

Subject:	KENT AND MEDWAY ENERGY AND LOW EMISSIONS STRATEGY (ELES)
Meeting and Date:	Cabinet – 11 January 2021
Report of:	Roger Walton, Strategic Director (Operations and Commercial)
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Trevor Bartlett, Leader of the Council
Decision Type:	Key
Classification:	Unrestricted
Purpose of the report:	To brief Cabinet on the development of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy and to seek approval for the Council to commit to meeting the objectives set out in the Strategy and underlying Implementation Plan.
Recommendation:	<p>Cabinet is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome the development of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy as an excellent involvement of the collaboration between Councils across Kent. 2. Commit to meeting the objectives set out in the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy and underlying Implementation Plan in so far as it is consistent with this Council's corporate priorities and to the extent that resources will allow.
1. Summary	
1.1	The Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES) sets out the Kent and Medway response to the UK Climate emergency, and how partnership working with Authorities across Kent will drive clean, resilient economic recovery across the county. The strategy identifies 10 priority actions to promote the development of an affordable, clean and secure energy supply for the county, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, eliminate poor air quality and reduce fuel poverty.
1.2	The aim of the ELES is to drive change within the community through partnership working. The Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will be the inward facing driver for DDC to take action.
1.3	This report seeks approval for the adoption of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy, and the underlying Implementation Plan.
2. Introduction and Background	
2.1	The Kent Environment Strategy (KES), which the Council committed to in May 2018, is the framework under which the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy sits and supports the delivery of the Kent Environment Strategy.
2.2	The ELES outlines the intended approach across Kent and Medway to achieving the target of net zero emissions by 2050 in line with the Government ambition.

- 2.3 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 and deliver an affordable, clean and secure energy supply for Kent and Medway.
- 2.4 The ELES 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 ELES was recently considered by both the Kent Chief Executives Group and the Kent Leaders Group. The ELES itself has been some time in its preparation and has gone through a number of consultation processes as well as consideration of issues created by the COVID 19 pandemic.
- 2.6 The four strategic aims of the Strategy follow the themes set out in the Kent Environment Strategy: -
- **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
 - **Policy and Strategy:** Facilitate the development of evidence-based policy and strategy to future proof growth, tackle emerging issues and realise opportunities
 - **Leadership:** Support the public sector across Kent and Medway to play a strong leadership role with regards to challenges and opportunities
 - **Action:** Facilitate increased and accelerated action and implementation across Kent and Medway
- 2.7 10 priority actions are identified and form the basis of the Implementation Plan: -
- Priority 1: Emissions Reduction Pathways to 2050;
 - Priority 2: Public Sector Decision Making;
 - Priority 3: Planning and Development;
 - Priority 4: Climate Emergency Investment Fund;
 - Priority 5: Building Retrofit Programme;
 - Priority 6: Transport, Travel and Digital Connectivity;
 - Priority 7: Renewable Energy Generation;
 - Priority 8: Green Infrastructure;
 - Priority 9: Supporting Low Carbon Business;
 - Priority 10: Communications.
- 2.8 The Strategy and underlying Implementation Plan links to the Council's own Climate Change Strategy and Action Plans and reflects existing Council activity, including
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report (emissions recorded and reported on since 2008/09);
 - Building Research Establishment (BRE) funded housing, benefit, energy performance datasets – to better inform targeting of energy efficiency measures and private sector/ HMO works;
 - Funded schemes such as Warm Homes Fund, Local Authority Delivery Scheme to assist vulnerable/ low income and residents in receipt of certain benefits to achieve affordably warm homes;

- Involvement in the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Scheme to enable referrals for financial assistance for heating/insulation measure for residents on a low income with a vulnerability to living in a cold home;
- Solar Together Kent scheme to encourage the uptake of renewable energy;
- Annual report on the actions taken Council wide that support the Kent Environment Strategy;
- Development of DDC Air Quality Plan.

3. Identification of Options

- 3.1 To confirm Council commitment to the ELES and Implementation Plan
- 3.2 Not agree to support the ELES and Implementation Plan

4. Evaluation of Options

- 4.1 Confirmation to support the ELES and Implementation Plan is the preferred option. This will reflect the Council's commitment to the 'green agenda' and endorses the Council's own Climate Change emergency declaration.

5. Resource Implications

- 5.1 There are no specific financial implications in agreeing to support the ELES. However, if the Council is to achieve its ambition to reduce emissions to net zero by 2030, then the resource implications will need to be considered across all Council business/projects/activities in order to achieve net zero ambition.

6. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

- 6.1 Committing support of the ELES acknowledges the need for partnership action to realise countywide ambition. It also reinforces support for National and International agenda set out in the Clean Growth Strategy, Fuel Poverty Strategy for England, the Paris Accord, and the forthcoming COP26. The ELES also reflects the Council's ambition set out in Dover District Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and the sentiments of the Corporate Strategy.

7. Corporate Implications

- 7.1 Comment from the Director of Finance (linked to the MTFP): Members are reminded that the Council's revenue and capital resources are under pressure and so they will wish to assure themselves that all proposals progress the Council's priorities, are the best option available and will deliver value for money. (DL)
- 7.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make. (HR)
- 7.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: This report does not specifically highlight any equality implications, however in discharging their duties members are required to comply with the public sector equality duty as set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/149>

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy

9. Background Papers

None.

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