

Surrey Heath Borough Council
Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee
15 March 2023

Climate Change Working Group Update

Working Group Chair: Sharon Galliford, CCWG Chair
Strategic Director: Nick Steevens, Strategic Director Environment and Community
Report Author: Cameron Dent, Climate Change Officer

Summary and purpose

The Climate Change Action plan was developed by the Planning Policy and Conservation Team in conjunction with the Climate Change Working Group following the declaration of a Climate Emergency in October 2019. The initial Action Plan included a total of 65 Actions across 6 key themes, with actions prioritised for delivery, based on feedback from the Climate Change Working Group. To reflect the Council's levels of influence across the Borough it sets out actions in two categories:

- Council Operations: Actions that are directly within the scope of Surrey Heath Borough Council as an organisation (owned and operated building and assets).
- Wider Borough: Actions to support and work with all other relevant organisations and individuals to significantly reduce emissions Surrey Heath.

Since the Climate Change Action Plan has been published, a number of actions have been progressed. Some actions have also been updated to ensure our ambition to reach net zero by 2030 can be realised. The attached Annex A provides an update on the progress of each action within the Climate Change Action Plan. In addition, the table provides an update on expected next steps, the milestone or indicator an action is being judged against, the priority, resourcing, status and timeline for completing an action or milestone.

Recommendation

The Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee is advised to NOTE the Climate Change Action Plan Update Report and to make any observations.

1. Background and Supporting Information

- 1.1 The Climate Change Action Plan was agreed by the Executive on the 16th March 2021.
- 1.2 The Surrey Heath Climate Change Action Plan has two key aims:
 - i) To work towards achieving the ambitious net-zero carbon emission target by 2030 as an organisation and contribute to making the Borough net zero by 2050 (with the aspiration for net zero by 2030).

- ii) To ensure that the Council as an organisation is resilient to the impacts of climate change and support the resilience of the Borough to the impacts of climate change.
- 1.3 In addition, reflecting the Five Year Strategy, delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan aims to achieve a 70% reduction in organisational carbon emissions by the end of the Five Year Strategy period.
- 1.4 For the Council to reach its Net Zero goals, the Climate Change Action Plan will be reviewed yearly. This annual update will present progress on each action and ensure the document is ambitious and targeted enough to succeed.
- 1.5 Annex 1 lays out the suggested alterations from the 2023 yearly review that will enable the Climate Change Action Plan to meet the above criteria. These amendments will be considered at the next meeting of the Climate Change Working Group.
- 1.6 Annex 2 provides a full tabulated update on every action within the Climate Change Action Plan. Suggested alterations to actions, which are highlighted, can also be found in this annex.
- 1.7 In order to track progress, each action has been given a status. These can be defined as:
- Pending – work on this action has not yet begun
 - Started – action has been started
 - Continuing – an action where work has started and is expected to continue until at least 2030, becoming a regular business activity
 - Complete – objectives have been achieved and work on the action has stopped
 - Closed – work on the action has stopped without completing all goals
- 1.8 The Climate Change Action Plan has been separated into the following six key themes: Energy, Transport, Environment, Behaviour Change, Operations and Monitoring. The status of each action according to the theme it sits in is recorded below:

	Actions by Theme and Status					
	Energy	Transport	Environment	Behaviour Change	Operations	Monitoring
Pending	1	3	3	3	3	1
Started	1	-	5	3	3	-
Continuing	7	6	2	4	3	1
Complete	2	1	3	-	-	1
Closed	1	2	-	5	1	-
Total Actions	12	12	13	15	10	3

1.9 In total, 7 actions have been Completed, 35 have been Started and Continuing and 14 actions are still Pending. It is suggested that 9 actions are closed.

1.10 Further, all actions have also been assigned a priority. 31 actions are considered to be a high priority. Only 4 of these high priority actions are Pending, meaning 27 high priority actions have been Started, are Continuing or Complete.

1.11 Over the last year, the key achievements listed in the action plan have been:

1.11.1 Securing £151k of Government grant funding to install EV charging devices in SHBC car parks. SHBC works closely with SCC on EV infrastructure and is developing its own assets alongside SCC's commitment to install 10,000 chargers within Surrey County.

1.11.2 Planting of 5000 new trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project.

1.11.3 Development of the Tree Strategy which is currently going through executive sign-off process.

1.11.4 Development of the Energy Strategy which is currently going through executive sign-off process.

1.11.5 Completion of energy audits at Surrey Heath House and Camberley Theatre.

1.12 Over the next year, the proposed key actions are:

1.12.1 Create and action costed decarbonisation plans for our major buildings, as per the Energy Strategy.

1.12.2 Accelerate the rollout of energy efficient LED lights.

1.12.3 Relaunch a Staff Climate Network.

1.12.4 Provide Climate Change training for staff and Councillors.

1.12.5 Assess the potential to install more EV charging facilities within our multi-story carparks.

1.12.6 Begin the electrification of the council owned fleet, such as meals at home and community transport vehicles.

2. Reasons for Recommendation

2.1 Any recommendation from the Finance and Scrutiny Committee will be fed back to the Climate Change Working Group and the continued implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan.

3. Proposal and Alternative Options

3.1 The Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee may choose to make recommendations and comments on the Climate Change Action Plan Update Report attached as an annex to the report.

4. Contribution to the Council's Five Year Strategy

4.1 Implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan will play a key contribution to delivery of the Five Year Strategy Actions, with a particular focus on Environment and Health priorities, most notably to:

- Develop and deliver a credible pathway to being carbon neutral by 2030 in our estate and operations.
- Achieve at least 70% net reduction in the Council's carbon emissions by the end of the Strategy.
- Work with partners to support initiatives and infrastructure to increase the uptake of walking, cycling and public transport, and low emission vehicles.
- Deliver improvements to green infrastructure across the Borough, increasing the potential of our Green and Blue Infrastructure to sequester and store carbon.

5. Resource Implications

5.1 In order to achieve the actions set out in the Climate Change Action Plan, significant capital funding will be required. Any capital funding required will be submitted to the Council for approval on a case for case basis.

5.2 It should be noted that in many cases, actions requiring investment will pay back in the future. For example, through investing in improvements to the energy efficiency of Council owned and operated buildings, future energy bills will be reduced creating a long-term saving.

6. Section 151 Officer Comments

6.1 As set out in the report.

7. Legal and Governance Issues

7.1 There are no perceived legal or governance issues related to this update.

8. Monitoring Officer Comments

8.1 Nothing further to add.

9. Other Considerations and Impacts

Environment and Climate Change

9.1 The implementation of The Climate Change Action Plan will play a pivotal role in delivering the Council's net zero targets.

9.2 There are a number of additional co-benefits that can be achieved through the delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan. This includes, contributions to residents health and happiness, supporting nature and biodiversity and supporting business.

Equalities and Human Rights

9.3 The Climate Change Action Plan helps promote equality within the borough. In particular, this can be seen in its goals on addressing fuel poverty, improving residential building quality and improving food distribution.

9.4 Further assessments of equalities impact will be completed on a project-by-project basis.

Risk Management

9.5 Risks are considered on a project-by-project basis.

Community Engagement

9.6 Communicating, educating, informing and mobilising action linked to the Council's Climate Change Plan will be vital to impact wider Borough emissions reduction and meet the 2050 net zero goals.

9.7 Engagement will be developed on a case for basis, aligned to ensure delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan reflects a 'listening' Council.

9.8 A set of webpages on the Council's website are dedicated to climate change, including the replication of the Climate Change Action Plan. There are regular communications across numerous channels on many of the Actions included in the plan and regular social media updates to strengthen climate change awareness and action.

Annexes

Annex 1 – Suggested Alterations to the Climate Change Action Plan

Annex 2 - Surrey Heath Climate Change Action Plan Update March 2023

Background Papers

[Original 2019 Climate Change Action Plan](#)