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Subject: Sustainability and Climate Change Update

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### **Summary:**

This paper provides the annual update of Kent County Council and the Chief Executive's Departments progress against our commitments in the KCC Environment Policy and ISO14001 Environmental Management System accreditation.

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## **1. Introduction**

This report summarises progress over the last year by the County Council, and the Chief Executive's Department (CED) 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 its meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> June, the Kent Partnership agreed the final draft of the revised Kent Environment Strategy, which is a daughter document of Vision for Kent and the KCC Regeneration Framework. The final draft strategy will be available on [www.kent.gov.uk](http://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 Cad's current and planned actions (as well as potential gaps in activity) against these 10 priorities.

## **3. Corporate Progress in delivering the KCC Environment Policy**

A summary of key corporate achievements delivered against KCC's Environment Policy is set out below using the main headings of the policy document. 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 most recently in May of this year. This is a significant achievement with KCC being only one of a small handful of councils to achieve overall accreditation, and definitely the largest and most diverse of those Local Authorities with similar accreditation.

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 as a result of policy changes such as extended schools and increased 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 a 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**

Environment Highways and Waste Directorate, working with the CED has set up the South East Carbon Hub which provides both online and targeted face to face advice 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 considerations have 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 has 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 in this area.

#### **4. Specific progress for the Chief Executive's Department against KCC's Environment Policy**

Energy performance and carbon reduction from buildings continues to be challenging. KCC's top 5 energy use sites are managed by CED and all have Display Energy Certificate ratings of either average or below, mainly as a result of the existing fabric and age of the buildings. However, several efficiency projects which have been installed this year are expected to improve these ratings in 2010. Laser energy team manage the KCC Energy and Water Investment Fund, and have secured £665,000 external funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Compared to 2008-09 financial year, CED business miles were reduced by 8% with cost savings of £48,000. In the last 6 months, CED has been one of the main users of the BT MeetMe teleconferencing service. ISG with EHW were instrumental in setting BT MeetMe up.

There are 54 Green Guardians in Chief Executives Department and more than 300 overall across the council. Personnel and development and ISG have been amongst the most active business units across KCC.

#### **5. Potential changes to the KCC Environment Policy, and KCC's implementation priorities**

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

Rising energy prices, carbon reduction and ensuring KCC and Kent are resilient to climate change impacts will continue to be high priorities. However, just as important is how KCC and Kent realise the potential green jobs and growth opportunities that are becoming increasingly apparent.

As a result of this the following priorities for KCC for 2010-11 are being proposed:

- Driving energy efficiency and carbon reduction in buildings
- Performance and compliance with the Carbon Reduction Commitment
- Ensuring KCC are proactive in dealing with the risks of climate change
- Enabling community action especially with regards to energy efficiency in homes and fuel Poverty
- Visible Leadership
- Capacity Building

In addition, incorporating climate change and sustainability into decision making and procurement will continue to be a strong focus.

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

#### **Recommendations**

CEDPOSC Members are asked to:

- a. Note, and celebrate overall progress made by KCC and CED, especially the re accreditation to ISO14001
- b. Discuss future KCC and CED priorities and agree the approach going forward as outlined in Section 5

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### Appendix 1 - Kent Environment Strategy Priorities, KCC and CED's Current and Planned Activity.

Living Well Within Our Environmental Limits	KCC Environment Policy reference.	KCC and CED Current Activity and Progress	Gaps in Delivery/Issues	RAG
<p>Priority 1 Make homes and public sector buildings in Kent energy and water efficient, and cut costs for residents and taxpayers</p>	<p>Our estate</p> <p>Our leadership role in the community</p>	<p>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 the largest share of KCC's energy use.</p> <p>The KCC Energy and Water Investment Fund has loaned and granted £928,995, saving £1,923,246 over the lifetime of the equipment.</p>	<p>Build on fuel poverty and energy efficiency in the home activity already underway in partnership with other KCC Directorates as part of the KCC Retrofit Project.</p>	<p>KCC Target is red.</p>
<p>Priority 2 New developments and infrastructure in Kent are cost effective, low carbon and resource efficient whilst not entailing unreasonable costs.</p>	<p>Our leadership role in the community</p>	<p>Developing activity</p>	<p>Developing activity</p>	
<p>Priority 3 Turn Kent's waste into new resources and jobs for Kent</p>	<p>Partially covered under Our Decisions</p>	<p>Developing activity</p>	<p>Developing activity</p>	
<p>Priority 4 Reduce the ecological footprint of what we consume</p>	<p>Partially covered under 'Our Procurement'</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>More focus is needed around KCC's procurement – efficiencies and how we account for carbon.</p>	<p>Amber</p>

<b>Meeting the Climate Change Challenge</b>				
Priority 5 Reduce future carbon emissions	Partially covered under Our Estate	Overall the council achieved a business miles reduction of 3.5% between 2009 and 2010 with savings of £277,000.  Compared to 2008-09 financial year, CED business miles reduced by 8% with cost savings of £48,000.	More work needed on how we develop renewable energy resources within KCC and Kent, and how we support the development of green jobs and growth.	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.	Green
Priority 7 Support the development of green jobs and business in Kent	Partially covered under Our Decisions.	Low Carbon Sector Strategy developed. Low Carbon Futures Bid submitted to the KCC Regeneration Fund.	KCC approach and resources need to be agreed.	Amber
<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, thought some action has been undertaken through social return on investment and by Public Health.	CED needs to ensure continued links are made between the natural environment, the economy and the community.	Amber
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.	N/A	Make more links between Regeneration and Economy in particular tourism priorities and the natural environment.	Amber