

NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

HELD ON 11 JUNE 2020, VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM

1. Surrey Climate Change Strategy

The Surrey Climate Change Strategy was presented to the Group. The report highlighted that Surrey County Council's Cabinet endorsed the Strategy and approved its associated actions on 28 April 2020. The report provided an outline of the SCC Strategy together with steps Woking Borough Council and its partners have and are already taking to deliver these actions in Woking Borough.

The public declaration of a net zero carbon target commits local authorities in Surrey to tackle climate change across every aspect of their assets and service provision, in conjunction with partners, residents, business and Government. As the net zero carbon target is a shared ambition across Surrey's local authorities it was agreed by Surrey Leaders and Chief Executives that the program would need to be tackled through a collaborative strategy, complementing not replacing individual local authorities own strategies. The Strategy sets out the intended approach to deliver the County's climate ambitions over the next thirty years.

Points arising from the discussion regarding zero emissions vehicles and recycling will be looked into by officers.

Members were requested to endorse the Surrey Climate Change Strategy on behalf of the Council and wider Borough and agree to Officers working with County colleagues to deliver actions.

Resolved that:

- (i) the Surrey Climate Change Strategy and its associated actions are endorsed.

2. Planet Woking

The key objective of the Planet Woking project are to raise the profile of what the Council has been undertaking to date to address climate change and sustainability locally, its climate and ecological emergency declaration and its current and future projects. The Council will also seek to engage local schools, residents and business to help them to play their part in enhancing the sustainability of the Borough and seeking feedback on current and future projects. The project will also deliver a series of talks based around the themes of Woking 2050 and Natural Woking to promote the Council's activities and projects around climate change and sustainability. Originally intended as a series of public talks and workshops, the programme will now comprise online talks which will enable us to proceed while adhering to national/local guidelines and restrictions with regards to Covid-19 and public events. This will also support the environment by avoiding participant travel. The report included a suggested programme for the talks, beginning with a launch in September 2020.

Members were requested to:

RESOLVE that:

- (i) the Planet Woking project be noted; and
- (ii) any further suggestions for the standalone website and online talks be forwarded to the Green Infrastructure team at green@woking.gov.uk

4. Large Scale Renewable Energy – Scoping Exercise and Plan

It had been requested that consideration be given again to a plan for large scale renewable energy (RE) generation, detailing how wind energy could be funded across the Borough and how it could be complemented with solar energy.

Officers identified a timeframe as follows:

Draft high level RE strategy in house	Summer/Autumn 2020
Scoping exercise of existing and emerging RE projects in pipeline through ThamesWey and across the Council's estate	Summer 2020
Revisit findings of RPS wind energy study and check their validity 10+ years on e.g. site availability, technology now available	Autumn/Winter 2020
Present further options for delivering against RE targets to the Climate Change Working Group	Spring 2021

The timetable was discussed and supported by the Group.

Officers recommended a series of steps to deliver the RE plan and accelerate renewable energy delivery across Woking Borough. These were supported by the Working Group.

Members were requested to:

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the paper be noted and the proposed next steps be supported.

5. ThamesWey Update

It was reported that Action Surrey had completed its 7th year in helping residents of Surrey to be more energy efficient. During the last year Action Surrey had assisted 66 households in Woking with the installation of domestic energy efficiency measures.

ThamesWey had facilitated real-world trials of a new energy saving technology - 'Radbot'. Eligible residents received devices free of charge, which were being monitored by the manufacture for effectiveness.

Environmental Report

It was noted that ThamesWey published its first annual report covering the group's activities for the 2019 calendar year. The report is publicly available on the ThamesWey website. Please see the link below for the annual report.

<https://mk0thamesweygroy6udm.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/ThamesWey-2019-Environmental-Report.pdf>

Brookwood Farm

The three Tesla Powerwall batteries installed had been reported to be operating well. The sunny weather had provided many opportunities for the batteries to charge from excess solar generation, whilst also maintaining the ability to charge from cheaper, lower-carbon electricity at night.

Engaging in Government Policy

ThamesWey is responding to three central government consultants to different areas of low-carbon heat policy, which could have wide-ranging impacts on how ThamesWey can continue to support Woking Borough in this area.

Poole Road Energy Centre building works are underway, despite the introduction of social distancing. A time lapse video from the first three months of construction is available on the following link: www.thamesweygroup.co.uk/energy-centre-taking-shape/ Excavations are also underway in Chertsey Road, this is to expand the existing district heating network and connect to the new developments in the area.

6. Action Surrey

It was noted that during this period Action Surrey had helped 66 households in Woking to install energy efficiency measures at a total cost of £27,466 saving an estimated 48 tonnes CO₂ per year. The ongoing Radbot trial was noted which will end in July, data from which will be collected and results reported back to the Climate Change Working Group.

Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard

The Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES) regulation came into force on the 1st April 2018. Under this regulation it is unlawful for new leases for residential properties with an EPC rating of F or G to be granted. Every privately rented domestic property therefore must have an EPC rating of E or above at the start of tenancy. Information and promotional materials aimed at landlords explained the new regulation. Landlords were encouraged to contact Action Surrey regarding the regulations and for necessary works to follow compliance.

7. The School Run

It was discussed that Surrey County Council were looking at delivering an Active Travel programme to encourage residents to walk, cycle and use public transport. During discussions, concerns were raised on the amount of vehicles arriving at schools which resulted in an increased rate of air pollution caused by parents' vehicles idling during drop off and pick times. The Chairman sought ideas from members in addressing this matter. Leaflets had been issued previously, demonstrated to be helpful in managing concerns around idling. Once schools resume fully, leaflets could be circulated. The annual Parking Review process was also an opportunity for proposals to be made. The following is a link to the Parking Review process www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/parking/reviews .

8. AOB

Members were informed that on 9 May 2020 the Government had launched an Active Travel initiative of which £250 million was mainly for walking and cycling infrastructure. It was discussed that the initiative would be useful for Woking to consider the expansion of Woking cycling lanes, storage, and e-bicycle charging points.