

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

David Wimble, Cabinet Member for (the Kent) Environment

DECISION NO:

25/00091

For publication

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Title of Decision:**Decision:**

As Cabinet Member for (the Kent) Environment, I agree to:

- (i) ADOPT the Energy Efficiency Plan for KCC's estate and operations to support our environmental goals (and replace the existing Net Zero 2030 Plan)
- (ii) DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport in consultation with the Cabinet Member for (the Kent) Environment to refresh and/or make revisions to the Plan as appropriate during the lifetime of the plan..

Reason(s) for decision:

KCC has reduced its estate and operation emissions by 55% since 2019, saving millions through energy upgrades and solar farms. However, with less government funding and organisational changes ahead, KCC plans to shift away from its Net Zero Plan to a more pragmatic approach focusing on financial returns, new revenue streams and continued emissions reductions where possible in line with its upcoming strategies.

Background (brief)

The Energy Efficiency Plan for KCC's estate and operations is proposed to replace KCC's Net Zero Plan and 2030 Net Zero target. The current Net Zero Plan is no longer fit for purpose. A new plan is required.

Financial Implications

Currently there are no financial penalties or levies for non-compliance with Net Zero 2030 and 2050 targets but that could change in the future. Requests for funding will be considered alongside robust business cases.

Legal Implications

Currently there are no legal penalties or levies for non-compliance with Net Zero 2030 and 2050 targets but that could change in the future.

Equalities implications

An Equality Impact Assessment EqIA was carried out in August 2020. The Adverse Equality Impact Rating was found to be low. Upon review, no change is proposed currently.

Data Protection Impact Assessment

There are no data protection implications arising from this decision.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision was endorsed by Members of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 4 November.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Retain KCC's Net Zero Plan and target. KCC's Net Zero Plan and 2030 target is unattainable and presents the Council with financial and operational risk. Meeting the 2030 target would require

considerable investment over the next five years and -indefinitely- commit the Council to 'carbon offsetting'.

Rescind KCC's Net Zero Plan and 2030 target and do not replace with anything.

Removing the organisational Net Zero Plan would mean forfeiting a wide range of financial, health, and environmental benefits for both the Council and the people of Kent. It also introduces risk by limiting opportunities to explore efficiencies, reduce costs, apply for funding, and improve resilience across KCC's estate and operations.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the

Proper Officer:

None



21/11/2025

.....
signed

.....
date