

CABINET- 25 OCTOBER 2022**CABINET RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF COMMUNITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS****Recommendations:**

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 Communities, Environment & Highways Select Committee

Response:

We welcome the recommendations from Select Committee, and we accept recommendations 1 to 5. With regards to recommendation 6, changes have been made to the Climate Change Delivery Plan Assessment to more clearly show the relationship between Local Authority actions and how these impact upon meeting the net-zero targets. In future assessments of the Climate Change Delivery Plan we will ensure that it is clearer that when we are reporting a positive RAG status for a scheme or action that is delivered by the Council that this does not always reflect a positive outcome overall. Where this type of situation occurs we will also try to identify opportunities to address gaps in emission reductions.

Marisa Heath

Cabinet Member for Environment

25 October 2022

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