

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Wednesday 30 September 2020 at 7.30pm

**This meeting will be held remotely via MS
Teams with audio access to the public for the
Part I items via registered dial-in only**

Members of the Committee

Councillors M Heath (Chairman), J Wilson (Vice-Chairman), M Brierley, B Clarke, S Dennett, T Gracey, J Olorenshaw, S Walsh, D Whyte and M Willingale

In accordance with Standing Order 29.1, any Member of the Council may attend the meeting of this Committee, but may speak only with the permission of the Chairman of the Committee, if they are not a member of this Committee.

AGENDA

Notes:

- 1) Any report on the Agenda involving confidential information (as defined by section 100A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972) must be discussed in private. Any report involving exempt information (as defined by section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972), whether it appears in Part 1 or Part 2 below, may be discussed in private but only if the Committee so resolves.
- 2) The relevant 'background papers' are listed after each report in Part 1. Enquiries about any of the Agenda reports and background papers should be directed in the first instance to **Mrs C Holehouse, Democratic Services Section, Law and Governance Business Centre, Runnymede Civic Centre, Station Road, Addlestone (Tel: Direct Line: 01932 425628). (Email: carol.holehouse@runnymede.gov.uk).**
- 3) Agendas and Minutes are available on a subscription basis. For details, please ring

Mr B A Fleckney on 01932 425620. Agendas and Minutes for all the Council's Committees may also be viewed on www.runnymede.gov.uk.

- 4) You are only permitted to hear the debate on the items listed in Part I of this Agenda, which contains matters in respect of which reports have been made available for public inspection. You will not be able to hear the debate for the items in Part II of this Agenda, which contains matters involving Exempt or Confidential information in respect of which reports have not been made available for public inspection. If you wish to hear the debate for the Part I items on this Agenda by audio via MS Teams you must register by 10.00 am on the day of the meeting with the Democratic Services Team by emailing your name and contact number to be used to dial-in to democratic.services@runnymede.gov.uk

5) **Audio-Recording of Meeting**

As this meeting will be held remotely via MS Teams, you may only record the audio of this meeting. The Council will not be recording any remote meetings.

LIST OF MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION
PART I

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PART II

Matters involving Exempt or Confidential Information in respect of which reports have not been made available for public inspection

a) Exempt Information

(No reports to be considered under this heading)

b) Confidential Information

(No reports to be considered under this heading)

1. **NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

2. **MINUTES**

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 July 2020 as attached at Appendix 'A'. As this meeting is being held remotely, the Chairman will ask the Members of the Committee if they approve the Minutes which will then be signed when this is physically possible.

Runnymede Borough Council
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
8 July 2020 at 7.30pm via MS Teams

Members of the Committee present: Councillors M Heath (Chairman) J Wilson (Vice-Chairman)
M Brierley, B Clarke, S Dennett, T Gracey, J Olorenshaw, S Walsh
and D Whyte

Members of the Committee absent: Councillor M Willingale

Councillors L Gillham, C Howorth, R King, I Mullens and N Prescott also attended

64 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16 January 2020 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

65 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Willingale

66 AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Committee received for information a copy of the Runnymede Borough Council's 2019 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) which had recently been submitted to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Members also received an update on the air quality modelling work being undertaken by most Councils in Surrey.

Members were pleased to note that air quality had improved. Officers had in addition recently received reports on the air quality during the recent lockdown due to Covid 19. The reports would be circulated to Members for information.

The Committee raised ongoing concerns about the number of idling engines throughout the Borough particularly at level crossings and outside schools. This was a road traffic offence and Members of the Committee were keen to communicate this to residents of the Borough. Runnymede was supporting the Surrey Schools Air Quality Programme and wanted to initiate signage produced by children to be displayed outside schools advising parents to cut their engines whilst waiting for their children.

67 ULTRA-LOW EMISSION VEHICLE STRATEGY

Members were asked to endorse the proposed Ultra-low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) Strategy for Runnymede Borough Council together with a recommendation to Full Council that the Strategy be approved. The strategy informed and supported the Runnymede Borough Council response to climate change and addressed many of the actions in relation to the motion for the replacement of 'Internal Combustion' Engines' passed by the Council at its meeting on 17 October 2019.

The Committee was advised that the strategy was the basis in going forward to improve air quality in the Borough. The 10 action points contained in the strategy were reviewed. With regard to Action 1: 'Increase the existing network of publicly available electric vehicle charge points

across Runnymede on both private and RBC owned land', the Committee felt that there was more of a concentration of charging points in the north and central part of the Borough than in the southern part of the Borough. It was noted that the existing charging points were often related to Council-led commercial developments but other opportunities would be investigated. Officers were invited to consider a possible site in the southern part of the Borough for electric vehicle charge points such as the raised area down the centre of the Broadway in New Haw. With regard to Action 8 'To look at opportunities to incentivise and promote the use of e bikes within the district' Members of the Committee requested that both bikes and e-scooters were included in Action 8.

Members were also keen to look at possible parking incentives for green vehicles which could be considered as part of the Council's next parking review.

The strategy was welcomed by Members, but they requested that Officers introduced Amber, Red and Green symbols against each objective to improve the visibility of the document.

The strategy would be regularly reviewed and brought back to this Committee on a six monthly basis as a standing item for review.

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL ON 16 JULY 2020 that:

The five-year Ultra-low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) Strategy be endorsed and approved by Full Council subject to inclusion of bikes and e-scooters in Action 8 of the strategy

The voting was as follows:

For (9) Councillors

Heath, Wilson, Brierley, B Clarke, Dennett, T Gracey, Olorenshaw, Walsh, D Whyte

Against (0)

Abstention (0)

68 RUNNYMEDE CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY – HARDSHIP POLICY

The Committee was asked to approve a Hardship Policy for dealing with remediation of contaminated land under the Runnymede Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy.

The current RBC Contaminated Land Strategy required the Council to carry out contaminated land investigation of potential sites within its boundary to meet statutory requirements under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Since 2016 the Council had been using the yearly funding provision of £10,000 on contaminated land investigations at two of RBC's highest risk rated sites. Both sites had been found to contain contamination and the costs of remediation of the sites, both being private falls to the relevant landowner. In 2012 the government withdrew all funding for remediation works of contaminated sites, leaving both Councils and individual landowners responsible for meeting costs in respect of their own land.

The proposed cost recovery approach was limited only to the Council's 'reasonable costs'. This included any costs incurred by the Council in managing or carrying out remediation of any land determined to be contaminated. The Council's Hardship Panel (The Panel) would consider the cost recovery associated with remediation of contaminated land. The Panel would inform the appropriate person(s) of any cost recovery decisions taken and explain the reasons for those decisions. If the person was aggrieved by the decision of the panel, the person concerned could appeal to the Appeals Hardship Panel.

The Committee was fully supportive of the proposed hardship policy. However, they did request that a Council Member should be included on the Appeals Hardship Panel Membership

RESOLVED that:

The Hardship Policy for dealing with remediation of contaminated land under the Runnymede Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy be approved subject to inclusion of a Council Member on the Appeals Hardship Panel Membership

The voting was as follows:

For (9) Councillors

Heath, Wilson, Brierley, B Clarke, Dennett, T Gracey, Olorenshaw, Walsh, D Whyte

Against (0)

Abstention (0)

69 **HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING AND WASTE KERBSIDE COLLECTION POLICY**

Members were asked to approve the 2020 Household Recycling and Waste Kerbside Collection Policy for Runnymede.

The Committee was advised that at present the Council's recycling rate was 42.2% which was the lowest recycling rate throughout the 11 Boroughs and Districts in Surrey with the average recycling rate across Surrey being 54.06%. Nationally, Runnymede's recycling rate was ranked 188/345. The 2020 Household Recycling and Waste Kerbside Collection Policy had been prepared to provide a co-ordinated and systematic approach to the Council's waste collections, improve the Borough's recycling performance and reduce the amount of waste sent for disposal. In addition, the policy looked at the re-introduction of bulky waste, the delivery of food waste bins and free additional recycling bins to encourage better household recycling. The Committee was also advised that the top 10 recycling districts nationally in the last 10 years had reduced their residual waste bins to 180L rather than the 240L currently used in Runnymede and this was a key aspect of this policy.

Officers were also looking to increase the usage of the BARTEC system which was not currently being used to its best ability. Additionally, by the end of this year rounds would be re-optimised and new food waste vehicles would be incorporated into the fleet.

The Council's Recycling Officer gave the Committee an update on recent work undertaken on increasing recycling rates in one particular part of the Borough, which had been very successful. Members requested that the Recycling Officer attended meetings on a regular basis in order to give them regular updates and data on recycling across the Borough.

Members were very supportive of the policy and wanted to take this opportunity to express their thanks to the operational crews at the DSO for their continued hard work over the Covid lockdown period where no services had been disrupted.

RESOLVED that:

The 2020 Household Recycling and Kerbside Collection Policy be approved

The voting was as follows:

For (9) Councillors

Heath, Wilson, Brierley, B Clarke, Dennett, T Gracey, Olorenshaw, Walsh, D Whyte

Against (0)

Abstention (0)

70 REFERRAL OF MOTION FROM COUNCIL – 5 MARCH 2020 – RECYCLING

The Committee was asked to consider a Motion put forward by Councillor S. Whyte approved with minor amendment and referred to the Committee by Full Council on 5 March 2020 with a preliminary expression that the Council was supportive of this action.

The Committee was advised that to date Surrey County Council had not published information on the end destination of kerbside recycling. When the information became available it would not identify what the materials were recycled into. It was considered that it would be a good message to give to residents in order for residents to see the benefit of recycling. Members asked Officers to write to Surrey County Council to establish the end destination of kerbside recycling and use of recycled materials and publish when information was received.

RESOLVED that:

- i) The recommendation to Full Council be noted; and**
- ii) Officers be authorised to write to Surrey County Council to ask for the end destination of kerbside recycling and use of recycled materials and publish when information was received**

71 SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL- CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

Members of the Committee were informed of a publication called 'Surrey's Climate Change Strategy' published by Surrey County Council (SCC), which had been approved by SCC Full Council on 29 April 2020.

The strategy sets out the joint ambition of the Surrey local authorities across the County to address carbon emissions. The strategy looked at eight main sectors of emissions. The first sector, Organisation Emissions, focused on the actions that could be taken to reduce the emissions associated with the activities and estate of Surrey's local authorities. The other seven sectors looked at county-wide emissions and ways to reduce them. The strategy would provide a framework for Runnymede's Climate Change Strategy which was currently being worked on.

72 SURREY SCHOOLS AIR QUALITY PROGRAMME – STANDING ORDER 42

The Committee noted urgent action (pro forma 958), taken in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman since the last meeting of the Committee. A sum of £7,000 had been allocated from the previously set-aside Air Quality Budget towards the cost of the Surrey Schools Air Quality programme in Runnymede.

73 CONTAMINATED LAND INVESTIGATION

By resolution of the Committee, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of this matter under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the discussion would be likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to Part 1 of the Act.

The current RBC Contaminated Land Strategy required the Council to carry out contaminated land investigations of potential sites within its boundary to meet statutory requirements under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The strategy was based on an approach of prioritisation and investigation of potentially contaminated land sites starting with the highest priority sites.

The Committee was updated on the outcome of investigations arising from contaminated land investigations and was asked to endorse the proposed actions.

In March 2019 Members endorsed the 'phase 3' contaminated land investigations work which had previously been identified to be the highest priority ranked site within the Borough and had been subjected to phase 1 and 2 investigations in 2018. The 'phase 3 investigation work was carried out in July 2019 with phase 4 investigations following in December 2019. In the phase 4 investigations unacceptable levels of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) had been identified in the back gardens of 3 properties. An adjacent property will be subject to a further confined investigation. Officers were engaged with the affected residents in respect of remediation of the contaminated areas and how this could be proceeded with under the relevant legislation.

RESOLVED that:

The outcome of investigations and the proposed actions be endorsed.

The voting was as follows:

For (8) Councillors

Heath, Wilson, Brierley, Dennett, T Gracey, Olorenshaw, Walsh, D Whyte

Against (0)

Abstention (1) Councillor B Clarke

(The meeting ended at 9.10pm)

Chairman

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

If Members have an interest in an item, please record the interest on the form circulated with this Agenda and e-mail it to the Legal Representative or Democratic Services Officer by 5.00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. **Members are advised to contact the Council's Legal section prior to the meeting if they wish to seek advice on a potential interest.**

Members are reminded that a non-pecuniary interest includes their appointment by the Council as the Council's representative to an outside body and that this should be declared. Membership of an outside body in their private capacity as a director, trustee, committee member or in another position of influence thereon **should be regarded as a disclosable pecuniary interest, as should an appointment to an outside body by the Council as a trustee.**

Members who have previously declared interests which are recorded in the Minutes to be considered at this meeting need not repeat the declaration when obtaining remote access to the meeting. Members need take no further action unless the item in which they have an interest becomes the subject of debate, in which event the Member must withdraw from the meeting if the interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest or if the interest could reasonably be regarded as so significant as to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest.

5. **CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY: INTERIM REPORT - (STRATEGIC PROJECTS MANAGER – Marcel Steward)**

Synopsis of report:

Officers have been tasked with bringing forward a Runnymede Borough Council (RBC) Climate Change Strategy (target completion Dec. 2020) and this report seeks the Committee's endorsement regarding the proposed direction of travel on the preparation of the Strategy.

Recommendation:

Members endorse the direction of travel regarding the Council's developing Climate Change Strategy, as set out in this Report.

1. **Context of report**

- 1.1 The publication of the Surrey Climate Change Strategy was reported to the last meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Committee. Surrey's Climate Change Strategy sets out the joint ambition of the Surrey local authorities across the county to address carbon emissions. The strategy looked at eight main sectors of emissions. The first sector, Organisation Emissions, focuses on the actions that can be taken to reduce the emissions associated with the activities and estate of Surrey's local authorities. The other seven sectors look at county-wide emissions and ways to

reduce them. Officers have taken this into account in formulating the Direction of Travel outlined in this report.

- 1.2 This Council's Climate Change Strategy will address some of the environmental issues which have been raised by Members at previous meetings of Full Council.

2. Report

- 2.1 RBC's Climate Change Strategy is in the process of compilation. This is an interim report to Members of the Environment and Sustainability Committee to inform them of the expected direction of travel and to seek its endorsement thereof.

Constraints

To be credible and deliverable, the Climate Change Strategy must be created within the following constraints:

- i) The current financial climate
- ii) Existing contractual obligations e.g. Surrey County Council being the waste disposal authority control end destinations for all waste and therefore may limit the local authority capability to pursue 'green alternatives.
- iii) Other statutory duties which may impinge or impact on climate change e.g. air quality, flooding, and CO₂ reduction requirements.

Terms of Reference

There is no formal definition of the term 'Climate Change Strategy' within the current context.

It is proposed to overcome this by adopting the following:

- i) Government legislation and regulation
- ii) The Government standards, targets, and methodologies, as incorporated in Surrey's Climate Change Strategy where possible and achievable
- iii) Local Authority Best Practise identified from other Councils
- iv) Where recognised standards are not available – internal methodologies and reference datum will be created in the interests of consistency

Legal Requirements

There is no legal obligation on Local Authorities to implement a Climate Change Strategy neither have they been empowered to enforce Climate Change Policy under national legislation.

The following regulations impose obligations on Local Authorities in regard to Climate Change considerations:

- i) UK Climate Change Act 2008 & Amendment Order 2019
Revised National Climate Change Targets

- ii) National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
NPPF provisions must be included in preparing Local and Neighbourhood Plans and as a material consideration when determining planning applications
- iii) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Order Act 2004
Local Authorities must include policies in Local Plans that are designed to secure that the development and use of land contributes to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, Climate Change
- iv) Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004
Local Authorities are required to assess the Local Plans cumulative climate impacts against, and consistency with, all relevant Climate Change Objectives and Targets
- v) Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) Revised 2012

RBC Current Position

- i) Existing RBC policies relevant to climate change include:
 - Ultra-low Emission Vehicle Strategy 2020 -2025
 - Household waste and kerbside collection policy 2020
 - RBC reduction of Single Use Plastics policy 2019
 - RBC Air Quality Action Plan 2014
 - A mandatory inclusion of environmental and sustainability/biodiversity implications considerations by officers and Members within all Council reports and decisions 2019
- ii) Local Plan legislative compliance
- iii) Compliant with Department for Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Reporting (Greenhouse Gas Emissions including CO₂).
- iv) Partner / Stakeholder in River Thames Scheme – flood relief

Proposed RBC Climate Change Strategy Approach: Outline Content (*Subject to Revision*)

- i) Twin Track Approach Climate Change Strategy:
 - Avoidance / Prevention / Mitigation
 - Adaptation
- ii) Encompass the Councils' role as:
 - Operator of a public organisation
 - Service Provider
 - Estate Manager:
 - Housing
 - Commercial
 - Community
 - Parks & Open Spaces
 - Community Leader:
 - Residents
 - Business
- iii) Integration Across All Council Operations
Avoidance / Prevention / Mitigation

- *Commitment for Councils Operations and the Local Area*
Political
Corporate
- *Promote Community Action*
Business
Residents
- *Finance*
Promote Investment and income opportunities in sustainable development and business including energy
Support Local Communities to take advantage of energy saving initiatives, funding and grants
Promote Private Sector Partnership / Finance Schemes where these contribute to Council Climate Change Objectives
- *Energy*
Promote Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Use
Council Estate
In the Community
- *Economic Growth*
Encourage sustainable businesses into the Borough
Support local businesses to become energy efficient
- *Natural Environment*
Reduce Carbon Emissions through the natural environment / carbon sequestration
Create green infrastructure across the Council's Estate and wider area through Planning to promote conservation and biodiversity
- *Planning & built Environment*
Promote energy efficiency and low carbon communities
Reduce energy emissions from Council Estate
- *Transport*
Corporate
Active Transport
- *Waste*

Adaptation

- Health
- Flood
- Fire
- Building Resilience
- Transport / Modal Shift

iv) Deliverables

- Objectives
- Climate Change Policy
- Plan and Timescale
- Key Performance Indicators
- Quantitative Monitoring

3. Policy framework implications

- 3.1 The RBC Corporate Strategy sets out our mission to *“To deliver excellent quality and cost-effective services, through prudent financial management, to enhance our*

environment and improve the economy by working with local people and partners for the greater good of the Runnymede community.”

4. Resource implications

4.1 At this stage it is difficult to identify specific costs and resources to implement individual elements of the final strategy. There are several options open to RBC including public and private funding investments normally through Devolved government funded grant schemes. It is envisaged that bids for external funding and wider communication issues where possible will be met from within current staff resources with any subsequent individual infrastructure projects subject to a detailed costing and submission to the relevant committee as required. It is highly likely that a central fully resourced officer post will be required to drive and implement the strategy in the longer term.

5. Equality implications

5.1 There are no equality implications in respect of this matter. Any individual projects or policies arising from the final strategy may engage equality implications that may require an Equality Impact Assessment

(To resolve)

Background papers

None

6. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

If the Committee is minded to discuss any of the foregoing reports in private it is the

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION that –

the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of reports under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the reports in question would then be likely to involve disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in appropriate paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Act.

(To resolve)

PART II

Matters involving Exempt or Confidential Information in respect of which reports have not been made available for public inspection

a) Exempt Information

(No reports to be considered under this heading)

b) Confidential Information

(No reports to be considered under this heading)