

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

STREET SCENE and ENVIRONMENT SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

08 December 2020

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 KENT AND MEDWAY ENERGY AND LOW EMISSIONS STRATEGY

To endorse the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy, recognising the links between the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 The purpose of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES) is to identify an evidence based pathway to deliver clean growth and strategies and actions to eliminate poor air quality, reduce fuel poverty and deliver an affordable, clean and secure energy supply for Kent and Medway. The strategy includes the commitment to meet the UK Government target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 for the country.
- 1.1.2 The ELES has undergone a public consultation and has also been further amended to reflect the Covid-19 pandemic. The final strategy is attached as Annex 1 of this report.
- 1.1.3 The strategy outlines Kent and Medway's approach to achieving a reduction in carbon emissions and improvements in air quality. The aims of the strategy are:
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.

- 1.1.4 Within the strategy there are 10 priority action points, highlighted in the table below, the full set of priority actions can be found on pages 15-28 of the strategy.

Table 1: Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy 10 Priority Actions
<p>PRIORITY 1: EMISSION REDUCTION PATHWAYS TO 2050 Set area and organisational five-year carbon budgets and emission reduction pathways to 2050, with significant reduction by 2030.</p>
<p>PRIORITY 2: PUBLIC SECTOR DECISION MAKING Develop a consistent approach across Kent and Medway, to assess, manage and mitigate environmental impacts (both positive and negative), resulting from public sector policies, strategies, service delivery, commissioning and procurement.</p>
<p>PRIORITY 3: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT Ensure climate change, energy, air quality and environmental considerations are integrated into Local Plans, policies and developments, by developing a clean growth strategic planning policy and guidance framework for Kent and Medway, to drive down emissions and mainstream climate resilience.</p>
<p>PRIORITY 4: CLIMATE EMERGENCY INVESTMENT FUND Establish a trusted Kent and Medway 'Climate Emergency' carbon sequestration, offset and renewable energy investment scheme and fund.</p>
<p>PRIORITY 5: BUILDING RETROFIT PROGRAMME Set up a Kent and Medway net-zero buildings retrofit plan and programme for public sector, domestic and businesses.</p>
<p>PRIORITY 6: TRANSPORT, TRAVEL AND DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY Set up a smart connectivity and mobility modal shift programme – linking sustainable transport, transport innovations, active travel, virtual working, broadband, digital services, artificial intelligence and behaviour change.</p>
<p>PRIORITY 7: RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION Set up an opportunities and investment programme for renewable electricity and heat energy generation</p>
<p>PRIORITY 8: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE Develop a multi-functional, natural capital opportunity and investment programme – focusing on environmental projects that store carbon, increase climate change resilience, improve air quality and increase biodiversity.</p>
<p>PRIORITY 9: SUPPORTING LOW CARBON BUSINESS Develop a support programme for Kent and Medway's Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services sector.</p>
<p>PRIORITY 10: COMMUNICATIONS Develop a comprehensive communications, engagement and behaviour change programme targeted at residents, employees, businesses and visitors.</p>

1.2 Link to Council initiatives and plans

- 1.2.1 The intention of the ELES is to recognise the climate emergency and the need to take significant action in the next 10 years in order to achieve net zero emissions for the country by 2050. The Tonbridge and Malling Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan identifies the aspiration of carbon neutrality within 10 years, working in partnership on the priorities in the ELES will help to achieve this ambition.

- 1.2.2 The Tonbridge and Malling Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) which is due to go out to public consultation early January also has synergies with the ELES. The AQAP focusses on four broad priority topics (transport, planning and infrastructure, policy guidance and public health and wellbeing) all of which fit with the aims and objectives of the ELES.
- 1.2.3 The ELES is to be formally adopted at the Kent and Medway Net-Zero Conference on 27 November 2020. Once adopted, District Councils will work in partnership to support the implementation of the priority actions.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 None

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 N/A

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 N/A

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.6.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.7 Policy Considerations

- 1.7.1 Biodiversity & Sustainability
- 1.7.2 Climate Change
- 1.7.3 Community
- 1.7.4 Healthy Lifestyles

1.8 Recommendations

- 1.8.1 That the Borough Council **ENDORSE** the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy, supporting implementation in line with existing Council Climate Change and Air Quality objectives.

The Chief Executive confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

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Nil

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