

From: Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste and Michael Payne, Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste

To: Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee – 13th June 2019

Subject: Kent & Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy – Draft for Public Consultation

Classification: Unrestricted

Electoral Division: All

Summary:

This report introduces the Final Draft of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy for Public Consultation. Public Consultation will run for 12 weeks from June 11 to September 2, 2019.

The Report highlights the specific actions and impacts for Corporate Services for the Policy and Resources Committee to comment on.

A version of this Report and the draft Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy were considered by the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on 24th May 2019. That committee recommended the draft Strategy be consulted upon, as outlined in this Report.

Recommendation(s):

The Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and note the draft Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy and the specific actions for Strategic and Corporate Services.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In November 2017, Kent & Medway Chief Executives and Leaders endorsed the need for a multi-agency Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES), as a sub strategy to the Kent Environment Strategy, with KCC taking the lead in co-ordinating its development collectively with Medway Council, Kent Districts and other key partners.
- 1.2 The Draft Strategy has been developed in consultation with officers across KCC and Kent and Medway Districts as well as being shaped by the KCC Kent Environment Strategy Cross Party Members Group that meets every six weeks and the KCC Environment Board. The draft Strategy can be found in Appendix 1.

2. Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy – Purpose and Aims

- 2.1 The purpose of the Strategy is to identify an evidence-based pathway to deliver clean growth and specifically strategies and actions to eliminate poor air quality, reduce fuel poverty and deliver an affordable, clean and secure energy supply for Kent and Medway.

- 2.2 The UK Government's Clean Growth Strategy 2017 defines clean growth as - growing our income while: continuing to cut greenhouse gas emissions; ensuring our energy is secure, affordable and sustainable and protecting the climate and environment (air, land, water) on which future generations depend.
- 2.4 The Energy and Low Emissions Strategy makes the link between supply of energy for housing, industry and transport and air quality, recognising that by reducing the negative emissions from the former will lead to improvements in the latter. It takes an integrated approach, identifying measures that will support growth and promote the development of an affordable, clean and secure energy supply and transport system for residents, business and the public sector as well as improving the quality of the air we breathe.
- 2.5 The Strategy has four strategic aims and follows the three Kent Environment Strategy (KES) Themes. ELES identifies priorities for the next five years. The Strategic aims and Themes are shown in Figure 1. There will be a detailed one-year Implementation Plan, after which actions will be incorporated into the Kent Environment Strategy and be monitored through the KES Governance process, including the continued strategic overview of the KES Cross Party Member Group.

Figure 1: ELES Strategic Aims:

1. EVIDENCE: Provide an ongoing evidence and intelligence base; linking data sets to identify hot spots and opportunities, and to build the business case for action across Kent and Medway
2. POLICY AND STRATEGY: Facilitate the development of evidence-based policy and strategy to future proof growth, tackle emerging issues and realise opportunities
3. LEADERSHIP: Support the public sector across Kent and Medway to play a strong leadership role with regards to challenges and opportunities
4. ACTION: Facilitate increased and accelerated action and implementation across Kent and Medway

THEME 1: BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR DELIVERY – where decisions makers have an evidence-based understanding of the risks and opportunities relating to energy and emissions and are incorporating them into strategies, plans and actions

THEME2: MAKING THE BEST USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES, AVOIDING OR MINIMISING NEGATIVE IMPACTS – where existing infrastructure, assets and resources across the public, private and domestic sector are managed to reduce emissions and build a clean future energy supply

THEME 3: TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE – where Kent and Medway's communities, businesses and public sector have embraced clean growth and are working towards developing a clean, affordable and secure local energy future

3. Specific Opportunities for KCC Corporate Services and Policy and Resources Committee

3.1 As previously stated, this is a Kent and Medway Strategy. Specific opportunities and proposed actions for KCC have been discussed and developed with the KCC KES Cross Party Member Group (CPMG), Corporate Management Team and the KCC Environment Board chaired by Barbara Cooper, Corporate Director for Growth, Environment and Transport. The delivery of the Kent Environment Strategy objectives is a key theme in KCC's asset management plan.

3.2 Due to the broad scope of the Strategy, there are opportunities and actions required by all services across KCC. The proposed actions that fall within the remit of corporate services are summarised in Appendix 3, covering the following functions:

- Strategic Commissioning
- Infrastructure (Property and ICT)
- People and Communications

4. Consultation and Engagement

4.1 A comprehensive Consultation and Engagement Strategy is being drafted. The ELES will be available in hard copy in selected libraries and country parks and will be made available to schools and others on request. A survey is being developed and the results of that survey will be taken back to Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee, as well as being publicly available. Appendix 2 outlines some of the key activities. Consultation responses will be analysed and addressed as appropriate by the Sustainable Business and Communities Team.

5. Financial Implications for KCC

5.1 This report relates to the Strategy itself and not individual costed actions. As projects that KCC are involved in are developed, the supporting evidence and any cost implications will be identified, and the full business case and ROI outlined through the appropriate governance processes. To date £4.5m of investment and £15m savings have been made across the KCC and schools' estate through implementation of low carbon and energy efficiency measures. This from an initial KCC investment of £340k provides match funding for the Salix-KCC energy efficiency invest-to-save fund, with repayments to the fund re-used for future projects. Co-ordination of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy falls within the remit of existing GET teams and there will be no additional impact on current budgets.

GET officers will continue to identify and co-ordinate bids for additional external funding and work with corporate colleagues to secure projects. These funding options will be included in the specific business case for individual projects.

6. Policy Framework

6.1 This paper and the activity within it is directly linked to KCC Strategic Outcomes and to the Kent Environment Strategy and its Implementation Plan. It is also relevant to the emerging Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Kent's Public Health Outcomes.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken earlier in the process and was appended to the paper presented to committee in September 2018. This has been updated to incorporate findings from an EQIA carried out for electric vehicle charging across Kent. There are no significant negative impacts. As this Strategy is aimed at improving health outcomes, there are likely to be more positive equality impacts than negative, particularly for Age, Maternity and Disability. As individual projects are brought forward, Equalities Impact Assessments will be completed at the project planning stage. See Appendix 4

8. General Data Protection Regulation Considerations

8.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessment is not needed as this Strategy does not require the processing of personal data.

9. Conclusions, Next Steps and Timescales

9.1 This report introduces the Final Draft of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy for Public Consultation. Public Consultation will run for 12 weeks from June 11 to September 2, 2019. Comments will be evaluated, and a final Draft Strategy will be taken to Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee in November 2019 together with a draft Implementation Plan and Evidence Base. If required, a further paper can also be brought back to Policy & Resources Cabinet Committee. Further work will continue throughout this period with partners and stakeholders to finalise the Implementation Plan.

10. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s):

The Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and note the draft Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy and the specific actions for Strategic and Corporate Services.

11. Background Documents

Kent Environment Strategy – www.kent.gov.uk/environmentstrategy

12. Contact details

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