

**Swale Borough Council's draft response to the Kent Environment Strategy Consultation**

1. Swale Borough Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the review of the Kent Environment Strategy.
2. In November 2007 Swale Borough Council signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change acknowledging that climate change was happening and pledging to put strategies in place to combat its causes and effects.
3. Since then Swale has worked on Climate Change developing our own action plan and working with Kent County Council and other Kent local authorities.
4. We were a key player in developing the first Kent Environment Strategy which was launched in 2011.
5. In 2012 Climate Local replaced the Nottingham Declaration making a stronger commitment to tackling climate change with commitments and targets.
6. Swale helped to develop the County wide version – the first to be signed nationally and also developed our own Climate Local Swale.
7. Swale has been involved at both member and officer level in developing the revised Kent Environment Strategy, attending workshops, hosting presentations, meeting with key officers etc.
8. Swale welcomes the revised strategy which takes the former three themes of Living within our environmental limits, Meeting the climate change challenge, and Valuing the natural and historic environment and restructures them in a more holistic cross cutting way as Building the foundations for delivery, Making the best use of existing resources and minimising negative impacts, and Toward a sustainable future.
9. All the concerns and suggestions from our internal workshop have been addressed and incorporated into the strategy.
10. Members and officers welcome the revised Strategy. However areas requiring more detail are the social infrastructure needed to support housing growth, flood resistance and air quality.
11. Swale looks forward to seeing the Implementation Plan which we understand will be produced alongside of the final version of the Strategy in the Autumn. We would like town councils and parish councils to be involved in the drafting of the implementation Plan. We hope to adopt the Strategy in early 2016 and revise Climate Local Swale to reflect the new Strategy in due course.