

# COMMUNITIES, HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

16<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Is the final decision on the recommendations in this report to be made at this meeting? **Yes**

## Draft Low Emission Strategy Consultation Response

<b>Final Decision-Maker</b>	Communities, Housing & Environment Committee
<b>Lead Director or Head of Service</b>	John Littlemore Head of Housing & Community Services
<b>Lead Officer and Report Author</b>	Dr Stuart Maxwell
<b>Classification</b>	Non-exempt
<b>Wards affected</b>	All

### This report makes the following recommendations to the final decision-maker:

1. The Committee adopts the Low Emission Strategy attached at Appendix B.
2. The Committee delegates to the Head of Housing & Community Services the authority to develop an action plan to deliver against the priorities in the Low Emission Strategy, save that any action that has no budget or is likely to be controversial is brought back to the Communities, Housing & Environment Committee for consideration.
3. That the Head of Housing & Community Services provides the Communities, Housing & Environment Committee with an annual update on actions taken to progress the themes outlined in the Low Emission Strategy.

### This report relates to the following corporate priorities:

- Keeping Maidstone an attractive place for all – the Low Emission Strategy contributes towards providing a clean and safe environment that in turn will promote good health and well-being.

### Timetable

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Communities, Housing & Environment Committee	16 February 2016

# Low Emission Strategy

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Maidstone Borough Council is developing a Low Emission Strategy. The themes of the Low Emission Strategy were agreed by the committee in June 2015 and went out to public consultation during November and December of 2015.
  - 1.2 The purpose of this report is to update members with regard to the responses received from the consultation and how they have been used to develop the Low Emission Strategy. A number of case studies are included in the strategy, to illustrate what has been done elsewhere, These are examples of the types of action which we will be exploring and developing.
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## 2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council is developing a Low Emission Strategy in response to high levels of air pollution in specific parts of the Town Centre and other areas of identified concern. The Low Emission Strategy is designed to complement the existing Air Quality Action Plan, by addressing vehicle and other emissions.
- 2.2 Eight themes were previously approved by the committee for the Low Emission Strategy, namely:-
  - 1) Transport Emissions
  - 2) Public Health
  - 3) Carbon Management
  - 4) Planning and Development Control
  - 5) Procurement
  - 6) Non Transport Emissions
  - 7) Economic Development
  - 8) Air Quality Management Area
- 2.3 These themes were put forward for public consultation between 28th October and 24th December 2015. The consultation comprised three questions, which are given as Appendix A, along with the consultation responses and the responses of the Environmental Health Team.
- 2.4 It is proposed that the Strategy is delivered through a 'live' and evolving action plan. The Environmental Health Team will coordinate and meet with key internal and external agencies in order to develop the feasibility of individual actions that contribute to the specific themes.
- 2.5 Where the actions can be delivered from within existing resources and are not contentious the team will go ahead and deliver the action under the direction of the Head of Service. Actions that require new or additional resource, or are likely to prove contentious will be reported first to the Communities, Housing & Environment Committee for approval before implementation.

### **3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS**

- 3.1 The Committee can adopt the Low Emission Strategy and the approach to developing a 'live' action plan as outlined in the report.
  - 3.2 The Committee could decide to review and amend the themes which it previously approved for the Low Emission Strategy.
  - 3.3 The Council could choose not to have a Low Emission Strategy
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### **4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 As the Low Emission Strategy supports a range of key priorities for the Council, including keeping Maidstone Borough an attractive place for all and encouraging good health and well-being, it is recommended that the Council has a Low Emission Strategy. The preferred option is for the Committee to keep the list of previously approved themes unchanged and that the Low Emission Strategy is adopted in its current form.
  - 4.2 The Environmental Health Department will then liaise with both internal and external partners in order to develop and evaluate specific actions to be carried out under each of the themes. Where simple, straightforward actions are identified; that can be funded from existing budgets, the Environmental Health Team will implement them without further reference to the Committee.
  - 4.3 Where the actions identified have unbudgeted cost implications, or might be controversial, the Environmental Health Team will bring the action back to the Committee for approval.
  - 4.4 In addition the Head of Housing & Community Services will provide an annual report to the Committee on progress with the Low Emission Strategy.
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### **5. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK**

- 5.1 The public consultation was undertaken via the Maidstone Borough Council website, with the support of the Council's Policy and Information Team. The results of the consultation are given in Appendix A.
- 5.2 The consultation response was very limited, with only three respondents taking part. Two of the three respondents agreed with the aims of the Low Emission Strategy, and all three respondents agreed with the themes.
- 5.3 The comments received generally referred to a lack of detail, however, the purpose of the exercise was only to agree the themes of this high level strategy with specific actions being evaluated and decided upon in due course.

## 6. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

6.1 The following timetable is proposed:

Action	Start	End
The CH&E Committee approves the Low Emission Strategy		16/02/2016
Strategy approved, implementation commences	17/02/2016	March 2021
Liaison with internal and external partners on detailed actions in support of each theme assessment of benefits, risks, costs, and feasibility of actions.	17/02/2016	March 2021
An annual report submitted to CH&E Committee on actions taken to implement the Strategy	March 2017	March 2021
Actions incorporated in annual service plans and delivered/implemented	March 2017	March 2021

## 7. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
<b>Impact on Corporate Priorities</b>	Covered in the report	Head of Housing & Community Services
<b>Risk Management</b>		
<b>Financial</b>	Actions that can be delivered within existing budgets will be delivered but actions that require growth will be brought to the Committee for consideration.	
<b>Staffing</b>		Head of Housing & Community Services
<b>Legal</b>		Legal Team
<b>Equality Impact Needs Assessment</b>	None identified at this stage. Further consideration of equality impacts may need to be considered following the formulation of the action plan.	Clare Wood. Policy & Performance Officer
<b>Environmental/Sustainable Development</b>		Head of Housing & Community Services
<b>Community Safety</b>	None	Head of

		Housing & Community Services
<b>Human Rights Act</b>	None	Head of Housing & Community Services
<b>Procurement</b>		
<b>Asset Management</b>		

## 8. REPORT APPENDICES

The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix A Low Emission Strategy; Consultation Questions and Responses
- Appendix B Draft Low Emission Strategy

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## 9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None identified.