

**CABINET – 29 NOVEMBER 2022****PROCEDURAL MATTERS****Members Questions****Question (1) Catherine Baart – Earlswood and Reigate South**

Please explain how maximum social value will be delivered as part of the proposed contract to supply charge points for electric vehicles in Surrey.

**Reply:**

The procurement process has enabled social value to be delivered both directly and indirectly. The indirect social value includes extending the reach of charge point infrastructure to locations of lower initial anticipated demand, where residents are on average less affluent and/or living in areas of lower population density. This will be delivered through the development of the location network plan, through which the overseeing management board will insist on this balanced portfolio approach. Further, there are several specific commitments to employing local businesses and individuals which are included in the Social Value Charter completed by the recommended winning bidder:

- Through the recommended winning bidder's local installation partner, the bidder has committed to subcontracting a substantial proportion of their work in Surrey to other locally based micro businesses/SME's/social enterprises throughout the duration of the contract.
- Through the recommended winning bidder's local installation partner, the bidder has committed to employing 10 full time equivalent (FTE) of local individuals on contract, throughout the duration of the contract. In addition, through their local operations and maintenance partner, they have committed to employing 38 FTE local people on contract, throughout the duration of the contract.
- Through the recommended winning bidder's local employment partner, the bidder has committed to providing 80 hours for each year of the contract (equalling 1,600 hours across the duration of the contract) of staff time to volunteer locally.
- Through the recommended winning bidder's local operations and maintenance partner, they have committed resource to the sustainability of local green areas, in the shape of one environmental advisor for each year of the contract who will work with Surrey County Council.

In addition to these employment benefits, there are educational and volunteering benefits promised with sponsorship of Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) qualification training in the EV installation field through Brooklands College. There is also a commitment to staff volunteering with vulnerable young person's charity, Eikon.

The total of the promised direct social value within the bid cannot be publicly released until the end of the mandatory standstill period after contract award.

The council will expect regular reporting of these commitments which will form part of the contract between the council and the recommended winning bidder.

**Matt Furniss**

**Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth**

**29 November 2022**

**Question (2) Catherine Baart – Earlswood and Reigate South**

The County Council owns 17 farms. There are many options for land use – renewable energy production, enhancing biodiversity, tree planting, food production, flood management, public access for mental and physical wellbeing, waste management, and of course development for houses and businesses. Please explain how competing demands on the Council's land are being managed strategically.

**Reply:**

The Council owns 17 farms covering over 2,350 acres. The average farm size is 140 acres. Typically for Surrey, they are located on grade 3 and 4 soils and are mostly farmed for livestock or dairy. Five of the farms have lifetime tenancies in place secured by the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 which restricts any change of use within three generations. The remaining 12 farms have farm business tenancies with fixed terms, usually around 10 years in duration.

Alongside food production, the farms present an ideal opportunity to support the Council's ambitions set out in the Grow Back Greener pillar of the Council's Climate Change Delivery Plan and the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy as well as the County's One Surrey Growth Strategy for investment in Surrey's growth areas.

The Environment Division and Land and Property will be working with the Council's tenant farmers to provide them with information for an evidence-based approach to decision making across many different opportunities. Consideration of farm assets such as the built, operational and natural capital assets will be reviewed to support any business cases for change. Whilst there are potentially many different demands on the land which could be deemed as competing, the suitability of the farm holding for specific purposes will determine its best use or uses. The following will all be considered as part of any review of farm assets:

- Carbon sequestration including hedge rows, woodland regeneration and planting
- Nature recovery and enhanced biodiversity
- Natural flood management techniques such as restoring balancing ponds, improved ditch management and wetland creation
- The potential for solar and generation of other renewable energy
- The potential for anaerobic digestion or local food waste processing
- Regenerative farming practices including agroforestry techniques and plant-based protein which support soil health
- Development of farm buildings for visitor services and improved access
- Development of farm buildings for local business use, localised food hubs and educational centres of excellence on successful farming on grade 3 farmland

The Council will aim to maximise outcomes and benefits to Surrey residents. Decisions will be made based on a balanced approach which takes account of suitability, viability and business case.

**Marisa Heath**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**  
**29 November 2022**

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