

Notes of a meeting of the Greener Woking Working Group

Held on 28 June 2023, virtually via Teams

1. Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) Update Report

The quarterly update on the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP), was reported since the last meeting in March 2023. The update report highlighted various activities and projects across themes within the CEAP.

The group were updated verbally on several key points of the CEAP.

Property Services had begun a pilot on an energy monitoring software system called Energi Raven, on eight key council buildings. The product is designed to help identify potential energy, carbon and financial savings on a building-by-building basis. The pilot also had potential to contribute to delivering a recommendation of the carbon footprint assessment to improve the energy performance of council owned buildings and its leased properties.

A second bid to the Government's Active Travel Fund (ATF) for the delivery of the Woking/West Byfleet cycle corridor had been unsuccessful, with positive feedback received from Active England encouraging Surrey County Council to develop the scheme design further to address concerns around shared use and verge parking.

It was highlighted that a bid application submitted to Southwestern Railway's Customer and Communications Improvement Fund, had been secured for the sum of £40k. The funding was for additional secure cycle storage, it was likely that the unit would be installed on the town centre side of the railways station.

The Climate Change Strategy and Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) consultations were launched on 18 May 2023, residents and stakeholders had six weeks to review the strategy and feedback comments until 30 June 2023. Approximately 90 responses were received so far regarding the Climate Change Strategy. Responses would be reviewed over the summer and appropriate feedback would be incorporated into the strategy where possible and an amended document would be brought to the group to further review and possibly look to adopt the document in the autumn.

The Planet Woking Wildlife Gardening Guide public consultation had been launched on 29 May 2023, the consultation was expected to close on 9 July 2023. The group were encouraged to promote the guide.

2. WeAct's recommendations

WeAct's recommendations were introduced to members.

WeAct provided a presentation to Woking Borough Council's (WBC) Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February 2023. Members of the committee supported many of the recommendations and put them forward to the Executive for considerations at its meeting on 23 March 2023. However, the Executive considered the recommendations and referred them back to the Greener Woking Working Group (GWWG). Members of the

GWWG were asked to consider and endorse all the recommendations and report back to the Executive for its approval.

The following five recommendations were presented to the group:

- For the council to strengthen the Climate Emergency Action Plan to reflect the recommendations of the Anthesis carbon footprint assessment.
- For officers to consider the feasibility of joining the UK100 network of councils (giving due consideration for the financial and resource implications).
- For the council to continue to be a 'High Ambition' council on climate action.
- To further support on embedding the council's net zero ambition across the organisation.
- For the council to continue its leadership role in encouraging community climate action.

Officers presented an update status on each recommendation and suggested next steps. It was agreed by the working group that these would be taken to a future Executive meeting for consideration.

3. ThamesWey/Action Surrey

The group were updated on the activities of ThamesWey and Action Surrey.

The first tranche of Sustainable Warmth scheme had closed in April, marking the end of another successful wave of energy efficiency retrofit for low-income households in Surrey. Work had still been ongoing on the second tranche of the Sustainable Warmth scheme, installations would continue until September and the project will be closed out fully by November 2023.

ThamesWey supported Surrey County Council's bid for another round of home decarbonisation funding from central government. In April 2023, the project joined a nationally coordinated 'launch' and applications to the Action Surrey led scheme opened in May 2023. A total of 70 applications had already been received for the scheme.