

Place-making and Innovation Executive Advisory Board Report

Ward(s) affected: N/A

Report of Director of Strategic Services

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Date: 7 September 2020

Climate Change and Innovation Board Update

Executive Summary

On 19 March 2019, the Executive approved a new Innovation Strategy for 2019-20 reflecting the dynamic and at times fast-changing nature of Innovation. The Strategy addressed the Council's Innovation theme of the Corporate Plan. It was developed, coordinated and managed by an existing Innovation Strategy Board to provide economic leadership to deliver sustainable and proportionate growth.

On 23 July 2019, the Council adopted a motion to declare a Climate Emergency. In line with the commitments set out in this motion, the Council created a Climate Change and Innovation Board (CCIB) in August 2019 which would report to the Executive and have overall responsibility for:

- developing the Council's climate change strategy; and
- overseeing the delivery and carrying out of an ongoing review of the Council's Innovation Strategy 2019/20.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the work and findings of the CCIB since it was created last year, and the next steps following the Executive's agreement at its meeting on 25 August 2020 to disband the CCIB and create two new executive working groups, one for Climate Change and one for Innovation.

Recommendation to the Executive Advisory Board

That the EAB considers the actions taken so far by the CCIB and makes recommendations as appropriate to the Executive.

Is the report (or part of it) exempt from publication? No

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For the EAB to receive an update in respect of what the Climate Change and Innovation Board (CCIB) has accomplished to date and the next steps following the disbanding of the CCIB into two working groups, the Climate Change Board and Innovation Board.

2. Strategic Priorities

- 2.1 On 19 March 2019, the Executive approved a new Innovation Strategy for 2019-20 reflecting the dynamic and at times fast-changing nature of Innovation. This Strategy addressed the Council's Innovation theme of the Corporate Plan and was based on the three strategic priorities sitting beneath that theme, as follows:

1. Facilitating smart places infrastructure across Guildford
2. Guildford as the Innovators' location of choice
3. Future Guildford - working to improve value for money and efficiency in Council services

- 2.2 On 23 July 2019, the Council adopted a motion to declare a Climate Emergency that included the following commitments:

1. Working with partners across the Borough to evaluate and determine how and when Guildford Borough could become carbon neutral
2. Working towards making the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030
3. Establishing the necessary governance structures, investment plans and officer resources in order for the Council to build a strong foundation to deliver progressively ambitious carbon reductions across our operations
4. Establishing a borough-wide Climate Change Partnership consisting of representatives from all stakeholders across all sectors
5. Developing, within 12 months, a clear action plan and timescale for being net-zero carbon across our Council operations, starting with a review of what has already been achieved and plans already instigated
6. Delivering a joint Member-Officer training programme to enable a shared understanding of how to deliver the above, starting in September 2019

- 2.3 A list of draft priorities across the following four strategic themes including climate change was agreed by the Executive at its meeting on 21 January 2020 in preparation of a new Corporate Plan:

- Climate Change and Environment
- Housing and Community
- Economy and Regeneration
- Improved Council

- 3.2 The themes and draft priorities formed the basis of discussions at a workshop for all councillors held on 13 November 2019. The workshop focussed on defining the outcomes and impacts that the Council would most wish to deliver under the following draft priorities, which for Climate Change and Environment were:

- Working with residents and businesses towards becoming a carbon neutral borough
- Protecting our environment
- Making travel easier and more sustainable

3. Background

- 3.1 The CCIB was created from what was previously an Innovation Strategy Board. The creation of a separate Climate Change Task Group proposed within the Innovation Strategy for 2019-20 was then subsumed into the creation of one board, the CCIB, which would report to the Executive and have overall responsibility for:
- developing the Council's climate change strategy; and
 - overseeing the delivery and carrying out of an ongoing review of the Council's Innovation Strategy 2019/20.
- 3.2 The CCIB was to have oversight of the necessary actions in order to ensure that there is a co-ordinated effort across the Council and develop a strategy that puts the Council at the forefront of promoting measures that will facilitate and encourage the Borough to be carbon neutral and reduce levels of carbon emissions, and to respond to the declared Climate Emergency.
- 3.3 The CCIB was to take account of the Climate Change Framework, which was adopted as part of the Innovation Strategy 2019/20, giving careful thought to prioritisation and practical measures that can be achieved.
- 3.4 For innovation, the CCIB would continue to facilitate and encourage investment in digital and other Smart infrastructure in the Borough, further develop our key high growth sectors and promote Guildford as the Innovator's location of choice and early adopter of new technologies. This work was building on a proposal for a tri-partite Business-Council-University task group to move Guildford towards a Smart City culture, a new business-led Innovation Forum (to include relevant CCIB members) as set out in the Innovation Strategy Action and Delivery Plan.
- 3.5 Since August 2019, six meetings have taken place. The work of the CCIB is set out below and in Appendices 1 and 2.

Work to date

- 3.6 At the October 2019 meeting the members, having discussed the different topics to be pursued by the CCIB, agreed to establish sub-groups to pursue the following different topics in priority order:
- Planning
 - Transportation
 - Trees and green spaces
 - Procurement
 - Waste

- 3.7 The first three were accomplished, with the CCIB members receiving presentations on topics set out in Appendix 1.

Regular updates

- 3.8 Updates from lead officers featured as a regular item in the CCIB agenda, with items brought to the meeting covering the following four areas:

- Innovation – Rural
- Innovation – Businesses
- Climate Change – Energy
- Climate Change – Waste, Vehicles and Transport

- 3.9 A summary of the updates given to the Board is provided at Appendix 1.

Community engagement

- 3.10 Community engagement featured regularly in board member discussions and whether this would be best managed in the form of a climate change partnership, business-led innovation forum or youth forum. The Board agreed that consideration needed to be given to how to engage with the wider community and develop suitable partnerships and suggested that they build on existing arrangements. Proposals considered are outlined in Appendix 1.

Climate change strategy and progress monitoring

- 3.11 The Board's work towards developing a climate change strategy involved looking at the strategies and policies that were already in place. Through comprehensive discussion and collaboration, an outline document was produced identifying the headings of what an overall climate change strategy might look like, attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.12 The Board noted that the strategy would be put together with reference to Surrey's Framework and would identify, goals, objectives and KPI's. The strategy would be subject to a consultation phase and would be informed by baseline carbon emission figures in order to identify what was needed to be achieved in terms of carbon reductions.
- 3.13 The Chairman collated a comprehensive spreadsheet that identified work that that was already ongoing within the Council as well as the significant number of strategies and policies already in place with other stakeholder organisations. The spreadsheet was to be reviewed by the Chairman, Councillor Gordon Jackson with Chris Burchell, Local Economy Manager, Marieke van der Reijden, Deputy Head of Asset Management and Chris Wheeler, Waste, Parking and Services Fleet Manager.
- 3.14 The Chairman would liaise with the communications team in relation to releasing a timely press release regarding the Board's positive work on developing a climate strategy and issue a timetable outlining the key stages, from consultation to final approval. The Board recognised that the final recommendations would be

dependent upon Surrey's climate change framework and that it was key to emphasise this in any press release.

Next steps

- 3.15 On 25 August 2020, the Executive decided to disband the CCIB and establish two new boards, the Innovation Board and the Climate Change Board. New terms of reference for each group were approved. Each group will take forward the work previously covered by the CCIB with a particular focus on the following key priorities:

Climate Change Board

- 1) **Energy** – Energy supply and performance
- 2) **Infrastructure** – Planning and low carbon infrastructure
- 3) **Businesses and communities** – Engagement and education

Innovation Board

- 1) **Smart City Infrastructure** – Including Improving full fibre connectivity
- 2) **Economic growth (Sector Development)** – Digital Games and Digital health
- 3) **Service Delivery** – Encouraging collaboration with the local technology ecosystem

4. Consultations

- 4.1 The Leader, Councillor Harwood (lead councillor for climate change and innovation) and Cllr Gordon Jackson (previous chair of the CCIB), have been consulted and agree with the recommendations of this report.

5. Key Risks

- 5.1 The opportunity exists to take forward and develop the work already undertaken by the CCIB and use this for work continuing under the two new boards for climate change and innovation.
- 5.2 However, there is always a risk that the Council could overcommit resources to achieve the commitments set out in July 2019. Through careful consideration of what measures and actions are reasonable and most effective for the Council to take recognising officer commitments and resources, a team of relevant officers will be best placed to manage this risk.
- 5.3 Plans are being put in place for the Climate Change Board members and fellow councillors and officers to partake in carbon literacy education. This will help

those taking part to understand and be able to explain the basic science of climate change and how climate change will affect us both globally and locally, how to assess our climate change objectives, and how to construct our own strategies to take action on climate change.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 No immediate financial implications.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 Officers recommend that the climate change agenda needs to be encapsulated into the Council's procurement procedure rules. This had been addressed at a meeting of the Community EAB and CCIB members were encouraged to highlight the issue moving forward.

8. Human Resource Implications

8.1 No HR implications apply.

9. Equality and Diversity Implications

9.1 This duty has been considered in the context of this report and it has been concluded that there are no equality and diversity implications arising directly from this report.

10. Climate Change/Sustainability Implications

10.1 This Council declared a climate emergency and passed a motion confirming its commitment to reducing carbon emissions on 23 July 2019. The recommended actions will help towards tackling the problem across the borough and county.

11. Summary of Options

11.1 The CCIB in its previous form looked at a number of differing approaches to addressing innovation and climate change by the Council. For the EAB to be able to present robust and reliable recommendations to the Executive on how to achieve each of its commitments, the Executive opted to disband the CCIB and instead have two separate boards looking at each of these work activities.

11.2 The two new Climate Change and Innovation Boards have committed themselves to new key priorities and will independently report back to the EAB.

12. Conclusion

12.1 Addressing the Council's pledge towards a reduction in carbon emissions continues.

12.2 The CCIB was set up to push forward improvements and actions. However, there is more that can be done and the work of the two boards will be more

focussed and higher achieving in seeking solutions to address both innovation and climate change locally, regionally and where possible, nationally.

- 12.3 Officers propose this EAB recognises the work that has already taken place and endorses the recommendation to support the CCB and IB in continuing the work in accordance with their newly formed memberships and terms of references.

13. Background Papers

- 13.1 None

14. Appendices

- 14.1 Appendix 1: The work and findings of the CCIB
Appendix 2: Climate Change Strategy – Outline Headings

Please ensure the following service areas have signed off your report. Please complete this box and do not delete.

Service	Sign off date
<i>Finance / S.151 Officer</i>	<i>16/07/2020</i>
<i>Legal / Governance</i>	<i>16/07/2020</i>
<i>HR</i>	<i>15/07/2020</i>
<i>Equalities</i>	<i>15/07/2020</i>
<i>Lead Councillor</i>	<i>29/07/2020</i>
<i>CMT</i>	<i>21/07/2020</i>
<i>Committee Services</i>	<i>16/07/2020</i>