

# Review of the Kent Environment Strategy

## *A Strategy for Environment, Health and Economy*

Kent Nature Partnership 2016 Event  
Why should we make space for nature in Kent?  
27<sup>th</sup> June 2016

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Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe  
Programme of the European Union

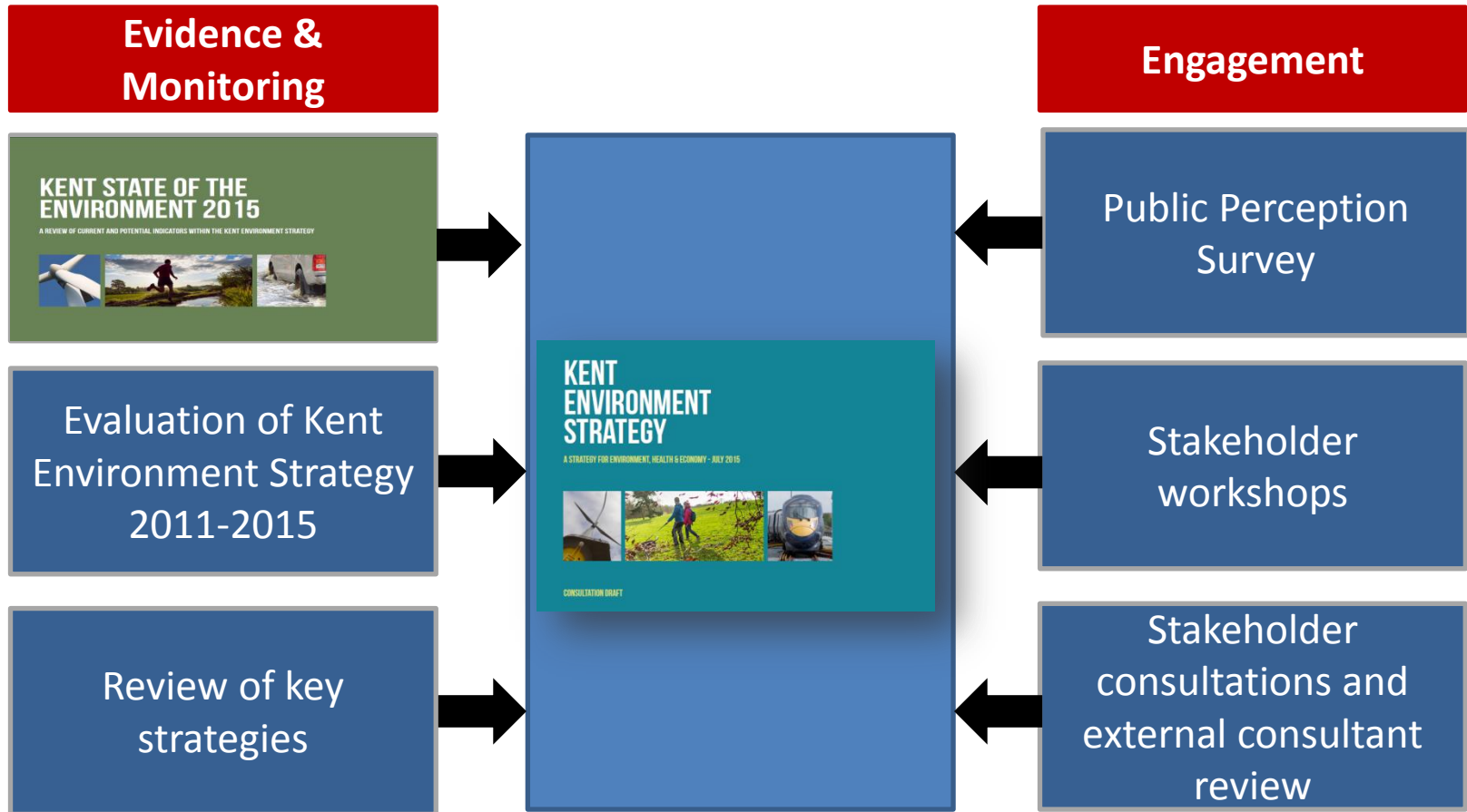
# What is the Kent Environment Strategy?

## Setting the direction for the county

- Strategic Context and Framework
- High level priorities
- Significant opportunity or challenge
- Partnership
- Evidence base commissioning document



# Our Approach



# Challenges and Opportunities

158,300 additional dwellings 2031

Resource constraints Energy security Fuel poverty

73% water supply from groundwater

Most areas at or exceeding capacity

40 Air Quality Management Areas Transport congestion

Air traffic noise Declining biodiversity

Severe weather impacts £4m/year- 76,000 properties at flood risk

**70% Kent residents rated countryside as very important**

**Eco tourism contributes £2.5bn to the Kent economy**

**47% of visitors stating countryside as main reason came**

**14,000 volunteer hours spent in Country Parks**

# Public Consultation

- 27<sup>th</sup> July – 25<sup>th</sup> September
- Strategic Environmental Assessment, EqlA, State of the Environment Report, Public Perception survey
- Over 100 responses, 50% individuals and 50% organisations
- Good mix across public, private and voluntary sectors
- Significant majority positive agreement

# Some key concerns raised

Need greater emphasis on the need for balance between growth and environment

Agriculture / horticulture / viticulture / forestry – needs far greater mention

Resource pressures and national policy

Noise and olfactory pollution is currently missing

Infrastructure pressures with increased growth

Broadband connectivity for rural areas

Biodiversity opportunities and risks

Coastline and marine environment

Greater emphasis on risks from severe weather and its impacts

# KENT ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

*'The county of Kent is benefitting from a competitive, innovative and resilient economy, with our natural and historic assets enhanced and protected for their unique value and positive impact on our society, economy, health and wellbeing.'*

A STRATEGY FOR ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH & ECONOMY - MARCH 2016



DATACTION



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# Strategic Outcomes



**Residents have a high quality of life saving money in warmer healthier homes and benefiting from the many services provided by the natural environment**

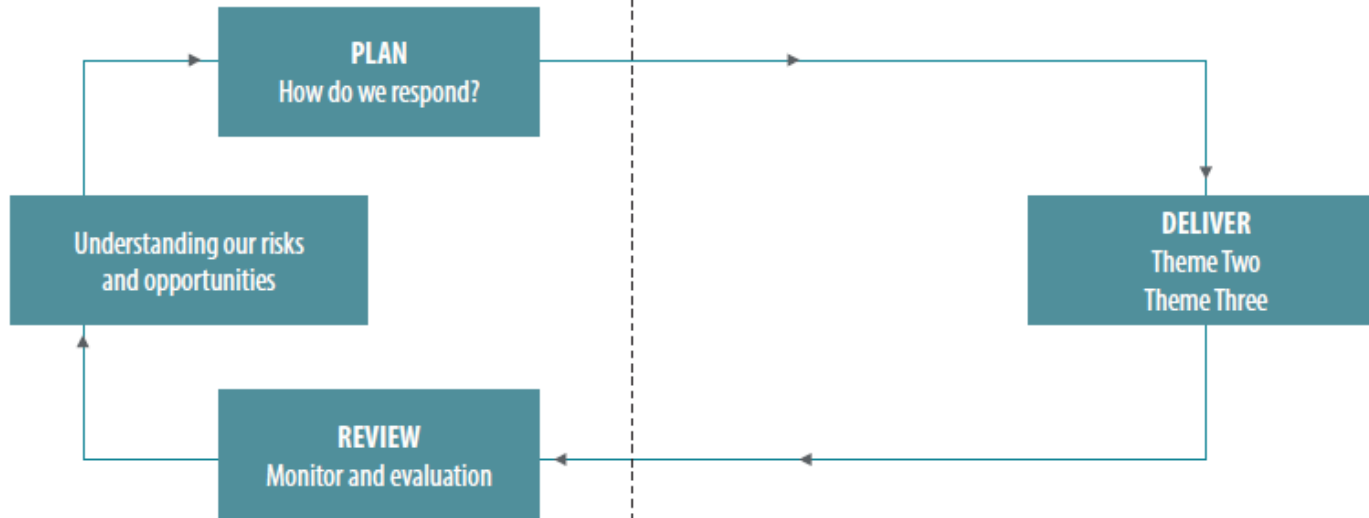
**A resilient, competitive economy and low carbon economy**

**Communities and businesses are resource efficient and prepared for severe weather events**



## EVIDENCE

## DELIVERY



### THEME ONE: BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR DELIVERY

- 1 Bridging gaps in understanding our risks and opportunities to identify actions;
- 2 Integrating and influencing strategy and policy;
- 3 Building resources, capabilities and changing behaviour;
- 4 Monitoring and evaluation.

### THEME TWO: MAKING BEST USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES, AVOIDING OR MINIMISING NEGATIVE IMPACTS

- 5 Conserve and enhance the quality and supply of the county of Kent's natural resources and assets;
- 6 Improve our resource efficiency such as energy and water;
- 7 Ensure sustainable access and connectivity for businesses and communities.

### THEME THREE: TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

- 8 Influence future sustainable growth for the county of Kent;
- 9 Improve the county of Kent's environmental, social and economic resilience to environmental change;
- 10 Supporting growth in the rural economy and low carbon and environmental services sector.

# Fit with natural and historic environment

- Intrinsic Value
- Live, work and play...
- Health and well being
- Resilience – flooding, severe weather events, pollution
- Green Economy

# Thank you

[www.kent.gov.uk/environmentstrategy](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environmentstrategy)