



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(Surrey Heath)**

CLIMATE CHANGE FUND

18 February 2010

KEY ISSUE

The Leader of the Council has announced a Climate Change Fund of £50,000 available for Local Committees to bid into. Funding will be available for local, community-based initiatives, which support action to tackle climate change within the local area.

SUMMARY

The Climate Change Fund is a pot of money available in 2010-11 for local initiatives to tackle climate change. Local Committees are invited to submit proposals with a value of up to £10,000. This may be made up of one or more bids. Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of criteria set out in paragraph 2.3 below.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The local committee (Surrey Heath) is asked to consider the bid attached as annex 1 and agree whether to submit as its application to the Climate Change Fund.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Leader of the Council has announced that sustainability and taking action to prevent climate change must play a key part in the Council's agenda, cutting across all our strategies and services.
- 1.2 The County Council works in partnership with the Surrey boroughs and districts through the Surrey Climate Change Partnership to reduce per capita carbon emissions in Surrey and to improve our resilience to the impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events.
- 1.3 Surrey's per capita carbon emissions were 6.67 tonnes in 2007. The domestic sector accounts for 39% of emissions; the industrial and commercial sector 32% and road transport 29%.

2 DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

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- 2.1 A small fund, amounting to £50,000 in total, has been announced by the Leader of Surrey County Council to enable Local Committees to support climate change initiatives. The aim of the fund is to support local actions to raise awareness and develop local solutions for tackling climate change and improving local resilience.
- 2.2 There are a number of activities and groups across Surrey who are already active in this area. Equally, a number of Surrey schools are playing a leading role in reducing carbon emissions in their schools and raising awareness of climate change through the curriculum.
- 2.3 The Fund will support projects that can demonstrate:
 - Support for the aims of the Climate Change Strategy
 - Local community leadership and engagement
 - Innovation and replicability
 - Demonstrable impacts in terms of cutting carbon emissions, raising local awareness and/or improving local resilience i.e. adapting to climate change.

3 OPTIONS

- 3.1 The Local Committee is asked to consider the proposal set out in Annex 1 and agree whether to put forward for possible funding.
- 3.2 Examples of the types of initiatives to be supported may include:
 - Support for the development of local environmental groups, such as Transition Towns, Fairtrade Groups, Greening Campaigns
 - Support for local awareness-raising events and campaigns
 - Support/training for development of skills in community leadership/communicating climate change
 - Support for local schools climate change initiatives
 - Initiatives to improve air quality

4. CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 It is envisaged that due consultation with any relevant stakeholders will take place if the bid proposed by the Local Committee is approved for action.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The financial arrangements relating to this fund are set out above.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This project will allow safe access to the pool area.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Local Committee has an opportunity to support a project which will reduce the impact of climate change in Surrey Heath. It is invited to discuss options and agree whether to put forward this bid as its submission.

9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 9.1 The bids will be evaluated by Dr Andrew Povey, Leader of the Council, Dr Lynne Hack, Cabinet Member for the Environment and Roger Hargreaves, Head of Environment.
- 9.2 All funds should be spent by 31 March 2011. Bids will be assessed using the evaluation criteria outlined above and local committees will be informed of the outcome by 23rd March 2010.
- 9.3 All successful bids will be required to produce a final report which outlines:
- How the money has been spent
 - Community engagement in the project
 - Impacts and outcomes of the project
- 9.4 In addition, projects will be required to provide a brief quarterly update setting out
- Last quarter key actions
 - Next quarter key actions
 - Spend to date

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

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