

**To:**  
**All members of the**  
**Corporate Policy and Resources**  
**Committee**

*Please reply to:*  
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Date: 15 January 2026

## Supplementary Agenda

### **Corporate Policy and Resources Committee - Monday, 19 January 2026**

Dear Councillor

I enclose the following items which were marked 'to follow' on the agenda for the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee meeting to be held on Monday, 19 January 2026:

- |           |  |               |
|-----------|--|---------------|
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Minutes</b>   | <b>3 - 8</b>  |
|           | To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November and 01 December 2025 as a correct record.  |               |
|           | <b>Minutes to follow</b>   |               |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Governance Assurance Risk Management) Framework and Policy</b>  | <b>9 - 16</b> |
|           | The Committee is asked to:   |               |
|           | a. Approve the new Governance Assurance Policy and Framework (as outlined in Appendix A), which focuses on the Council's governance and control arrangements to ensure effective management of risks; and  |               |
|           | b. Authorise the Deputy Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Chair of the Audit Committee to make any adjustments to the Policy and Framework to ensure that it is updated to reflect any future changes in the Council's governance arrangements. |               |

Yours sincerely

**Spelthorne Borough Council, Council Offices, Knowle Green**

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Karen Wyeth  
Corporate Governance

To the members of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee

Councillors:

J.R. Sexton (Chair)	J. Button	S.C. Mooney
C. Bateson (Vice-Chair)	D.C. Clarke	L. E. Nichols
M.M. Attewell	S.M. Doran	J.A. Turner
J.R. Boughtflower	M. Gibson	H.R.D. Williams
M. Buck	M.J. Lee	

Substitute Members: Councillors: M. Bing Dong, S.N. Beatty, H.S. Boparai,  
R.V. Geach, K. Howkins, S.A. Dunn and K.E. Rutherford

**Minutes of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee  
11 November 2025**

**Present:**

Councillor J.R. Sexton (Chair)  
Councillor C. Bateson (Vice-Chair)

**Councillors:**

M. Beecher	S.M. Doran	M.J. Lee
J.R. Boughtflower	R.V. Geach	S.C. Mooney
J. Button	M. Gibson	L. E. Nichols
D.C. Clarke	K.M. Grant	H.R.D. Williams

**Apologies:** Councillors M.M. Attewell and K. Howkins

**103/25 Apologies and Substitutes**

Apologies were received from Councillor Attewell and Councillor Howkins.

**104/25 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

**105/25 Disclosures of Interest**

Councillors Mooney and Sexton declared they were also Surrey County Councillors.

Councillor Nichols advised that he sat on the Board of Directors for Knowle Green Estates.

**106/25 Questions from members of the Public**

The Committee were advised that no questions had been received from members of the public.

**107/25 Forward Plan**

Resolved: That the Committee noted the contents of the Forward Plan.

**108/25 Revised Policy Statement on Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for 2025/26**

The Committee considered a proposed new Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy statement for 2025/26. The policy met requirements set by the Council's external auditors, commissioners, and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (now Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government), and was a legal requirement under the current statutory directions.

The Committee acknowledged the requirement to adopt the new MRP policy statement, and expressed concern over the impact this would have on the Budget. The Committee noted the collective impact of the finance reports for consideration at the meeting.

Councillor Clarke requested a recorded vote.

<b>For</b>	Councillors Bateson, Beecher, Button, Doran, Geach, Gibson, Grant, Nichols, Sexton, Williams – 10 votes
<b>Against</b>	Councillors Boughtflower, Clarke, Lee – 3 votes
<b>Abstain</b>	Councillor Mooney – 1 vote

The Committee **resolved** to:

1. Consider and agree the proposed new MRP Policy Statement for 2025/26; and
2. Recommend that Council approve the proposed new MRP Policy Statement for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix A of the report.

**109/25 Debt Rescheduling proposals 2025/26**

The Committee considered a Debt Rescheduling proposal for implementation during 2025/26. The debt rescheduling would partially offset the impact of implementing a revised Minimum Revenue Provision policy and would assist in reducing the Council's outstanding debt. It would also reduce the Council's debt levels to broadly match the value of its assets.

The Committee noted that though the Council would receive a discount for the debt rescheduling, there would still be significant outstanding debt to be offset through asset rationalisation. There were a number of external factors, such as interest (gilts) rates, that would impact the debt rescheduling.

Councillor Clarke requested a recorded vote.

<b>For</b>	Councillors Bateson, Beecher, Button, Doran, Geach, Gibson, Grant, Nichols, Sexton, Williams – 10 votes
<b>Against</b>	Clarke – 1 vote
<b>Abstain</b>	Boughtflower, Lee, Mooney – 3 votes

The Committee **resolved** to:

1. Consider and agree the proposed new Debt Rescheduling proposal for implementation during 2025/26 subject to the Chairs of the Business Infrastructure and Growth Committee, the Commercial Assets sub-Committee and the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee being consulted and approving before a re-financing transaction is initiated if PWLB rates movements result in the discount benefit to the Council falling below £320m; and
2. Recommend that Council approve the Debt Rescheduling proposal for implementation during 2025/26 subject to the Chairs of the Business Infrastructure and Growth Committee, the Commercial Assets sub-Committee and the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee being consulted and approving before a re-financing transaction is initiated if PWLB rates movements result in the discount benefit to the Council falling below £320m.

#### **110/25 Asset Rationalisation to underpin the revised Medium-Term Financial Strategy**

The Committee considered a report on the principle of Asset Rationalisation and procurement of a specialist advisor to assist in the implementation of an Asset Rationalisation Strategy. Agreeing the principle and procurement would be a first step in addressing one of the statutory directions issued to the Council by MHCLG. Asset Rationalisation would also offset the impact of implementing a new MRP policy and debt rescheduling.

The Committee noted the modelling set out in the report were assumptions and final figures would be impacted by a number of external factors. Any reports on specific assets would be brought before the Committee with the most up-to-date information available for decision. A member of the Committee suggested that dynamic modelling was required which would reflect all variables that impacted final asset values.

Councillor Clarke requested a recorded vote.

For	Councillors Bateson, Beecher, Boughtflower, Button, Doran, Geach, Gibson, Grant, Lee, Mooney, Nichols, Sexton, Williams – 13 votes
Against	Clarke – 1 vote
Abstain	

The Committee **resolved** to:

1. Consider and agree the principle of Asset Rationalisation as set out in the report and to recommend this to Council,
2. Approve the commencement of the procurement of a specialist advisor through an appropriate framework,
3. Delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer and Group Head of Assets, in consultation with the Leader and the Deputy Leader, the Chairs of the Commercial Assets Sub-Committee and the Business, Infrastructure and Growth Committee, to appoint the preferred bidder from the above procurement to assist in the implementation of an Asset Rationalisation Strategy; and
4. Delegate authority to the Group Head Corporate Governance to enter into a contract with the proposed advisors.

### **111/25 Reserves Strategy 2026-27**

The Committee considered a draft Reserves Strategy and the proposed repurposing of the earmarked Sinking Fund reserves as a revenue budget equalisation reserve. There were a number of factors that would create budget gaps which would be eased with repurposing the reserves.

Councillor Clarke requested a recorded vote.

For	Councillors Bateson, Beecher, Boughtflower, Button, Doran, Geach, Gibson, Grant, Lee, Mooney, Nichols, Sexton, Williams – 13 votes
Against	0 votes
Abstain	Clarke – 1 vote

The Committee **resolved** to:

1. Recommend to Council that it is informed and assured by the Draft Reserves Strategy noting that the forward projected figures will change when a detailed Budget Report is brought to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee in January 2026; and
2. Acknowledge the proposed repurposing of the earmarked Sinking Fund reserves as a revenue budget equalisation reserve.

### **112/25 Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2026-27**

It was proposed by Councillor Bateson, seconded by Councillor Beecher and **resolved** that the meeting continue until 22:30.

The Committee considered the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy and a proposed Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy. The strategies would

assist in mitigating the impact of the increased MRP. They would also mitigate the longer-term financial exposure of the Council and the successor unitary authority.

The Committee **resolved** to:

1. Be informed and assured by the Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy set out in the report and that an updated strategy (reflecting the impact of actual debt discount and refinancing rates achieved, and the outcome of the Fair Funding Review), as part of a Detailed Budget Report will come to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee in January 2026 for consideration and approval; and
2. Approve the proposed Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy.

### **113/25 Treasury Management Annual Outturn Report 2024/25**

The Committee considered the Treasury Management Annual Outturn Report for 2024/25. High-risk prudential indicators relating to affordability were highlighted to the Committee.

The Committee **resolved** to approve the Treasury Management Outturn position for 2025/25.

### **114/25 Treasury Management Half Yearly Report**

The Committee considered the Treasury Management Half-Yearly Report. The report set out the performance of treasury activities between 1 April 2025 and 30 September 2025. The recommended action of implementing a new MRP Policy was approved by the Committee earlier on the agenda. All prudential indicators with the exception of those relating to affordability were on target.

The Committee **resolved** to note the performance of the Treasury Management Team during the first six months of 2025/26.

### **115/25 Urgent Actions**

The Committee were advised that no urgent actions had been taken since the last meeting.

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## APPENDIX B – Example of change in approach from previous Corporate Risk Register information vs. new Corporate Assurance Register information

### PREVIOUS CORPORATE RISK REGISTER INFORMATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**Risk Category: 5 – Climate Change**

**Risk Subject Area: A. Climate Change threat, impact and response**

**Corporate Priorities: Environment**

**Risk Owner(s): Sandy Muirhead**

**Date of update: 22 September 2025**

**Previous Risk Score:**

**12**

**Current Risk Score:**

**12**

**Future Risk Score:**

**12**

### Risk Description

Climate change represents a significant global threat driving social and economic disruption with far ranging consequences for socioeconomic stability. Climate change and extreme weather events impact health and safety, food systems, supply chains & procurement, economic productivity, and losses. Recent data has provided further evidence of increasing global temperatures. The UK is equally likely to see weather extremes going forward impacting on the economy and actions required by the Council. Royal Meteorological Society has recently highlighted (14.07.25) that *'Record breaking and extreme weather has become increasingly commonplace in the UK as our climate has changed over the last few decades'* and that, *'the latest assessment of the UK's climate shows how baselines are shifting, records are becoming more frequent, and that temperature and rainfall extremes are becoming the norm'*.

Due to climate change, there is a specific risk to Spelthorne in terms of more extreme heat and increased flooding, besides the more global threats such as severe storms (threat to loss of life and limb) impacting locally, e.g. in times of severe flooding seriously draining the Council's resources.

If the Council is not pursuing measures or seeking positive opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change, it could result in criticism / bad press / public demonstration and additional organisational pressures may result in a loss of focus around climate change and green initiatives.

A lack of preparedness for impacts of climate change may lead to Council Services no longer being sustainable or in a suitable position to operate in the future.

Threat of possible increased in excess deaths due to extreme heat. The Met Office have recently issued a statement saying 2025 was the hottest summer on record.

### **Current control actions:**

Environment and Sustainability Committee developed an action plan as part of the climate change strategy to move the Council towards net zero carbon emissions, aiming to get to Net Zero for Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030.

The Environment and Sustainability Committee will continue to explore ways to meet a carbon neutral target, and to promote climate change as an issue that needs to permeate all Council areas to ensure SBC reduce their carbon footprint and adapt to climate change. As a result, there is a focus through project Green Horizon on reducing emissions from the Council and its operations and delivering this in as cost-effective way as possible.

Surrey County Council have developed a strategy on Climate Change referred to as Greener Futures Delivery Plan which the Environment and Sustainability Committee have supported. Spelthorne's Climate Change strategy is linked where appropriate to Greener Futures Delivery Plan.

Collaborative measures are required to support a coordinated approach to strategy implementation across the organisation and joint service projects are being developed.

Officers are continuing to roll out Carbon Literacy training days and participating staff have committed to a range of carbon saving pledges. The Council has reached bronze level in the carbon literacy hierarchy and is aiming for silver in 2025/26.

There is a Carbon Footprint section in Service Plans, providing an opportunity for departments to support the Council's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and explain how they intend to adapt elements of their service delivery to achieve this.

### **Current mitigating actions:**

Some funding resources have been secured to support strategy implementation, and these are being allocated and targeted to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council to help ensure SBC and its unitary authority successor are net zero by 2030. The Council will continue to seek alternative funding to continue to develop schemes to meet net zero targets and these are being worked up in terms of carbon sequestration within the Borough to help define how close we can get to the zero target by 2030.

The Corporate Plan has key actions on climate change and is supported by the Climate Change Strategy and associated actions which require services to address the net zero targets the Council has set.

Funding resources have been secured to support strategy implementation through the Green Initiative Fund. These are being allocated and targeted to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council to help ensure SBC are net zero by 2030. Though many measures are invest-to-save, the current Council financial position may limit opportunities but there is a move to bring forward some spending on 'green' projects through Project Green Horizon.

The Council within its adverse weather plan and overarching emergency plan lays out how it would cope with drought and heat stress. A multi-agency flood plan covers how we would (with other key agencies) deal with significant flooding affecting Spelthorne's residents.

## Future actions:

**Type:** Control

**Timeline:** Amended to May 2026 (subject to Local Plan agreement)

**Description:** Within the legal constraints it is intended to implement the proposed supplementary planning guidance (SPD) to assist in future properties being better adapted to both heat and cold. However, for the SPD to move beyond guidance to having more weight in the planning process is dependent on implementation of the Local Plan.

**Status:** Outstanding as reliant on implementation of the Local Plan

**Comments:** The guidance is helpful in demonstrating what can be done to improve the resilience of properties to climate change.

**Type:** Control

**Timeline:** November 2025

**Description:** To build on Greener Futures climate adaptation strategy and incorporate actions into our climate change strategy.

**Status:** In progress

**Comments:** Adaptation strategy development in progress and will be taken to Committee in autumn 2025.

**Type:** Mitigation

**Timeline:** Continuing through to March 2027

**Description:** Training of staff continues to raise awareness and enhance understanding of Climate Change issues across the Council (staff and Councillors) so they are embedded into day operations

**Status:** In Progress

**Comments:** None

**Risk Category: 5 – Climate Change**

**Risk Subject Area: B. Integration into decision making and targets**

**Corporate Priorities: Environment**

**Risk Owner(s): Sandy Muirhead**

**Date of update: 22 September 2025**

**Previous Risk Score:**

**8**

**Current Risk Score:**

**8**

**Future Risk Score:**

**6**

## **Risk Description**

Where integration into wider Council decision-making is not evident this reduces the effectiveness of holistic approaches in delivering Spelthorne's strategy.

Inadequate mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on status provides limited insight regarding keeping on track in pursuing net zero carbon emissions and wider government reporting requirements.

Local Government Reorganisation could impact on delivering net zero targets especially if other councils joining within any future unitary do not have the same ambitions as Spelthorne.

**Current control actions:**

All Committee reports include a section on Sustainability and Climate Change considerations which should be reflected upon by report authors to identify both positive and adverse impact of proposals being put forward by Officers requiring a Member decision.

Through carbon literacy training of staff and the climate change and sustainability officers working with services across the Council, climate change is becoming embedded in service delivery. A Climate Change Working Group made up of a cross-party group of elected Members will continue to focus on monitoring of actions towards carbon neutrality and initial assessment of ideas.

Officer updates to Members on the progress of the Climate Change Action Plan.

Annual Reporting of Carbon Emissions to Surrey County Council.

Annual KPI reporting.

### Current mitigating actions:

Ongoing monitoring of climate change strategy and Corporate Plan actions can ensure climate change mitigation and adaptation is incorporated into day-to-day Council projects/activities.

To use Project Horizon to channel focus on projects which make a significant contribution to reducing the Council's carbon footprint.

Benchmarking and/or analysis of comparative energy savings achieved across Surrey Districts and Boroughs to assess how Councils align in terms of climate change activities in readiness for Local Government Reorganisation.

Ensure delivery of Corporate Plan actions to assist in mitigating climate change and reducing the Council's carbon emissions using the corporate plan action tracker.

### Future actions:

**Type:** Control

**Timeline:** December 2025

**Description:** Mandatory Carbon literacy training programme underway across the Council to continue so we can achieve silver accreditation with bronze level already being achieved.

**Status:** In progress

**Comments:** None

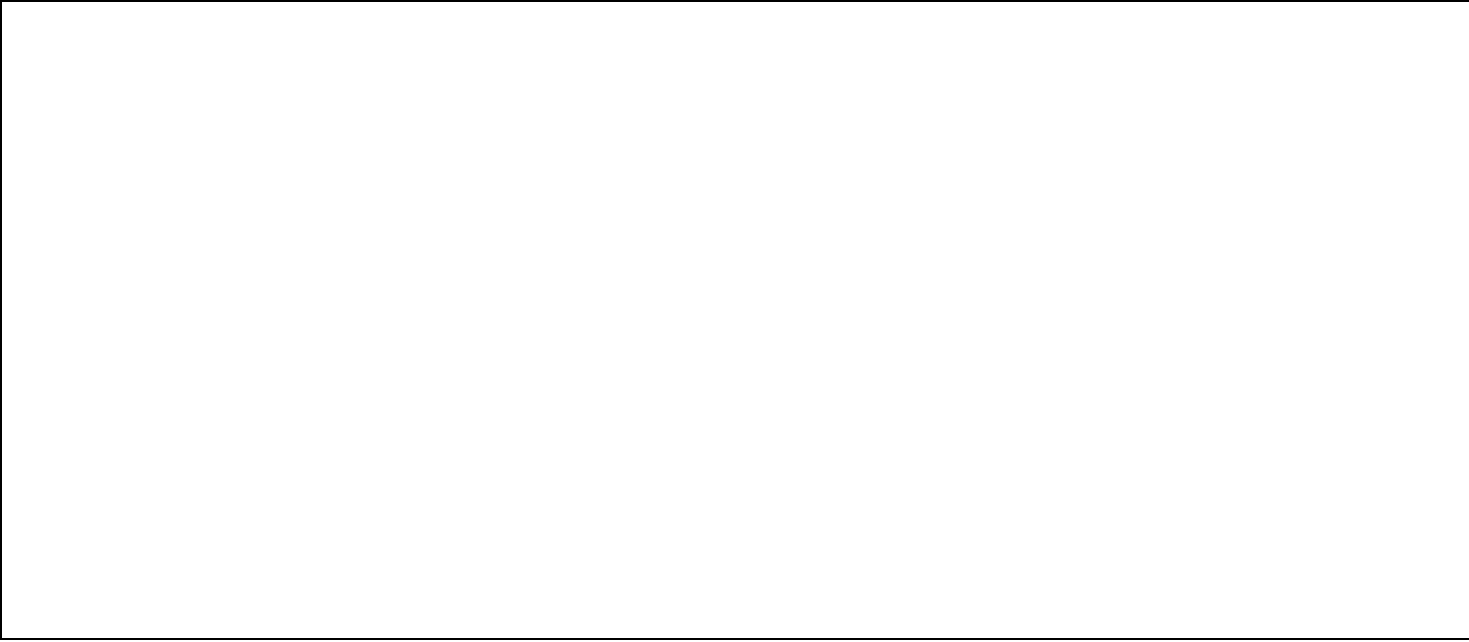
**Type:** Mitigation

**Timeline:** December 2025

**Description:** To build on Greener Futures climate adaptation strategy and incorporate actions into our climate change strategy.

**Status:** In Progress

**Comments:** As the climate changes the Council and residents need to adapt to climate change. A framework for adaptation is currently being put together to take to Committee in the autumn. The framework will identify actions which can help the move to adapting to future climatic differences to the historic "traditional English climate". This will be linked to the overarching climate change strategy.



## NEW CORPORATE ASSURANCE REGISTER TEMPLATE EXAMPLE

**(NB. for illustrative purposes only – content may be subject to further change)**

<b>Assurance Area: Meeting our zero carbon targets and wider environmental responsibilities</b>			<b>Date of update:</b>	
<b>Assurance Description:</b> Climate change poses a significant risk to society as well as the Council. It is well documented that the likelihood of severe and extreme weather events is increasing. It is therefore the Council's duty to do what it can to directly and indirectly minimise our environmental impact and ready ourselves in the event of a serious weather event. Assurances are needed therefore that appropriate strategies and policies are in place and effective, they are understood and complied with, and our emergency resilience and business continuity arrangements are in place and tested.				
<b>Assurance Owner: Group Head - Commissioning and Transformation</b>			<b>Focus</b>	<b>Assurance Level: L / M / H</b>
<b>Action/ RAG</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Latest Update</b>	
1	Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan	Review the CC Strategy and progress of the action plan to ensure it remains appropriate and achievable.		
2	Awareness and training	Review the arrangements to ensure all staff and members are aware of the Council's strategy and policies in relation to zero carbon and general environmental awareness.		
3	Oversight by E&S Committee	Continue to explore ways to meet a carbon neutral target and to promote climate change as an issue that needs to permeate all Council areas.		

4	Business and service planning	Review the process for business and service plans to ensure they adequately reflect opportunities to reduce our carbon and meet other environmental targets.	
5	Maximise funding	Review opportunities to attract external funding to support our carbon neutral target.	
6	Influence property development	Subject to the approval of the Local Plan, implement the proposed supplementary planning guidance (SPD) to assist in future properties being better adapted to both heat and cold.	
7	Greener Futures Strategy	To build on Greener Futures climate adaptation strategy and incorporate actions into our climate change strategy.	
8	Wider emergency resilience & business continuity plans	Review the corporate emergency resilience and business continuity policies and plans to ensure they adequately reflect the implications of climate related issues.	