

**To:** Environment, Highways and Waste POSC – 29 July 2010  
**From:** Nick Chard – Cabinet Member, Environment, Highways & Waste  
Mike Austerberry – Executive Director, Environment, Highways & Waste  
Carolyn McKenzie – Sustainability and Climate Change, EHW  
**Subject:** Sustainability and Climate Change Update

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## **Summary:**

This paper provides the annual update of Kent County Council and the Environment, Highways and Waste'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 Environment, Highways and Waste's Departments 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<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)

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 Environment, Highways and Waste 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](http://www.kent.gov.uk).

<b>Corporate Progress against the KCC Environment Policy.</b>	<b>RAG</b>
<p><b>Our Decisions and Leadership</b></p> <p>Full Council accreditation to ISO14001 was completed in May 2009. Since then the council has successfully passed two further external verification assessments.</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p><b>Our Estate</b></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 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.</p> <p>Improved waste contracts have delivered at least 50% recycling rates for office wastes and battery recycling is being implemented.</p>	
<p><b>Our Travel and Transport</b></p> <p>Overall the council achieved a business miles reduction of 3.5% between 2009 and 2010 with savings of £277,000.</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p><b>Our Procurement</b></p> <p>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.</p>	
<p><b>Our Workforce</b></p> <p>There are now over 300 Green Guardian champions across KCC, and environment has been integrated into Ways to Success.</p>	
<p><b>Our Community Leadership</b></p> <p>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</p>	

#### **4. Specific ISO14001 Progress in EHW 2009 - 2010**

Environment, Highways and Waste achieved the ISO 14001 environmental management standard in 2007 and continues to meet the standard.

In the last 12 months, Environment, Highways and Waste have delivered the following improvements:

- Only two buildings were required to have a Display Energy Certificate for energy efficiency, these have a G(poor) and D(average) rating.
- Compared to 2008-09 financial year, business miles have reduced by 1.6% with cost savings of £7000.
- In the last 6 months, Environment, Highways and Waste have been using the BT MeetMe teleconferencing service with two members of staff in the top 10 user list. One person has made 27 teleconference calls which equates to an estimated saving of £2040 compared to the cost of face to face meetings.
- Piloted a joint Health, Safety and Environment audit programme. This has delivered resource efficiencies and improved awareness and engagement.
- Kent Highway Services have established an Environment Steering group and improved environmental reporting within the asset scorecard.
- Waste Management have facilitated battery recycling collection points being made available in Libraries for members of the public.
- Environment and Waste have held Green Guardian focused meetings to engage staff.
- Many locations now have a Green Guardian champion, there are 35 in Environment, Highways and Waste and more than 300 overall across the council.

#### **5. Potential changes to the KCC Environment Policy, KCC's and EHW'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 and carbon reduction will continue to be high corporate 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 and EHW for 2010-11 are being proposed:

- Driving energy efficiency and carbon reduction in buildings Performance and compliance with the Carbon Reduction Commitment
- Ensuring KCC and EHW are proactive in dealing with the risks of climate change focusing on mainstreaming into core service delivery e.g. severe weather
- Enabling community action especially with regards to energy efficiency in homes and fuel Poverty
- Visible Leadership

Specific priorities for EHW

- Continue to extend carbon reduction activity within Kent Highways Services and Waste Management with a particular focus on transport and travel.
- Capacity Building, especially with regards to green jobs and growth opportunities.

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**

EHW POSC Members are asked to:

- a. Note, and celebrate overall progress made by KCC and Environment, Highways and Waste
- b. Discuss future KCC and Environment, Highways and Waste priorities identified in section 5 and agree approach going forward.
- c. Agree suggested changes to the KCC Environment Policy

**Contact:** Carolyn McKenzie, Kent County Council.

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

Living Well Within Our Environmental Limits	KCC Environment Policy reference.	Environment, Highways and Waste 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	Only two buildings were required to have a Display Energy Certificate for energy efficiency, these have a G (poor) and D (average) rating.	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	Limited current activity	KCC approach and resources need to be agreed.	
Priority 3 Turn Kent's waste into new resources and jobs for Kent	Partially covered under Our Decisions	No current activity	KCC approach and resources need to be agreed.	
Priority 4 Reduce the ecological footprint of what we consume	Partially covered under 'Our Procurement' and 'Our Workforce'.	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.	More focus is needed around KCC's procurement – efficiencies and how we account for carbon.	

<b>Meeting the Climate Change Challenge</b>	<b>KCC Environment Policy reference.</b>	<b>Environment, Highways and Waste 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 and Our Workforce.	Compared to 2008-09 financial year, business miles have reduced by 1.6% with cost savings of £7000.  In the last 6 months, Environment, Highways and Waste have been using the BT MeetMe teleconferencing service with two members of staff in the top 10 user list. One person has made 27 teleconference calls which equates to an estimated saving of £2040 compared to the cost of face to face meetings.	More work needed on how renewable energy resources are developed within KCC and Kent, and how KCC supports the development of green jobs and growth.  Continue to extend carbon reduction activity within Kent Highways Services and Waste Management with a particular focus on transport and travel.	
Priority 6 Manage the impacts of climate change, in particular extreme weather events	Partially covered under Our Decisions	Highways identified key areas of vulnerability.	Detailed action plans need to be developed for each of the nine priority risk areas identified.	
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.	
<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.	EHW needs to ensure continued links are made between the natural environment, the economy and the community.	
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.	
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 EHW priorities and the natural environment.	

