

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SURREY  
HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL held at  
Surrey Heath House, Camberley on 9  
October 2019 (extract)**

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**44/C Motions**

It was moved by Councillor Edward Hawkins and seconded by Councillor Vivienne Chapman that

“this Council supports the actions being taken by Surrey County Council in tackling the environmental impact on our daily lives and supports the Government’s aim of eradicating the UK’s contribution to climate change by 2050. The Borough Council will

- (i) ask the Executive to establish a Working Group to deliver a strategy in 2019/20 which will be charged with outlining how the Council plans to deliver the target, including actions that will be taken. In doing so, it will liaise with Surrey County Council in urging government to confirm what support will be made available to local authorities;
- (ii) declare a ‘Climate Emergency’, and develops actions to support businesses and all relevant bodies in their work to tackle climate change; and
- (iii) develop a policy for the use of renewable materials and energy across the Council’s estate.

It was confirmed that the membership of an Executive Working Group was usually made in line with the Council’s political proportionality and was not restricted to members of the Executive

Members discussed the Government’s 2050 deadline and suggested that it was not ambitious enough and the length of this deadline did not reflect the declaration of an emergency.

It was moved by Councillor Rodney Bates and seconded by Councillor Adrian Page that the motion be amended to remove the words “by 2050”. The amendment was put to the vote and carried. As a consequence, it became the substantive motion, which was then put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED to**

- (i) **support the actions being taken by Surrey County Council in tackling the environmental impact on our daily lives and support the Government’s aim of eradicating the UK’s contribution to climate change;**

- (ii) ask the Executive to establish a Working Group to deliver a strategy in 2019/20 which will be charged with outlining how the Council plans to deliver the target, including actions that will be taken, and liaising with Surrey County Council in urging government to confirm what support will be made available to local authorities;**
- (iii) declare a 'Climate Emergency', and develop actions to support businesses and all relevant bodies in their work to tackle climate change; and**
- (iv) develop a policy for the use of renewable materials and energy across the Council's estate.**

**45/C Motions**

It was moved by Councillor Sharon Galliford and seconded by Councillor Morgan Rise that

“this Council

- (i) declares a Climate Emergency;
- (ii) acknowledges that 'business as usual' is not an option in the face of the climate and biodiversity emergency that happening globally, and that society in its current form is unsustainable;
- (iii) agrees to make Surrey Heath Borough Council and its contractors carbon neutral by 2030, or earlier if possible, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;
- (iv) agrees that it will need to assess and adjust its current activities both in terms of their scope and how they are undertaken, this will involve the inclusion of environmental implications of recommendations in all officer reports alongside legal, financial and equality implications, including the impact of recommendations on CO2 emissions as well as any other relevant environmental factors;
- (v) agrees to establish a cross-party working group, comprising 9 members, to review and make recommendations to the Council on actions to be undertaken to address climate change; and
- (vi) agrees that the draft Terms of Reference, as circulated with this agenda, be finalised at the first meeting of the Working Group.

Members considered the motion. Concerns were raised by some Members about the wording of (iii) of the motion, which it was felt it could be difficult to achieve and could have unintended consequences for residents.

It was moved by Councillor Paul Deach and seconded by Councillor Valerie White that (iii) of the motion be amended by inserting the words “attempt to” before “make Surrey Heath Borough Council...”. The amendment was put to the vote and lost.

The original motion was put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED to**

- (i) declare a Climate Emergency;**
- (ii) acknowledge that ‘business as usual’ is not an option in the face of the climate and biodiversity emergency that happening globally, and that society in its current form is unsustainable;**
- (iii) make Surrey Heath Borough Council and its contractors carbon neutral by 2030, or earlier if possible, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;**
- (iv) assess and adjust the Council’s current activities both in terms of their scope and how they are undertaken, this will involve the inclusion of environmental implications of recommendations in all officer reports alongside legal, financial and equality implications, including the impact of recommendations on CO2 emissions as well as any other relevant environmental factors;**
- (v) establish a cross-party working group, comprising 9 members, to review and make recommendations to the Council on actions to be undertaken to address climate change; and**
- (vi) finalise the draft Terms of Reference, as circulated with the agenda, at the first meeting of the Working Group.**