

Is the final decision on the recommendations in this report to be made at this meeting?

**Yes****Draft Kent & Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy – Council’s Consultation response**

<b>Final Decision-Maker</b>	Cabinet
<b>Portfolio Holder(s)</b>	Councillor Dr Ronen Basu – Portfolio Holder for Sustainability
<b>Lead Director</b>	Paul Taylor – Director of Change and Communities,
<b>Head of Service</b>	Gary Stevenson – Head of Housing, Health and Environment
<b>Lead Officer/Author</b>	Karin Grey – Sustainability Manager
<b>Classification</b>	Non-exempt
<b>Wards affected</b>	All

**This report makes the following recommendations to the final decision-maker:**

1. That the Council’s consultation response to the draft Kent & Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy set out in Appendix C is agreed and submitted to Kent County Council.

**Explain how this report relates to the Corporate Priorities in the Five Year Plan:**

- Our Borough: Through sustainable growth supporting prosperity, wellness and inclusivity.
- Providing Value: By working in partnership the strategy identifies priorities that it is valuable to address at a Kent and Medway wide level.

**Timetable**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Agreed for publication by Portfolio Holder	13 August 2019
Agreed for publication by Head of Service	13 August 2019
Management Board	31 July 2019
Cabinet Advisory Board	21 August 2019
Cabinet	12 September 2019

# Draft Kent & Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy – Council’s Consultation response

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report introduces the consultant draft of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES). The ELES is open for public consultation from July 1 to September 23 2019 and the proposed response from this Council is set out in Appendix C. The draft Strategy and evidence base can be found in Appendix A and B.
  - 1.2 The delivery of the Strategy is being led by Kent County Council, (KCC), but has been developed in partnership with Medway, Kent local authorities and partners.
  - 1.3 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, improve energy efficiency and deliver an affordable, clean and secure energy supply for Kent and Medway.
  - 1.4 Cabinet are asked to consider and agree the proposed consultation response as set out in Appendix C.
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## 2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 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 Unitary, Kent Districts and other key partners.
- 2.2 The Borough Council adopted the Kent Environment Strategy in October 2016 to bring benefits in terms of its integrated approach in key areas of environment, growth, economy and health.
- 2.3 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 ELES is timely as it outlines a possible approach for this Council to progress its ambition of being carbon neutral by 2030. Further to its declaration at Full Council 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 of a global climate and biodiversity emergencies.
- 2.5 The ELES makes the link between supply of energy for housing, industry/business 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 and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, which is essential if we are to meet our commitments.

- 2.6 The Strategy has four strategic aims and follows the three Kent Environment Strategy (KES) Themes. ELES identifies seven priorities for the next five years. The Strategic aims and themes are shown below in Figure 1. In due course a detailed one-year Implementation Plan will be developed in partnership with Medway and Kent local authorities, after which actions will be incorporated into the Kent Environment Strategy and be monitored through the Kent Environment Strategy Governance process.
- 2.7 As this is a Kent and Medway Strategy the priorities identified are those that it is valuable to address at a Kent and Medway wide level.

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 decision 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

**THEME 2: 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

2.8 The Council's consultation response is set out in appendix C and makes recommendations in terms of the Strategies aims and themes as detailed in figure 1 above.

2.9 Importantly the Borough Council notes that KCC at its meeting 23 May 2019 declared a climate emergency and through the framework of the Energy and Low Emissions Strategy KCC will facilitate the setting and agreement of a target of net zero emissions by 2050 for Kent and Medway. Equally, KCC will by May 2020 set an accelerated target with an associated action plan for its own estate and activities including those of its traded companies using appropriate methodologies.

2.10 The Borough Council as part of the ELES consultation recommends that the ELES is more ambitious in its targets and sets an ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030 in line with the Full Council Motion agreed in July 2019 declaring its recognition of global climate and biodiversity emergencies.

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### **3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS**

3.1 Option 1: To support the consultation response as set out in Appendix C and approve its submission as the Borough Councils response to the ELES consultation.

3.2 Option 2: To not submit a response. This is not recommended as the Council has adopted the Kent Environment Strategy and the ELES is a sub strategy of this. The ELES is also a partnership document and by not submitting a response is a lost opportunity to influence the final Strategy document.

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### **4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 Option 1: To support the consultation response as set out in Appendix C and approve its submission as the Borough Councils response to the ELES consultation.

4.2 By approving its response to the ELES consultation the Council clearly states its recommendations for the final Strategy document, which in due course will be brought forward with the proposal for adoption by County, Medway unitary and Kent local authorities.

4.3 Cabinet Advisory Board's recommendations as set out in para 5.4 have been added to the consultation response.

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### **5. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK**

5.1 The draft ELES was developed by KCC via stakeholder engagement through a dedicated cross sector working group, workshops and consultations. Organisations and partners involved in the development of the strategy include all Local Authorities in Kent & Medway, Kent Fire and Rescue Services and the

NHS amongst others. Further details on partnership engagement can be found on page 13 of the Strategy document.

- 5.2 A consultation response to the draft ELES has been co-ordinated by collating feedback from departments across this council and management board, based on the consultation questionnaire.
- 5.3 The Council's consultation response as set out in Appendix C, recognises that the ELES can be a key document to enable the transition to a low carbon economy, providing the ELES is taken into account at all levels of decision making. Specific comments are made on the seven challenges as set out in the strategy and on each of the 'three' themes and on the proposed indicators.

#### **RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET ADVISORY BOARD**

- 5.4 The Communities and Economic Development Cabinet Advisory Board were consulted on this decision on 21 August 2019 and agreed the following:

That the recommendations set out in the report be supported subject to:

1. the Council's consultation response be enhanced by the following additional suggestions for the draft ELES:
    - a. the need for more 'specific actions', particularly around infrastructure routes, rather than support for general principals
    - b. greater provision of walking and cycling infrastructure to reduce vehicle use
    - c. stronger action on upgrading buses and low emission technology
    - d. the impact of emerging technology such as smart vehicles
    - e. the impact of intensive farming, protecting and improving biodiversity and arboriculture
    - f. lack of a clear end state and measurable milestones on the route to an end state, (target setting)
    - g. greater lobbying of Government on the matter of aviation and maritime pollution
  2. All stakeholders, including town and parish councils, community groups and individuals, being encouraged to submit their own responses to the consultation.
- 5.5 The recommendations as agreed by the Cabinet Advisory Board have been incorporated into the consultation response in questions 4, 6 and 12a. The recommendation for a more ambitious target to be carbon neutral by 2030 is set out in question 5. The full consultation response is set out in Appendix C.
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## 6. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

- 6.1 The approved consultation response will be submitted to KCC by the deadline of 23 September 2019 in line with the consultation requirements.

## 7. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
<b>Legal</b> including Human Rights Act	No direct legal implications.	Karin Grey Sustainability Manager 12 August 2019
<b>Finance</b> and other resources	This report relates to the Strategy itself and not individual costed actions. As future projects are developed, the supporting evidence and any cost implications will be identified, and the business case outlined through the appropriate governance processes.	Karin Grey Sustainability Manager 24 July 2019
<b>Staffing establishment</b>	<p>The consultation response to the Strategy is delivered within the existing council resources.</p> <p>In terms of the Councils ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030, it is envisaged this will be progressed through the implementation of the Energy and Low Emission Strategy and as such recognises additional staffing resource will need to be identified and agreed as part of the councils appropriate governance process.</p>	Karin Grey Sustainability Manager 24 July 2019
<b>Risk Management</b>	<p>The purpose of the strategy is to facilitate increased and accelerated action and implementation across Kent and Medway.</p> <p>By not supporting the delivery of an Energy and Low Emission Strategy the Council runs the risk of not meeting the targets as specified in the Climate Change Act 2008 as amended 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019. Or the ambition as set out in the adopted global climate and biodiversity emergencies motion adopted at Full Council 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019.</p>	Karin Grey Sustainability Manager 24 July 2019
<b>Data Protection</b>	A Data Protection Impact Assessment is not needed as this Strategy does not require the processing of personal data.	Karin Grey Sustainability Manager 24 July 2019

<p><b>Environment and Sustainability</b></p>	<p>The Strategy supports clean growth whilst protecting and enhancing the environment including biodiversity and reducing emissions.</p> <p>However, it is advised that emissions are reduced as quickly as possible in line with the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), report 2018. Therefore, it is recommended that the ambition to achieve zero emission by 2030 is pursued.</p>	<p>Karin Grey Sustainability Manager 24 July 2019</p>
<p><b>Community Safety</b></p>	<p>There are no community safety issues.</p>	<p>Karin Grey Sustainability Manager 24 July 2019</p>
<p><b>Health and Safety</b></p>	<p>This report is a consultation response therefore there are no health and safety implications.</p>	<p>Karin Grey Sustainability Manager 24 July 2019</p>
<p><b>Health and Wellbeing</b></p>	<p>This 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.</p> <p>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 thereby improving air quality, reducing carbon emissions and supporting public health.</p>	<p>Karin Grey Sustainability Manager 24 July 2019</p>
<p><b>Equalities</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>As individual projects are brought forward in due course, Equalities Impact Assessments will be completed at the relevant project planning stage.</p>	<p>Karin Grey Sustainability Manager 24 July 2019</p>

## 8. REPORT APPENDICES

The following documents are to be published with and form part of the report:

- Appendix A: Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Consultation draft: Supporting delivery of the Kent Environment Strategy July 2019
  - Appendix B: Evidence Base
  - Appendix C: Proposed response to the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy Consultation
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## 9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Kent Environment Strategy <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/environment-waste-and-planning-policies/environmental-policies/kent-environment-strategy>
- CAB98/16 Cabinet paper Adoption of the Kent Environment Strategy <https://democracy.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/meetings/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=1179>
- Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy Consultation portal and supporting documentation <https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/energyandlowemissionconsultation/consultationHome>
- Full council: 17 July 2019 Motion to Declare its recognition of global climate and biodiversity emergencies <http://democracy.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/meetings/documents/s43943/11%20Alternative%20Motion.pdf>
- Global warming of 1.5°C (International Panel on Climate Change, 2018) <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>
- Net Zero – The UK’s contribution to stopping global warming (Committee on Climate Change, 2019) <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/net-zero-the-uks-contribution-to-stopping-global-warming/> and <https://www.theccc.org.uk/2019/05/02/phase-out-greenhouse-gas-emissions-by-2050-to-end-uk-contribution-to-global-warming/>

## Appendix A: Strategy Document

To be inserted.

## Appendix B: Evidence Base

To be inserted.

Appendix C: Proposed Tunbridge Wells Borough Council response to the Energy and Low Emission Strategy document.