

EXECUTIVE –12 SEPTEMBER 2024

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY – SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Executive Summary

At its meeting held on 5 September 2024, the Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the revised Climate Change Strategy. Through the discussions the Committee agreed to make two recommendations to the Executive. The draft minute extract of the item is set out below along with the recommendations to the Executive:

“The Interim Strategic Director of Place summarised the report as a change to the approach of the Council, reducing the number of commitments and streamlining the priorities.

It was questioned why UK100 had not been referenced in the report and Officers noted that the Council did not have the resources to commit to the responsibilities of its membership. Officers undertook to hold a conversation with UK100 representatives. [action]

A Member asked whether the Council had dropped its previous commitment to reaching net zero across its estate by 2030. Officers confirmed that it was being considered as an aspiration and would be considered as part of the development of the Woking for All strategy.

It was confirmed that the 2050 net zero target was statutory.

Officers confirmed that during considerations with partners regarding procurement of the waste contract, fuel type of the fleet would feature.

Concern was raised at the Council’s ability to bid for funding for improving cycle routes across the Borough following the closure of the Green Infrastructure team. The Interim Strategic Director of Place confirmed that if the Council became aware of and was eligible for, a bid would be submitted. Councillors were asked that if they became aware of any funding, that they make the Interim Strategic Director of Place aware.

Officers confirmed that any support for private landlords would be made through partnership with Action Surrey.

As part of the social value aspect of the grounds maintenance tender, Officers confirmed that consideration of working with volunteer groups was included. The Leader confirmed that more information on social value would be available when the tender was presented to the Executive.

The Committee discussed the absence of a review date and agreed to provide a recommendation to the Executive that one be included. The wording to be confirmed following the meeting.

The Committee discussed that the Council’s report template include an implication on climate change and agreed to recommend that the Executive consider such. The wording to be confirmed following the meeting.

RECOMMENDED to the Executive That

- (i) a review date be added to the Climate Change Strategy, to be set 5 years from the start of the Government intervention at Woking Borough Council; and**
- (ii) Officers be requested to amend the committee report template to include ‘environment and climate change’ as an implication.**

**Recommendation from the Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee –
Climate Change Strategy – Supplementary Report**

RESOLVED That

- (i) the Council’s adoption of the strategy be supported;
- (ii) the changes to the WBC Climate Change Strategy and key objectives be noted;
- (iii) the Committee supports the final strategy and the Council’s continued sustainable practices within the delivery of our statutory services; and
- (iv) the representations to the Climate Change Strategy consultation made between May - June 2023 are noted (Appendix 2a – 2b).”

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to consider the recommendations of the Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee. The full proposals are set out below for clarity:

RESOLVE That

- (i) a review date be added to the Climate Change Strategy, to be set 5 years from the start of the Government intervention at Woking Borough Council;
- (ii) Officers be requested to amend the committee report template to include ‘environment and climate change’ as an implication; and

RECOMMEND to COUNCIL That

- (iii) **the representations to the Climate Change Strategy consultation made between May – June 2023, attached at Appendix 2a – 2b to the report, be noted;**
- (iv) **the revised Climate Change Strategy, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted and set a basis to how the Council will continue to factor in the impact of climate change within decision-making; and**
- (v) **upon adoption, the Council will embed the objectives of the Climate Change Strategy across all departments and service reviews.**

Reasons for Decision

Reason: To consider the recommendations from the Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee following pre-decision scrutiny.

The Executive has authority to determine recommendations (i) and (ii) above; (iii) to (v) will need to be dealt with by way of a recommendation to Council.

**Recommendation from the Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee –
Climate Change Strategy – Supplementary Report**

Background Papers: None.

Reporting Person: Cllr John Morley
Email: CllrJohn.Morley@woking.gov.uk

Contact Person: Toby Nash, Scrutiny and Democratic Services Officer
Email: Toby.Nash@woking.gov.uk

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Will Forster
Email: CllrWill.Forster@woking.gov.uk

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