

Wednesday 2 December 2020, 4.30-7.00pm
Via zoom

AGENDA

	Approx. time	Page
1. Welcome and apologies for absence	4.30	-
2. Declaration of Interests	4.35	-
3. Minutes of previous meeting	4.40	2
4. AOB & matters arising, which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comprehensive Spending Review• Lower Thames Crossing• Water quality update	4.45	-
5. Digital Connectivity & Broadband Provision	5.00	10 & Presentation
6. EU transition & Traffic Management Plans	5.30	Presentation
7. Impact of EU transition from Dover DC perspective	5.50	Presentation
8. A Greener Recovery: Delivering & implement the Energy and Low Emission Strategy	6.20	12 & presentation
<u>For information item:</u>		
A. KMEP and SELEP future meeting dates		16

Merry Christmas to all board members.
Wishing you a much improved 2021!

ITEM 3

Subject: DRAFT MINUTES of the Kent & Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP)
meeting held virtually on Tuesday 17 November 2020.

Attendees:

KMEP Board Members

Geoff Miles (Maidstone TV Studios KMEP Chairman)	CLlr Trevor Bartlett (Dover DC)
Matthew Arnold (Stagecoach buses)	CLlr John Burden (Gravesham Borough Council)
Troy Barratt (Contracts Engineering & BAMUK Group Ltd)	CLlr Rodney Chambers (Medway Council)
Carol Ford	CLlr Gerry Clarkson (Ashford BC)
James Forknall (Kent County Agricultural Society)	CLlr Martin Cox (Maidstone Borough Council)
Liz Gibney (Lee Evans Partnership)	CLlr Rick Everitt (Thanet District Council)
John Keefe (Getlink/Eurotunnel)	CLlr Ben Fitter-Harding (Canterbury City Council)
Emma Liddiard (Global Media)	CLlr Peter Fleming (Sevenoaks District Council)
Vince Lucas (VA Rail)	CLlr Roger Gough (Kent County Council)
Andrew Metcalf (Maxim PR)	CLlr Nicolas Heslop (Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council)
David Milham (FSB)	CLlr Jeremy Kite (Dartford Borough Council)
Paul Winter (Wire Belt Company Limited)	CLlr Alan McDermott (Tunbridge Wells Borough Council)
Simon Cook (Mid-Kent College)	CLlr David Monk (Folkestone & Hythe District Council)
Prof. Rama Thirunamachandran (Canterbury Christ Church University)	CLlr Roger Truelove (Swale Borough Council)

Apologies:

KMEP Board Members

Bob Russell (Beams International Ltd & Copper Rivet Distillery)
Shereen Daniels (HR rewired)
Richard Hall (Trenport Property Holdings Ltd)
Jo James (Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce)
Miranda Chapman (Pillory Barn)

Item 1 – Welcome, introduction and apologies.

1.1 Geoff Miles (the KMEP Chairman) welcomed attendees to the meeting and accepted the apologies for absence as listed above.

Item 2 – Declaration of Interests

- 2.1 Prof. Rama Thirunamachandran declared an interest in item 5. Canterbury Christ Church University is the project promoter for the EDGE Hub, and the Kent and Medway Medical Schools (alongside the University of Kent). He abstained from voting on item 5.
- 2.2 Paul Winter declared he is a member of the EDGE Hub’s strategic advisory board. It is a non-pecuniary interest.
- 2.3 John Keefe declared an interest in the Sector Support Fund item, as he is a Director of Visit Kent.
- 2.4 Vince Lucas is performing a project for Network Rail.
- 2.5 John Burden explained that he is a member of Kent County Council’s planning committee. He placed on record that he has made no judgement about the Sturry Link Road scheme, and will only consider the application when it comes to committee.

Item 3 – Minutes of previous meeting

- 3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

Item 4 – Any Other Business

- 4.1 The Chairman congratulated Prof. Rama Thirunamachandran on becoming a Deputy Lieutenant of Kent.
- 4.2 The Chairman drew board members’ attention to the weekly Brexit email updates. He hoped that the board found the contents useful.
- 4.3 Barbara Cooper, the Corporate Director for Growth, Environment and Transport, gave a brief update on trader readiness and the Kent Access Permit, with 41 days to go until the end of transition. Kent County Council is working on traffic management, compliance, and enforcement. Conversations are occurring with the DfT, which may be minded to grant the County Council powers to clamp anti-socially parked lorries. A full update will be given to KMEP on 2nd December. The Kent Resilience Forum has been awarded some funding to help with transition planning, and an allocation of funding for local authorities is also expected. The Council Leaders from Ashford, Dover and Dartford confirmed that they had received a letter from Rt. Hon. Robert Jenrick M.P. that morning.
- 4.4 The two Sturry/Brook Oak residential planning applications are being considered by Canterbury City Council’s planning application tonight. If successful, the Sturry Link Road will then be brought to the Kent County Council planning committee for consideration. Natural England has confirmed that it will not object to the proposals.
- 4.5 On behalf of the Discovery Park, Andrew Metcalf requested KMEP’s support for the Strength in Places funding bid called “Accelerated Medicines Design & Development (AMDD)”. The project creates a world-first centre of expertise to accelerate the design, development and manufacturing of new medicines. If successful, the bid for

£30m of SPF would potentially unlock a further £30m from the private and public sectors, as well as driving the growth of Kent and Medway's life sciences cluster. The deadline for the bid submission is 25 November 2020. KMEP agreed to write a letter of support for the bid.

Item 5 – Reallocation of LGF to existing schemes

- 5.1 Chris Seamark (KCC LGF & GBF Manager) presented the item. His key points were:
- The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) has £6.7m of Local Growth Funding (LGF) available, which it wishes to allocate to existing LGF projects, where the impact of COVID-19/Brexit has led to a funding gap. The amount of LGF available to reallocate may increase in the future.
 - All Kent and Medway LGF project promoters were notified of this opportunity, and six project promoters applied for part of this additional funding.
 - The cumulative ask of these six bids is £3.792m, and all six bids will be submitted to SELEP by KMEP.
 - While £3.792m is under the £6.7m on offer, it is understood that the combined ask from across the SELEP region will be circa £20m.
 - Consequently, SELEP has asked all its federated boards (including KMEP) to rank its bids in priority order.
- 5.2 Trevor Bartlett, Leader of Dover District Council, spoke about Dover TAP (Traffic Assessment Programme). Dover DC has been liaising with the local MPs on congestion issues arising from the end of EU transition. Keeping Dover clear is a core priority. Dover is at the front line of the challenges presented by Brexit, and he asked KMEP board members to consider supporting the Dover TAP scheme.
- 5.3 Nicolas Heslop and Andrew Metcalf drew board members' attention to the successful award of planning consent for the East Malling Advanced Horticultural Zone, and requested that the board paper be updated to reflect this. The planning applications relate to the residential application and the moving of the energy centre at the site.
- 5.4 Martin Cox spoke in favour of Maidstone East Access Improvements. Work has been progressing throughout the COVID-19 lockdowns to rebuild Maidstone East railway station. The social distancing required due to COVID-19 has slightly slowed the work, and COVID-19 is the only factor behind this small request for extra LGF. The project enables much better access to the station for all residents and improves the station.
- 5.5 Jeremy Kite spoke in favour of the Dartford Town Centre project. The project commenced just as the COVID-19 crisis hit, which resulted in the programme of works having to be updated to incorporate the COVID-19 impact. The extra funding is solely required due to the impact of COVID-19 on the project.
- 5.6 Peter Fleming raised a procedural issue about virtual polling, and asked that KMEP vote to rank the LGF projects by electronic procedure outside of the meeting.

Update: An email was sent the day after the meeting to KMEP board members. 25 responses were received by board members before the deadline. KMEP's priority order for the extra LGF is as follows:

- 1st choice = KMMS (Kent and Medway Medical School) – extra LGF request is **£1,000,000**

- 2nd choice = Dover TAP (as part of Kent Strategic Congestion Management) – extra LGF request is **£100,000**
- 3rd choice = NIAB EMR’s Advanced Horticultural Zone - extra LGF request is **£315,000**
- 4th choice = EDGE (K&M Engineering, Design, Growth and Enterprise Hub) – extra LGF request is **£1,224,000**
- 5th choice = Maidstone East Access Improvements (part of West Kent LSTF) – extra LGF request of **£153,000**
- 6th choice = Dartford Town Centre - extra LGF request of **£1,000,000**

Item 6 – Water quality & its impact on planned development

- 6.1 The Chairman welcomed Roland Cooper to the meeting. Roland Cooper is a civil engineer from Considine Ltd, and is a member of the Kent and Medway Business Advisory Board (BAB).
- 6.2 Roland Cooper made the following comments during his presentation.
- 6.3 Natural England has identified in written advice of July 2020 (which was amended this month) that the Stodmarsh designated sites are suffering from elevated nitrate and phosphate levels that are adversely affecting the diverse wildlife found there, and leading to breaches of the habitat directive. The River Stour is the supplying catchment to that area, which include Ashford, Canterbury, Herne Bay, Wye, parts of Folkestone and parts of Maidstone. This area is home to a large residential population, and includes many designated development sites that are due to deliver thousands of new homes with the associated infrastructure and amenity improvements.
- 6.4 Whilst Natural England accepts there are significant unknowns as to the full causes of the problem, they assert the predominate factor is attributable to human waste in the form of the output from waste-water treatment facilities into the river.
- 6.5 Despite Natural England saying quite clearly that “there is uncertainty as to whether new growth will further deteriorate the levels”, they have issued advice to all local planning authorities to refuse any new development that releases new nutrients into the catchment. Essentially, local planning authorities have been advised to refuse any development that would increase the population within the catchment area.
- 6.6 Natural England notes that studies into water quality are ongoing but the first of these is only due to be published in March 2022.
- 6.7 All the waste-water treatment facilities in the area are controlled by Southern Water, and the water outlet from the works is monitored by the Environment Agency against the environmental permit issued for each of these works. Many of these permits do not currently have a limit on nitrate levels.
- 6.8 Southern Water has issued a position statement to confirm that whilst there are improvements coming for some works by 2024, “no further investment is needed to treat waste water to tighter or new phosphorus or nitrogen limits in the Stour area at this time.”

- 6.9 Southern Water says that if further work is needed to improve water quality “it is unlikely any improvements could be delivered before March 2030”.
- 6.10 Nutrient restrictions were put in place in the Solent in Hampshire in June 2019, and in the River Lugg catchment in Herefordshire in October 2019. The result of those restrictions was total stagnation of residential development. In the case of Herefordshire, even domestic extensions were put on hold for over a year.
- 6.11 While large developments may have the opportunity to mitigate nutrients in the land of the development, smaller developments will not be able to mitigate. Natural England’s advice is that local authorities should provide strategic nutrient reduction sites to offset the effect of these smaller developments, and suggest this maybe by way of land offsetting or creating/extending wetlands, which absorb nutrients. Natural England however will not engage in giving advice on specific sites for anything less than 1,000 units, of which there are very few in the region.
- 6.12 In the short term, a mitigating action could mean the authorities acquire farmland that generates nutrients and converts it to low- or no- nutrient load until such a time when a long-term solution is provided elsewhere in the catchment. To put this into context, a simple analysis of 10 sites in the region reveals that the nitrate load could require 1 hectare of dairy farmland to be taken out of use for 10 dwellings. However, the phosphate load could require as much as 1 hectare per dwelling. The calculation would change for every site, but this is a helpful indicator of the scale of the problem. More farmland would have to be set aside if the farmland is currently used for arable crops, as that has a naturally lower nutrient load than dairy farmland.
- 6.13 Mitigation strategies elsewhere (like in Eastleigh in Hampshire) value the cost of mitigation at £4,500 per dwelling, or £1,800 per room for care homes and tourism developments, all secured by section 106 contributions. This significantly reduces s106 contributions for key infrastructure (such as roads, education, and community facilities).
- 6.14 This issue will place existing local plan housing supply at great risk and could possibly open the opportunity for undesirable windfall sites away from the Stour catchment. Also, strategic development will be adversely affected, and inward investment and commercial confidence in the region is likely to be stifled.
- 6.15 Businesses do not appear to have been consulted during the development of Natural England’s advice but will bear a significant burden because of it. Businesses appreciate that there are regional conversations occurring, but the Business Advisory Board feel that businesses could helpfully contribute to those discussions and help find an appropriate solution.
- 6.16 Roland Cooper summarised the BAB ask of KMEP as follows:
- Lobby central government to increase awareness of the impact on commercial confidence of Natural England’s position.
 - Lobby Ofwat and the Environment Agency to improve standards at wastewater treatment works within the catchment at a faster rate, than the 10-year timeframe currently postulated.
 - Lobby central government to increase funding to support agricultural improvements to reduce nutrient run-off from farms.

- Secure regional funding for solutions, including sites for land off-set, and increase activity on wetland creation projects.
 - Arrange a meeting of all affected planning heads with business representation to co-ordinate a local response to this issue.
- 6.17 Ben Fitter Harding provided an update from Canterbury City Council's head of planning in response to Roland Cooper: MHCLG has asked the Planning Advisory Service to work with Defra, the East Kent councils and statutory agencies to identify potential solutions to the Stodmarsh issue. They want to set up a framework for delivering solutions. The first of three meetings of this group will happen in the next fortnight, and will provide regular update reports to the local authority chief executives. MHCLG's intention is for the Planning Advisory Service's work in East Kent to act as a pilot for the rest of the country, as it is now understood that a third of English planning authorities are affected to an extent by this issue.
- 6.18 Canterbury City Council is working with developers to find solutions for large developments. The Council has recently secured Natural England agreement for mitigation at two strategic sites in Canterbury. This involves on-the-site waste-water treatment works along with environmental enhancement measures. Canterbury City Council is working towards finding solutions for the smaller sites, and making good progress with the statutory agencies on this.
- 6.19 Ben Fitter-Harding suggested some amended recommendations for KMEP to consider:
- KMEP should lobby Central Government to increase awareness of the impact on development within the region and seek funding to support development of strategic solutions within the region.
 - Councils' Chief Executives should provide planning update reports to KMEP on this water-quality issue. KMEP can then review the need for further lobbying of government, engagement with developers, and searching for regional funding to deliver solutions. This would help ensure the work is well co-ordinated with the output from Planning Advisory Service working group.
- 6.20 In response to Troy Barratt, Roland Cooper explained that the elevated nutrients do not affect human health, rather encourage the wrong types of plant and algae to grow too fast and strangle out native species.
- 6.21 Trevor Bartlett explained that part of Dover district is affected by this. Dover District Council has employed a consultant to examine the issues. Dover District Council wishes to be fully engaged on the issue, as it does not wish to be placed in a position where all planning applications must be refused. Dover District Council wishes to see active solutions achieved.
- 6.22 Roger Gough voiced his support for the amended recommendations (in para 6.19). He welcomed KMEP lobbying Government and explained that he and Ben Fitter-Harding have already written to MHCLG on this issue. Ensuring there is considerable awareness at KMEP on the work of the Planning Advisory Service working group would be beneficial. Having developers on that working group would not be appropriate at this time. However, KMEP has an important role to play to ensure that there is effective communication with businesses and developers as to where that work is going.

- 6.23 Gerry Clarkson explained this is a very significant issue and one that can cause a great deal of harm to the economy. Ashford Borough Council is the 15th most productive housebuilder in England. This written advice nearly halts the local plan. He echoed support for the amended recommendations. No-one wishes to see habitats diminished. The written advice is having a tremendous impact on numerous sites, and yet there is a high degree of uncertainty in Natural England advice. He agreed with collaborative approach outlined and the need to work at pace.
- 6.23 The Chairman nominated Roland Cooper as the key person to help communicate with BAB and others groups (such as Kent Developers' Group) on this issue. Roland Cooper accepted this request.
- 6.24 Carol Ford explained that Charles Tassel sits on the Employment Taskforce and the Water Taskforce, and he has made the rural sector aware of this issue.
- 6.25 KMEP agreed the amended recommendations (as per paragraph 6.19).

Item 7 – Getting Building Fund Allocation

- 7.1 The Chairman drew board members' attention to the item 7 board paper, which relates to Getting Building Funding (GBF).
- 7.2 The Chairman set out his view that a relatively robust procedure had been used by KMEP in July 2020 to devise the GBF pipeline of projects. In light of that, he put the proposal to the board that the next project on the pipeline should be awarded the GBF allocation. As Innovation Park Medway had not sought the reduced GBF sum, the next project on the list is St George's Creative Hub, which is promoted by Gravesham Borough Council. The Chairman asked board members to indicate if they disagreed with this approach. No responses were received, and consequently St George's Creative Hub was selected as the project to receive the £323,204 of Getting Building Funding (subject to SELEP and MHCLG endorsement).
- 7.3 The Chairman also asked if he and the SELEP Strategic Board members from Kent and Medway could have certain flexibility in selecting projects if more GBF money becomes available, within a short timeframe required for a decision to be made. They would always consider the projects on the current GBF reserve list. If the sum available did not match the next project, then some flexibility could be used to select the most appropriate project next on the list. Once again, he asked KMEP board members to voice if they had any concern about this new approach being adopted. No responses were received, so this approach was approved.

Item 8 - Sector Support Fund bids

- 8.1 The Chairman explained that SELEP offers an opportunity to bid for up to £200k of Sector Support (revenue) Funding (SSF) to its sector working groups. The final decision on whether to award the funding rests with the SELEP Strategic Board, but a criterion of SSF is that each project must seek endorsement from each federated board first.

- 8.2 A presentation was given on each SSF bid listed below by a representative of the SELEP sector working group. In addition, the KMEP Manager provided an overview of the changes made to the Gourmet Garden Trails Extension project that had been resubmitted to SELEP since it was discussed at the last KMEP meeting.
- 8.3 KMEP voted and agreed to endorse all the SSF bids for the sums outlined below.
- Creative High Streets – South East Creative Economy Network bid for £200,000
 - Building Back Better – Social Enterprise bid for £192,000
 - Catalyst for Culture – South East Creative Economy Network bid for £181,700
 - Carbon Pathways for Clean Growth – Energy bid for £99,198
 - South East Export Development – Business Support bid for £99,000
 - Gourmet Garden Trail Extension – Tourism bid for £35,000.

The meeting ended at 6.30pm.

ITEM 5

Date: 2 December 2020

Subject: Rolling out Gigabit Capable Broadband.

Report author: Liz Harrison, Strategic Programme Manager, Kent County Council

Summary:

This paper sets out the scope of items that will be covered in a presentation given to the KMEP board on the 2nd December.

Recommendation:

The KMEP Board is asked to note the plans for rolling out gigabit capable broadband connectivity and help support the future delivery of this work.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Digital connectivity matters. Increasingly, almost everything we do requires a mobile or broadband connection – whether it is learning new skills, running a business, looking after our health or staying connected with our friends and family. This has been further highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic where significant numbers of Kent businesses and residents are increasingly dependent on good broadband connectivity to work, learn and manage their lives.
- 1.2 Our work, since 2012, has brought better broadband to over 138,000 homes and businesses that would otherwise have been left with poor or no broadband. This meant that at the time of the Covid-19 lockdown, over 95% of homes and businesses across Kent and Medway could access a superfast broadband service of at least 24mbps – and less than 1% of premises did not have access to a basic (fixed) broadband service of less than 10mbps.
- 1.3 However, increasing usage, technical advances and increased demand for data means that today's 'superfast' connectivity will become tomorrow's 'dial-up' without investment in new future-proofed 'gigabit-capable' infrastructure. The Government have set an ambition for every home and business to have access to a gigabit-capable broadband service – with the majority of these connections being delivered by 2025. In Kent, this will require installing new gigabit connections to over 600,000 properties.

2. Planning for Gigabit

2.1 The presentation to the KMEP Board will set out the Government's strategy for rolling out gigabit-capable (i.e. full fibre broadband services) across the UK by:

- Encouraging and enabling broadband network operators to roll out gigabit-capable broadband connections to circa 80% of homes and businesses.
- Introducing a new £5 billion programme to publicly-fund gigabit-capable connections to the remaining 20% of homes and businesses that will not benefit from market-led upgrades. This new 'Outside-In' Programme will comprise a mix of supply-led and demand-led approaches (i.e. vouchers). The Government's ambition is the programme should benefit properties with the worst broadband connectivity (i.e. sub-superfast) first.

2.2 The presentation will also provide an overview of:

- The Government's new Shared Rural Network initiative to improve mobile connectivity.
- The opportunities being created by our new broadband top-up voucher which (thanks to the support from the KMEP Board) is being financed through the new SELEP Getting Britain Building Fund.

3. Recommendation:

3.1 The KMEP Board is asked to note the plans for rolling out gigabit capable broadband connectivity and help support the future delivery of this work.

ITEM 8

Date:	2 December 2020
Subject:	A Greener Recovery: Delivering and implementing the Energy and Low Energy Strategy
Report author:	Christine Wissink, Interim Head of Sustainable Business and Communities, Kent County Council

Summary:

This paper presents the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES) in advance of the presentation and discussion at the KMEP Board on the 2nd December.

The ELES sets out 10 priorities and high-level actions for Kent to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. The Strategy, and the evidence-base and implementation plan underpinning it, directly link to economic growth and sustainability and will rely on collaboration across public, private and third sectors to be delivered.

This paper also highlights how green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, a core tenet of the Kent and Medway Economic Renewal and Resilience Plan, and HM Government's recently announced ten point plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, is supported through implementation of the ELES. This will primarily be achieved through action to: improve sustainable development, invest in green infrastructure, increase renewable energy generation and support the low carbon economy across Kent and Medway.

Recommendation:

The KMEP Board is asked to endorse the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES), and support in shaping and delivering the implementation plan.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES) is to identify an evidence-based approach to deliver clean growth, and specifically, strategies and actions to eliminate poor air quality, reduce fuel poverty and deliver an affordable, clean and secure energy supply for Kent and Medway. The Strategy includes the commitment to meet the UK Government's target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 for the country.
- 1.2 The economic impact of COVID-19 is recognised throughout the Strategy. The Strategy directly relates to the Economic Renewal and Resilience Plan's framework for action, particularly the focus on Greener Futures and Better Opportunities, Fairer Chances. While the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant economic challenges and uncertainty, it is essential that

action is taken to support jobs and businesses, with the aim of building a greener, more productive, fairer economy that will emerge stronger and more resilient than before.

- 1.3 The Strategy’s implementation plan will also form a key delivery mechanism for HM Government’s ten point plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, which will mobilise £12 billion of government investment to create and support up to 250,000 highly-skilled green jobs in the UK, and spur over three times as much private sector investment by 2030.
- 1.4 The Strategy was endorsed by Kent Leaders in October 2020. It was also adopted by Kent County Council in July 2020 and is being considered for adoption in each of the other Local Authority areas this winter.
- 1.5 The Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy is available to view at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/112401/Kent-and-Medway-Energy-and-Low-Emissions-Strategy.pdf

2. The Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy

- 2.1 The objective of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy is to outline the approach to achieving a reduction in carbon emissions and improvements in air quality, with an agreed Kent and Medway target of net-zero emissions by 2050. The aims of the Strategy are to:
 - facilitate evidence-based policy and strategy to future proof growth;
 - tackle emerging issues and realise opportunities;
 - support actors to play a strong leadership role to innovate and invest; and
 - enable increased and accelerated decarbonisation across Kent and Medway.
- 2.2 The Strategy’s 10 priorities are supported by immediate, short- and long-term activities and are underpinned by a detailed evidence base. A summary of the 10 priorities is given in Table 1. The priorities that align most directly with the Economic Renewal and Resilience Plan and HM Government’s plan for a Green Industrial Revolution are highlighted in blue.

Table 1: Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy 10 Priorities
<p>PRIORITY 1: EMISSION REDUCTION PATHWAYS TO 2050 Set area and organisational five-year carbon budgets and emission reduction pathways to 2050, with significant reduction by 2030.</p>
<p>PRIORITY 2: 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.</p>
<p>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 mainstream climate resilience.</p>
<p>PRIORITY 4: CLIMATE EMERGENCY INVESTMENT FUND Establish a trusted Kent and Medway 'Climate Emergency' carbon sequestration, offset and renewable energy investment scheme and fund.</p>
<p>PRIORITY 5: BUILDING RETROFIT PROGRAMME Set up a Kent and Medway net-zero buildings retrofit plan and programme for public sector, domestic and businesses.</p>
<p>PRIORITY 6: TRANSPORT, TRAVEL AND DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY</p>

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.
PRIORITY 7: RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION Set up an opportunities and investment programme for renewable electricity and heat energy generation.
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 increase biodiversity.
PRIORITY 9: SUPPORTING LOW CARBON BUSINESS Develop a support programme for Kent and Medway’s Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services sector.
PRIORITY 10: COMMUNICATIONS Develop a comprehensive communications, engagement and behaviour change programme targeted at residents, employees, businesses and visitors.

2.3 A supporting technical Implementation Plan is being developed by officers and partners across Kent and Medway and will be consulted on by action owners and stakeholders in Winter 2020. This Implementation Plan will directly link to the Kent and Medway Economic Renewal and Resilience Plan and HM Government’s plan for a Green Industrial Revolution.

2.4 Delivery of the Strategy and Implementation Plan will be monitored by the new Kent and Medway Environment Group, chaired by Colin Carmichael, Chief Executive of Canterbury City Council, and co-ordinated by Kent County Council. This detailed implementation plan will be responsive to policy and evidence changes and inform both Business as Usual as well as projects. It will be reported on annually to Kent Leaders and will be available publicly online.

3. Next Steps

3.1 The presentation to the KMEP Board will set out the intention of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy in recognising the climate emergency and the need to take significant action now, and over the next 10 years, in order to be able to achieve net-zero emissions for the county by 2050, grow the low carbon economy, and improve air quality.

3.2 The presentation will also provide an overview of the key synergies between the Strategy and the Kent and Medway Economic Renewal and Resilience Plan and HM Government’s plan for a Green Industrial Revolution; identifying the ELES as a key driver of green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.3 The presentation and discussion will highlight the importance of local authorities, businesses, and academics working together toward a sustainable future and help identify key opportunities, barriers and actions to deliver the Strategy, focussing on:

- Supporting business innovation
- Increasing and targeting investment
- Developing skills, services, markets and supply chains

4. Recommendation

4.1 The KMEP Board is asked to endorse the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES), and support in shaping and delivering the implementation plan.

5. Key Documents

Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy

https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/112401/Kent-and-Medway-Energy-and-Low-Emissions-Strategy.pdf

Kent Environment Strategy

www.kent.gov.uk/environmentstrategy

ELES Evidence base

https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/112400/Kent-and-Medway-Energy-and-Low-Emissions-Strategy-Evidence-Base.pdf

Kent and Medway Renewal and Resilience Plan

[http://kmep.org.uk/documents/Renewal and Resilience Plan - August 2020.pdf](http://kmep.org.uk/documents/Renewal_and_Resilience_Plan_-_August_2020.pdf)

HM Government 10 Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/936567/10 POINT PLAN BOOKLET.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/936567/10_POINT_PLAN_BOOKLET.pdf)

FOR INFO ITEM

Subject: Future meeting dates of the KMEP & SELEP Boards

Kent & Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP)				South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP)	
Date	Zoom available from:	Start time	End time	Strategic Board 10am to noon	Accountability Board 10am to noon
2020				2020	
Today (2 Dec)	4pm	4.30 pm	7pm	11-Dec-20	20-Nov-20
2021				2021	
					12-Feb-21
Thurs 4 March 2021	4pm	4.30 pm	7pm	19-Mar-21	12-Mar-21
Wed 19 May 2021	4pm	4.30 pm	7pm	04-Jun-21	07-May-21
Thurs 22 July 2021	4pm	4.30 pm	7pm	-	02-Jul-21
Thurs 16 Sept 2021	4pm	4.30 pm	7pm	01-Oct-21	10-Sep-21
Thurs 25 Nov 2021	4pm	4.30 pm	7pm	10-Dec-21	19-Nov-21