

Runnymede Borough Council  
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
10 June 2021 at 7.30pm

Members of the Committee present: Councillors M Heath (Chairman) N King (Vice-Chairman)  
D Clarke, S Lewis, J Olorenshaw, D Whyte,  
S Williams and M Willingale

Members of the Committee absent: Councillors S Dennett and R King

Councillors L Gillham and I Mullens also attended

62 FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The Chairman read out the Fire Precautions.

63 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18 March 2021 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

64 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Dennett and R King

65 DEPOT UPDATE

At the request of the Chairman the Committee received an update on depot activity during the last year.

The last fifteen/sixteen months had been challenging due to Covid19, but it was a testament to all staff that no services had been reduced during that time. Members of the Committee concurred with this and commended Officers for all their continued hard work during the pandemic.

Officers reported that they had encountered some difficulty in some roads where inappropriate parking made it impossible for refuse trucks to pass to carry out collections. Officers would contact residents who repeatedly parked inappropriately, and the list of problem streets would be forwarded to ward Members. Officers were also proposing to update the Council's webpages with information on future collections and refer to this in future Council newsletters. It was noted that SCC were currently carrying out their annual parking restrictions review so Officers would also contact SCC in this regard.

Officers reported that a feasibility study of the depot had been undertaken and a report would be brought to the next Committee meeting in September.

66 FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2021/22

The Committee was asked to approve the proposed Food Service Plan for 2021/22. Members were advised that the Food Service Agency (FSA) suspended the national food safety inspection programme in 2020 during the initial stages of the Covid pandemic. Further suspensions followed throughout the year as local authority resources particularly those of environmental health were deployed to Covid compliance and enforcement issues.

The impact of Covid at local level for Runnymede had resulted in a backlog of 257 interventions for the 2020/21 period. These inspections together with the interventions due in 2021/22 made a total of 667 for the coming year. Despite Officers being heavily involved in the Council's welfare response to Covid they had still managed to carry out 258 interventions in the last reporting year. The backlog of inspections from 2020/21 had already been reduced by Officers undertaking additional work out-of-hours with the remaining inspections being progressed on a risk basis. It was noted that some premises had gone 12-15 months without an inspection but during this period Officers had been sending out mailshots regarding food safety and Covid. It was suggested that the Council's Customer Service team could be asked to assist in giving high risk premises advance notice of inspections and the Council's CHES would follow this up.

The normal programme of inspections was expected to commence in 2023.

Members reviewed the proposed Plan for 2021/22 and recommended it for approval by Full Council in accordance with Article 4 of the Constitution.

**RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL that –**

**the Food Service Plan for 2021/22 be approved by Full Council on 15 July 2021**

67 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 4 2020/21

The Committee received a report setting out the results of the Key Performance Indicators for Quarter 4 of the year 2020/21.

Despite the difficulties of the past year Members were pleased to note that the percentage of bins collected was 99.96% during Quarter 4, giving an annual result of 99.95%. During the first two quarters of 2020/21 recycling had surpassed 50% for the first time in Runnymede. In addition to the increased recycling rates the contamination rates had also reduced.

The Committee was pleased to note and thanked the number of Community groups who had undertaken litter picks in their particular areas. The Supervisor at the Depot worked with these groups providing litter pickers, high vis clothing and bags. It was considered that the option of providing different colour bags to assist in the segregation of recycling during these community litter picks should be explored. It was noted that many litter pick groups were promoted on social media and Officers were asked to further communicate with litter pick groups using this platform. Ward Members would also like to be improved of any litter picks being organised in their wards.

Officers advised Members that a report on the implications for Runnymede waste services including information on the DRS (Deposit Return Scheme) and EPR (Extended Producer Liability) would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee in September.

The depot was commended for their work and Members thanked Officers for a really good set of KPI's during a difficult year.

68 CLIMATE CHANGE STATEMENT OF INTENT

Members were updated on the Council's current position and direction with regard to Climate Change.

It was anticipated that the draft Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy would be one of four interlinking themes supporting the Corporate Business Plan draft which would be available in October 2021.

At the July 2020 meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Committee the Council reported their intention to adopt selected principles and targets from the Surrey County Council Climate Change Strategy. These were effectively national targets augmented by the regional aspirations which was entirely appropriate. However, not all the targets and actions were within the control of District and Borough Councils. Additionally, not all the scoped targets were evenly distributed across the County, therefore individual Borough roles were contributory to the County target rather than being directly proportional. Officers were currently in the process of working through these to evaluate the specific application to our Borough.

Runnymede was currently responding to Surrey Council /National Government on the following list of projects:

- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LSCWIPs)
- EV vehicle on street charging – pilot study
- SCC Treescapes Fund Bid
- Local Authority Delivery Scheme (LAD) Phase 2 – delivering energy efficient upgrades (including Public Housing Stock) administered by SCC
- Surrey Energy and Sustainability Partnership comprising 11 Borough and District Councils, Surrey Policy and Action Surrey
- Surrey Environment Partnership (SEP) – waste management

These programs were directly relevant to Runnymede's Climate Change Strategy and an integral part of the Council's delivery.

The scope and capacity for the Districts and Boroughs was directly linked to the Surrey County Council Strategy and Delivery Plan which in turn was dependent on National Government Leadership in Policy and Regulation. To make that linkage it was essential that funding from government to achieve these goals was being made available through the higher local government authorities.

Members were assured that Runnymede was not lying dormant in relation to Climate Change. Effective action was being taken which included a 62% reduction of our Scope 1 and 2 emissions compared to our 2009 baseline to 2019/20. Other direct climate change avoidance actions encompassed under Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions were currently under way and had been directly reported to relevant business units. These included:

- The Housing Asset Management Plan
- Local Plan
- Commercial Assets

The Council's Climate Change Strategy would also cover how the Council intended to address the Scope 3 emissions (those beyond our direct control in which our capacity is one of community leadership and influence rather than direct action). We are not alone in this and work with other authorities at National, County and District and Borough level was paramount.

In this regard Members attention was drawn to three large infrastructure projects the Council was involved in in Runnymede namely:

- Heathrow Expansion/Recovery
- River Thames Scheme
- Esso Pipeline

all of which are contributory to this role.

Councillor Mullens who was not a member of the Committee had circulated for consideration a proposed 'Climate Change Statement of Intent' which recommended adoption of the ambitions and targets in the Surrey Climate Change Strategy, modified to be appropriate for Runnymede. An Officer response in relation thereto was also circulated.

Some members of the Committee expressed concerns and frustration regarding the lack of progress on the Council's Climate Change Strategy and wanted the Committee to adopt the SCC Climate Change Strategy immediately. Whilst the Committee fully supported the SCC Climate Change Strategy and its objectives and would work collaboratively with SCC thereon, it was considered premature for the Council to commit to quantitative Climate Change targets when many items were not within the direct control of the Council to deliver and the method of quantification delivery and capacity to deliver was still under development at national, county and local level. A further report would be brought back to the Committee in September.

**RESOLVED that –**

**Runnymede Borough Council supports the Surrey County Council Climate Change Strategy.**

(The meeting ended at 9.12 pm)

Chairman