

From: Susan Carey, Cabinet Member for Environment  
Barbara Cooper, Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport

To: Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee – 17 July 2020

Subject: Kent & Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy - Final draft for formal adoption by Kent County Council

Decision No: 20/00062

Classification: Unrestricted

Past pathway of paper: Environment and Transport Cabinet Committees: [Jan 2018](#), [September 2018](#), [November 2018](#), [May 2019](#) and [November 2019](#).

Future pathway of paper: For Decision by Cabinet Member

Electoral Division: All

**Summary:** This report presents the final draft of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES) to be formally approved and adopted by the Cabinet Member for the Environment.

**Recommendation(s):**

**The Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee** is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Environment to:

Approve the Strategy for adoption and implementation, working in partnership with all Local Authorities in Kent & Medway, utilising the existing Kent Environment Strategy delivery framework; and

delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport to take relevant actions, including but not limited to entering into contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement this decision.

## 1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy is to identify an evidence-based pathway to deliver clean growth, and specifically, strategies and actions to eliminate poor air quality, reduce fuel poverty and deliver an affordable, clean and secure energy supply for Kent and Medway. The Strategy includes the commitment to meet the UK Government's target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 for the country.

- 1.2 The Strategy was most recently brought to ETCC on 28 November 2019 for consideration and recommendation after edits were made to the draft Strategy (papers presented to ETCC in November 2018 and May 2019) following the results of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy Public Consultation, which ran from the 1 July to the 23 September 2019. The Strategy has also been further amended to reflect the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.3 The resulting revised Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy is attached for approval and subsequent adoption by the Cabinet Member for Environment.

## 2. Final Draft Strategy for approval

2.1 The objective of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy is to outline the Kent and Medway approach to achieving a reduction in carbon emissions and improvements in air quality, with an agreed Kent and Medway target of net-zero emissions by 2050. The aims of the strategy are:

1. **EVIDENCE:** Provide an ongoing evidence and intelligence base; linking data sets to identify hot spots and opportunities, and to build the business case for action across Kent and Medway.
2. **POLICY AND STRATEGY:** Facilitate the development of evidence-based policy and strategy to future proof growth, tackle emerging issues and realise opportunities.
3. **LEADERSHIP:** Support the public sector across Kent and Medway to play a strong leadership role with regards to challenges and opportunities.
4. **ACTION:** Facilitate increased and accelerated action and implementation across Kent and Medway.

2.2 The Strategy is a key element of the County Council's and Kent and Medway public sector partners' approach to tackling the climate emergency. It provides evidence-based pathways to deliver clean growth, and additionally, specific strategies and actions to eliminate poor air quality, reduce fuel poverty and deliver an affordable, clean and secure energy supply for Kent and Medway. The Strategy was reviewed and amended to take account of COVID-19 in May 2020.

2.3 The 10 priority actions link directly to a detailed implementation plan which is being finalised and adjusted in light of COVID-19. The Strategy and implementation plan will be made available on the KCC web pages in order that members of the public and external organisations can understand how the Strategy's Vision is being realised. A summary of the 10 actions is given in Table 1 below. The full set of priority actions can be found on pages 15 to 28 of the Strategy.

2.4 The detailed Implementation Plan is being developed by officers and partners in discussion with the Cabinet Member for the Environment and will be agreed

in Autumn 2020 by the new Kent and Medway Environment Group (see Appendix B for membership), chaired by Colin Carmichael Chief Executive of Canterbury City Council and coordinated by KCC. This detailed implementation plan will be responsive to policy and evidence changes and inform both Business as Usual as well as projects and will be formally monitored on an annual basis and reported to the Kent and Medway Environment Group and the Kent Environment Board.

**Table 1: Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy 10 Priority Actions**

<p><b>PRIORITY 1: EMISSION REDUCTION PATHWAYS TO 2050</b> Set area and organisational five-year carbon budgets and emission reduction pathways to 2050, with significant reduction by 2030.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY 2: PUBLIC SECTOR DECISION MAKING</b> Develop a consistent approach across Kent and Medway, to assess, manage and mitigate environmental impacts (both positive and negative), resulting from public sector policies, strategies, service delivery, commissioning and procurement.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY 3: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT</b> Ensure climate change, energy, air quality and environmental considerations are integrated into Local Plans, policies and developments, by developing a clean growth strategic planning policy and guidance framework for Kent and Medway, to drive down emissions and mainstream climate resilience.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY 4: CLIMATE EMERGENCY INVESTMENT FUND</b> Establish a trusted Kent and Medway 'Climate Emergency' carbon sequestration, offset and renewable energy investment scheme and fund.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY 5: BUILDING RETROFIT PROGRAMME</b> Set up a Kent and Medway net-zero buildings retrofit plan and programme for public sector, domestic and businesses.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY 6: TRANSPORT, TRAVEL AND DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY</b> Set up a smart connectivity and mobility modal shift programme – linking sustainable transport, transport innovations, active travel, virtual working, broadband, digital services, artificial intelligence and behaviour change.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY 7: RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION</b> Set up an opportunities and investment programme for renewable electricity and heat energy generation</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY 8: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE</b> Develop a multi-functional, natural capital opportunity and investment programme – focusing on environmental projects that store carbon, increase climate change resilience, improve air quality and increase biodiversity.</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY 9: SUPPORTING LOW CARBON BUSINESS</b> Develop a support programme for Kent and Medway's Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services sector</p>

<b>PRIORITY 10: COMMUNICATIONS</b>
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Develop a comprehensive communications, engagement and behaviour change programme targeted at residents, employees, businesses and visitors.
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### **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 This report relates to the Strategy itself and not individual costed actions. As projects that Kent County Council are involved in are developed, the supporting evidence and any cost implications will be identified, and the business case developed through the appropriate KCC governance processes.
- 3.2 Coordination of the delivery of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy falls within the remit of the existing Sustainable Business and Communities team.

### **4. Policy Framework**

- 4.1 This paper and the activity within it are directly linked to the Kent County Council's commitment to "A Cleaner and Greener Kent" and directly supports the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan.
- 4.2 The Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy forms part of the Kent Environment Strategy and its Implementation Plan. The Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy is also relevant to the Kent and Medway Growth and Infrastructure Framework, Local Transport Plan 4 (and will inform LTP5) and the emerging Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Kent's Public Health Outcomes.

### **5. Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy, which has been updated as a result of the public consultation. There are no significant negative impacts. As this Strategy is aimed at improving health outcomes, there are likely to be more positive equality impacts than negative, particularly for Age, Maternity, Carers and Disability.
- 5.2 Any changes required to KCC policies to implement the proposed net-zero action plan will need to be assessed as part of the policy change process.

### **6. General Data Protection Regulation Considerations**

- 6.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessment is not needed as this Strategy does not require the processing of personal data.

### **7. Conclusion**

- 7.1 The intention of the Strategy is to recognise the climate emergency and the need to take significant action in the next 10 years in order to be able to achieve net zero emissions for the county by 2050.
- 7.2 Under the framework of the Kent Environment Strategy and the Energy and Low Emissions Strategy, the KCC Sustainable Business and Communities Team has been taking forward the Kent County Council response to the County Council Climate Emergency motion presented in May 2019. KCC is working with LASER to establish how we will achieve net-zero carbon emissions as an organisation, and how this might be achieved with an accelerated target. This will be presented to Full Council on 16 July 2020.
- 7.3 The KCC Sustainable Business and Communities Team have commissioned Anthesis to undertake a net-zero pathway analysis for Kent and Medway. The analysis will recommend 5 yearly carbon budgets for the county and identify the preferred combination of activities required to achieve net-zero by 2050. The report is due to be completed this autumn and will be brought to ETCC.

## 8. Next Steps and Timescales

- 8.1 Subject to comments from Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee, the Strategy will proceed to approval by the Cabinet Member for the Environment, district colleagues and key partners, such as Kent Leaders Group and Kent Chief Execs Group, with a formal launch at the Kent and Medway Net-Zero Conference on 27 November 2020.

## 9. Recommendation(s)

### **Recommendation(s):**

**The Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee** is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Environment to:

Approve the Strategy for adoption and implementation, working in partnership with all Local Authorities in Kent & Medway, utilising the existing Kent Environment Strategy delivery framework; and

delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport to take relevant actions, including but not limited to entering into contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement this decision.

## 10. Appendices and Background Documents

- Appendix A – Proposed Record of Decision
- Appendix B - Kent and Medway Environment Group Membership
- Appendix C - Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy
- Kent Environment Strategy – [www.kent.gov.uk/environmentstrategy](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environmentstrategy)
- Appendix D - ELES EQiA

- Papers presented to Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee [Jan 2018](#), [September 2018](#), [November 2018](#), [May 2019](#) and [November 2019](#).

## **11. Contact details**

Christine Wissink – Interim Head of Sustainable Business & Communities  
[Christine.wissink@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Christine.wissink@kent.gov.uk) 03000 413482

**Relevant Director:** Stephanie Holt-Castle, Interim Director Environment, Planning and Enforcement 03000 412064