

By: Paul Wickenden, Overview, Scrutiny and Localism Manager

To: Environment, Highways and Waste Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 8 April 2011

Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEE – RENEWABLE ENERGY ACTION SHEET AND UPDATE**

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report updates Members on the monitoring of the recommendations of the Select Committee on Renewable Energy; and invites further suggestions for future Select Committee Topic Reviews.

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### **Select Committee: Renewable Energy**

1. In accordance with the monitoring process agreed by the County Council, an action plan for the Renewable Energy Select Committee is attached. The Select Committee will be reconvened at December 2011 or January 2012 to consider progress made with the recommendations.

### **Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme**

2. (1) There are currently no Select Committee topic reviews in the work programme which fall under the remit of this Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(2) The Select Committee work programme consists of the following:-

- Dementia – carrying out visits and hearing sessions.
- Educational Attainment of Pupils and Schools in Areas of High Deprivation – held its inaugural meeting in 3 February 2011 and Mr Wells was elected Chairman.
- The Student Journey – due to start its work in Spring 2011.

### **Suggestions for Select Committee Topic Reviews**

3. If Members have any suggestions for Select Committee topic reviews could they please contact Karen Mannering, Democratic Services Officer for this POSC.

#### **Recommendation**

4. Members are asked to note the Select Committee action sheet and to advise the Democratic Services Officer of any further items that they would like to suggest for inclusion in the topic review programme.

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Background Information: *Nil*

## Select Committee Report on Renewable Energy in Kent: Report Recommendations Action Plan

Recommendation	Lead Officer	Comment/ Proposed Actions	Timescale
<p>1. That KCC works with Kent District and Borough Councils and others to agree a Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Strategy for Kent to enable the uptake of the most appropriate low carbon technologies. (page 107)</p>	<p>Neil Hilkenne,  Sarah Anderson</p>	<p>Agree with recommendation. It is essential now to get a clear direction of travel, and an indication of priorities and levels of ambition for Kent. Ensuring that there is a clear idea of how any Strategy would be resourced will be crucial. The Strategy will be focused on Renewable Energy and not the whole low carbon agenda.</p> <p><b><u>Actions:</u></b></p> <p>Vantage Point Modelling Initial Report – to establish what actions will achieve Kent’s carbon targets, looking at both energy efficiency and renewable energy.</p> <p>Renewable Energy Resource Study – building on the Select Committee report and establishing which renewable energy sectors have most potential and what actions need to be taken to exploit them.</p> <p>Consultation Draft</p> <p>Final Draft</p>	<p>April 2011</p> <p>June 2011</p> <p>Dec 2011</p> <p>Mar 2012</p>
<p>2. That a Member Champion for Low Carbon and Renewable Energy is appointed to promote the implementation of the Strategy and report back to</p>	<p>Carolyn McKenzie</p>	<p>Agree with the recommendation. This is a sensible approach, but the Strategy will need to be backed by more than just a champion, it will need full cabinet support if it is to be successful.</p> <p><b><u>Actions:</u></b></p>	

Cabinet and the Cabinet Climate Change Working Group on progress. (page 107)		Confirm Member champion.	April 2011
3. That KCC develops the existing expertise within KCC and Commercial Services (LASER) and builds capacity in order to ensure that the Council has access to sound, unbiased advice when taking energy efficiency and renewable energy schemes forward. (page 69)	Deborah Kapaj  Andy Morgan	<p>Agree with the recommendation. However, because of the nature of some of the schemes/technologies and the fast moving rate of change in this area KCC will need ongoing access to external experts. This resource could be sourced in partnership with other Counties perhaps within the South East Seven.</p> <p>Activity and development of expertise will need to be prioritised reflecting need, available budget and staff resources.</p> <p><b><u>Actions:</u></b></p> <p>Review resource need linked to the findings of the Vantage Point Modelling, the Renewable Energy Resource Study and KCC's internal energy management review of corporate and schools estate.</p> <p>Develop training and capacity building action plan for KCC and Kent as part of the Kent Environment Strategy.</p>	<p>July 2011</p> <p>July 2011</p>
4. That KCC sets up new delivery mechanisms as appropriate in order to take advantage of emerging opportunities allied to but separate from LASER, e.g. Energy Services Company (ESCO). (page 69)	Carolyn McKenzie	<p>Some of the schemes that KCC and KCC with partners take forward may require the development of specific finance models. However, we must first ensure that KCC's fully understands what 'schemes' it wants, and what it wants to achieve e.g. energy savings, carbon savings, income generation before deciding on the appropriate finance model. ESCO's may not always be appropriate.</p> <p><b><u>Actions:</u></b></p> <p>Review financing needs linked to the findings of the Vantage Point Modelling, the Renewable Energy Resource Study and KCC's internal energy management review of corporate and schools</p>	July 2011

		estate. Set up mechanisms as appropriate.	
5. That KCC capitalises on opportunities in its own estate, and works with local authorities, energy network companies, landowners and prospective investors to ensure that a proactive approach is taken to the identification of sites for renewable energy schemes in the county, in order to encourage and enable investment. (page 107)	Deborah Kapaj Neil Hilkene	<p>Agree with recommendation, however, any installations should be developed on a purely business case basis, and driven by priority working with available resources. There are already a number of installations, at least 28. Some work has been done as to further potential on our own estate, but this needs to be reviewed.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> Review opportunities for KCC estate in light of recent review of the Feed In Tariff potential for KCC.</p> <p>Develop KCC action plan for delivery of appropriate renewable energy installations on a business case basis.</p> <p>Public sector estates survey to include current action on renewable energy and training/capacity needs</p> <p>Review renewable energy opportunities in Kent linked to the findings of the Vantage Point Modelling work and the Renewable Energy Resource Study and the development of the Renewable Energy Strategy for Kent.</p>	<p>April/May 2011</p> <p>May 2011</p> <p>May 2011</p> <p>December 2011</p>
6. That KCC reconfigures the Energy and Water Investment Fund, with a longer payback period, to enable continued provision of capital funding for energy efficiency measures in the estate and to allow for the longer term investment required for the installation of renewable energy systems.(page 66)	Carolyn McKenzie Deborah Kapaj	<p>Agree with recommendation in principle, but this should be viewed in light of a larger review of energy efficiency investment in installations and the targets and tools needed.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> Continued investment in KCC estate on a business case basis applying for new 100% Salix SEELS funding, where appropriate.</p> <p>Review of capital investment in energy efficiency in the KCC estate in light of changing government policy and legislation.</p>	<p>Review Oct 2011</p> <p>May 2011</p>

		Develop revised approach, as part of updated Carbon Management Action Plan for KCC in light of recent government policy changes.	May 2011
7. That KCC facilitates access to emerging financial mechanisms, such as the new Green Deal and the Green Investment Bank, whereby schools, businesses and householders in Kent can take advantage of loan funding to pay for the installation of renewable energy and energy efficiency systems on suitable properties, with repayments and term set to achieve a net saving in energy costs for the property and a reasonable rate of return over the period of the loan to investors (on a 'Pay as you Save' basis). (page 71)	Carolyn McKenzie	Agree with recommendation. KCC is already looking at the Green Deal and the role for Kent.	Review Oct 2011
8. That KCC substantially drives down energy consumption in its estate. Each Directorate should be required to take action to improve energy efficiency and encourage behavioural and other changes; Building User Groups should have 'energy usage and energy efficiency' as an agenda item at every meeting. (page 28)	Deborah Kapaj  Andy Morgan	Agree with recommendation. Current arrangement with regards to incorporating energy efficiency into buildings management is being reviewed as part of the Property Group Restructure.  <b>Action:</b> Ongoing identification of energy efficiency improvements across the Estate to be incorporated into annual improvement plan of Property Group.  Incorporation of carbon reduction targets as part of business plans and ISO14001 annual action plans.	Review Oct 2011

		Public sector estates survey to include current action on renewable energy and training/capacity needs (as recommendation 5)	
9. That KCC implements an immediate review of its properties to assess their suitability and develop strategies for the installation of renewable technologies, particularly photovoltaic (PV) panels, and encourages District and Borough Councils, housing providers, emergency services, health institutions and other targeted businesses to do the same in their estates, taking advantage of current incentives, in order to reduce energy costs; generate income and catalyse the acceptance of renewable technologies in the wider community. (page 63)	Deborah Kapaj  Andy Morgan	<p>Agree in principle with the recommendation, but scale of review will be dependant on resource, both financial and officer. As with Recommendation 5 – all installations should be done on a business case basis.</p> <p>KCC has already initiated a review of the FITS and the business case for KCC. This will be used as the basis for any further investment in the KCC Estate and more than likely limited to the corporate estate and not schools.</p> <p>Actions are as Recommendation 5.</p>	
10. That KCC uses energy display devices in prominent locations on its estate to encourage energy efficient behaviour (including where renewable energy installations are put in place, to increase awareness of the technology, the energy generation and the carbon savings). (page 76)	Deborah Kapaj	<p>Good idea in principle, but need to examine cost, and how we evaluate effectiveness. Some devices are already in place in schools.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> Evaluate cost and benefits of installing energy display devices at key sites, putting in place where appropriate.</p>	June 2011

<p>11. That KCC lobbies the Department for Education to require schools to work with KCC to fulfil its CRC commitments and creates a direct incentive for schools to drive down their energy use and carbon emissions, using a range of behavioural, energy efficiency and renewable energy options. (page 34)</p>	<p>Carolyn McKenzie  Andy Morgan (Laser)</p>	<p>The relationship between schools, KCC, energy efficiency improvements and the Carbon Reduction Commitment is currently constantly in flux. KCC are monitoring this, and developing action when appropriate.</p> <p><b><u>Actions:</u></b></p> <p>Keep abreast of current developments, reporting as appropriate</p> <p>Develop appropriate new finance model and support programmes for KCC and schools when full information is available and based on resources available.</p>	<p>Review Oct 2011  June 2011</p>
<p>12. That KCC works with public agencies and approved suppliers, to provide a package of advice and support to schools, to enable them to benefit from energy efficiency work and renewable energy installations, at no net cost to the school or to KCC. (page 69)</p>	<p>Deborah Kapaj</p>	<p>As recommendation 11.</p>	
<p>13. That, provided currently agreed procurement criteria are met, KCC considers giving preference, for the procurement of goods and services, to businesses who obtain accreditation through the South East Carbon Hub. (page 110)</p>	<p>Carolyn McKenzie  Jennie Colville</p>	<p>Currently developing links between KCC procurement and the South East Carbon Hub – which is managed by KCC, and developing a Public Sector Supply Chain Programme for KCC and other public sector bodies supply chain.</p> <p><b><u>Actions:</u></b></p> <p>Develop KCC (and wider public sector) Supply Chain initiative to support SMEs in KCC supply chain make improvements, improve energy/water efficiency and install low carbon technologies as appropriate.</p>	<p>May 2011</p>

<p>14. That KCC lobbies government, on planning issues, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote developments with a mixed heat demand suitable for district heating systems, which should be incorporated wherever possible.</li> <li>• relax planning control for domestic renewable energy installations on listed buildings and properties affecting conservations areas where this does not detract from heritage objectives. (page 86)</li> </ul>	<p>Paul Crick Neil Hilkene</p>	<p>KCC will lobby as appropriate, and where issues arise.</p>	<p>Review Oct 2011</p>
<p>15. That KCC consults with District, Borough and other councils in Kent to determine what is needed to assist local authority planners and developers in making planning decisions relating to renewable energy applications, e.g. training, or an interactive planning tool. (page 86)</p>	<p>Paul Crick Neil Hilkene Kathy Putnam</p>	<p>Agree with recommendation in principle. It is essential that KCC and District partners have the skills and tools necessary to make effective and robust planning decisions. However, tools/assistance should relate directly to need.</p> <p><b><u>Action:</u></b></p> <p>Undertake a survey of County and District Planners to assess need</p> <p>Develop appropriate training and support mechanisms linking closely to Kent Design.</p>	<p>July 2011 Review Oct 2011</p>

<p>16. That KCC supports low carbon community groups in the county by facilitating access to existing support and providing small grants of up to £5000 for advice or to assist with feasibility studies. (page 71)</p>	<p>Sarah Anderson Lucy Breeze</p>	<p>Agree that communities need to be supported, but this should be targeted support for feasibility studies/seed corn funds focusing on energy efficiency or renewable energy measures that can bring savings and create investment opportunities.</p> <p><b><u>Action:</u></b></p> <p>Review community need and existing resources.</p> <p>Develop appropriate training and support mechanisms that are appropriate given level of resources available.</p>	<p>June 2011</p> <p>Review Oct 2011</p>
<p>17. That KCC, working with District and Borough Councils ensures that Kent communities, including schools, businesses and households have access to clear and current information on energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities, taking into account the Feed in Tariff and any subsequent incentives. (page 77)</p>	<p>Carolyn McKenzie Sarah Anderson Jennie Colville.</p>	<p>Agree, part of ongoing work programme as part of the work of Environment and Planning, and in particular through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kent Climate Change Network</li> <li>• The South East Carbon Hub</li> <li>• The Kent Housing Retrofit Programme.</li> <li>• Actions listed under recommendation 16.</li> </ul>	<p>Review Oct 2011</p>

<p>18. That KCC should work with organisations such as the Forestry Commission and Natural England, to invest in the sustainable production of wood fuel, through the regeneration of coppicing in Kent, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing marketing expertise.</li> <li>• Encouraging apprenticeships for young people wishing to enter the industry.</li> <li>• Investigating the provision of a number of collection/chipping/distribution facilities, possibly based at recycling centres</li> <li>• Ensuring that, where possible, newly designed KCC buildings include biomass boilers. (page 56)</li> </ul>	<p>Nick Johannsen</p> <p>Deborah Kapaj.</p> <p>Kathy Putnam.</p>	<p>European Funding has been won to look at the feasibility of biomass/coppicing in Kent and what support is needed. KCC are part of a Forestry Commission Pathfinder Project. This funding will be used to establish what the realistic potential is for biomass in Kent.</p> <p><b><u>Action:</u></b></p> <p>Integrate Renewable Energy Select Committee recommendations into the KCC/Forestry Commission Pathfinder project and report on progress as appropriate.</p> <p>Incorporate consideration of biomass into revised Kent Design guidelines being developed for public sector buildings.</p> <p>Incorporate Biomass boiler feasibility into KCC estate standards for new construction</p>	<p>May 2011</p> <p>July 2011</p> <p>Dec 2011</p>
<p>19. That, in view of the need for the UK to have a long term, sustainable mix of power supplies and due to the intermittent nature of some</p>	<p>Paul Crick</p> <p>Tim Martin</p>	<p>KCC will take the opportunity to lobby as appropriate, but this will in the main be a political decision. The issue of long term sustainable energy security will be addressed through National Policy Statements which KCC will in turn be consulted on.</p>	<p>Review Oct 2011</p>

renewable energy sources, KCC presses for the provision of new generation low carbon power stations so that there is adequate back up capacity to cope with demand peaks, providing security of supply. (page 91)			
20. That KCC works with others, including District and Borough Councils, Network Rail and supermarkets, to assess the viability of establishing a network of public electric vehicle charging points in Kent. (page 99)	David Joyner	<p>The current business case around electric charging in Kent is unclear, before embarking on any detailed viability study an initial assessment of the business case for Kent must be undertaken.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Evaluate the initial business case for developing electric charging in Kent and identify next steps as appropriate which may include a wider viability study, dependant on resources available.</p>	July 2011
21. That KCC regularly surveys its own vehicles, and business journeys to: identify (and review) work patterns in order to minimise business mileage and to prepare for the availability and purchase of electric vehicles, where appropriate. (page 100)	Deborah Kapaj	<p>Agree, part of ongoing work programme as part of the work of Environment and Planning, and in particular through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ISO14001 programme</li> </ul>	Review Oct 2011
22. That KCC adopts a policy of limiting its vehicles, except those attending emergencies, to a maximum speed of 56mph (90kph) in order to achieve greater fuel efficiency, in line with best commercial practice. (page 100)	Deborah Kapaj	<p>Good idea in principle, but need to examine cost, and how we evaluate effectiveness.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> Evaluate cost and benefits of putting in place speed limiters in KCC vehicles.</p>	May 2011