

7 SEPTEMBER 2017

**SOCIETY, ENVIRONMENT, AND COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT  
EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD**

7 September 2017

- \* Councillor Adrian Chandler (Chairman)
- \* Councillor Pauline Searle (Vice-Chairman)

- |                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| * Councillor Angela Gunning   | * Councillor Dennis Paul  |
| Councillor Christian Holliday | Councillor Tony Phillips  |
| * Councillor Gordon Jackson   | * Councillor David Quelch |
| Councillor Jennifer Jordan    | * Councillor David Reeve  |
| * Councillor Sheila Kirkland  | * Councillor David Wright |

\*Present

**S16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Councillor Christian Holliday and Jennifer Jordan submitted apologies for absence.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 23(j), Councillor Mike Piper attended as a substitute on behalf of Councillor Jennifer Jordan.

**S17 LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE  
PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest.

**S18 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

**S19 SUSTAINABILITY AND GREEN ENERGY**

The Facilities and Office Services Manager gave an overview of this Council's approach to sustainability and renewable energy.

The Energy and Sustainability team was responsible for utilities management, and worked on various energy saving projects, for example Castle car park, where LED lighting had been installed to reduce electricity consumption. The team was also involved in walking and cycling initiatives, as well as transportation plans. In addition, team members visited schools to give presentations, produced "Environment Matters" newsletters for pupils to raise awareness around recycling, and arranged workshops at the Guildford Hydro Project. The Board asked that Councillors be included in the distribution list for future newsletters.

Since 2013, the Energy and Sustainability team had supported Action Surrey to help residents achieve combined annual savings of £55,000 by improving energy efficiency and cutting fuel bills. Projected lifetime savings were over £500,000, and for its work on this project, the team had reached the finals of the National Energy Efficiency and Healthy Homes Awards, and was presented with a certificate. The Facilities and Office Services Manager agreed to find out whether data was available on the amount of thermal units the project had saved.

7 SEPTEMBER 2017

The Board learned that two thermal imaging cameras were available for public loan, with training provided. The team supported the Guildford Repair Café, as well as the Guildford Fairtrade Steering Group. Ongoing projects included the management of the small hydropower station at Millmead, the Millmead biomass system, and solar installations across the council estate. Part of the role of the Energy and Sustainability team was to look at income generation; additional hydro-generation was being considered, and locations for additional solar panels were being identified. Biomass was difficult to retrofit, and was therefore more appropriate to new builds. The wood for Millmead's biomass boiler had to be checked on delivery to ensure it was dry, and the Facilities and Office Services Manager agreed to source information on the calorific value of dry woodchip.

The Board heard that the team's activities were underpinned by key documents including the Surrey Climate Change Strategy, the Carbon Management Plan, the Home Energy Conservation Act Report, the Sustainable Procurement Strategy, and the Corporate Plan. A renewable energy mapping study had also been produced, which illustrated locations where certain technologies could be considered.

The Facilities and Office Services Manager outlined current spending on utilities. The Board asked whether rainwater was recycled, and although there was no rainwater harvesting at Millmead, recycled water was used in parks and at the Stoke Park greenhouses. LASER, a public sector buying group, was used to procure and manage energy, as a way of reducing costs, minimising risk, and increasing efficiency.

The Facilities and Office Services Manager provided details of expenditure on various projects, which to date had achieved gross savings of over £2 million, representing a 22% return on investment. Petrol and fuel accounted for 20% of this Council's carbon consumption, and £40,000 had been spent trying to improve the fleet's performance. No figures were available for voltage optimisation, and the Facilities and Office Services Manager agreed to find out whether power factor correction would be used.

The Energy and Sustainability team had received recognition for its commitment towards energy efficiency from the Salix Recycling Fund. The fund aimed to increase capital investment in energy efficient technologies across the public sector, and was ring-fenced, with interest-free capital provided by Salix, and match funded by partner organisations. Financial savings delivered by projects were returned to the fund, allowing further spending on front line services. This Council had received £120,000 from the fund, and with match funding, £240,000 had been made available to spend on energy saving projects.

The Facilities and Office Services Manager went on to explain predicted costs for future projects, which would be prioritised on funding availability and benefit to this Council. Two potential projects had been identified for the Spectrum Leisure Centre, and Councillor Searle agreed to ask whether Freedom Leisure would be able to contribute towards the costs. A number of projects had not yet been costed, as they were in early stages of planning. The Board asked to be updated should any of the uncosted projects be progressed. The Board also suggested that floodlights at the castle could be included on the list of potential projects.

The Board learned that emerging technologies might be appropriate for future projects. Battery technology was evolving fast, whilst solar technology had become more sophisticated and less expensive.

Councillor Jackson explained that the Innovation Board was looking at ways to develop an innovation strategy for this Council, based on the premise that Guildford was already a centre of innovation. The Innovation Board was considering the importance of 5G, and whether to create a digital mesh, using advanced 4G capabilities, to create a network across

7 SEPTEMBER 2017

the town and test 5G technologies. The University of Surrey had a centre for urban sustainability and the Board was keen to invite a representative from the University to speak on the subject: Councillor Jackson and the Facilities and Office Services Manager agreed to arrange this. The Board also recommended that a member of the Energy and Sustainability team should attend an Innovation Board meeting to ensure consistency of approach. In addition, the Board recommended that water source heat pumps and hydro-generation should feature in any long-term plans, and asked that the Facilities and Office Services Manager be invited to report on progress early in 2019.

**S20 EAB WORK PROGRAMME**

The work programme was noted by the Board.

The meeting finished at 9.15 pm

Signed .....

Date .....

Chairman