

Feedback from Climate Change Review Group

Cllr Tony Virgo - Vice-Chair,
Overview and Scrutiny Commission



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Review activity

- Climate Change Marketplace / meeting on 10 March 2020
 - reviewed council projects already in place
 - highlighted key areas of concern
 - fed into the development of the new strategy
- Climate Change Review Group agreed to focus on three areas:
 - reducing emissions in the community and improving air quality for all
 - improving biodiversity in the borough
 - engaging young people and facilitating their voices in setting our community objectives
- Ideas to deliver this have been split into two areas: Transport and the Environment



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Transport

The Council should consider:

- 1) Introducing a scheme to look at reducing the pollution along Crowthorne High Street.
- 2) Continuing to reduce traffic speeds in heavily urban areas and outside schools.
- 3) Introducing measures to stop idling of vehicles in high streets and outside schools, with proper enforcement measures.



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Transport cont.

- 4) Evaluating use of car sharing schemes in the borough and consider how to encourage uptake amongst residents.
- 5) Setting a target for the Council's fleet to go all electric.
- 6) Working with companies to include electric charging points in lamp posts.
- 7) Continue to make Bracknell a more 'cycle friendly' borough by extending cycle lanes and ensuring adequate and safe cycle storage.



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Environment

The Council should consider:

- 1) Improving monitoring of nitrogen dioxide pollution levels throughout the borough, with a view to reducing carbon footprint.
- 2) Developing an action plan to phase out single use plastics across Council activities i.e. in parks/markets/events.
- 3) Increasing the Council's recycling rates by increasing and raising awareness of battery and printer cartridge recycling points and considering glass curb side collection.
- 4) Introducing more Photo Voltaic Cells to reduce the reliance on the grid.



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Environment cont.

- 5) Building a Bio Mass plant to convert waste into energy.
- 6) Introducing a no plastic week and supply a mobile exhibition to influence public opinion on waste and recycling.
- 7) Introducing water fountains in town centres.
- 8) Influencing the public to purchase water purifiers.
- 9) Influencing food outlets to switch to bio-degradable materials if they have not already done so.



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Environment cont.

- 10) Transforming council buildings and schools to be better insulated and switch to 'greener' energies to help achieve carbon neutrality.
- 11) Continuing to lobby central government to bring about new building regulations.
- 12) Evaluate 'plant a tree' campaign in the borough to see if it is worth while introducing this idea again.
- 13) Evaluate number of residents using grants for home insulation and explore alternative ways to promote take-up.



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What next?

- Listen to the experts and climate change advocates
- Scrutinise draft Climate Change Strategy
- Agree the scope for the Review focusing on how the Council, its partners and private companies in the borough can work towards goals that will help the Council to achieve its aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2050.



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