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**From:** Cabinet Member – Environment, Highways & Waste  
Paul Crick, Director of Planning and Environment

**To:** Environment, Highways & Waste Cabinet Committee

**Date:** 10 January 2013

**Subject:** Environmental Management Update

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:**

This paper recommends adoption of additional environment targets for KCC to meet our obligations under the new Climate Local agreement, and to further support the Kent Environment Strategy. It also provides an update on the progress of the council's current environmental management programme.

**Recommendations:**

The Committee is asked to:

- Endorse additions to existing targets.
  - Note progress and issues relating to existing corporate targets.
  - Suggest any additional items they would like to see included in future.
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**1. Introduction and Background**

1.1. The partnership targets for the Kent Environment Strategy and Climate Local agreement presented to the Committee in July 2012 were agreed by the Kent Forum later that same month. That paper included the expectation that to demonstrate leadership, KCC would develop its own bold targets focusing on our buildings, street lighting and transport.

**2. Revisions to Corporate targets**

2.1. Existing Corporate Environment targets are as follows:

- reduce energy use within our estate to meet the carbon reduction target of 2.6% per year up to 2015

- reduce business miles travelled by car to meet the carbon reduction target of 2.6% per year up to 2015
- reduce water use within our estate by 10% by 2015
- reduce waste generation across our estate by 5%, and increase the proportion of our corporate waste which is reused or recycled to 60% by 2015

2.2. The additional targets recommended for KCC are detailed in appendix 1. These will help demonstrate how the council is leading by example on both the Kent Environment Strategy and Climate Local agreement

### **3. Progress on current Corporate targets**

3.1. Progress against current corporate environment targets is given in appendix 2. Overall, this has been positive, but focus needs to be maintained on the variety of actions and positive contributions which all staff and members can make towards achievement of these targets.

3.2. The amount of carbon produced by KCC has reduced, but is slightly behind target. Many factors affect this figure on a year to year basis and are mentioned in the appendix.

3.3. Waste reduction based on properties on the central Facilities Management contract, shows we are already close to the 2015 target of re-using or recycling 60% of the waste we produce.

### **4. ISO 14001 assessment**

4.1. We are externally assessed every 6 months against the International Standard for Environmental Management (ISO 14001). The visit by our auditors examines our environmental management systems and practices across different council services. The last assessment took place in September, producing just one minor non-conformance with regards to waste transfer documentation. The next assessment is due to take place in March 2013.

### **5. Recommendations**

5.1. The Committee is asked to:

- Endorse additions to existing targets.
- Note progress and issues relating to existing corporate targets.
- Suggest any additional items they would like to see included in future.

### **6. Contact details**

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