

CABINET 26 NOVEMBER 2019

**CABINET RESPONSE TO SURREY'S GREENER FUTURE TASK GROUP REPORT
(Communities, Environment & Highways Select Committee)**

Recommendations of the Surrey's Greener Future Task Group

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Endorses the Call For Action (Annex 1) that is recommended to council for approval
2. Considers the full range of opportunities identified in the Select Committee report and agrees that these are taken forward as part of the wider strategy development to test the deliverability
3. Includes sufficient investment within the Medium Financial Term Strategy to support climate change programmes and initiatives, reviewing this on an annual basis
4. Supports the proposal that the council works together with Districts and Boroughs through the Surrey Environment Partnership to develop and deliver a joint zero carbon strategy and action plan, to be approved by April 2020
5. Agrees that the council continue to support the emerging Surrey Climate Commission
6. Under chairmanship of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste sets up a Member Reference Group to take the work forward and develop a zero carbon climate strategy
7. Supports a call for increased powers and resources to enable local authorities to lead on delivering on the commitment for the UK to be net zero by 2050 and asks officers to build a case for change with clear asks for the new government

Andy MacLeod
Chairman of the Surrey's Greener Future Task Group

Cabinet Response:

The Cabinet would like to thank the Greener Future Task Group for its detailed and important report and the very thorough work which sits behind it.

The Cabinet supports the Call for Action, in particular statement 2, which sets out the ambition to be zero carbon across our own organisational emissions by 2030. While this will be challenging, it is within our abilities to deliver this target and it will send an important message to our residents and partners that we are committed to taking serious action against climate change.

The report will form the basis of Surrey's climate change strategy which, in conjunction with the districts and boroughs, businesses, residents and other partners, we will launch in April 2020. To ensure our collective approach is effective, we are working with the Surrey Climate Commission and University of Surrey to set a baseline of emissions that we can then monitor and report against each year.

While we are developing a comprehensive strategy, Surrey County Council has already allocated funding and resources to take action to tackle climate change, however the scale of change will require financial support and direction from Government to enable the Council to deliver our ambitious target for Surrey to be carbon neutral by 2050. We will also test new and emerging financing models where appropriate.

Cabinet welcomes the creation of a cross party Member Reference Group to support the next stage of strategy development. In order to ensure that the strategy achieves the zero

carbon target, it is now essential that the recommendations set out in Annex 1 of the report are reviewed, analysed, consulted upon and costed. Beneath the strategy will sit an action plan which will include the initiatives that we will deliver alongside our partners. This action plan will include targets and timescales and will be measured and updated annually.

It is noted that the issue of culture change sits behind many of the statements in the Call for Action. The Cabinet believes that this is crucial and acknowledges the importance of involving our residents and communities in the co-design and delivery of the strategy, building upon the success of the Greener Future Design Challenge.

Council Members have a key role in involving residents and communities in this crucial work, and in developing the right collective response to climate change. It is therefore important that all councillors have the opportunity to engage with, and understand, this broad and complex issue.

Finally, Cabinet recognises that the issue and impacts of climate change are far reaching and will affect all of the areas which fall under the Council's control and many aspects of our resident's lives. It is not possible to act upon climate change in isolation and therefore work is already being undertaken to link the Greener Future work with Surrey's Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Community 2030 Vision.

**Reply from Mr Mike Goodman,
Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste
26 November 2019**