

# Environment Sustainability policy



**For a healthy, clean, low carbon, prosperous and resilient Surrey**

Policy statement on the council's approach to environmental sustainability

Updated: October 2017

# 1. Context

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## **Clean, green and safe...and resilient into the future**

Surrey County Council recognises the immense value provided by our immediate and wider global environment. At a local level, Surrey's 'clean, green and safe' character along with access to London and global markets, has long made it a location of choice for residents and businesses. To maintain this, we must increase our resilience to environmental changes and ensure we are highly efficient in our use of resources.

## **Going beyond our minimum obligations through collaboration and partnership**

Our response to this challenge should go beyond legal and regulatory minimum requirements since our interactions with the environment are numerous and complex meaning legislation alone is not a sufficient solution. Additional voluntary and collaborative action at a local level is key to developing effective solutions to ensure Surrey is, and remains, a clean, green and resilient place. However, the council faces significant financial challenges due to increasing demand for services and cost of delivery, compounded by funding reductions. Therefore, to enable the council's action for the environment to go beyond our statutory requirements, these require a positive business case to council and/or for the costs and benefits to stakeholders to be aligned through developing appropriate partnerships.

## **Scope of the council's influence**

The council plays an important and direct role in managing resilience and conserving/enhancing our environment through the provision of services (e.g. transport, waste management, flood risk management) as well as our influence over the £37.5billion of economic activity in Surrey and our role in the lives of 1.15 million residents. Our own estate, operations, landholdings and the actions of our staff and suppliers have environmental impacts and are subject to risks posed by the environment.

This policy aims to set out the context in which we will work with our stakeholders to manage our environmental responsibilities and harness leadership opportunities.

## 2. Working as ‘one team’ for environmental sustainability

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The council’s vision is to be ‘one place, one budget, one team for Surrey’. Applying this in the context of the environment is vital for progress in managing our environmental risks and impacts. In doing so, our activities will become mutually reinforcing, provide value for money and be more enduring. Without a coherent approach across the council with respect to environmental sustainability, progress in one area is at risk of being undermined by unsustainable activity in another.

**Services, business processes and suppliers will take account of their environmental risks, impacts and opportunities in particular and where relevant:**

- Resilience to risks posed by a changing climate
- Sustainable low carbon travel
- Efficient use of materials, minerals and water
- Waste minimisation and recycling
- Efficient and low carbon energy
- Biodiversity and landscape quality in Surrey
- Prevention of hazardous pollution of air, water and soil
- Overall raising awareness and capacity building in valuing the environment

**Our environmental services and initiatives will take account of the council’s strategic goals, which are:**

- Wellbeing - Everyone in Surrey has a great start to life and can live and age well
- Economic Prosperity - Surrey’s economy remains strong and sustainable
- Resident Experience - Residents in Surrey experience public services that are easy to use, responsive and value for money

### 3. Benefits and examples of achievements to date

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<p><b>ONE place ONE budget ONE team for Surrey</b></p>	<p>6,000 pupils are trained every year in Surrey to cycle safely on the roads and training is expanding to meet demand from adults keen to get back in the saddle.</p>	<p><b>Resilient and prosperous local economy</b></p>	<p>2,200 households have been supported to make energy efficient home improvements which reduces costs, carbon emissions and improves health particularly for vulnerable people.</p>
<p>Project Horizon is renewing 300 miles of roads whilst diverting waste from landfill by using recycled aggregate materials. This makes our highways fit for future use and provides long term guarantees from the supply chain.</p>	<p><b>Protection and enhancement of the local environment</b></p>	<p>Over 23,000 volunteer hours in 2015-16 have been given to Surrey Countryside Management Partnerships helping with the conservation and biodiversity of the countryside.</p>	<p><b>Value for money for tax payers</b></p>
<p><b>Reliable council services into the future</b></p>	<p>Surrey Prepared (Surrey Community Resilience Partnership) has developed a network of over 100 community resilience groups and has trained over 150 volunteers in flood risk and weather awareness across the county.</p>	<p><b>Wellbeing of residents and reducing inequalities</b></p>	<p>Surrey's furniture reuse schemes have enabled 8,200 households to furnish their homes with decent and affordable furniture, avoiding 540 tonnes of waste going to landfill and providing for 400 work placements/volunteers</p>

## 4. Priority objectives

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Building on existing work programmes, the council's priority commitments for action associated with this policy are focused on increasing our resilience in a changing climate and managing environmental impacts. We will focus on the activities over which we have greatest influence and are the most cost effective, in particular:

1. **Embedding sustainability:** we will include environmental considerations in decision making across council services.
2. **Climate resilience:** we will work with partners to build the resilience of our communities and estate to climate impacts.
3. **Operations and estate efficiency:** we will make our buildings, operations and services as resource efficient and low cost as practicably possible.
4. **Procurement:** we will work with suppliers to reduce the environmental impact of the goods and services they deliver for us and reduce our supply chains exposure to environmental risks
5. **Air quality:** we will reduce emissions from transport and improve air quality across the county through sustainable transport options.

In addition to this, the council delivers an extensive range of environmental services, for which a range of strategies are already in place covering both innovation and business as usual activities. These are summarised in Appendix II.

## 5. Measuring our progress

Own estate		Target
KPI 1	Overall carbon emissions from our estate and operations (corporate buildings, street lighting, maintained schools, fleet vehicles and staff business travel)	10% reduction in emissions by 2018/19
KPI 2	Energy consumption and carbon emissions on our own estate, street lighting and maintained schools	Target setting review in progress
KPI 3	Energy costs our own estate, excluding schools	
KPI 4	Staff business travel mileage, cost and carbon emissions	
KPI 5	Tonnage of waste arising and percentage sent for recycling / energy from waste	
KPI 6	Water consumption on our own estate (with data quality improvements subject to introducing smart metering)	
KPI 7	Number of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) on our own estate, schools and highway schemes	
KPI 8	Proportion of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) owned by the county council in 'Good' condition	50% of land area, by 2020
Suppliers		
KPI 9	Social value added by suppliers using the Social Value Measurement Framework	Target setting review in progress

### Reporting progress

In addition to complying with all external environment-related reporting requirements, we will report on our corporate environmental impacts in the council's annual report and to the council's select committee responsible for environmental matters.

## **Appendix I: Examples of services and suppliers considering their environmental risks, impacts and opportunities**

### **Examples of risks to be managed, which arise from a changing profile of environmental conditions e.g. climate change**

- Council business continuity through increasing frequency/severity of adverse weather conditions e.g. flooding
- Managing risks of adverse weather on health and wellbeing of vulnerable people, e.g. through implementation of NHS heatwave plan, Local Resilience Partnership and 'future-proofing' building design
- Managing risks posed to countryside sites and the Basingstoke canal from a changing climate
- Managing risks posed to highway assets from increased flooding and heatwave frequency/severity
- Anticipating increase in demand for emergency service response, resulting from increasing frequency and severity of adverse weather (flooding, heatwaves and wild fires)

### **Examples of opportunities to manage impacts on the environment, in the course of service delivery**

- Reducing consumption of fossil fuel energy through efficiency and low carbon technologies in corporate buildings and schools
- Waste minimisation and recycling in corporate buildings and schools
- Schools expansion: opportunities for building design specifications
- Curriculum opportunities for teaching sustainable lifestyles
- Sustainable travel to school
- Schools grounds management for biodiversity / wildlife habitats
- Material resource and energy efficiency in social care contracts
- Sustainable management of household waste
- Reducing environmental impacts of materials used in highway maintenance e.g. using recycled content products and sustainable treatment of waste arising
- Providing public bus services to support sustainable travel of residents
- Reducing consumption of fossil fuel energy through efficiency and low carbon technologies via transport contracts (buses and home to school transport)
- Trading Standards role in enforcement of environmental labelling schemes
- Reducing consumption of fossil fuel energy through efficiency and low carbon technologies in fleet vehicles including Fire and Rescue



## Appendix II: National Policy context, Statutory duties and Indicators relating to the environment

Service	Key county council strategies	Acts covering Statutory duties of the council	Monitoring data council is required to collect (as per Single Data List) <sup>1</sup>
<b>Countryside service</b>	<p><b>Rights of Way Improvement Plan:</b> strategic approach to managing public access</p> <p><b>Surrey Countryside and Rural Enterprise Forum - Rural Statement for Surrey:</b> provides for collaborative approach to protecting and enhancing rural Surrey</p> <p><b>Landscape Character Assessment:</b> guidance for new developments to align with existing landscape character of Surrey</p>	<p><b>Countryside &amp; ROW Act 2000:</b> enable people to explore open countryside; reform and improve rights of way; protection to wildlife and natural features (biodiversity)</p> <p><b>Wildlife &amp; Countryside Act 1981:</b> sets out responsibility of the Council as a landowner and planning authority to manage and protect SSSI's and other sites with statutory designations</p> <p><b>Natural Environment &amp; Rural Communities Act 2006:</b> Local Authority role in management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</p>	<p><b>Local nature conservation/ biodiversity (DEFRA)</b> – Proportion of Local Sites where positive conservation management is being achieved</p>
<b>Emergency Planning &amp; Community Safety</b>	<p><b>Surrey Local Resilience Forum Annual Business Plan:</b> sets out progress of Surrey Resilience Partnership and work priorities for coming year with aim to plan and prepare for localised incidents and catastrophic emergencies.</p> <p><b>Surrey Community Risk Register:</b> hazards identified to communities</p>	<p><b>Civil contingencies Act 2004:</b> Requires public services at a local level to prepare for adverse events and incidents</p> <p><b>Flood &amp; Water Management Act 2010:</b> improve flood risk management and sets out responsibilities on the council</p> <p><b>The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015:</b> Requires council to act as statutory consultee for major planning applications with surface water drainage implications</p>	<p><b>Strategic Overview of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk (DEFRA/EA)</b> – Number of properties where flood or coastal erosion risk has been reduced / managed</p> <p><b>Flood and Coastal Risk Management and Sustainable Drainage Systems (DEFRA)</b> – 5 indicators referring to Lead Local Flood Authority responsibilities</p> <p><b>Reporting on EU Flood Risk Regs (DEFRA/EA)</b> – 3 indicators referring</p>

<sup>1</sup> The council gathers a range of other data for its own purposes, in addition to the requirements from the Single data list.



Service	Key county council strategies	Acts covering Statutory duties of the council	Monitoring data council is required to collect (as per Single Data List) <sup>1</sup>
	and responses to mitigate these risks <sup>2</sup> <b>Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Draft):</b> How flood risk will be dealt with in Surrey	<b>Land Drainage Act 1991:</b> Requires council to issue consents for works on watercourses	to responsibilities of Local Authorities for Flood Risk Management
<b>Transport services</b>	<b>Surrey Transport Plan:</b> various strategies, by issue e.g. congestion, climate change, parking and by mode e.g. bus, cycling, rail, freight etc	<b>Transport Act 2008:</b> the provision and regulation of road transport services and subsidising of passenger transport services <b>Highways Act 1980:</b> responsibilities of the Council in relation to the management and operation of the road network	<b>Concession Travel Survey Local Bus Punctuality</b>
<b>Procurement</b>	<b>Procurement Strategy 2015-18</b> (Orbis) Ensure contracts awarded by Surrey County Council and East Sussex County Council provide great value for money, provide the best possible social value for our residents and demonstrates the council's commitment to ethical sourcing e.g. Sustainable Timber Policy WWF Gold Pledge	<b>Social Value Act 2012:</b> Requires public authorities to have regards to economic, social and environmental well-being in connection with public services contracts	<b>Public Contracts Regulations 2006:</b> Statistics for contracts awarded above certain thresholds

<sup>2</sup> Surrey's Local Resilience Forum Strategic has produced '[Climate Change Guidance: Impacts, Mitigation and Adaptation for Surrey](#)'. This considered possible impacts of climate change on the scope of responsibilities of the LRF group, in order to inform the forum's planning assumptions. Further appraisal of climate change risks to wider council services is available in 'Future Surrey: The potential implications of actual and projected changes in the climate of Surrey' (Phil Sivell Consulting) which is available from the council's Environment Policy team.

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Public health	<p><b>JSNA:</b> Environment chapter assesses impact of natural and built environment on people's health and makes recommendation to address these issues</p> <p><b>Health &amp; Well Being Strategy:</b> promotes healthy lifestyles and independent living in healthy and sustainable communities</p>	<p><b>Health &amp; Social Care Act 2012</b> Take steps to improve the health of people who live in their area (based on local needs and priorities)</p> <p><b>Public Health Outcomes Framework</b> Range of measures LAs judged against including measures influenced by environmental factors</p>	<p><b>Coalition of NHS Health Check quarterly data return</b></p> <p><b>National Child Measurement Programme:</b> measures the height and weight of children at school, aged 5 and 11, to assess overweight and obesity levels. This data informs the planning of health initiatives and services.</p>
Sustainability and Place	<p><b>Smarter working for the environment (i.e. this document ):</b> sets out the council's overall approach to environmental sustainability</p> <p><b>Carbon and Energy Policy:</b> the council's plan to continue to reduce emissions from buildings and business travel through efficiency and sustainable energy generation and travel</p> <p><b>Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy (SMOTS):</b> how SCC promote sustainable travel for school journey in relation to local priorities and resource</p>	<p><b>Climate Change Act 2008:</b> Gives government power to require public authorities to report on their progress on climate change risk management</p> <p><b>National Planning Policy Framework:</b> The government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied, with the purpose of the planning system contributing to sustainable development</p> <p><b>Localism Act 2011:</b> Duty to Co-operate with local planning authorities</p> <p><b>Education Act 2006:</b> duty on local authorities to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport and publication of a Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy</p>	<p><b>Emissions from LA own estate and operations (DECC, now DBEIS)</b></p>
Waste management	<p><b>Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy:</b> Partnership plan with waste collection authorities (boroughs and districts)</p>	<p><b>Environment Protection Act 1990:</b> Requires county council to manage and safely dispose of waste collected and Household Waste Recycling Centres (including reuse, recycling etc)</p>	<p><b>Waste Data Flow (DEFRA)</b></p>

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<b>Minerals and Waste Planning</b>	<p><b>Surrey Minerals Plan:</b> Through the allocation of sites and policies seeks to ensure a sustainable supply of minerals.</p> <p><b>Surrey Waste Plan:</b> Seeks to identify the land required to provide facilities for the more sustainable management of Surrey's waste</p> <p><b>Aggregates recycling DPD:</b> Through the identification of suitable sites and policies seeks to encourage the recycling of construction waste to meet the Minerals Plan target and thus reduce reliance on land won minerals</p>	<p><b>Town and Country Planning Act 1990</b>  <b>Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004</b></p> <p>The county council has minerals and waste planning responsibilities and is required to produce a plan to provide a framework for decisions involving these uses</p>	<p><b>Planning Service Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</b>  Duty to monitor the effectiveness of planning policy and share data in a timely way. The AMR contains a range of minerals and waste data to help monitor the effectiveness of planning policies</p> <p><b>Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA)</b>  The county council is required by national policy to produce a LAA. Produced annually and monitors current and forecasted demand for construction aggregate and the supply options including the contribution of recycled aggregate. Feeds into a wider regional monitoring report</p>