

By: Sue Frampton, Policy Overview Research Officer

To: Renewable Energy Select Committee

Subject: Renewable Energy in Kent

Date: 26th January 2010

Summary: To discuss and agree Terms of Reference and Scope for the Review

Introduction

The Renewable Energy Select Committee will investigate issues in relation to this topic for KCC and the county of Kent. In the light of KCC's obligations with regard to carbon reduction, and the imperatives of fossil fuel depletion, the review will explore ways to support Kent's transition to a sustainable, low-carbon future and in particular will consider what KCC can do through its operations or influence to enhance Kent's role and the benefits to its residents and businesses from the development of renewable energy. Following investigation of the topic a number of recommendations will be made.

Committee Membership

The Select Committee consists of eight Members of Kent County Council:

Mr Keith Ferrin (Chairman Designate)

Mr Charles Hibberd

Mr David Hirst

Mr Richard King

Mr Tim Prater

Mr Chris Smith

Mrs Paulina Stockell

Mrs Elizabeth Tweed

Proposed Terms of Reference (TOR)

As there are a wide range of important issues concerning the environmental, social and economic impacts of this topic, it will be important to identify and agree upon some key areas for the investigation, therefore key themes and aspects to be covered are suggested below. In order to ensure meaningful outcomes are achieved in the time available for the review the scope may need to be focused further as the review progresses.

1. To determine existing and emerging national and local policies and strategies with regard to renewable energy and their effect on Kent.
2. To establish a baseline position and future projections for Kent with regard to energy requirements and generation, including the contribution from renewable energy.
3. To identify key challenges as well as opportunities in relation to renewable energy in Kent.

4. To Identify and explore the views of suppliers and consumers in relation to renewable energy.
5. Having considered the above, to make recommendations which will contribute to increased energy security and prosperity for Kent residents and businesses as well as supporting the national transition to a low-carbon future.

Proposed Scope

1. To determine existing and emerging national and local policies and strategies with regard to renewable energy and their effect on Kent.
 - a. Examine current policy and plans in relation to renewable energy both at national and local level in Kent.
 - b. Determine Kent's progress towards the achievement of local targets relating to renewable energy, including work being done or planned in partnership with other authorities or organisations and how these targets fit in with national priorities.
2. To establish a baseline position and future projections for Kent with regard to energy requirements and generation, including the contribution from renewable energy.
 - a. Determine the current demand and sources of supply (energy mix) for Kent.
 - b. Identify trends and issues affecting demand including progress towards increasing energy efficiency.
 - c. Examine the options for future energy supply and the contribution different sources of renewable energy can make to meeting Kent's energy demands through national, community and individual building-level schemes.
3. To identify key challenges as well as opportunities in relation to renewable energy in Kent.
 - a. Identify key obstacles in relation to the development of renewable energy in Kent.
 - b. Identify ways in which KCC could, through its policy, programmes or influence, maximise benefits to Kent in relation to renewable energy.

The committee could consider:

- community policy and vision
 - community solutions including district heating and combined heat and power
 - energy from waste
 - planning issues affecting renewable energy installations
 - maximising the role of the business sector
 - maximising the role of the public sector
 - use of renewables in the KCC estate
 - use of biofuels and other options for more sustainable transport
 - funding mechanisms to increase the uptake of renewables
4. To Identify and explore the views of suppliers and consumers in relation to renewable energy:
 - a. Identify areas of KCC work which contribute to greater awareness of sustainable energy issues and the role of renewable energy in the county.
 - b. determine whether further action is necessary to improve leadership on renewable energy and increase public knowledge, confidence and support.

5. Having considered the above, to make recommendations which will contribute to increased energy security and prosperity for Kent residents and businesses as well as supporting the national transition to a low-carbon future.

Proposed Timetable

Dec 09/Jan 10	Desk-based research and preparation. Identification of stakeholders/witnesses.
26 Jan pm	First Meeting of Select Committee to elect Chairman, agree TOR/scope and witness list (with all-party involvement)
Early Feb	Requests for written evidence to be sent out
Mid March	Distribution of written evidence to Select Committee
Early/Mid April	Visits. Meeting to discuss written evidence and identify witnesses to be invited to give oral evidence.
Early/Mid May	Visits. Hearings.
Mid May	Meeting of Select Committee to discuss report framework, key issues and areas of recommendation
June	Report writing
End June	1 st draft to Select Committee for comment
Early July	Meetings to discuss/finalise report
Mid July	Final Report considered and agreed by Select Committee
Mid-end July	Report published to relevant Cabinet Members NB: Also summary paper to Cabinet Briefing
Mid-end July	Share report with major stakeholders
End July	Agreed amendments to report following stakeholder involvement
Mid August	Share final report with appropriate Cabinet Members (particularly Environment, Highways & Waste Cabinet Member Nick Chard and Regeneration & Economic Development Cabinet Member Kevin Lynes)
3rd Sept	Report published to Cabinet
13th Sept	Report considered by Cabinet
6th Oct	Report published to County Council.
14th Oct	Report considered by County Council

Witnesses (written/oral evidence)¹

A range of evidence may be requested from the following:

Advisory and regulatory bodies
 Building Sector
 Business Sector
 Communications Sector
 District and Borough Councils in Kent
 Energy Sector
 KCC Officers
 Land Management/Environmental Protection organisations
 Motor manufacturers
 Operators of renewable energy installations in Kent ²
 Other Local Authorities
 Planning Sector

¹ Full List of suggested witnesses at Appendix 1

² Appendix 2 (source: SEESTATS)

Evidence Gathering

Sources of evidence will be oral and written submissions from witnesses; surveys of public opinion; published documents; briefings and visits to appropriate sites within and outside the County. It is proposed that:

- initially, written evidence is requested and, having seen this, members of the committee identify whom they would like to hear (more) from in oral evidence sessions in the Spring.
- public involvement work begins immediately, using social networking tools.

Potential visit sites^{3 4}

Betteshanger – coalfield regeneration/biomass heating system

Dungeness B Nuclear Power Station

Ecobuild Conference – Earls Court (2/3/4 March)

Individual households (with energy saving/renewable technologies installed)

Kent schools such as Valley Park Community School, Eastchurch Primary School, Sandwich Technology School who have installed renewable energy technologies

London Array/Thanet Offshore/Kentish Flats Windfarms

Romney Marsh - Little Cheyne Court Onshore Windfarm

Tandridge District Council (Oxted) – solar power generation

Wildwood Wildlife Park (zero carbon zoo near Canterbury)

Woking Borough Council – combined heat & power and local solar initiatives

Public Involvement

- Existing surveys from 2007 and 2008 on public perceptions of renewable energy in Kent.
- Use of social networking tools to introduce the review to the public in Kent in order to identify key areas of public concern which may be addressed during the review.
- Use of an online poll
- Publicising outcomes e.g. using the original social networking tools

Recommendation:

To agree the Terms of Reference and general approach to the review of renewable energy in Kent.

Contacts:

Policy Overview Research Officer,
Sue Frampton
Tel: 01622 694933
Email: sue.frampton@kent.gov.uk

Democratic Services Officer,
Christine Singh
Tel: 01622 694334
Email: christine.singh@kent.gov.uk

³ List of renewable energy installations in Kent at Appendix 2

⁴ List of schools having current KCC renewable energy projects at Appendix 3