



Email: committeeservices@horsham.gov.uk
Direct line: 01403 215465

Environment & Rural Affairs Policy Development Advisory Group

Monday, 13th March, 2023 at 5.30 pm

Via Remote Access

The Access to Information Procedure Rules are not applicable to Policy Development Advisory Groups and members of the public may not attend. Members of the Council who are not members of the Policy Development Advisory Group may attend and may speak, both at the discretion of the Chairman and subject to providing advance written notification to the Chairman of the meeting and committeeservices@horsham.gov.uk

Councillors:

Josh Potts (Chairman)	Bob Platt
Paul Clarke	Sam Raby
Joan Grech	Kate Rowbottom
Gordon Lindsay	Clive Trott
John Milne	Diana van der Klugt
Roger Noel	

You are summoned to the meeting to transact the following business

Jane Eaton
Chief Executive

Agenda

	Page No.
1. Apologies for absence	
2. Notes of previous meeting	3 - 4
To receive the notes of the meeting held on 22 nd November 2022	
To receive the following items relating to the policy development process:	
3. Discussion on the draft Climate Change Action Strategy and Plan for the Horsham District	5 - 26
To receive a presentation from the Environmental Coordination Manager and discuss the draft strategy and plan.	
4. Forward Plan extract for the Environment & Rural Affairs Portfolio	27 - 30
To note the Forward Plan extract for the Environment & Rural Affairs portfolio	

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Environment & Rural Affairs Policy Development Advisory Group
22 NOVEMBER 2022

Present: Councillors: James Wright (Chairman), Paul Clarke, Joan Grech, Gordon Lindsay, John Milne, Bob Platt, Sam Raby, Kate Rowbottom and Diana van der Klugt

Apologies: Councillors: Roger Noel and Clive Trott

14 **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the previous meeting held on 27 September were received.

15 **DEVELOPMENT OF A LOW CARBON PLAN FOR THE DISTRICT**

The Environmental Coordination Manager gave a presentation on the Council's Low Carbon Strategy. The strategy would include an Action Plan specific to Horsham District to drive its carbon-neutral ambition.

Baseline analysis had already taken place, which showed over 50% of the district's emissions emerge from buildings, and one third were associated with transport. It was noted that land-use was a net sink for carbon emissions. Whilst industrial and waste processes both had significantly lower emissions compared to buildings and transport, they were higher than the UK median.

Following interviews with stakeholders and research, it was anticipated that the strategy would include a number of interventions including: educational and behavioural change programmes; advice and support for residents and landlords regarding retrofitting existing homes; steps to help build a more sustainable transport network; and increasing renewable energy generation through partnerships.

Members noted the current timeframe for producing the draft Low Carbon Strategy and Action Plan, which would be considered at a future Cabinet meeting.

16 **CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLANNING FOR PARISH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCILS**

The Environmental Coordination Manager briefed Members on climate change action planning for Parish and Neighbourhood Councils. Workshops had been held, including an all-day session on 20 October where 27 delegates from 20 Councils attended.

The workshops would encourage Parish and Neighbourhood Councils to develop their own action plans, with support from HDC and the Horsham Association of Local Councils (HALC). They would also be provided with a resource pack to help them with ideas on communication and fundraising.

17 **UPDATE ON WILDER HORSHAM DISTRICT**

The Environmental Coordination Manager gave an update on the Wilder Horsham District Project. A key focus was to give support for the River Adur and River Arun, both of which needed enhancing. External funding had already been secured to develop projects along part of the River Adur over the next two years.

The Group were also briefed on farm cluster groups, which allowed farmers to work together to benefit, for example, soil and water quality and wildlife enhancement. Possible sources of funding, including the Government's Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund, were noted. The Upper Adur Farm Cluster included around 37 farmers, and work was underway to establish a group for the Upper Arun area.

Members were briefed on the importance of urban areas, in particular Horsham Town, in providing the Nature Recovery Network across the district. Sites in Horsham Town had been surveyed and steps were being taken by the Parks & Countryside Team to enhance Council-owned land. Officers were meeting voluntary groups to discuss how they can support the project.

18 **FORWARD PLAN EXTRACT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT & RURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**

The extract was noted.

The meeting closed at 7.00 pm having commenced at 5.30 pm

CHAIRMAN

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**Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham,
West Sussex RH12 1RL**

FORWARD PLAN – Environment & Rural Affairs portfolio

This notice sets out details of key decisions that the Cabinet or a Cabinet Member intend to make, and gives 28 days' notice of the decision under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. The notice may also include details of other decisions the Council intends to make.

The reports and any background documents that have been used to inform the decisions will be available on the Council's website (www.horsham.gov.uk) or by contacting Committee Services at the Council Offices.

Whilst the majority of the Council's business will be open to the public, there will be occasions when the business to be considered contains confidential, commercially sensitive or personal information. This is formal notice under the 2012 Regulations that part or all of the reports on the decisions referred to in the schedule may be private because they contain exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

If you wish to make representations about why part or all of the papers should be open to the public, please contact Committee Services at least 10 working days before the date on which the decision is to be taken.

If you wish to make representations to the Cabinet or Cabinet Member about the proposed decisions, please contact Committee Services to make your request.

Please note that the decision date given in this notice may be subject to change.

To contact Committee Services:

E-mail: : committeeservices@horsham.gov.uk

Tel: 01403 215123

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What is a Key Decision?

A key decision is an executive decision which, is likely –

- (i) to involve expenditure or savings of £250,000 or more as well as otherwise being significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (ii) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the District.

	Subject and Date of Policy Development Advisory Group for consultation	Decision Taker	Date(s) of decision	Is all or part of this item likely to be dealt with in private	Contact Officer Cabinet Member (NB include name, title and email address)
1.	Draft Climate Change Action Strategy and Plan	Cabinet	23 Mar 2023	Open	Director of Communities (paul.anderson@horsham.gov.uk) Cabinet Member for the Environment and Rural Affairs (Councillor Josh Potts)

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