

## **ANNEX 4 GREENER FUTURE MEMBER REFERENCE GROUP | RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **The Surrey Climate Change Delivery Plan 2020-25 must:**

1. Recognising the Climate Emergency, be ambitious about Surrey County Council taking the lead in delivering net zero for the Council by 2030, within a 1.5-degree temperature rise, and for Surrey as a whole by 2050, but recognising that this is not achievable without Government intervention and lobbying Government for policy, strategy and funding support
2. Have clear milestones each year for the next five years, ensuring immediate action as well as mid- and longer-term actions for both the Council's own emissions as well as the emissions produced within the county.
3. Be clear on cost and how the Council's 2030 net zero target and the first five years of the county's climate change delivery plan are going to be funded or financed with a clear financing strategy, setting up new finance mechanisms and appropriate levels of resourcing where appropriate.
4. Have a strong, targeted and well-funded communications and engagement strategy focused on ensuring engagement of those who will be vital to effecting change including – public sector senior decision makers, Members, residents, communities, business leaders and Government.
5. Be supported by a comprehensive lobbying strategy, linking with relevant partners, recognising that without others, in particular Government and business, achievement of the Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan targets will not be achievable.

### **Surrey County Council must LEAD, in particular, through the following:**

#### **Leadership from Members and senior officers:**

- A virtual green conference or all Members seminar led by the top level to ensure buy-in, supplemented by regular engagement and support for Members to understand key challenges, targets and to utilise their local contacts and networks, together with tools to enable calculation of carbon emissions for comparison of actions/products.
- A cross party motion to the Council to adopt a Green Charter in support of our Greener Futures ambitions, including a commitment to "Digital by Default" (see below).
- Digital by Default: The Council must commit to and follow through on digital by default principle, subject to legal constraint, to support its own climate change delivery plan and help reduce carbon emissions. Therefore, as a starting point, all non-decision-making meetings must take place online without any excuse,

particularly the Select Committees, which do not make formal decisions and should not be treated like the executive and regulatory arms of the council that have to make formal business and quasi-judicial decisions. Unfortunately, current legislation prevents this from happening. The Council should therefore lobby strongly – citing the Welsh Government/Local Government example - Written Statement: Implementation of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (22 March 2021) (22 March 2021) – to seek relaxation from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government so that local authorities can help achieve the Government's own legislation, namely new target in law to slash emissions by 78% by 2035. Such a change will assist the Council's wider climate change delivery goals and targets as set out in its own Climate Change Delivery Plan. These representations should be made both directly by Surrey County Council and through the County Councils' Network (CCN) chaired by the Leader.

- Appointment of Member and Senior Manager Champions to advocate and embed the principles within the Green Charter.

#### **1. Promoting sustainable travel options:**

- Environmentally friendly and frequent bus service across Surrey – including evenings and weekends - that provides better value for money for passengers.
- Bookable on-demand Woodhatch electric mini-bus service, available to all, from the two local train stations to Woodhatch Place.
- Council support for sustainable travel: car share scheme, cycle to work scheme, electric cars, electric bikes etc. for residents, members and staff. Showers, changing facilities, cycling stands and EV points across Surrey, including all council buildings.
- Promote electric vehicles, sustainable infrastructure and electric charging points. Ambitious programme with financial backing to support Electric Vehicles (EVs) and corresponding infrastructure across Surrey including in all council buildings and any jointly run facilities.

#### **2. Reducing the impact of meetings and services:**

- Catering and other facilities at all SCC buildings – replacement of single use plastics or cups and environmentally damaging utensils and items - to have food purchase and food waste policy for all council buildings and schools.

#### **3. Education and Awareness:**

- An easy-to-understand communication and engagement programme for members, staff, schools, colleges, partners and residents.
- Reaching out to residents in innovative ways such as Peoples Assemblies .

#### **4. Policy and Strategy:**

- To work in partnership with boroughs and districts to produce or update relevant guidance to help embed planning policies consistent with net-zero targets and to ensure that all relevant local authorities reflect the same target and the same/similar climate change messaging or a common tag-line.
- Appropriate and possible financial support, subsidy or co-operative loan schemes for green initiatives and to increase take up for residents, not just for businesses, for solar panels, heat pumps and electric vehicles etc.
- Inclusion of businesses, education sector (including private schools and academies) and other influential organisations to get a wider buy-in.
- New buildings/homes and the carbon offset fund – to review the extent to which developers should pay into a carbon offset fund if their developments are not future-proofed to be net zero carbon.
- Specific support for low-income families and being mindful of equality/impact implications.

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