

## Notes of a Meeting of the Climate Change Working Group - 25 June 2020

### Members Present:

Cllr Morgan Rise (Chairman)                      Cllr Robin Perry  
Cllr Peter Barnett (Vice Chairman)              Cllr John Skipper  
Cllr Rodney Bates  
Cllr Edward Hawkins  
Cllr David Lewis

**In Attendance:** Cllr Graham Alleway and Cllr Sharon Galliford

**Officers:** Keiran Bartlett, Garry Carter and Tim Pashen

### 7 Election of Chairman for the 20/21 Municipal Year

Councillor Morgan Rise was elected as Chairman of the Working Group for the 20/21 municipal year.

It was also resolved that a Vice-Chairman of the Group be elected; and Councillor Peter Barnett was subsequently elected for the municipal year.

### 8 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence received prior to the meeting.

### 9 Notes of the Previous Meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 20 January 2020 were agreed.

### 10 Declarations of Interest

It was noted for the record that Councillor Graham Alleway worked as a consultant for Quality Managements Systems, Norwich which worked with businesses to achieve ISO 14001 environment management accreditation.

### 11 Update on Climate Change Study

The Working Group received an update on the Surrey Heath Climate Change Study currently being commissioned to support the preparation of the new Local Plan.

The study, was being undertaken by Planning Consultancy firm AECOM, and aimed to explore how Climate Change objectives could be effectively addressed through the emerging Surrey Heath Local Plan, both in terms of Climate Change mitigation and adaptation. Whilst the Planning Policy Team would receive a final draft on the whole Borough area's carbon baseline in due course, the baseline carbon emissions figures for the Council and its estate were ready for Members' consideration.

Using the most-up to date data possible (from 2013), the Council's baseline carbon emissions were 4,122 Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent and fitted into three distinct scopes:

- Scope 1 – Emissions which arose as a result of the direct activities of the Council for example the use of gas boilers and fleet vehicles.
- Scope 2 – Indirect emissions associated with the energy purchased and used by Surrey Heath Borough Council. This largely featured the electricity consumed by the Council.
- Scope 3 – Indirect emissions as a result of the activities of the Council. The vast majority of this was made up of the Council's procurement spend, business travel and employee commuting.

The Working Group received a brief breakdown of these three scopes into more specific areas. Following Members' questions and comments on the breakdown of the Council's Carbon emissions the following points were noted:

- Whilst it would be useful for analysis, at present this area of study was relatively new to all Councils. As a result it was difficult to draw comparisons to other Councils. However it was acknowledged that brief indications suggested that procurement spend regularly accounted for the majority of a Council's Carbon output.
- 9.2% of the Council's Total Carbon emissions were attributed to employee commuting. The estimate was scaled up from the number of Surrey Heath Employees; average car usage and then average fuel efficiency.
- There was potential to encourage different commuting methods for staff with subsidies on cycling and the provision of electric charging points.
- Scope 1 and 2 were mostly within the Council's control; for example in respect of choice of energy supplier.
- Scope 3 covered a wide range of areas and thereby varied in respect of the Council's ability to control it. For example there was scope to choose outside printers with a lower carbon footprint, but it was perhaps unrealistic to take into consideration a businesses' Carbon emissions, when procuring consultancy services.
- A much more detailed breakdown of the Council's Procurement in relation to Carbon Emissions would be brought back to a future meeting of the Working Group. Although the figure was minimal in relation to the Council's overall Carbon emissions, the Council's Carbon sequestration value would also be brought to the next meeting of the Working Group for consideration.
- The Council had the option to proactively look at the carbon emissions of its suppliers and contractors. This was already undertaken when procuring the Joint Waste Contract; although it was perceived that there would be a wider conversation around cost vs environmental considerations.

The Working Group noted that the 4,122 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per year equated to approximately 8658 barrels of oil per year. Early estimates from the commissioned study suggested that the Borough-Wide Carbon emissions totalled at 4,111,131 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per year, which could be offset by the planting of 6,798,138 seedlings. On these estimates the Council and its activities were accountable for approximately 1% of the carbon emissions produced in the Borough.

Members noted the planting of trees, specifically those which had particular environmental benefits in respect of carbon intake, should be encouraged via the

Local Plan and the wider Development Plan. In addition members of the Working Group felt it would be useful to be able to identify the amount of existing miniature carbon sinks within the Borough in its greenspaces. As a result it was agreed that the Borough's carbon sequestration value would be brought to the next meeting of the Working Group for consideration.

It was also recognised that AECOM should be encouraged to make their final study outcomes and recommendations as detailed as possible in relation to timelines, cost and how actions could be fed into the Local Plan.

## **12 Surrey Climate Change Strategy**

The Group considered Surrey's Climate Change Strategy, which was formulated by Surrey County Council and provided a strategy for collaborative action on Climate Change across Surrey Heath Local Authorities, with a view to recommending it to the Executive for adoption.

It was acknowledged that although Surrey County Council (SCC) had already adopted the strategy, before SHBC adoption there was potentially a need to make the strategy and any accompanying documents specific to Surrey Heath.

It was agreed for an action plan to be drafted in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman; which would sit alongside the Climate Change Strategy. The Working Group suggested various issues for consideration for inclusion in an action plan including initiatives to encourage commuting via Public Transport; the reconfiguration of parking tariffs and the use of key performance indicators. There was also a wider conversation in respect of working from home arrangements.

### **RESOLVED that**

- 1. the Working Group receive an outline of a Surrey Heath specific action plan at its next meeting;**
- 2. and the draft action plan be considered for recommendation for adoption by the Executive alongside the Surrey Climate Change Strategy.**

## **13 Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Working Group would be held in approximately a month's time.