



Environment and Infrastructure Select Committee
5 October 2017

Annual Progress Report on the council's environmental sustainability

Purpose of the report: Performance Management and Policy Development and Review

The purpose of this report is to formally consider the progress made in 2016/17, in relation to the Smarter Working for the Environment Policy and Action Plan.

Introduction

1. The council recognises that a healthy and well-functioning natural environment is the foundation for prosperous communities, economic development and personal wellbeing. Therefore environmental sustainability is an important goal for the council.
2. There are a wide range of sector specific powers and duties relating to service areas which, in combination, support sustainable development.
3. In November 2016, the council adopted a policy and action plan for environmental sustainability, focusing on a number of priorities:
 - a) embedding sustainability in high level decisions
 - b) partnership working for climate resilience
 - c) operational / estate efficiency
 - d) procurement opportunities
 - e) air quality via reducing emissions from transport

Progress in activities

4. This papers sets out the progress to date on delivering the Action Plan and next steps in developing the policy.

5. The updated 'Smarter Working for the Environment Progress Record and Action Plan' (**Annex A**) contains full details of:
 - a) progress to date and
 - b) future planned activities

6. Activity to date is summarised as follows:

Priority 1: Include environmental considerations in decision making across council services:

- Guidance has been published on the intranet to support the appraisal of significant environmental issues arising from Cabinet decisions, highlighting any issues to members alongside other aspects such as financial and equalities implications.

Priority 2: Work with partners to build resilience of our communities and estate to climate impacts:

- **Seasonal health** - development of the Seasonal Health Strategy is underway and is due to be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in late 2017.
- **Temporary Flood Defence Plans** – plans have been developed for specific high risk areas along the River Thames and the River Wey at Guildford and Godalming, for the timely deployment of temporary flood defence barriers to protect property, people and infrastructure.
- **Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs)** – a scoping study has been completed which has reviewed techniques and applications. The study has presented a high level appraisal of sites considering flood risk categories, in order to identify relative needs and opportunities for SUDs across the council's corporate estate and other high priority facilities including health and police sectors.

Priority 3. Make buildings, operations and services as resource efficient and low cost as practicably possible:

- **Financing and procurement of energy efficiency measures** – on the corporate estate, a range of actions have been taken ranging from adjustments to control systems to LED lighting upgrades and heating efficiency improvements made when plant is replaced at the end of its life. Maintained schools have been offered advice and guidance through established channels such as the SOS Newsletter, Premises Briefings and the Ashden Programme. Some have been supported with site surveys to identify energy saving opportunities, and provide assistance with securing finance from external sources such as low cost loans from Salix and help with procurement.

- **Water market reform** – there has been further investigation into opportunities for service improvements arising from reform of the water market under the Open Water programme which introduced competition from April 2017. Support with water conservation is a consideration in the development of a procurement framework which will be arranged for 2018.
- **Recycling at offices** – updated information on recycling bins in offices/kitchens and promotional messages on the staff intranet advising what can and can't be recycled.
- **Parking policy review** – review planned to commence in November 2017.
- **IT to reduce business travel** – a major IT programme has rolled out Office365 and associated applications to staff, providing improved access to communication and collaboration tools for greater flexible and efficient working.
- **Lift sharing system** – the journey matching website (provided by Liftshare) has been updated including improved compatibility with smart phones and capacity for monitoring uptake.
- **Low carbon vehicles for business travel** – over half of the car club network fleet is now hybrid or fully electric vehicle (EV), delivering carbon reductions and air quality improvements. Membership, by staff and the public, has continued to expand.
- **Pupil engagement in sustainability** – initiatives for sustainable schools have continued, including Ashden Less CO₂ programme for energy management and support for Eco Schools, via engagement and training events.

Priority 4: Work with suppliers to reduce the environmental impact of goods and services and reduce our supply chain exposure to environmental risks:

- **Social Value Act** - the council's Social Value Charter has been published. This requires all tender requests in excess of £100,000 to give consideration to environmental matters, with subsequent contractual obligations to deliver on commitments.
- **Supply chain risk management** – the Procurement Contracts & Supply team are working with Audit to develop a system that will help track and manage all deliverables in contracts, including business continuity plans.

Priority 5: Reduce emissions and improve air quality across the county from transport:

- **Electric Vehicles and Air quality** ○ A strategy is being developed to define the role of the county council and evaluate the options for a public EV charging network. An interim position has been published on the council's website. This forms part of wider work on an Air quality strategy and Multi Agency Action Plan, working with borough and districts and Public Health. ○ Surrey has also been awarded £1.76m of funding to deliver an electric Park and Ride bus fleet in Guildford, in partnership with Stagecoach and the University of Surrey.
- **Air quality around schools** – the Modeshift STARS programme has been adopted for school travel planning activity. This is a

national standard enabling schools to receive accreditation for their activities. Curriculum links include teaching about the benefits of active travel for air quality. The Safer Travel team have also worked in partnership with local authority parking enforcement teams, encouraging alternative modes of travel and raising awareness of the benefits of improved local air quality.

Key Performance Indicators

7. Key trends in the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are summarised below and detailed in full in Annex B Smarter Working for the Environment KPI Report 2017. The report also describes variations in the scopes of the different indicators¹.

Sector	KPI	Change vs 2015/16, unless stated
Overall carbon emissions from estate and operations	KPI 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECREASED vs baseline year of 13/14
Energy consumption	KPI 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECREASED vs baseline year of 13/14
Energy costs	KPI 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INCREASED vs baseline year of 13/14
Business mileage	KPI 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECREASED

¹ In particular, maintained schools are not included in cost figures, but are included in consumption and emissions figures. Also, corrections for weather are made to allow presentation of comparable year on year changes for consumption and emissions, whereas costs are presented as absolute figures.

Waste from council offices	KPI 5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waste arisings DECREASED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Percentage diverted from landfill INCREASED but still lower than Surrey household levels <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Percentage recycled DECREASED
Water consumption	KPI 6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECREASED significantly
Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems	KPI 7	Scoping study underway, no indicator data yet available
Countryside sites: condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in county council ownership	KPI 8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMPROVED slightly
Social value in procurement	KPI 9	Monitoring system under development, no indicator data yet available

Targets

8. Targets have only been agreed for two indicators i.e. overall carbon emissions and countryside SSSI site condition. We are undertaking a Target Setting Review to develop further SMART targets for other indicators.
9. This review will propose a range of indicators appropriate to our level of influence. Some of these will therefore be input/activity based whilst others will be outcome based. For example, we can control activity around energy efficiency (measures installed, consumption) but we are unable to sufficiently predict future medium term energy prices in order to set a target for energy costs.

Key issues

Resource constraints

10. Since agreeing the policy and action plan in 2016, further revenue cost saving requirements have been required. In light of this resources for coordinating the corporate sustainability programme have been reduced as part of an ongoing prioritisation of resources.
11. Furthermore, the capital budget allocation for energy efficiency schemes in council buildings has been suspended in 2017/18 and for a further two years, in light of the council's 'zero capital borrowing' approach, in order to achieve required short term cost savings. Efficiency improvements will

endeavour to be made through the specification of replacement plant and equipment, via maintenance operations.

12. Surrey County Council and East Sussex County Council continue to work together to develop the Orbis partnership. As part of the restructuring process the Energy Teams of the two sovereign authorities are being combined into a single team. Pooling resources in this way will deliver efficiency savings and provide a greater flexibility in service provision.

Way forward

13. The Progress Record and Action Plan (**Annex A**) has been updated to include future planned work, resourcing arrangements and clarity on indicators. See Annex A for a full range of work-stream details.
14. As described in paragraph 8, work is underway to review the feasibility for more indicators to have SMART targets. The policy will be further updated, reflecting any revisions to indicators resulting from the Target Setting Review.
15. The Policy will continue to be reviewed to ensure that it reflects the County Council priorities for example particular focus for the coming year will be on action to improve air quality in Surrey, as referred to in Priority 5 above.

Conclusions

16. Effective progress has been made in many areas of the 2016 Action Plan and further actions will be implemented in line with the updated plan.

Recommendations

17. It is recommended that the committee:
 - a) note the progress, analysis and proposed further activity, as described in this report and supporting annexes.
 - b) particularly note Action 1.1 in Annex A (the introduction of an appraisal process for environmental impacts risks and benefit opportunities in Cabinet decisions) and consider opportunities for the committee to support this process.

Next steps

The updated Action Plan will be published and implemented and an officer working group will be established to conduct a target setting review.

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Sources/background papers:

Smarter Working for the Environment: Policy Statement and Action Plan -
Report to Cabinet, 22 November 2016

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