

APPENDIX TWO

Sustainability and Climate Change Update

1. Introduction

This appendix summarises progress over the last year by the County Council, and the Communities Directorate in particular, in delivering the objectives of KCC's Environment Policy. All Policy Overview 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 Kent Partnership meeting on the 8th June, the 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 viz "environmental engagement" and "green jobs."

The table at the end of this Appendix details KCC's and Communities current and planned actions as well as potential gaps in activity against these 10 priorities.

3. Corporate Progress ISO14001

A summary of 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, which forms part of the Regeneration Framework has been successfully reviewed, and a new version of the strategy has been agreed by the Kent Partnership. A full delivery plan is now being developed with 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 £45,000 compared to face to face meetings. Only 10% of KCC BT MeetMe accounts have currently been used however, and active promotion is taking place.

- **Our Procurement**

EHW, working with the CED have set up the South East Carbon Hub which provides both online and targeted face to face contact with the public sector supply chain in Kent to save money and cut carbon. The Carbon Hub aims 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**

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 example of good practice in this field.

4. Specific progress for the Communities Directorate against KCC's Environment Policy

Communities achieved the ISO 14001 environmental management standard during 2008 and has successfully passed three further 6 monthly external verification assessments.

In the last 12 months, Communities has delivered the following improvements:

- More than half of the 20 buildings required to have a Display Energy Certificate for energy efficiency were rated average or better, with two buildings scoring B (the best rating for any KCC building).
- Compared to 2008-09 financial year, business miles have reduced by 4.5% with cost savings of £52,500
- In the last 6 months, Communities staff have been using the BT MeetMe teleconferencing service with two members of staff in the top 10 user list. One person has made 49 teleconference calls which equates to an estimated saving of £2800 compared to the cost of face to face meetings.

- Improved compliance with waste legislation and continued efforts to extend recycling to more of its smaller facilities.
- Battery recycling collection points are being made available in Libraries for members of the public.
- Youth Services and Libraries have both held Environment focused events to engage staff.
- Many locations now have a Green Guardian champion, there are 78 in Communities and more than 300 overall across the council.

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

As part of the annual review process an assessment is made as to whether new policy drivers such as the Kent Environment Strategy or the rate of progress in achieving our objectives require changes to the KCC Environment Policy or its implementation priorities

Communities 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.

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 and "Green jobs" and opportunities.

Kent Environment Strategy Priorities, Communities Directorate Current and Planned Activity.

| Living Well Within Our Environmental Limits | KCC Environment Policy reference. | Communities Current Activity and Progress | Planned activity | 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 | More than half of the 20 buildings required to have a Display Energy Certificate for energy efficiency were rated average or better, with two buildings scoring B (the best rating for any KCC building). | 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 | Our leadership role in the community | 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' | Currently limited activity on procurement | Link suppliers into The South East Carbon Hub | |

| Meeting the Climate Change Challenge | KCC Environment Policy reference. | Communities Current Activity and Progress | Planned activity | RAG |
|---|--|---|--|------------|
| Priority 5 Reduce future carbon emissions | Partially covered under Our Estate | <p>Compared to 2008-09 financial year, business miles have reduced by 4.5% with cost savings of £52,500</p> <p>In the last 6 months, Communities have been using the BT MeetMe teleconferencing service with two members of staff in the top 10 user list. One person has made 49 teleconference calls which equates to an estimated saving of £2800 compared to the cost of face to face meetings...</p> | All units have a 2% mileage reduction target in 2010-11. | |
| Priority 6 Manage the impacts of climate change, in particular extreme weather events | Partially covered under Our Decisions | Communities identified key areas of vulnerability. | Work beginning on addressing vulnerable communities in Kent which is a key priority. | |
| Priority 7 Support the development of green jobs and business in Kent | Partially covered under Our Decisions. | NA | NA | |
| Value From Our Natural and Living Environment | | | | |
| Priority 8 Utilise the full social and economic potential of a high | Partially covered under Our Estate and | Activity currently limited. | Make more links between Communities priorities and the | |

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| quality natural and historic environment in Kent | Our Leadership role in the Community. | | 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 Communities priorities and the natural environment. | |