

# **ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SELECT COMMITTEE**



28 February 2018

## **RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE 5 OCTOBER 2017, ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE COUNCILS ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

An annual progress update was reported to the committee on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017, in relation to the Smarter Working for the Environment Policy and Action Plan for 2016/17. In response, the committee made a number of recommendations, focusing on strengthening the targets in particular in relation to air quality and also recycling rates across the corporate estate and the promotion of recycling in schools.

Progress in relation to the committee's recommendations is as follows:

A Low Emissions strategy for Surrey, covering air quality and carbon emissions from vehicles and transport infrastructure, is being developed with partners.. The strategy will focus on the primary target of working with boroughs and districts to achieve the National Air Quality Objectives, in the shortest time possible. These are prescribed maximum levels of the concentration of pollutants, such as nitrogen dioxide. Further details will be presented to the committee later this year.

A range of indicators are monitored to demonstrate progress towards the objectives for corporate sustainability and these trends are reported to the committee. Setting additional quantified reduction targets in other areas of the strategy, beyond carbon emissions, has been considered, but at this stage no additional corporate sustainability targets are proposed.

The council continues to work towards its overall target of a 10% reduction in carbon emissions by 2019, which encompasses energy consumption in

buildings, staff business travel and vehicle fleet. Recycling and recovery rates for the corporate estate will be kept under review, to ensure waste from offices is managed as efficiently and sustainably as possible, in support of the wider Surrey Joint Municipal Waste Strategy.

In relation to schools, the council promotes recycling in schools through a partnership with Wasterbuster. Activity in this area will be included in the next annual update of the corporate sustainability plan.