

## Climate Emergency Action Plan: Progress Update 11 – September to November 2022

This document summarises progress against the priority actions within the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) since September 2022, as reported to the Greener Woking Working Group in November 2022.

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

This section provides an overview of new activities recorded this quarter (September to November 2022). Further details are included in the table that follows on page 4.

- In summer 2022, officers in Green Infrastructure commissioned Anthesis to undertake an independent carbon footprint assessment of the Council's corporate emissions. The assessment is complete with results to be disseminated shortly.
- [Action Surrey](#) was successful in its bid to become the delivery agent for Surrey County Council's Sustainable Warmth contract. The contract will serve the consortium of Surrey districts and boroughs in delivering £12 million funding for household energy efficiency improvements under the third wave of Sustainable Warmth funding (also known as LAD3 and HUG).
- Action Surrey launched the Sustainable Warmth grant funding scheme on 3 October 2022. People living in hard to heat homes and on lower incomes, could receive grants between £10,000 and £25,000 to improve insulation and install renewable technology.
- Woking Borough Council held a Cost of Living Summit on 27 September 2022 bringing together officers from across the Council and external agencies to discuss support for residents across a range of themes including energy and eco-solutions. A cost of living focused edition of the Woking Magazine published at the end of October 2022 also features a Planet Woking article entitled 'Good for the Planet, Good for the pocket' sharing tips on sustainable living that can also save money. [View the online edition.](#)
- Surrey County Council is working to set up a network of 'warm hubs' across the county: free, safe, and friendly environments where residents can come to keep warm, meet with other people, and receive advice on cutting their energy use. Warm hubs across Surrey will be operating from November 2022 to March 2023. For more information and to view the location of more hubs as they are announced, visit Surrey County Council's [Welfare Support](#) page.
- Woking's [centres for the community](#), Eastwood Leisure Centre, MASCOT in Sheerwater, St Andrew's cafe in Goldsworth Park, The Lighthouse in Woking town centre and Renew 88 based at Knaphill Baptist church have joined a countywide network of Warm Hubs.
- Phase 3B of the government's [Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme](#) (Phase 3B) opened for applications at the beginning of October 2022.
- On 29 September 2022 the Government opened the [Social Housing Decarbonisation SHDF](#) fund and the [Homes Upgrade Grant phase 2](#) for applications. £1.5 billion will be made available across these two phases. WBC Housing colleagues have expressed an interest in participating in a SCC led consortium bid for improvements to its social housing stock. Further details to follow as the bid develops.
- The Surrey [Solar Together](#) group-buying solar PV project which ran during summer 2021 saw 142 Woking households commit to the scheme. To date there have been 114 approved installations resulting in a total of 558 kW installed capacity, 1,551 panels installed, and 91,822 kg saved CO2 emissions. Woking households participating in the scheme have invested just over £721,677.
- [Community Energy South](#) is working with the Shah Jahan Mosque, Surrey Faith Links and Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum. Together they are developing an Energy Champion

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project to reach local residents and share energy efficiency advice and signpost to grant funding. An energy audit was also completed at the mosque and showed potential for the installation of solar PV.

- In collaboration with WBC, SCC submitted an active travel bid application to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in July 2022 to deliver targeted improvements to walking, cycling and bus infrastructure facilitating better connections to/from Sheerwater and the links across the Woking Town Centre, Sheerwater and West Byfleet corridor. An outcome is anticipated before the end of the year.
- The roll out of SCC's on-street EV charging pilot continues. [Read more about locations and status of local points.](#)
- The proposed introduction of fees for EV charging was tabled for discussion at the Executive on 17 November 2022 as part of the Review of Fees and Charges 2023-2024 report.
- Green Infrastructure has begun to review the Woking 2050 climate change strategy. The review will be undertaken during this municipal year ready for consultation and will be informed in part by the results of the carbon footprint assessment. More information about the proposed process, and in due course the updated strategy, will be brought to the Greener Woking Working Group for consideration.
- Colleagues in Planning Policy are reviewing the Council's Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) this municipal year ready for consultation, running in parallel with the consultation draft of the new climate change strategy.
- Collaborative working on the climate agenda across Surrey continues with monthly meetings of the district and boroughs' climate change officers. The fourth meeting of the Greener Futures Partnership (GFP) Steering Group took place on 20 September 2022.
- Climate change and biodiversity focused communications continue through the [Planet Woking](#) programme. Recent communications include social media posts and engagement; new case studies uploaded to the Planet Woking website; a full-page Planet Woking feature in the winter edition of the Woking Magazine; and the November edition of the [Planet Woking newsletter](#).
- Climate change e-learning is available for officers and members on the Surrey Learn Portal [here](#).
- The Local Government Association offers a range of climate change [learning opportunities](#) for senior officers and members. The next round of courses is available in November and December 2022.
- A twelve-week consultation for the [Woking Town Centre Masterplan](#) concluded on 17 October. Responses are being analysed.
- To date, [Low Carbon in the South East \(LoCASE\)](#) has received 53 enquiries from Woking businesses resulting so far in nine successful applications and two more going to panel this month. In total the initial nine applications will receive £44,076.94 in LoCASE grants, generating an investment of £134,617 and saving just over 31 tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions. The projects will enable a total annual saving of at least £34,243 in energy costs for these businesses.
- The RHS Communities Team hosted a gardening session at Sheerwater Youth Centre on 20 October 2022.
- The Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has commissioned [an independent review of the government's approach to delivering its net zero target](#), to ensure that it is pro-business and pro-growth. Officers from Green Infrastructure and Planning Policy prepared a response to the local authority focused questions as part of the [Call for Evidence](#), which is attached in Appendix 3.
- UN climate summit COP27 ran from 6 to 18 November 2022. Find out more at [COP27: Delivering for people and the planet | United Nations](#)

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- On 21 November 2022, the [Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#) received a report on domestic energy efficiency and what the Council continues to do to ensure local homes across a range of tenures are being brought up to modern energy efficiency standards.
- As part of the Surrey Green Social Prescribing Programme, SCC is developing a First Step Volunteering 'Test and Learn' pilot to provide opportunities to introduce young people aged 16 – 25 years old to environmental volunteering.

## Climate Emergency Action Plan – Progress Update 11

This document summarises progress against the priority actions within the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) since September 2022, as reported to the Greener Working Group in November 2022. New activity within the quarter (September to November 2022) 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 November 2022: Description of actions taken
<p>Adopt an emissions baseline for the Council's estate and operations.</p>	<p><b>In summer 2022, officers in Green Infrastructure commissioned Anthesis to undertake an independent carbon footprint assessment of the Council's corporate emissions.</b> The Council's annual <a href="#">Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions</a> report assists in monitoring our progress against this target and shows a general reduction trend against the baseline year of 2018/19. However, as <a href="#">reported to the Executive in January 2022</a>, it is a good indicator but really a representation rather than full footprint, covering key operational buildings and business mileage by car. The independent assessment will improve the Council's knowledge of this footprint helping to further identify key areas of focus, particularly in reaching our net zero target by 2030. <b>The commission follows approval for funding at the Executive in January 2022 and the development of a scoping document to clearly define the desired outcomes of the assessment. The assessment is complete with results to be disseminated shortly. Outputs include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A robust carbon footprint assessment highlighting key areas of action.</li> <li>• A reporting tool and methodology that can be taken forward and updated by Council officers (with the appropriate third-party advice and support).</li> <li>• Emissions trajectories demonstrating where the Council will be in 2030 and what it needs to do to reach net zero. This will be expressed both in terms of quantitative carbon reductions each year and what actions should be taken to achieve them.</li> <li>• Actionable advice and guidance with statements on reductions needed for net zero and insight into where best to invest to yield carbon reduction and value for money.</li> <li>• Interim reduction targets required to reach the end goal of net zero by 2030.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial modelling of the actions WBC needs to take to reach net zero by 2030 with cost by action and total cost needed to reach net zero. This will help in planning and mobilisation of required funds.</li> <li>• An overview and commentary on whether the remit of the existing Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) is fit for purpose in addressing the scale of the Council's zero carbon ambition.</li> </ul>
<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.</p>	<p><b>Action Surrey was successful in its bid to become the delivery agent for SCC's Sustainable Warmth contract. The contract will serve the consortium of Surrey districts and boroughs in delivering £12 million funding for household energy efficiency improvements</b> under the third wave of Sustainable Warmth funding (also known as LAD3 and HUG).</p> <p><b>Action Surrey launched the Sustainable Warmth grant funding scheme on 3 October 2022. People living in hard to heat homes and on lower incomes, could receive grants between £10,000 and £25,000 to improve insulation and install renewable technology</b> - helping to save energy, reduce emissions and combat rising energy prices. Improvement measures include loft insulation, cavity and external wall insulation, underfloor insulation and renewables, such as solar electricity panels. Residents are advised to contact <a href="#">Action Surrey via their website</a> or by telephone on 0800 783 2503 to check their eligibility for this time limited funding. All measures must be completed by end of March 2023.</p> <p>Marketing materials for the scheme have been shared with colleagues across the Council who are in touch with residents to help promote its availability and take up. Action Surrey held a webinar on 20 October 2022 for local authority officers and community groups to share information on eligibility and the application process.</p> <p>SCC is looking to develop the wider Sustainable Warmth contract to incorporate other potential decarbonisation and renewables projects. Further details to follow as the project develops.</p>

	<p><b>Woking Borough Council held a Cost of Living Summit on 27 September 2022 bringing together officers from across the Council and external agencies to discuss support for residents across a range of themes including energy and eco-solutions. A cost of living focused edition of the Woking Magazine published at the end of October 2022 also features a Planet Woking article entitled ‘Good for the Planet, Good for the pocket’ sharing tips on sustainable living that can also save money. <a href="#">View the online edition.</a></b></p> <p><b>Surrey County Council is working to set up a network of ‘warm hubs’ across the county: free, safe, and friendly environments where residents can come to keep warm, meet with other people, and receive advice on cutting their energy use. By visiting a warm hub, residents can reduce their energy bills and carbon footprint by turning off their heating and help boost their health and wellbeing in the colder months. Warm hubs across Surrey will be operating from November 2022 to March 2023. Woking’s warm hubs include the <a href="#">centres for the community</a>, Eastwood Leisure Centre and MASCOT in Sheerwater, St Andrew’s cafe in Goldsworth Park, The Lighthouse in Woking town centre and Renew 88 based at Knaphill Baptist church. For more information and to view the location of more hubs as they are announced, visit Surrey County Council’s <a href="#">Welfare Support</a> page.</b></p> <p><b>On 29 September the Government opened the <a href="#">Social Housing Decarbonisation SHDF</a> fund and the <a href="#">Homes Upgrade Grant phase 2</a> for applications. £1.5 billion will be made available across these two phases. WBC Housing colleagues have expressed an interest in participating in a SCC led consortium bid for improvements to its social housing stock. Further details to follow as the bid develops.</b></p>
<p>Improve the energy performance of Council owned and leased properties – initially through an</p>	<p><b>The results of the independent carbon footprint assessment have identified pathways to net zero for the corporate estate including</b></p>

<p>appraisal of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and Display Energy Certificates (DECs).</p>	<p><b>measures to improve the energy performance of Council owned and leased properties.</b></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 <a href="#">Renewable Energy Plan</a> was adopted by the Executive on 17 June 2021.</p> <p>The <b>Surrey <a href="#">Solar Together</a> group-buying solar PV project</b> which ran during summer 2021 saw 142 Woking households commit to the scheme. While the scheme has now closed to new applications, to date there have been <b>114 approved installations resulting in a total of 558 kW installed capacity, 1,551 panels installed, and 91,822 kg saved CO2 emissions. Woking households participating in the scheme have invested just over £721,677.</b> SCC is looking to develop the Sustainable Warmth countywide consortium contract to include a future renewables scheme, similar to the Solar Together initiative. An update on this will be given in a future report.</p> <p><b>Community Energy South is working with the Shah Jahan Mosque, Surrey Faith Links and Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum. Together they are developing an Energy Champion project to reach local residents to share energy efficiency advice and signposting to grant funding.</b> The organisations are working together to apply for grant funding to employ a specialist energy advisor to provide this free community support. An energy audit was also completed at the mosque and showed potential for the installation of solar PV. Community Energy South is now in touch with WBC Planning development management colleagues for pre-application advice. The Surrey Muslim Association held an event on 11 November at the Lakeview Community Centre to raise awareness and share information on a range of energy saving devices and materials to help residents improve their home energy efficiency.</p>
<p><b>Theme / Priority Action: Transport</b></p>	<p><b>Progress to November 2022: Description of actions taken</b></p>
<p>Avoid unnecessary travel to meetings where possible and develop a mandatory transport</p>	<p>Following a recommendation from this Working Group, on 17 June 2021 the Executive resolved that non-statutory meetings should continue, where</p>

<p>hierarchy as part of the Council's Staff Transport Plan.</p>	<p>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 and the Liberal Democrat administration. As reported previously, it was confirmed that e-bike facilities will be considered for West Byfleet Railway Station as part of cycle infrastructure and route improvements linking Woking Town Centre and West Byfleet.</p> <p><b>In collaboration with WBC, SCC submitted an active travel bid application to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in July 2022 to deliver targeted improvements to walking, cycling and bus infrastructure facilitating better connections to/from Sheerwater and the links across the Woking Town Centre, Sheerwater and West Byfleet corridor.</b> The infrastructure and measures that would be delivered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved walking environment including pedestrian paths/footways;</li> <li>• New cycleways (cycle tracks and paths);</li> <li>• Improved and new crossings;</li> <li>• New cycle parking infrastructure;</li> <li>• New wayfinding signage;</li> <li>• Free bikes cycle loan scheme;</li> <li>• A pilot E-cargo bike scheme for local residents and businesses; and</li> <li>• Improvements to east Woking's local bus network through improvements to bus stop infrastructure and intelligent bus priority at traffic signal junctions.</li> </ul> <p>The proposed project would improve transport connectivity, accessibility and safety across low-carbon, low-cost and healthier forms of travel. Proposed measures would contribute to decarbonisation targets, improve health and wellbeing, increase transport inclusion, and result in place making benefits</p>



	<p>enhancing access to employment, services, education and training. The “East Woking Sustainable Transport Corridor” application seeks £10,836,622.95. <b>An outcome is anticipated before the end of the year.</b> An update on the bid will be brought to a future meeting of the Working Group.</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.</p> <p><b>A key objective of the Surrey EV Forum is to accelerate delivery of EV charging infrastructure across the county. In October 2022, WBC submitted a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) to SCC to enable further participation in discussions surrounding the development of a fully funded concession framework for EV chargepoint installation.</b></p> <p>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. As opposed to local authority owned and operated points; a concession model requires low or no upfront capital and no ongoing maintenance costs. Such a framework could see standardised tariffs across the county and a streamlined charging system for customers. The Expressions of Interest (EOI) process gives the authority an opportunity to participate in governance discussions and shape the procurement process. It also enables the early identification and submission of priority locations for EV infrastructure within that geographical area for inclusion in a future delivery plan. It is a practical commitment without any contractual or financial commitment. <b>Following a tender exercise, SCC is currently evaluating the bids with a view to awarding</b></p>

	<p><b>the contract to a concession framework operator in December 2022.</b> Further updates will be brought to a future meeting of the Working Group.</p> <p><b>The roll out of SCC’s on-street EV charging pilot continues.</b> <a href="#">View locations and status of local points.</a></p> <p>Further to SCC’s invitation to residents to submit suggestions for future on-street EV charging points, over 1,250 nominated locations countywide have been received. SCC is currently undertaking a sifting exercise in order to obtain a long list of sites that show viable potential for consultation with districts and borough councils. <a href="#">View more information plus the interactive map through which suggestions can be submitted online.</a></p> <p><b>The proposed introduction of fees for EV charging was tabled for discussion at the Executive on 17 November 2022 as part of the Review of Fees and Charges 2023-24 report.</b></p>
<p><b>Theme / Priority Action: Policy, leadership and behaviour changes</b></p>	<p><b>Progress to November 2022: Description of actions taken</b></p>
<p>Review Woking 2050 to incorporate the Council's pledge for carbon neutrality and climate emergency action plan.</p>	<p><b>Green Infrastructure has begun to review the Woking 2050 climate change strategy. The review will be undertaken during this municipal year ready for consultation and will be informed in part by the results of the carbon footprint assessment covered earlier in this update. More information about the proposed process, and in due course the updated strategy, will be brought to the Greener Woking Working Group for consideration.</b></p> <p><b>Collaborative working on the climate agenda across Surrey continues with monthly meetings of the district and boroughs’ climate change officers.</b> Also, in furtherance of Surrey County Council’s <a href="#">Climate Change Delivery Plan (CCDP)</a>, the <b>fourth meeting of the Greener Futures Partnership (GFP) Steering Group took place on 20 September 2022.</b> This is an opportunity for senior managers and portfolio holders from across</p>

	<p>the districts and boroughs to receive updates on partnership working and projects delivering against our common carbon neutral targets.</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><b>Climate change and biodiversity focused communications continue through the Planet Woking programme. Recent communications include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>8 to 10 posts per month on social media;</b></li> <li>• <b>New case studies uploaded to the Planet Woking website encouraging the public to get involved and make sustainable choices. Recent topics include promotion of the <a href="#">Sustainable Warmth funding for domestic energy efficiency improvements</a>; <a href="#">Go Green for Halloween</a> and <a href="#">plogging</a>.</b></li> <li>• <b>A <a href="#">full page Planet Woking feature</a> in the autumn/winter edition of the Woking Magazine.</b></li> <li>• <b>The <a href="#">November edition of the Planet Woking newsletter</a> was sent out to subscribers and is <a href="#">available online</a>.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Climate change e-learning is available for officers and members on the <a href="#">Surrey Learn Portal</a>.</b> Take up has been trialled amongst teams within Neighbourhood Services. Corporate Leadership Team has committed to promoting the training at the next round of staff briefings and requested that take up be promoted at team meetings.</p> <p><b>The Local Government Association offers a range of climate change <a href="#">learning opportunities</a> for senior officers and members. The programmes help senior officers and councillors with responsibility for climate change to explore the crucial local leadership role in responding to the climate emergency.</b> Featuring a range of inputs, practical sessions and discussions, the programme explores themes including community engagement, action planning, current climate change issues and how councils can bring partners together. <b>The next round of courses is available in November and December 2022.</b></p>
<p>Develop a staff and councillor communications campaign to promote and encourage positive</p>	<p>Communications to staff and councillors to promote and raise awareness of the pledge to become carbon neutral will be ongoing. This has in part been</p>

behaviour changes that focus on messages around switching off equipment, avoiding single use plastics, etc.	addressed with messages arising through projects as noted above and, in particular, through Planet Woking.
<b>Theme / Priority Action: Sustainable development</b>	<b>Progress to November 2022: Description of actions taken</b>
Further develop planning guidance to reflect the Council's climate and ecological emergency declaration.	<p><b>Colleagues in Planning Policy are reviewing the Council's Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) this municipal year ready for consultation, running in parallel with the consultation draft of the new climate change strategy.</b></p> <p><b>A twelve-week consultation for the <a href="#">Woking Town Centre Masterplan</a> concluded on 17 October.</b> Responses are being analysed. The Masterplan incorporates sections on green and blue infrastructure, sustainable construction, and active travel.</p> <p>It is designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond to the characteristics of the town;</li> <li>• Support sustainable economic and housing growth; and</li> <li>• Be underpinned by wide-ranging public consultation activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Theme / Priority Action: Other news</b>	<b>Progress to November 2022: Description of actions taken</b>
	<p><b>Low Carbon in the South East (LoCASE)</b> aims to help businesses become more competitive and profitable while protecting the environment and encouraging low carbon solutions. Supported by the European Regional Development Fund it provides a free business support programme offering focused, individual support to small and medium sized enterprises (including social enterprises) improving competitiveness and creating jobs through increased energy efficiency and new low carbon business. Grants are available for businesses of up to £20,000 as well as an environmental training scheme and events. Targeted business support is on offer for companies who offer 'green' or low carbon goods and services. To date,</p>

LoCASE has received 53 enquiries from Woking businesses resulting so far in nine successful applications and two more going to panel this month. In total the initial nine applications will receive £44,076.94 in LoCASE grants, generating an investment of £134,617 and saving just over 31 tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions. The projects will enable a total annual saving of at least £34,243 in energy costs for these businesses. [View more information about the scheme online](#). **Please do share the information with local business contacts as funding is available until April 2023.**

The **RHS Communities Team** hosted a **gardening session at Sheerwater Youth Centre on 20 October 2022**. The engagement session invited local residents to get involved in creating a community garden for all to look after and enjoy.

**The Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has commissioned [an independent review of the government's approach to delivering its net zero target](#), to ensure that it is pro-business and pro-growth.** As part of this review, a [call for evidence](#), which seeks feedback from local government, communities and other organisations that are delivering net zero locally ran until 27 October 2022. Officers from Green Infrastructure and Planning Policy prepared a response to the local authority focused questions which is attached in Appendix 3.

**COP27:** From 6 to 18 November 2022, Heads of State, ministers, climate activists, and CEOs met in the Egyptian coastal city of Sharm el-Sheikh for the largest annual gathering on climate action. COP27 builds on the outcomes of last year's COP26 to deliver action on a range of issues critical to tackling the climate emergency – from urgently reducing greenhouse gas emissions, building resilience and adapting to the inevitable impacts of climate change, to delivering on the commitments to finance climate action in developing countries. Find out more at [COP27: Delivering for people and the planet | United Nations](#)

On 21 November 2022, **the Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report on domestic energy efficiency**. The report gave an overview of

what the Council continues to do to ensure local homes across a range of tenures are being brought up to modern energy efficiency standards. It examined the level of energy efficiency measures developers currently provide in new residential developments, the local and national context in which any new actions will need to be considered and highlights some further opportunities for action subject to funding availability.

**First Step Volunteering Pilot** - As part of the Surrey Green Social Prescribing Programme, SCC is developing a First Step Volunteering 'Test and Learn' pilot to provide opportunities to introduce young people aged 16 – 25 years old to environmental volunteering. The pilot's objectives are:

- Increase the number of volunteers to support local action in environment, climate change and biodiversity, waste reduction, energy, flood resilience, circular economy, micro volunteering.
- Increase diversity and inclusion in Surrey's environment sector.
- Empower residents to make lasting change for environment, climate change and biodiversity.
- Empower residents to improve and maintain their health and wellbeing.
- Maximise social value outcomes for people, communities, health, skills, employment, environment, climate change.
- Green volunteering across Surrey will be more joined up.

SCC is looking for involvement from local community groups and can tailor activities to suit their needs. More information is available from [Jo.Woodhams@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:Jo.Woodhams@surreycc.gov.uk)

## Appendix 3: BEIS Net Zero Call for Evidence - Woking Borough Council Response

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The Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has commissioned [an independent review of the government's approach to delivering its net zero target](#), to ensure that it is pro-business and pro-growth. As part of this review, there was a [call for evidence](#), which sought feedback from local government, communities and other organisations that are delivering net zero locally.

Officers from Green Infrastructure and Planning Policy compiled responses to the local authority focused questions which are shown below.

### **24. What are the biggest barriers you face in decarbonising / enabling your communities and areas to decarbonise?**

The Council declared a climate and ecological emergency in 2019 pledging to become net zero by 2030 across its own estate and operations and by 2050 (or before) across the wider borough. The Council has since undertaken an independent review of emissions associated with its estate and operations which identifies the scale of measures needed to achieve its net zero target. With continued pressure on public finances, the scale of the challenge will require the majority of expenditure to be sourced from external funding mechanisms. Notwithstanding government funding streams such as Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, access to funding requires time and resources spent on the preparation of understandably detailed bid applications. The availability of staff resource and feasibility studies to determine suitability can be a real obstacle to this process.

Meanwhile, public sector emissions account for just 3% of the borough's carbon footprint. Wholesale decarbonisation and progress towards net zero by 2050 will require significant engagement and adoption of sustainable behaviours by the community. This is at a time of competing financial pressures on households and businesses. [Planet Woking](#) is Woking Borough Council's climate change and biodiversity communications campaign. It raises awareness of local action by the Council and its stakeholders and also encourages the community to play its part. However, the scale of the challenge will require a significant step change in behaviours but also the low/zero carbon infrastructure and services available.

Woking has seen a rapid rate of development over the past decade. Within this time there have been significant changes to planning guidance that dictates how environmentally efficient buildings should be. The challenge for local planning policy is ensuring the conditions of development are met to ensure planning is used as a platform to meet borough wide net-zero goals. Woking's draft [Town Centre Masterplan](#) document (public consultation ended 17 October 2022) sets guidance for developers regarding 'Sustainable Construction' with the objectives to maximise energy efficiency and minimise carbon emissions; conserve natural resources (including land, water, energy and materials); and incorporate measures which enable development to adapt to anticipated effects of climate change (e.g. warmer urban temperatures and the increased risk of surface water flooding). A review of the current Climate Change SPD is currently underway.

## 25. What has worked well? Please share examples of any successful place-based net zero projects.

**Green Jump Surrey:** In July 2020, the Chancellor announced £500m of funding for Local Authority Delivery (LAD), as part of the wider £2bn 'Green Home Grants' programme of economic stimulus, to build a green recovery in response to the economic impacts of Covid-19. [ThamesWey](#) in collaboration with Woking Borough Council secured £6.3m of Phase 1A funding in September 2020 to upgrade 600 low-income, hard-to-heat properties across Surrey. An additional £3.1m was awarded to expand the project to a further 300 households under Phase 1B in February 2021. Surrey County Council also provided £372,000 of 'top up' funding to enable further delivery by easing some of the core project constraints.

ThamesWey delivered both phases via its long-running energy efficiency service [Action Surrey](#). The scheme was marketed locally as "Green Jump Surrey" and ran from October 2020 through to March 2022. Green Jump Surrey was a major success, creating much needed and sustained benefits for low-income households. A total of 775 installations for almost 600 households were delivered and estimated to reduce annual energy bills by an average of £660 (at April 2022 prices). The installations will help protect the fuel-poor grant recipients from continued rises in energy prices. The lifetime greenhouse gas emission savings were estimated at 26 mega-tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e, which is the equivalent to 3,211 years of the average household's carbon footprint (footprint encompassing energy, transport, aviation and waste).

The project was not without its challenges. The first phase of the project suffered delays caused by Covid-19 lockdowns and poor weather, preventing exterior installations from taking place. The second phase was affected by rising inflation to material costs, and supply chain delays exacerbated by the end of the Brexit transition period. However, the project delivered the third highest number of upgrades out of 90 'LAD' projects, which shows that Action Surrey navigated and mitigated these challenges well.

Following the success of the Green Jump Surrey project, Action Surrey delivered further fully funded energy efficiency measures under the government's Sustainable Warmth scheme (also known as LAD2) for eligible households across the county. The scheme launched mid-February 2022 with measures completed by end of September 2022. Over £1.1m of funding for 202 energy efficiency measures including solar photovoltaics (PV) and loft, cavity wall and floor insulation were delivered to 116 low-income households.

Furthermore, Action Surrey was recently successful in its bid to become the delivery agent for Surrey County Council's Sustainable Warmth contract. The contract will serve the consortium of Surrey districts and boroughs in delivering £12 million funding for household energy efficiency improvements under the third wave of Sustainable Warmth funding (also known as LAD3 and HUG). Action Surrey launched the Sustainable Warmth grant funding scheme on 3 October 2022. People living in hard to heat homes and on lower incomes, could receive 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 include loft insulation, cavity and external wall insulation, underfloor insulation and renewables, such as solar electricity panels.

[Low Carbon in the South East \(LoCASE\)](#) aims to help businesses become more competitive and profitable while protecting the environment and encouraging low carbon solutions. Supported by the European Regional Development Fund it provides a free business support



programme offering focused, individual support to small and medium sized enterprises (including social enterprises) improving competitiveness and creating jobs through increased energy efficiency and new low carbon business. Grants are available for businesses of up to £20,000 as well as an environmental training scheme and events. Targeted business support is on offer for companies who offer 'green' or low carbon goods and services. Take up has been successful in Woking borough with 53 enquiries, nine successful applications and two more going to panel in October 2022. In total, the nine applications will receive £44,077 in LoCASE grants, generating an investment of £134,617 and save 31.07 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. The projects will enable a total annual saving of at least £34,244 in energy costs for these businesses.

## **26. How does the planning system affect your efforts to decarbonise?**

The planning system is crucial in requiring and/or encouraging efforts to decarbonise and secure new quality 'net zero ready' homes. Planning policy, guidance and Building Regulations have and continue to evolve in enhancing the requirements for domestic and non-domestic buildings by both addressing the need to avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change and mitigating (reducing) greenhouse gas emissions.

The latest national Building Regulations changes (the National Future Homes Standard) will apply to both new dwellings and non-domestic buildings in England, and existing dwellings and non-domestic buildings in England when undertaking specific building works.

However, the planning system can limit decarbonisation efforts when local policy becomes outdated and conflicts with emerging standards. This causes discrepancies in the planning process which can make it harder to meet net-zero goals. Currently Woking Borough Council is conducting a review of its current Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), adopted in 2013.

## **27. How can the design of net zero policies, programmes, and funding schemes be improved to make it easier to deliver in your area?**

Continued access to funding and support for local authorities, community groups and businesses welcomed with sufficiently long lead in times, advice and support to enable maximum participation and take-up.

A nationwide awareness raising / behaviour change campaign would support a step change in sustainable behaviours. Assistance in engaging members of the community that are more difficult to reach would also support local authority projects. For example, through government led TV / newspaper campaigns to reach those not on digital platforms.

National endorsement of local climate bonds as a way to sustainably invest in community focused renewable energy projects. At a time of increasing pressure on local authorities, to have risk removed from the local level through national endorsement would assist in potential roll-out and replication of successful schemes.

## **28. Are there any other implications of net zero or specific decarbonisation projects for your area that the Review should consider?**

Whilst the Green Jump Surrey project was hugely successful, the upgrading of homes across the county to EPC D and above leaves fewer homes eligible for funding under future schemes, which are likely to use similar eligibility criteria. Short delivery timeframes and a limited local supply chain will always be major challenges. Flexibility of eligibility criteria would be welcomed in recognition of the improvements made to date in the local area in order to enable greater numbers of householders to benefit from improvements, particularly in the current landscape of rising energy costs and general cost of living pressures affecting more and more people.

Woking Borough Council's energy services company ThamesWey operates a district heating network providing power and heat to a range of town centre buildings including local authority, business and retail customers. While currently powered by natural gas and offering efficiencies in transmission and distribution, access to secure and reliable alternative (renewable) fuel sources will be required to achieve largescale decarbonisation.