**Notes of a Meeting of the Climate Change Working Group**

**Held on 10 June 2021 Virtually, via zoom**

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| 1.  | **Renewable Energy Finance Mechanisms**  |
|  | The Chairman welcomed guests from Greater South East Energy Hub and, Abundance Investments to the meeting who provided informative presentations to the group on the variety of finance mechanisms available to local authorities to fund renewable energy projects.The Great South East Energy Hub is one of five local energy hubs across England. One of its key objectives is to raise awareness of good practice, funding opportunities and green finance approaches. Abundance is the first regulated crowdfunding platform in the UK. Their model enables anyone to invest with as little as £5. To date Abundance has raised over £112m for a variety of net zero and social infrastructure projects. This includes £4.5m for Swindon Borough Council’s solar parks. It was noted that the Green Finance Institute (GFI) plans to launch a local climate bonds campaign on 5 July 2021. The campaign will promote councils who are implementing their climate emergency plans and undertaking this via the issuance of climate bonds, particularly in the run up to COP26 in November 2021.  |

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| 2.  | **Climate Emergency Action Plan**  |  |
|  | Members received an update on the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP). The document summarised further progress against priority actions identified for 2021/22. Attention was drawn to the renewable energy plan, which was considered by the Climate Change Working Group at its meeting on 18 March 2021. The plan considers the role of renewable energy technologies in decarbonising the Council and Borough’s energy supply and suggests a range of actions, in order to move towards greater proportions of locally generated renewable energy. A Solar Together project was recently launched across Surrey, which enables group-buying solar PV at discounted prices. Residents that express an interest in the scheme would receive a survey to ensure feasibility and following their agreement they would then enter into a group auction to purchase the solar PV at discounted rates. Solar Together has worked with various local authorities to enable bulk solar PV installation. Woking borough had 50 registrations within the first week of launching.  |  |

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| 3.  | **ThamesWey Update**  |  |
|  | Action Surrey continues to deliver its largest home energy efficiency project to date under Green Jump Surrey. The Action Surrey partnership of local authorities, with Woking Borough Council as the lead local authority, was awarded £6.2 million of funding in October 2020 under the Government’s Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme. A further successful bid for an additional £3 million was also awarded under phase ‘1B’ of the project.It was noted that to date approximately 750 eligible households were proceeding with quotes and installations, while 150 households were already completed.ThamesWey was successful in its bid under the Government’s Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. The funding will connect Midas House and Export House to the new Poole Road energy centre. The installation of the heat network pipes to Midas House is already underway. |  |

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| 4.  | **Action Surrey Update**  |  |
|  | During this quarter, Action Surrey had helped two households in Woking to install energy efficiency improvement at a total cost of £18,000 resulting in an estimated CO2 saving of 5 tonnes per year. This is outside of the Green Jump Surrey project. |  |

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5. **AOB**

## At the last Climate Change Working Group meeting held on 18 March 2021, members agreed to support the use of audio, video or web conferencing as a preferred and standard meeting method in order to reduce and avoid unnecessary travel to meetings where possible, this would also help reduce associated carbon emissions.

## Under the delegated authority given to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability and the Chairman of the Climate Change Working Group, a recommendation in this regard had been made to the Executive to be held on the 17 June 2021. The recommendation was noted and endorsed by the Climate Change Working Group.

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