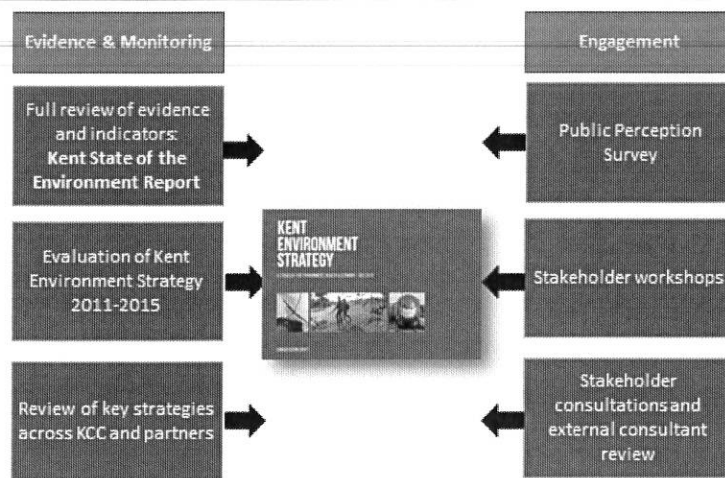


FORTHCOMING EXECUTIVE DECISIONS LIST SUBMISSION

Reference: Democratic Services to fill	Key? Reason?
Title: Kent Environment Strategy: A strategy for environment, health and economy	
Proposed decision: Adoption of the refreshed Kent Environment Strategy: A strategy for environment, health and economy	
Decision details	
Decision taker: Matthew Balfour, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport Expected date: 4 th December 2015	
Further information	
<p>Background</p> <p>The previous <i>Kent Environment Strategy</i> ran from 2011-2015, delivery multiple partnership projects and outcomes¹. In light of the strategy coming to an end and significant changes in Government and policy, a refresh has been undertaken, resulting in the development of the <i>Kent Environment Strategy: A strategy for environment, health and economy</i>. The public consultation on the proposed strategy took place from 27th July 2015 – 25th September 2015.</p> <p>The process for consultation was endorsed by the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on 21st July 2015 and comments from the consultation and wider stakeholder engagement have been reflected in the final draft proposed for adoption. A paper on the final draft of the strategy will be taken to Cabinet Committee on 4th December and County Council on 10th December.</p> <p>The vision of the strategy is that <i>The county of Kent is benefitting from a competitive, innovative and resilient economy, with our natural and historic assets enhanced and protected for their unique value and positive impact on our society, economy, health and wellbeing.</i></p> <p>Through the 10 strategic priorities identified by stakeholders and partners, the strategy seeks to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A competitive and resilience economy, with business innovation in low carbon and environmental services driving economic growth. • Communities and businesses will be saving money through resource efficiency whilst preparing for severe weather and its impacts through an increased awareness of environmental risks and opportunities. • Residents will have a high quality of life, saving money in warmer, healthier homes and benefitting from the many services provided through natural and historic assets, both within their communities and across the county. <p>A summary of the process for development of the strategy is given below:</p>	

¹ State of the Environment report 2015



How the proposed decision meets the objectives of ‘Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council’s Strategic Statement (2015-2020)’

The strategy directly delivers across the objectives and outcomes of KCC’s Strategic Statement. In particular, a number of priorities align as follows:

KCC’s strategic outcome	Kent Environment Strategy priority
Children and young people in Kent get the best start in life	Priority 9: Improve the county of Kent’s environmental, social and economic resilience to environmental change (sub-priority 9.1: Increase awareness of the impacts of severe weather and environmental change and empower businesses and communities to build resilience)
	Priority 10: Supporting growth in the rural economy and low carbon and environmental services sector (sub-priority 10.3: Support skills development to facilitate growth)
	Priority 6: Improve our resource efficiency, including energy and water (sub-priority 6.2: Improve the resource efficiency of our homes through delivery of retrofitting programmes, reducing costs and improving health outcomes for the most vulnerable).
Kent communities feel the benefits of economic growth by being in-work, healthy and enjoying a good quality of life	Priority 1: Bridging gaps in understanding our risks and opportunities to identify actions
	Priority 5: Conserve and enhance the quality and supply of the county of Kent’s natural and historical resources and assets
	Priority 6: Improve our resource efficiency, including energy and water
	Priority 7: Ensure sustainable access and connectivity for businesses and communities
	Priority 8: Influence future sustainable growth for the county of Kent
	Priority 9: Improve the county of Kent’s environmental, social and economic resilience to environmental change
	Priority 10: Supporting growth in the rural economy and low carbon and environmental services sector
Older and vulnerable residents are safe	Priority 6: Improve our resource efficiency,

and supported with choices to live independently

including energy and water (sub-priority 6.2: Improve the resource efficiency of our homes through delivery of retrofitting programmes, reducing costs and improving health outcomes for the most vulnerable).

In addition, Theme 1 of the strategy focusses on building the foundations for action, following the principles of KCC's commissioning toolkit.

Financial Implications (inc. budget ref)

There are no direct budget implications as resources will be project and activity specific. There will be some core staff time spent delivering against the priorities identified but no projects will be commissioned without a clear evidence base identifying need and strategic fit as per KCC's commissioning approach. Where a priority is clearly identified but resources for delivery do not already exist, external funding will be sought in partnership to ensure best use of resources and prevent duplication of effort. A key priority within Theme 1 of the strategy has been developed to support this approach (3.2: *Establish a coordinated approach to identifying and maximising funding opportunities, establishing mechanisms for co-delivery as appropriate*).

Legal Implications

None

Equalities implications

A full EqIA has been carried out and is available on the consultation pages (www.kent.gov.uk/kesconsultation)

Consultation

Is any consultation planned or has already been undertaken?

Consultation was undertaken throughout the development of the strategy with partners across public, private and voluntary sectors. In addition public consultation was held from 27th July 2015 – 25th September 2015. All papers including EqIA, SEA and background evidence for the strategy are available at www.kent.gov.uk/kesconsultation

Cabinet Committee consultation planned or undertaken. If planned – which meeting do you wish to attend:

The final draft of the strategy, taking into account feedback from the consultation, is on the agenda for the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee (4th December 2015) and will be going to County Council on 10th December.

Which Divisions / Local Members are particularly affected:

<http://kent590w3:9070/mgFindMember.asp>

The strategy is a partnership document, with strategic cross-County priorities. We would be happy to provide a briefing to any interested Members. A Member briefing was held on 30th September 2015 to provide an update on the results of the consultation.

Have views been sought from local members? If not please confirm that they will be sought and included in any report to Cabinet Committee / Cabinet Member.

Local Members are represented on several of the key groups and forums who have been engaged throughout the development of the strategy and the consultation. A paper has previously gone to Kent Leaders to provide an update on the process and the consultation was widely circulated across District and Borough Councils and through the Information Point bulletin.

Exemptions

N/A

Supporting documents

- Consultation draft: Kent Environment Strategy: A strategy for environment, health and economy
- State of the Environment report (evidence base underpinning the development of the strategy)
- Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Summary of Public Perception Survey

All of the above documents are available on www.kent.gov.uk/kesconsultation

For further information or to make representations

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