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**By:** Bryan Sweetland - Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste  
Carolyn McKenzie – Enterprise and Environment

**To:** Environment, Highways & Waste Cabinet Committee

**Date:** 4 July 2012

**Subject:** Kent Environment Strategy Targets and 'Climate Local Kent'

**Classification:** None

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**Summary:**

This paper summarises progress towards developing core targets for the Kent Environment Strategy for the Kent Forum to own and recommends that these targets be used as the basis for development of a 'Climate Local Kent' agreement.

**Recommendation:**

Environment, Highways and Waste Cabinet Committee are asked to:

- 1) Provide feedback on the draft Kent Environment Strategy and Climate Local Kent targets
- 2) Endorse KCC as part of 'Climate Local Kent', becoming an early signatory of the national Climate Local Government initiative, with a launch planned for September at the Kent Environment Strategy Conference.

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**1. Introduction and background**

1.1. At the Kent Forum on 8 February 2012 a request was made for a set of targets to be agreed for the Kent Environment Strategy that the Forum would monitor on a more regular basis.

1.2. There are already a number of existing targets within the Kent Environment Strategy; the targets that are being proposed for closer monitoring are those that are considered to be particularly challenging and would benefit from strong partnership working.

1.3 In parallel the Government is in the process of developing 'Climate Local' which will be the national framework for climate change agreements and targets which local government will be asked to sign up to and which can be adapted to reflect local conditions. This was launched at the LGA conference at the end of June.

1.4 The draft targets put forward in this paper will form the basis of a suggested approach for a 'Climate Local Kent' agreement taking a pragmatic approach and based on Kent's ambitions and the Environment Strategy. The agreement will be circulated for consultation once the Government has launched the national framework

with the recommendation that Kent becomes an early signatory to the national framework.

1.5 In addition, as a result of the ongoing partnership work between KCC and Kent districts to implement the Kent Environment Strategy and latterly developing the outline for 'Climate Local Kent', Kent has been selected to sit on the national steering group and will be presenting at one of the two Climate Local Information days.

## **2. Targets and timetable**

2.1. Appendix 1 sets out the suggested draft targets where confirmed, with an indication of where further baseline data is required before targets can be set. As previously mentioned it is proposed that these targets form the basis of Kent's Climate Local agreement with a proposed launch of 'Climate Local Kent' at the Kent Environment Strategy Conference in Autumn this year. Targets will be developed at the Kent level, but with the flexibility for reflection of local conditions at the District level, similar to the Kent Environment Strategy. Further consultation will be needed.

2.3 The sub-targets and baseline data will be finalised by the end of July and the Environment Strategy and the final targets will be a substantive item on the 20 July Kent Forum meeting.

## **3. Monitoring**

3.1. Once agreed the targets will be monitored on a six monthly basis through the Forum and Kent Joint Chief Executives.

## **4. Next Steps**

- Consult further on DRAFT targets (attached) – if anyone has any comments about these being used as the basis for Climate Local Kent, please contact Carolyn McKenzie (contact details below)
- Discuss the finalised targets as part of a more detailed Kent Environment Strategy agenda item at the next Forum meeting on 20 July
- Launch the targets as part of a 'Climate Local Kent' agreement, if this is supported by the Environment, Highways and Waste Cabinet Committee and the Kent Forum

## **5. Recommendations**

Environment, Highways and Waste Cabinet Committee are asked to:

- 1) Provide feedback on the draft KES and Climate Local Kent targets
- 2) Endorse KCC as part of 'Climate Local Kent', becoming an early signatory of the national Climate Local Government initiative, with a launch planned for September at the Kent Environment Strategy Conference.

### **Background Documents:**

The Kent Environment Strategy

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APPENDIX 1		
Focus	Target	Outcome Link to Kent's 3 Ambitions
<b>Saving money, cutting carbon</b>	<p><b>2.6% reduction per year in carbon emissions, 34% by 2020, 60% 2030 (Already in KES – baseline to be agreed)</b></p> <p>Sub indicators proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon and water emissions in public buildings, homes and businesses – including new build</li> <li>• Take up of the Green Deal (TBC)</li> <li>• 2 % increase in bus use, 5% decrease in journeys to school by car</li> <li>• 10% increase in renewable energy generation in Kent (proposed)</li> </ul>	<p>Energy savings Reduction in carbon emissions Increase in renewable energy generation</p> <p><b>Ambition Board 1:</b> increased competitiveness <b>Ambition Board 2:</b> Reduction in fuel poverty, energy savings for residents</p>
<b>Using water resources wisely</b>	<p><b>Reduction in annual household water consumption to 140 litres per person per day by 2016, 130 litres by 2030 (baseline 156 litres)</b> <b>(Already agreed in KES)</b></p>	<p>Better use of water resources, water security Avoidance of water poverty issues <b>Ambition Board 1:</b> resilience to water shortages <b>Ambition Board 2:</b> Avoidance of water poverty</p>
<b>Growing the green economy</b>	<p><b>% increase in jobs/GVA from the low carbon and green economy (TBC by Regeneris study).</b> To include renewable energy and resource efficiency including waste (South East 7 waste initiative, to be developed) and apprentices.</p>	<p>Growth in green jobs sector</p> <p><b>Ambition Board 1:</b> Growing the economy</p>
<b>Building climate resilience</b>	<p><b>The Environment Agency will aim to attract £2.6m in partnership funding during 2012/13 and £3m in 2013/14 (2013/14 target to be reviewed 2013).</b></p> <p><b>Increase in number of homes protected - 4500 households will move out of one flood probability category to a lower category by end March 2014.</b></p> <p><b>Community resilience: 15 community resilience plans by end</b></p>	<p>Increased resilience to flooding</p> <p><b>Ambition Board 1 &amp; 2:</b> increased resilience to flooding</p>

	<b>March 2014</b>	
<b>Valuing our natural and historic environment</b>	<p><b>Reducing the rate of decline in biodiversity and ensure there is no net loss of semi-natural habitat in the county' through positive management of local wildlife sites and habitats – (Target TBC)</b></p> <p><b>20% increase in volunteer hours spent in the environment (TBA)</b></p>	<p>Increased value from the natural and historic environment</p> <p><b>Ambition Board 2 &amp; 3</b></p>