

South Kesteven Climate Action Plan

Updated
October 2025



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Climate Action Plan Context

South Kesteven District Council declared a climate emergency in September 2019, joining the three-quarters of councils who have formally recognised their organisational role in tackling climate change.

As part of that declaration South Kesteven District Council set the ambition to reduce the organisation's carbon emissions by at least 30% by 2030, and to endeavour to become net zero carbon as soon as viable before 2050. Alongside the aim of carbon emissions reduction for the Council, the declaration recognised the much more far-reaching impact of the Council's community leadership role in addressing our changing climate.

Working with sector specialists The Carbon Trust, the Council's carbon emissions were reviewed, a baseline from which to reduce carbon emissions was established, and a Carbon Footprint and Reduction Opportunities Report was published in June 2020. This provided recommendations and a roadmap to reduce carbon emissions across Council operations.

SKDC has since published annual reports tracking carbon emissions. A positive and sustained downward trend in carbon emissions has been reported, including the latest update from the 2024/25 year of a 29.5% reduction against the baseline.

The Council has also published a Climate Action Strategy in 2023, reviewing all aspects where SKDC can have a role or significant influence in tackling climate mitigation or adaptation throughout the whole district of South Kesteven. The Climate Action Strategy set out an eight-part framework for action against which progress will be measured.

This Climate Action Plan will follow up on those key ambitions, setting out work already underway or planned across the Council. To ensure success, the plan will be delivered across departments.



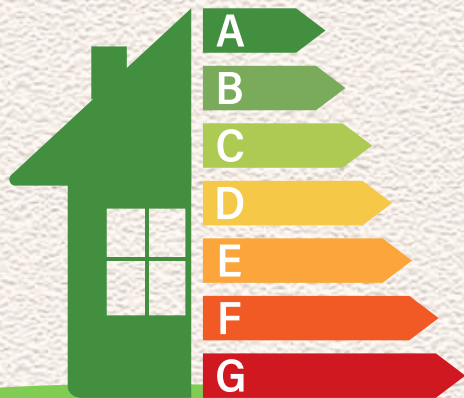
Our Journey So Far

Warm Homes Funding for South Kesteven District Council Properties

South Kesteven District Council has allocated over £15m since 2021 to upgrade council owned properties with energy efficiency and low-carbon heating measures. Delivered over two schemes with match funded support through the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, the Council have now established a dedicated team to oversee the successful delivery of upgrades to help sure properties are rated with an Energy Performance Certificate of C or higher.

Warm Homes Funding for Private Properties in South Kesteven

Alongside the programme to upgrade Council owned properties, SKDC has also delivered funding directed towards private properties with an Energy Performance Certificate of D or lower to also upgrade with energy efficiency and low-carbon heating measures. Delivered through a partnership including three other Lincolnshire authorities, 89 properties have been fully upgraded to date, helping to reduce energy costs for residents.



Streetlights Upgraded to Energy-Efficient LEDs

£1m was allocated to upgrade nearly 4000 SKDC owned streetlights throughout the district to energy-efficient LEDs in 2023. The programme of upgrades is due to be completed in late 2025, and there are expected electricity savings of 75% for every streetlight upgraded.

Grantham Meres Leisure Centre Decarbonisation

Following a successful bid into the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (phase 3c), works are currently underway to upgrade the heating system and supporting infrastructure in SKDC's largest leisure centre. Once completed in winter 2025/26, the new low-carbon system, alongside the new solar PV panels installed, will slash carbon emissions and help stabilise energy costs for the centre.



Our Journey So Far

Climate Change Reserve Fund

To respond to some of these opportunities for the Council to inwardly invest as well as reduce energy consumption and cost from council buildings and activities, SKDC has established a Climate Change Reserve Fund for both General Fund of £500,000 and Housing Revenue Accounts £100,000.

Trees and Woodland Strategy for South Kesteven

South Kesteven District Council developed and adopted an ambitious Trees and Woodlands Strategy in 2024 which sets the direction of travel for management of Council owned trees as well as trees within the wider district. The Strategy has set the long term goal to increase tree canopy cover throughout South Kesteven.

Green Fleet Strategy for South Kesteven

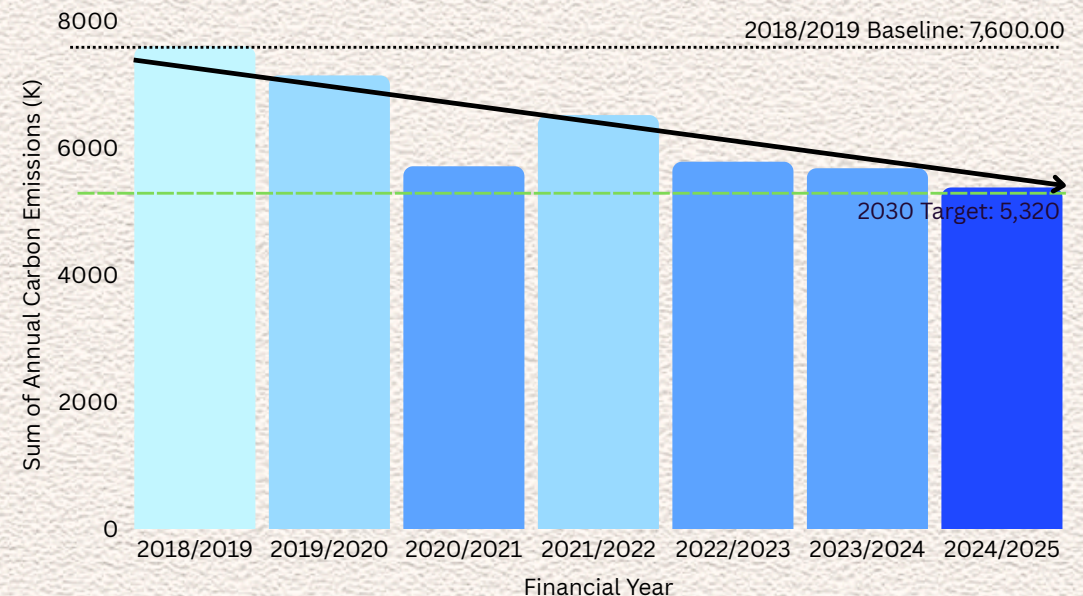
A Green Fleet Strategy was approved in 2025, which agrees several actions to improve the efficiency of the Council's fleet of vehicles and set a pathway for the wider adoption of electric vehicles and alternative fuels to reduce the carbon emissions associated with the operation of SKDC vehicles.

Reduction of Carbon Emissions from Council Operations

South Kesteven District Council's carbon emissions have seen a steady decrease in line with our carbon reduction target of at least 30% by 2030. The most significant reductions have been seen from gas and electric use in SKDC buildings as well as from energy use at leisure centres in the district.

South Kesteven District Council Carbon Emissions Tracker- Annual Comparison

Full details of the carbon reports can be found here: <https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/climatenews/our-action-council>



Measuring and Reporting

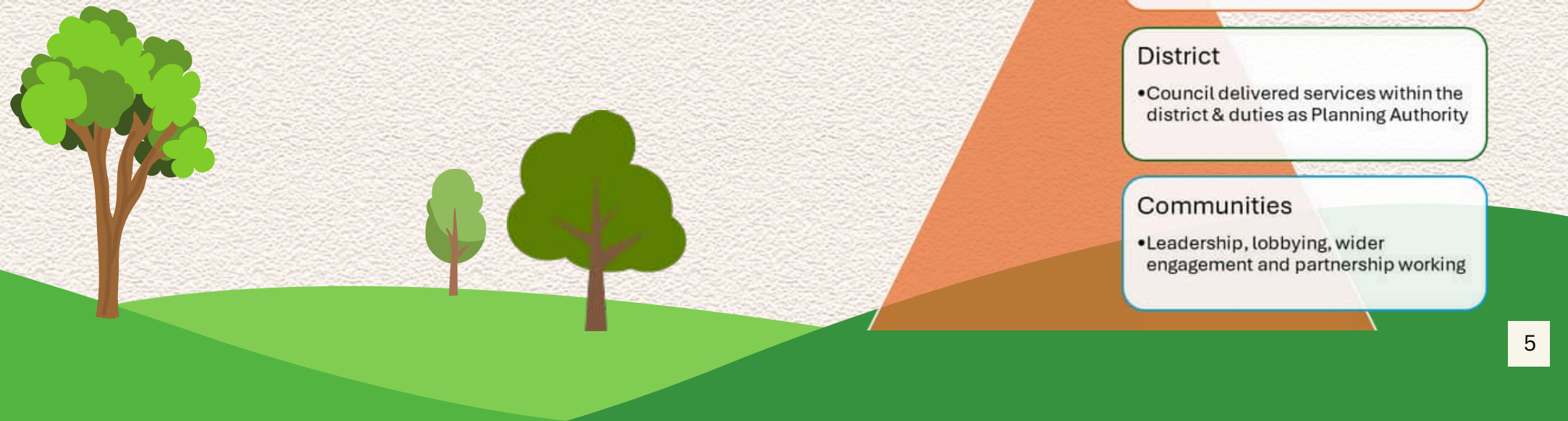
Since South Kesteven District Council's carbon baseline of the 2018/19 year was published in 2020, the Council have continued to publish annual reports stating the operational carbon emissions of the authority. A positive and sustained downward trend in carbon emissions has been reported, including the latest update from the 2024/25 year of a 29.5% reduction against the baseline.

The purpose of the Climate Action Plan is not only to track progress in implementing projects to continue to drive down carbon emissions arising from direct council operations (energy used in council buildings and leisure centres, fuel used in vehicles), but also to set out actions for our wider service delivery and external-facing work with stakeholders to address climate change for the region. Effective monitoring and reporting of each of these aspects will be fundamental to the success of the Plan.

Twice yearly reporting on the progress of the actions under the Climate Action Plan will be completed. This will be presented to the Corporate Management Team in line with ongoing performance monitoring against SKDC's existing Corporate Plan. An annual progress report will also be presented to the Council's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Any post-approval amendments to this Action Plan are to be approved by the Director for Housing and Projects.

The lead officer identified for each action is responsible for providing progress updates against the plan, as well as incorporating any new actions within their area to future versions of the Climate Action Plan.

Our framework for delivery is across three key strands:



Format of Climate Action Plan

Themes

South Kesteven District Council's Climate Action Plan is presented against our eight Themes, with relevant actions each assigned into an area.



Reference

A reference number is allocated to each action to aid correct references when monitoring the Climate Action Plan.

Action

This includes detail on the proposed action.

Focus

Our framework for delivery covers three key areas:

- Council
 - Council activity and carbon emissions
- District
 - Council delivered services within the district & duties as Planning Authority
- Communities
 - Leadership, lobbying, wider engagement and partnership working

Outcome

The outcome states what the action sets out to achieve within the scope of the Climate Action Plan.

Timeframe

The timeframe for actions state when the action is intended to be implemented:

- Short term- 2025 to 2027
- Medium term – to 2030
- Long term – 2030 and onwards

The Climate Action Plan also notes where relevant actions have already been completed or are underway.

Format of Climate Action Plan

Co-benefits

Integral to the Climate Action Plan is that actions will deliver co-benefits beyond the goal of climate mitigation or adaptation. Some actions may offer the potential to deliver multiple co-benefits.

We have mapped out eight key co-benefits of action:



Reducing fuel poverty



Improving health and wellbeing



Boosting jobs and growth



Improving air quality



Reducing the impact of flooding



Boosting Biodiversity



Reducing traffic congestion



Ensuring a fair society

Estimated cost

The below guide gives an indication of the estimated cost of implementing the action:

Cost code	Estimated cost
(£)	Internal cost
£	£1-£10,000
££	£10,001-£50,000
£££	£50,001-£500,000
££££	£500,001-£5 million
£££££	£5 million+

Services involved in delivery

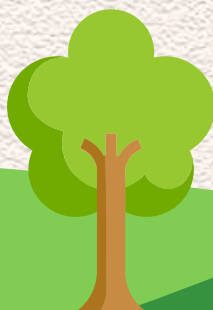
Where an action is or needs to be delivered across multiple areas, this notes where service areas, beyond the officer lead, are included in delivery of the action.

Officer lead

This represents the senior officer lead responsible for the implementation of the action.

Officer lead

This represents the Cabinet Member lead with portfolio responsibility covering the action.



Built Environment

Reference	Action	Focus	Outcomes	Timeframe	Co-benefits	Estimated cost	Officer lead	Cabinet lead
BE1	Continue to implement energy efficiency upgrades to council occupied corporate properties	Council	Reduce energy consumption and cost across council assets	Ongoing	Boosting jobs and growth	£££	Head of Service (Property and IT)	Cllr Richard Cleaver
BE2	Continue to implement energy efficiency upgrades to leisure centres	Council	Reduce energy consumption and cost across leisure assets	Ongoing	Boosting jobs and growth	£££	Head of Service (Property and IT)	Cllr Richard Cleaver
BE3	Complete PSDS funded decarbonisation project for Grantham Meres leisure centre	Council	Implement low-carbon heating system and associated supporting works	Ongoing	Boosting jobs and growth	££££	Assistant Director for Leisure and Culture	Cllr Rhys Baker
BE4	Complete energy efficiency and decarbonisation surveys for council occupied assets to understand path to net zero	Council	Produce a roadmap for future investment into council occupied properties	Short term	Boosting jobs and growth	£	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker
BE5	Complete energy efficiency and decarbonisation surveys for leisure centres to understand path to net zero	Council	-	Completed	Boosting jobs and growth	£	-	
BE6	Review feasibility of improving EPC standard for lettable properties to a minimum of a EPC "D" across the portfolio	District	Ensure energy efficiency of lettable properties owned by SKDC	Short term	Boosting jobs and growth	££	Head of Service (Property and IT)	Cllr Richard Cleaver
BE7	Provide information and guidance to residents about energy efficiency in the home	District	Reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions from domestic energy used	Short term	Fuel poverty Fair society Health and wellbeing	(£)	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker
BE8	Deliver improvements to private properties in South Kesteven with an EPC of D or below to implement energy efficiency and heating upgrades, using Warm Homes Plan funding	District	Reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions from domestic energy used	Ongoing	Fuel poverty Fair society Health and wellbeing	££££	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker

BE9	Deliver programme of energy efficiency and heating upgrades to SKDC owned properties with an EPC of D or below, with support from using Warm Homes Plan funding	Council	Reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions from domestic energy used	Ongoing	Fuel poverty Fair society Health and wellbeing	£££££	Head of Housing Technical Services	Cllr Virginia Moran
BE10	Ensure Sheltered Housing service charges review considers energy consumption and energy efficiency opportunities as part of recommendations	Council	Reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions from domestic energy used	Short term	Fuel poverty Fair society Health and wellbeing	£££	Director of Housing and Projects	Cllr Virginia Moran
BE11	Complete decarbonisation study of whole SKDC housing portfolio to understand pathway to achieve a minimum EPC C	Council	Reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions from domestic energy used	Short term	Fuel poverty Fair society Health and wellbeing	££	Head of Housing Technical Services	Cllr Virginia Moran
BE12	Review provision of energy advice services to residents across tenure types	District	Reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions from domestic energy used	Short tern	Fuel poverty Fair society Health and wellbeing	££	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker
BE13	Enforce the Domestic Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) for private rented properties	District	Reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions from domestic energy used	Ongoing	Fuel poverty Fair society Health and wellbeing	(£)	Environmental Health Manager - Environment and Private Sector Housing	Cllr Virginia Moran
BE14	Develop a policy to agree energy efficiency standard for Council owned new build properties and new asset acquisitions	Council	Reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions from domestic energy used	Short term	Fuel poverty Fair society Health and wellbeing	(£)	Head of Projects, Performance and Climate Change	Cllr Virginia Moran
BE15	Continue to review appropriate net-zero policy recommendations for the next Local Plan	District	Reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions from domestic energy used	Ongoing	Fuel poverty Fair society Health and wellbeing	(£)	Planning Policy Manager	Cllr Phil Dilks

Power

Reference	Action	Focus	Outcomes	Timeframe	Co-benefits	Estimated cost	Officer lead	Cabinet lead
PO1	Review Council owned and occupied buildings for further solar PV potential	Council	Increase self-generation and reduce electricity cost across council assets	Short term	Boosting jobs and growth	£££	Head of Service (Property and IT)	Cllr Richard Cleaver
PO2	Review leisure centres for further solar PV potential	Council	Increase self-generation and reduce electricity cost across leisure assets	Short term	Boosting jobs and growth	£££	Head of Service (Property and IT)	Cllr Richard Cleaver
PO3	Review current SKDC portfolio of ownership for potential to develop utility scale solar PV	Council	Increase self-generation and offset cost and carbon emissions from property portfolio	Medium term	Boosting jobs and growth	££££	Head of Service (Property and IT)	Cllr Richard Cleaver
PO4	Develop an options paper for the development of a council owned local renewable energy project, to offset unavoidable council carbon emissions	Council	Review options to increase self-generation and offset cost and carbon emissions from property portfolio	Short term	Boosting jobs and growth	(£)	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker
PO5	Continue to upgrade SKDC owned streetlights to LED	Council	Reduce electricity consumption and cost by 75% from streetlights	Ongoing	Boosting jobs and growth	££££	Corporate Facilities Lead	Cllr Rhys Baker
PO6	Review opportunities as part of Local Government Reorganisation to conduct a Local Area Energy Plan	District	Co-ordinate regional growth with energy considerations	Medium term	Boosting jobs and growth	£££	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Phil Dilks

Growing our Green Economy

Reference	Action	Focus	Outcomes	Timeframe	Co-benefits	Estimated cost	Officer lead	Cabinet lead
GE1	Support SMEs within the district to reduce their energy use and decarbonise	District	Reduce energy consumption and cost for SMEs	Short term	Boosting jobs and growth	£££	Economic Development Inward Investment Manager	Cllr Ashley Baxter
GE2	Review integration of energy and sustainability content in SKDC delivered Skills Summit	District	Increase awareness of skills to support the green economy	Short term	Boosting jobs and growth	(£)	Economic Development Inward Investment Manager	Cllr Ashley Baxter
GE3	Review inclusion of green economy themes in emerging Tourism Strategy	District	Highlight opportunities for green tourism in district	Short term	Boosting jobs and growth	(£)	Economic Development Inward Investment Manager	Cllr Ashley Baxter
GE4	Develop guidance for contract managers to deliver social value and sustainability aspects of contracts, in line with Contract Procedure Rules	District	Align procurement needs with SKDC strategic goals for sustainability	Short term	Boosting jobs and growth	(£)	Assistant Director of Finance	Cllr Ashley Baxter

Natural Environment

Reference	Action	Focus	Outcomes	Timeframe	Co-benefits	Estimated cost	Officer lead	Cabinet lead
NE1	Continue to implement the Trees and Woodland Strategy	Council Communities	Deliver the targets of the Biodiversity Action Plan	Ongoing	Improving health and wellbeing Improving air quality Reducing the impact of flooding Boosting biodiversity	£££	Tree Project Officer	Cllr Rhys Baker
NE2	Develop and implement new Biodiversity Action Plan for SKDC	Council Communities	Deliver the targets of the Trees and Woodland Strategy work plan	Short term	Improving health and wellbeing Improving air quality Reducing the impact of flooding Boosting biodiversity	££	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker

Transport

Reference	Action	Focus	Outcomes	Timeframe	Co-benefits	Estimated cost	Officer lead	Cabinet lead
TR1	Implement the actions of the Green Fleet Strategy	Council	Deliver the actions of the Green Fleet Strategy	Short term	Air quality Traffic congestion	££££	Head of Waste Management and Market Services	Cllr Rhys Baker
TR2	Implement a sustainable travel plan for all staff and councillors, including reducing the need to travel where feasible	Council	Review business travel needs across SKDC and modes of travel.	Short term	Air quality Traffic congestion	(£)	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker
TR3	Develop SKDC electric vehicle charging strategy to agree where and how new charging infrastructure will be included on SKDC properties	District	Agree operating model for future charge point provision and principles on locating new infrastructure	Short term	Air quality Traffic congestion	(£)	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker
TR4	Ensure the existing EVCPs in SKDC car parks are reliable and offer good value to users	District	Improve accessibility and affordability of electric charging	Ongoing	Air quality Traffic congestion	(£)	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker
TR5	Install further EVCPs in SKDC car parks	District	Improve accessibility and affordability of electric charging	Short term	Air quality Traffic congestion	£££	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker
TR6	Continue to work alongside Lincolnshire County Council to support rollout of charging infrastructure in the district	District	Improve accessibility and affordability of electric charging	Medium term	Air quality Traffic congestion	(£)	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker
TR7	Support the implementation of the Air Quality Action Plan for Grantham	District	Continue to monitor and work toward improving air quality within the Air Quality Management Area	Short term	Air quality Traffic congestion	(£)	Environmental Health Manager - Environment and Private Sector Housing	Cllr Phil Dilks
TR8	Highlight opportunities for walking, wheeling and cycling in the district	Communities	Increase uptake of active travel	Short term	Air quality Traffic congestion	(£)	Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces Team Leader	Cllr Paul Stokes

Resources

Reference	Action	Focus	Outcomes	Timeframe	Co-benefits	Estimated cost	Officer lead	Cabinet lead
RE1	Ensure waste reduction messaging is included in SKDC comms on waste and recycling	Communities	Increase awareness of waste avoidance alongside waste recycling	Short term	Ensuring a fair society	(£)	Communications Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker
RE2	Successfully implement kerbside food waste collections from April 2026	Council	Treat food waste through anaerobic digestion and remove from general waste stream	Ongoing	Ensuring a fair society	££££	Head of Waste and Markets	Cllr Rhys Baker
RE3	Review implementation of kerbside soft plastics	Council	Better separation of plastic waste in line with Environment Act (2021)	Medium term	Ensuring a fair society	£££	Head of Waste and Markets	Cllr Rhys Baker
RE4	Promote reusable alternative to common single-use items in SKDC Comms	Communities	Signpost waste reduction opportunities to residents	Short term	Ensuring a fair society	(£)	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker
RE5	Review water consumption across Council owned assets and review reduction opportunities	Council	Identify leaks and reduce water consumption	Short term	Ensuring a fair society	(£)	Head of Service (Property and IT)	Cllr Richard Cleaver
RE6	Promote water conservation awareness and opportunities to SKDC tenants	Council	Help to reduce domestic water consumption for households	Short term	Reducing fuel poverty	(£)	Communications Manager	Cllr Virginia Moran
RE7	Review water consumption targets for new residential developments as part of Local Plan review	District	Help to reduce domestic water consumption for households	Short term	Reducing fuel poverty	(£)	Planning Policy Manager	Cllr Phil Dilks
RE8	Review implementation of lower-flow toilets across Council owned properties	Council	Help to reduce domestic water consumption for households	Short term	Reducing fuel poverty	££	Head of Housing Technical Services	Cllr Virginia Moran

Communities

Reference	Action	Focus	Outcomes	Timeframe	Co-benefits	Estimated cost	Officer lead	Cabinet lead
CO1	Keep under review adverse weather plans for SKDC service areas and ensure effective mitigations are in place	Council	Improved forward planning and risk mitigation for adverse and extreme weather	Ongoing	Improving health and wellbeing Reducing impact of flooding	(£)	Emergency Planning and Health and Safety Lead	Cllr Richard Cleaver
CO2	Review and conduct analysis of areas of greatest risk from extreme and disruptive weather for the wider district	Communities	Improved forward planning and risk mitigation	Short term	Improving health and wellbeing Reducing impact of flooding	(£)	Emergency Planning and Health and Safety Lead	Cllr Richard Cleaver
CO3	Continue to work with partners on improving flood resilience within communities	Communities	Residents are better prepared for future flooding events	Short term	Reducing impact of flooding	(£)	Emergency Planning and Health and Safety Lead	Cllr Richard Cleaver
CO4	Continue incident response to major flooding events within the district, working alongside partners	District	Improved response to disruptive flooding events	Short term	Reducing impact of flooding	££	Emergency Planning and Health and Safety Lead	Cllr Richard Cleaver
CO5	Where possible support communities to engage with authorities and landowners to repair and maintain water and flood management assets.	Communities	Help to create proactive multi-agency working resulting in more resilient communities.	Medium term	Reducing impact of flooding	(£)	Environmental Health Manager - Environment and Private Sector Housing	Cllr Richard Cleaver
CO6	Implement external communications activity to update stakeholders on Climate Action Plan workstreams	Communities	Improve awareness of SKDC action and commitments	Short term	ALL	(£)	Communications Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker
CO7	Agree delivery of SKDC led events focusing on sustainability within the district	Communities	Improve awareness of SKDC action and commitments	Short term	ALL	(£)	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker

Decision making

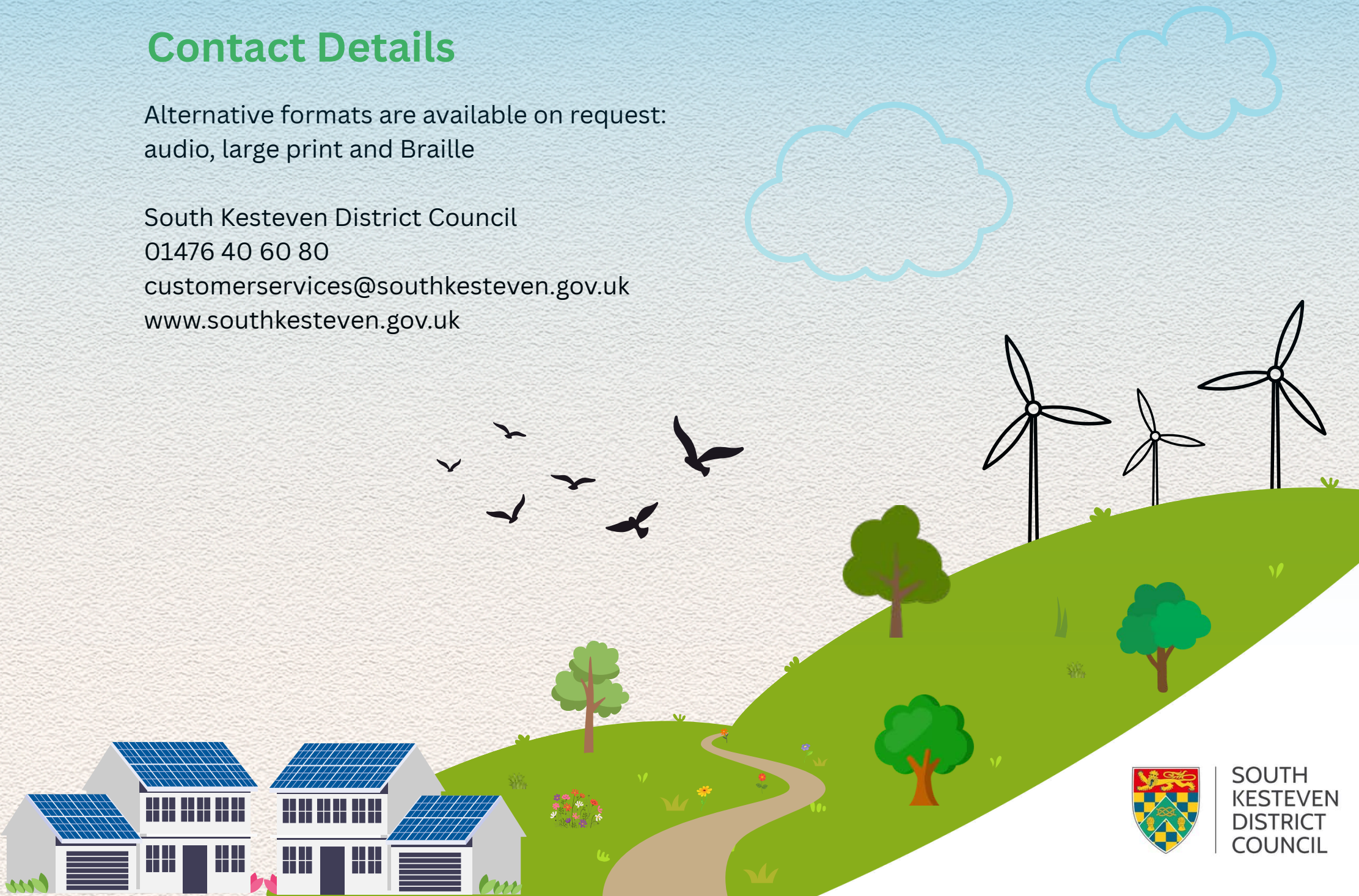
Reference	Action	Focus	Outcomes	Timeframe	Co-benefits	Estimated cost	Officer lead	Cabinet lead
DM1	Review feasibility of a community grants scheme to support energy and sustainability projects in South Kesteven	Communities	Support partners to deliver their own energy projects	Short term	ALL	(£)	Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer	Cllr Rhys Baker
DM2	Continue to ensure SKDC investments meeting the Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) factors as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy, whilst protecting the security of taxpayer funds	Council	Ensure investment strategy is aligned with SKDC strategic goals for sustainability	Short term	ALL	(£)	Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer	Cllr Ashley Baxter
DM3	Ensure the Corporate Projects list includes climate impact and carbon emission considerations	Council	Improve visibility of energy and sustainability considerations for SKDC projects	Short term	ALL	(£)	Head of Projects, Performance and Climate Change	Cllr Phillip Knowles
DM4	Implement internal governance to progress and monitor the Climate Action Plan	Council	Ensure actions are fit for purpose and delivery is progressing	Short term	ALL	(£)	Head of Projects, Performance and Climate Change	Cllr Phillip Knowles
DM5	Complete review of comments included in climate change section of Committee report templates to ensure responses are fit for purpose	Council	Improve visibility of energy and sustainability considerations for SKDC led activity	Short term	ALL	(£)	Head of Projects, Performance and Climate Change	Cllr Phillip Knowles
DM6	Publish internal guidance for officers on how to assess the climate impact and carbon emission considerations of major projects and proposals	Council	Improve visibility of energy and sustainability considerations for SKDC projects	Short term	ALL	(£)	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker
DM7	Implement an internal communications plan to keep Councillors updated on climate action work, and signposting relevant resources	Council	Improve awareness of SKDC action and commitments	Short term	ALL	(£)	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker

DM8	Implement an internal communications plan to keep staff updated on climate action work, and signposting relevant resources	Council	Improve awareness of SKDC action and commitments	Short term	ALL	(£)	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker
DM9	Review grant funding opportunities and cascade information to key officers	Council	Improve access to relevant grant funding for Climate Action Plan projects	Short term	ALL	(£)	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker
DM10	Offer bitesize training to all SKDC staff on climate impact and carbon emission considerations	Council	Improve awareness of and potential for SKDC action and commitments	Ongoing	ALL	(£)	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker
DM11	Develop ongoing training for senior leaders on climate impact and carbon emission considerations	Council	Improve awareness of and potential for SKDC action and commitments	Short term	ALL	(£)	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker
DM12	Offer ongoing training for all staff on climate impact and carbon emission considerations	Council	Improve awareness of and potential for SKDC action and commitments	Short term	ALL	(£)	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker
DM13	Develop ongoing training for Councillors on climate impact and carbon emission considerations	Council	Improve awareness of and potential for SKDC action and commitments	Short term	ALL	(£)	Sustainability and Climate Change Manager	Cllr Rhys Baker

Contact Details

Alternative formats are available on request:
audio, large print and Braille

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