

Cabinet Member Responses

Response from Cabinet Member for Environment – Mrs Deborah Urquhart		
Agenda item	Environment & Communities Scrutiny Committee recommendations (11 January 2021)	Response
Climate Change Strategy Delivery Plan	1. Supportive of the Carbon Management Plan and the Delivery Plan.	Noted
	2. Noted the importance of continuing to work in partnership with districts and boroughs but requested that more effort is put into engaging with young people.	<p>Noted. As a result of the Scrutiny discussion, the local media picked up on the issue of engagement with young people and Daisy Watson-Rumbold, Chair of the Youth Cabinet, was featured in subsequent media coverage.</p> <p>Plea to involve young people in tackling climate change “Reaching out to young people for involvement has been one of the best decisions I think the council has made in their fight against climate change.” These encouraging words from Daisy Watson-Rumbold, chair of the West Sussex Youth Cabinet, will no doubt come as a relief to a number of councils. There have been concerns recently that the younger generation has not been engaging with the various climate change consultations opened up by the district and county councils. JPI Media (all titles): Click to Open More Radio online: Click to Open</p>
	3. Noted that hydrogen technology is a long term solution but that Electric Vehicle Strategy is still important and that charging infrastructure is still required and was pleased to hear that we are still working with the district and borough councils	Noted

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	on this to deliver by end of this year.	
	4. Requested that a staff education campaign be carried out to remind people about closing windows, turning off lights etc. Also for the general public to be educated on energy saving and climate change.	Noted. With many staff continuing to work from home, we will ensure this is incorporated into the New Ways of Working as they are agreed and implemented.
	5. Noted that upgrading of the heating system in council owned buildings will be required and is being hastened by the Government decision to phase out gas boilers and that significant funding will be required so there will be a need for continual dialogue with Central Government..	Grant and loan schemes from government for upgrade of heating systems can play an important role in bridging the funding gap. Timescales for applying to such schemes have often been very challenging, limiting suitable projects to more immediate 'shovel ready' proposals. Our capability to move quickly in identify suitable projects for application is improving. When taking forward boilers we will replace boilers with 'non-gas' where practicable. Where this is not practicable we will seek to build in those features necessary for conversion to 'non-gas' in the future. We will also continue to utilise central government funding to support our projects going forward.
	6. Supports the work in keeping the "grey mileage" down where it is practical but must not forget the digital divide	Though current circumstances have displayed that some travel reductions are viable, it is acknowledged within developing proposals that providing information and communication technology support to staff will be an important component of encouraging future reductions.
	7. Noted that for many it has been a positive experience to work from home.	Noted
	8. Requested that the issues of kelp forest restoration, revisiting the street lighting	Answer for Kelp Forest Restoration: We continue to work with the Sussex Inland Fisheries Conservation Authority to endorse their request to Defra that

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	<p>timings and traffic free school routes are investigated.</p>	<p>the new Nearshore Trawling Byelaw be passed. The Cabinet Member for the Environment wrote again to the Secretary of State in 2020.</p> <p>Answer for revisiting the street lighting timings and traffic free school routes are investigated:</p> <p>As you are probably aware we are about to undertake a project to replace all of the incandescent street lamps with LED units. Due to the lower energy demands of LEDs this will reduce our energy consumption and carbon emissions. Overall we expect this project will result in a saving of 2340 tonnes of carbon per year.</p> <p>The project also includes for a more sophisticated lighting management system. This will afford us the opportunity to vary lighting levels and lighting up times remotely and easily. As such we will then have the chance to trial variations in lighting levels and timings (subject to necessary consultation, etc) to see if there is more we can do to reduce our energy consumption.</p> <p>We already run much of the County's lights "part night" only and dim lights in certain areas at certain times.</p> <p>Traffic free school routes are looked at as part of school travel plans – an activity schools undertake with our support. In practice such measures are difficult to implement as schools are mostly located on roads that require access at all times. We are in the process of designing a number of improvements at schools following our success in seeking money from the government's active travel fund. This will focus on making the journeys to school easier for pupils that want to walk and cycle.</p>
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	<p>9. Requested the whole life costs are taken into account when new projects are being drawn up.</p>	<p>I can confirm that the whole life costs of a project are considered in option selection</p>
	<p>10. Welcomed the introduction of the climate change impact assessment RAG (Red/Amber/Green) tool into decision-making.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
	<p>11. Acknowledged that significant behavioural change will be required of residents in order to decarbonise the transport network.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
	<p>12. Requested that we work with the regional school commissioner to raise the profile of energy efficiency at new school sites</p>	<p>The role of the regional school commissioner would appear to be limited and not encompass the issue over funding for schools. Furthermore their role is heavily linked to Academies. To assist I have attached below a link to a webpage on the D of E that provides further information:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/regional-schools-commissioners/about</p> <p>With regard to additional funding for schools. Whilst D of E are considering the impact of climate change it doesn't look as if any additional funding will be forthcoming in the short term, but this is still being researched.</p>