

Resources and Performance Select Committee, 1 July 2020 – Member's Question**Cllr Jonathan Essex:**

Please confirm how the plans for Surrey's recovery from Covid-19 will link and integrate to the climate change strategy approved by Surrey County Council, to take the opportunity of accelerating these plans as part of the recovery plans. In particular, to create new 'climate jobs' and other employment activities as part of the recovery plans (as reflected in Surrey's environmental sustainability strategy). –

see https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/175670/Environment-Sustainability-Policy-2017.pdf

Response:

Since the Surrey Climate Change Strategy (CCS) was endorsed at Cabinet in April, officers have been working on the approach to its effective delivery. With input from a number of partners and officers from across the Council, this has focused on how partners and the Council can best use recovery efforts and investment to accelerate the ambitions set out in Surrey's Greener Future, building on the work of the Member Task Force.

This has included consideration of the role that Government must play and we are discussing and developing joint lobbying opportunities with District and Borough Councils and other partners including ADEPT¹ with reference to the recommendations in recent publications by the Committee on Climate Change² and other sources. We have also responded to the recent funding calls issued by Government, which have been designed to accelerate green economy and carbon reductions through Placed-based approaches.

Our developing economic strategies and plans are being informed by the opportunities which are presented by the climate change agenda. Initial research suggests that Surrey will benefit from around 28,000 new local 'green jobs' by 2050 with particular strengths emerging in the area of low emission vehicles and infrastructure. We will be working with partners across skills, business and research to ensure we are able to capitalise on the opportunities this and other clean growth developments present

¹ Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport

² An independent, statutory body that advises government

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