

WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL 2024

CABINET RESPONSE TO SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Purpose of report: To update the Committee on the Cabinet response to the March 2024 Select Committee reports and recommendations on i) a Referred Council Motion 'Advertising & Sponsorship Policy' ii) Surrey Utilities – Water and Wastewater Services.

Background:

1. The Communities Environment and Highways Select Committee's Greener Futures Reference Group submitted a report to Cabinet on the outcome of its consideration of the Original Motion regarding Advertising and Sponsorship policy submitted to the meeting of the County Council on 11 October 2022. The report noted that the GFRG rejected the proposition that the current advertising and sponsorship policy remain in its current form and that no steps are taken to restrict advertising of fossil fuel related or high carbon products, and recommended that the issue be considered further by Cabinet.
2. The Communities Environment and Highways Select Committee submitted a report to Cabinet on the outcome of its special session with Water utility companies on 25 January. The report included a number of recommendations on improving collaboration on strategic planning and new developments, working with the regulator on the development of water company KPIs and the establishment of a Task Force to deliver:
 - Better coordination and communication around operational works on the road network.
 - Better coordination between the local authority and water companies on flooding, drainage, sustainable solutions and environmental objectives.
 - Better coordination on planning, new developments and strategic network

Recommendations:

3. **The Select Committee to note the Cabinet response to its recommendations as set out at the Annex and specifically that:**

Advertising and Sponsorship Policy

- I. Having considered the evidence, Cabinet on balance supported the original recommendations from Officers and the motion was dismissed.
- II. Cabinet committed to write to the Advertising Standards Authority asking them to consider whether guidance could be formed around the advertising of fossil fuel related or high carbon products and net zero targets.

Surrey Utilities – Water and Wastewater Services.

- III. That Cabinet accepted the recommendations made by the committee to improve engagement with Utilities and noted the work underway to implement these including:

Lobbying: Including communicating with OfWat, the national regulatory body for water utilities regarding the development of some Local Key Performance Indicators which allow Surrey to monitor disruption to or impact on the road network including forward planning and coordination of streetworks, and timeliness of the completion of water infrastructure works; our natural environment, and in particular impacts from sewage outflows as a result of flooding and implementation of Drainage Waste Management Plans; and supply and response in the event emergency situations.

Time Limited Task Forces: Setting up two time-limited task forces to take forward recommendations including a:

- Street works Task Force, to look at how Surrey County Council and the utilities can work together operationally to engender better coordination and communication around works on the road network; and an
- Environmental Improvements Task Force with a focus on better coordination between the local authority and water companies on flooding, drainage, sustainable solutions and environmental objectives.

Establishing longer term strategic relationships: Forming partnerships to work on key joint initiatives, the first being with SES Water who provide 40% of water and waste water to residents in Surrey. Currently a Memorandum of Understanding is being developed.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Cabinet Supplementary Agenda 26 March 2024, Reports from Select Committees.

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