<u>SECTION B</u> GENERAL INFORMATION

A report by Head of Planning Applications Group to Planning Applications Committee on 15th May 2007

Summary – End of Year report against 2006/07 Business Plan and Business Plan for 2007/08

Recommendation: for information

Local Member: n/a Unrestricted

Background

- 1. The half-yearly report on performance against Business Plan targets was reported to the 10th October 2006 meeting. This report summarises the position for the full year. It also attaches as an appendix the Business Plan for the Planning Applications Group for 2007/08.
- 2. The Planning Applications Group undertakes the statutory development control function on behalf of the County Council. For the last financial year, the Group has led the preparation of the emerging Local Development Frameworks for Minerals and Waste and has played an active role in influencing emerging policy at national, regional and local level. The Business Plan for 2006/07 identified these activities as key projects for the Group. It also included raising Member's awareness on planning matters and a greater shift towards e-planning.
- 3. The Business Plan sets out key performance indicators for the delivery of the development control service and for the preparation of the Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks. This report summarises progress against these national and local performance indicators.

Development Control

4. The Group is responsible for the determination of planning applications for minerals and waste developments (county matters) and the Council's own developments including school and social care facilities and improvements to transport infrastructure (Regulation 3 development). The work includes pre-application advice, Appropriate Assessment and assessment in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment legislation. The Group is also responsible for site monitoring and planning enforcement.

County Matter Development

- 5. The number of applications received remains around the same level as 2005/06. A higher proportion of waste proposals are received and the trend continues to shift the management of waste away from landfill solutions which reflects Government policy. Key applications that were permitted included:
 - Plant to process incinerator bottom ash into secondary aggregate for recycling at Ridham Dock, Iwade
 - Enclosed composting facility, Blaise Farm Quarry, West Malling;
 - Screening and crushing of construction aggregates, F M Conway, Dartford

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- Waste recovery facility including in vessel composting, material recovery facility and use for secondary recycled aggregate production, Ridham Dock, Iwade;
- Recycling of inert waste, crushing and screening to produce secondary aggregate, Borough Green Landfill, Borough Green;
- · Recycling facility, Snodland;
- waste transfer station and modifications to existing household waste recycling centre, Dunbrick Household Waste Recycling Centre, Sundridge, Sevenoaks;
- Remediation of the site for future development, Syngenta Works, Yalding:
- New waste water treatment facilities, Ashford Wastewater Treatment Works;

The Committee also resolved to grant planning permission subject to no direction to the contrary from the Secretary of State, the imposition of conditions and a legal agreement for a new blockworks factory and associated facilities at Ightham Sandpit, Ightham. The application was subsequently called in for determination by the Secretary of State and a planning inquiry is due to commence in July. Development to retain Sevington Railhead, Ashford for the importation of aggregate and demolition/construction waste and associated processing plant and the construction of a waste transfer station were approved subject to a legal agreement in February 2007.

Planning permission was refused for

- Expansion and improvement of sludge recycling centre, Aylesford Wastewater Treatment Works, Aylesford;
- Composting facility, Little Bayhall Farm, Tunbridge Wells;
- Certificate of Lawful Use application at Highview, Longfield Road, Highview
- Retention of storage building and access road, Pearsons Sandpit, Addington

The first 3 decisions are currently the subject of planning appeals which are to be heard this summer.

Performance against 'County Matters' Best Value Performance Indicators

- 6. The National Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI 109) which is set locally relates to county matter applications. It excludes Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Development. For 2006/07 a target of 70% of applications to be determined within 13 weeks was set. The end of year performance measured against this target falls just below this target with 64% of applications processed within this timescale. The average time taken to determine 'county matter' applications has however fallen from 23 weeks in 2005/06 to 12 weeks.
- 7. For the purposes of the local Kent indicators, applications that are EIA development are included. In terms of performance against local indicators, 47% were determined within 10 weeks (target 50%) and 75% within 16 weeks. This latter figure exceeds the end of year performance target of 70%. Both figures are a considerable increase on the 2005/06 performance which determined 34% applications within 10 weeks and 66% within 16 weeks
- 8. The failure to meet the targets is a reflection of a combination of factors including the complexity and nature of the cases, the need for additional information to address consultee concerns and the diversion of experienced planning officers away from development control to work on the emerging Minerals and Waste Frameworks. Whilst the Group strives to meet the performance indicators, it is equally aware of the need to ensure that the speed of processing does not compromise quality of decision making.

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9. The local indicators for applications to be acknowledged within 3 days and applicants notified of case officers within 10 days are set at 100%. The Group achieved 93% and 92% respectively. No decisions were the subject of an Ombudsman complaint.

County Council Development (Regulation 3)

10. The Group continues to process a large number of applications for County Council development. During the last financial year it determined 260 full applications and a similar number (249) of amendments or details submitted pursuant to conditions. Applications have included a number of care housing developments in Broadstairs, East Malling, Herne Bay, Dover, Ashford, Dartford and Hythe, which are being promoted by the County Council as part of a Private Finance Initiative (PFI). New educational and sports facilities across the County have been permitted including development at the Weald of Kent Grammar School, Reculver C E School, Hillborough, Bradbourne School, Sevenoaks, Sedleys CE School, Southfleet, Mascalls School, Paddock Wood and Bower Grove School. Maidstone, Dame Janet Junior School, Newington and Maplesden Noakes School, Maidstone. Applications for new schools have been permitted at Seabrook CE Primary School, Hythe and Greenfields Community Primary School, Maidstone. A wind turbine was permitted at Sandwich Technology School. The Committee determined new transport infrastructure in the form of highway depots at Wrotham and Ashford and new roads for Sittingbourne, East Kent Access Phase 2, Minster and Kent Thameside Fast-track Phase 2.

Performance against 'Regulation 3' Best Value Performance Indicators

- 11. This area of the Group's Business does not have a national indicator. Performance is assessed against 2 locally set targets. The first seeks 65% of applications for County Council development to be determined within 13 weeks. The second sets an average time to determine applications of less than 12 weeks. For the financial year 2006/07 the Group exceeded both indicators, determining 78% within 13 weeks and an average determination period of 9.9 weeks.
- 12. In the last financial year complaints were made to the Local Government Ombudsman concerning the processing of the applications for a Business Centre at St Edmunds School, Dover and Minster Primary School, Sheppey. At the time of writing, the Ombudsman has yet to advise of his findings.

Community Liaison Groups

13. The Group continues to represent the County Planning Authority at a number of community liaison groups for mineral and waste sites. These are ongoing throughout the year and provide a useful forum to address issues of concern.

Planning Enforcement and Monitoring

- 14. The Planning Enforcement Team operates in accordance with the Enforcement Protocol that was adopted by the Council's Regulation Committee. This targets resources at those sites that have the potential to inflict the greatest environmental damage. Workloads throughout 2006/07 have remained high with formal action being pursued on 7 cases and investigation of some 22 live cases. Where possible a negotiated solution is sought, although a temporary stop notice was served at Woodgers Wharf, Upchurch and 3 Planning Contravention Notices were served. A number of enforcement notices served in 2005/06 were appealed resulting in public inquiries. This included supporting Maidstone Borough Council at a case in Detling Quarry, Maidstone and joint action with Swale Borough Council at Raspberry Hill, Iwade.
- 15. Following the introduction of Regulations for Chargeable Monitoring in 2006, the County Council has been able to charge a fee for selected monitoring for mining and landfill sites. Work is being undertaken in accordance with a protocol agreed by the Regulation

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Committee. To date 14 chargeable visits have been undertaken, raising an income of £4032. Details of this work is reported to the Council's Regulation Committee.

Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks

- 16. Work to prepare the new style Local Development Frameworks for Minerals and Waste was ongoing throughout the year with resources being diverted from the development control service to facilitate this area of work. This work will set out the policy context for ensuring that Kent has a sustainable supply of minerals and an appropriate network of waste management facilities. National performance indicator 200 covers this area of work and requires that the timescales set out in the Scheme are met. Previously, the Government Office for the South East (GoSE) approved the Council's Minerals and Waste Development Scheme which set out a timescale for delivering various milestones in the Plan making process. This required the County Council to maintain a 3 year rolling programme, to meet the milestone dates in the scheme and to publish an annual monitoring report.
- 17. During the year a number of milestones were met including the production of Mineral Development Framework's Preferred Options and Proposals paper for consultation, the submission to GoSE, a Sustainability Appraisal of the work and an Annual Monitoring Report. However towards the end of 2006 it became apparent that the timescales set out in approved Development Scheme for the Waste LDF were unrealistic and needed to be reviewed. A revised scheme setting out a new timetable was submitted to GoSE for approval in March 2007. A decision to this request is currently awaited.

Influencing Emerging Policy and Guidance

18. The Group continues to play a role in influencing emerging policy and guidance at national, regional and local level. Planning guidance is also provided to other Directorates which has assisted in the wider delivery of corporate policy initiatives including Building Schools for the Future Programme, and the PFI Social Care Housing initiative.

Freedom of Information Requests

19. The Group has dealt with 10 requests in the last year.

Member Training

20. Since December 2006 a more formalised programme of Member Training has been established with the intention for training to take place on a bi-monthly cycle. To date, training sessions have covered design, renewables, and PPS 25 Development and Flood Risk.

Electronic Planning

21. Members may recall that the computerised planning applications system used by the Group is no longer formally supported by the company Northgate Information Systems (NIS) who own the system. NIS are keen for the Group to migrate to its new product and discussions are ongoing to establish whether the Company's alternative system is 'fit for the Council's purposes' or whether we need to investigate further alternatives. In assessing the merits of any new system, consideration needs to be given to the Government's further shift towards e-planning with its emphasis on greater access to the planning service electronically including the ability to submit applications on-line. At present some services are available electronically i.e. committee reports, details of planning applications, advice and application forms and the capability to receive views electronically. The ability to submit applications on-line would require considerable investment in new information technology resources and is not universally supported by applicants particularly those submitting county matter proposals; however there is scope to increase these services. It is also of note that e-planning now forms part of the Government's allocation criteria for Planning Delivery Grant.

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Customer Satisfaction Survey

- 22. National performance indicator BVPI 111 requires the County Council to undertake a customer satisfaction survey every third year. The survey content and the format are prescribed by the Audit Commission and seek to gauge applicants/agents satisfaction with the service they received from the Planning Applications Group. In previous years the survey had been undertaken on the telephone and only included those submitting 'county matter' applications. This time the survey was a postal one and included all applicants/agents who had received notification of a full planning decision from the County Council between 3 April and 29th September 2006.
- 23. In total 96 questionnaires were sent out. Sixty four were returned. The survey demonstrated that 89% of applicants were 'satisfied' with the planning applications service provided by the Group and that 55% were 'very satisfied'. A number of complimentary comments were also made including

'Highly professional, friendly and fair advice from KCC Planners. If only all planning departments operated in this way.'

'Kent planning officers are very good and respond quickly and courteously to inquiries – better than most counties.'

Staffing Issues

24. There have been a number of significant changes in staffing during the year. This included the diversion of 2 principal planning officers (PPOs) and partial diversion of the former Group Head to support the Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks. At the end of 2006, the Group Head left the County Council, one of the PPOs retired and the deputy Admin Team Leader took maternity leave. A new Group Head has recently been recruited internally and steps are underway to backfill the vacancies. In light of these staffing changes, one of the PPOs previously diverted onto policy work has been transferred back to development control. Members will also be aware that in recent years it has proved difficult to recruit experienced development control officers in the County. This has resulted in the Group appointing staff and training them. In the longer term this should address the skills gap, but in the short term has meant a shortfall of experience at senior planning officer level.

Business Plan for 2007/08

- 25. Since April 2006, the Planning Applications Group forms party of the Strategy and Planning Division of the Environment and Regeneration Directorate. As in recent years, the Annual Operating Plans (Business Plans) are approved by the relevant Cabinet Member. The Chairs of Planning Applications Committee and the Regulation Committee commented at the draft stage. I therefore attach as an appendix a copy of the Plan for 2007/08 for information of Members of the Planning Applications Committee. In addition to setting out the purpose and outcome of the service, it sets out the performance indicators (pages B.17 and B.18) and key projects for the current financial year.
- 26. In terms of specific projects for the Planning Applications Group, the following are of note:
 - Work with SEERA and SERTAB on apportionment guidelines for recycled aggregates, hazardous waste and London's waste apportionment
 - Progress Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks (although this work will be undertaken by others outside the Planning Applications Group)
 - Influence the work of agencies involved in developing options for the management of nuclear waste with particular regard to the decommissioning of Dungeness A Power Station

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Planning Applications Group Business Plan

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- Review of the development control system and assess scope for e-planning
- Review of computerised planning application system following take over by Northgate Information Systems.
- Training for this Members of this Committee and regular substitutes

Conclusion and Recommendation

27. Notwithstanding the diversion of experienced staff away from development control activities and staffing changes, the Group has performed well this year balancing the merits of controversial developments and the need for quality decisions against the performance targets. The Customer Satisfaction Survey demonstrates a particularly high level of satisfaction with the level of service provided.

Recommendation

28. Members are asked to endorse this report.

Case Officer : Sharon Thompson Tel. No : 01622 696052

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STRATEGY AND PLANNING ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN 2007/08

1. PRIORITIES

The Strategy and Planning Division has a pivotal role in developing policy for the County and in influencing, on behalf of KCC, policy development at national, regional and local level. The Division also undertakes the Council's statutory development control and planning enforcement function. The work, carried out in close consultation with the public and key stakeholders, seeks to integrate social, economic and environmental objectives and reconcile the conflicts between them.

Our mission is:

"to set a vision and strategy for a dynamic and sustainable Kent and ensure its implementation for the benefit of Kent's communities and environment"

Our primary focus is the formulation and implementation of planning and transport policy, the Kent Environment Strategy, the Kent Economic Strategy (Kent Prospects), statutory Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks and the determination of planning applications for minerals and waste facilities and County Council developments.

Legislative Context

The legislative framework for the Division's work is contained within the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended, the Planning and Compensation Act 1991, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Environment Act 1995, The Channel Tunnel Rail Link Act 1996, the Transport Act 2000, Energy Act 2004, Waste Emissions Trading Act 2003, Local Government Acts 1972, 2000 and 2003, other principal transport and environmental legislation, European Waste Directive and all associated Regulations and Statutory Instruments and Orders.

CORE BUSINESS OBJECTIVES

Risk Management

These business objectives are monitored to ensure they will be delivered. Risks associated with potential non-delivery and the controls in places to mitigate those risks, have been assessed and documented as part of the annual operating plan process. A risk action plan has been developed as necessary.

2. POLICY CONTEXT AND LEAD ROLES

User Feedback

In developing policy and strategies, we engage in extensive formal and informal consultation with the public, our partners and stakeholders. We do this through focus groups, workshops and written and electronic public consultation. During 2006/07 we undertook and led on several consultations, outcomes of which are appended to this plan. (Appendix 1) Much of our work is in collaboration with partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors and we use this partnership working to engage in dialogue to receive views and inform strategy and policy and, also, to advocate Kent's objectives.

Customer Chartermark

We set high standards for customer care including targets for responding to enquiries (5 days with a full response by 20 days). We also have targets to acknowledge planning applications within 3 days. In

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developing policy, we undertake extensive consultation with key stakeholders, local groups and members of the public, including focus groups with Black and Minority Ethnic and young people. During 2007/08, we will be reviewing our internal and external web pages to improve these communications channels.

KCC Policy Drivers

Community Plan – The Vision for Kent

KCC's approval of Kent and Medway Structure Plan (KMSP), Local Transport Plan (LTP), Kent Prospects, and Environment Strategies, which the Division seeks to implement, provide key policy drivers for the ongoing implementation programmes and actions for the Community Plan. They also provide an established basis for guiding the protection and enhancement of the environment over the coming 10-15 year period. Additionally the Division provides high-level professional support in the form of Theme Leaders for Transport, Economy and Environment themes.

The Kent Commitment 2007

In undertaking its statutory roles, the Division has continuously engaged with local communities so that they are able to influence policy development and planning decisions that affect their social and economic quality of life. Proposed improvements to planning applications processes seek to increase electronic-based public accessibility to the service.

Kent Local Area Agreement

The Division inputs to most targets but will in particular have a key role in developing and co-ordinating frameworks for sustainable communities and employment related outcomes.

Towards 2010

The Division's policy development role and planning regulation role will provide underpinning support to many of the Towards 2010 targets, such as regeneration, transport, environment and improving health and quality of life. Additionally the Division has a specific lead role for four targets.

Supporting Independence Programme (SIP)

The Division's work on reviewing, updating and developing Kent Partnership and KCC led strategies aims to provide policy to support the achievement of SIP objectives and Kent Agreement outcomes. In particular, the Division provides a key role in linking strategic priorities across KCC Directorates and between partners, through its policy development and influencing role.

Directorate Priorities

The Directorate has agreed 13 overarching operational and thematic priorities that underpin delivery of all services within the Directorate. The Division has particular input to joint working on job creation, regeneration, waste processing infrastructure, influencing and co-ordinating responses to statutory plans and Local Development Frameworks and reducing congestion.

Financial Context

National Government spending priorities are health and education, with other services, including Local Government facing constrained budgets. For 2007/08, we have a reduced budget of 7% over 2006/07 budget, achieved by increased planning application income and the loss of two posts in planning and transport policy teams. In addition, one member of the Transport Policy Team is on long-term secondment (until March 2008). This post has been back-filled through an acting-up arrangement and a secondee appointed to ensure the team is adequately resourced. The Team has reviewed its programme of work for 2007/08 and has realigned its resources to ensure its key objectives are met. Within planning policy there is continuing pressure to meet legislative requirements to undertake Strategic Environmental Assessments

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and Sustainability Appraisals for all major strategies. Additionally, the need to replace the Head of Planning Applications post has lead to pressure on the group in terms of back-filling that may reduce overall levels of performance.

Equality Statement

In undertaking our work activities we will comply with best practice to meet the Equalities Standard for Local Government and fully contribute to KCC's target to meeting level 3 of the standard including impact-screening assessments of policies.

Learning and Development Plan

Having the appropriate skills and knowledge is vital to the delivery of this plan's business objectives. Training will be undertaken in three areas:

- Qualifications:
- Cross-Directorate Priorities
- Division-specific skills and knowledge

ISO 14001

KCC recognises that its activities and services have an impact upon the environment. As such, we are committed to identifying, monitoring and reducing these impacts to ensure we meet or exceed all environmental legislation. ISO14001 is the international standard for environmental management and all clauses must be met to ensure and maintain certification. The Environment and Regeneration Directorate will seek to achieve ISO14001 status and lead the way to sharing best environmental practice.

National and Regional Policy Drivers

Local Government White Paper

This includes proposals for enhanced status for community strategies and the requirement to establish Local Area Agreements delivered in partnership across all tiers of local government will increase focus and importance on the lead work we undertake in these areas.

The Queen's Speech

The Queen's Speech included provision for a Bill on climate change incorporating radical targets that will require a corporate response to which the Division will have a strong input. In Spring, a Planning White Paper will request responses to simplify procedures in the 2004 Act, especially the speeding up of statutory process on infrastructure and energy and putting public satisfaction at the heart of local authority inspections and giving communities power to petition the council on local issues. We will also need to respond to the proposed Bill on road congestion and public transport that includes the possibility of road charging.

The South East Plan and Regional Economic Strategy

The statutory basis now accorded to regional planning (the regional spatial strategy - the SouthEast Plan) sets an important context for our work and a focus for our policy development and influencing activity. Kent is facing major development over the next 20 years with two nationally designated growth areas and more than 120,000 new homes planned for the county by 2026. The Division's role to guide the scale, distribution and location of development and to assess the impact of house building plans and other major development. We also need to influence and take account of the SEEDA Regional Economic Strategy.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, we will deliver services designed to prevent crime and

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disorder, to make Kent a safe place to live, work and visit.

Summary of performance in 2006/07

A full monitoring report against 2006/7 business plan targets is at Appendix 2. Below are some highlights.

Policy

- Produced revised Kent Prospects plan
- Submitted new Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Kent (2006-11) and Local Transport Plan Delivery Report (2006) to Government to timetable
- Influenced National government to undertake a Lower Thames Crossing feasibility study (one of our Towards 2010 targets)
- Influenced CTRL domestic services for provision on North Kent, Stour and Folkestone lines and extension to Dover
- Facilitated new community facilities including education, social care housing and Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road and East Kent Access Phase 2
- Achieved adoption and publication of the Kent and Medway Structure Plan 2006, facing no legal challenge and having used the Plan to influence South East Plan regional polices
- Submissions to South East Plan resulted in Kent being invited to participate in more Examination in Public sessions on core policies than any other Council
- Extensive consultation undertaken on Kent Waste Development Framework Spatial Options document
- Submission to Government of revised Minerals and Waste Development Scheme(First Review) and Annual Monitoring Report within statutorily prescribed timetables
- Submission of three Development Plan Documents for Minerals Development Framework to Government
- Influenced Government on minerals and waste considerations including PPS10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management
- Agreed and undertaking an extensive Member training exercise on our development control function

Performance

- Achieved a high rating for customer satisfaction, 89%, which will feed into KCC's overall BVPI performance ratings
- LTP (2006-11) rated as "Good" and ranked in top quartile at a national level
- LTP Delivery Plan Report (2006) rated "Excellent" and ranked in top quartile at national level. Only 3
 "Excellent" plans in South East Region and only 19 nationally
- Substantial reward funding secured through LTP process
- Accessibility Strategy for Kent (ASK) identified by Government as an example of best practice in this field. KCC invited to become a Centre of Excellence.
- Business Support Team received nomination for Quality Service Award for second year in a row

Partnerships

- Led officer support to KCC Select Committee on Climate Change and secured new Council Policy statements on climate change and water resources
- Advised KCC to limit reduction on assisted area status given to parts of Kent protecting access to funding streams for these deprived areas

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3. REVENUE BUDGET

	2007-08								
Activity/budget line	FTE	Employee	Running	Contracts	Gross	External	Internal	Controllable	Cabinet
		Costs	Costs	&	Expenditure	Income	Income	Expenditure	Member
				Projects					
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Planning and Development Group	12.5	623.3	14.2	436.5	1074.0	57.0	0.0	1017.0	RG
Planning Applications Group	25.8								
Transport Strategy Group	5.5		5.7						
Total Divisional Budget	42.0	1010 0	240.2	620.7	2700.0	127.0	200 0	0175.0	
Total Divisional Budget	43.8	1818.0	242.3	639.7	2700.0	137.0	388.0	2175.0	
Divisional Director and PA	2.0	155.4	1.1	0.0	156.5	0.0	0.0	156.5	
Controllable Totals	45.8	1973.4	243.4	639.7	2856.5	137.0	388.0	2331.5	
Controllable Totals	10.0	1070.4	2-10.1	000.1	2000.0	107.0	000.0	2001.0	
Manager II and II and									
Memorandum Items:									
Central Overheads									
Directorate Overheads									
Capital charges									
Total Cost of Unit									

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4. CORE SERVICES AND FORECAST ACTIVITY LEVELS

The County Planning Officer is authorised to negotiate, settle the terms of and enter into the following agreements/projects (in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member/Leader) as detailed in the sections below.

Transport Planning – Accountable Officer: Mick Sutch

- T1. Implementation of LTP policies and strategies and monitoring delivery through the LTP process reporting mechanism. Ensure that the integrated transport schemes brought forward by KHS fully reflect the key objectives of the LTP and are prioritised according to Kent's scheme prioritisation methodology (PIPKIN)
- T2. Influence European, national and regional transport policy (CTRL, rail services, freight, trunk road schemes, ports and airports) in Kent's interests.
- T3. Monitor traffic flow and travel trend data in the County to inform Kent's transport polices and to ensure that the LTP best meets the needs of Kent residents and users of the county's transport systems.
- T4. Provide advice to area-based teams and other directorates on transport planning strategy and implementation.
- T5. Represent Kent's interests at public inquires relating to transport planning policies.

Development Planning – Accountable Officer: Mick Sutch

- P1. Formulation of planning policy including influencing national and regional planning policy and specifically the SouthEast Plan in Kent's interests. Co-ordinate, either directly or through joint working, all consultations that have a relationship to planning, transport, regeneration, environment and economic strategies.
- P2. Undertake preparation, implementation and monitoring of Minerals Development Documents in accordance with Minerals and Waste Development Scheme. Produce Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)
- P3. Deliver Strategic Environmental Appraisal (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisals (SA) on all major strategies.
- P4. Influence Development Plan Documents and policies prepared by the 12 District Planning Authorities so that they are compatible with Kent's overall strategy and act to influence decisions on major planning applications.
- P5. In conjunction with Analysis Information Team, monitor progress and impact of Kent and Medway Structure Plan.
- P6. Represent Kent's interests at public inquires relating to planning policies.
- P7. Represent the County Council on regional partnerships and specialist working groups relating to the group's activities.

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Environment and Economic Strategies – Accountable Officer: Leigh Herington

- E1. Develop the County Council's approach to climate change and water resources.
- E2. Implementation and review of Kent's Environment and Kent's Economic Strategies and related activity on behalf of the Kent Partnership.
- E3. Develop and support joint working across the Directorate and in particular support the work of the Kent Partnership and delivery of the Vision for Kent.
- E4. Contribute to the delivery and review of the Local Area Agreement, in particular outcome 8 on job creation.

Planning Applications: Accountable Officer: Sharon Thompson¹

- PA1 Determine planning applications for minerals, waste and County Council development in accordance with the Development Plan and other material planning considerations to ensure that quality developments are delivered
- PA2 Undertake pre-application discussions with applicant as required and where necessary carry out screening and scoping processes in accordance with Environmental Impact Assessment legislation.
- PA3 Undertake preparation, implementation and monitoring of Waste Development Documents in accordance with Minerals and Waste Development Scheme. Produce Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)
- PA4 Monitor compliance with planning permissions. Work in accordance with statutory monitoring scheme for mineral and selected waste management development. Take appropriate enforcement action where breaches of planning control have taken place in accordance with the Council's approved Enforcement Protocol.
- PA5 Comment on behalf of County Council on draft waste management licences and IPPC permits and variations to existing waste management licences issued by the Environment Agency.
- PA6 Represent the County Council on various national, regional and local partnerships and specialist working groups relating to the group's activities including provision of officer support to Community Liaison Groups for active minerals and waste sites and new community developments.
- PA7 Provide advice and training to Members and officers on development control, planning enforcement and monitoring functions. Raise Members awareness of the policy content of the emerging Minerals and Waste Development Framework.
- PA8 Influence policy, guidance and good practice on minerals, waste and wider development control matters including officer input to County Council Select Committees.

Management: Accountable Officer: Leigh Herington

¹ Acting up arrangement until finalisation of appointment process

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- M1. Manage divisional resources contribute to Investors in People through staff development and internal communications, improve IT provision, particularly planning applications MYM system and use by staff and ensure budget manager compliance with corporate guidelines. Maintain and update risk register and business continuity plan.
- M2. Manage reputation of Division through good customer care, marketing and communications coordination to the public and Local Boards and involve them in consultation processes.

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5. 2007/08 KEY PROJECTS and DEVELOPMENTS

Ref²	Key Projects and Developments Policy Influencing	A/c Manager	Links to other plans	Deliverables/outcomes	Target dates
P1	Respond to national consultations on planning policy and process	Richard Feasey	V4K T2010 KMSP LTP	Respond to Planning White Paper	Summer
P1	South East Plan	Richard Feasey Tim Martin	V4K T2010, KMSP, LAA	Government on Proposed changes following EIP Review strategic and sub	Nov Sept
				regional monitoring requirements Evaluate and progress consideration of housing market assessments and strategic housing land supply assessments in conjunction with SEERA and Districts	Dec
					Dec
					Dec
				Recast protocol with E&R Analysis Team to meet strategic client needs to monitor plan	Autumn
E4	SEEDA SE Coastal Strategy	Steve Arnettt	V4K, T2010, LAA, Kent Prospects	Ensure Kent's coastal area challenges and opportunities are reflected in SEEDA's strategy	Spring – Summer
T2	Lower Thames Crossing	Mick Sutch	T2010 KMSP, SEP	study to cover KCC requirements	March - June 2007/08

² Core services link

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Ref ²	Key Projects and Developments	A/c Manager	Links to other plans	Deliverables/outcomes	Target dates
				services on Eurostar between Ashford and Brussels Commission additional study if necessary with/without Essex CC	Spring - summer
T2	Influence major road and rail proposals in the best interests of Kent	Mick Sutch	T2010 KMSP LTP	 Press for implementation of trunk road and motorway schemes on M25, A21 and A2 Press for secured funding 	2007/8 July
				for Thameslink scheme and for services to Dartford, Sevenoaks, Ashford and Maidstone	ŕ
T2	Influence provision of lorry parking and solutions to Operation Stack	Mick Sutch	T2010 LTP	 Press for a permanent solution to Operation Stack Work with partners to develop proposals long term solution 	2007/08 2007/8
P4	Implementing strategic polices and corporate objectives/ (1)Influencing Local Development Frameworks	Dick Feasey	V4K T2010, KMSP, LTP, MWDF, SEP	 Co-ordinate and respond to statutory consultation on key stages of District LDF preparation Progress corporate awareness of LDF preparation and proposals and reflection of corporate objectives and strategies in LDFs 	Continuo us and subject to progress with District Local Develop ment Schemes
PA7	Apportionment guidelines for recycled aggregates, hazardous waste and London's waste apportionment (joint work with SEERA and SERTAB)	Sharon Thompson	MDF, WDF, SEP	Influence work in Kent's best interests and feed into emerging Mineral and Waste Development Frameworks	Determin ed by Regional Planning Body
PA7	Nuclear waste management strategy development particularly with regard to Dungeness Power Stations Policy Development	Sharon Thompson		Influence emerging strategy	On going
E2	Kent Environment Strategy - review and re-launch	Peter Moore	V4K, T2010	 Review of strategy with key stakeholder engagement Consultation on draft strategy Final strategy document 	Summer - Autumn Autumn Spring

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Ref ²	Key Projects and Developments	A/c Manager	Links to other plans	Deliverables/outcomes	Target dates
				and delivery planLaunch at Kent Environment Conference in	March
E2	Support development of Kent Agreement Block 4/ Outcome 8 (Job creation)	Steve Arnett	V4K, T2010, LAA	 Development Kent Agreement 2 Block 4/ Outcome 8 Framework Finalisation of Kent 	Summer - Winter Winter -
				Agreement 2 Block 4/ Outcome 8 Framework	Spring
P2	Minerals Development Framework	Richard Feasey	KMSP SEP BVPI	Prepare for and undertake a Public Examination in front of independent Public Inspectors	Autumn
				 Preparation and submission to GOSE of Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) 	Dec
				 Subject to AMR review and revise Minerals and Waste Development Scheme 	March
				 Continue to meet BVPI target 	March
PA3	Waste Development Framework	Sharon Thompson	KMSP SEP BVPI	Consultation of preferred options for core strategy, primary development control policies and waste sites Development Plan documents and draft sustainability report including Sustainability Assessment	Oct
				 Preparation and submission to GOSE of Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) 	Dec - March
				 Subject to AMR review and revise Minerals and Waste Development Scheme Continue to meet BVPI 	March Ongoing
	Policy Implementation			target	_
E1	Climate Change Action Plan for Kent	Peter Moore	V4K, Council Policy	Delivery of Cabinet's response to recommendations of KCC Select Committee on Climate Change	2007/08

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Ref ²	Key Projects and Developments	A/c Manager	Links to other plans	Deliverables/outcomes	Target dates
				 Consultation draft of Climate Change Action Plan for Kent Production of Climate Action Plan for Kent 	Oct March
P1	Subject to funding, survey of new residential communities ("Building new Communities")	Tim Martin	V4K, T2010, SIP,LAA	Assess sustainability of new residential communities through survey research and case studies	July - March
T1	Implementation of Kent's Transport Strategy (LTP)	Darren Cook	V4K, T2010, KMSP	On going work to 2010/11 monitored through LTP Progress Reports Effective delivery of local transport policies, strategies and targets Enhanced transport network/services for Kent Maximised inwards investment to Kent for major transport schemes, capital maintenance and integrated transport measures	July
T1	Accessibility Strategy for Kent	Darren Cook	V4K, T2010, KMSP	On going work on LTP targets: Improved access to key services Co-ordination of local policies and strategies to influence transport and land use planning	July
T1	PIPKIN (Integrated Transport Scheme Prioritisation)	Darren Cook	V4K, T2010, KMSP	On going work to 2010/11 monitored through LTP Progress Reports • Prioritisation of countywide integrated transport schemes (capital projects under £5m) • Deliver value for money in terms of LTP capital investment	July
E2	Kent Prospects – Development of Action Plan and monitoring framework	Steve Arnett	V4K, T2010, LAA	 Development of Kent Prospects 2006—2008 Action Plan Progression of innovative actions identified through 	Spring - Summer 2007/08

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Ref ²	Key Projects and Developments	A/c Manager	Links to other plans	Deliverables/outcomes	Target dates
				Action Plan Baseline Kent Prospects Progress Report produced Annual headline indicator update produced	Spring Winter - Spring
T2	Channel Tunnel Rail Link Domestic Services - Protect Kent's best interests and assess Impacts of December 2009 timetable changes	Mick Sutch Tim Martin	V4K, T2010, LAA, KMSP	 Respond to Southeastern's proposed service changes Appraise evidence of London rail commuting with Southeastern Establish regional outlook forecasts and future Kent rail traffic with CTRL Prepare action plans including land supply and access to stations 	Spring April Sept March
Т3	Countywide Traffic Counts Programme / Kent Travel Report	Darren Cook	V4K, T2010, KMSP	 Monitoring and analysis of traffic data at Countywide level to inform strategic decisions/issues Production of Kent Travel Report including distribution to key stakeholders 	2007/08 July
P4	Implementing strategic policies/ (2) Influencing planning decisions	Dick Feasey	KMSP MWDF	Co-ordinate and respond to consultation on strategically important planning applications and proposals including ,as appropriate , input to public inquiries	Continuo
P6	Planning inquiries – Howbury Park, Celcon, Factory proposal, Igtham Sandpit, Igtham, Aylesford Wastewater Treatment Works, Aylesford and unauthorised land raise, Raspberry Hill, Iwade and potentially Hollingbourne freight terminals and Lydd Airports	Determine d by Inquiry	KMSP LTP WDF, SEP	Provision of evidence and representation to inquiries to support KCC view	Set by Inquiry timetable s
	Management				
PA7	Member Training (Planning Applications and Regulation Committees)	Sharon Thompson	V4K, KMSP	Delivery of on-going training programmes, briefings and site tours	On going
M1	Member Awareness	Leigh	KMSP,	 Delivery of formal and 	On going

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Ref ²	Key Projects and Developments	A/c Manager	Links to other plans	Deliverables/outcomes	Target dates
	(Transport Policy and Planning Policy functions)	Herington	LTP	informal briefings	
M1	Review of planning application forms and guidance in light of emerging regulations	Sharon Thompson	BVPI	Action plan and implementation of review	Spring- Summer
M1	Review of development control system re web access to planning applications	Sharon Thompson	e- governme nt	Identification and scoping of potential e-gov improvements to gain an improved Pendleton Score	2007/08
M1	Review of computerised planning application system	Sharon Thompson	BVPI	Action plan and implementation of review	2007/08
M2	Improving communications	To be decided	Customer Standard s	 Review and update of web content (internal and external) 	2007/08

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6. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator ³	Actual Performance 2005/06	Estimated performance 2006/7	Target 2007/8
National Indicators BVPI 109 - % of planning applications excluding those involving environmental impact assessment determined within 13 weeks	57%	63%	70%
BVPI 111 - % of planning applicants who were satisfied with the service received (collected 3-yearly)*	92% (2003/04)	89%⁴	N/A
BVPI 200 – Plan-making* a. Did the local planning authority submit the Local Development Scheme (LDS) by 28 March 2005 and thereafter maintain a 3-year rolling programme?	Yes	Yes	Yes
b. Has the authority met the milestones that the current LDS sets out?	Yes	Yes	Yes
c. Did the local planning authority publish an annual monitoring report by December of the last year?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Towards 2010 Performance Indicators* BVPI 104 - Satisfaction with local bus services (collected	68%	62%	Triennial
triennial basis)	(2003/04)	(2006/7)	collection
Customer satisfaction with South Eastern Trains	77%	80%	82%
% of housing completions on previously developed land	76.6%	75%	75%
Amount of developer contributions secured from minor sites	£4m	£4.8m	£3m
Total of developers contributions secured including major sites (cumulative)	£39m	£43.8m	£52.8m
Other Operational Indicators Local Transport Plan (LTP) settlement*			
Block Settlement	£26.3m	£30.3m	£36.7m*
Major Schemes	£8.8m	£18.2m	£1.0m * will not all be taken up
LTP rating (from 85 authorities)	69		
Delivery Plan (2001-2006)*		Excellent (in	Maintain top
(out of 82 authorities)		top 19	quartile
LTP (2006-11)*		authorities) Good	rating
% of county matters applications determined within 16 weeks including EIA development	63%	74%	70%
Average time taken to determine all applications for the Council's own development proposals	9 weeks	10 weeks	Under 12 weeks

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Indicators marked with an asterisk are actuals
 This is not a like-for-like comparison. 2006/07 survey included County Matters and County Councils own developments. Original survey only included County Matters.

Indicator ³	Actual Performance 2005/06	Estimated performance 2006/7	Target 2007/8
% of applications for the Council's own development proposals determined within 13 weeks	83%	82%	65%
% of planning applications acknowledged within 3 working days of receipt	100%	100%	100%
Corporate BVPI			
BVPI 8: Percentage of invoices paid within 30 days	90%	92.8%	95%

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Consultation exercises, satisfaction surveys, reviews

Name	Start Date	End Date	Target Group	Target Area	What we want to find out and how we will use the information	Statutory	Contact Name and Details
Planning Applications	Continuou s		Public, Statutory consultees	Kent-wide	Engage public and stakeholders (including district and parish councils) consultations prior to decision making in planning applications	Υ	Sharon Thompson 01622 696052
Waste Development Document Preferred Options	October 07	November 07	KCC, Public, Stakeholders	Kent-wide	Inform preparation of submission document to GOSE	Υ	Sharon Thompson 01622 696052
Kent Environment Strategy	Summer 07	Spring 08	Key stakeholders but particularly environmental organisations/ groups	Kent-wide	To influence changes to vision, objectives, action plans, target and indicators in the Environment Strategy		Peter Moore 01622 221983
Climate Change Action Plan	Spring 07	Spring 08	Key stakeholders but particularly major energy user organisations and communities	Kent-wide	To shape action plan and seek commitment form stakeholders to act.		Peter Moore 01622 221983 Yolanda Rizzi 01622 221363
Subject to funding and agreement of partners, Impact of CTRL domestic services	Tbc	Tbc	Service Providers Service Users Districts	Kent-wide	Potential economic, housing market, community, transport and social impacts of CTRL domestic services. To influence future planning and transport policy		Tim Martin 01622 221618

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Name	Start Date	End Date	Target Group	Target Area	What we want to find out and how we will	Statutory	Contact Name
					use the information		and Details
Subject to	Tbc	Tbc	Residents of	Tbc	Satisfaction ratings with design of new		Tim Martin
funding and			new		community and services available		01622 221618
agreement of			communities		·		
developers,							
residents survey							
in new							
communities							

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7. STAFFING

	2006/07	2007/08 ⁵
KS 13 and above or equivalents (ftes)	6.0	5.0 ⁶
KS12 and below (ftes)	48.2	40.8
TOTAL	54.2	45.8
Of the above total, the estimated FTE which are externally funded	0.5	0.0

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⁵ Reductions caused by relocation of International Affairs Team to Chief Executive's Directorate and deletion of 2 posts in Planning and Transport Strategy ⁶ Includes County Planning Officer

STRATEGY AND PLANNING PEOPLE CHART

County Planning Officer: Leigh Herington – extn 1600

PA: Alex Burnand - extn 1601

Planning Applications Acting Head of Planning Applications:

Sharon Thompson - Extn 6052

Principal Planning Office	ers	Extn
Jerry Crossley		1052
Mike Clifton		1054
Robin Gregory		1067
Andrea Hopkins (p/t)		1056
Paul Hopkins		1051
Jim Wooldridge	1060	
2 fte vacancies		

Senior Planning Officers John Prosser Angela Watts	Extn 1394 1059
Planning Officers James Bickle Mary Green Anna Michalska-Dober Julian Moat Adam Tomaszewski Shaun Whyman Helena Woodcock	Extn 1068 1066 6979 6978 6923 1058 1063

Alan Goodison	1065
Hazel Mallet	1075

Enforcement and Monitoring

Minerals Technical Advisor	Extn
Rod Maloney	1064

Transport and Planning Policy Head of Transport and Planning Policy:

Mick Sutch - Extn 1612

Extn Transport

Planning Policy Mana	ger	Transport Policy Manager	Extn
Richard Feasey	1611	. ,	1613
Projects Manager		Senior Transport Planner	
Tim Martin	1618	Vicki Farley (seconded) 1602 Rob Smith	1050
Principal Planning Of	ficers		
Julian Dipper	1607	Transport Planner	
Jo Florey	1605	John Luckcock	1616
Liz Shier	1505		
Senior Planning Offic	er		
Martin King	1606		
Planning Officers			

Economy and Environment

1931

Steve Arnett (Economy) – extn 1938 Peter Moore (Environment) – extn 1983

Steve Craddock 6997

Susan Tipping

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Planning

Business and Technical Support

Planning Applications:

•	Minerals and Waste	Extn
Sh	ivaun Riley	6908

Technical Support

Richard Bore	1071
Angela Arnold	1070
Sue Brownfield	1061
Christine Coppock	1070
Gill Johns (p/t)	1062

• PA Support to Planning Applns Linda Songhurst 6100

Transport and Planning, Economy and Environment Support:

Barbara Sacher * 1608

Business Development Manager

Theresa Warford * 1927

* Shared support with Change and Development and Regeneration and Economy

Consultation Log 2006/7

Details of consultation/ satisfaction survey/review	Timescales Start/Finish	People/Orgs involved	Basis for conducting work / How we will use the information	Contact Name
Minerals Development Documents - issues and options	Feb 06 - Aug 08	Key stakeholders and public	Statutory function to get input from stakeholders and public to preferred options leading up to adoption of Minerals Development Framework	Richard Feasey 01622 221611
Waste Development Documents - issues and options	Feb 06 - Aug 08	Key stakeholders and public	Statutory function to get input from stakeholders and public to preferred options leading up to adoption of Waste Development Framework	Sharon Thompson 01622 696052
South East Plan	April 06 - June 06	KCC, Districts, all stakeholders and public	To get views to feed into Kent response to South East plan prior to Examination in Public	Tim Martin 01622 221618
Planning Applications - various	Continuous process	Public and statutory consultees	Statutory function as part of development control function. Basis set out in Statement of Community Involvement	Sharon Thompson 01622 696052
Kent Prospects	March 06 - June 06	Districts, Growth Area Delivery Boards, Area Partnerships, LSPs, Kent Partnership organisations, businesses, FE/HE sector, voluntary sector, Public, KCC Directorates		Steve Arnett 01622 221938

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Details of consultation/ satisfaction survey/review	Timescales Start/Finish	People/Orgs involved	Basis for conducting work / How we will use the information	Contact Name
Kent and Medway Structure Plan	April 06 - May 06	Stakeholders and public	Statutory consultation to get views and feed into final draft before formal adoption of the plan	Richard Feasey 01622 221611
Minerals Development Framework	April 06 - June 06	Stakeholders and public	Informed preparation of submission document and fed into issues for 2007/08 Examination in Public	Richard Feasey 01622 221611
Waste Development Framework	April 06 – October 06	Stakeholders and public	Informed preparation of submission document and fed into issues for 2007/08 Examination in Public	Sharon Thompson 01622 696052
Minerals and Waste Annual Monitoring Report	Sept 06 - Nov 06	Stakeholders and public	Informed final report submission	Richard Feasey 01622 221611
Planning Applications - Triennial Customer Survey Consultation	Sept 06 - Nov 06	Users of planning applications service	BVPI requirement to monitor satisfaction ratings of service which in turns feeds into KCC CPA assessment	Sharon Thompson 01622 696052

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2006/7 Business Plan Monitoring Report

Project/development/key action As per business plan	Planned outcome/deliverable as per business plan	Progress	Any Comments
Review Regional Economic Strategy 2006-2016	Prepare review and report on impact of RES on Kent	Green	
Advise SEERA on Sub-regional Investment Framework	,	Green	
Joint work with SEERA and SERTAB, in particular apportionment guidelines for recycled aggregates, hazardous waste and London waste apportionment	Influence apportionment figures in Kent's interests to feed into Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks	Green	
Maximise Government funding for transport capital projects via submission of Annual Progress Report		Green	
Respond to Government progress report on Airports White Paper and Ports Strategy	Influence Government strategy	N/A	Government paper delayed
Progress Kent's Development Plan	Adoption of KMSP	Green	
Progress Minerals Development Framework to balance the adequate supply of minerals with the need to protect the environment	 Produce Preferred Options and Proposals paper for consultation and draft SA report Produce Submission Document and final SA report for GOSE Preparation and review of Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) Submission of AMR to GOSE Following AMR process, review and where necessary revise Development Scheme to meet BVPI 200 	Green	

Project/development/key action As per business plan	Planned outcome/deliverable as per business plan	Progress	Any Comments
Progress Waste Development Framework to balance the adequate disposal of waste with the need to protect the environment	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Amber - Green	Slippage on timetable
Wye - Imperial College Development	 Consideration of Imperial's Development proposal at key stages in South East Plan preparation and at key stages of Ashford's LDF Assessment of submitted planning application 	N/A	Imperial College not proceeding with proposal
Review and publish revised Kent Prospects Strategy (improving economic well-being of Kent and meet LAA outcome 8, block 4)	1 3,	Green	
Review of outcome 8, block 4 to increase number of jobs in Kent and ongoing support	Updated outcome 8 delivery plan	Green	
Deliver 2007 progress reporting on Kent Environment Strategy	Publish progress report and launch at 3 rd Kent Environment Conference	Green	
Develop KCC strategy for climate change including ecological foot-printing	February Cabinet meeting	Green	
Develop KCC strategy for sustainable management of water resources	,	Green	
Influence the work of agencies involved in developing options for the management of nuclear waste with particular regard to the decommissioning of Dungeness A Power Station	Ensure representation on key working groups and influence emerging strategy	Green	

Project/development/key action As per business plan	Planned outcome/deliverable as per business plan	Progress	Any Comments
Influence District Council Plans Review and Local Development Frameworks to reflect KCC policies	 Respond to consultations received (10 expected) 	Green	
Monitoring of Mineral and Landfill Permissions	Consultants report on options for introducing a charging regime including resource implications	Amber - Red	Good progress made on preparation to implement charging options but resources limited to deliver required number of visits
Produce congestion plans	Plans for 10 principal urban areas produced	Green	
Influence the new franchisee of the Integrated Kent Franchise in the best interests of Kent	 Agree Memorandum of Understanding with GoVia 	Green	
Influence major road and rail proposals by other agencies in the best interests of Kent	 Press for urgent examination of Lower Thames Crossing and Junction 5 schemes Press for implementation of M25, A2 and A21 schemes Press for extension and early delivery of Crossrail and Thameslink schemes 	Green	
Review of the development control system and assess scope for improvements fro e-gov	Identification and costing of potential improvements to the Development Control service leading to a higher Pendleton score	Red	Financial limitations to finding required investment
Implement management actions arising from the Business Continuity Plan	Deliver actions identified in risk and issues register	Red	Time pressures has delayed work on register
Implement actions from Investors in People Action Plan	KCC retains liP accreditation	Green	
Ensure all Members of the Planning Applications and Regulation Committees and agreed substitutes receive prior and continuing training to improve decision-making	Comprehensive package including briefing on new legislation, awareness of minerals and waste issues and a tour of key sites	Amber	
Customer satisfaction survey to meet BVPI 111 requirements	Report from independent research resource on satisfaction levels	Green	89% satisfaction rating
Determine mechanisms and resource to ensure currency and accuracy of web site information	Subject to training and web team availability protocol for updating web information agreed for implementation	Amber - Green	

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Project/development/key action	Planned outcome/deliverable as per business	Progress	Any Comments
As per business plan	plan		
Review of computerised planning application	·		Resource constraints on officer time needed
system following take over by Northgate	including possibility of tender for alternative		to work on new procurement process
Information Systems in December 2005	system		
Review with AIP work needed to support KCC	• Provision of evidence supporting KCC's	Green	
strategic function	interests South East Plan Examination in		
	Public and in advice to Regional Assembly		

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