

From: Rosalind Turner, Managing Director Children Families and Education Directorate

Carolyn McKenzie – Sustainability and Climate Change, Environment, Highways and Waste Directorate

To: Resources and Infrastructure Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 20 July 2010

Subject: **Sustainability and Climate Change Update**

Summary:

This paper provides the annual update of Kent County Council and the Children, Families and Education (CFE) Department's progress against our commitments in the KCC Environment Policy and ISO14001 Environmental Management System accreditation.

1. Introduction

This report summarises progress over the last year by the County Council, and the Children, Families and Education (CFE) Department in particular, in delivering the objectives of KCC's Environment Policy. All Policy and Scrutiny Committees receive an individual report for their own respective Directorates on an annual basis.

2. Changing Policy Context – Revised Kent Environment Strategy

At the last Kent Partnership meeting on the 8 June, the Kent Partnership agreed the final draft of the revised Kent Environment Strategy. The final draft strategy will be available on www.kent.gov.uk

The revised strategy has 10 Priorities under which there are a small number of high level strategic actions. There are two cross cutting themes environmental engagement and green jobs.

The table in Appendix 1 details KCC's and CFE's current and planned actions as well as potential gaps in activity against these 10 priorities.

3. Corporate Progress ISO14001

A summary of key corporate achievements delivered against KCC's Environment Policy is given below. KCC's full Corporate Environmental Performance Report for 2009 is available on www.kent.gov.uk.

- **Our Decisions and Leadership**

Full Council accreditation to ISO14001 was completed in May 2009. Since then the council has successfully passed two further external verification assessments.

The Kent Environment Strategy, part of the Regeneration Framework has been successfully reviewed, and a new version of the strategy agreed by the Kent Partnership. A full delivery plan is now being developed with key partners.

- **Our Estate**

Overall carbon emissions are showing an increase against our 2004 baseline, this is mainly due to an increase in energy use in schools due to policy changes such as extended schools and increase levels of ICT. Schools account for 80% of KCC's energy use.

The KCC Energy and Water Investment Fund has loaned and granted £928,995, saving £1,923,246 over the lifetime of the equipment.

Improved waste contracts have delivered at least 50% recycling rates for office wastes and battery recycling is being implemented.

- **Our Travel and Transport**

Overall the council achieved a business miles reduction of 3.5% between 2009 and 2010 with savings of £277,000.

So far £5000 of BT Meetme teleconference calls have been made by the council, which equates to estimated savings of £45000 compared to face to face meetings. Only 10% of KCC BT MeetMe accounts have currently been used with savings potential being much greater.

- **Our Procurement**

Environment, Highways and Waste have set up the South East Carbon Hub which provides both online and targeted face to face to the public sector supply chain in Kent to save money and cut carbon. The Carbon Hub will aim to help around 1000 businesses by 2013.

- **Our Workforce**

There are now over 300 Green Guardian champions across KCC, and environment has been integrated into Ways to Success.

- **Our Community Leadership**

KCC continues to provide strong community leadership in Kent. In particular the KCC Climate Change Team have provided strong support across Kent to achieve money and carbon savings, and ensure Kent is resilient to the impacts of climate change such as severe weather events. KCC has been identified as a national case study

4. Specific progress for CFE against KCC's Environment Policy

The CFE Directorate continues to retain certification to the ISO 14001 environmental management standard during 2010.

In the last 12 months, CFE have delivered the following improvements:

- Nine corporate buildings were required to have a Display Energy Certificate for energy efficiency; the average rating for these was an E rating, with one building having been rated G. The Overall KCC non school average rating is D. All schools now have certificates.
- Compared to 2008-09 financial year, business miles have reduced by 0.25% however costs have increased by 0.5%.
- In the last 6 months, CFE have been using the BT MeetMe teleconferencing service with 21 active accounts and two members of staff in the top 20 user list. The savings from these two members of staff alone are £1926
- Good progress on reducing travel and utilising remote solutions and flexible working.
- Developed action plan based on Sustainable Schools self evaluation for Authorities.
- Office recycling extended and new school waste contracts prepared.
- Many locations now have a Green Guardian champion, there are 80 in CFE, the highest of any Directorate and more than 300 overall across the council.

5. Potential changes to the KCC Environment Policy, and CFE Directorate implementation priorities

The CFE Directorate is progressing well in implementing KCC's Environment Policy. However, there are still significant challenges around carbon reduction, especially in schools. This needs to remain a high priority for CFE with focus on how schools can be more effectively engaged, and how a real step change in energy efficiency in school buildings and ICT which is now essential can be delivered and funded.

In light of the revised Kent Environment Strategy it is suggested that other future areas of focus are:

- climate change adaptation, focusing on mainstreaming the risks and effects of climate change such as severe weather events into service delivery and asset management
- fuel poverty, building on work already underway in partnership with other KCC Directorates.

No substantial changes are recommended to the Environment Policy, however it is suggested that the following areas be strengthened.

- Climate change risk and resilience
- Domestic sector energy efficiency
- Green jobs and opportunities

6. Recommendations

Members of the Resources and Infrastructure Policy Overview Committee are asked to:

- Note, and celebrate overall progress made by KCC and CFE
- Discuss future KCC and CFE priorities identified in section 4 and agree approach going forward.
- Agree suggested changes to the KCC Environment Policy

Carolyn McKenzie

Sustainability and Climate Change
Environment, Highways and Waste Directorate

carolyn.mckenzie@kent.gov.uk

01622 691916

Kent Environment Strategy Priorities, and CFE's Current and Planned Activity.

Living Well Within Our Environmental Limits	KCC Environment Policy reference.	CFE's Current Activity and Progress	Gaps in Delivery/Issues	RAG
Priority 1 Make homes and public sector buildings in Kent energy and water efficient, and cut costs for residents and taxpayers	Our estate Our leadership role in the community	Nine buildings were required to have a Display Energy Certificate for energy efficiency; the average rating for these was an E rating, with one buildings having been rated G. All schools have DEC certificates, and the average rating is a high D.	Build on fuel poverty activity already underway in partnership with other KCC Directorates as part of the KCC Retrofit Project.	red
Priority 2 New developments and infrastructure in Kent are cost effective, low carbon and resource efficient	Our leadership role in the community	Developing activity	Low carbon and climate change adaptation need to be further incorporated into new build design and existing asset management.	amber
Priority 3 Turn Kent's waste into new resources and jobs for Kent	Partially covered under Our Decisions	NA	NA	N/A
Priority 4 Reduce the ecological footprint of what we consume	Partially covered under 'Our Procurement'	Currently limited activity on procurement, except through the work being undertaken on the schools waste contract.	Link suppliers into The South East Carbon Hub	amber

Meeting the Climate Change Challenge	KCC Environment Policy reference.	CFE's Current Activity and Progress	Gaps in Delivery/Issues	RAG
Priority 5 Reduce future carbon emissions	Partially covered under Our Estate	Compared to 2008-09 financial year, business miles have reduced by 0.25% however costs have increased by 0.5%. In the last 6 months, CFE have been using the BT MeetMe teleconferencing service with 21 active accounts and two members of staff in the top 20 user list. The savings from these two members of staff alone are £1926	Identify opportunities for increasing the uptake of renewable energy sources. Look at new ways of approaching ICT.	amber
Priority 6 Manage the impacts of climate change, in particular extreme weather events	Partially covered under Our Decisions	Climate risk is incorporated into the KCC Corporate Risk Register. Areas of particular risk or vulnerability have been identified and action in progressing.	Detailed action plans need to be developed for each of the nine priority risk areas identified, and action begun.	amber
Priority 7 Support the development of green jobs and business in Kent	Partially covered under Our Decisions.	New programmes of skills training around the 18-24 education agenda have been developed, or are in train.	Existing activity to be built on and supported.	amber
Value From Our Natural and Living Environment				
Priority 8 Utilise the full social and economic potential	Partially covered under Our Estate	Activity continuing to develop around the outdoor education agenda and forest	CFE should look to maximise the use of the natural	amber

of a high quality natural and historic environment in Kent	and Our Leadership role in the Community.	schools.	environment as a effective learning environment.	
Priority 9 Conserve and enhance the quality of Kent's natural and heritage capital	Partially covered under Our Estate and Our Leadership role in the Community.	Work underway to implement KCC's new Biodiversity Duty.	Work underway to implement KCC's new Biodiversity Duty.	amber
Priority 10 Ensure that Kent residents have access to the benefits of Kent's coast, countryside, green space and cultural heritage	Partially covered under Our Estate and Our Leadership role in the Community.	NA	NA	N/A