

By: Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member, Adult Social Services  
Oliver Mills, Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services

To: Adult Social Services Policy Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee – 25 June 2010

Subject: **SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE**

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This paper presents an update of Kent County Council's and Kent Adult Services progress towards achieving their environmental commitments against our climate change commitments, the KCC Environment Policy and ISO14001 Environmental Management System. The paper also outlines any changes needed to the KCC Environment Policy in light of the recently revised Kent Environment Strategy and any potential gaps in activity.

ASSPOSC Members are asked to:

- a. Note, and celebrate overall progress made by KCC and KASS
  - b. Discuss future ASS priorities and agree approach going forward.
  - c. Agree suggested changes to the KCC Environment Policy
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### **Changing Policy Context – Revised Kent Environment Strategy**

1. (1) At the last Kent Partnership meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.kent.gov.uk)

(2) 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.

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

### **Corporate Progress ISO14001**

2. (1) 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](http://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.

Energy price changes have also had an effect with a net increase of £315000 in electricity and small decrease in gas charges.

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**

EHW, working with the CED 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

## **Specific ISO14001 Progress in KASS 2009 - 2010**

3. (1) KASS achieved the ISO 14001 environmental management standard in May 2009 and has successfully passed two further 6 monthly external verification assessments.

(2) In 12 months since first accreditation, KASS has delivered the following improvements:

- Reduced energy use in its managed offices compared to last year
- More than 70% of its premises requiring a Display Energy Certificate energy efficiency rating were rated average or better.
- Compared to 2008-09 financial year, business miles have reduced by 7% vs target of 2% with cost savings of £120,000
- In the last 6 months, KASS Directorate has been the main user of the BT MeetMe teleconferencing service
- Improved compliance with waste legislation, in particularly hazardous waste and continue to extend recycling to most of its facilities
- Most locations now have Green Guardian champion, there are 57 in KASS and more than 300 overall across the council.

## **Areas for consideration by KASS**

4. (1) KASS are progressing well in implementing KCC's Environment Policy, particularly in the area of carbon reduction. In light of the revised Kent Environment Strategy it is suggested that future areas of focus are:

- climate change adaptation, focusing on mainstream the risks and effects of climate change such as severe weather events into service delivery
- fuel poverty, building on work already underway in partnership with other KCC Directorates.
- Extending work with the KASS supply chain, especially with regards to care homes which are high energy users.

## **Potential changes to the KCC Environment Policy**

5. (1) 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

## Recommendations

6. (1) ASSPOSC Members are asked to:
  - a. Note, and celebrate overall progress made by KCC and KASS
  - b. Discuss future KCC and KASS priorities identified in section 4 and agree approach going forward.
  - c. Agree suggested changes to the KCC Environment Policy

### Contact:

Carolyn McKenzie  
Sustainability and Climate Change, EHW  
01622 221916  
[carolyn.mckenzie@kent.gov.uk](mailto:carolyn.mckenzie@kent.gov.uk)

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

Living Well Within Our Environmental Limits	KCC Environment Policy reference.	KASS 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	<p><a href="#">Our estate</a></p> <p><a href="#">Our leadership role in the community</a></p>	<p>Reduced energy use in its managed offices compared to last year</p> <p>More than 70% of its premises requiring a Display Energy Certificate energy efficiency rating were rated average or better.</p>	Build on fuel poverty activity already underway in partnership with other KCC Directorates as part of the KCC Retrofit Project.	KCC Target is red.
Priority 2 New developments and infrastructure in Kent are cost effective, low carbon and resource efficient	<p><a href="#">Our leadership role in the community</a></p>	NA	NA	
Priority 3 Turn Kent's waste into new resources and jobs for Kent	Partially covered under Our Decisions	NA	NA	
Priority 4 Reduce the ecological footprint of what we consume	Partially covered under 'Our Procurement'	Care Home Work through the KASS Supply Chain.	Care Homes – more focus needed to help care homes make energy efficiency improvements.	

<b>Meeting the Climate Change Challenge</b>	<b>KCC Environment Policy reference.</b>	<b>KASS Current Activity and Progress</b>	<b>Gaps in Delivery/Issues</b>	<b>RAG</b>
Priority 5 Reduce future carbon emissions	Partially covered under Our Estate	Compared to 2008-09 financial year, business miles have reduced by 7% vs target of 2% with cost savings of £120,000  In the last 6 months, KASS Directorate has been the main user of the BT MeetMe teleconferencing service	TBA	
Priority 6 Manage the impacts of climate change, in particular extreme weather events	Partially covered under Our Decisions	Health and Social Care Event – progressing well.	Detailed action plan for Health and Social Care Sector.	
Priority 7 Support the development of green jobs and business in Kent	Partially covered under Our Decisions.	NA	NA	
<b>Value From Our Natural and Living Environment</b>				
Priority 8 Utilise the full social and economic potential of a high quality natural and historic environment in Kent	Partially covered under Our Estate and Our Leadership role in the Community.	Activity currently limited.	Make more links between KASS priorities and the natural 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.	NA	NA	
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.	Activity currently limited.	Make more links between KASS priorities and the natural environment.	