

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL'S SELECT COMMITTEES

SCRUTINY OF:

- Greener Futures Climate Change Delivery Plan (2021 – 2025)

Date Considered: 6 October 2022

Select Committee: Communities, Environment and Highways

Whole Programme Assessment of Surrey's Greener Futures Climate Change Delivery Plan (2021 – 2025)

As part of regular scrutiny and monitoring process, Community, Environment and Highways Select Committee received a report on 'Whole Programme Assessment of Surrey's Greener Futures Climate Change Delivery Plan.'

The Select Committee, inter alia, noted:

1. Although the delivery plan continues to be broadly sound, minor but important adjustments and reflections are needed to align with the latest analysis, political and economic climate.
2. The programme amendments presented on slide 30 in Annex 1 to the report it received including the supporting finance and engagement strategies.
3. A whole programme assessment of the Climate Change Delivery Plan will be completed on an annual basis.
4. The Greener Futures Finance Strategy will be developed by the end of the year and will be brought to the CEH Select Committee for review prior to Cabinet.

After detailed discussion and noting the responses to its key lines of enquiry, the Select Committee agreed the following recommendations for Cabinet to consider.

RESOLVED

The Select Committee:

1. Welcomes the substantive progress already achieved, particularly at Surrey County Council level, made over the last 12 months to meet our net zero carbon target by 2030. It commends the work of officers and the active involvement of the Greener Futures Member Reference Group.
2. Supports the proposed amendments to the Delivery Plan contained in Paragraph 16. The intention to work even closer with Surrey's Districts and Broughs is applauded.
3. Is concerned that the new government's commitment (both in policy and funding) to climate objectives may be waning (energy crisis, de-regulation to promote growth, and possible public spending reductions) may seriously impede Surrey as a whole from achieving net zero by 2050, despite vigorous lobbying by the Council and others. The Strategy may have to be adapted should these fears be realised.
4. Recognises that significant behavioural change by residents on vehicle usage, low carbon measures and active/sustainable travel has yet to take place and that while the Council itself inevitably can only play a limited role, it should intensify its efforts in this regard.
5. Reiterates its support for Carbon budget to be developed alongside the Council's financial budget.
6. Appreciates that RAG status to measure the success of a project within the constraints applied to that project is helpful for internal management purposes. However, asks that in case of Climate Change the RAG status against the 2025, 2030 and 2050 targets be included in all future reporting as these would be more useful for external communication and understanding.

John O'Reilly

**Chairman of the Community, Environment & Highways Select Committee
Surrey County Council.**