

Climate Change Action – APSE and APSE Energy Membership

Summary

To agree the business case for Council Membership of APSE and APSE Energy, following the recommendation of the Climate Change Working Group on the 3rd December 2020.

Portfolio: Environment & Health Portfolio Holder David Mansfield
Date Portfolio Holder consulted: 11 January 2021

Wards Affected

All

Recommendation

The Executive is advised to RESOLVE that Surrey Heath Borough Council becomes a member of APSE and APSE Energy.

1. Resource Implications

- 1.1 There is currently no budget allocated for Climate Change, although a revenue budget allocation is requested as part of the 2021-2022 budget process. It is therefore proposed that the membership fee for February and March 2021 will be paid from the 2020-2021 Planning Policy and Conservation budget. However, membership is subject to a 12 month notice period and therefore is an ongoing financial commitment such that Executive approval is requested. It is proposed that from the start of the 2021/22 financial year membership fees would be paid from the requested Climate Change revenue budget at a cost of £4669 per year.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 On the 16th of October 2019 Surrey Heath Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency and pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030 across its own estate and operations.
- 2.2 A Climate Change Action Plan is currently being developed in consultation with the Climate Change Working Group. The aim of the Action Plan is 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 to reach net zero by 2030).
- 2.3 As part of the development of the draft Action Plan, 'quick win' and 'high priority' actions have been identified. One of the high priority actions in the draft Climate Change Action Plan was to consider the benefits of Surrey Heath Borough Council becoming members of APSE and APSE

Energy. At the 3rd December Climate Change Working Group, a business case for the Council to become members of APSE and APSE Energy was considered by the group and it was agreed that the group recommended to Executive that the Council become members of APSE and APSE Energy.

- 2.4 The Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) is owned by its members and, working on their behalf, maintains and develops a network of local government officers, managers and councillors from local authorities across the UK. The organisation works on a non-profit basis and is dedicated to the to promoting excellence in the delivery of frontline services to local communities around the UK.
- 2.5 APSE Energy is a bespoke Local Authority Energy Collaboration that constitutes a partnership of member authorities which looks to leverage and maximise the opportunities afforded to local authorities by working together on a national scale on the green energy agenda. APSE Energy is part of the wider APSE family with the specific aim of getting local authorities back into a position of influence in the local energy market. This could be via use of low carbon vehicles, promoting energy efficiency in domestic properties or addressing fuel poverty by delivering a local cheaper tariff for residents.
- 2.6 APSE Energy has four main functions (relating to climate change):
- An advocacy role;
 - Provision of consultancy work and guidance for Councils;
 - Facilitating events, including webinars and training; and
 - Publications and materials providing evidence and guidance relating to climate change, as well as briefings, technical notes and newsletters.
- 2.7 Annex 1 sets out the business case for Surrey Heath Borough Council to become members of APSE and APSE Energy. It is noted that becoming members of both APSE and APSE Energy is cheaper than becoming only a member of APSE Energy. The current annual fee for joining APSE and APSE Energy is £4,669 and the pro rata fee for joining in February 2021 is £777.83. It is important to note that a 12-month period of notice has to be given for members intending to disaffiliate.

3. Options

- 3.1 The Executive has the following options:
- (i) to **AGREE the Climate Change Working Group recommendation** for the Council to become members of APSE and APSE Energy.
 - (ii) to **NOT AGREE the Climate Change Working Group recommendation for the Council to become members of APSE and APSE Energy.**

4. Proposals

4.1 For the Council become members of APSE and APSE Energy.

5. Supporting Information

5.1 None

6. Corporate Objectives And Key Priorities

6.1 Membership of APSE Energy will assist the Council in delivering the Climate Change Action Plan and meeting the 2030 carbon neutral target set by the Climate Emergency declared in October 2019.

7. Policy Framework

7.1 None.

8. Legal Issues

8.1 None

9. Environmental/climate change impacts

9.1 Membership of APSE Energy will assist the Council in delivering the Climate Change Action Plan and meeting the 2030 carbon neutral target set by the Climate Emergency declared in October 2019.

10. Consultation

10.1 None.

Annexes	Annex 1 – Business Case for APSE/APSE Energy
Background Papers	None
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