

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the **SURREY'S GREENER FUTURE TASK AND FINISH GROUP** held at 11.30 am on 29 October 2019 at G44 - County Hall.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its meeting on 12 November 2019.

**Elected Members:**

- \* Mrs Nikki Barton
- \* Mr Paul Deach
- \* Mr Jonathan Essex
- \* Mr Andy MacLeod (Chairman)
- \* Mr John O'Reilly (ex-officio)
- Mrs Becky Rush
- Mrs Fiona White

**Co-opted Members:**

Professor Richard Murphy, University of Surrey

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]**

Apologies had been received from Fiona White and Becky Rush.

**2 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING: 9 SEPTEMBER 2019 [Item 2]**

The Minutes were approved as an accurate record of the previous meeting.

**3 WITNESS SESSIONS [Item 3]**

**Witnesses:**

Katie Sargent, Environment Commissioning Group Manager  
Rachel Crossley, Director of Strategic Commissioning

**Key points raised in the discussion:**

Feedback and Reflections

1. The Environment Commissioning Group Manager explained that there were a few witness sessions left to re-arrange. This included Stroud District Council and Wiltshire Council and officers will circulate the details to Members before the Task and Finish Group's next meeting on 12 November 2019.
2. Members agreed that the notes from the witness sessions should be collated into a summarised document within the Draft Select Committee Report as this was useful to the Council as best practice.
3. Members agreed that there should be an all-Member briefing on the evidence from the witness sessions and the Task and Finish Group would look into presenting their ideas and challenges to all Members.

#### Any outstanding issues

4. Members felt that Community engagement needed developing and it would be useful if the Task and Finish Group received more specialists on this area.
5. It was agreed that there needed to be greater emphasis on increasing public participation and Facebook would be a useful tool to aid this.
6. The Environment Commissioning Group Manager stated that the Council's weakest theme area was: Countryside, food, farming, water and land use and asked Members for their ideas to address that.
7. The Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce's (RSA) useful pamphlet on sustainable land use and farming titled 'Our Future in the Land' was suggested as a useful document to review.
8. It was suggested that Surrey Hills Enterprises was also a useful organisation and would help raise business engagement.
9. Key themes were summarised as follows:
  - Transport - the recent regional Local Transport Body consultation on sustainable transport was a helpful tool to the Council.
  - Building, development and infrastructure - the Council needed a focused plan in order for it to move towards zero carbon emissions.
  - Waste, resources and the circular economy - supported the Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) staying open.
  - Energy - a detailed follow-up was needed which focused on renewable energy.
10. In response to a Member query, the Director of Strategic Commissioning recognised that a more comprehensive plan on the economic development of Surrey was needed to develop the Council's Vision 2030 and to make use of the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).
11. Members agreed that a true commitment to Surrey's Greener Future required sufficient resources and a detailed revenue budget was needed which identified the orders of magnitude across relevant areas.

#### Cabinet Member engagement

12. Members were reminded of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste's recent visit to the 'Cut the Pollution' campaign in Farnham.
13. It was felt that it would be useful for Members to receive the baseline data from the University of Surrey on the Council's emissions, before Cabinet Member engagement.
14. The time constraints of producing a report to December's Council meeting was highlighted and it was agreed that it was essential to have the data from the University of Surrey as soon as possible.

#### **4 SCC EMISSIONS [Item 4]**

##### **Witnesses:**

Katie Sargent, Environment Commissioning Group Manager  
Rachel Crossley, Director of Strategic Commissioning

### **Key points raised in the discussion:**

1. The Environment Commissioning Group Manager explained that Surrey County Council did not have annual emissions data since 2013 as that was not a statutory requirement.
2. Members were informed that the Council's focus was on its 2018-2019 emissions data on scope one and two areas: which included estates as well as schools and vehicle mileage/emissions of all staff travel, which did include Members' travel in response to a Member query.
3. Data was not collated on contracted out services such as bus journeys and waste emissions - scope three. Unlike scope one and two data, scope three data would not be ready for the Draft Select Committee Report going to December's Council meeting.

## **5 DRAFT SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT [Item 5]**

### **Witnesses:**

Rachel Crossley, Director of Strategic Commissioning  
Katie Sargent, Environment Commissioning Group Manager

### **Key points raised in the discussion:**

Feedback on initial structure

1. In response to concerns over the generic nature of the recommendations in the Draft Select Committee Report, the Director of Strategic Commissioning stated that there was room for greater specificity as the project developed.
2. It was questioned whether there were common strands from the witness sessions which would inform the updated recommendations. Real initiatives would provide guidance to the Council - such as Bristol City Council's advice against in-house electricity generation.
3. The Environment Commissioning Group Manager noted that the witness sessions on sustainable school transport was useful and highlighted the need for funding and investment for such projects.
4. Members were happy with the initial structure and asked for the summarised notes from the witness sessions to be collated within the Draft Select Committee Report.

Themes (discussion on level of detail and key points)

5. In response to a query on public sector partnerships, the Director of Strategic Commissioning noted that finance and procurement were central to the Surrey County Council theme, public sector partnerships would follow on.
6. The Director of Strategic Commissioning agreed to the request that best practice and distilled evidence from witness sessions should be included within the emerging themes.

## Call for Action

7. The Director of Strategic Commissioning informed Members that the draft Call for Action required more long-term and clearer phasing and had been shown to Cabinet.
8. Members felt that that point 13: 'plant 1.2M trees by 2030', could be made more tangible and potential actions could be to focus on increasing woodland coverage in the county, protecting ancient woodland, tackling Ash dieback and developers should commit to a net planting of trees.
9. It was also felt that planting more trees was beneficial as it increased air quality and the maintenance of planted trees must also be assured.
10. In response, the Director of Strategic Commissioning suggested that point 13 be further developed rather than removed completely.
11. Members suggested that that housing and insulation were important and should be considered within the 'As Residents' column.
12. Members stated that the table was a good engagement tool to lay the foundations of the developing strategy and sustainability was crucial.
13. A discussion around the language used in the table was held and it was agreed that this should be strong and consistent, that 'consider' climate change in point 2 should be replaced with 'embed'.
14. In response to Members' suggestions, the Director of Strategic Commissioning stated that a standalone 'Communications Plan' was not necessary as work was being done with the Surrey Environment Partnership to create a Surrey-wide approach.
15. It was agreed that it was important that there should be a continuous campaign for a greener Surrey after completion of the Task and Finish Group and it could consider its own draft vision for the future. It was explained that the 'officer delivery group' - in the second recommendation - was essential as it would be a cohesive body.
16. Members requested that the second recommendation, the 'zero carbon board' and 'officer delivery group' should be specified as cross-party/cross-department; and a resources plan should be included in their Terms of Reference.
17. Members suggested that the fourth recommendation should be wider than its Surrey focus, to include the Thames Flood Alleviation Scheme and the Strategic Transport Board for example.
18. Members thought it useful if the 'increased powers' from the Government - in the sixth recommendation - sought by the Council were specified and the Director of Strategic Commissioning stated that this would include locally devolved powers.

## **6 DESIGN CHALLENGE [Item 6]**

### **Witnesses:**

Rachel Crossley, Director of Strategic Commissioning  
Katie Sargent, Environment Commissioning Group Manager

### **Key points raised:**

1. The Director of Strategic Commissioning drew Members' attention to a recent briefing note sent to all Members updating them on the design challenge. Ten projects had been shortlisted and were participating in a number of design workshops between now and December. The

- projects were being led by residents and covered a number of issues such as tree-planting, cycle-mapping and reducing waste in schools.
2. The Task and Finish Group were also informed that there was a podcasting project and it would be useful if Members helped with this.
  3. It was felt that greater creativity was a positive way to increase engagement and to be accessible to all generations.

## **7 ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS [Item 7]**

### **Witnesses:**

Rachel Crossley, Director of Strategic Commissioning  
Katie Sargent, Environment Commissioning Group Manager  
Vicky Hibbert, Governance Lead Manager

1. The upcoming witness sessions will be confirmed with Members prior to the next meeting of the Task and Finish Group on 12 November 2019.
2. The Draft Select Committee Report including the themes, Call for Action and collated witness evidence sessions will be circulated to Members as a word document so they can add track changes - before the next meeting on 12 November 2019.
3. Baseline data from the University of Surrey will be included into the Draft Select Committee Report.
4. A representative from the University of Surrey to come to the Task and Finish Group's next meeting on 12 November 2019.
5. The Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee will review the Task and Finish Group's Draft Select Committee Report at its next meeting on 22 November 2019.
6. The Environment Commissioning Group Manager would include an explanatory paragraph on adaptation within the Draft Select Committee Report.
7. Members to liaise with officers on the podcasting project.

## **8 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING [Item 8]**

The next meeting of the Surrey's Greener Future Task and Finish Group will take place on 12 November 2019.

Meeting ended at: 1.25 pm

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**Chairman**