

## **Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

### **Carbon and Energy Policy: Response to questions from Jonathan Essex**

**1. The benchmarked councils have annual reduction targets from 2 to 3.6%. This strategy proposes a target at the bottom end of this range. Please can you confirm whether we can match the aspirations for Surrey to be 'the lead county for Sustainable Waste Management' (draft new municipal waste management strategy) with similar leadership in terms of our targets in this area?**

- The proposed carbon reduction target has been set in the context of implementing financially acceptable investment cases and against a background of identified growth pressures including schools expansions.
- Our experience from the last four years enables us to set a target informed by evidence of the carbon reduction delivered by different types and scales of investment.
- With this in mind a 10% reduction over 5 years is an ambitious yet deliverable target for the council.
- Many of the other council's referenced with higher per annum reductions, have indicated aspirational targets over a longer period (for example in line with the scale of national carbon budgets for 2050), but we have not so far seen any that have full proposals as to how such scales of reduction will be achieved.

**2. While the Waste Strategy is jointly owned by our boroughs and districts which allows best practice and joint working on these issues across the county, similarly there is a joint Surrey Energy and Sustainability Partnership that brings together all Surrey's boroughs and districts with the county council. With this in mind is it Surrey County Council's intention to produce a wider Surrey joint strategy in this area, reflecting the partnership membership, which could help best practice and extend the approach of Surrey County Council's best practice to our borough/district colleagues?**

The Surrey Energy and Sustainability Partnership (formerly the Surrey Climate Change Partnership) agreed the Surrey Climate Change Strategy in 2009 (as is mentioned in question 4).

This includes workstreams for own estate management carbon reduction and domestic energy efficiency in the community. In addition to this, the LASER procurement contract involves boroughs and districts and the council's wider SE7 relationships have been developed for joint working across areas including and wider than managing energy costs.

We have engaged with borough and districts regarding the county council's Carbon and Energy policy renewal and we are aware of the boroughs and districts implementing similar energy investments and initiatives, designed to meet the needs of their estate own portfolios.

Some examples include:

- leisure centre Combined Heat and Power schemes,
- LED lighting projects,
- Woking Borough Council's ESCO (which the county has partnered in solar PV at schools)
- Impressive headline carbon emissions reductions reported in many B&D estates, although it is not possible to compare exactly like with like.

We will continue to work with all partners in SESP and beyond, to deliver further energy and carbon reductions.

**3. This strategy does not include much focus on wider engagement and influence with other partners with whom we have contracts: highway and waste contracts, care partners including care homes, surrey wildlife trust having long term stewardship of much of our physical assets, for example. How will strategies in these areas, and opportunities for carbon and energy savings these represent be reflected in the objectives, and monitoring targets set for this strategy going forward.**

Energy consumption and associated carbon emissions in the supply chain is included in relation to proposed Procurement activity and as part of joined up wider decision making. It is not proposed that supply chain ('scope 3') emissions form part of our direct measured target reduction, as a preference has been to focus on the aspects that are most within our control. The Procurement workstream will consider actions required to ensure that our aims are reflected in relevant contractual relationships.

**4. How does this policy relate to the Surrey Climate Change strategy, and when is the latter due to be refreshed or updated?**

The Carbon and Energy Policy sets out SCCs role in supporting a delivery of workstream 2 of the Surrey Climate Change Strategy, along with the various Carbon and Energy Management plans of boroughs and districts.

This strategy was agreed in 2009 is for the period to 2020 and the partnership continues to ensure the focus of work is kept up to date.

Changes since 2009 include:

- Removal of Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets for reductions in carbon emissions in 2010;
- go-live of the Green Deal in 2013; and
- additional Public Health responsibilities.

In response to these factors, all 12 council's signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide a joint local energy saving advice service to residents. This has a particular focus on supporting vulnerable residents and winning additional grant funding for Surrey, through joint funding bids.

An update on the SESP was presented to the Environment and Transport Select Committee in April 2014.