

By: Cabinet Working Group on Climate Change (Alex King (Chairman), Keith Ferrin & Roger Gough)
Cabinet Member for Kent Adult Social Services (Graham Gibbens)
Managing Director for Kent Adult Social Services (Oliver Mills)

To: Adult Social Services Policy Overview Committee - 23 September 2008

Subject: **A summary of progress towards delivering Kent County Council's Climate Change Action Plan (which implements Select Committee on Climate Change recommendations as adopted by Council in January 2007) and other environmental performance objectives. An overview of next steps for Kent Adult Social Services.**

Classification Unrestricted

Summary: The Select Committee on Climate Change published its recommendations in October 2006. Kent County Council produced its first response in January 2007 in which it committed to a series of actions since drawn together in a Climate Change Action Plan, overseen by the Cabinet Working Group on Climate Change. This report summarises progress and outlines next steps for Kent Adult Social Services Directorate to contribute to the next phase of the programme.

Recommendation: That Members:

- a. Note progress made to date;
- b. Agree proposed next steps for Kent Adult Social Services Directorate, specifically at **4.3** and **5.5** below;
- c. Invite Kent Adult Social Services officers to report back progress to the POC at six-monthly intervals.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Select Committee on Climate Change published wide-ranging and ambitious recommendations in October 2006. The Council approved action in response to the 12 sets of recommendations in January 2007. This action was a first response to the recommendations, focused on immediate priorities and on bringing together several existing areas of work into a coherent strategy.
- 1.2. The climate change agenda is moving rapidly. A reconvened review meeting of the Select Committee on Climate Change in March 2008 recognised that significant progress had been made and identified the next phase of work now needed in each Directorate in KCC. This has been further supplemented by an independent review from Climate Southeast and the outcomes of KCC's recent CPA review.
- 1.3. The purpose of this report is to bring Members up-to-date with progress relevant to the Kent Adult Social Services portfolio; and to present proposed next steps for Kent Adult Social Services, focusing on win-wins between climate change objectives and the vision for the Directorate.

2. An overview of KCC's Climate Change Action Plan

2.1. KCC's Climate Change Action Plan is grouped into three workstreams as defined in the Nottingham Declaration Action Pack (this is the definitive source of good practice for local government on tackling climate change to which KCC signed up in 2001), underpinned by cross-cutting leadership, governance and communication.

2.2. The three workstreams are:

- a. **KCC as an estate manager: Mitigation and carbon management:** We are leading by example to reduce our own carbon emissions to meet a series of targets; 10% reduction by 2010, 20% by 2015, working towards the Government's current UK-wide target of a 60% reduction by 2050.
- b. **KCC as a service provider: Adaptation and resilience:** We are working to ensure all the services we deliver understand the impacts of climate change and make provisions to adapt as necessary, reflected in business planning across KCC from 08/09 onwards. We are also making sure our policies and decisions support adaptation across Kent.
- c. **KCC as community leader:** We have agreed new Kent Agreement 2 targets to take action across Kent, both to reduce carbon emissions and to ensure businesses, infrastructure, services, communities and landscapes across Kent are able to adapt to the opportunities and challenges presented by climate change.

2.3. Further information is attached in case of interest:

- **Annex 1** summarises current KCC policy on climate change and environmental performance.
- **Annex 2** contains some highlights and successes so far, and next steps as identified by the Select Committee on Climate Change and an independent review by Climate Southeast.

The remainder of this paper focuses on action within Kent Adult Social Services Directorate.

3. Specific action owned directly by Kent Adult Social Services

3.1. Unlike other KCC Directorates, Kent Adult Social Services does not directly own any of the current set of actions agreed by Council as per **Annex 2**. Rather, the emphasis is on what KASS can contribute to corporate objectives and targets, as outlined below.

4. Mitigation and carbon management in Kent Adult Social Services

4.1. A KASS representative attends the KCC Environment Board, which has agreed a prioritised strategic action plan on environmental performance for KCC. The Directorate is also well represented on a range of cross-Directorate sub-groups.

4.2. Kent Adult Social Services Directorate remains committed to tackling all aspects of environmental performance, including making a proportionate contribution to the KCC-wide carbon reduction targets. Specific highlights to date and 2008-09 business plan commitments include:

- a. Some initial implementation of **greener office practices**, such as reducing wasted energy, using recycled paper and reduced printing;

- b. Recognising that KASS has one of the highest travel-related carbon footprints in KCC, a commitment to review **travel and transport** arrangements. This includes use of the KCC Fleet Hire, developing alternative options to transport people to in-house day care, developing mobile and smarter working. A specific example is KASS's enthusiasm for holding online interactive workshops on climate change and environmental performance in autumn 2008 in order to avoid additional highly-dispersed staff business miles – a first in KCC;
 - c. Ensuring that any **building work** is of the highest standard by applying an evidence-based approach to sustainability using energy-efficient, robust and built to last materials. This particularly applies to PFI Extra Care Sheltered Housing, which will be designed to high construction standards
- 4.3. Looking forward to March 2009, the next set of opportunities for Kent Adult Social Services are:
- a. Working towards a target of achieving **ISO 14001** environmental management system accreditation by March 2009;
 - b. Delivering against wider commitments outlined in 2008-09 business plans, in particular on reducing travel and transport **business miles**;
 - c. To **invest-to-save** in further carbon-saving and energy-saving measures across the Directorate, taking advantage of high energy prices and increasingly attractive payback periods. This includes, but is not limited to, making full use of the corporately-funded Energy Loan Fund and of upcoming Energy Performance of Buildings analysis where feasible. The KCC Energy Loan Fund is available to fund capital investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy measures across the KCC estate. Use of the fund to date for 36 projects elsewhere in KCC has saved £120,152 per annum and rising, so there is an opportunity for KASS to also benefit from this;
 - d. To further develop understanding of the impacts of the Carbon Reduction Commitment on the Directorate;
 - e. To begin to consider opportunities for monitoring and reducing more of the Directorate's wider carbon footprint, including exploring whether or not it is appropriate and practical to include those arising from some outsourced functions and services in such a way that supports both KASS objectives and future CAA requirements.

5. Service adaptation and resilience in Kent Adult Social Services

- 5.1. KCC is taking a risk-based approach to identifying vulnerabilities and opportunities for its services arising from the changing climate. A standard methodology has been developed based on national good practice, which the corporate Climate Change team has been using successfully to engage both senior managers and frontline staff across service areas, often as a supplement to the standard business planning process.
- 5.2. The method reveals some interesting relationships between the changing climate, service delivery and the resilience of wider "receptors", for example patterns in service demand, impacts on staff and customers, implications for all long-term policies, strategies and decisions, implications for local budget structures, insurance, logistics and management structures. These are often subtle, but are critical to understand and respond to on a risk-based basis in order to maintain high standards of service delivery, not least when it is critical to retain continuity of service during extreme weather events. In many cases, business models are not yet optimally adapted to the current climate, let alone any future changes.
- 5.3. Extreme weather events, nested within longer-term trends, cause the most direct impacts on KCC services. An innovative initiative is being taken forward by Kent partners to develop a Kent Local Climate Impacts Profile, with support from the UK Climate Impacts Programme and a national network of pilot projects. This quantifies the

impacts of recent extreme weather events on services, communities and businesses in Kent, establishes thresholds, and combines with predicted climate and weather trends in order to improve decision-making about what adaptive response is appropriate. Products from this will continue to inform the risk-based approach.

- 5.4. Some further information, including some possible impacts and adaptive responses for Kent Adult Social Services is at **Annex 4**. There is ever-growing national and regional evidence and guidance about the potentially significant impacts of the changing climate on health and social care.
- 5.5. Kent Adult Social Services Directorate has committed to taking further action on service adaptation and resilience by March 2009. The next set of opportunities are:
 - a. As a first step, a series of online adaptation workshops for KASS staff will be held during autumn 2008, with a view to completing a first Kent Adult Social Services risk-based climate change adaptation strategy in time for 2009-10 business plans (with full support from the corporate Climate Change team);
 - b. Following these workshops, to develop enhanced in-house knowledge about climate change impacts on KASS services and infrastructure, keeping up-to-date with latest research, evidence and good practice from elsewhere;
 - c. To participate fully in the development of the Kent Local Climate Impacts Profile upon request;
 - d. In line with the KCC Environment Policy, to build capacity towards developing a clear approach within the Directorate for “climate-proofing” all decision-making and policy work.

6. Kent Adult Social Services community leadership

- 6.1. There are strong win-wins between KASS objectives and Kent-wide action on climate change, for example around active lives, older people and wellbeing. KASS therefore has an important contribution to make to implementation of Kent Agreement 2 delivery plans on county-wide carbon reduction, tackling fuel poverty, and preparing the county's communities to adapt to climate change.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1. Kent County Council has made good progress towards delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan in the last 18 months. However, as the economic, regulatory, public opinion and scientific drivers become stronger, Kent Adult Social Services will wish to demonstrate a further significant contribution towards the next phase of the Action Plan as outlined above. This in turn will be a sound basis upon which the Directorate can also support delivery of Kent-wide targets on carbon reduction and climate change adaptation and fuel poverty under Kent Agreement 2.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 Members are asked to:
 - a. Note progress and general next steps for KCC's Climate Change Action Plan; ;
 - b. Agree the proposed next steps for KASS, as outlined at **4.3** and **5.5** above;
 - c. Invite KASS officers to report back progress to the POC at six-monthly intervals starting March 2009.

Alison Cambray
Climate Change Project Manager
Corporate Policy Unit, CED
alison.cambray@kent.gov.uk
01622 221979

Annex 1: Current KCC policy on climate change

Kent County Council recognises that climate change is happening and that KCC has a critical role in helping Kent's businesses, communities and individuals understand and prepare for the impacts of climate change, as well as playing their part in reducing those impacts. Some climate change is already unavoidable and will require us to adapt to the inevitable as well as reducing emissions to minimise future climate change.¹

- KCC has been signatory to the *Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change* since 2001 (now signed by most local authorities in the UK, including most in Kent)².
- The implications of climate change cut across all work areas of KCC's work and services, and as such require a corporate, organisation-wide response across the themes below³. KCC will ensure staff are aware of the relevance of climate change for all its services and activities⁴.
- KCC's vision, as stated in the KCC Environment Policy¹, is to stabilise and progressively reduce the Council's environmental footprint; to progressively reduce carbon dioxide emissions and make sure the KCC estate and services are adapted to the future impacts and opportunities of climate change. KCC will 'climate proof' decisions to ensure it reduces its contribution to climate change and help to prepare for the impacts and opportunities of unavoidable climate change.
- Tackling climate change has been identified as a priority for 2008-09 in KCC's Annual Plan⁴.

Climate change mitigation & carbon management within KCC

- Through implementation of the KCC Environment Policy and the ISO 14001 environmental management system, KCC will make continuous improvements in reducing the impact of KCC's buildings, vehicles and operations on the environment⁵.
- KCC has a special responsibility to lead by example and will ensure that carbon emissions arising directly from the delivery of its services are minimised. KCC is committed to reducing carbon emissions arising from its own estate by 10% by 2010 and 20% by 2015 (from a 2004 baseline), in line with current Government targets towards 60% by 2050⁶.
- KCC is extending its carbon reduction work to include emissions from arising from business travel, commuter travel, outsourced services and other sources, in line with the approach in the *Cabinet Paper on KCC Energy Reduction Targets (2007)* and the new Government national indicator on carbon emissions from local authorities.
- These will be real reductions arising from increased energy efficiency and use of on-site renewable energy. Carbon offsetting will only be considered as a last resort when all other options have been explored – e.g. for some essential car use⁶.
- KCC is committed to continuing the Energy Loan Fund (which funds capital investment for energy-saving, water-saving and renewable energy measures across the KCC estate)^{5,6}.
- KCC is preparing for the impact of the Carbon Reduction Commitment on KCC from 2010 onwards by joining the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU's) innovative *Carbon Trading Councils* scheme for 2008-2009. This stimulates the idea of operating within carbon budgets and trading with other councils⁴.
- Towards 2010 Target 41: KCC will ensure that new KCC buildings set an example by delivering the best possible standards of construction by applying an evidence-based approach to sustainability using energy-efficient, robust and built to last materials⁵.

Climate change adaptation and resilience

- KCC will ensure that the impacts of climate change on all KCC work areas and services are understood and that appropriate adaptive responses are identified in business planning from 2008 onwards³.
- KCC is committed to continuing development of a Kent Local Climate Impacts Profile in order to inform a risk-based approach⁴.

Community leadership

- KCC will develop plans and projects with its partners and local communities to progressively address the causes and impacts of climate change, according to local priorities and securing maximum benefit for communities.
- KCC will lead work through the Kent Partnership and Kent Public Service Board to deliver the Vision for Kent, which contains a goal to reduce Kent's contribution to climate change by reducing energy use and increasing energy efficiency and to prepare for its impacts⁷.
- Specifically, KCC will continue to lead activities under the *Kent Agreement 2* to help the county to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the changing climate, moving towards creation of a low-carbon and climate change resilient economy⁴.
- On Kent-wide carbon reduction, KCC will play its part towards achieving an 11.2% ($\pm 2.5\%$) reduction in per capita CO₂ emissions across Kent by 2011 in line with National Indicator 186⁸.
- KCC will play its part towards planning to adapt to climate change across Kent by 2011 in line with National Indicator 188⁸.

Energy policy⁹

- KCC will take an evidence-based, case-by-case approach to influencing decisions about the future energy mix in the UK, following the energy hierarchy⁹:
 1. *Reduce*: We will support energy efficiency measures thereby reducing the need for new power stations and sources;
 2. *Renewables*: We will support new opportunities for renewable energy sources where practical and in the best interests of the people of Kent;
 3. *Rethink*: Where there is a need, for the best interests of the people of Kent, to build new fossil fuel / nuclear power stations as part of the energy mix, we will support the most efficient technologies possible.

Biomass and biofuels⁹

- KCC is exploring opportunities for using biomass and biodiesel.
- It is important that the source of biofuels and biomass is sustainable and each proposal will be considered on a case-by-case basis with the aim of balancing locally-sourced sustainable supply and demand for biofuels.
- KCC recognises that there are opportunities in Kent to make better commercial use of our own available biomass, notably coppiced woodlands. KCC supports such schemes where they are of benefit to the people of Kent.

Water policy³

- KCC recognises that supporting efforts to ensure the maintenance of a healthy water environment is central to its community leadership role.
- KCC will adopt and adhere to a *water policy hierarchy* based on an evidence-based, case-by-case approach:
 1. *Reduce*: We will support a reduction in the use of water and leakages thereby minimising the need for the development of new resources
 2. *Rethink*: Where there is a business need for recycling water or developing new resources we will call for further work to compare the feasibility and sustainability of options and support those which offer the best practicable environmental outcome.

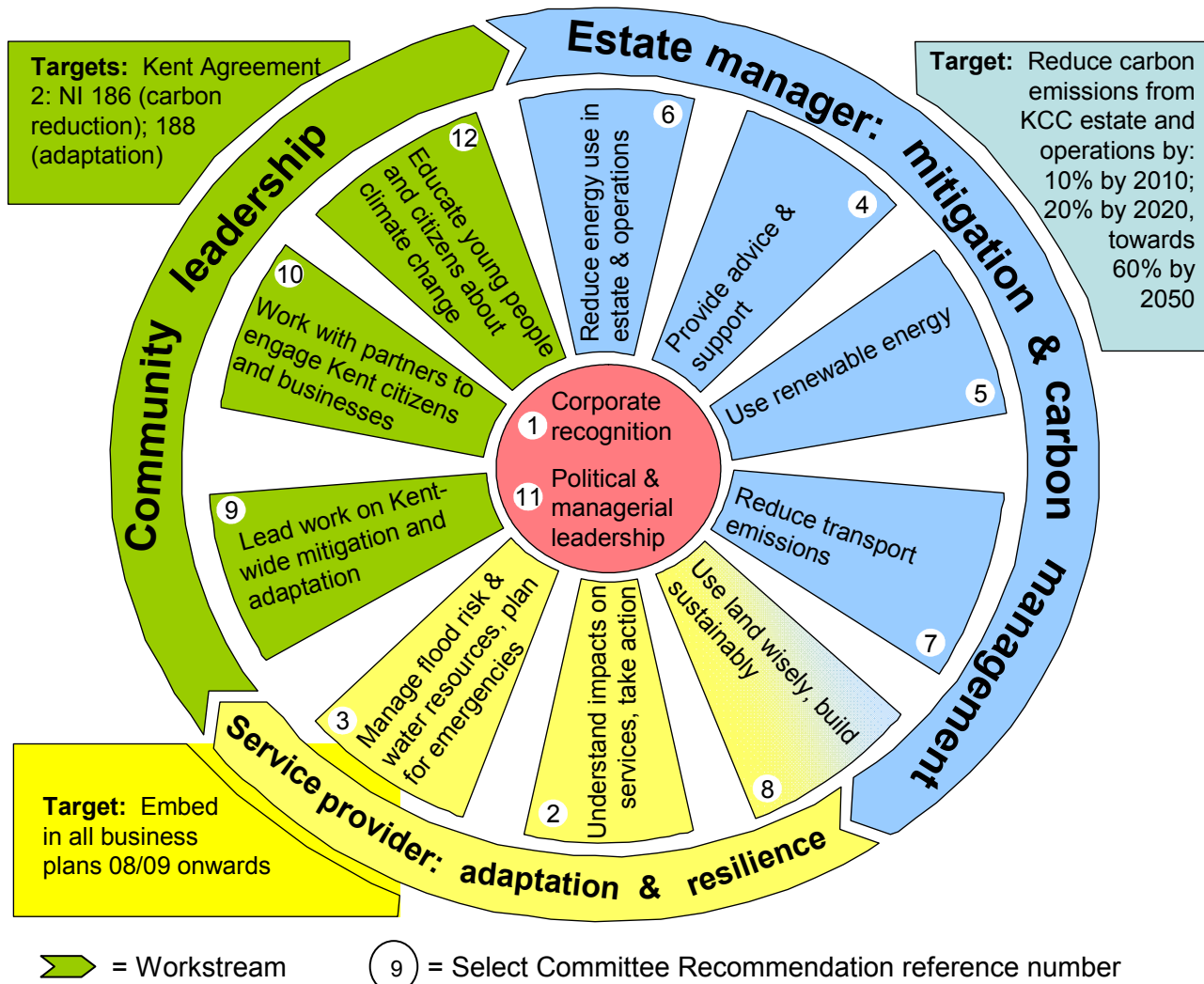
Climate Change Programme | Corporate Policy Unit Correct as at 1 September 2008

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1. Revised KCC Environment Policy (2007)
 2. KCC's Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change commitment (2001)
 3. Council response to Select Committee on Climate Change Report (2007)
 4. KCC Annual Plan 2008-2009
 5. Towards 2010 targets (2007 update)
 6. Cabinet paper on KCC energy reduction targets (2007)
 7. Vision for Kent (2006)
 8. Kent Agreement 2 (2008)
 9. Agreed by Cabinet Working Group on Climate Change (2008)

Annex 2: KCC Climate Change Action Plan overview

Overview

The following diagram shows the Select Committee recommendations grouped into 3 strands of action, together with the high-level targets for each strand:



Benchmarking

An independent assessment of the KCC Climate Change Action Plan by Climate South East in February 2008 concluded that:

- Full implementation of all the outcomes intended by the Select Committee on Climate Change would position KCC at Level 5 on a scale of 1 to 6, and therefore amongst the leading public and private sector organisations responding to climate change.
- Significant progress has been made in the first phase of the Climate Change Action Plan; a strong foundation upon which to build. KCC is now averaging Level 3, with some leading edges into Level 4.
- Implementation of next steps identified above and in the full range of papers going to all Directorate POCs will enable KCC to make significant further progress towards Level 5 and even beyond.

Several of our Climate Change Action Plan projects and initiatives are now being held up as exemplars across the South East, the UK as a whole and internationally.

Highlights to date and next steps

The full plan runs to some 30 pages. Some brief highlights only are listed here.

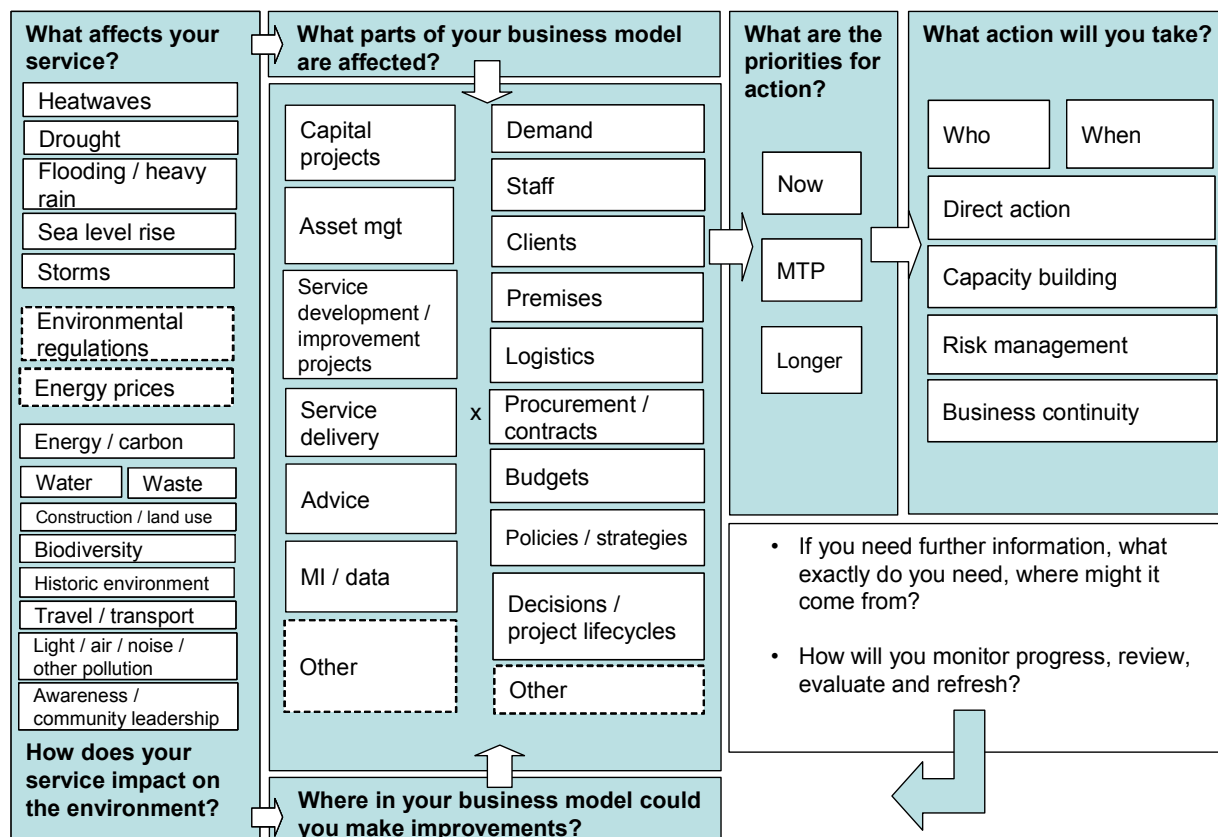
Some selected highlights	Important next steps ¹
Corporate leadership	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Governance arrangements established, including Cabinet Working Group on Climate Change ▪ Programme team established ▪ Programme funding baselined ▪ New KCC Environment Policy ▪ Energy-saving measures for Directorates embedded into ISO 14001 accreditation programme ▪ Targets embedded in Towards 2010, business plans, Annual Plan ▪ New sustainability appraisal for decisions ▪ KCC climate change officers are leading and actively participating in several regional and national good-practice networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stronger Directorate-led ownership of next steps through Policy Overview Committees* ▪ Further corporate improvement on climate change and sustainability through CPA Improvement Plan and linked to audit processes* ▪ New internal “hearts and minds” engagement on climate change and environmental issues, including staff training, regular written briefing for Members, Kent Graduate Programme project on climate change autumn 2008 (with Carbon Trust funding)* ▪ New external and internal webpages on climate change autumn 2008 ▪ New “breakthrough” projects to be scoped around which to focus staff development, testing what is possible: Better Workplaces and Building Schools for the Future projects*
Estate manager: mitigation & carbon management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Carbon reduction targets agreed by Cabinet ▪ Carbon emissions reduced by ~3% so far ▪ Energy Loan Fund extended, achieving significant carbon savings ▪ Set of working groups established to drive progress in estates, travel & transport etc. ▪ Participating in Carbon Trading Councils initiative 2007-08 to help prepare for Carbon Reduction Commitment (mandatory cap and trade scheme from 2010) ▪ Commitment in principle to BREEAM “very good” design standard for KCC buildings. Government now requires all new buildings to be “excellent / zero carbon” by 2019. ▪ Ongoing training programmes for energy management for facilities managers, school caretakers etc. ▪ KCC commercial fleet now runs on 5% biodiesel. ▪ Most schools now have travel plans. ▪ Switch to low-energy traffic signals, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New drive for energy efficiency and take up of renewable energy across KCC directorates (due to energy price rises, improved progress towards carbon targets, “early action” credit for Carbon Reduction Commitment, regulatory requirements under Energy Performance of Buildings legislation* ▪ Develop and implement (as opportunities arise) expanded breadth of KCC’s measured carbon footprint to include all forms of travel, IT, operations, outsourced services, procured goods (also CAA requirement). Review and extend KCC’s internal carbon targets in line with this* ▪ Develop and implement sustainable procurement strand (an outline sustainable procurement action plan has now been agreed that starts with a few pilot projects across KCC spend areas, including ways to incorporate carbon management into assessment criteria)* ▪ Travel and transport remains about 40% of KCC’s carbon footprint. New drive to reduce emissions / costs of transport and

¹ Those next steps that are **asterisked*** were identified or re-emphasised in the 12-month review of progress by the Select Committee on Climate Change in March 2008.

Some selected highlights	Important next steps ¹
streetlighting pilot.	travel across KCC, new policies to be implemented by March 09*
Service provider: adaptation & resilience	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All 2008-09 business unit operating plans had some initial reference to developing an understanding of how the changing climate will impact service delivery and what action to take in response. ▪ KCC-specific methodology (based on good practice) established for all service areas to use to climate-proof their services. Now an exemplar. ▪ Report published and implementation in progress about impacts of climate change in Kent on biodiversity. ▪ Separate Select Committee on Flood Risk convened summer 2007, recommendations adopted by Council March 2008 (together with Pitt Review actions). Significant work now being taken forward in KHS, Kent Resilience Forum and elsewhere. ▪ Water policy adopted by KCC in 2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Significant further work to be completed during 2008-09 to support each service area in developing a comprehensive climate change adaptation plan. ▪ Now that PPS1 (climate change) and other guidance is available, a new focus is needed in KCC to ensure planning decisions in Kent are “climate-proof”, including district LDFs.* ▪ Ensure sufficient up-to-date guidance available for new development and retro-fitting, including updating Kent Design Guide if needed* ▪ Further work on Kent flood risk management ▪ Further work to influence water company plans including re. balancing supply and demand, water efficiency, carbon emissions arising from water treatment
Community leadership	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Climate change mitigation and adaptation targets for the county agreed under the Kent Agreement 2 (2008-11), under both the Environmental and Economic themes. Comprehensive yet pragmatic delivery plans created, opportunities for drawing in external funding being pursued. ▪ Initial pilot Kent Local Climate Impacts Profile project a significant success and best practice exemplar ▪ Kent Low Carbon Communities pilot project has created significant public interest, has the potential to make real carbon savings, and has produced what is probably the most comprehensive and practical community toolkit currently available ▪ Kent Schools Climate Change Action Pack completed and will be published October 2008. ▪ Work has started with several district councils to help them develop their climate change programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secure extension of Energy Loan Fund to support Kent district councils too as far as possible* ▪ Programme of workshops and activity to share good practice between and further support action in district councils ▪ To provide further advice to parish councils ▪ Extension of Kent Low Carbon Communities pilot project (wider reach of resources into other communities, revision of toolkit, Kent-wide challenge fund and related activity) ▪ Broader citizen and business-focused engagement, communication and support (with other Kent partners) ▪ Kent-wide Local Climate Impacts Profile next phase project involving range of key partners. Preparation for release and use of new UK climate scenarios to be issued November 2008 ▪ To improve how Local Boards can continue to support Kent-wide climate change objectives.* ▪ To continue work and engagement with young people in Kent* ▪ To consider how best to apply the Sustainable Communities Act to deliver Kent Agreement 2 climate change objectives.

Annex 3: Climate change and environmental performance in Kent Adult Social Services: analysing service impacts

A simple flowchart aligned to business planning:



Selected climate change adaptation opportunities and challenges for Kent Adult Social Services:

Impact	Adaptive response
Increased heat stress and pollution leading to poorer air quality and an increase in related illness among vulnerable people, including breathing difficulties	Ensure adequate shading and cooling available in places where care is delivered, increased need for treatment measures and water for re-hydrating patients / customers
Fewer cold-related deaths but vulnerable groups can still require care in winter	Ensure adequate provision for groups at risk from cold weather / extreme events
Disproportionate impacts of extreme weather events on vulnerable groups. Ensuring water supply to vulnerable groups in event of standpipes being used in drought	Assistance with costs and provision of advice associated with disruption, repairs, loss of earning, uninsured property etc. Measures to ensure water gets to vulnerable groups in event of standpipe use
Increased risk of new diseases reaching UK due to warmer climate	Promote preventative measures and ensure treatments available
Higher risk of sunburn / skin cancer due to hotter summers and outdoor lifestyles	Raise awareness of dangers, ensure shade in public areas, 'slip/slap/slop' sunblock campaigns
Higher temperatures likely to increase cases of food poisoning	Raise awareness of food hygiene, revise best practice, increase resources for enforcement
Increase in water-borne and vector-borne diseases (e.g. in care homes and hospitals)	Promote preventative measures and ensure treatments available.