

16 September 2020



Surrey Climate Change Strategy Progress Update

Purpose of report:

The purpose of the report is to provide the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee with an update on progress since the Surrey Climate Change Strategy was endorsed by Cabinet in April 2020.

Introduction:

1. The Surrey Climate Change Strategy (CCS) was endorsed at Cabinet in April 2020 following the declaration of a climate change emergency by Full Council in July 2019.
2. The CCS sets out the intended approach to delivering the Council's carbon reduction ambitions for the county over the next thirty years. It provides a joint framework for collaborative action across Surrey's 12 local authorities to reduce emissions to net zero between now and 2050.
3. The Strategy specifically commits Surrey County Council to reducing carbon emissions from its own corporate estate to net zero by 2030.
4. In the last four months officers have been developing a delivery approach for the CCS in accordance with a recommendation in the April Cabinet Report, as outlined below:

"the continued development of the actions contained within the strategy to identify clear ownership, appropriate levels of funding and a set of key performance indicators (KPIs) by 2021 that can provide for robust monitoring."
5. This report summarises the work carried out to date on this agenda and outlines future work streams. A draft delivery plan has been produced and will be available for discussion and input by the Select Committee after the Committee meeting.

Strategic approach to carbon reduction:

6. The CCS comprises of a number of carbon reduction targets which are broken down by sector, for example carbon emissions from transport in the county will be reduced by 60% by 2035. These targets are based upon research produced by Leeds University, which set out an emissions reduction pathway for each sector. The targets align with an approach which ensures that net zero carbon in Surrey is achieved by 2050, whilst staying within a quota of emissions calculated to ensure global temperature increases are kept within of 1.5 degrees Celsius.
7. The Council has commissioned consultants to do further work to produce a series of costed carbon reduction scenarios, which will demonstrate how the net zero targets for the council and the county can be achieved. Laser Energy are looking at Surrey County Council's emissions and will produce a set of scenarios which will show how the Council can achieve net zero carbon by 2030 along with a financial business case for each of these. Officers are commissioning a similar piece of work for the county wide emissions. This work is expected to be produced by November 2020 and will support members and the Strategic Climate Change Board in financial planning and an external investment strategy for the climate change agenda. It will also inform the KPIs and delivery approach which are currently being developed.

Delivery plan and Governance:

8. The CCS is a 30 year county-wide carbon reduction strategy, and as such, it has an extremely wide reaching scope. Carbon reduction activity is being, and will be, delivered by numerous service areas within the Council as well as by district and borough partners and other external partners. It is therefore necessary to have a detailed and sophisticated monitoring approach. Officers have produced a Sharepoint based dashboard which will monitor carbon reduction data at three levels:
 - **County wide emissions:** We have rebuilt the Leeds University emissions baseline model to enable us to track and report on our emissions annually. There is a two year lag on data provided by The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) which is why the Leeds report included modelled data for 2018 and 19. This means that, at a county wide level, any significant progress is unlikely to be seen for two years; however, we will track the actual data as a comparison to the modelled data.
 - **KPIs:** as part of the delivery plan we are developing a set of key performance indicators which will bridge the actions to the emissions

targets. These will be reported regularly in accordance with internal reporting requirements.

- **Project/programme level metrics:** There are a number of projects and programmes which are being delivered by SCC and by external partners which will result in carbon savings. An initial list is included below. Environment officers will support colleagues to quantify the carbon savings from their projects and to input progress data into the dashboard to enable us to see in real time the impacts of the actions that we are delivering.
9. The Climate Change delivery plan will be the public facing, summarised version of the CCS dashboard and will include the KPIs as well as a list of the projects and programmes.
 10. In order to effect change it is crucial that climate change is embedded within all of the decision- making processes at SCC. We have taken the following actions since the launch of the CCS:
 - o Established an SCC **Strategic Climate Change Board** with officer representatives from each of the service areas across the Council and all teams responsible for data e.g. Insight, Business Intelligence and Strategic Commissioning. The Board is responsible for the climate change agenda and is chaired by the Executive Director for ETI.
 - o Worked with Finance colleagues to see carbon assessments embedded in our business templates and financial systems.
 - o Developed online training modules for all officers and members in climate change, once trialled these will be shared with colleagues in partner organisations.
 - o Examined methods for embedding carbon assessments within democratic processes.
 - o We are working with colleagues in relevant services to embed climate change within our commissioning and procurement processes.

Financing:

11. The Greener Futures Investment Programme was approved by Cabinet in March 2020 and sets out the Council's initial proposed investment programme to support the CCS from 2020 - 2025, representing an investment of approximately £297.2M. This investment plan is being reviewed as part of the reset to ensure that the schemes and programmes are still deliverable in the current climate as these scheme pre-date COVID-19.
12. A Climate Change Finance and Commissioning working group has been established in order to complete a Climate Change Finance Strategy to achieve the following;
 - o Determine financial impact of the CCS and the potential for commercialising other secondary impacts e.g. health and wellbeing improvements

- Support services to scope financial impacts (revenue and capital) of climate change actions and to build these into budget planning
 - Explore green finance opportunities and emerging funding models
 - Determine a corporate approach to financial decisions which embeds climate change
 - Consider/Develop a financial mechanism, if required, for capturing offsetting payments in the County.
 - Test impact of greening SCC's procurement processes with supply chains
 - Explore wider greening options across different supply chains
 - Explore how climate change could be incorporated into the development of procurement strategies and tender evaluation models
 - Determine financial impact of greener procurement options
 - Develop performance models to measure the impact of green commitments
 - Develop recommendations for new Greener Futures Procurement policy
 - Develop synergy between Social Value and the CCS as part of a wider Procurement Strategy
13. Officers are preparing a climate change finance webinar in the autumn for members and officers from SCC and Surrey's district and borough councils.

Communications and engagement:

14. It is recognised that the targets in the CCS will not be achieved by the Council alone and that partnership work and support from Government is crucial. To date the CCS has been formally endorsed, or supported, by Reigate and Banstead BC, Surrey Police, Enterprise M3 LEP, Coast to Capital LEP and the Surrey Climate Change Commission.
15. Surrey's boroughs and district authorities are considered key delivery partners as all have set challenging carbon reduction targets and have a similar commitment to this agenda. In the last four months SCC has established a climate change officer network with representation from each of the boroughs and district climate change leads. This network is working to identify, and progress, joint delivery opportunities for which SCC is taking a leading and financing role. Current examples include LoCASE and the Green Homes LAD programme (more details included in Table 1 below).
16. In order to garner further support for this partnership approach, individual sessions have been carried out with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change and climate change officer leads at SCC and their counterparts at the boroughs and districts. To date we have met with eight of the eleven and are scheduling meetings with the remaining three in September. The meetings have all been positive and have galvanised a desire for joint work on this agenda.

17. As mentioned above, the success of the CCS hangs on the role of Government will play nationally in driving forward this agenda. Government's Net Zero Carbon strategy was expected in mid-2020 but has been delayed to 2021 due to COVID-19. The CCS outlines a number of Government asks and these have increased to include a number of asks relating to a green recovery from the pandemic. It is recognised that Surrey County Council, as a lone voice, is not particularly impactful and so officers have created a stakeholder map and strategy and have identified partners to join forces for the purpose of lobbying. Surrey has recently fed into an open letter to Government on a green recovery alongside a consortium of Local Authorities and NGOs led by ADEPT as well as a joint response on the Government's Tree Strategy, which was led by the County Council Network.
18. Engaging with residents on climate change is also extremely important and we are working with borough and districts and other partners, such as the Climate Change Commission, to ensure that our communication messages are joined up, positive and impactful. On World Environment Day, on 5 June, we launched the Surrey's Greener Future microsite www.surreysgreenerfuture.uk. The purpose of the microsite is to capture the opinions of residents and local businesses on climate change related topics to enable the co-design of programmes and projects to deliver on Surrey's net zero carbon ambition.
19. The site allows a space for residents to upload their thoughts and to allow discussions. Officers regularly review these discussions and produce a summary report which is circulated to relevant SCC teams and partners. Officers also respond to questions and discussions. In the first week that the microsite was live it was viewed almost 1000 times.
20. In order to provide residents with targeted information and signposting on how to reduce their individual carbon footprints the Council launched an interactive climate change graphic on 1 September. The graphic represents the carbon footprint of an average Surrey resident, with emissions broken down by transport (including flights), housing, food and consumer habits. The graphic was launched in Surrey Matters and is located on the SCC website.

Delivery:

21. A number of carbon reduction projects and programmes have been initiated or developed in the months since the CCS was endorsed. These programmes are listed in the table below. Further details about these are included within the draft delivery plan including actual and projected carbon savings, where known.

| Sector | Project/programme | Description | Status |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|
| Organisation Emissions | Street lighting LED upgrade | Converting 89,000 streetlights to LED | In progress, due to be completed 21/22 |
| | Carbon reduction scenarios for SCC | Laser have been commissioned to produce a number of costed scenarios which show how SCC can become a net zero Council by 2030 | In progress, due to be completed by Oct 20 |
| | Energy efficiency and low carbon measures on corporate estate | Identification and installation of quick win energy efficiency and low carbon measures to be installed in SCC properties working alongside L&P | Due to start October 2020 |
| Transport and Air Quality | Active travel schemes | A number of active travel schemes have been developed across the county and funding is being sought from DfT | Awaiting funding decision |
| | DfT electric bus bids | We have submitted an £11M electric bus town bid for Farnham and surrounding communities and a further £1M bid to introduce extended range bus services on a number of routes | Awaiting funding decision |
| | Electric vehicle infrastructure strategy | KPMG has produced an electric vehicle infrastructure strategy to inform decisions about which technologies SCC should invest in, where charging points should be located and investment mechanisms. | Strategy is being finalised and will be published in Sept 20 |
| | Electric Vehicle Charging Pilot Study | LEP & 4 x Borough funded trials for charging in town centres in Phase 1 and Residential areas in Phase 2 | On-street charging bays implemented by Apr 21 |
| | Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) | Consultants to review and refresh the LTP to focus on decarbonising the transport | Draft Apr 21 with full public |

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|--|
| | | sector emissions in Surrey along with other accompanying policies to promote active travel | consultation and approval by Dec 21 |
| | Rethinking transport pilots | A number of Transformation funded pilots which explore solutions to reducing congestion and emissions from transport | Funded for 20/21 |
| Energy generation | Renewable Energy Opportunity Framework (REOF) | Consultants will assess land and buildings owned by SCC, B&D partners and other public sector partners for suitability for renewable and low carbon technologies and will create a framework of costed scenarios. | In progress, consultants are being procured, work to be completed Mar 21 |
| | Solar PV on SCC rooftops | The REOF will identify suitable roofs in the SCC estate for solar PV. Officers will develop a business case for capital funding and look to other funding opportunities. | See above |
| | 5 MW solar PV array | The Trumps Farm closed landfill site has been identified as suitable for a 5MW solar PV array. The electricity will be sleeved to offset SCC's corporate electricity consumption | Business case is being developed. Installation expected 21/22 |
| Housing and planning | Green Homes Local Authority Delivery (GH LAD) | Government funding is available for energy efficiency and low carbon measures for low income households living in in-efficient housing (EPC E,F,G). A consortium bid has been submitted and will be delivered by Action Surrey if successful. SCC is a named partner along with 10 of the B&Ds. | Funding bid submitted, response expected by end of Sept 20 |
| | GH LAD top up fund | SCC has allocated £750k as a contribution to the GH LAD bid which will act as a top up for more costly measures such as solid wall insulation and air source heat pumps, which otherwise would not be | Funding approved subject to successful award of GH LAD fund |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | covered by the Government funding due to cost. | |
| | Urban Design Strategy | The Surrey Futures Partnership is developing an Urban Design Strategy which will include a climate change guide to inform planning decisions. In addition, a Developers Forum is being established which will be a useful tool to influence decisions around development and environmental issues. | In progress |
| Buildings and infrastructure | Low Carbon in the South East (LoCASE) | An EU funded programme offering training and grants for energy efficiency and low carbon measures to SME businesses. Surrey to administer on behalf of B&Ds. | Funding awarded, expected to start Oct 2020 |
| Waste, resources and circular economy | Reuse and food waste reduction campaigns | Resident focussed campaigns aimed at reducing waste at source through consumer behaviour and to increase the proportion of waste that is reused or recycled, including food waste. | SEP to deliver in 20/21 |
| | Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) | A site has been identified for a MRF to improve quality of recyclates and reduce quantity of items going to landfill | Business case in development |
| Land use and food systems | Urban/highways tree planting | Sites to be suggested by divisional members and top up funding provided for tree planting in urban areas and along the highway. | In progress, planting to happen in 20/21 season |
| | New area of woodland | Officers to identify SCC land where 50,000 trees can be planted (cost of trees to be covered by the Woodland Carbon Code). | In progress, suitable areas of land are being considered |
| | Tree planting in flood plains | Tree planting and new woodland creation will be incorporated into the River Thames Scheme. | In progress, planting to take place over 5 year period |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| | Land Management Framework | A framework is being produced to ensure that decisions made by SCC and external partners in Surrey considers and maximised opportunities for a range of benefits including climate change mitigation and adaptation. | In progress, to be completed by March 21 |
| Industry and green economy | Assessment of Surrey's green economy | Consultants will assess the ability of Surrey's green economy to meet the expected surge in energy efficiency and low carbon markets and will recommend how SCC can stimulate supply chains. | Expected Oct – March 21 |
| | GH LAD (see above) | | |
| | LoCASE (see above) | | |

Conclusions:

22. This report provides a summary of the activity which has taken place following the endorsement of the Surrey Climate Change Strategy. A number of carbon reduction projects and programmes are set out above and officers will continue to progress these and to capture carbon saving data.
23. Over the coming months officers will continue to develop detailed KPI's with relevant services and will undertake more in-depth analysis of costed reduction options to enable us to reduce our corporate and county wide carbon emissions. In addition, work will continue on the production of a climate change finance strategy.
24. This work will culminate in a delivery plan which will be published by the end of the year. The Chairman of this Select Committee has arranged for a private workshop to follow this meeting to discuss the delivery plan which is still in a draft form. It is proposed that the final draft is scrutinised in public at the November meeting of the Select Committee.

Recommendations:

25. The Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee is recommended to:
- a) acknowledge the work which has been done following Cabinet's endorsement of the Surrey Climate Change Strategy in April 2020
 - b) agree to discuss the draft delivery plan after the committee meeting and provide recommendations.

Next steps:

26. Officers will continue to develop the climate change delivery plan which is due to be published before the end of the year.

Report contact: Katie Sargent, Environment Group Commissioning Manager, ETI

Contact details: 07754 387029

Sources/background papers:

Surrey's Climate Change Strategy