

# Minutes

## Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group

Held at:	Remote meeting
Date	Thursday, 5 November 2020
Present	Councillors Connor McConville, Ian Meyers, Lesley Whybrow (Chair) and David Wimble
Apologies for Absence	Councillor Gary Fuller
Officers Present:	Andy Blaszkowicz (Director of Housing and Operations), Kate Clark (Case Officer - Committee Services), Alastair Clifford (Operations Lead Specialist), Fred Miller (Transportation Lead Specialist), Susan Priest (Chief Executive), Hazel Sargent (Low Carbon and Sustainability Specialist) and Charlotte Spendley (Director of Corporate Services)
Others Present:	None

### 16. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### 17. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2020 were agreed. The Chair's signature will be added to these minutes.

### 18. **Laser Energy Update**

Due to unforeseen circumstances an update could not be provided at this meeting.

### 19. **Folkestone & Hythe District Council's Carbon Action Plan**

Members were reminded that the Carbon Action Plan document had been produced to reduce the Council's own carbon footprint to net zero by 2030. It takes as its baseline a study by LASER Energy that uses data from 2018/19 as

an initial starting point. The next step is to present this report to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Members asked about the timings of stages under immediate; short term and medium to long term. It was mentioned that actions in Stage 1, notwithstanding the pandemic, are likely to take effect early in 2021.

Members felt it was important to source energy from local green suppliers, rather than relying on large national companies. This could be incorporated within the Procurement Policy which is to be reviewed.

Overall, members felt this was a very detailed and structured report and thanked officers for its production.

## 20. **Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy**

The Low Carbon and Sustainability Specialist Officer, provided a precis of the Strategy with presentation slides. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Members were given brief comments on the priorities and were advised the strategy would be presented to Cabinet for adoption. However, more analysis is needed to explore how this strategy aligns with the Council's plans and in this respect Cabinet will need the views and input from this working group.

The Chair pointed out that more work around this strategy is needed in readiness for the next Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group meeting.

## 21. **All Member Briefing**

An all member briefing was proposed and working group members felt this was a good step forward. The Chair of this working group would open the session which would include;

- A recap of the original motion proposed in July 2019.
- Invite experts to help deliver the briefing, eg possibly The Carbon Trust.
- Initial scope of the Working Group and how this has been narrowed down.
- Indicate what is currently being carried out by the Council to become carbon neutral.
- Ensure members gain a basic knowledge and terminology understanding of the Carbon Action Plan.
- How the Carbon Action Plan ties in with the Corporate Plan.
- Emphasise short, medium and long term goals.

## 22. **Folkestone and Hythe District Council LED Lamp Post Project**

The Transportation Lead Specialist provided a presentation on the District Street Lighting Review, which is attached to these minutes.

It was noted that up to 70% of the district's street lighting requires replacement or repair. Four options were shown to members looking at costs and carbon emissions savings, option three was the recommended outcome.

Members raised the following points:

- Funding requirement would be £950,000 which would include maintenance if adopted by KCC.
- Lighting in un-adopted roads would continue to be maintained.
- If all street lighting is adopted by KCC this would not include pole brackets, which is street lighting fitted to electricity poles.
- Incorporate roadside EV charging points into poles was suggested, however if KCC adopt the street lights then this is a topic to be covered by the County Council and could be discussed with KCC Transportation.
- Value for money – street lighting stock is ageing and requires upgrading. An initial investment is needed but ultimately savings could be made through KCC adoption, there are also carbon reduction effects.

### 23. **Any Other Business**

The Working Group were asked for their views on the recent announcement from the Department for Transport (DfT) on extra funding for Electrical Vehicle (EV) charging points.

At present the Council's plan is to fund and install 15 EV charging points, however with DfT funding this could be increased to 60.

There are timescales to adhere to, funding needs to be applied for by the end of November 2020 with installation to be completed by end of March 2021.

Members felt this was a good opportunity and an application will be made after reference is made to the portfolio holder for transport, Councillor David Godfrey.

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# Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy

## **PRIORITY 1: 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.

- Agree evidence and current baseline for five-year carbon budgets.
- Set local authority carbon budgets with emission reduction pathways to net zero by 2050, with significant reduction by 2030.

## **PRIORITY 2: PUBLIC SECTOR DECISIONMAKING**

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.

- Develop a simple checklist to identify where significant environmental issues and opportunities may arise, for use on imminent key decisions, major commissions and procurements.
- Revisit existing social value commitments within contracts and align to climate change and net-zero ambitions where possible.
- Stronger emphasis on reducing carbon miles and on buying local goods and services where possible.

### **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 incorporate climate resilience.

- Secure agreement for a joint Kent and Medway clean growth and climate change evidence base and planning resource, to ensure that planning decisions are fully informed by the latest evidence and advice.
- Refresh the Kent Design Guide to reflect clean growth, net-zero and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

### **PRIORITY 4: CLIMATE EMERGENCY INVESTMENT FUND**

Establish a trusted Kent and Medway 'climate emergency' carbon offset scheme and renewable energy investment fund

- Review existing funding streams and see how they can be tweaked to provide additional resource.
- Package up quick wins and 'oven-ready' projects suitable for external funding such as crowd funding or business sponsorship
- Review external funding expertise and opportunities and look at increasing access to finance through collaboration and development of a central resource.

### **PRIORITY 5: BUILDING RETROFIT PROGRAMME**

Develop Kent and Medway net-zero buildings retrofit plans and programmes for public sector, domestic and business.

- Undertake 'quick-wins' in public and commercial premises such as converting lighting to LEDs, installing energy and water efficiency measures and controls and training building managers.
- Utilise and promote existing funding pots: e.g Kent and Medway Warm Homes Programme, LOCASE (Low Carbon Across the South East) grant support programme to improve efficiency of local businesses.

## **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.

- Set a challenging 2030 business miles reduction target for the public sector.
- Work collaboratively with the public and private sector to roll out EV charging points and infrastructure for walking and cycling.
- Support public transport providers, including school transport providers, to use lower emission vehicles.
- Tackle poor air quality hotspots through the implementation of Air Quality Management Plans.

## **PRIORITY 7: RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION**

Set up an opportunities and investment programme for renewable electricity and heat energy generation.

- Install roof-top solar panels on all suitable public sector buildings.
- Support residents and small businesses to install roof-top solar panels, by offering a group purchasing scheme such as Solar Together Kent.

## **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 soil health and increase biodiversity.

- Identify natural environment ‘quick-wins’ and areas where tree establishment is needed, especially in relation to Ash Dieback.
- Produce tree planting guidance to ensure the right tree species are planted in the most appropriate places.



## **PRIORITY 9: SUPPORTING LOW CARBON BUSINESS**

Develop and implement a Kent and Medway business recovery and support programme to cut costs and win new business.

- Support public sector suppliers to complete Steps to Environmental Management (STEM) training (or equivalent), in order to identify supply chain emissions and drive efficiencies where possible.
- Promote and refer businesses and supply chain to LOCASE, for support and access to grant funding to reduce their costs and access new markets.

## **PRIORITY 10: COMMUNICATIONS**

Develop a comprehensive communications, engagement and behaviour change programme targeted at residents, employees, businesses and visitors.

- Link up existing stakeholder communications and agree shared messages on topics such as air quality, fuel poverty, active travel and energy efficiency.
- Use the Kent Environment Strategy Conference as a mechanism to raise the profile of local authority collective action.

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# District Street Lighting Review

# BACKGROUND

- F&H DC owns 1340 street lights - located in car parks, housing land, open spaces and highway
- KCC currently maintain all our street lights
- KCC advised districts in 2018 that they will no longer be able to continue maintenance under current terms
- Lighting stock can be upgraded and transferred to KCC for adoption

# SURVEY FINDINGS

- The majority of assets are ageing

Estimated remaining life (years)	Number of assets
0-5	31
6-10	298
11-15	407
16-20	256
25+	44
Not Tested	29

Page 13

- Recommended repair & maintenance recommendations

Date required	Number of assets
Action required now	31
By May 2022	755
By May 2025	250
Untested	29

# PROJECTED COSTS

Asset	Quantity	Costs for upgrades/repairs
District owned columns	1340	
Columns available for upgrade for KCC adoption	684	£500,000
Remaining assets not suitable for adoption but can be LED upgraded for easier maintenance and energy savings	656	£450,000
Columns requiring urgent repair should adoption not go ahead and ownership remains with FHDC	31	£55,000

# OPTIONS

**Option 1 - Do nothing**, the council continues to maintain and replace the assets as and when necessary.

**Option 2 - Upgrade and keep all lights**, FHDC would upgrade all of its lights to KCC Specification, but keep and maintain them itself

**Option 3 – Upgrade all and transfer where possible**, FHDC would upgrade all street lights and transfer all adoptable assets (684) to KCC

**Option 4 – Upgrade transferable assets and transfer, leave others.** FHDC would upgrade only the transferable assets and transfer all adoptable assets (684) to KCC.

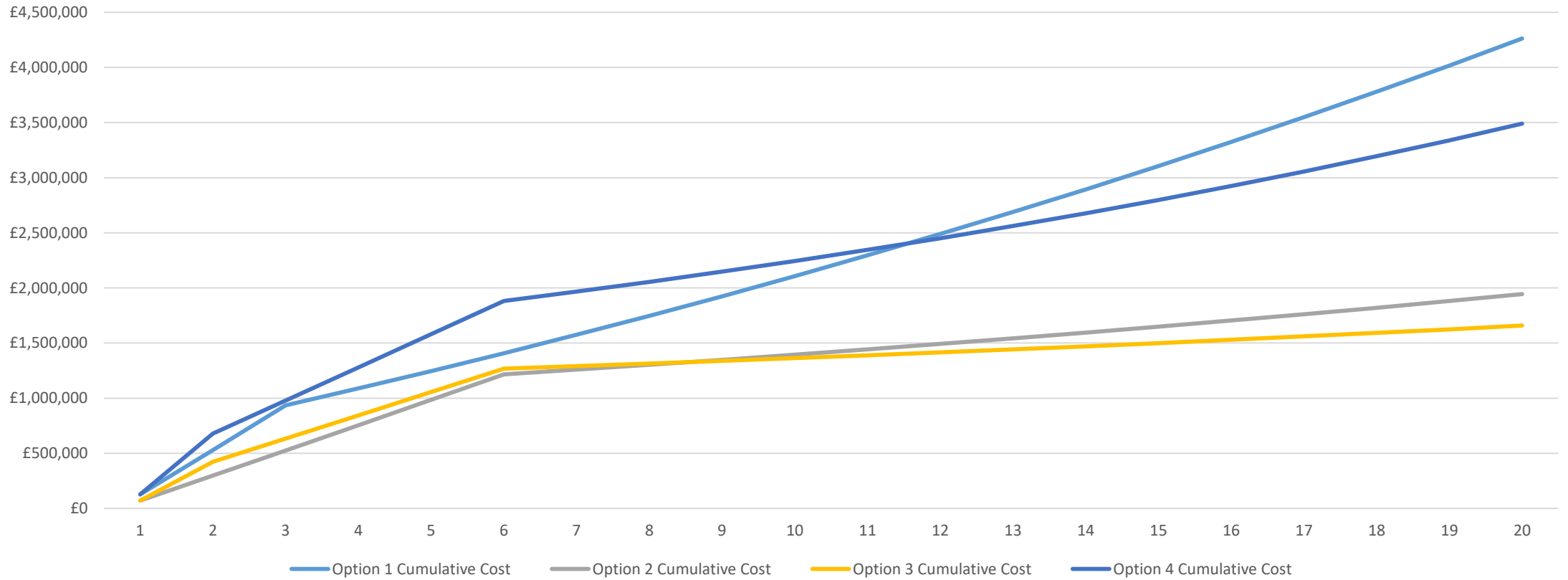
# OPTIONS APPRAISAL

OPTION 1- Do nothing	OPTION 2- Upgrade & keep	OPTION 3- Upgrade & transfer where possible (RECOMMENDED)	OPTION 4- Upgrade only transferable assets, and leave others
Large revenue & capital costs	Reasonable methodology for the future management of the stock	Most appropriate option for the future management of the lights	Remove the burden of transferable assets
Immediate funding of £55k for lights in red status required	Initial investment means a reasonable revenue outgoing for the foreseeable future	Initial investment allows FHDC to remove the burden of half of its stock	The most difficult left in-house so huge revenue costs will continue going forward
Additional funding for light in 'amber' status of £330k 2021-2023	Leaves the district with a large number of lights to maintain long term	Remaining stock will be easier and cheaper to maintain	Works contractor will need to be appointed to manage stock moving forward
Revenue funding of active repairs will remain at £72k pa	No commuted sum but the long term costs will be higher	Huge carbon emissions savings	
Works contractor will need to be appointed to manage stock moving forward	Huge carbon emissions savings	Significant revenue savings long-term	



# COST MODEL

Streetlights Cost Model



# CARBON EMISSIONS SAVINGS

	Existing	Proposed
Number of Lamps	1144	1144
Average Wattage	58.5	20
Average Burn Time	3918	3918
Watts	66924	22880
kWH	262208.2	89643.84
Co2 per kWH	0.256	0.256
kg Co2	67125.31	22948.82
Tons Co2 per year	66.06822	22.58742
SAVING Co2		<b>43.48079</b>
Average cost per kWh	0.127	0.127
Cost to run	£33300.45	£11384.77
Electricity £ Saving		<b>£21915.68</b>

# Questions?

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