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Matter Statement 18 – The Environment and Climate Change (Policies SP35, CC01-CC07 and SE01-SE08)

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Issue 1 – Climate Change – Policy SP35

Q1. Is it clear to decision-makers, developers and local communities what is required of proposals for new development under Policy SP35? Is the policy effective and how does it relate to the more specific policies on climate change in Chapter 15 of the Plan?

Response:

How does this affect the viability of the plan, is this taken into account, and does building standards take this into account? It is unclear on how this will be delivered? Is there a action plan? Will this be monitored? Is retrofitting to be funded? How does a increase in car ownership deal with this issue, are cars included?

I have raised many points in my representation on this.

I cannot find any evidence to Local Climate Kent, the most recent report found on KCC 2014. It is unclear to me what the project is currently doing and performing. Should there be a plan document in the evidence base? The targets do not go over the whole plan period to 2031.

https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/22676/Climate-Local-Kent-report-2014.pdf

Issue 4 – Contamination and Pollution – SE01-SE08

Q8. What is the justification for referring to the Institute of Lighting Professionals Standards in Policy SE08? Is it clear to decision-makers, developers and local communities what is required of proposals for new development? Is the policy effective?

Response:

As stated in my representation, there is a current issue in the winter months of the amount of light escaping the Thanet Earth Facility (the second brightest in the country). There is no reference to this and the amount of light is unacceptable. Thanet Council has no evidence on this matter, and from correspondence have no measurements on the amount of light pollution which is in Thanet, including the specific site of Thanet Earth, there is no assessment. Thanet earth is in the countryside and so its effect on the dark skies are more significant and policy should be strengthened.

Economic Growth may encourage more hydroculture to Thanet, however light pollution needs to be controlled, restricted and if possible remediated.