

ASSESSMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE TOPIC REVIEW

* - sections to be filled in by the proposer of the topic

<p>*Subject of Proposed Review:-</p> <p>Climate Change and the effect on Kent</p>
<p>*Reason for the Review:- (see Note 1 below)</p> <p>Recent publication of UKCP18 by the government last December shows the threat to our County from rising temperatures and increasing sea levels.</p> <p>As presented by Mark Rodgers of Met Office (Advisor Civil Contingencies) to the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee (11th of March).</p> <p>Indicates that unless urgent action is taken, we could face damaging effects to Kent.</p>
<p>*Issues to be covered by the Terms of Reference:-</p> <p>To investigate how resilient KCC is to Climate Change.</p> <p>How can KCC plan to manage climate change?</p> <p>What can KCC do to help protect water supplies in Kent?</p> <p>To Investigate how KCC works with the Environment Agency to protect its coastline and hinterland from erosion and extreme weather events.</p>
<p>*Scope of the review:-</p> <p>To evaluate with partners what is being achieved in mitigating climate change. <i>To look at KCC planning policies to helping to increase resilience.</i></p> <p>Understanding the risk to our agricultural communities. <i>Working with partner organisations to create best practice in managing our land resources.</i></p> <p>To explore the forecasted change to sea levels and its effect on our coast. <i>Monitoring current (and planned) sea defences to evaluate how effective they are in</i></p>

protecting Kent.

***Purpose and objectives of the Review:-**

To make KCC more aware of the challenge of climate change and to see how KCC through its polices can make the county more resilient in a changing climate.

Proposer of the review - (Please print name and sign)

Tony Hills



To be completed by the Directorate/Cabinet Member(s)

Are there any reasons why this review should not be put forward for inclusion in the work programme for 2019/20? (see Note 2 below)

Climate change has not been an issue of a recent KCC select committee review. However, there is currently a significant amount of work underway by the Sustainable Business and Communities Service reviewing the Government's Climate Change Risk Assessment and producing a Risk and Impact Assessment for Kent (CCRIA)

The Sustainable Business and Communities Service are awaiting the release of the detailed data from the Met Office 2018 climate projections to be able to add a detailed Kent and Medway spatial analysis to the first draft of the Kent and Medway CCRIA. This data will be to a level of 2.5km and will give a much clearer picture of the impacts for Kent and Medway and allow for the development of a detailed evidence based Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Kent and Medway. This data will not be available till the Autumn and will then need to be analysed. The development of this work will be overseen by the KCC Kent Environment Strategy Cross Party Member Group.

Therefore, although this is a critical issue as identified through the recent County Council Time Limited Motion relating to Net Zero and Climate Emergency passed on the 22 May this year which commits KCC to develop a Kent and Medway Climate Change Adaptation Plan, it is not the right time to undertake a review as there will not be full access to crucial evidence.

Once the full CCRIA is complete and the draft Adaptation Plan developed towards the end of this year or early 2020, then the need for a KCC select committee review should be revisited. This will also coincide with the first early analysis of what is needed to achieve an accelerated net zero carbon emission target for Kent County Council, the mitigation element of the Time Limited Motion which should be seen in conjunction with any adaptive action.

How will the review contribute to corporate objectives and priorities?

The review does contribute directly to corporate objectives and priorities, but as stated above the timing for the review is not right as the necessary data is not available.

How will this review have an impact on KCC policy development and/or help to influence national policy?

Not applicable at this time for reasons stated above.

How will this review add value to the County Council and residents of Kent?

Not applicable for reasons stated above.

Does the review need to be completed within a specific timeframe? If yes, please give details:

Not applicable at this time for reasons stated above

Any additional comments from the Portfolio Holder/Corporate Director:-

This is a significant issue for Kent and Medway and KCC, and there is a huge amount of related work underway, reporting in to variously CMM, Policy and Resources Committee, Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee, Kent Environment Champions Group and the KCC Kent Environment Strategy Cross Party Member Group.

It is recommended that the need for a KCC select committee review is revisited at the end of this year, early 2020 after the Climate Change Risk and Impact Review is completed and a draft evidence-based adaptation action plan developed.

It is also recommended that may be appropriate at that time, Scrutiny Committee to consider whether a separate KCC select committee is called, or whether the proposer might lead the examination but through the existing KCC Kent Environment Strategy Cross Party Member Group.

Portfolio Holder's Signature:- Mike Whiting

Corporate Director's Signature:-

Contact Officer:-

Carolyn McKenzie

Date:-

18/07/2019