

## **SURREY RETROFIT STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN**

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<b>Wards affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Urgent Decision?(yes/no)</b>	No
<b>If yes, reason urgent decision required:</b>	N/A
<b>Appendices (attached):</b>	Appendix 1 - Surrey Retrofit Strategic Action Plan Appendix 2 - Appendices to Surrey Retrofit Strategic Action Plan

### **Summary**

This report presents the Surrey Retrofit Strategic Action Plan (The Plan) and seeks its endorsement.

The plan sets out a roadmap to accelerate home retrofit, reduce fuel poverty and increase environmental sustainability in homes across Surrey.

The plan has been developed collaboratively by a wide range of Surrey stakeholders involved in domestic home retrofit, including Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, with Surrey County Council acting as the interim lead authority.

It was developed through a pilot scheme which provided funding and expert support from bodies including the UK Green Building Council, National Retrofit Hub and Greater South-East Net Zero Hub.

The plan will support the delivery of objectives contained within the Council's Climate Change Action Plan (2025-2029).

Endorsement of the plan is being sought from all stakeholders and will demonstrate our support and commitment to continue to work collaboratively to deliver the goals of the plan, aligning resources and expertise where feasible.

### **Recommendation (s)**

**The Committee is asked to:**

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

## **1 Reason for Recommendation**

- 1.1 The Council has committed to tackling climate change and The Plan aligns with and supports this commitment and the delivery of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan (2025-2029) adopted by this committee on 15 October 2024.
- 1.2 The Climate Change Committee (an independent statutory body who advise the UK government on climate change) has warned that progress in reducing carbon emissions from home heating and addressing fuel poverty is way off target.
- 1.3 In Epsom and Ewell just under 45% of the borough's carbon emissions come from domestic homes (based on 2023 national statistics).
- 1.4 The Plan brings together a broad coalition of local stakeholders, united by a shared commitment to deliver retrofit and unlock wider local economic and social benefits through collective action.
- 1.5 The Plan sets out a roadmap to accelerate home retrofit, reduce fuel poverty and increase environmental sustainability in homes across Surrey.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 The Surrey Retrofit Strategic Action Plan (The "Plan") has been developed to accelerate home (domestic) retrofit and decarbonisation across Surrey. It was developed through the Local Area Retrofit Accelerator (LARA) Pilot, which has brought together a range of local stakeholders in Surrey around a shared belief in cutting carbon emissions from heating and cooling homes, reducing fuel poverty, and delivering wider local economic and social benefits. Surrey is one of four 'localities' participating in the LARA Pilot, convened by the MCS Foundation (a charity working to decarbonise homes, heat and energy in the UK).
- 2.2 LARA was launched in response to the Climate Change Committee's warning that progress in reducing carbon emissions from home heating and addressing fuel poverty is way off target. The LARA pilot was designed to test a process for rapidly co-developing Local Retrofit Strategies with key stakeholders to drive collaborative action and maximise funding and financing opportunities.

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- 2.3 Surrey County Council (SCC), with the support of stakeholders including Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, applied for funding and support from the LARA pilot to support development of a local retrofit strategy. It was confirmed that the funding bid was successful in Autumn 2024.
- 2.4 Between January and July 2025, over 40 organisations collaborated through a structured co-design process involving workshops, working groups, and stakeholder interviews. This included representation from local authorities (including Epsom & Ewell Borough Council), community groups, supply chain, social landlords, training providers, financial sector, and national partners. The outcome was the development of a ‘House plan’ of vision, outcomes, goals, mission statement and principles which forms the basis of The Plan, as shown in Figure 1.

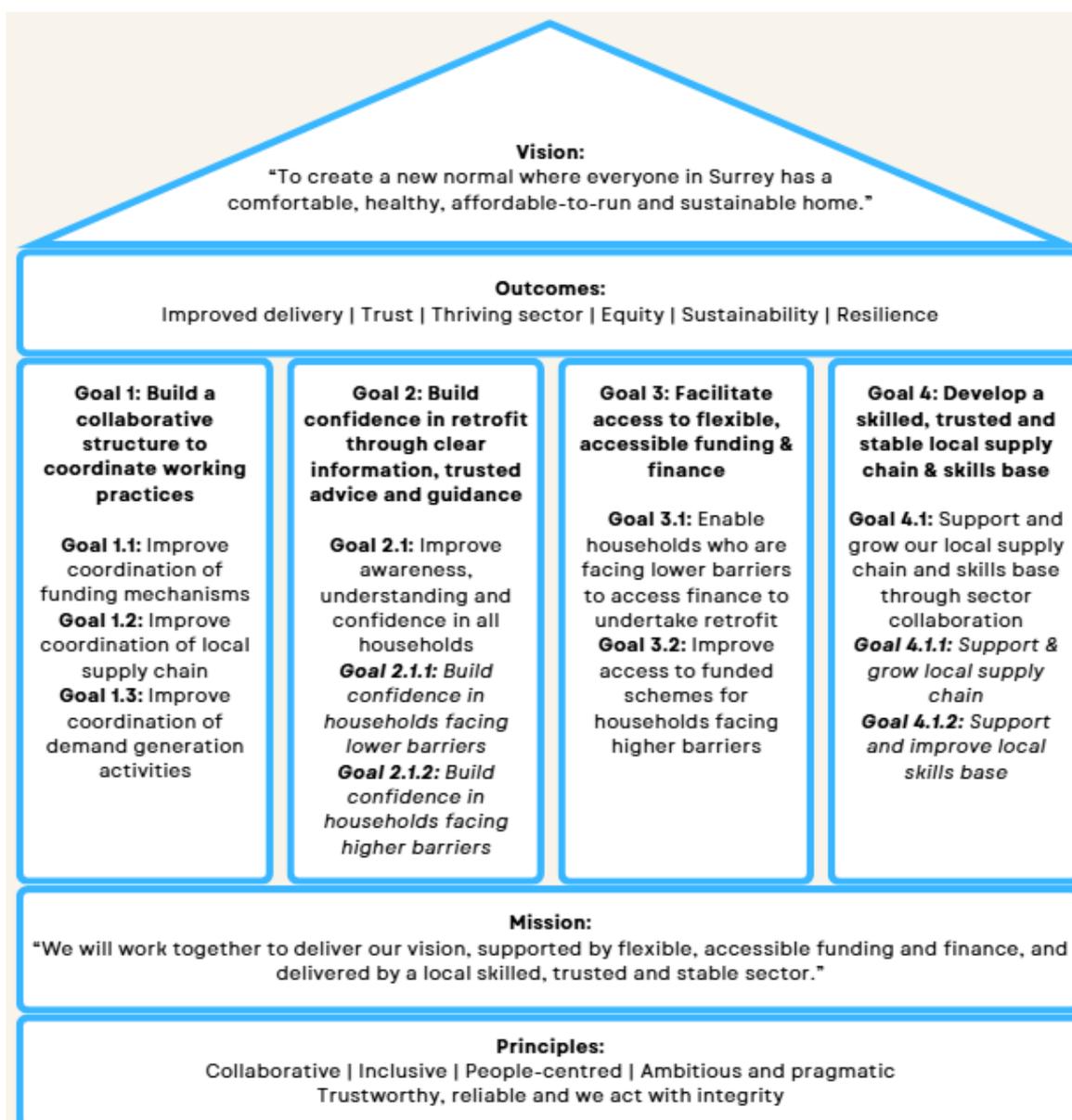


Figure 1: The ‘House Plan’, with the ‘roof’ representing the Vision and Outcomes, supported by the strategic Goals, and with the Mission statement and Principles providing the ‘foundation’

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- 2.5 The Plan sets out a three-year roadmap to accelerate home retrofit across Surrey, uniting a range of local partners around a shared vision so that more can be achieved together and provides a platform for coordinated, structured delivery, supported by good governance and oversight to ensure transparency and effective collaboration.
- 2.6 The Plan, combined with stakeholder partners' expertise in local retrofit, presents a unique opportunity to collaborate and develop relevant projects that will drive the sustainable growth of retrofit across Surrey.
- 2.7 Endorsement of the plan is now being sought and would support our climate change goals and demonstrate our commitment to continue to work collaboratively in supporting its delivery. It is important to note that endorsing the plan does not commit the Council to providing resource to support the delivery of the Plan.
- 2.8 The plan aligns with and supports the Council's commitment to tackling climate change and the delivery of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan (2025-2029). It supports our objectives on:
- Providing practical support for residents to access energy efficiency grant schemes (action 6).
  - Supporting Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) in the private rented sector (action 7).
  - Accelerating low carbon measures for social housing (action 8).
  - The development and supporting of a local area retrofit strategy and action plan (action 9).
  - Developing green skills in the area (action 14).
  - Pursuing joint funding opportunities (action 15).
- 2.9 The Council has worked collaboratively and successfully with SCC and other Surrey Boroughs and Districts for many years to support delivery of local retrofit schemes including on:
- Energy Company Obligation (ECO).
  - Home Upgrade Grant (HUG).
  - Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (GHGLAD).
  - Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS).
  - Solar Together and Switch Together Heat Pumps.
  - Home Energy Advice Team (HEAT).

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2.10 The Plan will provide greater structure and more effective collaboration in delivering these and future schemes, along with opening up additional opportunities for funding.

2.11 The Plan (Appendix 1) will be finalised before publication with a graphic designed version which will not change the content and make only minor changes in layout, along with adding the hyperlinks that are currently missing.

## 3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 None arising from this report.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 There are no implications in terms of crime and disorder.

3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 None arising from this report.

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 None arising from this report.

3.5 Other

3.5.1 None arising from this report.

## 4 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications.

4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

## 5 Legal Implications

5.1 None arising from this report.

5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None arising from this report.

## 6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- Green & Vibrant.

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6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:**

6.3.1 The Plan will support the delivery of objectives within the Climate Change Action Plan as detailed in the main report.

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:**

6.4.1 None arising from this report.

6.5 **Partnerships:**

6.5.1 None

6.6 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:**

6.6.1 The Plan sets out that in the short-term SCC will act as the interim lead organisation. In the medium term it is intended that a successor Governance structure and delivery vehicle will be constituted. An interim steering group, made up of one or more of each key stakeholder type (i.e. Borough/District Council, social housing landlord, education/training provider, financial sector, supply chain) will progress the Action Plan during LGR such that the unitary councils have the opportunity to continue to benefit from and progress the work.

## 7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

**Previous reports:**

- None

**Other papers:**

- Environment Committee: Climate Change Action Plan (2025-2029) – 15 October 2024