

**From:** Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste

Michael Payne, Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste

Barbara Cooper, Corporate Director, Growth, Environment and Transport

**To:** Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee – 26 June 2019

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

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Past Pathway of Paper:** Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee - 24 May 2019

**Future Pathway of Paper:** Not Applicable

**Electoral Division:** All

**Summary:**

This report introduces the Final Draft of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy for Public Consultation. It is proposed that Public Consultation will run for 12 weeks from 1 July 2019 to 23 September 2019. Comments will be evaluated, and a final Draft Strategy will be brought to ETCC in November 2019 together with a draft Implementation Plan and Evidence Base.

The Report highlights the specific opportunities and actions for the economy, businesses and communities for the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee (GEDCCC).

**Recommendation(s):**

The Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member as to the:

1. Specific opportunities and actions for economy, businesses and communities.
2. Any further avenues of engagement that should be undertaken during the public consultation phase

**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.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 In addition, KCC have developed an electric vehicle action plan. The key actions from this plan have been incorporated into the Energy and Low Emissions Strategy and will be consulted on as part of the main consultation process.
- 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.
- 2.6 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 on request. A survey is being developed and the results of that survey will be brought back to the Environment and 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.

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 issues and opportunities for the economy, business and communities

- 3.1 Moving to a clean growth economy, requires a step change in the way that development is delivered, how the economy runs and how our communities work, particularly in relation to energy and air quality. This has been recognised by Government through the Industrial Strategy Clean Growth Grand Challenge and by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership in the [‘Energy South2East’ tri-LEP Energy Strategy](#) launched in April, which was developed by the South East LEP in partnership with Coast 2 Capital, Enterprise M3 LEPs and working closely with Kent and Medway.
- 3.2 Specific Growth, Economic Development and Communities areas where there will need to be some particular focus to incorporate clean growth priorities include:
  - Kent Design – clean growth implications to be reflected in current refresh, including energy and air quality and sustainable building design

- Strategic planning policies – for example in relation to new developments to incorporate consideration of local decentralised energy generation (district heating systems, smart energy networks), alternative fuelled vehicle and active and sustainable travel infrastructure to drive down emissions from transport with stronger links to Section 106 where possible
- Enterprise and Productivity Strategy and the Local Industrial Strategy – support to grow the low carbon goods and environmental services sector as demand for new and emerging technologies increases replacing traditional energy supplies, heating systems and vehicles.
- Community Wardens Programme - Support for vulnerable residents to improve energy inefficient properties and connect to the gas grid through thus reducing fuel poverty as well as carbon emissions
- Support for residents to choose more active travel and utilise public rights of way more for commuting, thus reducing the impacts of road travel on air quality and carbon emissions

#### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 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 business case outlined through the appropriate governance processes. Coordination of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy falls within the remit of existing teams and there will be no additional impact on current budgets.

#### **5. Policy Framework**

5.1 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 Kent & Medway Enterprise and Productivity Strategy, Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Kent's Public Health Outcomes. Further details are provided in the earlier paper.

#### **6. Equalities Impact Assessment**

6.1 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 EV 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 3.

## 7. General Data Protection Regulation Considerations

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

## 8. Conclusions, Next Steps and Timescales

8.1 This report introduces the Final Draft of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy for Public Consultation. It is proposed that Public Consultation will run for 12 weeks from 1 July 2019 to 23 September 2019. Comments will be evaluated, and a final Draft Strategy will be brought to ETCC in November 2019 together with a draft Implementation Plan and Evidence Base. Further work will continue throughout this period with partners and stakeholders to finalise the Implementation Plan.

## 9. Recommendation(s)

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**The Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee** is asked to consider and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member as to the:

1. Specific opportunities and actions for economy, businesses and communities.
2. Any further avenues of engagement that should be undertaken during the public consultation phase

## 10. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy

Appendix 2 - Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy – consultation activity

Appendix 3 - EQIA

## 11. Background Documents

Kent Environment Strategy – [www.kent.gov.uk/environmentstrategy](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environmentstrategy)

## 12. Contact details

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