

From: Matthew Balfour, Cabinet Member – Environment and Transport
Barbara Cooper, Corporate Director – Growth, Environment and Transport

To: Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee – 21 July 2015

Subject: Consultation for the Kent Environment Strategy 2015

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper: Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee – 9 April 2015

Future Pathway of Paper: Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee – 4 December 2015, Cabinet – January 2016

Electoral Division: Countywide

Summary:

This paper follows on from an item at the 9 April 2015 Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee outlining the process for the review of the Kent Environment Strategy and seeks approval to consult with the public and stakeholders on the refreshed Kent Environment Strategy (enclosed).

Recommendation:

Cabinet Committee Members are asked to consider and comment on the refreshed Kent Environment Strategy enclosed, and agree to the consultation with the aim of gaining agreement for the Strategy at the end of the year.

1. Introduction

1.1 This paper follows on from an item at the 9 April 2015 Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee outlining the process for the review of the Kent Environment Strategy and seeks approval to consult with the public and stakeholders on the refreshed Kent Environment Strategy.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 The review of the Kent Environment Strategy has no direct impact on the Council's spending plans. Projects related to the delivery of the Kent Environment Strategy with 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 outcomes of the new Strategic Statement 2015-2020 and specifically 'Kent Communities feel the benefit of economic growth by being in-work, healthy 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 Directorate.

4. Process for the review and consultation of the Kent Environment Strategy

4.1 The document enclosed is the Draft Kent Environment Strategy for consultation.

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

- Stage 1: Completed end February 2015. This stage consisted of: an evidence and data review incorporating progress to date linked to key indicators; an activity review with key stakeholders; a public perception survey and a gap analysis. The result of this initial review, working with key partners, has informed the identification of future priorities. Findings are documented in the Kent State of the Environment Report which is currently in draft. The State of the Environment Report forms the evidence base, underpinning the Kent Environment Strategy.
- Stage 2: March – July 2015. This stage has consisted of development of strategic priorities and drafting of the Strategy with partners.
- Stage 3: End of July – September 30th. Consultation
- Stage 4: July to December. This stage will consist of the development of an Implementation Plan to provide the detailed framework within which the Kent Environment Strategy outcomes will be delivered.

There will be a Members Briefing in September. For more information about the Strategy or the consultation process please contact Carolyn.mckenzie@kent.gov.uk

5. Recommendation

Cabinet Committee Members are asked to consider and comment on the refreshed Kent Environment Strategy, and agree to the consultation with the aim of gaining agreement for the Strategy at the end of the year.

6. Background Documents

The draft Kent State of the Environment Report

Kent Environment Strategy 2011-2015

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/environment-waste-and-planning-policies/environmental-policies/kent-environment-strategy>

Strategic Environmental Assessment

www.kent.gov.uk/kesconsultation (from the 21 July 2015)

(All available on request)

7. Appendices

Appendix A – Equality Impact Assessment

8. Contact details

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