
- The R&A
- Bureau Veritas
- Design Southeast

In total there were 67 attendees on the day including facilitators and presenters.



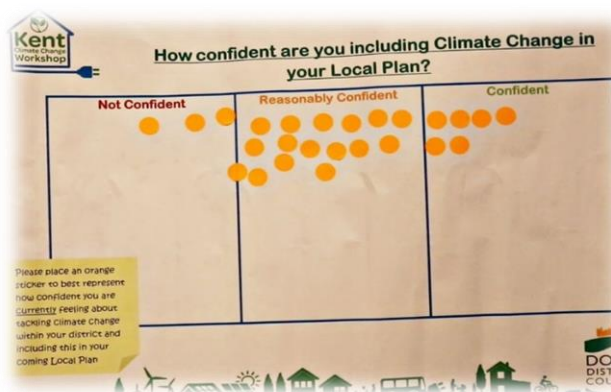
Part One: Networking and Pop Ups

The workshop kicked off with a networking lunch and Greg Chant-Hall from the Carbon Free Group, Richard Maggs from Bureau Veritas and Andrew Pepler, Lidija Honegger, Steph Hands and Dan Jenkins from WSP held pop up stands to enable attendees to engage in conversations on climate change.

Attendees were also invited to complete the following tests:

How confident are you including Climate Change within your Local Plan?

This was used as a starting reference for how confident everyone felt about addressing climate change in their Local Plans.



Opinions on Existing Policies -

Local Plan policies from Bristol, Greater Manchester, Barnsley, Camden, Bedford and London were displayed, and attendees were asked to place stickers to express if they liked or disliked the Policies.

Local Authority	Policy	Like	Dislike
Bristol	Policy BCS13	12 green dots	8 red dots
Greater Manchester	Policy GM – S 2 Carbon and Energy	12 green dots	1 red dot
Barnsley	Policy CC1: Climate Change & Policy CC2: Sustainable Design and Construction Development	3 green dots	10 red dots
Camden	Policy CC2 Adapting to Climate Change	12 green dots	1 red dot
Bedford	Policy 55 - Energy Efficiency	1 green dot	14 red dots
London	Policy S12 Minimising Greenhouse Gas Emissions	15 green dots	0 red dots

London Plan Policy S12 Minimising Greenhouse Gas Emissions received the most likes and is set out below.

LONDON - Policy SI2 Minimising Greenhouse Gas Emissions

A) Major development should be net zero-carbon. This means reducing carbon dioxide emissions from construction and operation, and minimising both annual and peak energy demand in accordance with the following energy hierarchy:

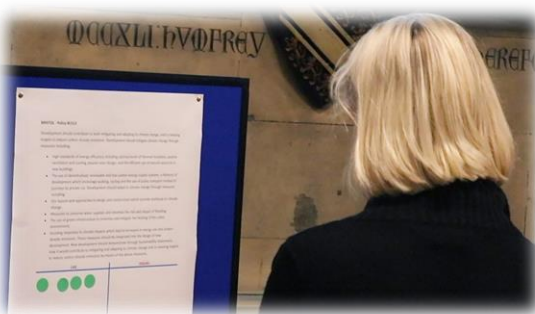
- 1) Be lean: use less energy and manage demand during construction and operation.
- 2) Be clean: exploit local energy resources (such as secondary heat) and supply energy efficiently and cleanly. Development in Heat Network Priority Areas should follow the heating hierarchy in Policy SI3 Energy infrastructure.
- 3) Be green: generate, store and use renewable energy on-site.

B) Major development should include a detailed energy strategy to demonstrate how the zero-carbon target will be met within the framework of the energy hierarchy and will be expected to monitor and report on energy performance.

C) In meeting the zero-carbon target a minimum on-site reduction of at least 35 per cent beyond Building Regulations is expected. Residential development should aim to achieve 10 per cent, and non-residential development should aim to achieve 15 per cent through energy efficiency measures. Where it is clearly demonstrated that the zero-carbon target cannot be fully achieved on-site, any shortfall should be provided:

- 1) through a cash in lieu contribution to the relevant borough's carbon offset fund, and/or
- 2) off-site provided that an alternative proposal is identified, and delivery is certain.

D) Boroughs must establish and administer a carbon offset fund. Offset fund payments must be ring-fenced to implement projects that deliver greenhouse gas reductions. The operation of offset funds should be monitored and reported on annually.



Part Two: The Presentations

The Royal Town Planning Institute, Town and Country Planning Association, Client Earth, WSP and Kent County Council were invited to share their knowledge of how a Local Plan can tackle climate change.

Copies of the presentations are available on the DDC website and a brief summary of the issues covered is set out below

<https://www.dover.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-Policy-and-Regeneration/Evidence-Base/Climate-Change.aspx>

Client Earth - Sam Hunter Jones – Law and Policy Relating to Local Plans and Climate Change

Law and policy briefing

- <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/planning-for-climate-change>
- Section 19(1A) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004: "Development plan documents must (taken as a whole) include policies designed to secure that the development and use of land in the local planning authority's area contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change."
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):
 - need to clearly describe whether plan facilitates or contradicts the achievement of relevant climate objectives



Client Earth's presentation set out the legal requirements in relation to planning for climate change. Client Earth are keen to work with Local Authorities to support them in implementing these legal requirements and Sam was able to point us in the direction of helpful tools to navigate how we embed this into our Local Plan Policies.

[Client Earth - Law and Policy Relating to Local Plans and Climate Change](#)

Town and Country Planning Association – Jessica Fieth - The Climate Crisis

The Climate Crisis

Jessie Fieth, Projects and Policy Manager
Town and Country Planning Association

[@thetcpa](http://www.tcpa.org.uk)



Jessie's presentation talked about the challenges that we are facing in planning for climate change and the commitments that Local Authorities need to meet. Jessie explained how the Planning system is best placed to tackle climate change and the role that Local Plans can play in this.

[Town and Country Planning Association - The Climate Crisis](#)



Royal Town Planning Institute - Daniel Slade – Planning for Climate Justice



Daniel started by explaining Climate Change from the RTPI's perspective and the five arguments for Climate Justice within Spatial Planning. This led on to a broader overview of the importance of Climate Justice and the reasons why it always needs to be considered by Planners. He also explained how Diversity and Equality play a major part within Climate Justice and how we must consider the wider social costs and benefits. Finally, Daniel also pointed us in the direction of a number of tools that can help us reach our Climate Change goals (in toolkit below.)

[Royal Town Planning Institute - Planning for Climate Change](#)

Kent County Council – Carolyn McKenzie – Rising to the Challenge of Clean Growth and Net Zero

Climate Emergency and Net Zero What does it mean for planning?

Kent and Medway Planning Workshop

Carolyn McKenzie
Head of Sustainable Business and Communities
Kent County Council



Carolyn's presentation focused on the work that KCC are doing with Local Authorities to tackle climate change and the importance of partnership working. She explained the goals we need to meet and gave suggestions on how we will meet them such as Smart Networks, Climate Proofing, Multipurpose infrastructure and replacing the old. She shared with us what has been implemented subsequent to KCC declaring a Climate Emergency.

[Kent County Council - Rising to the Challenge of Climate Change](#)

WSP – Andrew Peppler, Lidija Honegger, Steph Hands – Practical Solutions



The Team at WSP gave a presentation regarding the practical solutions that we can implement in terms of Design and Planning to tackle climate change, with a focus on urban greening. They demonstrated the difference between Mitigation and Adaptation and talked about why we need to reduce greenhouse gasses and the cutting-edge science that we have to prove this and help us mitigate the damage done.

[WSP - Practical Solutions](#)

Tool Kit

- **Planning for Climate Change - Law and Policy Briefing -** <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/planning-for-climate-change>
- **APSE Energy -** <https://www.apse.org.uk/apse/index.cfm/local-authority-energy-collaboration/apse-energy-publications1/local-authority-climate-emergency-declarations/>
- **Catapult -** <https://es.catapult.org.uk/news/ssh1-local-area-energy-planning/>
- **Climate Just Mapping Tool -** <https://www.climatejust.org.uk/map>
- **Scatter -** <https://scattercities.com/>
- **ADEPT -** <https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/floodriskemergencyplan>
- **CSE - Free Support -** neighbourhoodplanning@cse.org.uk
<https://www.cse.org.uk/projects/view/1343>
- **RTPI -** [RTPI.org.uk/climatechange](https://rtpi.org.uk/climatechange)

True or False!



The first Group exercise involved asking a series of True / False questions

The UK has become the first major economy to pass a net zero emissions target into law

TRUE!

The UK Passed this law on 27th June 2019

Mitigation and adaptation in relation to climate change are interchangeable terms which mean the same

FALSE!

Mitigation means trying to eliminate/reduce future human impacts on the climate, adaptation means adapting environments to cope with the effects which are already being seen e.g. increased temperatures and sea levels

The term 'Climate Justice' means finding a fair balance for and between people who enjoy warmer weather and people who enjoy cooler weather

FALSE!

Climate justice aims to frame climate change as a social, and political issue for humans, especially as those who feel the effects of extreme weather events are often from poorer communities. Climate change had previously been framed as a purely environmental issue in terms of the hole in the ozone and the increase in greenhouse gas emissions

The planning system/local plans are capable of solving climate change

FALSE!

Efforts will need to be made by a range of different agencies in partnership, including the Environment Agency, statutory consultees such as Natural England, and the Planning Inspectorate, as well as politicians and members of the public in order to address the human impact on the climate



TRUE!

True – gas boilers burn fossil fuels, the consultation seeks to replace them with the latest generation of clean technology – such as air-source heat pumps and cutting-edge solar panels

The current consultation on altering Part L of the Building Regulations proposes a ban on gas boilers in new homes from 2025

FALSE!

The planning system now has less control over residential conversions as a result of these changes as there is no mechanism for a green energy requirement in the prior approval process

The expansion of permitted development rights, to include the conversion of buildings to residential use, has made taking actions to secure mitigation and adaptation easier



Part Three: Workshops

The Local Plan Workshop was planned around 5 main themes:

- Buildings Construction and Management
- Energy use and generation
- Sustainable connectivity (Including Transport)
- Building in Climate Resilience (Flooding and SUDS)
- Green Space and Natural Environment

Key: The outputs from the workshop have been broadly sorted into categories.

Building Regulations

Local Plan

Other

All of the attendees were rotated around the different “themes” and were asked to identify the key ideas for how the Local Plan could tackle climate change.



Buildings Construction and Management Facilitated by David Tittle – Kent Design			
Aspect (Building)	Aspect (Local Plan)	Challenges (Documented by the Attendees)	Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction - Whole life, embedded carbon Operation - Building fabric and passive design Systems efficiency Energy management – Smart energy Supply - Building Renewables Cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decentralised energy Off Setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government need to give LA's more flexibility in their policy making to ensure National Climate Change Ambition is Achievable If People Change their behaviour, then Local Plans / Planning Policy also needs to change 	<div>Enforcement</div> <div>Re-use buildings and materials</div> <div>Exceed Baseline Standards with flexibility</div> <div>If it can't be reduced, reused, repaired, refurbished, refinished, resold, recycled or composted then it should be restricted, redesigned or removed from production</div> <div>Design - Site Layout and Orientation</div> <div>Developer Viability Test</div> <div>Landlord Licenses</div> <div>Batteries in houses</div>

Energy Use and Generation Facilitated by Greg Chant-Hall - Carbon Free Group			
Aspect (Building)	Aspect (Local Plan)	Ideas	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home grown food and composting Construction - Waste, minimisation, reuse products, circular economy principals Water - Grey water recycling and operational efficiency In house recycling facilities and info Cost Building energy use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycling Services and centres Street scene recycling and disposal Opportunity for local generation e.g. rooftop 	<div>Community Approach: Energy (PV Power Sharing and Microgrid)</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leisure Food Density <div>Carbon Neutral after 2027</div> <div>Local Materials which are low on carbon</div> <div>SHARING - Doing it Together!!</div> <div>Tiny Homes - 25m² One Bed</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No room for excessive "Stuff" Towards Co-Housing <div>Better internal communication</div> <div>New Developments must make recycling easy - i.e.: allow space for residents to collect recycling and allows space for collection</div> <div>National Legislation + Strategy - Strategic Policy</div> <div>De centralized energy- Microgrid / Local Offset (Kent Wide)</div>	



Green Spaces and the Natural Built Environment

Facilitated by: Andrew Pepler and Stephanie Hands - WSP

Aspect (Building)	Aspect (Local Plan)	Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilisation from shading Multi – functional Infrastructure Green walls and roofs for insulation and cooling Maximising biodiversity and creating wildlife corridors 	<p>Use of green space and vegetation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act as a carbon sink and absorption of poor air quality (Off setting) Provide space for flooding and water storage 	<p>Street Greening</p> <p>county-wide GI strategy</p> <p>Education on Bio Diversity Net Gain</p> <p>Move Waste up the Hierarchy</p> <p>Enforcement - Completion Certificates (at least on large sites)</p> <p>Minimum Standards</p> <p>Less Focus on Housing / Balance</p>

Building in Climate Resilience – Including Flooding and SUDS

Facilitated by: Carolyn McKenzie - KCC

Aspect (Building)	Aspect (Local Plan)	Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximising of orientation for both solar gain and shade Mitigating overheating – Shading windows, vegetation Climate Resilient Materials SUDS – Driveways and gardens Property level flood defence where needed Drought resilience – Landscaping and water collection 	<p>Use of Green space and vegetation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act as a carbon sink and absorption of poor air quality (offsetting) Provide space for flooding and water storage SUDS Providing shading and mechanisms for heat islands Maximising biodiversity and creating wildlife corridors – net gain 	<p>Shared Training and CPD</p> <p>Early conversations with key stakeholders</p> <p>SUDS</p> <p>Broad Principals</p> <p>Detail- Kent Design One version Truth</p> <p>1 set of evidence</p>



Sustainable Connectivity - Including Transport Facilitated by: Richard Maggs – Bureau Veritas		
Aspect (Building)	Aspect (Local Plan)	Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bike Storage Broadband EV Charging Points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service location Digital connectivity Integrated public transport Connected public rights of way / cycle paths in and outside developments Bike Storage and Infrastructure EV Charging Points Car Sharing 	<div>Commercial Development - "Travel" Plans / Green</div> <div>Monetary Contributions to be Local FIRST</div> <div>NOT increasing road capacity for cars</div> <div>Behavior Changes + Educational Pieces</div> <div>Green Infrastructure - Integrated "Corridors" Green and Blue</div> <div>SHARING - Doing it Together!!</div> <div>Good Planning = Reducing demand for travel/ providing travel options</div> <div>Policies to be adhered to and need to be up-front</div> <div>Trial no car zones</div> <div>Buy Local- Plan for Local Services and businesses</div>

Prior to each group moving onto the next table the table facilitators were asked to capture the key headlines to be added to the post its and reported at the end of the workshops.



Part Four: Using information gathered from the workshop within the Local Plan:

Idea	Possible Action
Reuse buildings and materials	Could have criteria in a policy that encourages building materials that are onsite to be reused or incorporated into the new build.
Design site layout and orientation	When drafting new design policies, the issue of climate change should be considered and promoted in terms of ensuring that the design responds and adapts to climate change. This should address issues such as maximising solar gain, climate overheating and flooding.
Developer Viability Test	As per the above, Climate Change and adaption does not necessarily involve major outlay. Climate change should be considered at site selection stage and in design, layout and orientation of a building (As per the National Design Guide.) For Local Authorities that have CIL there is the opportunity to prioritise climate change and adaption in the 123 list.
Tiny Homes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No room for excessive “stuff” - Towards co-housing 	Providing that rooms meet the Nationally described space standards, the Local Plan can encourage the intelligent use of space and multi-functional, adaptable rooms. This offers benefits including more affordable homes that can evolve/ develop according to people’s needs and allow people to remain in their home longer and prioritise climate change habits that will provide long term benefits.
Local materials that are low carbon	A policy could be included within the local plan that has a checklist for high quality sustainable design and development. One of those checks could be that developers’ source Local Materials that are low carbon.
New developments must make recycling easier	In the design policy there needs to be criteria that require developers to consider the needs of recycling as part of the development and design of the building. Other initiatives such as green composting and the ease of which people can recycle products (Eg: access / location, aesthetic design) needs to be considered early on in the design stage.

Decentralised energy	The Local Plan can seek to support micro energy generation within developments.
Street Greening	The Local Plan can encourage the inclusion of street greening and the planting of new trees. In addition to this it can also look at opportunities to incorporate areas of land set aside for people to grow their own food.
County wide GI strategy	In a similar vein as climate change, we all need to work together in a holistic manner. This may include a collaborative evidence base.
Move Waste up the Hierarchy	The Local Plan can give priority to preventing waste in the first place and incorporating a waste hierarchy within the Local Plan in an effort to educate people and protect the environment.
- Early conversations with key stake holders	As part of the Local Plan evidence base discussions will need to take place with key stakeholders with a particular emphasis on climate change and adaption measures.
- SUDS	The Local Plan will incorporate measures to promote SUDS and ensure the long-term management of SUDS is built into the policy
- Commercial development - Travel green plans	The Local Plan can include the requirement for green Travel Plans for commercial development.
- Not increasing road capacity	The Local Plan can encourage other forms of transport such as Cycling and Public Transport as well as walkable neighbourhoods. Alternative transport ideas will take priority over increasing car capacity.
- Green Infrastructure integrated corridors Green and Blue	Both Green and Blue corridors can be incorporated into the Local plan which can be used to enhance and maintain existing habitats by connecting together fragmentated eco systems.
- Trial no car zones	Walkable town centres and neighbourhoods will be within the Local Plan.
- Buy Local – Make plans for Local Services and business	Ensuring that new developments are sustainable and have a range of services and facilities to meet the local needs of the residents. New commercial developments need to be accessible via Public Transport.

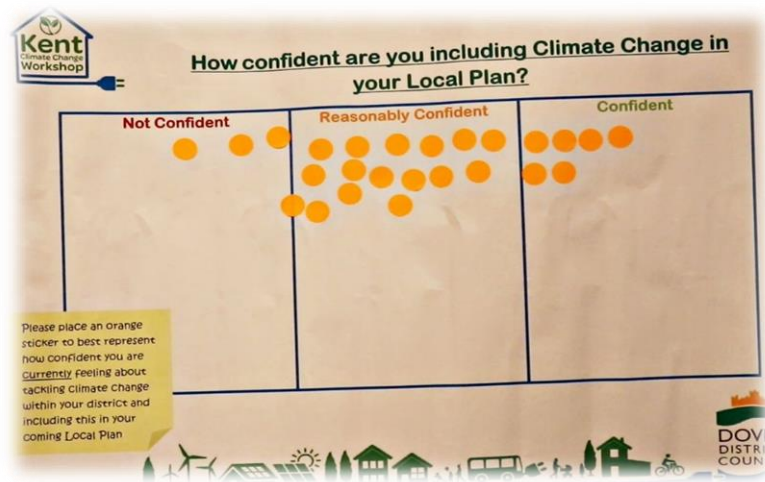
Part Five: Key messages:

Confidence

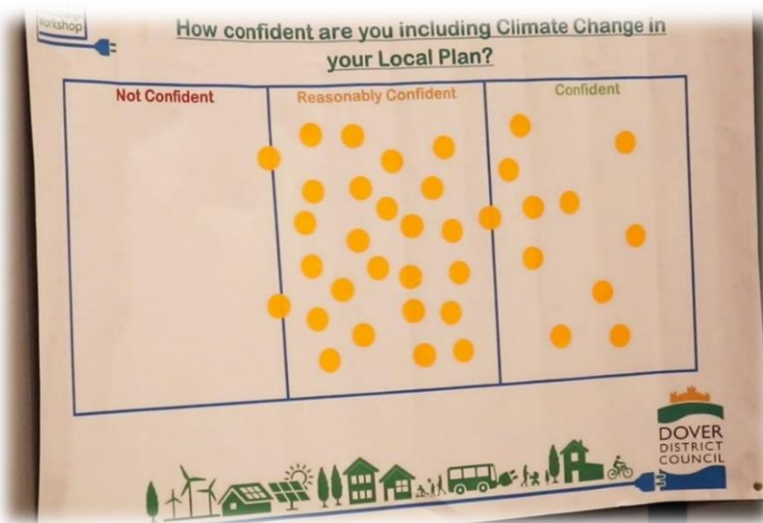
To conclude to the session, attendees were again asked how confident they felt about planning for climate change in the Local Plan, having previously been asked the same question at the start of the workshop. The results are illustrated below.

The results:

At the beginning of the workshop:



At the end of the workshop:



Key Headlines:

- The workshop has gathered together a range of organisations to discuss climate change and it will be important to build on and develop the ideas and knowledge further by convening another event
- When it comes to climate change, working in partnership across administrative boundaries is essential, as climate change issues do need to be tackled in a holistic manner
- The Local Plan cannot tackle climate change alone as it needs the buy in of other Council strategies such as the Corporate Plan
- Climate change issues need to be considered and integrated throughout the whole Local Plan and it will be important to demonstrate this to the Local Plan Inspector
- There are a great deal of free resources on the Internet but often the challenge is working out where to start
- Climate justice is a key consideration and planners need to think about how the most disadvantaged sectors of the local community can be given assistance to tackle climate change issues

Feedback from the event:

DDC has received positive feedback from the event and any comments received will be taken into account when planning future workshops. Key points raised include:

- “Very positive event and good opportunity for professional networking.”
- “There is a need for strong government leadership and a consistent approach nationally, to stimulate the standardisation of construction practices and building standards, and therefore develop related products and industry.
- “More investment and focus is required to reduce car dependency, and genuinely provide mode choice through the delivery of development outcomes.”
- “Climate justice presentation was very pertinent lens to look at these issues through.”
- “Pointed towards resources which was useful”
- “I found that I left with a greater understanding of the broad nature of the planning considerations.”