

SURREY 2050 PLACE AMBITION

Executive Summary

The purpose of the report is to request the Executive to note the contents of the Surrey 2050 Place Ambition, which has been published for stakeholder consultation until 4 March 2022 together with Officers' response as summarised in Section 4 of the report. The Surrey 2050 Place Ambition sets out what Surrey's strategic partners want to collectively achieve over the next 30 years in terms of good growth. A copy of the Surrey 2050 Place Ambition is in Appendix 1. The draft response to be submitted to the County Council is in Appendix 2.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:

RESOLVE That

- (i) the contents of the Surrey Place Ambition together with Officers' response be noted;
- (ii) delegated authority be given to the Director of Planning to send the Council's response as set out in Section 4 of the report to Surrey County Council; and
- (iii) delegated authority be given to the Director of Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, to continually engage with Surrey County Council and the other stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of the Surrey 2050 Place Ambition.

Reasons for Decision

Reason: To ensure that Members of the Executive are informed about contents of the Surrey 2050 Place Ambition.

The Executive has the authority to determine the recommendations set out above.

Background Papers: None.

Reporting Person: Giorgio Framaliccio, Director of Planning
Email: giorgio.framaliccio@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3440

Surrey 2050 Place Ambition

Contact Person: Ernest Amoako, Planning Policy Manager
Email: ernest.amoako@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3427

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Gary Elson
Email: cllrgary.elson@woking.gov.uk

Shadow Portfolio Holder: Councillor Deborah Hughes
Email: cllrdeborah.hughes@woking.gov.uk

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Surrey County Council working in partnership with Surrey districts and boroughs and other key stakeholders have published the Surrey 2050 Place Ambition for stakeholder consultation until 4 March 2022. Members of the Executive are requested to note the contents of the document together with the Officers' response which will be submitted to the County Council. A copy of the Surrey 2050 Place Ambition is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The preparation of the Surrey 2050 Place Ambition has evolved over time with significant input from Surrey districts and boroughs including Officers and Members of Woking Borough Council. The Surrey 2050 Place Ambition sets out what Surrey's strategic partners want to collectively achieve over the next 30 years in terms of good growth. By working collaboratively and in partnership, there is the likely prospect to achieve a long term and coordinated approach to growth in Surrey that is well aligned to infrastructure planning and delivery. The Surrey Place Ambition is not intended to replace or conflict with district and borough local plans, but to complement them and to provide a framework to align plans with infrastructure priorities of the County Council and other infrastructure providers.
- 1.3 The Surrey 2050 Place Ambition has been informed by various factors, including climate change and environment, economic, spatial, infrastructure and health and wellbeing at the local, county, regional and national levels.
- 1.4 Whilst Surrey is an important growth hub for the United Kingdom's economy, there is a need to address the existing and future infrastructure deficit which places constraint on investment opportunities and development potential. The Surrey 2050 Place Ambition provides the necessary partnership framework for this to be achieved in an integrated and coordinated manner. The delivery of the Surrey 2050 Place Ambition will require continuous political commitment.

2.0 Vision and strategic priorities of the Surrey 2050 Place Ambition

- 2.1 The Surrey 2050 Place Ambition sets out a clear vision – a county of well-functioning and connected communities and a high-quality life. It also sets out four strategic priorities, which are:
 - Improve connectivity both within Surrey and between other strategic important hubs;
 - Enhance the place offer of Surrey's towns, which includes Woking;
 - Maximise the potential of our Strategic Opportunity Areas. For the avoidance of doubt, the Surrey 2050 Place Ambition identifies eight Strategic Opportunity Areas. These are:
 - Longcross – Staines - Heathrow corridor;
 - Woking hub;
 - Guildford hub;
 - Blackwater Valley corridor;
 - Cranleigh – Dunsfold corridor;
 - Epsom – Leatherhead corridor;
 - M23 - Gatwick corridor; and
 - M25 J6/A22 South Godstone

- Invest in natural capital and deliver future recovery

2.2 The Woking Hub comprises of Woking but also Brooklands employment area and the strategic new settlement at Wisley Airfield. At the heart of the Hub is Woking Town Centre.

2.3 A number of strategic interventions will be delivered over the next 10, 20 and 30 years. In this regard, the Council will need to positively engage and commit to the process long term to ensure that the delivery of the strategic priorities reflect the corporate aspirations of the Council and enhances the overall health and wellbeing of local residents.

3.0 Delivering the Surrey 2050 Place Ambition/Good Growth

3.1 The Surrey 2050 Place Ambition will be delivered through:

- District and borough local plans and other strategies;
- Countywide strategies and plans; and
- Sub-national strategies and plans.

3.2 Specific delivery actions identified for the Woking Hub between 2020 and 2030 includes:

- Working with partners to select a single option for Southern Rail Access;
- Working with partners to secure Woking rail capacity improvements;
- Carry out feasibility work for the Phase 2 of the Woking Sustainable Transport Package;
- Production of a Town Centre Masterplan to help guide future sustainable development within Woking Town Centre;
- Significant improvement to digital infrastructure;
- Promotion of the need for a smart road for the A245;
- Delivering of an exemplary sustainable community with high quality design and new green and active travel corridors;
- Delivery of the £115M Victoria Arch Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) scheme to unlock the delivery of additional 3,300 new dwellings in the Town Centre. It is important to draw the County Council's attention to the fact that through the Town Centre Masterplan, the Council is consulting on whether or not the Town Centre has the capacity to accommodate the scale of housing required by the HIF scheme.

4.0 Officers' response

4.1 The Surrey 2050 Place Ambition provides a meaningful framework for an integrated approach to facilitating good growth across Surrey that is aligned to infrastructure provision and underpinned by an effective partnership working and should be supported by the Council. The Council should commit to working in partnership with the relevant stakeholders to ensure its preparation to adoption and the delivery of its requirements.

4.2 It would be necessary for Officers to engage with the County Council to explore further the rationale behind the definition of the Woking Hub and the implications for delivering the actions within it in an integrated manner. In particular, it would be critical to work in partnership to explore the governance arrangements that would be needed to deliver the requirements of the

Hub, giving that it covers three local authority areas. Delegated authority should be given to the Director of Planning to lead on this discussion.

- 4.3 The specific actions identified above in paragraph 3.2 should be broadly supported. However, the actions to deliver a single option for the Southern Rail Access, the promotion of the need for a Smart Road for the A245 and the feasibility work on Phase 2 of the Sustainable Transport Package does not go far enough and should be bolder and far more ambitious than just 'developing options', 'promoting the need for' and undertaking 'feasibility work' respectively in the next 10 years. Much work has already been done about these measures to be able to have a defined set of schemes for implementation within the next 10 years. The Council would be willing to work in partnership with the County Council and the other key stakeholders to bring forward these projects within a reasonable timeframe.
- 4.4 Flooding is a major constraint to development in Woking and could undermine the effort to achieve good growth at sustainable locations. Flood alleviation should be identified as a specific scheme for implementation because it has the potential to unlock land for future development. A lot of feasibility work has been done by the Council on this issue and the Council will be prepared to work with relevant stakeholders to bring them forward for implementation.
- 4.5 The Council is already in the process of preparing the Town Centre Masterplan. Part of this exercise is engaging with local residents and businesses on the scale of the HIF housing requirement. It is requested that this and the intention to complete the Masterplan in the Spring/Summer of 2022 should be acknowledged in the document.

5.0 Corporate Strategy

5.1 The Surrey 2050 Place Ambition supports the following objectives of the Corporate Plan:

- People – A healthy, inclusive and engaged community - Stakeholder engagement and partnership working has been central to the preparation of the Surrey 2050 Place Ambition.
- Place – An enterprising, vibrant and sustainable borough – Promoting a strong economy – The Surrey 2050 Place Ambition promotes good growth in an integrated manner. It identifies Woking Town Centre as a destination for businesses to invest.
- Us – An innovative, proactive and effective Council - Strengthening partnerships – the Surrey 2050 Place Ambition has been developed following engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders and the wider community.

6.0 Implications

Finance and Risk

6.1 There are no additional financial implications for the preparation of the Surrey 2050 Place Ambition. It is important to note that the delivery of the Surrey 2050 Place Ambition will require significant financial resources.

Equalities and Human Resources

6.2 There are no equalities or human resources implications for preparing the Surrey 2050 Place Ambition.

Legal

6.3 There are no legal implications for preparing the Surrey 2050 Place Ambition.

7.0 Engagement and Consultation

7.1 The Surrey 2050 Place Ambition has been prepared with significant stakeholder engagement.

REPORT ENDS