

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the **SURREY'S GREENER FUTURE TASK AND FINISH GROUP** held at 10.00 am on 9 September 2019 at Committee Room A, County Hall.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its meeting on Date Not Specified.

**Elected Members:**

- Mr Paul Deach
- \* Mr Jonathan Essex
- Mr Andy MacLeod
- \* Professor Richard Murphy
- \* Mr John O'Reilly
- \* Mrs Becky Rush

**In attendance**

Rachel Crossley, Director of Strategic Commissioning  
Grace Cox, Evidence and Insight  
Ross Pike, Committees Business Manager  
Katie Sargent, Environment Commissioning Group Manager  
Huma Younis, Democratic Services Officer

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

Apologies had been received from Paul Deach and Fiona White.

Professor Richard Murphy joined the group as a co-optee.

**2 NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING: 05 AUGUST 2019 [Item 2]**

It was agreed that minutes and agendas from all task group meetings should be made public.

**3 WORK TO DATE [Item 3]**

**Witnesses:**

Ross Pike, Committees Business Manager  
Rachel Crossley, Director of Strategic Commissioning

**Key points raised:**

1. RP explained that the call for evidence was launched in August with a press release, social media engagement and telephone calls to various stakeholders. At 9 September 50 responses had been received in response to the call for evidence. The majority responders thus far were from private individuals.
2. The call for evidence runs till 15 September 2019. A project team will be co-ordinating the work of the task group. There is a proposed project timeline up until the council meeting.
3. RC- The design challenge had launched last week and there had been lots of publicity around this. There had been pop ups across the

summer talking to residents to raise awareness of the project. Discussions had taken place at the Health and Wellbeing Board last week and RC would be going to Surrey Heartlands System Board in two weeks to discuss how health organisations will respond to the climate emergency.

4. Conversations are taking place with the Surrey Environment Partnership on how they will support the county council and district and borough councils to work together on climate change moving forward.
5. The Insight work stream within the project is being delivered in partnership with Surrey University and will work on collating the baseline data for Surrey. A meeting is scheduled with RM to initiate the research.
6. RM queried if there was any ambition for the number of responses to the call for evidence. It was further commented that the timeframe for responses was tight and asked why this was so. RP explained that a target for a number of responses had not been set. It was added that timescales for the December council meeting had dictated the proposed work plan.
7. There had been a higher response to the call for evidence than other previous scrutiny work and a wide range of witnesses had been targeted to try and get a cross section and broad input.
8. JE- The task group should be called the Greener Future task group in all documentation.
9. BR- queried if other councils had been approached to ask what they are doing in response to the climate emergency. RP stated that discussions were taking place to identify those councils who are further ahead.
10. RC- speaking to LGA special interest group. RP will be meeting with democratic services contacts to discuss their approaches going forward.

#### **4 CALL FOR EVIDENCE: INITIAL ANALYSIS [Item 4]**

##### **Witnesses:**

Ross Pike, Committees Business Manager  
Grace Cox, Evidence & Insight

##### **Key points raised:**

1. RP- to encourage responses consultation was divided into sections with multiple questions within each section. It was stated that it makes it slightly more difficult to run off data from this but hopefully easier for residents to complete.
2. GC- Transport and air quality- majority of comments were around infrastructure and reliability of transport. There were specific

comments about making buses electric, sustainable transport and lots of comments about cycle safety within responses.

3. Nature and countryside- respondents made clear points towards the importance and necessary maintenance of trees and wildflowers.
4. Carbon reduction and energy- respondents made clear points towards the need for renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, opposed to the use of fossil fuels and energy wastage. Responses around upgrading buildings and using alternative energy sources such as solar panels.
5. Waste minimisation and recycling- Respondents who commented on recycling and waste minimisation held the view that there is too much confusion surrounding items which can or can't be recycled. Responses pointed to the need to increase recycling services and provide more education on this topic.
6. With regards to key priorities for the council- 20/48 mention transport followed by education 11/48. The most common challenge referred to by respondents was the issue of finance.
7. RP- the responses to date reflected public opinion and no more specific evidence had been submitted to date to support these views. Responders have tried to include examples but these were also quite limited.
8. BR- asked if we could have another push through councillors to get more consultation submissions.
9. RP- agreed to share electronic copy of public consultation with members.
10. JE- we need to tell people the things we will not be doing as part of our work. Our work plan needs to show how we will meet the scale of the change. The biggest challenge is getting public acceptance of the scale of challenge.
11. RP- responses to the consultation will be published and this was made clear on the call for evidence webpages.
12. RM- surprised dietary change was so low down the list of responses as this could have a significant impact on emissions. RM also explained that a lot of air quality is about pollution and whilst there are positive health impacts from reducing pollution, we need to differentiate this from carbon emissions. Mr Prashan Kumar from the University of Surrey is an air quality expert who can help us with this work.

Actions:

- RP to share hard copy of public consultation with members of the Task Group.

## **5 WITNESS SESSIONS [Item 5]**

**Witnesses:**

Katie Sargent, Environment Commissioning Group Manager  
Ross Pike, Committees Business Manager  
Rachel Crossley, Director of Strategic Commissioning

**Key points raised:**

1. KS updated the group on the draft themes included in the agenda and draft set of witnesses whom had not yet been contacted but offer a flavour of whom we could engage with.
2. We already have some council strategies in place but will include these in our project focus.
3. JE- suggested the following changes:
4. With waste minimisation and ethical purchasing grouping to refer to the circular economy. Will be hosting a conference on Saturday and have proposed 5 themes, transport, waste and resources, countryside including food and farming, buildings and energy.
5. Proposed there should be a separate target for in-house as Surrey County Council may be able to become net-zero on an earlier date than the county as a whole.
6. It was suggested there should be a theme around budget i.e. revenue and capital. What are quick wins, capital expenditure and revenue implications and if this should be included within all the themes discussed.
7. BR- queried if we should set up commitments for the council, business and residents similar to the approach within London's 1.5C plan.
8. JE argued need to have a plan to sum up the level of ambition required and quick change required. We need to explain what we will do in-house, identify things we can do and the levers to help us to do this. We need to be very clear about council's strategy and we should do this as a separate category from the other five themes.
9. BR- need to have some information around possible future policy changes i.e. driverless cars because this will impact our work.
10. JOR- queried if we can produce our own carbon emissions data and stated that we should have a witness session on how Surrey can go zero. It was explained by officers that this data was available.
11. RM- argued that zero carbon emissions should be the overarching principle for all five themes.

JE proposed themes for task group to focus on-

- Transport
- Countryside including land use
- Waste- resources and circular economy
- Energy- split in two:
  - o buildings and infrastructure
  - o energy and energy generation

12. JOR- queried on transport if there were any local authorities that have fundamentally changed their transport services whom we could talk to.

It was suggested that Nottingham and Bath were good examples of authorities whom had done this.

13. It was commented that the group needed to ensure local plans were joined up with county plans. In terms of the Transport theme, we need to think about LEPs and the support they could provide us.
14. RP- hope to begin witness sessions by end of September.
15. BR- need to concentrate on what the possibilities are rather than what we already know.
16. It was commented that we need to focus on the solutions that allow us to have a plan.
17. The task group need to look to have a model and structure so people can contribute to a holistic plan.
18. The task group agreed that officers re-look at the witnesses to engage with and focus more specifically on people or organisation who have experience of building sustainable plans.
19. Agreed to have officers at witness sessions to support with technical detail raised at sessions.

Actions:

- To provide the Task Group with carbon emissions data for the council
- Update the climate change themes template as per task group discussions
- For Democratic Services to review Local Authority transport strategies for Nottingham and Bath

**6 FORWARD PLANNING [Item 6]**

Will need to agree witness session themes in the next few days and will send to Members for sign off.

Actions:

KS to update the climate change themes template as per task group discussions and sent an updated copy to members by 13 September 2019.

**7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 7]**

To be confirmed. This would take place before the first witness session.

Meeting ended at: 11:25

---

**Chairman**

This page is intentionally left blank