

From: David Wimble, Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Special Projects

Matthew Smyth, Director for Environment and Circular Economy

To: Growth, Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee – 13 January 2026

**Subject: Energy and Low Emissions Strategy Implementation Plan
Revision – an update paper**

Key decision: No

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report: N/A

Future Pathway of report: N/A

Electoral Division: All divisions

Summary: The Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES) Implementation Plan sets out the actions to be taken by Kent County Council and partners to deliver the aims of the partnership strategy and is updated every three years. In February 2025, partners agreed to refine the actions within the ELES Implementation Plan with a focus on deliverability, measurability and relevance.

KCC has presented the revised plan to partners who have agreed to the revisions, to improve the efficiency and productivity of the plan by refining its scope.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Committee is asked to note and make comment on the content of this paper and its appendices.

1. Introduction to the Energy and Low Emissions Strategy

- 1.1 The Energy and Low Emissions Strategy was developed by partners from across the public sector and frontline public services in 2020. Partners included all 14 local authorities in Kent and Medway alongside other organisations such as the NHS, Kent Chamber of Commerce and the Kent Housing Group.
- 1.2 The aim of the Energy and Low Emissions Strategy is to set out how organisations in Kent and Medway will respond to national targets and policies to drive a clean, resilient economy across the county.
- 1.3 The Energy and Low Emissions Strategy was formally adopted in July 2020 by Kent County Council and has been collaboratively delivered and monitored by the partnership since.
- 1.4 At its heart, the Energy and Low Emissions Strategy is a partnership strategy, covering multiple themes that benefit our residents, buildings and spaces.

2. Revising the Implementation Plan

- 2.1 In February 2025, partners agreed to undertake a review of the Energy and Low Emissions Strategy Implementation Plan. The purpose was to streamline the Plan's delivery, focusing on the most impactful and achievable actions, considering evolving policy, funding, and local priorities.
- 2.2 Officers from across Kent's local authorities worked to make improvements to the Plan through 2025, consulting partners and relevant teams within their respective organisations.
- 2.3 The rationale applied to the refinement of actions broadly falls into 4 categories as outlined below. More detail can be found in appendix 2.
 - Amended/Merged with similar actions
 - Removed – work programme referred to in other actions
 - Removed – no additionality/covered by other strategies
 - Removed – beyond scope of the strategy/partner influence
- 2.4 As a result of the above rationale, following stakeholder consultation, the number of actions has been reduced from 79 to 24. This ensures a more focused and strategic approach to delivering energy resilience, emissions reduction, and climate adaptation across the region. Actions are more deliverable, measurable and relevant.
- 2.5 The revised Implementation Plan continues to support Kent and Medway's ambition to decarbonise, while also addressing and improving energy security, quality of life for our residents, and resilience for local communities and businesses.
- 2.6 In October 2025, the Kent and Medway Environment Group, which is made up of portfolio holders from all 14 local authorities in Kent and Medway, were presented with and accepted the final revisions.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 This is an update report so does not in itself have financial implications.
- 3.2 Any project specific financial implications will be considered alongside robust business cases and raised with Members as required. Value for money and best practice will be placed at the forefront of any decisions.
- 3.3 Actions within the plan are jointly owned by Kent district and borough Councils, KCC and Medway Council.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 No legal implications have been identified. Legal advice will be sought where necessary for any delivery under the strategy.

5. Equalities implications

- 5.1 An [EqIA](#) undertaken when the Energy and Low Emissions Strategy was introduced. This EqIA is applicable to the Implementation Plans that accompany the strategy. The adverse equality impact rating was found to be low.

6. Other corporate implications

- 6.1 The Energy and Low Emissions Strategy is at the heart a partnership strategy and covers multiple themes. Within KCC, the delivery of the Energy and Low Emissions Strategy is dependent on teams from across the organisation working together to support the delivery of this strategy.

7. Governance

- 7.1 There are no new delegations as a result of the revised Implementation Plan.
- 7.2 This proposed decision is aligned with the new Strategic Statement and Energy Efficiency Plan as the review ensures the actions in the Energy and Low Emissions Implementation Plan are financially focused, pragmatic and solutions led.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The ELES Implementation Plan 2026 was approved by stakeholders in October 2025 by KMEG. The Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and note the content of this paper and its appendices.

9. Recommendation(s):

- 9.1 The Cabinet Committee is asked to note and make comment on the content of this paper and its appendices.

10. Appendices:

Appendix 1 Kent & Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy Implementation Plan 2026

Appendix 2 Kent & Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy Implementation Plan Rationale

11. Contact details

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