

Climate Emergency Action Plan: Progress Update 14 – June to September 2023

This document summarises progress against the priority actions within the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) since June 2023, as reported to the Greener Woking Working Group in September 2023.

[View background information about the CEAP.](#)

This section provides an overview of new activities recorded this quarter (June to September 2023). Further details are included in the table that follows on page 4.

- A pilot using Energi Raven energy monitoring software has begun. This enables live consumption monitoring for gas, water and electricity across nominated sites as well as monthly and annual comparisons. Alarms can be set to proactively manage spikes in consumption. The six month trial will conclude towards the end of this year.
- Officers in Property Services are working on an energy procurement exercise with Cornwall Insight, an independent energy consultant. They are looking to identify a new energy contract for the communal areas of council owned housing stock to take effect from September 2023.
- [Action Surrey](#)'s Sustainable Warmth grant funding scheme closed to new applications in March 2023 with all installations to be delivered by the end of September 2023. At the time of writing, 250 households had been completed, representing 66% of the total take up. £3.8 million had been allocated averaging approximately £10,000 per household and more than 200 tonnes of CO₂e per year cumulative carbon savings.
- HUG2, launched in May 2023, is the second phase of funding designed to provide energy efficiency improvements for low-income households impacted by fuel poverty. At the time of writing, 112 residents are proceeding under HUG2 across Surrey with 46 of these verified financially and due to receive a retrofit survey. The value of quotes received currently stands at £81,000.
- A second phase of the popular [Solar Together](#) scheme is in progress. Registrations closed on 11 August, with 739 received from Woking householders. 695 of these were for solar photovoltaics (PV) with 44 additional registrations for battery storage.
- Further to the successful application to South Western Railway's Customer and Communities Improvement Fund, suitable options for additional secure cycle storage close to Woking Railway Station are being identified. WBC's Town Centre Engineer is finalising the design and location in consultation with South Western Railway. The scheme was awarded £40,000 and must be delivered within this financial year.
- SCC has contracted a concession framework operator for the roll out of electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints across Surrey. Individual contracts have been extended to interested districts and boroughs to formalise participation and to nominate locations to inform a network delivery plan. WBC officers have discussed potential car park and off-street locations that could be considered and await guidance on the contract in the context of the government intervention and organisational review.

- WBC Building Services colleagues are working with EV infrastructure specialist Connected Kerb to install a back office telemetry system to proactively monitor the EV points in Victoria Place Red Car Park.
- Further to reports from the public and councillors that the EV points in Brewery Road car park had failed, WBC Building Services colleagues have reset the points and installed temporary signage requesting that customers return the charger to the unit when not in use.
- The six-week public consultation on the proposed new climate change strategy – Woking Net Zero – concluded on 30 June 2023. In total 141 responses were received via the online and in-person consultation, feedback from which has been collated and reviewed to inform the final draft strategy ready for adoption. The Greener Woking Working Group is asked to recommend that the strategy be considered for adoption at a future meeting of the Executive pending some further work to ensure its commitments are deliverable in the context of wider council savings and its Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
- A key strategy update to highlight is the proposed action to join the [UK100](#) network and a change to the area wide target date from 2050 to 2045. This would satisfy a recent recommendation made by [Woking Environment Action \(WEAct\)](#) for the council to join the network and sign its pledge.
- The consultation ran in parallel with that of the draft [Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document \(SPD\)](#). The final draft SPD is due to be considered by the Local Development Framework Working Group on 13 November 2023 and the Greener Woking Working Group on 15 November 2023, recommending it for adoption by the Executive on 16 November.
- Surrey County Council's [Greener Futures](#) Partnership Steering Group, attended by all boroughs and districts and the county council, has finalised its vision and objectives. The nine objectives have been identified as areas where collaboration between the 12 authorities will have greater impact than acting alone.
- [Surrey Environment Partnership](#) has launched its new waste reduction initiative Rethink Waste in partnership with Green Redeem. By signing up online for free, Surrey residents can win prizes for reducing their waste.
- Climate change and biodiversity focused communications continue through the [Planet Woking](#) programme. The contract with Air Social, who managed Planet Woking's social media accounts, ended on 30 June 2023. Social media posts via Instagram and Facebook continue to be facilitated in-house. The website has been managed and updated in-house for the duration of the programme in any case.
- The Surrey Climate Change Officers' Group has been discussing possible alternative training options to build on the Surrey Learn climate change e-learning module with some authorities expressing an interest in other shared courses. Green Infrastructure officers will consult colleagues as these options develop.
- The Planet Woking Wildlife Gardening Guide online public consultation concluded on 9 July 2023. Residents were invited to share their feedback via the online survey or by

email. Feedback has been used to inform the final draft of the guide. The Greener Woking Working Group is asked to approve the guide for online publication.

- [WEAct's Woking Repair Café](#) continues to offer free repairs for electrical and mechanical items, furniture, clothes, toys and textiles. The next repair café takes place on Saturday 9 September 2023 at Trinity Methodist Church in Woking Town Centre.
- At its Special General Meeting on 13 July 2023, WEAct members voted unanimously in support of its new constitution which will enable the group to apply to become a Charity Incorporated Organisation.
- The results of a recent Woking Borough Council staff survey on how well the council's net zero targets are understood will be analysed and used to inform communications and action on how we can better embed our targets across the organisation.
- Green Infrastructure officers are developing a plan for staff and councillor engagement on the council's climate commitments and the Woking Net Zero strategy. The plan will include recommendations on strengthening of climate considerations for reports and projects; staff training; promotion of Take the Jump following the campaign's endorsement by the Executive; and a 'climate crib sheet' for the staff intranet offering a one-stop-shop for information on the council's climate commitments and sustainability tips and advice for both at work and at home.
- Local residents and community partners were invited to have their say on the future of the council's discretionary services via an online survey which closed on 10 August 2023.

Climate Emergency Action Plan – Progress Update 14

This document summarises progress against the priority actions within the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) since June 2023, as reported to the Greener Woking Working Group in September 2023. New activity within the quarter (June to September 2023) is shown in bold for ease of reference and bulleted in pages 1 to 3.

[Read background information about the CEAP](#)

Theme / Priority Action: Council assets	Progress to September 2023: Description of actions taken
<p>Adopt an emissions baseline for the council's estate and operations.</p>	<p>The independent carbon footprint assessment of the council's corporate emissions is available to view on its website. The findings were presented to a meeting of this Working Group on 30 November 2022. The report's recommendations have been used to inform the review of the council's climate change strategy (further details of which are included later in this update report).</p> <p>Officers in Property Services have begun a pilot of an energy monitoring software system called Energi Raven. This is produced by Woking based company SAV Systems. The product is designed to help identify potential energy, carbon and financial savings on a building by building basis. The pilot will monitor energy use at the following council owned buildings: Civic Offices, Export House, Woking Leisure Centre, Pool in the Park, Hoe Valley Community Building, Sportsbox, Wolsey Place Shopping Centre and Hale End Court. The online dashboard displays live consumption for gas, water and electricity and can provide monthly and year on year comparisons. Alarms can be set to proactively manage spikes in consumption. The six month trial will conclude towards the end of this year. The pilot has the potential to contribute to delivering a recommendation of the carbon footprint assessment to improve the energy performance of council owned and leased properties.</p> <p>Officers in Property Services are working on an energy procurement exercise with Cornwall Insight, an independent energy consultant. They are looking to identify a new energy contract for the communal areas of council owned housing stock to take effect from September 2023.</p>

Collaborative work with ThamesWey to deliver on carbon reduction goals e.g., decarbonising the energy supply for all council buildings and operations and eliminate emissions directly through the supply of renewable / sustainable power sources.

ThamesWey Energy received £9.4 million in government support through the national Heat Networks Investment Project (HNIP) which will help deliver plans to expand and decarbonise the supply of heat to Woking Town Centre. Over the next seven years, the funding will help facilitate extension of Woking's heat and cooling networks to supply energy to new developments in the Town Centre including sites south of the railway line. The HNIP funding will also enable further decarbonisation of heat through the addition of large-scale heat pumps and heat storage capacity at Poole Road energy centre.

In October 2022, Action Surrey was successful in its bid to become the delivery agent for SCC's Sustainable Warmth contract delivering fully funded household energy efficiency improvements.

Action Surrey's Sustainable Warmth grant funding scheme closed to new applications in March 2023 with all installations to be delivered by the end of September 2023. The fund, aimed at people living in hard to heat homes and on lower incomes, offered grants between £10,000 and £25,000 to improve insulation and install renewable technology - helping to save energy, reduce emissions and combat rising energy prices. Improvement measures included loft insulation, cavity and external wall insulation, underfloor insulation and renewables, such as solar electricity panels. **At the time of writing, 250 households had been completed, representing 66% of the total take up. £3.8 million had been allocated averaging approximately £10,000 per household and more than 200 tonnes of CO2e per year cumulative carbon savings.** Further details on this are included in the separate ThamesWey update report on this agenda.

On 10 May 2023, Action Surrey launched a further government funding stream via the Surrey consortium called Home Upgrade Scheme 2 (HUG2). HUG2 is the second phase of funding designed to provide energy efficiency improvements for low-income households impacted by fuel poverty and follows on from the first phase – HUG1 – that closed in March 2023. HUG2 is only applicable to properties that are not connected to the mains-gas network and rely on alternative forms of energy for heating; including electric, oil and biomass heating. The following measures are

	<p>available through the scheme: loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, external solid wall insulation, underfloor insulation (for suspended floors), air source heat pumps, solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, solar thermal water panels and park home insulation. At the time of writing, 112 residents are proceeding under HUG2 across Surrey with 46 of these verified financially and due to receive a retrofit survey. The value of quotes received currently stands at £81,000. Funding will be available until 2025. Eligibility criteria apply. Residents should contact Action Surrey on 0800 783 2503 or by email at Info@actionsurrey.org for further information. An application form is available to download via the Action Surrey website.</p> <p>SCC continues to develop the wider Sustainable Warmth contract to incorporate other potential decarbonisation and renewables projects.</p> <p>A second phase of the popular Solar Together scheme is in progress. The first phase of the group-buying solar PV project, which ran during 2021/22 saw 142 approved installations in Woking borough resulting in a total of 558 kW installed capacity saving almost 92,000 kg CO2 emissions. Woking households that participated in the scheme invested approximately £720,000. Registrations for the second phase closed on 11 August, with 739 expressions of interest from Woking householders. 695 of these were for solar PV with 44 additional registrations for battery storage. For comparison, a total of 9,016 registrations were received across Surrey. The next phase of the scheme involves an auction with pre-vetted installers. The winning bid is the lowest and sets the price for all solar and battery systems. Further news on the scheme will be reported in future CEAP updates.</p>
<p>Improve the energy performance of council owned and leased properties – initially through an appraisal of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and Display Energy Certificates (DECs).</p>	<p>The results of the independent carbon footprint assessment have identified pathways to net zero for the corporate estate including measures to improve the energy performance of council owned and leased properties. These have been incorporated into the Woking Net Zero strategy which is presented elsewhere on this agenda.</p>

<p>Large scale renewable energy plan to be drafted, detailing how wind energy could be funded across the borough and how it could be complemented with solar energy.</p>	<p>Woking Borough Council's Renewable Energy Plan was adopted by the Executive on 17 June 2021. Officers in Green Infrastructure continue to work with SCC to progress opportunities in furtherance of the Plan's objectives.</p> <p>The second phase of the Solar Together scheme, launched in June 2023, will see further household solar PV installations in Woking borough with 739 registrations received. See earlier update.</p>
<p>Theme / Priority Action: Transport</p>	<p>Progress to September 2023: Description of actions taken</p>
<p>Avoid unnecessary travel to meetings where possible and develop a mandatory transport hierarchy as part of the council's Staff Transport Plan.</p>	<p>Following a recommendation from this Working Group, on 17 June 2021 the Executive resolved that non-statutory meetings should continue, where practical, on a remote basis. This will help further reduce unnecessary travel to meetings and associated carbon emissions.</p>
<p>Identify locations for the installation of electric bike charging points to further enable staff (and public) to select sustainable modes of transport and alternatives to the car, particularly for short journeys.</p>	<p>The installation of e-bike and e-mobility scooter charging facilities has been raised with SCC under their active travel plans and highlighted as a priority for this Working Group.</p> <p>Further to the successful application to South Western Railway's Customer and Communities Improvement Fund, suitable options for additional secure cycle storage close to Woking Railway Station are being identified. WBC's Town Centre Engineer is finalising the design and location in consultation with South Western Railway. The scheme was awarded £40,000 and must be delivered within this financial year.</p>
<p>Work with the council's car club provider to replace the existing petrol cars with electric vehicles.</p>	<p>WBC's car club scheme has two vehicles for officers to use on council business; one of which is a Nissan Leaf electric vehicle (EV).</p> <p>WBC continues to participate in the Surrey EV Strategy Forum. The aim of this forum is to work together to deliver a consistent strategy across the county to provide the necessary EV infrastructure for Surrey residents to help meet common climate targets and facilitate a shift to zero emission transport in line with the government's Road to Zero Strategy which bans the sale of petrol and diesel vehicles from 2030. <i>(post meeting update – date now 2035).</i></p>

A key objective of the Surrey EV Forum is to accelerate delivery of EV charging infrastructure across the county. Districts and boroughs have expressed their interest in a fully funded concession framework for EV chargepoint installation, to be led by Surrey County Council.

Concession frameworks are a popular delivery mechanism for local authorities looking to increase EV infrastructure as they offer no or low-cost options with extensive roll out of fast and rapid chargepoints. Following a competitive tender process, **SCC has contracted a concession framework operator. Individual contracts have been extended to interested districts and boroughs to formalise participation and to nominate locations to inform a network delivery plan. WBC officers have discussed potential car park and off-street locations that could be considered and await guidance on the contract in the context of the government intervention and organisational review.**

WBC Building Services colleagues are working with EV infrastructure specialist Connected Kerb to install a back office telemetry system to proactively monitor the EV points in Victoria Place Red Car Park. The telemetry system will also improve customer experience by enabling proactive maintenance and repairs via an alert system facilitated by the telemetry. Additionally, the system will also facilitate the introduction of charging fees for EV charging.

Further to reports from the public and councillors that the EV points in Brewery Road car park had failed, WBC Building Services colleagues have reset the points and installed temporary signage requesting that customers return the charger to the unit when not in use. Unfortunately if left on the car park floor, damp conditions can cause the units to trip. Building Services are also due to replace a part within the units to improve their function and ability to charge two vehicles simultaneously which has also been a recent issue. Having been installed to coincide with the opening of the WWF Living Planet Centre in 2013, the charging points are now ten years old and considered old technology. Unfortunately in the context of the Section 114 notice and government intervention, there are no plans currently to replace the units. However, the location has been noted as one that could be considered in the context of the concession framework noted above.

Theme / Priority Action: Policy, leadership and behaviour changes	Progress to September 2023: Description of actions taken
<p>Review Woking 2050 to incorporate the council's pledge for carbon neutrality and climate emergency action plan.</p>	<p>The six-week public consultation on the proposed new climate change strategy – Woking Net Zero – concluded on 30 June 2023. The new draft strategy proposes key actions at both the corporate and borough level across nine themes. Each theme gives guidance and direction for how the council, our residents, businesses and partner organisations can all play our part to achieve our shared net zero ambitions. Residents and stakeholders were invited to review the strategy and feedback their views online via a Woking Net Zero hub on the Woking Community Forum. A number of roadshow events took place to enable respondents to have their say in person. Venues included Centres for the Community such as The Vyne, Parkview and St Mary's. In total 141 responses were received via the online and in-person consultation, feedback from which has been collated and reviewed to inform the final draft. The Greener Woking Working Group is asked to recommend that the strategy be considered for adoption at a future meeting of the Executive pending some further work to ensure its commitments are deliverable in the context of wider council savings and its Medium-Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>The draft summary Woking Net Zero strategy will be updated and published to the council and Planet Woking websites following adoption of the main document.</p> <p>A key strategy update to highlight is the proposed action to join the UK100 network and a change to the area wide target date from 2050 to 2045. This would satisfy a recent recommendation made by Woking Environment Action (WEAct) for the council to join the network and sign its pledge. UK100 is a network of highly ambitious local government leaders supporting the transition of UK towns, cities and counties in their transition to net zero. The network, which is free to join, brings together local authorities across the country to share knowledge, collaborate, and petition the UK government with their collective power. UK100's Membership Pledge requires an area-wide net zero target date of 2045 – five years earlier than</p>

the original local declaration. Consultation feedback supported this change which has been reflected in the strategy.

The strategy consultation ran in parallel with that of the [draft Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document \(SPD\)](#). The draft SPD updates and builds upon the 2013 document, reflecting changes in national and local policy and objectives, ensuring sustainable outcomes through the planning system. It sets out the specific detail and information required by the council to determine whether development proposals align with local needs whilst addressing the challenges of a changing climate. **The final draft SPD is due to be considered by the Local Development Framework Working Group on 13 November 2023 and the Greener Woking Working Group on 15 November 2023, recommending it for adoption by the Executive on 16 November 2023.**

Collaborative working on the climate agenda across Surrey continues with monthly meetings of the district and boroughs' climate change officers. Also, in furtherance of Surrey County Council's [Climate Change Delivery Plan \(CCDP\)](#), **meetings of the Greener Futures Partnership (GFP) Steering Group continue.** This is an opportunity for senior managers and portfolio holders from across the districts and boroughs to receive and discuss updates on partnership working and projects delivering against our common net zero targets. **The last meeting took place on 28 June 2023 during which the vision and objectives were finalised for the Partnership during the 2023/24 municipal year. The objectives have been identified as areas where collaboration between the 12 authorities (boroughs, districts and county) will have greater impact than acting alone.** These are:

- Lobbying to government for resources and powers to help in meeting local net zero targets;
- Accelerate carbon emissions reduction from households and support energy bill reductions for residents (e.g. through take up of schemes such as Sustainable Warmth, Solar Together, Your Fund Surrey);
- Unite residents and businesses in backing the delivery of key infrastructure schemes that make low carbon activities a default choice e.g. EV infrastructure roll-out and walking/cycling infrastructure plans;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support businesses to have a competitive advantage through their low carbon skills and credentials (e.g. through signposting to available loans and training schemes); • Champion stronger and consistent low-carbon, climate change adaptation and nature recovery guidance in planning policy across district and borough councils; • Harness the need for carbon offsetting to create local benefits for residents (e.g. through local authority carbon insetting and identifying tree planting opportunities); • Demonstrate leadership to residents and businesses in reducing council emissions to net zero (e.g. share experiences of decarbonising local authority buildings and fleet); • Innovate new methods of communication and engagement with residents on climate change to motivate behaviour change; • Galvanise cross-party political consensus on the urgent need to reduce carbon emissions and the necessary shift to long term projects and plans that go beyond the electoral cycle. <p>Building on this collaboration, the Greener Woking Working Group has welcomed County Cllr Marisa Heath, Cabinet Member for the Environment and Carolyn McKenzie, Environment Director from SCC, to its meetings.</p> <p>Surrey Environment Partnership has launched its new waste reduction initiative Rethink Waste in partnership with Green Redeem. By signing up online for free, Surrey residents can win prizes for reducing their waste. Weekly emails and engaging activities such as pledges, videos and quizzes, along with a personalised online dashboard are designed to help the public make small, yet impactful lifestyle changes. Each time a resident completes an activity, they win points which can be used to enter competitions for prizes or donations to charities or local schools.</p>
<p>Develop an engaging staff communication programme to promote and raise awareness of what the council is doing to address climate change across its estate and operations (and more broadly across the borough).</p>	<p>Climate change and biodiversity focused communications continue through the Planet Woking programme. The contract with Air Social, who managed Planet Woking’s social media accounts, ended on 30 June 2023. Social media posts via Instagram and Facebook continue to be facilitated in-house. The website has been managed and updated in-</p>

house for the duration of the programme in any case. Recent communications include:

- 4 - 5 posts per month on social media;
- New case studies uploaded to the Planet Woking website encouraging the public to get involved and make sustainable choices. Recent topics include [Solar Together – last chance to register!](#); [Heath Week](#); [Big Butterfly Count 2023](#); [Rethink Waste](#); [Basingstoke Canal Calendar Photo Competition](#); and [The Wildlife Trusts 30 Days Wild campaign](#).

Climate change e-learning is available for officers and members on the Surrey Learn Portal [here](#). This was made available more widely to all staff in December 2022 following a trial by Neighbourhood Services. To date 56 staff have completed the training module. Take up has been limited but this must be considered in the context of various corporate training requirements for staff. Corporate Leadership Team has requested that the course be promoted at team meetings. A senior policy officer has completed [Carbon Literacy training](#) courtesy of a free place offered by Surrey County Council that ran a programme for its staff under the ‘train the trainer’ model to reduce costs.

Further to WEA’s recommendations discussed at the Greener Woking Working Group at its last meeting on 28 June 2023, Green Infrastructure officers noted that the ambition to roll out staff climate training is shared by all Surrey districts and boroughs and SCC and is a topic of discussion at the monthly Surrey Climate Change Officers’ meetings. Carbon Literacy training is a well-known and trusted course however a potential obstacle noted across the Surrey authorities in wider roll out of this training is the cost and time requirement. A typical course requires two days of officer time. **The Surrey Climate Change Officers’ Group has been discussing possible alternative training options to build on the Surrey Learn e-learning module with some authorities expressing an interest in other shared courses. Green Infrastructure officers will consult colleagues as these options develop.**

	<p>The Planet Woking Wildlife Gardening Guide online public consultation concluded on 9 July 2023. Residents were invited to share their feedback via the online survey or by email. The guide provides practical tips for residents on how they can turn their gardens into wildlife havens and builds on a resident request received at a Planet Woking webinar. Six responses were received, and feedback has been used to inform the final draft of the guide. The Greener Woking Working Group is asked to approve the guide for online publication.</p> <p>Public engagement and awareness raising continues through Woking Environment Action (WEAct).</p> <p>Further to the success of WEAct’s first Woking Repair Café in June 2023 which attracted 40 visitors, further dates have been arranged at centres around the borough. A team of volunteers offer free repairs for electrical and mechanical items, furniture, clothes, toys and textiles. Sessions took place on 8 July at St Michael’s Church, Sheerwater and on 12 August at St Mark’s Church, Westfield. The aim of the repair café is to help reduce the number of items going to landfill that often have not reached the end of their useful life. The group also helps people learn how to repair household items themselves. The next repair café takes place on Saturday 9 September 2023 at Trinity Methodist Church in Woking Town Centre. Further details are available on WEAct’s website.</p> <p>At its Special General Meeting on 13 July 2023, WEAct members voted unanimously in support of its new constitution which will enable the group to apply to become a Charity Incorporated Organisation.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure attendance at meetings of Woking Chamber of Commerce’s Environment Committee continues. The group meets every six weeks to exchange news of local environmental initiatives and events.</p>
<p>Develop a staff and councillor communications campaign to promote and encourage positive behaviour changes that focus on messages around switching off equipment, avoiding single use plastics, etc.</p>	<p>Communications to staff and councillors to promote and raise awareness of the pledge to become net zero will be ongoing. This has in part been addressed with messages arising through projects as noted above and, in particular, through Planet Woking.</p>

	<p>As reported at the last Working Group meeting, Green Infrastructure’s recent graduate placement officer undertook a survey to determine how well the council’s net zero targets are understood by WBC staff. The results will be analysed and used to inform communications and action on how we can better embed our targets across the organisation.</p> <p>Further to WEAct’s recommendations discussed at the Greener Woking Working Group at its last meeting on 28 June 2023, it was noted that Green Infrastructure officers are developing a plan for staff and councillor engagement on the council’s climate commitments and the Woking Net Zero strategy. We recognise the need for this because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WBC’s net zero ambition by 2030 is challenging and we need everyone to be involved. • The way we deliver services and run our buildings all impact on achieving our climate commitments. • Every staff member and team can help contribute to our climate goals. • We can all make a difference in our day-to-day actions. <p>The plan will include recommendations on strengthening of climate considerations for reports and projects; staff training; promotion of Take the Jump following the campaign’s endorsement by the Executive; and a ‘climate crib sheet’ for the staff intranet offering a one-stop-shop for information on the council’s climate commitments and sustainability tips and advice for both at work and at home.</p>
<p>Theme / Priority Action: Sustainable development</p>	<p>Progress to September 2023: Description of actions taken</p>
<p>Further develop planning guidance to reflect the council’s climate and ecological emergency declaration.</p>	<p>The Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) consultation concluded on 30 June 2023 alongside that of the draft climate change strategy. The SPD updates and builds upon the previous 2013 Climate Change SPD, reflecting changes in national and local policy and objectives, ensuring sustainable outcomes through the planning system. It sets out the specific detail and information required by the council to determine whether development proposals align with local needs whilst addressing the challenges of a changing climate. The final draft SPD is due to be considered by the Local Development Framework Working</p>

	Group on 13 November 2023 and the Greener Woking Working Group on 15 November 2023, recommending it for adoption by the Executive on 16 November 2023.
Theme / Priority Action: Other news	Progress to June 2023: Description of actions taken
	<p>In June 2023, the Council issued a Section 114 Notice which stopped all but essential spending with the exception of protecting vulnerable people, statutory services and pre-existing commitments. Local residents and community partners were invited to have their say on the future of the council's discretionary services via an online survey which closed on 10 August 2023. Discretionary services are those that the Council is not obliged to offer but currently provides. Services such as sports and leisure, independent living and climate change activities, amongst others, are currently provided and funded at the discretion of the council. Many councils do not always fund or provide these services. The results of the survey will be used by members to take decisions on specific service changes as part of the ongoing organisational change required.</p> <p>In July 2023, the government published its Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3). Every 5 years, the government produces an assessment of the risks and opportunities from climate change and reports on how we will adapt in the NAP. NAP3 explains the government's plans to adapt to climate change over the next 5 years from 2023 to 2028, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting the natural environment. • supporting business in adapting to climate change. • adapting infrastructure (for example, our electricity networks and railways). • protecting buildings and their surroundings (for example, from hotter temperatures). • protecting public health and communities. • mitigating international impacts on the UK (for example, on food supplies imported from abroad).

