

Runnymede Borough Council  
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
30 September 2020 at 7.30pm via MS Teams

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

Members of the Committee absent: Councillor M Brierley and J Wilson

Councillors I Mullens, N Prescott and S Whyte also attended

222 NOTIFICATION TO CHANGE TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Group mentioned below had notified the Chief Executive of their wish that the change listed below be made to the membership of the Committee. The change was for a fixed period ending on the day after the meeting and thereafter the Councillor removed would be reappointed.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Remove from Membership</b>	<b>Appoint Instead</b>
Conservative	Councillor M Willingale	Councillor J Sohi

The Chief Executive had given effect to the request in accordance with Section 16(2) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

223 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 July 2020 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

224 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Wilson

225 CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY: INTERIM REPORT

Members of the Committee were asked to endorse the direction of travel regarding the Council's developing Climate Change Strategy.

The publication of the Surrey Climate Change Strategy was reported to the last meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Committee. The strategy had set 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. Officers had taken this into account in formulating the Direction of Travel outlined in the agenda report.

The Committee was given a comprehensive overview of the constraints, terms of reference, legal requirements, Runnymede's current position and proposed strategy approach.

The Committee stressed the importance of being able to measure the effects of the strategy when implemented. Officers advised the Committee that KPI's and quantitative monitoring would show the benefit of the strategy to both them and the community. Members felt the strategy included some valuable ideas. It was also felt that it was vital to build partnerships with commercial companies to look at sustainable energy. It was also important that the strategy encouraged the use of bikes and public transport, working with stakeholders in this regard was crucial.

With regard to zero carbon target set by the Government for 2050, the strategy looked to improve on that target. Working with the Planning Department on their policies, particularly in relation to new builds, would be a very positive step in achieving this.

Members expressed concerns regarding the continuing methane problem from landfill sites. Surrey County Council would need to address this within their own climate change strategy. However, the Committee was keen to apply some pressure on Surrey County Council to address this. Officers advised the Committee that the Surrey Environmental Partnership was currently looking into landfill sites in Surrey. It was agreed that education was the key to addressing the problem of too much waste still going into landfill.

The Committee was advised that Officers had looked at various other Authority's climate change strategies and taken best practice to inform Runnymede's climate change strategy.

Some concerns regarding flooding from storm and foul water was raised. Officers advised Members that work with stakeholders and Councils up and down the Thames would be built into the strategy. Members also wanted to be reassured that fossil fuels would be looked at as part of the strategy. Officers reassured the Committee that all parts of the motion passed at Full Council in October last year would be incorporated.

It was noted that conservation and wildlife was also an important consideration for a greener and better environment. Whilst Runnymede was already a relatively green borough, some tree planting on green spaces, particularly on new developments would be advantageous. It was, however, noted that carbon sequestration would also be beneficial.

The Committee was pleased to note that a Climate Change Officer would be recruited. It was hoped that the appointed Officer would be able to apply for more Government schemes, as and when they became available, and work with residents and voluntary groups.

The Committee felt the end of year deadline was very ambitious but was reassured that the initial strategy due to be completed by December 2020 would identify the programme and timescales and would give a map of what the Council intended to do in regard to climate change. It would remain a live entity and the Committee would be updated regularly on its progress.

**RESOLVED that**

**the direction of travel regarding the Council's developing Climate Change Strategy, as set out in the report, be endorsed**

(The meeting ended at 8.55 pm )

Chairman