

Minutes of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held at the Council Chamber, Epsom Town Hall on 4 March 2026

PRESENT -

Councillor Liz Frost (Chair); Councillor Alan Williamson (Vice-Chair); Councillors Arthur Abdulin, Steve Bridger, Christine Cleveland, Julie Morris and James Lawrence (as nominated substitute for Councillor Julian Freeman)

Absent: Councillor Julian Freeman and Councillor Kieran Persand

Officers present: Ian Mawer (Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development), Mark Rachwal (Environment and Sustainability Officer), Vanessa Newton (Senior Accountant), Daniel Clackson (Democratic Services Officer) and Angela Guest (Democratic Services Officer)

25 QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions or statements from the public.

26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

27 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee confirmed as a true record the Minutes of the Committee held on 20 January 2026 and the Chair signed them.

28 ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT COUNCILLOR CHAMPION ANNUAL STATEMENT 2025/26

The Committee received a report of the annual statement of the Alternative Transport councillor champion.

- a) **Charging Points:** A Member expressed concern about the increasing number of electric vehicles and what seemed to be a lag in the number of power points. The Environment and Sustainability Officer described the work being undertaken on this including through Surrey County Council's agreed long term contract with an electric vehicle provider to deliver large scale rollout of on-street charge points across Surrey. To date, 24 on-street charge points had been rolled out with a further 20 awaiting final connection and more sites being considered at the feasibility stage. The 14 charging points installed in the borough's car parks were also being monitored and if it was felt more were needed then that would be actioned.

- b) **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP):** A Member stated that the Council had turned down a Surrey County Council (SCC) bid to fund the LCWIP through strategic CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) and asked for clarity as the council had said it supported it but then didn't fund. The Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development explained that the council were seeking opportunities to fund through developer contributions, and the next round of CIL funding would begin this month with the strategic CIL running at the same time as the neighbourhood CIL rounds so that was a further opportunity if SCC wished to submit another bid.

Following consideration, it was unanimously resolved to:

- (1) **Receive and note the annual statement of the Alternative Transport councillor champion.**

29 SURREY RETROFIT STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

The Committee received a report that presented the Surrey Retrofit Strategic Action Plan (The Plan) and sought its endorsement. The plan sets out a roadmap to accelerate home retrofit, reduce fuel poverty and increase environmental sustainability in homes across Surrey. Endorsement of the plan was being sought from all stakeholders and would demonstrate support and commitment to continue to work collaboratively to deliver the goals of the plan.

The Committee considered the following matters:

- c) **Skills Development:** A Member asked if there was to be sponsorship of skills development with NESCOL to which the Environment and Sustainability Officer confirmed that NESCOL had been involved in the workshops as part of the development of the plan. NESCOL had indicated they would be interested in seeking to support and develop skills in the borough. Presently the plan was at a high strategic level, but the next stage would be to set out how it was to be implemented and all stakeholders including training and education providers such as NESCOL would be involved at that stage.
- d) **Sustainable Energy:** A Member stated that the work the council had done on solar energy was good but there was much more work needed on sustainable energy and asked how this was to happen at a local level. The Environment and Sustainability Officer explained how the council had been working collaboratively for many years with both the county council and boroughs and districts, on home retrofit schemes, through the Action Surrey partnership. Action Surrey disbanded last year, and the county council had taken on that role. A range of schemes had been delivered, including on energy efficiency measures such as improved insulation and double glazing, Solar PV installations through Solar Together and the Switch Together Heat Pump scheme which is currently in its first round. The Solar Together scheme has seen near to 200 homes benefit from solar energy in Epsom & Ewell. A further round of the solar and heat pump schemes is expected to run later this year and whilst much work had been done there was still a significant need

for accelerating home retrofit. The council was continually looking at new schemes and funding opportunity to drive forward the sustainable energy agenda.

Following consideration, it was unanimously resolved to:

- (1) Endorse the Surrey Retrofit Strategic Action Plan (Appendix 1) and in conjunction with the Chair to provide written confirmation to Surrey County Council.**

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 7.55 pm

COUNCILLOR LIZ FROST (CHAIR)