

CLIMATE LOCAL SEVENOAKS

Council - 17 December 2013

Report of	Chief Housing Officer
Status:	For Decision
Also considered by:	Cabinet – 5 December 2013 Local Planning and Environment Advisory Committee - 19 November 2013
Key Decision:	No

This report supports the Key Aim of:

- a) Housing Strategy;
- b) Community Plan; and
- c) Climate Local Kent.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Ian Bosley

Contact Officer(s) Gavin Missons, Housing Policy Manager (x7332)

Recommendation to Local Planning & Environment Advisory Committee: That Members support the adoption of *Climate Local Sevenoaks* (Option A / Appendix A) and recommend it to Cabinet for approval as District Council policy;

Recommendation to Cabinet: That Members support the adoption of *Climate Local Sevenoaks* and recommend it to Full Council for approval as District Council policy; and

Recommendation to Full Council: That Members adopt *Climate Local Sevenoaks* as District Council policy.

Reason for recommendation: To contribute towards wider *Climate Local Kent* targets and provide the policy framework for related work programmes, as required by the Climate Change Act 2008.

Background

- 1 The District Council has a number of roles, responsibilities and legal duties in relation to energy efficiency, fuel poverty and climate change. Being a major employer, property holder, and operating a large transport fleet, the District Council has the scope to achieve significant carbon savings across its operations.

- 2 As community leader, the District Council also has a key role in influencing behavioural change through advice, promotion and administering a range of related schemes aimed at reducing fuel poverty, improving thermal efficiency, cutting carbon use, and creating more sustainable communities.

Climate Local

- 3 *Climate Local* is a Local Government Association (LGA) initiative to drive, inspire and support local authority action on a changing climate. The initiative supports 'mitigation' measures (address the root causes by reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and 'adaptation' measures (lower the risks posed by the consequences of climatic changes). *Climate Local* supersedes the *Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change*, which was previously adopted by the District Council (10/07).
- 4 In response to the above, Kent County Council and its public sector partners, which include all Kent district/borough councils, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue, and Kent and Medway NHS Trust, jointly developed *Climate Local Kent* and this was subsequently supported by the Kent Forum.
- 5 Key aims of *Climate Local Kent*, are:
- To help deliver public services that are resource efficient, less carbon intensive and resilient;
 - Protect those who are most vulnerable to climate impacts; and
 - Make sure that buildings and operations are resource efficient, use clean energy, and are well prepared for the impacts of a changing climate.
- 6 A number of contributory *Climate Local Kent* targets relate to employment in the low-carbon sector, green economy, low-carbon retrofit in the domestic and commercial sectors, reducing water consumption, and managing the effects of extreme weather. These targets correspond with the District Council's own Community Plan and other corporate strategy.

Developing District-level targets

- 7 Having agreed with the broad principles of *Climate Local Kent*, each district/borough council is then open to adjust targets and tactics to suit local circumstances, e.g. demographics, business profiles and infrastructure etc.
- 8 Members are therefore presented with two options, as follows:
- (i) Option A: Adopt District targets in line with *Climate Local Kent* (local targets and comparisons included at Appendix A).

County targets have been scaled-down to district/borough level by assuming an equal proportion for each respective authority. Consideration was then given to the local population, housing stock types/numbers and condition, major infrastructure and business, planning restrictions and deprivation.

A reduction was subsequently applied to some targets to reflect limited scope for savings in the Sevenoaks District. This provides a more realistic set of commitments and targets to work towards at District level, whilst still demonstrating a local commitment to wider Kent outcomes; or

- (ii) Option B: Members work with Officers to develop a bespoke action plan with associated targets.

With Climate Local covering the whole remit of operations and services, input would be required from departments across the District Council (and other advisory boards, if a move away from generally agreed strategy).

Next steps

- 9 If Option A were agreed, Officers would produce a summary of existing and planned measures to achieve related targets. This would then be made available on the Member Portal, with reviews and updates taking place biennially.
- 10 If Option B were agreed, Officers would await instruction from the Advisory Board as to the process it would like to follow.

Interim strategy

- 11 With domestic and commercial sector activity mostly relying on private sector investment, strategy continues to focus on advice and promotion, encouraging behaviour change, and signposting to schemes through organisations better equipped to offer assistance. This approach is frequently reviewed to ensure resources are maximised. With Green Deal placing the onus back on households to fund low-carbon retrofit, key associated strategy revisions are underway.
- 12 Officers are also working with partners to prepare a District-wide project to deliver the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) element of Green Deal. This project will provide retrofit measures at nil-cost for certain households and/or on particular properties. This will be the District's key retrofit programme through 2014 and the District Council will be seeking to maximise its share of an £80-million pot of funding, which was secured as part of a Kent consortium.
- 13 With regard to the District Council's own property, transport fleet and associated operations, work continues to reduce carbon and achieve (often consequential) financial savings as part of budget planning. These areas of activity are reported to Members in more detail by the departments concerned and span all portfolios.
- 14 The District Council's Energy Conservation and Initiatives Officer continues to create new and innovative approaches to deliver related strategy. This work is a key contributor to health and economic development outcomes in wider community strategy.

Reviewing and monitoring progress

- 15 It is proposed to report key progress back to the Advisory Committee two-years from plan approval. The latest Community Plan also includes a target to achieve at least 80% of targets and commitments contained in (what will become) *Climate*

Local Sevenoaks. Quarterly reports against the Community Plan will allow Members to monitor related strategy more frequently, should they wish to do so.

- 16 Strategy will be adapted as when changes are required, ensuring the District Council responds in the most effective way it can with available resources. If any changes require a significant move away from generally agreed policy, the Advisory Committee will be further consulted.
- 17 Related data is provided at Appendix B to enable Members to gauge effectiveness of current strategy and provide a baseline from which to monitor progress from this point onwards.

Key Implications

Financial

Option A does not require additional finances. The level of success of this strategy in relation to the community (outside of District Council operations) will, however, be dependent on the availability of direct and indirect external funding.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

The Climate Change Act 2008 places responsibility on local authorities to address climate change risks in their area and to put in place positive actions to reduce carbon emissions in line with Central Government policies. *Climate Local Kent* was developed having regard to these requirements and *Climate Local Sevenoaks*, as currently proposed, corresponds with this requirement.

There are a number of risks associated with not adopting climate related targets, including:

- i. Not complying with the Climate Change Act 2008;
- ii. A lack of response to the national policy guidance and associated targets;
- iii. A lack of community leadership in relation to climate change – a key role for local authorities, as per Government guidance;
- iv. Not delivering key components of the Community Plan and associated sub-strategies; and
- v. Not seeking to maximise on consequential financial savings.

Community Impact and Outcomes

Key outcomes of Option A would be a greener and healthier environment (both key components of the Community Plan) whilst also maximising resources by creating a more environmentally and financially sustainable District.

Resource (non-financial)

Option A would not require additional non-financial resources.

Value For Money and Asset Management

- The policy at Option A is structured in the District Council's corporate interest;
- There would be no additional impact on accommodation required to implement Option A;
- There would be no impact on operating hours or affect operating costs with Option A;
- Option A would help to decrease the environmental impact of the District Council and generate less CO²; and
- Option A would help to achieve financial savings for the District Council.

Equality Impacts

Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty:		
Question	Answer	Explanation / Evidence
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to disadvantage or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	There are no adverse equality impacts in relation to this policy
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have the potential to promote equality of opportunity?	Yes	Positive action - assistance would be directed towards vulnerable and lower-income households helping to promote equality of opportunity
c. What steps can be taken to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		None required

Sustainability Checklist

Policy focuses on positive measures – no negative impacts identified.

Appendices

Appendix A – Climate Local Kent/Sevenoaks

Appendix B – Related baseline data

Background Papers:

[Climate Local Kent \(target references\)](#)

Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change (latest policy approach considered against previous)

[Community Plan](#)

DECC data (relevant data sources in baseline
Appendix B)

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Pat Smith
Chief Officer for Housing

APPENDIX A

CLIMATE LOCAL KENT/SEVENOAKS (TARGETS / COMPARISONS)

CLIMATE LOCAL (KENT)	CLIMATE LOCAL (SEVENOAKS)
We will work towards a cut in emissions of 2.6% annually in Kent by 2020 which will see an overall reduction of 34% in our emissions	<p><i>Reduce carbon emissions in domestic sector - 2010 baseline (5.7t per capita)</i></p> <p><i>Reduce carbon emissions in road transport sector - 2010 baseline (1.5t per capita)</i></p> <p><i>Reduce carbon emissions in industry and commercial sector - 2010 baseline (1.6t per capita)</i></p> <p><i>(targets are not reflective of Kent's as these do not include major roads and infrastructure or larger commercial activity etc., which are outside of the District Council's remit – target data will be developed in 13/14)</i></p>
We will encourage renewable energy installations and we want to see Kent increase its energy from renewable sources by 10% by 2020	<p><i>Adopt same target</i></p> <p><i>(no baseline data – officers will also need to test strategy tactics in this area and may need to reconsider target at later date)</i></p>
We will work towards retrofitting of homes across Kent, beginning with 1,000 households in 2013 through the work of the Kent and Medway Green Deal Partnership	<p><i>Scaled down 1/12 and target reduction of 20% = 67 retrofit measures for 2013</i></p> <p><i>(2014 onwards to be agreed once more is known about initial take-up of Green Deal and related ECO activity)</i></p>
We will work with at least 500 local companies by 2015 to help them cut their energy, waste and water bills. We will give them guidance on how climate change could affect their company and they can plan for it	<p><i>Scaled down 1/12 = 42 x local companies by 2015</i></p>

We will support activity to reduce water consumption in Kent from 160 litres to 140 litres per person per day by 2016	<p><i>Adopt same target</i></p> <p><i>(no baseline data – officers will need to test strategy tactics in this area and may need to reconsider target at later date – limited influence through strategy)</i></p>
We will ensure that 60% of our wildlife sites are being positively managed	<p><i>Adopt same target</i></p> <p><i>(monitoring arrangements will be agreed with KCC and the Kent Nature Partnership)</i></p>
We will work to ensure that 95% of Kent's Sites on Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are in 'favourable' state or 'recovering'	<p><i>Adopt same target</i></p> <p><i>(monitoring arrangements will be agreed with KCC)</i></p>
We will encourage an increase in volunteering with a target of a 20% increase in hours spent and a 20% increase in Kent's residents taking part in organised outdoor activities	<p><i>Adopt same target</i></p>
We will increase flooding resilience in 4,500 Kent homes and bring in £5.6m in partnership funding for flood measures	<p><i>Officers will work with KCC to develop a suitable target at District level and report back progress</i></p>
We will assess all our services for risks and opportunities and build resilience to climate change into our work	<p><i>Now an established policy and service consideration across the District Council</i></p>

<p>We will support local communities in preparing for climate change through the development of 15 community plans for those most at risk or with greatest opportunities</p>	<p><i>TBA</i></p>
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CLIMATE LOCAL (SEVENOAKS) - BASELINE DATA

<p>LA CO₂ emissions (kt CO₂)</p> <p>Dataset: Per capita CO₂ emission estimates; industry, domestic and transport sectors</p> <p>Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates</p> <p>(Appendix A spreadsheet – local and regional CO₂ estimates for 2005-10 – full dataset)</p> <p>Dataset: Per capita CO₂ emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities</p> <p>Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates</p> <p>(Appendix B – emissions within the scope of local authorities for 2005-10)</p>	<p>2005 – 9.9</p> <p>2010 – 8.8</p> <p>(-11% change since 2005 base year to 2010)</p> <p>2005 – 6.4</p> <p>2010 – 5.7</p> <p>(-11% change since 2005 base year to 2010)</p>
<p>Average domestic gas consumption (kWh)</p> <p>Average commercial and industrial gas consumption (kWh)</p> <p>Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/departments-of-energy-climate-change/series/sub-national-gas-consumption-data</p>	<p>2006 - 21,054</p> <p>2011 – 17,025</p> <p>(-19.1% change since 2006 base year to 2011)</p> <p>2006 – 214,365</p> <p>2011 – 226,308</p> <p>(+5.5% change since 2006 base year to 2011)</p>

Average domestic electricity consumption (gWh)	2009 – 252.8
<p>Average commercial and industrial electricity consumption (gWh)</p> <p>Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/sub-national-energy-consumption-statistics</p>	2009 – 237.1
<p>Fuel poor households (all tenures) (%)</p> <p>Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fuel-poverty-2010-sub-regional-data</p> <p>(Appendix C – fuel poverty 2010: sub-regional data)</p>	<p>2012 – 11.9</p> <p>Kent – 13.1</p> <p>SE Region – 11.5</p>
<p>Registered FiT households</p> <p>Source: https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/</p>	
<p>Cavity wall and loft insulation</p> <p>Source: http://tools.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/local_auth/interactive/insulation/index.html</p>	<p>2009/10: 1,731 cavity wall installations (361 x per 10,000 population)</p> <p>2009/10: 1,587 loft installations (331 per 10,000 population)</p>
<p>Domestic solar photovoltaic installation</p> <p>Source: http://tools.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/local_auth/interactive/domestic_solar/index.html</p>	Sep 2012: 548 installations (114 x per 10,000 population)
SDC's own estate and operations (key sources of emissions)	
<p>Direct emissions (2010)</p> <p>Including fuels combustion from boilers; transport fleet</p>	Gas: 99.6 t CO ₂ (2010/11)
<p>Indirect emissions (2010)</p> <p>Including consumption of purchased electricity</p>	Electricity: 475.8 t CO ₂ (2010/11)

Other indirect (2010)	
Including transport-related activities	