

Annex 1

Smarter working for the environment



For a healthy, clean, prosperous and resilient Surrey

Context

Clean, green and safe...and resilient into the future

Surrey County Council recognises the immense value provided by our immediate and wider global environment. At a local level, Surrey's 'clean, green and safe' character along with access to London and global markets, has long made it a location of choice for residents and businesses. To maintain this, we must increase our resilience to environmental changes and ensure we are highly efficient in our use of resources.

Going beyond our minimum obligations in a climate of austerity

Our response to this challenge should go beyond legal and regulatory minimum requirements since our interactions with the environment are numerous and complex meaning legislation alone is not a sufficient solution. Additional voluntary and collaborative action at a local level is key to developing effective solutions to ensure Surrey is, and remains, a clean, green and resilient place. However, the council faces significant financial challenges due to increasing demand for services and cost of delivery, compounded by funding reductions. Therefore, to enable the council's action for the environment to go beyond our statutory requirements, these require a positive business case to council and/or for the costs and benefits to stakeholders to be aligned through developing appropriate partnerships.

Scope of the council's influence

The council plays an important and direct role in managing resilience and conserving/enhancing our environment through the provision of services (transport, waste management, flood risk management etc) as well as our influence over the £37.5billion of economic activity in Surrey and our role in the lives of 1.15 million residents. Our own estate, operations, landholdings and the actions of our staff and suppliers have environmental impacts and are subject to risks posed by the environment.

This policy aims to set out the context in which we will work with our stakeholders to manage our environmental responsibilities and harness leadership opportunities.

'One Council' for environmental sustainability

The council's vision is to be 'one place, one budget, one team for Surrey'. Applying this in the context of the environment is vital for progress in managing our environmental risks and impacts. In doing so, our activities will become mutually reinforcing, provide value for money and be more enduring. Without a coherent approach across the council with respect to environmental sustainability, progress in one area is at risk of being undermined by unsustainable activity in another.

All services, business processes and suppliers will take account of their environmental risks, impacts and opportunities in particular and where relevant:

- Resilience to risks posed by a changing climate
- Sustainable travel
- Efficient use of materials, minerals and water
- Waste minimisation and recycling
- Efficient and low carbon energy
- Biodiversity and landscape quality in Surrey
- Prevention of hazardous pollution of air, water and soil
- Overall raising awareness and capacity building in valuing the environment

Our environmental services and initiatives will take account of the council's strategic goals, which are:

- Wellbeing - Everyone in Surrey has a great start to life and can live and age well
- Economic Prosperity - Surrey's economy remains strong and sustainable
- Resident Experience - Residents in Surrey experience public services that are easy to use, responsive and value for money

Measuring our progress

We will report on our corporate environmental impacts (energy, business travel and water consumption) in the council's annual report. We will comply with all external environment-related reporting requirements.

Indicators of the council's progress are:

Embedding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of relevant major projects/policy changes with environmental risks, impacts and benefits identified and managed, via Cabinet report screening (see Appendix I for examples of the nature of the council's environmental risks and impacts)
Own estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy consumption, cost and carbon emissions on our own estate • Staff business travel mileage and carbon emissions • Tonnage of waste arising and percentage sent for recycling, energy from waste etc. • Water consumption on our own estate (with data quality improvements subject to introducing smart metering) • Number of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) included on our own estate and within our own capital schemes • Proportion of countryside sites with appropriate management plans in place • Proportion of SSSI's in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition
Suppliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social value added by suppliers using the Social Value Measurement Framework
Service specific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Appendix II for various strategies for the delivery of services including Waste Management, Transport and Countryside services

Benefits and achievements to date

<p>ONE place ONE budget ONE team for Surrey</p>	<p>6,000 pupils are trained every year in Surrey to cycle safely on the roads and training is expanding to meet demand from adults keen to get back in the saddle.</p>	<p>Resilient and prosperous local economy</p>	<p>2,200 households have been supported to make energy efficient home improvements which reduces costs, carbon emissions and improves health particularly for vulnerable people.</p>
<p>Project Horizon is renewing 300 miles of roads whilst diverting waste from landfill by using recycled aggregate materials. This makes our highways fit for future use and provides long term guarantees from the supply chain.</p>	<p>Protection and enhancement of the local environment</p>	<p>Over 23,000 volunteer hours in 2015-16 have been given to Surrey Countryside Management Partnerships helping with the conservation and biodiversity of the countryside and raising an additional £122,000 in income.</p>	<p>Value for money for tax payers</p>
<p>Reliable council services into the future</p>	<p>Surrey Prepared (Surrey Community Resilience Partnership) has developed a network of over 100 community resilience groups and has trained over 150 volunteers in flood risk and weather awareness across the county.</p>	<p>Wellbeing of residents and reducing inequalities</p>	<p>Surrey's furniture reuse schemes have enabled 8,200 households to furnish their homes with decent and affordable furniture, avoiding 540 tonnes of waste going to landfill and providing for 400 work placements/volunteers</p>

Priority action areas

The council delivers an extensive range of environmental services, for which a range of strategies are already in place covering both innovation and business as usual activities. These are summarised in Appendix II.

Building on existing work programmes, the council's priority commitments for action associated with this policy are focused on increasing our resilience in a changing climate and managing environmental impacts. We will focus on the activities over which we have greatest influence and are the most cost effective, in particular:

1. We will include environmental considerations in decision making across council services.
2. We will work with partners to build the resilience of our communities and estate to climate impacts.
3. We will make our buildings, operations and services as resource efficient and low cost as practicably possible.
4. We will work with suppliers to reduce the environmental impact of the goods and services they deliver for us and reduce our supply chains exposure to environmental risks.
5. We will seek to reduce emissions and improve air quality across the county from transport by promoting sustainable transport options.

Appendix I: Some examples of environmental risks and impacts for core council operations and services

Back office functions

- Estate management: Energy, water and materials consumption and waste management
- Staff business travel: opportunities to reduce need to travel and reduce impacts e.g. through virtual meetings and shift to more sustainable modes
- IT: specification and refresh programmes for IT and telecoms equipment
- Communications: opportunities to reduce printing by increasing digital channels and options for sourcing recycled/sustainably sourced printed communications materials
- Procurement: varied impacts and risks of supply chain – see below for examples

Social care

- Impact of adverse environmental conditions e.g. heat waves, flooding on health and wellbeing of vulnerable people – risk assess and plan to mitigate
- Energy consumption in outsourced care homes
- Travel impacts of home care providers (council employee travel is included in 'back office' category above)
- Material resource consumption and treatment of waste in the delivery social care

Children, Schools and Families

- Building design specifications for resource efficiency in construction and operation
- Building design specifications to meet future climate conditions
- Location of schools and children's services buildings with regard to flood risk
- Teaching and learning about sustainable lifestyles, technologies etc.
- Consumption of resources in operation of schools (energy, waste, water)
- Sustainable travel to school
- Schools grounds management for supporting biodiversity / wildlife habitats

Communities

- Trading Standards role in enforcement of environmental labelling schemes
- Increasing risks from new vector-transmitted diseases affecting animal health increases demand for services in Trading Standards animal health role
- Increase in demand for services resulting from increasing frequency and severity of flooding, wild fire and heatwaves in a changing climate
- Emissions from the consumption of fuels in Fire and Rescue service vehicles

Environment and Infrastructure

- Environmental impacts of options for management of household waste
- Impacts of increased flooding and heatwave frequency on highway network
- Impacts of materials used in highway maintenance and management of waste arising
- Availability of public transport services to support sustainable travel of residents
- Fuel consumption in subsidised bus services and contracted home to school transport
- Risks posed to managed countryside sites and the Basingstoke canal from a changing climate

Appendix II: National Policy context, Statutory duties and Indicators relating to the environment

Service	Key county council strategies	Acts covering Statutory duties of the council	Monitoring data council is required to collect (as per Single Data List) ¹
Countryside service	<p>Rights of Way Improvement Plan: strategic approach to managing public access</p> <p>Surrey Countryside and Rural Enterprise Forum - Rural Statement for Surrey: provides for collaborative approach to protecting and enhancing rural Surrey</p> <p>Landscape Character Assessment: guidance for new developments to align with existing landscape character of Surrey</p>	<p>Countryside & ROW Act 2000: enable people to explore open countryside; reform and improve rights of way; protection to wildlife and natural features (biodiversity)</p> <p>Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981: sets out responsibility of the Council as a landowner and planning authority to manage and protect SSSI's and other sites with statutory designations</p> <p>Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006: Local Authority role in management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</p>	<p>Local nature conservation/ biodiversity (DEFRA) – Proportion of Local Sites where positive conservation management is being achieved</p>
Emergency Planning & Community Safety	<p>Surrey Local Resilience Forum Annual Business Plan: sets out progress of Surrey Resilience Partnership and work priorities for coming year with aim to plan and prepare for localised incidents and catastrophic emergencies.</p> <p>Surrey Community Risk Register: hazards identified to communities</p>	<p>Civil contingencies Act 2004: Requires public services at a local level to prepare for adverse events and incidents</p> <p>Flood & Water Management Act 2010: improve flood risk management and sets out responsibilities on the council</p> <p>The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015: Requires council to act as statutory consultee for major planning applications with surface water drainage implications</p>	<p>Strategic Overview of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk (DEFRA/EA) – Number of properties where flood or coastal erosion risk has been reduced / managed</p> <p>Flood and Coastal Risk Management and Sustainable Drainage Systems (DEFRA) – 5 indicators referring to Lead Local Flood Authority responsibilities</p> <p>Reporting on EU Flood Risk Regs (DEFRA/EA) – 3 indicators referring</p>

¹ The council gathers a range of other data for its own purposes, in addition to the requirements from the Single data list.

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	and responses to mitigate these risks ² Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Draft): How flood risk will be dealt with in Surrey	Land Drainage Act 1991: Requires council to issue consents for works on watercourses	to responsibilities of Local Authorities for Flood Risk Management
Transport services	Surrey Transport Plan: various strategies, by issue e.g. congestion, climate change, parking and by mode e.g. bus, cycling, rail, freight etc	Transport Act 2008: the provision and regulation of road transport services and subsidising of passenger transport services Highways Act 1980: responsibilities of the Council in relation to the management and operation of the road network	Concession Travel Survey Local Bus Punctuality
Procurement	Procurement Strategy 2015-18 (Orbis) Ensure contracts awarded by Surrey County Council and East Sussex County Council provide great value for money, provide the best possible social value for our residents and demonstrates the council's commitment to ethical sourcing e.g. Sustainable Timber Policy WWF Gold PledgeS	Social Value Act 2012: Requires public authorities to have regards to economic, social and environmental well-being in connection with public services contracts	Public Contracts Regulations 2006: Statistics for contracts awarded above certain thresholds

² Surrey's Local Resilience Forum Strategic has produced '[Climate Change Guidance: Impacts, Mitigation and Adaptation for Surrey](#)'. This considered possible impacts of climate change on the scope of responsibilities of the LRF group, in order to inform the forum's planning assumptions. Further appraisal of climate change risks to wider council services is available in 'Future Surrey: The potential implications of actual and projected changes in the climate of Surrey' (Phil Sivell Consulting) which is available from the council's Environment Policy team.

Service	Key county council strategies	Acts covering Statutory duties of the council	Monitoring data council is required to collect (as per Single Data List) ¹
Public health	<p>JSNA: Environment chapter assesses impact of natural and built environment on people's health and makes recommendation to address these issues</p> <p>Health & Well Being Strategy: promotes healthy lifestyles and independent living in healthy and sustainable communities</p>	<p>Health & Social Care Act 2012 Take steps to improve the health of people who live in their area (based on local needs and priorities)</p> <p>Public Health Outcomes Framework Range of measures LAs judged against including measures influenced by environmental factors</p>	<p>Coalition of NHS Health Check quarterly data return</p> <p>National Child Measurement Programme: measures the height and weight of children at school, aged 5 and 11, to assess overweight and obesity levels. This data informs the planning of health initiatives and services.</p>
Sustainability and Place	<p>Smarter working for the environment (i.e. this document): sets out the council's overall approach to environmental sustainability</p> <p>Carbon and Energy Policy: the council's plan to continue to reduce emissions from buildings and business travel through efficiency and sustainable energy generation and travel</p> <p>Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy (SMOTS): how SCC promote sustainable travel for school journey in relation to local priorities and resource</p>	<p>Climate Change Act 2008: Gives government power to require public authorities to report on their progress on climate change risk management</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework: The government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied, with the purpose of the planning system contributing to sustainable development</p> <p>Localism Act 2011: Duty to Co-operate with local planning authorities</p> <p>Education Act 2006: duty on local authorities to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport and publication of a Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy</p>	<p>Emissions from LA own estate and operations (DECC, now DBEIS)</p>
Waste management	<p>Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy: Partnership plan with waste collection authorities (boroughs and districts)</p>	<p>Environment Protection Act 1990: Requires county council to manage and safely dispose of waste collected and Household Waste Recycling Centres (including reuse, recycling etc)</p>	<p>Waste Data Flow (DEFRA)</p>

Service	Key county council strategies	Acts covering Statutory duties of the council	Monitoring data council is required to collect (as per Single Data List) ¹
Minerals and Waste Planning	<p>Surrey Minerals Plan: Through the allocation of sites and policies seeks to ensure a sustainable supply of minerals.</p> <p>Surrey Waste Plan: Seeks to identify the land required to provide facilities for the more sustainable management of Surrey's waste</p> <p>Aggregates recycling DPD: Through the identification of suitable sites and policies seeks to encourage the recycling of construction waste to meet the Minerals Plan target and thus reduce reliance on land won minerals</p>	<p>Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004</p> <p>The county council has minerals and waste planning responsibilities and is required to produce a plan to provide a framework for decisions involving these uses</p>	<p>Planning Service Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) Duty to monitor the effectiveness of planning policy and share data in a timely way. The AMR contains a range of minerals and waste data to help monitor the effectiveness of planning policies</p> <p>Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) The county council is required by national policy to produce a LAA. Produced annually and monitors current and forecasted demand for construction aggregate and the supply options including the contribution of recycled aggregate. Feeds into a wider regional monitoring report</p>

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