

KENT UTILITIES ENGAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

9 Members

Conservative – 7; Liberal Democrat – 1; Labour – 1

(Invitee: Independent – 1)

Responsibility and outcomes:

1. This Sub-Committee is responsible for engaging with utility providers and regulators operating in the Kent area.
2. The goal of the Sub-Committee is to achieve better alignment of utilities planning and connections to planned growth across Kent and to improve the quality of life of Kent citizens.
3. The Sub-Committee will highlight examples of good and bad practice and work with utility providers to devise and promote effective utility strategies that align with the development plan process, making suggestions for improvement and engaging with national regulators where appropriate.
4. The Sub-Committee will use regular engagement with key partners in the utility and development sectors to improve communication, avoid unnecessary duplication and increase transparency.
5. The Sub-Committee will take the approach of focussing on one utility sector at a time, using best practice from the previous Sub-Committee sessions that focussed on the water companies.

Governance:

6. The Sub-Committee is a sub-committee of the Scrutiny Committee.
7. The Sub-Committee provides a report to the Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis, or more regularly if required.
8. The Sub-Committee will meet three times a year, with additional meetings arranged as required.
9. As a partnership meeting, attendance of relevant external parties is encouraged in the spirit of joint-working but will be on a voluntary basis.

Agenda setting:

A work programme will be maintained by the Growth, Environment & Transport directorate, developed in consultation with Members, partner agencies, utility providers and regulators.