

Climate Change Emergency CAG recommendations

Extraordinary Cabinet	22 February 2022
Report Author	Dr Hannah Scott, Climate Change Officer
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Bob Bayford, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Special Projects
Status	For Decision
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No
Ward	District Wide
Previously Considered by	Climate Change Cabinet Advisory Group - 13th December 2021

Executive Summary:

Kent County Council (KCC) have finalised The Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emission Strategy which lays out the route to create a low emission county and reach net zero by 2050 for the whole of Kent.

The strategy documents can be found on their website [here](#), along with a short video.

The strategy has been approved by all the relevant committees and Kent Leaders in 2020:

- July 2020: Approval at KCC's Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee
- 29th September: Kent Chief Executives (endorsement and support for LA adoption)
- 8th October: Kent Leaders (endorsement and support for LA adoption)
- 27 November 2020: The Strategy was formally launched at the Kent and Medway Net-Zero Conference.

This is an opportunity to endorse their strategy and also provide support to reach net zero in the district within our powers and resources, bringing us in line with the government's legally binding pledge to make the UK net zero by 2050.

We can assist with the reduction in emissions across Thanet through work that we are already carrying out. This includes the action on insulating homes that our Home Energy Officer is doing and the work on sustainable transport that the Air Quality and Planning departments are doing. Climate change information produced by the Climate Change Officer and TDC Comms team can help residents reduce their carbon footprint.

Further details of these actions will be laid out in the TDC Net Zero Strategy which is currently being drafted.

Recommendation(s):

1. Thanet District Council endorses the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emission Strategy

2. In alignment with this endorsement, the following paragraph is added to the Council's climate change pledge:
'Do what is within our powers and resources to support KCC, the Government, business, industry and the community to make Thanet, as a whole, net zero by 2050.'

Corporate Implications

Financial and Value for Money

Recommendation 1: There are no financial implications to the endorsement of this strategy.

Recommendation 2: The Council's ability to address its climate change pledge is restricted by the resources available. The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-25 set out that it is inevitable that further resources will need to be prioritised to deliver the Council's climate change objectives. The Council continues to call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible.

The recommendations include the words "within our power and resources" to acknowledge our limitations.

Legal

In 2019, the UK became the first major economy in the world to legislate binding targets to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

These recommendations bring us in line with the government's legally binding pledge to make the UK net zero by 2050.

Corporate

Thanet District Council called a Climate Emergency on 11th July 2019. As part of this declaration the Council resolved to:

- Pledge to do what is within our powers and resources to make Thanet District Council carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;
- Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
- Continue to work with partners across the County and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies;
- Investigate all possible sources of external funding and match funding to support this commitment;

Many councils also added a pledge to support the 2050 net zero aim for the whole of the district and by doing so will bring us in line with the government's targets.

Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty

The Equality Impact Assessment for the Kent and Medway ELES can be found [here](#).

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- *Environment*
- *Communities*

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Climate Change Cabinet Advisory Group approved the following recommendation on December 13th 2021:
- 1) **TDC endorses the Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES) and Implementation Plan;**
 - 2) **In alignment with the endorsement of the ELES, the following paragraph is added to the TDC climate change pledge:**
 - **Do what is within our powers and resources, working with KCC, the government, business, industry and the community to make Thanet as a whole net zero by 2050.**
- 1.2 After further investigation into the wording within the final KCC implementation plan, the Climate Change Officer recommends that it would be wiser to bring the implementation plan to a later meeting due to possible cost and resource implications. District councils are being asked to lead on an action which may be better coordinated at KCC level. Feedback has been given to the KCC Climate Change Network on the implementation plan and this will be discussed at the next KCC Network meeting.
- 1.3 A small change has also been made to the wording of the pledge. Given the need for KCC to lead on many actions in the ELES for a fully coordinated action plan involving all the districts in Kent, the words in the recommended climate change pledge was changed from “working with KCC” to “support KCC” by the Climate Change Officer.

2.0 Options

- 2.1 Approve the recommendations laid out in this report.
- 2.2 Do not approve the recommendations laid out in this report

Contact Officer: *Dr Hannah Scott, Climate Change Officer*
Reporting to: *Gavin Waite (Corporate Director - Communities)*

Annex List: N/A

Background Papers:

Kent and Medway ELES: Link [here](#)

Corporate Consultation

Finance: *Chris Blundell (Director of Finance)*

Legal: *Estelle Culligan Director Law and Democracy*