



OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

SURREY'S GREENER FUTURE – CALL FOR ACTION

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

For council to adopt the Surrey's Greener Future Task Group's Call for Action and to agree to the development of a zero carbon strategy and action plan.

BACKGROUND:

1. A cross-party Task Group was established by the Communities, Highways and Environment Select Committee in July 2019 responding to Surrey County Council's declaration of a climate emergency, to identify actions the council needs to take to achieve net zero carbon emissions as soon as possible. The task group agreed to consider the role residents need to play in their local community and the wider impact of other public sector organisations and the private sector on the county's environment to develop a system-wide position.
2. The membership of the Task Group was agreed as the following:
 - Andy MacLeod (Chairman)
 - Paul Deach
 - Jonathan Essex
 - Becky Rush
 - Fiona White
 - John O'Reilly (ex-officio)

Nikki Barton subsequently joined the task group in October 2019 and due to time commitments, Fiona White was unable to continue on the task group.

3. The Task Group met numerous times, hearing evidence from a diverse range of stakeholders in an effort to understand the full range of issues that contribute to climate change. The task group was also keen to consult residents to gain an understanding of their concerns for Surrey in relation to climate change and to gain a resident perspective on how the Council itself can work to reach net zero carbon.

4. Various methods were used to engage with stakeholders, starting with an open call for evidence which ran from 14 August 2019 to 15 September 2019 and received 142 responses via the survey with 15 responses sent to the democratic services email, making a total of 157 responses. Out of the survey responses, 19 (13.38%) responded as an organisation and the remaining 123 as individuals.
5. Following the call for evidence, the Task Group undertook a series of witness sessions, focussing on three key groups:
 - Council officers with a key role within the themes above
 - External Experts working in this field
 - Councils identified as leading the way in tackling elements of climate change
6. The Task Group's approach utilised five key themes:
 - Energy;
 - Buildings, development and infrastructure;
 - Waste, resources and the circular economy;
 - Agriculture, forestry and other land use; and
 - Transport.
7. The work culminated in recommendations that have been supported by Cabinet (**Annex 2**) and a Call for Action (**Annex 1**).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That council notes the task group report and the Cabinet Member's response to their recommendations;
2. Adopts the Call for Action (**Annex 1**); and
3. Agrees to the development of a zero carbon strategy and action plan.

Lead/Contact Officers: Ross Pike, Committees Business Manager

Sources/background papers:

- Annex 1: Surrey's Greener Future - Call for Action
- Annex 2: Cabinet Member for Waste and Environment's response to the Task Group Report
- Surrey's Greener Future Task Group report available here:
<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/documents/s64341/CEHSC%20Forward%20Plan%20141119.pdf>