

Energy Security Select Committee

Hearing 6

Wednesday 16 December 2015

Witness Guide for Members

Below are suggested themes and questions. They have been provided in advance to the witnesses to allow them to prepare for the types of issues that Members may be interested to explore. All Members are welcome to ask these questions or pose additional ones to the witnesses via the Committee Chairman.

Themes and Questions

Carolyn McKenzie – Head of Sustainable Business & Community (KCC)

Neil Hilkene – Economic & Spatial Development Officer (KCC)

Steve Baggs – Energy Manager (KCC)

Adam Morris – Intelligence & Commissioning Officer (KCC)

- Please introduce yourselves and provide an outline of the roles and responsibilities of your post.
- What role, if any, can decentralised energy and community energy initiatives play in promoting energy security for Kent?
- How important are energy demand reduction measures to an understanding of energy security?
- What, in your view, are the most viable sources of energy for Kent to take advantage of?
- What should KCC do to ensure that these energy sources are promoted and developed?
- What, in your view, are the best community initiatives or projects for Kent to take advantage of?
- What should KCC do to ensure that these community initiatives or projects are promoted and developed?
- Could you clarify for the Committee the nature of energy subsidies, and explain to what extent various types of energy are subsidised?

- What are the main risks facing Kent with regard to energy security now or in the foreseeable future?
- What steps can be taken to mitigate these risks?
- To what extent does the closure of traditional energy plant in Kent put Kent at risk of energy shortages and any related issues?
- What should KCC (and Kent) do to respond to these closures and ensure there is adequate energy supply to meet ongoing demand?
- What role can new and emerging technologies such as carbon capture and fracking play in replacing traditional power plant, and what role, if any, can KCC play in this area?
- Having heard from OVO Energy and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council: what, in your view, is the potential for KCC to act as an energy supplier to local residents?
- Are there any other issues that you would like to raise with the Committee?