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To: Select Committee – Energy Security – 9 March 2016

Subject: **Energy Security Select Committee – Final Draft Meeting**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The Committee is requested to consider and approve the final version of their report for submission to Cabinet and County Council.

Introduction

1. The Committee met with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport and the Corporate Director for Growth, Environment and Transport on Wednesday 9th March, and received comments from them on the draft report. It was confirmed that the draft report had been shared with the Cabinet Members for Economic Development and Corporate & Democratic Services who had made no comments. The Committee took account of the comments received and made a number of minor amendments to the draft report which have been incorporated into the attached version.

Timetable

2. Following the agreement by Members of the final version of the Select Committee report, the report will be presented to Cabinet on 25th April 2016 for endorsement and to Full Council on 19th May 2016 for approval.

Recommendation

3. That the Committee's report, attached to this paper, be approved as the final version, subject to any minor amendments made at the meeting, and be submitted to Cabinet and County Council.

Appendix 1 – Report Recommendations

Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 (combined)

That the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport writes to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, to highlight key issues of concern for national and local energy security, such as:

- 1. The importance of further new nuclear both nationally and for Kent (see Section 5.1, p.79).**
- 2. The need for the introduction of stronger national building standards, requiring both increased energy efficiency and generation measures in new developments (Section 5.1, p.82).**
- 3. The need for additional financial support for community energy projects following the reduction of the FiT (Section 4.2, p.74).**
- 4. The need for local authority control and management of any future energy efficiency schemes that replace ECO (Section 5.3, p.101).**
- 5. The need for energy utilities to produce and implement 25 year management plans, akin to those held by water utilities (Section 6.1, p.118).**
- 6. The need to ensure that the South-East CORE is adequately resourced and supported so as to facilitate the continued uptake of renewable (wind) energy within Kent (Section 4.2, p.72).**

Recommendation 7

That KCC, working in partnership with relevant organisations, builds on the work of the Select Committee in identifying key opportunities and risks to Kent's energy infrastructure, ensuring the evidence base underpinning our energy security is up-to-date and robust (Section 2.4, p.34).

Recommendation 8

That KCC leads by example through driving further energy saving and energy generation measures across its estate - in accordance with KCC's Carbon Management Plan - and in partnership with Kent social housing providers and districts (Section 4.1, p.65).

Recommendation 9

That KCC creates a communications strategy strengthening its engagement with businesses and local communities to help them understand the benefit of reducing energy use and generating their own energy (Section 4.2, p.74).

Recommendation 10

That KCC investigates the feasibility of creating investment measures to develop local, low-carbon energy generation and diversification projects (Section 5.2, p.99).

Recommendation 11

That KCC works with partners and local authorities to influence the design and planning process for developments from the start, so as to ensure that they are as energy efficient as possible (Section 5.3, p.104).

Recommendation 12

That KCC works with educational institutions within Kent to ensure that students and apprentices are given the necessary skillsets and expertise required for working across the energy sector (Section 5.4, p.109).

Recommendation 13

That KCC continues to strengthen its ability to work in partnership with local authorities, relevant agencies, businesses, community groups and the education and training sector to make sure that a comprehensive approach is taken in ensuring energy security for Kent (Section 6.1, p.114)

Recommendation 14

That LASER and Sustainable Business and Communities investigate the feasibility of KCC establishing itself as an energy supplier to the local community (Section 6.1, p.116).

Recommendation 15

That KCC works in partnership with UKPN and relevant energy generation companies within Kent to better understand the risks to Kent's energy systems and how these can be mitigated (Section 6.1, p.118).