

# Minutes

## Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group

Held at:	Remote Meeting
Date	Thursday, 17 September 2020
Present	Councillors Gary Fuller, Connor McConville (In place of Jackie Meade), Ian Meyers, Lesley Whybrow (Chairman) and David Wimble
Apologies for Absence	Councillor Jackie Meade
Officers Present:	Andy Blaszkowicz (Director of Housing and Operations), Kate Clark (Case Officer - Committee Services), Alastair Clifford (Operations Lead Specialist), Jana Getliffe (Horticultural Senior Specialist), Hazel Sargent (Low Carbon and Sustainability Specialist), Charlotte Spendley (Director of Corporate Services) and Adrian Tofts (Strategy, Policy & Performance Lead Specialist)
Others Present:	Steve Marks and Helen Cartledge (LASER Energy)

### 12. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### 13. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2020 were agreed. The Chairman, Councillor Lesley Whybrow, confirmed her electronic signature would be added to these showing approval.

Members sought clarity on publishing all presentations shown with the minutes which include information relating to the proposed carbon reduction plan. Members were advised that sensitive information contained within some presentations is for the working group's consideration only and not published. Ultimately, all future reports will be published for Cabinet and/or Council's consideration.

#### 14. **Grounds Maintenance Initiatives**

Mrs Jana Getliffe, Horticultural Senior Specialist, gave a presentation on Pesticide Motion and Environmental responsibility in grounds maintenance. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Members noted the following:

- **Tree Stock.** There is extensive tree stock in the district and tree planting is based on resource availability to maintain and water. Matured trees are a preferred option for planting as saplings are easily damaged, mainly through vandalism. It was suggested that a volunteer scheme could be established for tree maintenance.
- **Peat.** Although the intention is for the Council to use 100% peat free bedding plants by 2025, some nurseries who supply the plants do not use peat free beds at present.
- **Glyphosate.** The grounds maintenance team used 50 litres of pre-mixed solution in 2019 applied as a spray. The intention is to minimise this usage by trialling other methods which will be reported back to the working group.
- **Grass cutting.** A suggestion was made to reduce cuts to encourage biodiversity, however road safety would need to be taken into consideration. Signage advising residents of reduced cuts, increase growth, encourage biodiversity was a suggested.
- **Japanese Knotweed.** District wide treatment is carried out. The Grounds Maintenance team can also offer chargeable help and advice to all residents with this problem.

*Councillor Wimble left the meeting, due to technical issues, and did not return.*

#### 15. **Update from Laser Energy**

Steve Marks, LASER Energy provided members with a presentation which is attached to these minutes.

Members discussed the provision of renewable energy as part of the Council's purchase agreements. LASER Energy can provide a 'green basket' which offers flexible procurement of renewable energy.

Attention was drawn to Otterpool Park, which was not in the current carbon reduction scope. The Debenhams site falls outside the scope also. At present figures shown are based on 2018/19 which precludes these two sites as the Council did not own all or part of these. However, regularly revisiting of baseline projections was needed to change, review and report on within the Council's operational control.

Looking at East Kent Housing and the planned transfer of stock to this Council, members pointed out that electricity and gas suppliers could be from green

sources, however tenants are responsible for their choice of supplier and not within the Council's control.

The Carbon Reduction Plan document is in development and members were reminded that there must be a clear view of the Council's work programme within the plan.

LASER asked members to complete a Project and Success Factors form in order to help inform LASER of the factors that are the most important to the council. There is no specific technical knowledge required as LASER will provide this input into the exercise. The council will have a chance to review the output before any decisions are made.

Members were also asked to complete a list of initiatives and LASER are simply asking members to rate each one based on the level of public support they feel each initiative would receive. Members can add any other technologies that they feel should be considered if relevant.

On completion of the forms members were asked to return these to Hazel Sargent, Low Carbon & Sustainability Specialist.

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# Pesticide Motion &

# Environmental Responsibility in Grounds Maintenance

# Environmental Responsibility

- What we are doing already
- Future options

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# Green Waste and Composting

- 95% of in - house produced green waste is processed (mulched and composted) in FHDC Hawkinge depot.
- In place since 2010, this reduces our need to buy compost or mulch from external companies, reducing transport and waste costs.
- It reduces the need to water newly planted shrubs or bushes by providing a protective barrier.
- The use of mulch reduces the use of pesticides used to stop weeds competing with the new plants.
- In the last year localised composting units have been installed in key areas such as East Cliff. This reduces the need to move the green waste to Hawkinge to be composted.
- Investigating other local options, such as New Romney Depot, Kingsnorth Gardens and The Coastal Park.



# Biodiversity

There are many locations within the FHDC with a high biodiversity rating.

- **The Royal Military Canal** has been managed to increase the species count for the last 15 years. A biological survey will be carried out this season to show the results of this management programme. The GM teams have been closely working with the BumbleBee and Butterfly and Moths Trusts and spent many volunteering hours planting moths, butterfly and bumble bee friendly habitat.
- **The Warren and East Cliff**, a nature reserve, is rich in biodiversity too, however detailed findings are held by White Cliffs Countryside project.
- **The Coastal Park** has its own wildlife zone, meadow and bee border.





# Peat

- The GM department never use raw peat, when purchasing potted plants and other nursery stock including bedding plants, nurseries are asked to supply a certificate stating peat sustainability.
- 60% of summer 2020 bedding plants have been purchased in peat free growing media.
- Tree stock purchased from our preferred supplier has been peat free since autumn 2012.
- Aim to be 100% peat free by 2025.

## Seasonal Bedding

- All seasonal bedding is grown in reusable trays, that are sent back to the supplier for reuse.
- All perennial seasonal plants are replanted in various herbaceous borders across the district.



# Sedum Roofs

- Sedum matting has been trialled at the Coastal Park on the new operational depot roof. Its benefits include;
- Provision of important microclimate for insects.
- Reduction of the surface run off.
- Significant reduction of heat and the need for air conditioning & provision of insulation in winter (known as green roof insulation).
- Improvement of air quality due to the filtering mechanism of the plants and substrate.
- Installation is very simple - the sedums are grown into felt matting and form a thick blanket of plants that can be rolled out like grass turf on pre-prepared flat roof.
- Watering requirements are extremely low – sedums thrive in dry soils and hate being waterlogged.
- Using Sedum Roofing on the tiered beach chalet roofs as part of the refurbishment program.



# Waste management in parks and open spaces

- Our main park are popular spots for family picnics and gatherings.
- Visitors are encouraged to either take their litter home or to use the tin & plastic recycling points and general waste points.
- Big Belly compactor bins (solar powered) - installed 2 years ago. All bins are connected to the selected smart phones and send notifications informing the park keepers it is time they are emptied resulting in less emptying trips.
- So far 190,444 litres of litter have been collected from Big Belly bins (62,573 litres in July).
- 3 double compounds (general waste & recyclables) have been installed to tackle excessive waste in the coastal park.



# Tree Stock

- FHDC has 3873 individual trees found within its parks and open spaces.
- There are a further 22201 trees contained within groups and woodlands such as those on the Leas Escarpment and the Royal Military Canal.
- Last year GM planted in excess of 1000 new trees.
- Volunteer planting on the Canal (420 tree saplings supplied by the Woodlands Trust will be planted this October/ November) led by Cllr J Martin.
- Future planting - it is our intention to reduce the number of trees planted in our parks and open spaces over the coming years in order to ensure their establishment.
- We have limited resource available for the watering and aftercare of our newly planted trees and as a result we often end up losing trees due to drought.
- In order to overcome this issue, we will be planting between thirty to forty trees so that we can ensure all of them receive appropriate aftercare and hopefully end up with net gain over the next ten years or so.



## Grass Cutting

- FHDC maintains open space on behalf of KCC, Hythe Town Council and FHDC.
- FHDC has no control over the KCC and HTC contracts. It does however increase the KCC cuts from 5 it is paid for by KCC to 12 to preserve the appearance of the District.
- GM maintains open spaces inline with their use and to ensure the character of the area. The total cuts per year can be dependant on many factors.
- Areas such as the Leas and Parks can be cut every two weeks, wild areas on the canal may be just twice per year.
- GM managers have been working on identifying areas where cutting regimes can be reduced to help increase biodiversity and reduce all environmental impacts.



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Document



Adobe Acrobat  
Document

- Bee Orchids have been located in the section of urban grass cut indicated on the attached plan. Grass cutting of this area was ceased immediately and KCC Highways removed this section from the UG maintenance agreement.

Churchill Avenue, Folkestone - Bee Orchid location



## Equipment

- GM has invested in electric equipment where appropriate;
  - 1 long reach hedge cutter
  - 7 hedge cutter
  - 4 drills
  - 5 chainsaws
  - 2 pole saws



The 5 year capital investment plan is due to be rewritten this year, this will ensure environmentally friendly options are adequately investigated.

# Pesticide Trial

- What we are doing already
- Future options

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# Current Use

- The grounds maintenance department use these products for a wide range of applications, they are as follows (but not limited too);
- Invasive Weed Application - Herbicides are essential for treating invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed (JK) and Giant Hogweed (GH). These plants can be stem injected if they are big enough, however small plants don't have hollow stems and therefore this method is not suitable. Small plants need to have a foliar herbicide application either by sprayer or can be brushed on if growing in a sensitive location. JK herbicide treatment has been reduced to one application per season (in autumn). This treatment is largely effective and JK on our land in the district has been significantly reduced (by around 80%) over last 5 years. Giant Hogweed needs to be on a more regular basis – up to 3 times per year to ensure that the plants do not reach maturity and disperse their seeds (each flower head holds about 10,000 seeds). There is no suitable alternative. GH is a serious hazard to human health and will spread voraciously if allowed to do so.
- Sports Areas - use selective weed killer (targets broadleaved plants) on bowls greens (i.e. Eland) – no known suitable alternative available. Use of fungicides on bowling greens if required, this depends largely on the weather throughout the season and if very wet fungal disease can be a problem and herbicide application will be required to maintain the quality of the playing surface. We don't use any pesticides on the football pitches.
- Housing Sites - applying glyphosate to hardstanding (washing areas, paths) – especially where paths are slabbed as opposed to tarmac. Physical weeding has proven to be ineffective in these areas. Treating bindweed in shrubs and hedges, where physical methods are largely ineffective as plants grow too quick and break off from the roots if pulled at the base causing the weed to regrow. Killing algae on paths with algaecide which is undertaken as and when required. This can be done mechanically, but is time consuming and the algae tends to return very soon.
- Parks - certain fence lines and play areas are treated twice a year which significantly reduces the labour costs in keeping these parks safe and visually appealing. Also used in ponds to control blanket weed.
- Cemeteries - applied to grave channels to minimise the weed build up and use of strimmer's.
- Trees - Eco plugs are applied to tree stumps to inhibit regrowth where stumps are in locations where they cannot be removed through grinding.
- Wasps/Rats - Pests are treat with pesticides and currently there are no cost effective alternatives.
- Usage of glyphosate has been minimal within Grounds Maintenance for a number of years, 50L in 2015, 70L in 2016, 30L in 2017, 75L in 2018 and 50L in 2019. The variance can be explained by the carryover from year to year.
- Glyphosate (this kills weeds) / Shakira (this stops seeds germinating) / Aminopyralid (Invasive species) / Bendiocarb (wasp nest killer) / Pyraclostrobin (the bowls greens/tennis etc) / Triclopyr (Stumps and invasive species)

CAPITAL:		TBC	£6K for small + Consumables	Already have equipment, just labour	£2400 + consumables	FREE	£1000 + consumables	Already have equipment + consumables	FREE	Already have equipment + consumables
LOCATION	TYPE	HOT FOAM	HOT WATER	MULCHING	MECHANICAL BRUSHING	HAND	HOT BURNER	MECH. WEEDING (STRIMMING)	DO NOTHING	PESTICIDES
WAKEFIELD WALK	BORDERS	8 VISITS	8 VISITS	YES	NO	16 VISITS	NO	NO	YES	2 VISITS
SPRING LANE	PATHS/HARD SURFACES	8 VISITS	8 VISITS	NO	YES	16 VISITS	8 VISITS	16 VISITS	YES	2 VISITS
HAWKINGE	CHANNELS	8 VISITS	8 VISITS	NO	NO	16 VISITS	NO	16 VISITS	YES	2 VISITS



Any questions?

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# F&HDC Net Zero Project Options Appraisal Workshop

17 September 2020

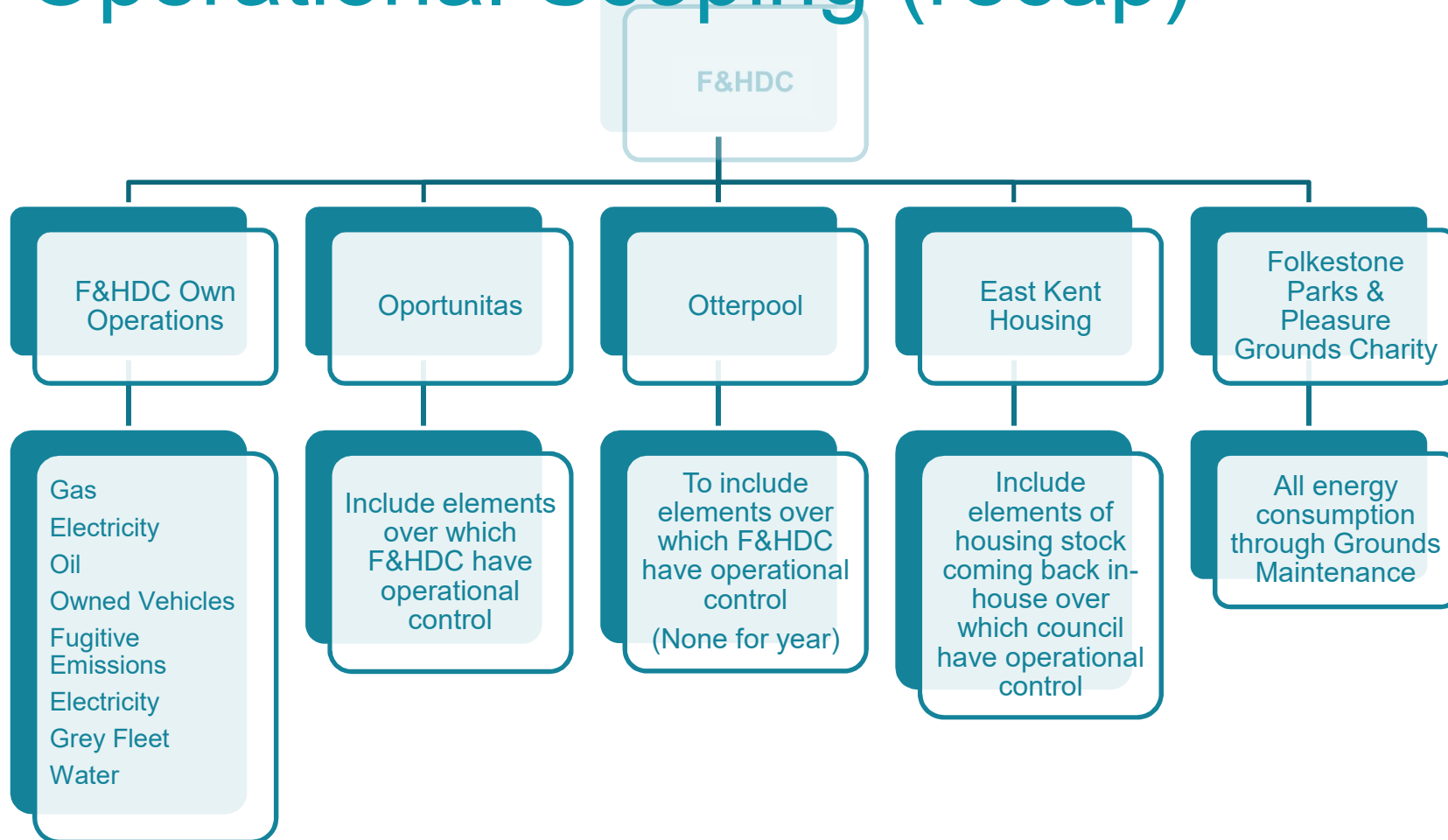
# Agenda

- Project Update
- Results of Carbon Footprint
- Forecast to 2050
- Options Appraisal Process and Output
- Current Projects
- Project Assessment Through Success Factors

# Update

- Wide range of data from variety of sources including vehicle fuel and meter readings from multiple properties has been collected
- F&HDC's carbon footprint has been calculated (some refinement will be required)
- Forecast of future emissions under BAU scenario undertaken
- Finalising energy data (some housing and minor supplies)

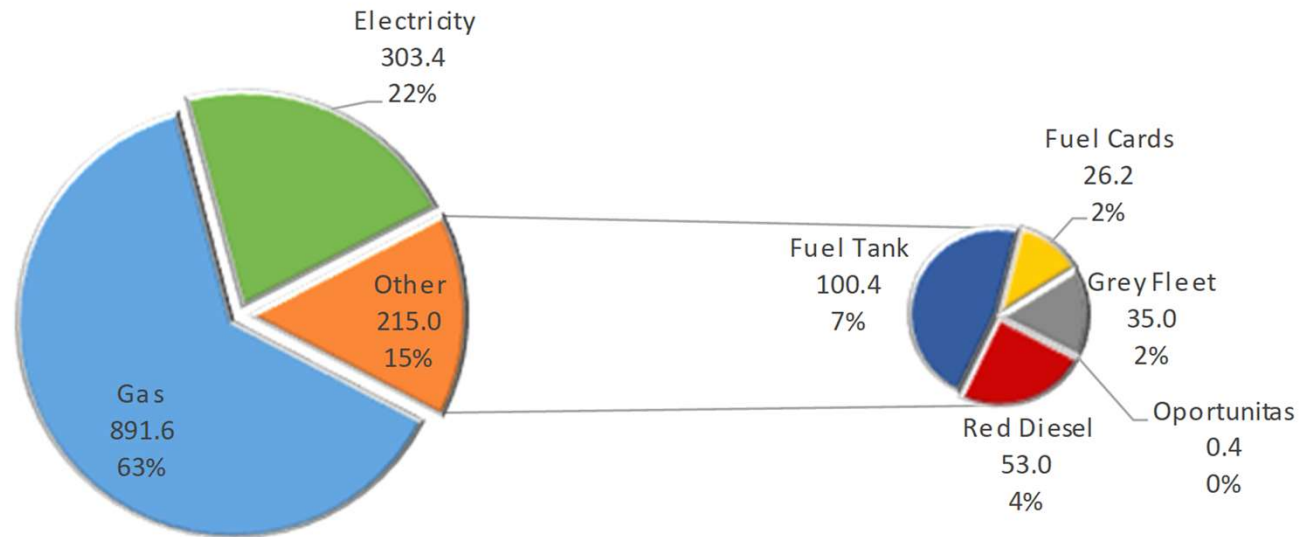
# Operational Scoping (recap)





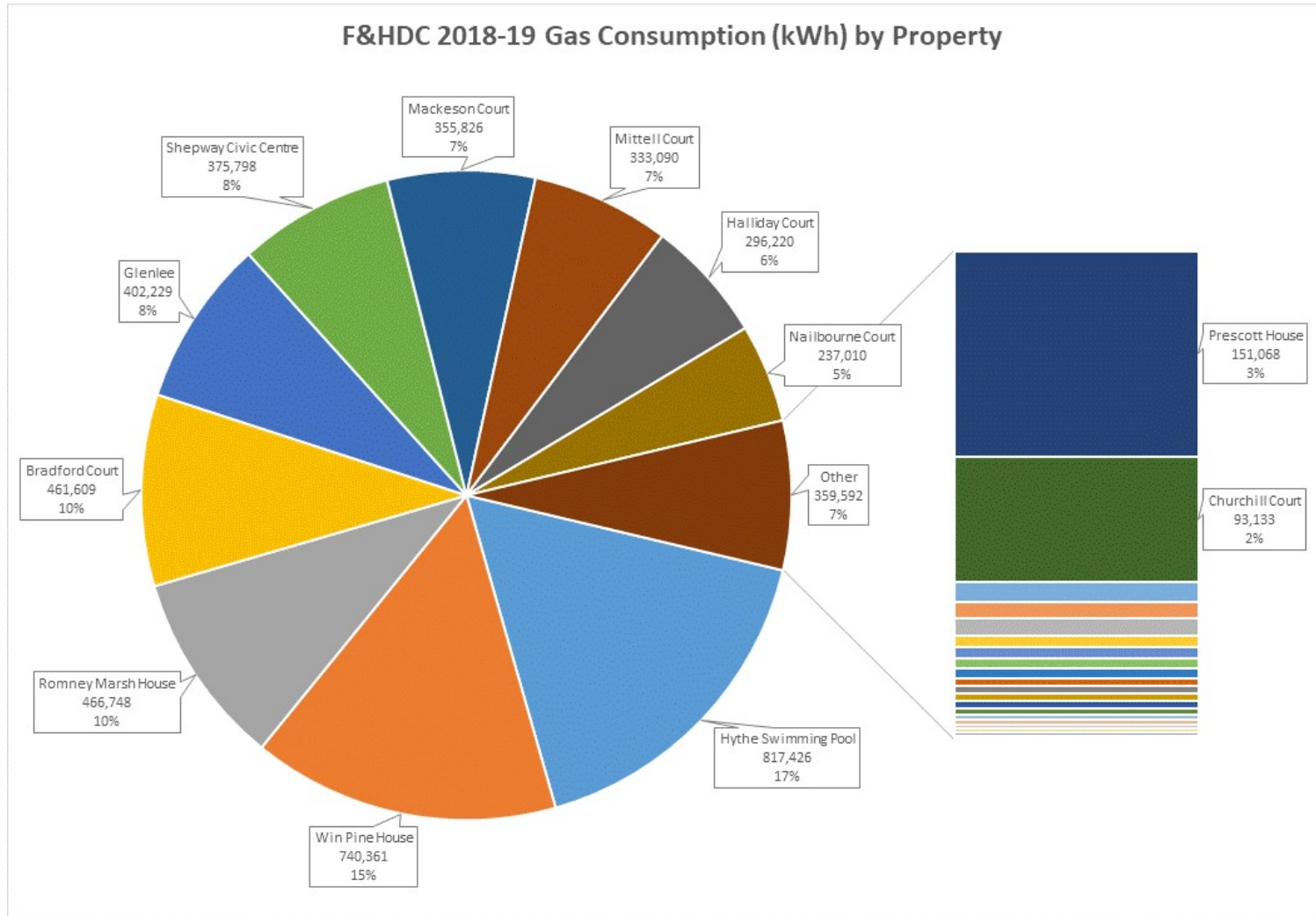
# F&HDC Emissions

Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) by Emissions Source



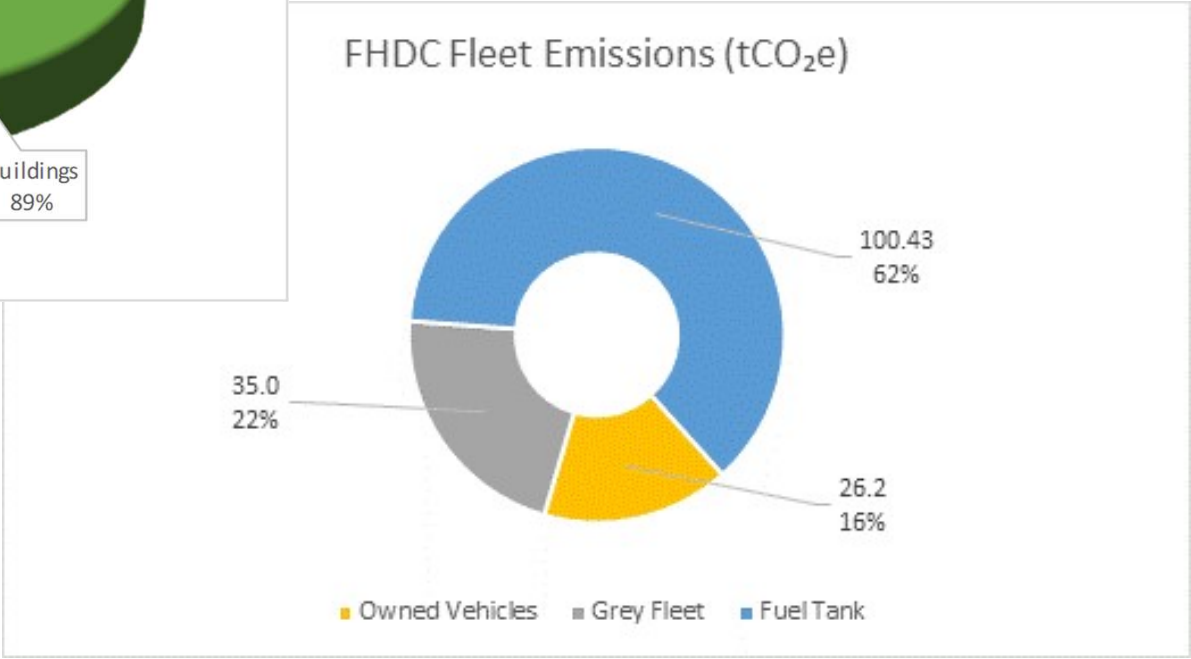
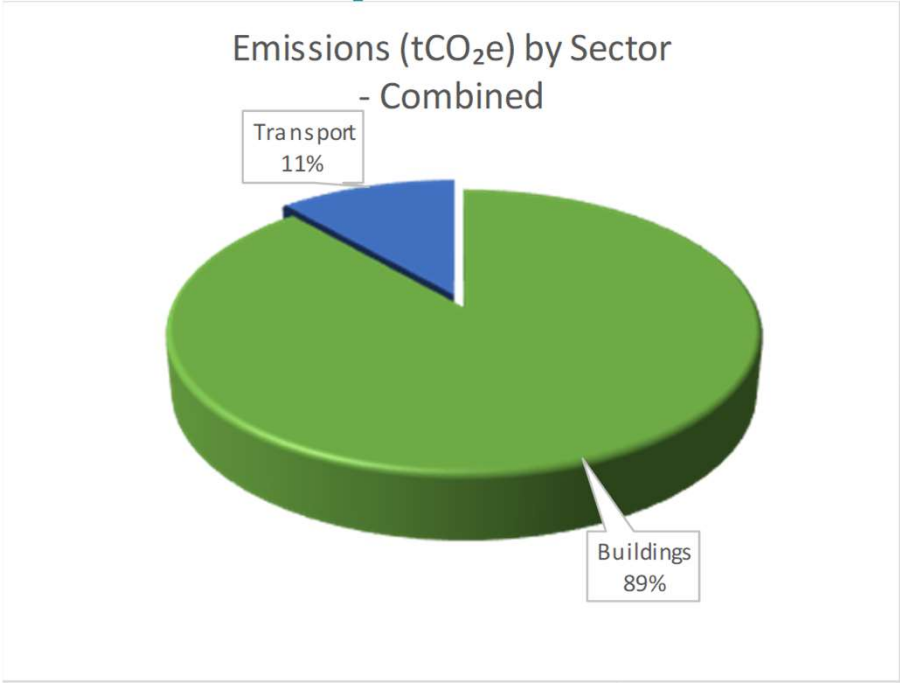
# F&HDC Gas Use

F&HDC 2018-19 Gas Consumption (kWh) by Property

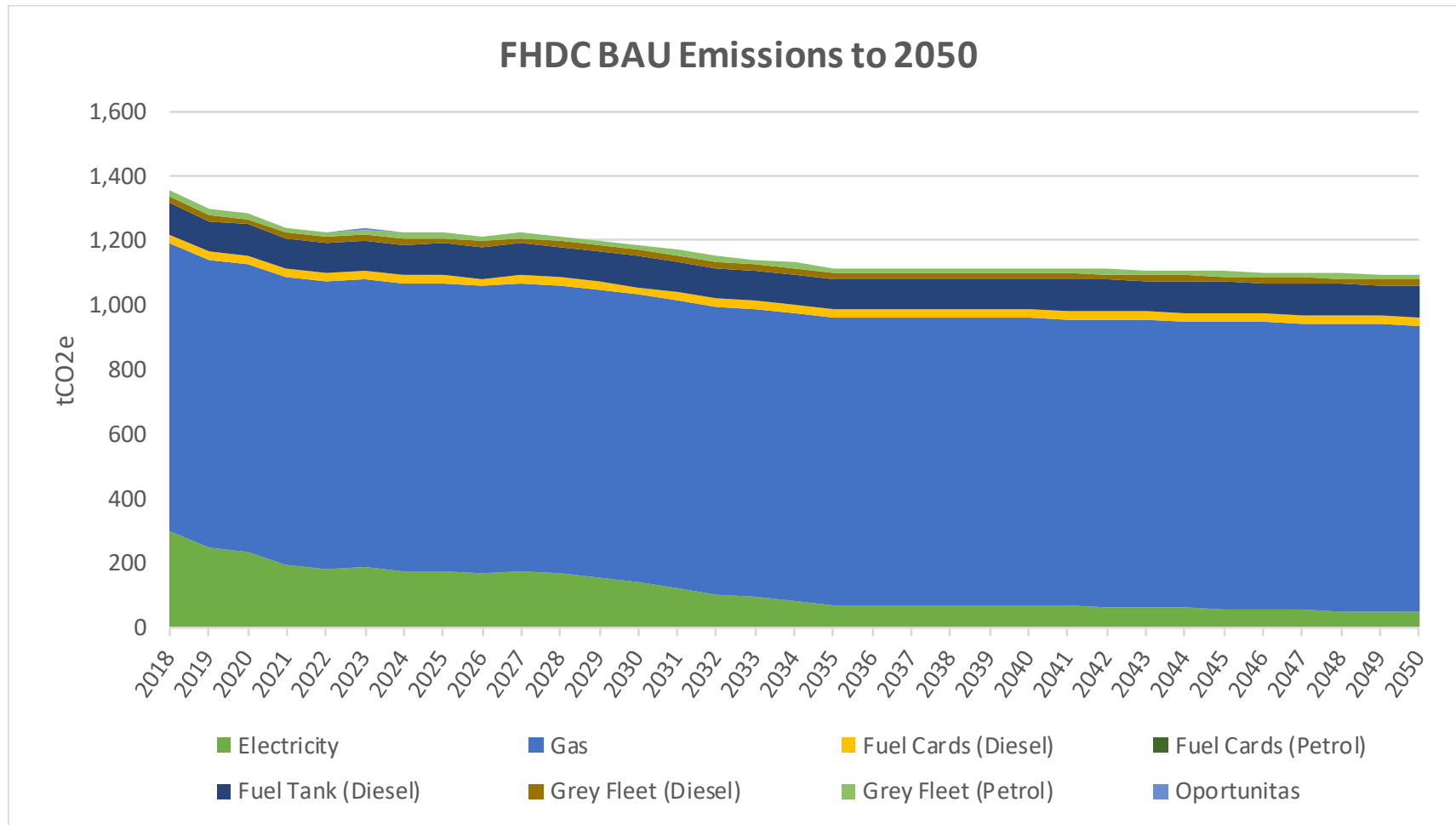


# Transport Fuel Use

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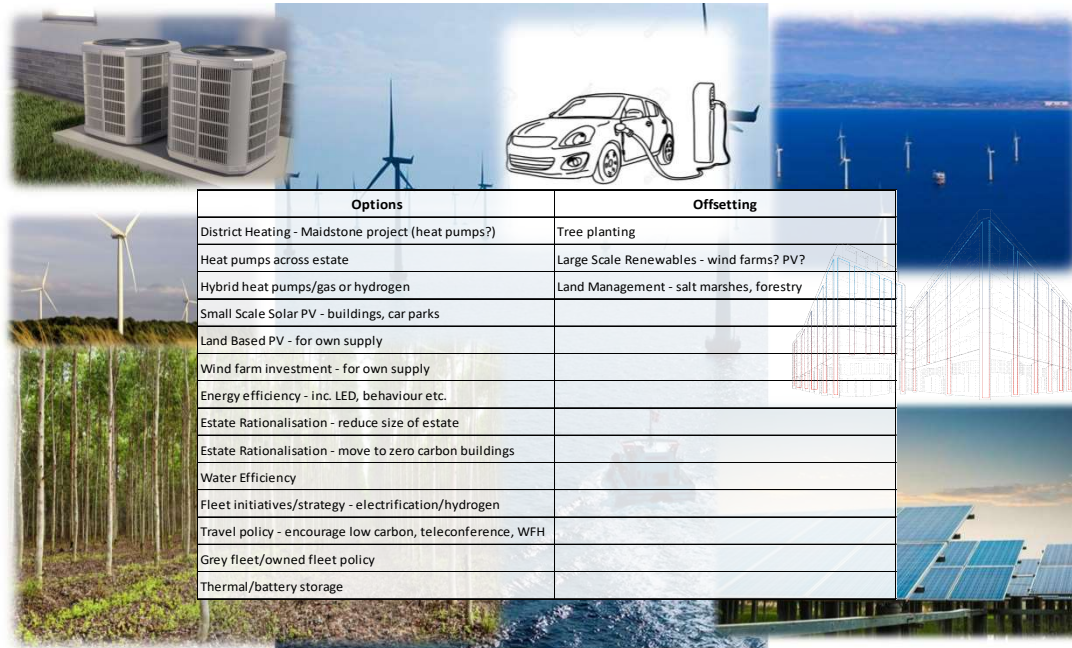
# BAU Emissions Forecast



# Points of note

- Demonstrates significant ongoing contribution of gas consumption to the carbon footprint
- Demonstrates significance of owned vehicles, particularly those fuelled from the central tank
- Smaller contributions from grey fleet and other sources
- Interventions regarding those 2 emissions sources in particular should be a point of focus

# Options Appraisal Workshop

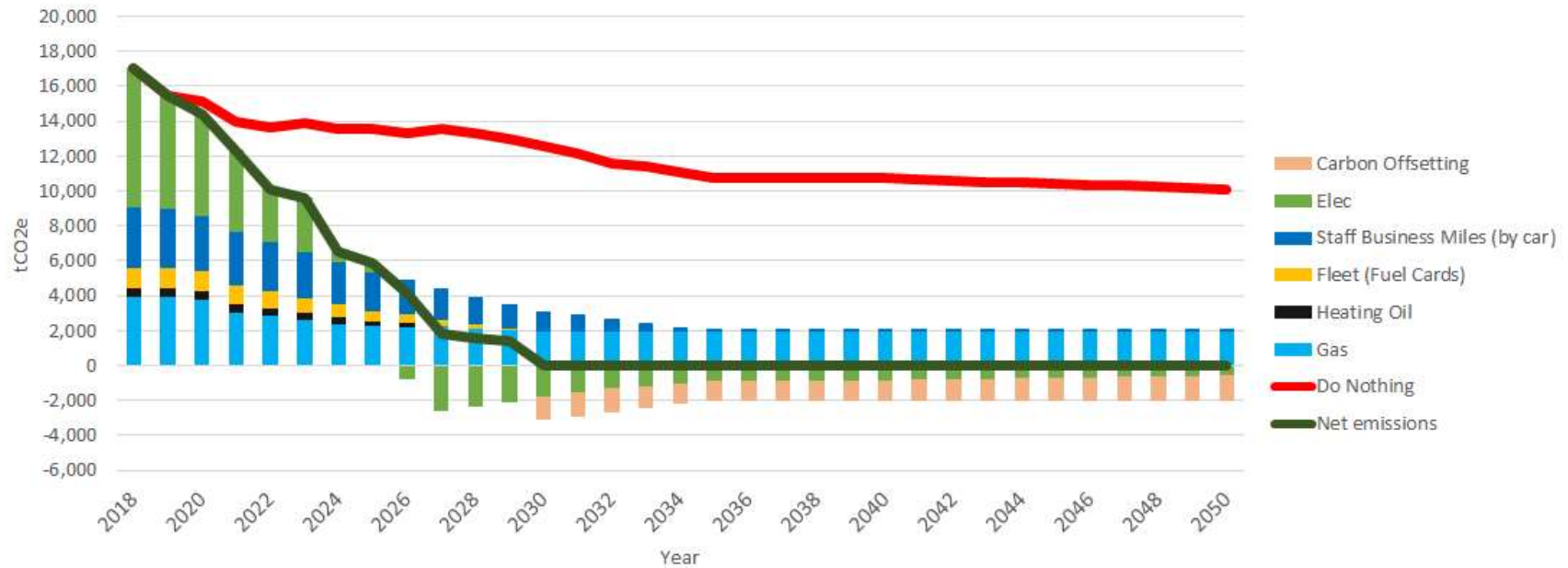


Options	Offsetting
District Heating - Maidstone project (heat pumps?)	Tree planting
Heat pumps across estate	Large Scale Renewables - wind farms? PV?
Hybrid heat pumps/gas or hydrogen	Land Management - salt marshes, forestry
Small Scale Solar PV - buildings, car parks	
Land Based PV - for own supply	
Wind farm investment - for own supply	
Energy efficiency - inc. LED, behaviour etc.	
Estate Rationalisation - reduce size of estate	
Estate Rationalisation - move to zero carbon buildings	
Water Efficiency	
Fleet initiatives/strategy - electrification/hydrogen	
Travel policy - encourage low carbon, teleconference, WFH	
Grey fleet/owned fleet policy	
Thermal/battery storage	

- Understand what's important to FHDC
- What is possible? What is unfavourable / unfeasible?
- LASER model preferred scenario

# Options Appraisal Output

Forecast with Planned Actions



# Emissions Reduction Pyramid







# Success Factors

- Scale of Emissions Reductions
- Speed/Ease to Implement
- Scale of Investment
- Financial Returns
- Public Support
- Project Certainty
- Impact on Operations



# Current Projects

- Current projects underway
- Approved projects
- Proposed projects
- Others

# Options Appraisal Matrix

RAG (R1,A2,G3)	Critical Success Factors						
Technology / Initiative	Scale of Emissions Reductions	Speed/Ease to Implement	Scale of Investment	Financial Returns (ROI)	Public Support	Project certainty	Impact on Operations
Owned Solar Farm	Green	Red	Red	Green		Yellow	Red
Owned Wind Farm	Green	Red	Red	Green		Yellow	Red
District Heating Network							
Estate Rationalisation							
Rooftop Solar							
LED Lighting Roll Out	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green
Improve Building Fabric							
Install Heat Pumps							
Reduce Own Fleet Mileage							
Move to Electric Vehicles (Own Fleet)							
Reduce Grey Fleet Mileage							
Move to Electric Vehicles (Grey Fleet)							
LED Streetlighting and Controls							
Offsetting							
PPAs							

What is favourable? What is unfavourable / unfeasible?



# Next Steps

- Finalise and share output from workshop
- Indicative modelling of potential projects, initiatives and industry trends
- Production of “forecast with actions” to 2030
- Finalisation of action plan

# Any Questions?

- Any other questions?

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