

Report of the Chairman on the work of Environment and Sustainability Committee

This report gives an overview of the main items considered by the Committee at its meeting on 18 January 2022.

1. Briefing on Surrey 2050 Place Ambition

- 1.1 The Committee received a presentation from Sue Janota, Spatial Planning and Policy Manager, Surrey County Council on the Surrey 2050 Place Ambition.
- 1.2 This sets out long term priorities for growth for Surrey local authorities and their strategic partners and an implementation framework to achieve those objectives, promoting a long term co-ordinated cross boundary approach to planning and managing the impact of growth.
- 1.3 The draft Place Ambition was open for consultation until 4 March. It was agreed that a formal response would be sent on behalf of the Committee and authority was delegated to the Group Head of Regeneration and Growth in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee and joint Chairs of the Climate Change Working Group to formulate this.

2. Capital Bids, Revenue Growth and Savings Bids and Fees and Charges

- 2.1 The Committee considered the proposals presented to them and made recommendations to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee for their consideration at the next stage of the budget process.

3. Update on request for site investigation of land to the rear of Thameside

- 3.1 The Committee received a verbal update on further investigative work undertaken to ascertain if there was sufficient evidence to request a site investigation of the land and which body had jurisdiction.
- 3.2 The Committee were advised that:
 - The MOD had responded to say that the FOI submitted was too broad and suggested that a more refined approach. Another request had been made based on the BBC article and other information available for a five-year period and their response was awaited.
 - Officers had spent significant amount of time reviewing data received in relation to the site permit to the north of the M3 and requested follow up information.
 - A request had been made to Esso requesting any relevant data they may have for that area in relation to the pipeline site investigation works asking if their pipeline works had produced anything of significance. They were not subject to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests but it was hoped they may respond on a voluntary basis, however no response has been received to date.
 - The Environmental Health team had looked into the possibility of monitoring techniques for flooding events for ground gases but concluded

this was not possible as there were so many variables to consider, including types of gases, the configuration of premises and how the premises were ventilated

- Legal advice was expected later this month.

3.3 A report was scheduled for the next Committee meeting in March 2022.

4. Bonfires and anti-bonfire campaign

4.1 The Committee noted the campaign to raise awareness of the hazards posed by bonfires and action taken to discourage residents and businesses from having bonfires.

5. Bidding Process for Green Initiatives Fund

5.1 The Committee considered and agreed the bidding process for projects requesting funds from the Green Initiatives Fund.

6. Adverse Weather Plan and Community Sandbag Distribution Centre

6.1 The Committee noted the Adverse Weather Plan and Community Sandbag Distribution Policy.

6.2 Both documents had been reviewed and updated to include clarity on roles and responsibilities.

7. Updates from the Task and Finish and Working Groups

7.1 The Committee received updates on the work of the following task/working groups:

- The Local Plan Task Group
- The Staines Development Framework Task Group
- The CIL Local Spending Boards
- The Climate Change Working Group