

# NET ZERO 2030 UPDATE & KENT AND MEDWAY ENERGY AND LOW EMISSIONS STRATEGY

Cabinet - 10 December 2020

**Report of:** Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Planning & Regulatory Services

**Status:** For Decision

**Also considered by:** Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee - 9 December 2020

**Key Decision:** Yes

**This reports support the Key Aim of The Council's commitment to Net Zero 2030 made in November 2019.**

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Margot McArthur

**Contact Officer:** Helen French, Ext. 7357;

**Recommendation to Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee:**

To recommend to Cabinet to endorse the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy.

**Recommendation to Cabinet:**

To endorse the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy.

**Reason for recommendation:** To support the Net Zero 2030 commitment.

## Introduction and Background

- 1 The Council have committed to working towards achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030, known as Net Zero 2030. An action to deliver this commitment is as follows:
  - Support the delivery of Kent and Medway's Energy and Low Emissions Strategy
- 2 The purpose of this report is to provide members with a summary of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES) including any specific implications for Sevenoaks District.
- 3 Cabinet is asked to endorse the ELES to support the Net Zero 2030 commitment.

## Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy

- 4 The Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy sets out how Kent County Council, in partnership with Medway Council and the Kent district councils, will respond to the UK climate emergency and drive clean, resilient economic recovery across the county.
- 5 Using an evidence based approach, 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.
- 6 These priorities are:
  - **Emission Reduction Pathways to 2050**  
Set five-year carbon budgets and emission reduction pathways to 2050 for Kent and Medway, with significant reduction by 2030.
  - **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.
  - **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 incorporate climate resilience.
  - **Climate Emergency Investment Fund**  
Establish a trusted Kent and Medway 'climate emergency' carbon offset scheme and renewable energy investment fund.
  - **Building Retrofit Programme**  
Develop Kent and Medway net-zero buildings retrofit plans and programmes for public sector, domestic and business.
  - **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.
  - **Renewable Energy Generation**  
Set up an opportunities and investment programme for renewable electricity and heat energy generation.
  - **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 soil health and increase biodiversity.

- **Supporting Low Carbon Business**  
Develop and implement a Kent and Medway business recovery and support programme to cut costs and win new business.
- **Communications**  
Develop a comprehensive communications, engagement and behaviour change programme targeted at residents, employees, businesses and visitors.

7 Each priority has a series of immediate, short (by 2023) and longer term (by 2030) high level activities.

8 The strategy also sets out a series of monitoring indicators to ensure activities and projects remain efficient and to evaluate progress.

### **Implications for Sevenoaks District**

9 The ELES is a sub-strategy of the Kent Environment Strategy and is linked to other strategies supported by SDC including the Growth and Infrastructure Framework, Biodiversity Strategy and Transport Strategies.

10 The ELES aligns with the Net Zero 2030 work already being undertaken by the Council. Including:

- Ensuring climate change considerations are included in the emerging Local Plan.
- Supporting projects to enhance existing, and create new, green infrastructure and habitats.
- Increasing the electric vehicle charging infrastructure within the District.
- Improving the energy efficiency of council buildings and reducing carbon emissions.
- Ensuring climate change and the Net Zero 2030 commitment is considered in decision making.

### **Next Steps**

11 The strategy has been produced on behalf of all 14 Kent and Medway local authorities, and the actions will be taken by the authorities and various private and public sector partners.

12 The strategy has been agreed by Kent County Council (KCC), the Kent Chief Executives Group and the Kent Leaders Group.

- 13 The ELES will be regularly reviewed. Progress reports and the latest indicators will be published online.
- 14 SDC will continue to work closely with KCC to deliver the strategy. We will ensure the ELES is considered and referenced in relevant policies including the Local Plan and in the Net Zero 2030 work.

### **Other Options Considered and/or Rejected**

The Council have made a commitment to Net Zero 2030 and agreed an action to support the Kent and Medway ELES.

### **Key Implications**

#### Financial

Funding for the Net Zero 2030 commitment will be met from existing budgets.

#### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

No legal implications have been identified.

#### Equality Assessment

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.

### **Conclusions**

The Council have committed to Net Zero 2030 and have identified actions to go towards this target. Endorsing the Kent and Medway ELES fulfils one of the stage 1 actions.

#### **Appendices**

Appendix A - Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy June 2020

#### **Background Papers**

None

**Richard Morris**

**Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Planning and Regulatory Services**