

CABINET – 20 JULY 2021**PROCEDURAL MATTERS****Public Questions****Question (1): David Beaman**

Wednesday 22nd September is designated World Car Free Day in which motorists should be encouraged to give up their cars for a day. Given that Surrey County Council have declared a Climate Emergency what initiatives do Surrey County Council intend to take to encourage councillors, staff and residents to use alternative forms of transport (public transport, cycling and walking) where they are available on that day?

Since both Waverley Borough Council and Farnham Town Council have also declared a Climate Emergency I attend to ask a similar question at meetings of Waverley Borough Council's Full Council that is being held on Thursday 3rd August and Farnham Town Council's Full Council that is being on Thursday 29th July.

Reply:

Since declaring a Climate Emergency in July 2019, Surrey County Council has set out it's ambition to be a net zero carbon county by 2050. Transport makes up 46% of all carbon emissions in Surrey, and as such is a key sector in this programme.

We are currently consulting on the draft Surrey Transport Plan (STP). The plan sets out our approach to reduce carbon emissions from transport by transforming Surrey's streets, improving public transport and creating sustainable opportunities to access new homes and jobs. Furthermore, last year Surrey County Council committed a total of £49 million towards an ambition to have all buses operating in the county zero or at least ultra-low emission within ten years. In the West of the county Farnham Infrastructure Programme is a collaborative programme to tackle congestion and air quality in Farnham and its surrounding areas.

We are also moving towards an agile workforce and are developing an ambitious staff travel plan which is aiming to reduce unnecessary journeys and carbon emissions. At the current time a significant proportion of staff continue to work from home due to COVID-19.

The council is committed to continuing to build upon the power of communities to take a leading role in shaping and delivering the way we decarbonise the county, including transport. Over the summer, officers and members will work together to drive further engagement activity on the both the emerging Climate Change Delivery Plan and the Surrey Transport Plan, making connections with communities. This will be achieved through a range of approaches which will include workshops, digital engagement platforms, and informal dialogue.

With this in mind, the council will be marking World Car Free Day through promotion of alternative travel options already available to residents, but also encouraging the community to share their views with us on how we can enable more of our residents to travel by more sustainable means in future as part of our consultation on the STP. This will include promotion of the day and the draft Surrey Transport Plan on social media and other channels. Internally, we will be encouraging staff and members to take the opportunity to use active or public transport, particularly those staff that usually use their car to travel. We will use the opportunity

to promote the benefits of active travel, and to promote the options available to staff and members for such alternatives.

Marisa Heath
Cabinet Member for Environment
20 July 2021

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