

ANNEX 1 – CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Mike Goodman

PORTFOLIO: Environment & Waste

Future Surrey Bus Strategy: On 10 October 2019 Matt Furniss and I are bringing together our bus operators, government departments, the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership and others to see how we can accelerate the introduction of more Ultra-Low Emission Buses. We want to define a bold strategy for Surrey, setting an ambition that all local bus services in the county will be operated by ultra-low emission or zero emission buses by 2030.

Site Visits and Unauthorised Waste Sites: The number and scale of unauthorised waste sites in the County is of great concern. Although planning enforcement can result in the prosecution of landowners for non-compliance with enforcement action, it cannot prevent the import of material or secure the removal and restoration of the land. Greater powers sit with the Environment Agency as they have the power to prosecute offenders. The law is not working at present, the planning system is impotent to rectify matters and the Environment Agency has insufficient resources to do so. In the meantime, the environment of Surrey is suffering. A letter was sent to the minister and Surrey MPs highlighting these concerns and to seek immediate action.

Heathrow Airport Limited's statutory Airport Expansion: Consultation closed on 13 September 2019. Our response to the consultation highlighted considerable concerns. A 'redline' for the council is the introduction of a Southern Rail Access to Heathrow. This scheme will provide a transport alternative from many parts of Surrey to the airport. The Arora Group continues to progress its own Heathrow West expansion proposals and is seeking to engage more formally with the Heathrow Strategic Planning Group of which the council is a member.

Gatwick Airport Limited: Progressing its expansion proposals to increase capacity through regular use of the northern runway and has commenced the process of preparing a Development Consent Order and engaging with the local authorities.

Waste Servicing Issues: At the beginning of May this year the service introduced a recycling only trial at the community recycling centres (CRCs) in Dorking, Bagshot, Warmingham and Cranleigh. The results to date show that this initiative has contributed towards an overall reduction in waste handled across all our CRCs and at the kerbside. In September the Waste Task Group reported their recommendations to the Communities, Transport and Environment Select Committee and Cabinet will consider those further when they meet at the end of October. Work on our Eco Park continues with both the anaerobic digestion and gasification facilities now in the commissioning phase.

Tree Planting: In July/Aug after the Climate Change Emergency was agreed, I announced that Surrey CC would facilitate the planting of 1.2m trees by 2030 - one for each head of the population of Surrey. A full strategy is being worked up, the first of the 1.2m trees will be planted at the Surrey Hills Wood Fair on 5 October 2019 by the Leader and Chairman of SCC.

Climate Change: The Greener Futures programme has been launched which will result in an ambitious Climate Change strategy for the county. The University of Surrey has been commissioned to undertake baseline emissions and strategy research and a Scrutiny Committee Task Group has been set up to analyse information received from residents and community groups through a call for evidence.

Countryside: We continue to work with Surrey Wildlife Trust to make improvements and develop our Countryside Strategy, which will be published by the end of the year. The Strategy will highlight the impact of the countryside on the health and wellbeing of Surrey's residents and will link to the recently published Landscapes Review by Julian Glover.