

From: Matthew Balfour Cabinet Member Environment and Transport
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To: Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee 9 April 2015

Subject: Process for Reviewing the Kent Environment Strategy

For Information

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Electoral Division: Kent Wide

Summary:

This paper is for information and outlines the process, timescale and subsequent consultation for the review of the Kent Environment Strategy, including opportunities for Members to engage and provide feedback.

Recommendation:

Members are asked to consider and endorse the proposed process, timescale and consultation for the review of the Kent Environment Strategy.

1. Introduction

1.1 This paper sets out the process, timescale and consultation for reviewing the Kent Environment Strategy including opportunities for Members to engage and provide feedback.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 The review of the Kent Environment Strategy will have no direct impact on the Council's spending plans. Projects related to the delivery of the Kent Environment Strategy where they have any financial impact will be the subject of future papers where appropriate.

3. Policy Framework

3.1 The current Kent Environment Strategy 'Growing the Garden of England – A Strategy for Environment and Economy 2011' delivered Priority 5 of Bold Steps for Kent. The revised version will deliver several aspects of all three of the outcomes of the new Strategic Statement 2015-2020 and specifically 'Kent Communities feel the benefit of economic growth by being in-work, health and enjoying a good quality of life.' In addition, the Kent Environment Strategy is a cross cutting strategic priority of the Growth, Environment and Transport Business Plan.

4. Process for the review of the Kent Environment Strategy

4.1 The current Kent Environment Strategy was agreed in 2011. Since then there have been a number of policy changes nationally and locally as well as wide spread recession and significant reductions in public spending.

These changes, together with the recognition of strong synergies between health and the environment which are not accounted for in the existing strategy, clearly indicate the need for the Strategy to be reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose.

4.2 The review of the Kent Environment Strategy is being undertaken in three stages outlined below:

- Stage 1: Completed end Feb 2015: Evidence and data review, covering progress to date linked to key indicators, an activity review and a gap analysis. The results of this initial review, including working with key partners is informing the identification of future priorities. Findings will be documented in the Kent State of the Environment Report which is currently in draft.
- Stage 2: March – July 2015: Development of priorities, strategic actions and drafting of the Strategy, including a KCC Member Briefing.
- Stage 3: 21st July Sept 30th: Consultation

It is proposed that the Draft Strategy be brought back to the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on the 21st July for discussion and approval to consult with the aim of gaining agreement for the revised Strategy in autumn.

4.3 Member engagement in the development of the Strategy is welcomed. A Member briefing is planned for July and Members are invited to make contact if they would like to discuss further. For more information please contact Carolyn.mckenzie@kent.gov.uk

5. Recommendation

Members are asked to consider and endorse the proposed process, timescale and consultation for the review of the Kent Environment Strategy.

6. Background Documents

The Kent Environment Strategy: Growing the Garden of England – A Strategy for Environment and Economy ([hyperlink](#))

Kent State of the Environment Report (when complete)

7. Contact details

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