

Contact:

See individual reports

Members' briefing pack

Thursday, 17 September 2026

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Business Infrastructure and Growth Committee

The following 'to note' reports fall under the remit of the Business Infrastructure and Growth Committee.

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Environment and Sustainability Committee

The following 'to note' reports fall under the remit of the Environment and Sustainability Committee.

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| 2. | Hydromx Pilot Project Review | 9 - 24 |
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Economic Development Service – Update Report – June to August 2026

1. Introduction

1.1 The Economic Development Service plays a central role in supporting sustainable economic growth and strengthening economic prosperity across the borough. Our work directly contributes to Spelthorne Borough Council's Corporate Priorities by:

- Driving economic recovery and growth: supporting vibrant town centres, encouraging business start-ups and enabling business expansion.
- Supporting local people: improving access to employment and skills for residents, including young people and those furthest from the job market.
- Championing sustainability and innovation: helping businesses adopt more sustainable practices and use digital technologies effectively.

1.2 The 2026/27 Service Plan sets out key performance indicators aligned with these priorities. Targets include:

- Providing direct support to at least 200 businesses and engaging 760 more indirectly
- Delivering 25 business events (with partners) with a combined attendance of 500
- Maintaining a minimum 80% occupancy rate at the Spelthorne Business Hub
- Supporting over 750 economically inactive residents through the Jobs & Skills Hub

During this reporting period, the team concentrated on delivering the Spelthorne Jobs & Skills Hub, increasing occupancy at the Spelthorne Business Hub and finalising plans for the Spelthorne Business Awards, which is now fully booked, while continuing engagement with local businesses and strategic partners, such as Surrey County Council and Heathrow Airport.

2. Spelthorne Business Hub

2.1 The Hub moved from Sunbury to the Council offices in April. Before the move, the Hub supported an average of 12 businesses using the co-working space.

2.2 There are currently 11 businesses being supported, with a further two businesses considering the offer.

Current tenant list

Business	Industry/ Sector
Belovd Memorial	Funeral service start-up
CPG	Consultancy
Companionship Services Ltd	Care sector
DMS Property Solutions	Refurbishment start-up
ECFIO	Health & Safety Training
EJ HR Solutions Ltd	Professional Services
Palkighor	ITC
Singularity Insights	ITC

The Last Hoorah	Celebration of Life Event Company
Visit Staines	BID Company
ZAAR LTD	Creative Industries

Table 1: Current tenants

2.3 Pending tenants

Zynka Technologies Limited	ITC
Brighter Career	Recruitment start-up

Table 2: Prospective tenants

- 2.4 The Hub has continued to deliver added-value support to its users and local businesses, in conjunction with the Spelthorne Business Growth Service.

3. Business Growth Service

- 3.1 Delivered by CPG Executive Consulting Ltd, under the Council's Business Spelthorne brand, the Business Growth Service launched in December 2025 to support freelancers, start-ups, micro-businesses and SMEs at every stage of their journey – from developing an idea to scaling an established business.
- 3.2 Support includes one-to-one mentoring, start-up accelerators, environmental, social and governance masterclasses, networking opportunities and access to the MyGrowthPod® digital learning platform. Sessions are delivered through a mix of in-person events, webinars and personalised coaching across the borough.
- 3.3 The Business Growth Service maintained strong delivery momentum across the June–August 2026 quarter, despite the summer period. The programme continued to focus on one-to-one business support, mentoring, workshops, participant engagement and KPI evidence collection.
- 3.4 The programme is performing well and remains on track. It is delivering practical, tailored support that is helping local businesses strengthen their foundations, improve performance and move towards sustainable growth.
- 3.5 Key highlights:

The programme reached **86 overall sign-ups** by the end of August and delivered **160 one-to-one support sessions**, including **90 sessions during this quarter**.

- Support increasingly moved from initial diagnostics and planning into **practical implementation**, helping businesses improve growth plans, sales, finance, marketing, websites, automation, AI, pricing and operational efficiency.
- **Workshop activity continued**, with sessions on pricing and packaging, sales and leads, finance and funding, sustainability, import/export and website conversion.
- The **website conversion workshop** in August generated positive engagement, while the **import/export webinar attracted no registrations**, suggesting this topic was less relevant to the current cohort of mainly smaller businesses.
- **Environmental sustainability and ESG support progressed**, with delivery partners in place and practical guidance offered around efficiency, cost reduction and resilience.
- Participant demographics were broadly balanced by gender, with August showing the strongest new participant activity in the quarter.

- **Word of mouth and local council referrals** were strong sources of new participants, indicating positive participant satisfaction and effective local promotion.
 - Participating businesses came from a wide range of sectors, with notable representation from **professional services, marketing/digital/media, healthcare, education, construction, retail and IT**.
 - The Business Growth element had supported **62 businesses** by the end of August, including **16 businesses engaged during this reporting period**.
 - The Start Up programme had **39 entrepreneurs registered** by the end of August, with **10 joining during the quarter** and a further **three-day Start Up Accelerator planned for September**, already with **12 participants registered**.
- 3.6 The next quarter will focus on maintaining one-to-one support, delivering the September Start Up Accelerator, running a new SEO workshop with Bright Click, expanding mentoring, continuing ESG support, recruiting new participants and collecting outstanding KPI evidence.

4. Spelthorne Jobs & Skills Hub

4.1 Overview

August was a busy month for the Spelthorne Jobs & Skills Hub, with delivery continuing across core employment support, partnership activity and targeted provision for residents facing barriers to work.

The Hub remains a well-used and trusted source of support for residents, with a particular focus on young people and those aged over 45. It provides tailored advice on CVs, employability skills and job searching, helping residents access practical, responsive support.

4.2 Performance and casework

Performance against DWP casework targets has remained strong throughout the year, with the Hub consistently meeting expectations. Core one-to-one support continued alongside this work, with 150 resident appointments delivered during August.

4.3 Wellbeing and mental health support

The Hub continued to run two monthly wellbeing sessions with Surrey Care Trust, aimed at adults seeking to build resilience and communication skills. The August sessions were well attended and demonstrated the value of the Hub's partnership approach.

For residents requiring more intensive one-to-one mental health support, the Hub strengthened its partnership with MIND to improve access to affordable provision. This has secured a subsidised rate for residents on Universal Credit, with Midas Plus providing additional subsidy for six residents most in need of support.

4.4 Employment pathways and partnership work

Heathrow Academy continued to attend the Hub every other Tuesday, giving Spelthorne residents direct access to airport employment opportunities and advice on suitable pathways into work.

The Hub also continued to support Jobcentre Plus through its Youth Offer and maintained its position as the most successful Youth Support Hub in the area for outcomes and engagement.

4.5 Jobs & Skills Hub KPI Summary

Target Description	Target	April	May	June	July	Aug	Total	% Complete
Client Engagement and Caseload								
Active Cases carried over from previous months		166	155	149	146	121		
Number of new cases (in the month)	750	52	36	26	54	29	363	48%
Number of closed cases (in the month)		63	42	29	79	36	249	
Number of DWP youth claimants supported (number of starts)	155	23	20	9	30	13	95	61%
No. of Events	100	6	9	15	3	2	35	35%
No. of Attendees	1000	52	105	89	36	17	299	30%
Demographic and geographic breakdown - open this month								
Clients in 16-24 age group (includes outside of DWP grant)	155	30	24	17	42	22	135	87%
Clients in 25-44 age group		5	5	4	4	3	21	
Clients over 45 age group		17	7	5	8	4	41	
Clients in location TW15		10	8	6	11	4	39	
Clients in location TW16		10	4	6	5	3	28	
Clients in location TW17		3	4	0	2	1	10	
Clients in location TW18		12	16	10	23	13	74	
Clients in location TW19		14	7	2	9	6	38	
Progress and employment outcomes - on closure								
Number of people reporting increased employability skills	500	45	25	26	57	36	189	38%
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support	120	16	12	10	24	8	70	58%
Number of people contacted after 3 months and still in employment	120	5	5	10	10	4	34	28%
Partner and business engagement - in month								
Number of referrals made between partners	50	10	9	15	3	4	41	82%
Number of employers engaged (new and returning)	35	5	6	6	7	7	31	89%
Quality and Experience								
Number of customer satisfaction surveys received	120	11	1	6	7	8	33	28%
Average customer satisfaction score	4	4.9	5	4.9	5	4.7	4.9	

Table 3: Jobs & Skills Hub KPIs

5. Ashford BID Project

- 5.1 The **Ashford BID project** remains **on track and RAG rated Green**, with strong progress through the Business Planning and Engagement Phase and preparations now moving toward campaign and ballot activity.
- 5.2 Key achievements include:
- **More than 250 business visits** completed across the proposed BID area.
 - **142 eligible businesses contacted**, achieving full coverage of the current BID engagement database.
 - **70 eligible voters identified**, with further voter verification still underway.
 - **62 verified business email addresses** secured for consultation, campaign and ballot communications.
 - The draft **BID Business Plan** has been completed and submitted for professional design and publication.
 - Draft **Baseline and Operating Agreements** have been prepared and substantially reviewed.
 - **Civica has been appointed** to administer the ballot, with onboarding and canvassing preparations progressing.
 - KPI evidence collection is largely complete, including sustainability and social value evidence.
 - The revised BID boundary map is close to completion.
- 5.3 The main focus for September and October is securing Steering Group approval, completing governance and committee processes, finalising the voter list, issuing statutory notifications and preparing ballot documentation. While overall delivery remains Green, **milestone delivery is rated Amber** because the next phase depends on several critical approvals and statutory deadlines being met.
- 5.4 Overall, the project is in a strong position, with excellent business engagement, core documentation completed, and ballot readiness progressing well.
- 5.5 Key risks and challenges for the **Ashford BID project** are:
- **Milestone delivery risk:** Although the project is overall rated Green, milestone delivery is Amber because several critical steps must be completed in September and October.
 - **Approval dependencies:** Progress depends on Steering Group consideration, committee approval and sign-off of the final Business Plan and supporting documents.
 - **Voter list completion:** Further work is still needed to verify eligible voters; delays could affect statutory processes and ballot readiness.
 - **Statutory timetable pressure:** Notifications, ballot documentation and governance requirements must be completed in sequence, leaving limited flexibility if deadlines slip.
 - **Business engagement conversion:** Engagement levels are strong, but the project still needs to convert awareness and contact into positive ballot support.

- **Boundary and documentation finalisation:** The revised BID boundary map, Baseline Agreement and Operating Agreement need to be finalised and aligned before the ballot phase.
 - **Ballot delivery readiness:** Civica has been appointed, but onboarding, canvassing and ballot administration still need close monitoring to avoid operational delays.
- 5.6 Overall, the main challenge is less about current progress and more about maintaining momentum through a tightly sequenced approval and ballot timetable.
- 5.7 Upcoming critical milestones for the **Ashford BID project** are:
- **17 September 2026:** Steering Group consideration of the draft BID Business Plan.
 - **September 2026:** Complete final voter verification and confirm the eligible voter list.
 - **September–October 2026:** Finalise the revised BID boundary map.
 - **September–October 2026:** Complete and agree the Baseline Agreement and Operating Agreement.
 - **October 2026:** Secure committee approval and formal sign-off for the BID Business Plan and supporting documents.
 - **October 2026:** Issue statutory notifications required for the BID ballot.
 - **October 2026:** Complete Civica onboarding, canvassing arrangements and ballot administration setup.
 - **18 November 2026:** Issue of ballot papers.
 - **18 December 2026:** Ballot ends.
 - **21 December 2026:** Result announced.
- 5.8 The most critical dependencies are the **Business Plan approval, voter list completion, statutory notifications, and ballot administration readiness.**

6. Economic Development KPIs

Overall performance across the Economic Development KPIs is positive, with several areas showing strong progress by the end of August. Direct business engagement has effectively reached the annual target, indirect engagement is progressing towards target at 69% complete, and event delivery is close to achieving the annual target. The Business Growth Programme is performing strongly, while the Business Hub continues to provide measurable support to local businesses.

The strongest performance areas are direct business engagement, Business Growth Programme activity and event delivery. Indirect engagement has reached 524 businesses against the annual target of 760, and further activity will be needed over the remainder of the year to close the gap. Event delivery is progressing well and is close to achieving the annual target.

Alongside this positive performance, some areas require continued monitoring. These include general engagement, newsletter engagement, Business Hub occupancy, SBF attendance, low levels of other direct engagement and elements of Jobs & Skills Hub performance.

Economic Development KPIs	KPI	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Total	% Complete
Number of businesses supported through direct engagement	200	108	32	18	15	26	199	100%
- Business Hub (occupiers)	60	5	11	10	9	11	46	77%
- SBA No of people attending workshops	40	40	5	0	0	0	45	113%
- Business Growth Programme - 121 support	80	12	16	8	4	15	55	69%
- Other (direct visits or enquiries)	20	0	0	0	2	0	2	10%
Number of businesses supported through indirect engagement	760	150	177	72	64	61	524	69%
- Source in Surrey	100	60	40	0	0	0	100	100%
- Networking	250	35	55	0	0	50	140	56%
- SBA attendance	260	0	0	0	0	0	260	100%
- General engagement	150	5	10	10	9	11	45	30%
- clicks (newsletters)	1200	50	72	62	55	0	239	40%
- open rate (newsletters)	18,000	2165	2349	2200	1604	0	8318	46%
Number of events delivered	25	11	4	2	2	2	21	84%
- Business Growth Service	17	7	2	2	2	1	14	82%
- Partnership with Surrey Chambers	4	1	1	0	0	1	3	75%
- Partnership with SBF (SBGS networking and Riverboat)	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	100%
- Partnership with Source in Surrey	3	2	1	0	0	0	3	100%
Number of attendees at events	500	149	118	14	21	62	364	73%
- Business Growth Service	136	41	18	14	21	13	107	79%
- Partnership with Surrey Chambers	144	24	60	0	0	34	118	82%
- Partnership with SBF	100	24	0	0	0	0	24	24%
- Partnership with Source in Surrey	120	60	40	0	0	0	100	83%

Table 4: Economic Development KPIs

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Committee Report Checklist

Please submit the completed checklists with your report. If final draft report does not include all the information/sign offs required, your item will be delayed until the next meeting cycle.

Stage 1

Report checklist – responsibility of report owner

ITEM	Yes / No	Date
Councillor engagement / input from Chair prior to briefing	Yes	30/04/2026
Relevant Group Head review	Yes	21/04/2026
MAT+ review (to have been circulated at least 5 working days before Stage 2)	Yes	01/05/2026
This item is on the Forward Plan for the relevant committee	Yes	24/04/2026
	Reviewed by	
Finance comments (circulate to Finance)	AS	01/05/2026
Risk comments (circulate to Lee O'Neil)	LO	14/05/2026
Legal comments (circulate to Legal team)	JC	06/05/2026
HR comments (if applicable)	n/a	

For reports with material financial or legal implications the author should engage with the respective teams at the outset and receive input to their reports prior to asking for MO or s151 comments.

Do not forward to stage 2 unless all the above have been completed.

Stage 2

Report checklist – responsibility of report owner

ITEM	Completed by	Date rec'd
Monitoring Officer commentary – at least 5 working days before MAT	L Heron	11/05/26
S151 Officer commentary – at least 5 working days before MAT	T.Collier	10/5/26
Commissioner engagement	Yes	07/05/2026
		Comments in S. 7
Confirm final report cleared by MAT		

Environment & Sustainability Committee

18th June 2026

Title	<i>Hydromx Pilot Project Review</i>
Purpose of the report	To Note (Briefing Pack Only)
Report Author	Arthur Stokhuyzen
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Exempt	No
Corporate Priority	Resilience Environment Services
Recommendations	Committee is asked to: - Note the findings and performance outcomes from the Hydromx Pilot Project at the Greeno Centre. - Note the technical, operational and analytical learnings identified through the pilot.
Reason for Recommendation	The pilot was approved to test whether Hydromx could deliver performance improvements under real operating conditions. This report presents the outcomes of that pilot and captures the learning generated. Given the mixed performance across monitoring periods, asset condition risks, and the short duration of optimised operation, officers are not proposing any further deployment at this stage. The report is therefore presented to note the findings and retain the evidence for future reference.

1. Executive summary of the report *(expand detail in Key Issues section below)*

What is the situation	Why we want to do something
- In June 2025 the Environment and Sustainability (E&S) Committee approved the spend for a pilot of the Hydromx product at the Greeno centre. - The spend of £10,100 was approved to be funded from the Green Initiatives Fund (GIF) - The pilot has now been completed, and its outcomes provide a body of evidence on performance, risks, and system suitability	- The pilot was undertaken to test whether Hydromx could deliver meaningful gas, cost and carbon reductions within an operational Council asset. - The completion of the monitoring period provides evidence to assess the effectiveness of the technology under real operating conditions.

This is what we want to do about it	These are the next steps
- Provide the Environment & Sustainability Committee with a formal review of the Hydromx Pilot Project at the Greeno Centre. Detailing performance outcomes, technical and operational risks and key learnings relevant to future use.	- There are no proposed next steps at this stage. - The learning from the pilot will be retained and may be revisited if future policy, funding, or asset-condition considerations change.

2. Key issues

- 2.1 Hydromx is a heat-transfer fluid that contains nano-scale additives designed to enhance heat transfer efficiency compared with conventional water or glycol-based systems. It is typically used in heating and cooling applications where improved thermal conductivity can reduce energy consumption and system operating temperatures.
- 2.2 The Hydromx Pilot Project at the Greeno Centre was modelled by HMX (the distributor of Hydromx) to require a total of 460 litres of Hydromx. This modelling aims to ensure the volume of Hydromx in the heating system represents 40%-50% of the total fluid.
- 2.3 The installation took place on 28th July 2025 and was carried out by Highcliffe Contractors, a specialist Hydromx installer. A total of 350 litres of Hydromx was installed, representing approximately 76% of the modelled volume.
- 2.4 The installer suggested that he was unable to install the full modelled amount into the heating system because it was long and complicated, meaning there was likely to be pockets in the heating system that couldn't be reached. It was advised that consistent measurements should be taken going forward to understand the percentage of Hydromx in the Greeno heating system.
- 2.5 The installation process involved draining the existing heating system fluid and reintroducing Hydromx into the closed-loop heating system. No operational or installation issues were observed on the day of installation.
- 2.6 On 30th July the site manager at the Greeno centre raised the issue that there were several leaks across the community centre.
- 2.7 Both Spelthorne contractors and the Highcliffe installer attended the site to investigate the issue. Both parties concluded that the leak was not caused by the installation of the solution. It was deemed that due to the age and state of the system flushing the fluid and introducing a purer product (Hydromx) had dislodged rust and sludge that had initially kept the system from leaking previously.
- 2.8 The project lead, assets representative and specialist installer did not identify that the leaks in the system were a potential risk. It was later revealed that the heating system hadn't been flushed in over 12 years and there were other pre-conditions such as obvious rust and boiler issues identified.

- 2.9 If any further sites were to progress with the installation of Hydromx, technical risk would be considered in the feasibility and necessary surveys and actions identified prior to installation.
- 2.10 The first check of the system happened 20th September 2025, nearly 2 months after the installation. The numbers were surprisingly low returning the percentage of Hydromx in the system between 10%-20% across 6 different inspection sites. It was concluded the low figure was likely due to: the Hydromx not mixing as the heating had yet to be on; the low volume of Hydromx originally installed and the volume of Hydromx lost because of the ongoing leaks. It was deemed a further check should take place in early December after it could be confirmed the heating had been on.
- 2.11 The second check happened 2nd December 25, a further 2 months later. It was noted that although the major leaks had been patched up there were still ongoing issues with pin-hole leaks from the heating system. The costs associated with patching the system are not fully known but were significant. The heating system was reading 25% mix meaning the system still wasn't optimised.
- 2.12 This information was then returned to the project group who deemed a 'top-up' of Hydromx was required. However, it was decided this should be done after the busy Christmas period and if there had been a couple of weeks without leaks. It was then decided that a top up date of 4th February because the conditions for the 'top-up' had been met. This would also ensure that there would still be 2.5 months for analysing relevant winter data. After testing the system in early March, it was found that the system was estimated to have a 40% mix, suggesting it was optimised.
- 2.13 During the initial phase of the Hydromx pilot (with 25% mix), gas consumption between September 2025 and January 2026 was 10.07% lower than baseline monthly averages. Consumption was lower than baseline in every reporting month, with the largest saving observed in November (-21.31%), indicating that the system was delivering a measurable reduction in fuel use during the early pilot period.
- 2.14 In parallel, a regression analysis comparing gas consumption against Heating Degree Days (HDD) was undertaken to assess HDD-normalised performance. This assesses how gas use changes with the weather. By comparing gas consumption with Heating Degree Days (a measure of how cold it was), we adjusted for warmer and colder periods. This allows a fair comparison of performance over time, showing whether changes in gas use are due to efficiency improvements rather than just the weather.
- 2.15 This analysis indicated a 26.26% increase relative to the historical HDD relationship. This outcome should be interpreted with caution and is considered reflective of analytical and operational limitations, rather than a definitive indication of increased energy use attributable to Hydromx.
- 2.16 Several factors are likely to have influenced this result. The monitoring period was relatively short and coincided with higher heating demand and colder-than-average conditions, increasing the sensitivity of regression outcomes. Additionally, the system was operating at a sub-optimal Hydromx concentration, limiting the thermal performance benefits observed.

- 2.17 Post 'top-up' analysis demonstrates a substantial improvement in both absolute and HDD normalised gas consumption metrics. Following the system top up:
- 2.18 Regression analysis against Heating Degree Days (HDD) indicates a 42% reduction in gas consumption, representing a significant improvement in HDD normalised efficiency compared to the historical baseline.
- 2.19 Comparison against baseline monthly averages shows a 12% reduction in gas consumption, confirming that absolute gas use remained materially lower than pre installation levels.
- 2.20 The improved alignment between regression-based analysis and baseline comparison after top-up provides increased confidence in the underlying performance of the Hydromx solution.
- 2.21 These findings support the conclusion that performance during the initial September–January period was constrained by sub-optimal system concentration and that the full efficiency potential of the solution is realised only once appropriate dosing is achieved and maintained.
- 2.22 Both reporting periods are relatively short. Continued monitoring across a longer heating period will further validate these savings.
- 2.23 The original performance claim for Hydromx indicated a potential reduction in heat consumption of up to 30%. During the initial phase of operation at a 25% system concentration, observed savings fell below this headline figure, suggesting that performance was constrained by system conditions rather than the technology's full capability. Following system 'top-up' to the recommended 45% mix, regression-based analysis indicates savings in excess of the original claim, while baseline comparisons show reductions of approximately 10%.
- 2.24 Taken together, these results suggest that short-term performance can vary, the 'top-up' data is broadly consistent with the originally stated performance expectations.
- 2.25 Observing the savings from the pilot as a whole demonstrates that Hydromx can deliver material efficiency benefits when systems are appropriately assessed, balanced, and monitored. However, it also highlights the technical and analytical risks of short-term pilots on legacy assets.
- 2.26 Since September 2025 until March 2026 the Hydromx saved an estimated £700 and a 2.99tCO₂e (tonnes of CO₂ equivalent). These cost savings exclude the significant costs associated with patching the heating system from the assets budget.
- 2.27 Key conclusions to draw from this pilot project:
- (a) The pilot shows Hydromx can deliver meaningful gas and carbon savings when system conditions are suitable and dosing is correct.
 - (b) Early performance was constrained by legacy asset condition, incomplete mix, and ongoing leaks rather than the technology itself.
 - (c) Post top-up data aligns broadly with original performance claims, though monitoring periods remain short.
 - (d) The pilot highlighted non-trivial technical and asset-condition risks, which must be actively mitigated before any further deployment.

- (e) As a result, the pilot provides useful learning but does not support further deployment at this time
- 2.28 Further modelling and assumptions can be found in Appendix A (Appendix A: Hydromx Reporting Framework).
- 2.29 Figure A: Table of gas consumption compared to the baseline information for the initial months of the pilot where the heating system had a 25% Hydromx mix

Month	Phase	Gas Consumption (kWh)	Baseline Avg. for Month (kWh)	Consumption Diff. to Baseline	Consumption Diff. to Baseline (%)
Sep-25	Initial Installation	10,944.55	11,155.63	-211.07	-1.89%
Oct-25	Initial Installation	13,065.62	13,903.13	-837.51	-6.02%
Nov-25	Initial Installation	20,687.05	26,289.50	-5,602.45	-21.31%
Dec-25	Initial Installation	25,775.25	28,235.88	-2,460.62	-8.71%
Jan-26	Initial Installation	27,320.89	29,155.56	-1,834.67	-6.29%
Feb-26	Top Up	21,600.11	24,885.22	-3,285.11	-13.20%
Mar-26	Top Up	20,469.35	22,574.44	-2,105.09	-9.33%

3. Options appraisal and proposal

- 3.1 Option 1: Note the Hydromx Pilot Project Review (Recommended)
- 3.2 The Committee is asked to note the findings and learning from the Hydromx Pilot Project at the Greeno Centre.
- 3.3 This option closes the pilot as a completed evaluation exercise. It acknowledges the performance evidence, technical risks, and analytical limitations identified, and confirms that no further rollout or feasibility work is proposed at this time. The learning will be retained to inform any future consideration if circumstances change.
- 3.4 **Rationale for recommendation:**
This option provides a proportionate response to a time-limited pilot, reflects the mixed and short-term nature of the evidence, and avoids premature progression to further deployment.

4. Risk implications

- 4.1 The pilot identified a number of operational, asset, performance and financial risks associated with the use of Hydromx in legacy heating systems. These risks are documented to inform any future consideration but do not require mitigation at this stage, as no further action is proposed.

- 4.2 Operational and Asset Risk: Installation may introduce or expose issues within older or poorly maintained heating systems (e.g. leaks, corrosion, sludge), potentially leading to system disruption.
- 4.3 Performance and Data Risk: Short-term performance data may misrepresent long-term efficiency outcomes, particularly where weather, occupancy, or operational patterns fluctuate.
- 4.4 Financial Risk: Additional capital investment may not deliver value for money if performance outcomes fall below expectations or if unforeseen remedial work is required.
- 4.5 Legal and Compliance Risk: Failure to comply with procurement, health and safety, or asset management requirements could result in contractual or regulatory issues.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1 The pilot cost £10,100 and was funded from the Green Initiative Fund. There are no further direct costs associated with the Hydromx project expected.
- 5.2 The pilot project is expected to have saved the Council £700 across the monitoring period, excluding the significant costs required to repair the leaks.
- 5.3 Pilot evidence suggests potential for net revenue savings and carbon reduction.
- 5.4 While a reduction in gas costs from the project is shown, these are attributed to lower consumption. Gas prices are influenced by external market forces and are subject to volatility. While lower usage supports savings now, future gas costs may rise depending on market conditions and current savings may not be sustained.
- 5.5 There are no further financial implications arising from this report.
- 5.6 No further expenditure is proposed.
- 5.7 Any future consideration would be subject to a separate report and approval.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report as it is to note only.

Corporate implications

7. Commissioners' comments

- 7.1 Commissioners' view is that it is not sensible to proceed with project now, given the relatively long payback period for the investment, the risk the report highlights of additional costs, and forthcoming local govt reorganisation, where West Surrey may want to take its own view in time of where it wants to make such investments.

8. S151 Officer comments

- 8.1 The S151 Officer confirms that all financial implications have been taken into account and that the pilot has been fully funded.

9. Monitoring Officer comments

- 9.1 The Monitoring Officer has no further comments at this stage.

10. Procurement comments

- 10.1 This report has no direct procurement implications. No further procurement activity is proposed.

11. Equality and Diversity

- 11.1 The recommended proposal to explore a phased rollout of Hydromx is not expected to have any direct or disproportionate impact on equality or diversity. The proposal relates solely to building systems and does not affect service delivery, access, or employment. No mitigation measures are required at this stage.

12. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications

- 12.1 The proposal supports the Council's sustainability and climate change objectives by exploring a technology that has demonstrated the potential to reduce gas consumption and associated carbon emissions when correctly applied. Improved thermal efficiency within heating systems can contribute to lower energy demand and support progress toward the Council's net-zero commitments. No negative sustainability impacts have been identified at this stage.

13. Other considerations

- 13.1 No Assets Comments

14. Timetable for implementation

- 14.1 June 26: E&S Committee notes the findings from the pilot

15. Contact

- 15.1 Arthur Stokhuyzen: a.stokhuyzen@spelthorne.gov.uk (Climate & Energy Lead)

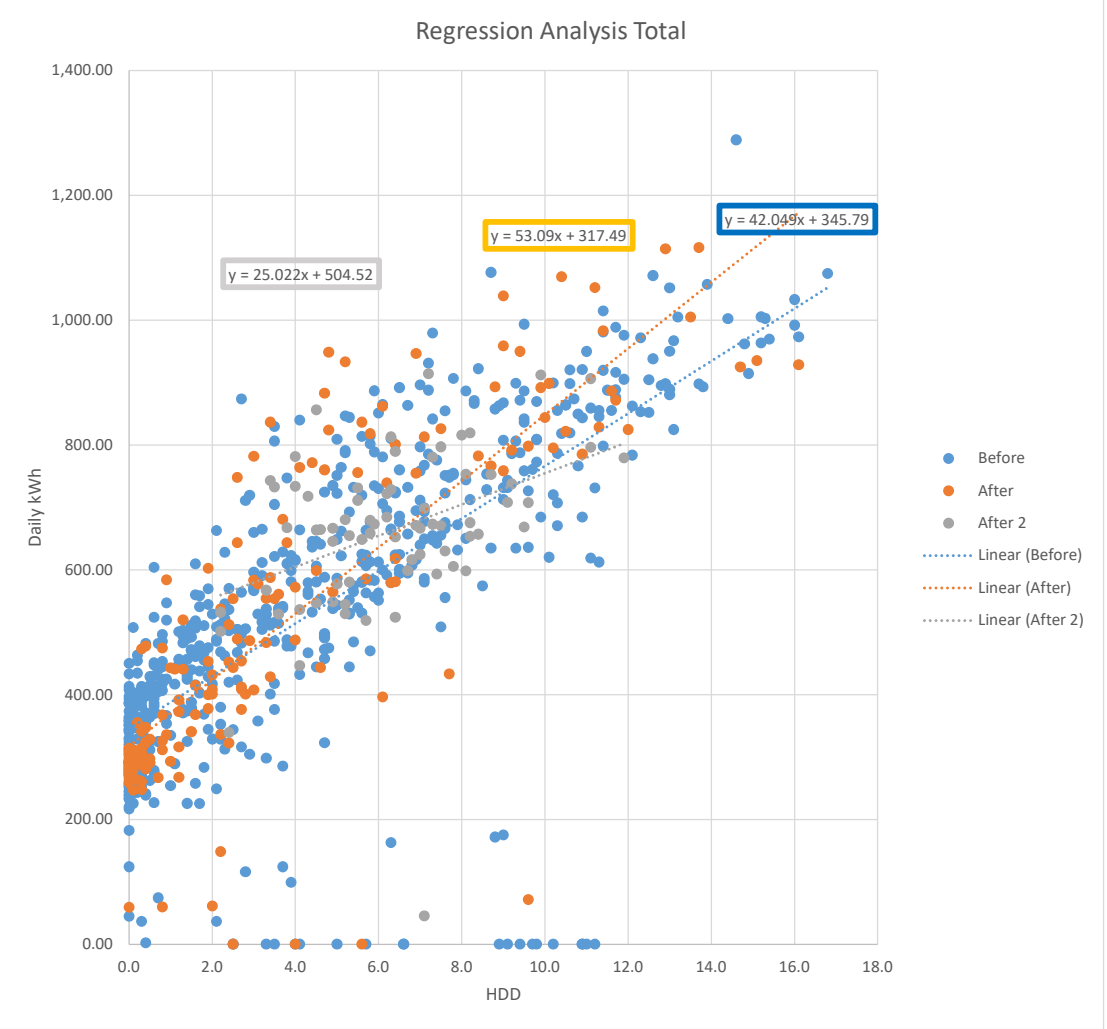
Please submit any material questions to the Committee Chair and Officer Contact by two days in advance of the meeting.

Background papers: There are none.

Appendices:

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% Energy/HDD Change	
After (first round, 19% mix)	After (second round, 45% mix)
26.26%	-40.07%

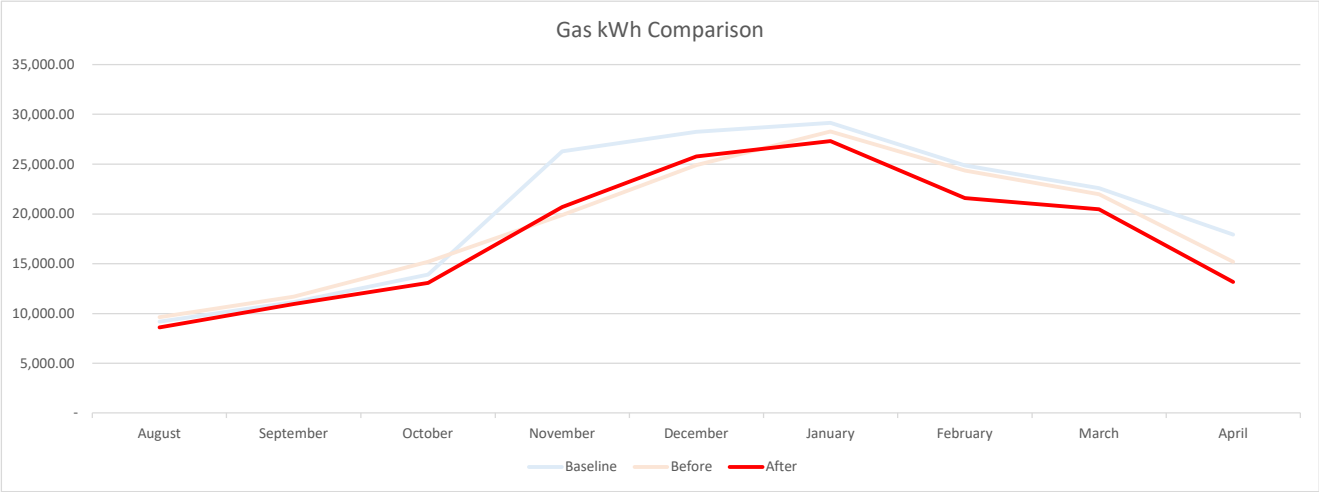


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Month	Before/After	Gas kWh	HDD	kWh/HDD	Baseline*	Usage vs Baseline Diff	% Diff over Baseline	Usage vs. previous year
Jan-24	B	25,927.07	306.90	84.48	29,155.56	-3,228.49	-11.07%	-
Feb-24	B	18,609.61	188.90	98.52	24,885.22	-6,275.61	-25.22%	-
Mar-24	B	19,075.89	201.70	94.58	22,574.44	-3,498.55	-15.50%	-
Apr-24	B	19,429.45	153.10	126.91	17,910.44	1,519.01	8.48%	-
May-24	B	15,710.04	54.40	288.79	14,566.78	1,143.26	7.85%	-
Jun-24	B	12,622.98	39.80	317.16	9,727.33	2,895.65	29.77%	-
Jul-24	B	12,723.63	12.70	1,001.86	9,215.33	3,508.30	38.07%	-
Aug-24	B	9,619.27	8.40	1,145.15	9,166.00	453.27	4.95%	-
Sep-24	B	11,672.05	48.70	239.67	11,155.63	516.43	4.63%	-
Oct-24	B	15,187.60	97.30	156.09	13,903.13	1,284.48	9.24%	-
Nov-24	B	19,892.13	209.60	94.91	26,289.50	-6,397.37	-24.33%	-
Dec-24	B	24,915.78	237.60	104.86	28,235.88	-3,320.10	-11.76%	-
Jan-25	B	28,286.62	339.20	83.39	29,155.56	-868.94	-2.98%	2,359.55
Feb-25	B	24,355.33	276.10	88.21	24,885.22	-529.89	-2.13%	5,745.72
Mar-25	B	21,992.00	223.40	98.44	22,574.44	-582.44	-2.58%	2,916.11
Apr-25	B	15,181.43	125.60	120.87	17,910.44	-2,729.01	-15.24%	-4,248.02
May-25	B	10,721.44	66.00	162.45	14,566.78	-3,845.34	-26.40%	-4,988.60
Jun-25	B	8,319.17	16.60	501.15	9,727.33	-1,408.17	-14.48%	-4,303.81
Jul-25	B	8,839.84	2.60	3,399.94	9,215.33	-375.49	-4.07%	-3,883.79
Aug-25	A	8,601.31	7.80	1,102.73	9,166.00	-564.69	-6.16%	-1,017.96
Sep-25	A	10,944.55	47.60	229.93	11,155.63	-211.07	-1.89%	-727.50
Oct-25	A	13,065.62	94.70	137.97	13,903.13	-837.51	-6.02%	-2,121.98
Nov-25	A	20,687.05	176.10	117.47	26,289.50	-5,602.45	-21.31%	794.92
Dec-25	A	25,775.25	236.10	109.17	28,235.88	-2,460.62	-8.71%	859.47
Jan-26	A	27,320.89	305.60	89.40	29,155.56	-1,834.67	-6.29%	-965.73
Feb-26	A2	21,600.11	202.90	106.46	24,885.22	-3,285.11	-13.20%	-2,755.22
Mar-26	A2	20,469.35	201.10	101.79	22,574.44	-2,105.09	-9.33%	-1,522.65
Apr-26	A2	13,170.70	123.60	106.56	17,910.44	-4,739.75	-26.46%	-2,010.73
May-26	A2	-	-	-	14,566.78	-	-	-
Jun-26	A2	-	-	-	9,727.33	-	-	-
Jul-26	A2	-	-	-	9,215.33	-	-	-
Aug-26	A2	-	-	-	9,166.00	-	-	-
Sep-26	A2	-	-	-	11,155.63	-	-	-
Oct-26	A2	-	-	-	13,903.13	-	-	-
Nov-26	A2	-	-	-	26,289.50	-	-	-
Dec-26	A2	-	-	-	28,235.88	-	-	-

*Avg gas usage based on actual data, 2017-2025

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