

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TAKEN BY:**

**David Brazier - Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport**

**DECISION NO:**

14/00070

**For publication**

**Subject:** A decision is being sought regarding approval for KCC to procure, on behalf of the Kent and Medway Sustainable Energy Partnership, a sustainable energy retrofitting framework for Kent and Medway and appoint a number of preferred tenderers to the framework following the procurement process. The decision is to set up a framework rather than agree any future spend through it.

The framework will be available for use across Kent by all district authorities and could support projects in all electoral divisions.

**Decision:**

As Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport, I agree to the establishment of the Sustainable Energy Retrofitting Framework and:

1. Agree that KCC acts as lead authority to establish the framework and run the procurement process.
2. Agree that KCC manages the framework to support districts and registered housing provider partners to call off for specific projects within their district
3. Agree that KCC supports project development to facilitate district and partner run projects
4. Agree that KCC will facilitate the delivery of measures to private residents through the framework
5. Agree that where KCC draws from the framework all proposed future spend will go through the established KCC approval process.
6. Agree to delegate authority to Director of Environment, Planning and Enforcement to sign the Award report and contracts when preferred tenderers are appointed to the framework.

**Reason(s) for decision:**

The Kent and Medway Sustainable Energy Retrofitting Framework will help to grow the Kent economy by supporting local businesses to access funding and a route to market for low carbon technologies. It supports putting the citizen in control by simplifying the complex nature of the national energy efficiency funding market and helps local residents to access national government funding and relevant finance to enable them to make their properties more energy efficient and so save money on energy bills. It tackles disadvantage by providing funding and support for those vulnerable residents in fuel poverty.

This will contribute to the delivery of the key priorities for Environment, Planning & Enforcement as identified in the Strategic Priority Statement 2014/15, specifically::

- The 'Kent Environment Strategy' - EF1.1: We will simplify the energy and water efficiency support landscape for Kent residents and support development of and access to, finance mechanisms such as the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation (ECO)
- Build a strong relationship with key business sectors across Kent (this will support the growth of the low carbon sector in Kent)
- Respond to key regeneration challenges working with our partners
- Improve services for the most vulnerable people in Kent (this will tackle issues around fuel

poverty)

- Links to the low carbon sector priorities in the Kent and Medway Growth Plan

For these reasons, I am approving the project.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

Partnership proposals were reported to and supported by the Environment, Highways & Waste Cabinet Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012. The procurement of this framework represents next steps in this approach.

**Any alternatives considered:**

The following options were considered and rejected by the Kent and Medway Green Deal Partnership:

Option 1): Become a Green Deal Providers - this was deemed to hold too great a financial risk to the local authority.

Option 2): Promote Green Deal and energy efficiency generally but with no specific involvement – this option was considered to be too passive to really achieve the aims of the partnership in terms of supporting local businesses and facilitating local residents to access funding and make energy efficiency improvements. In particular this did not fully address the priorities of Bold Steps.

Option 3): Do nothing

The partnership proposals were reported to and agreed by the Environment, Highways & Waste Cabinet Committee on 15th November 2012. Procurement of this framework represents next steps in the approach

**Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:**

None

signed

date

7<sup>th</sup> July 2012