

Work Programme Suggestion

Name Tony Bevis

Proposed Scope/ Focus of Review

The city of Utrecht has introduced many innovative schemes to improve the quality of life in its city, these are principally Micro-Initiatives aimed at improving air quality by using plants to capture Carbon Dioxide, dust and other pollutants, at the same time making the city more pleasant to live in by greening the townscape.

See for instance [Utrecht rooftops to be 'greened' with plants and mosses in new plan | Netherlands | The Guardian](#)

[Localising-the-SDGs-in-Utrecht-.pdf \(local2030.org\)](#)

Your rationale for selection

Horsham are partnering with Sussex Wildlife Trust in ambitious large scale rewilding projects which have the potential to be transformative. Whilst there are initiatives to encourage wildlife, particularly Warnham Nature Reserve and Chesworth Farm, in the urban context, there should be opportunities to introduce micro-interventions in Horsham Town and also in the market towns and villages.

Horsham District has several air quality hot spots, particularly Cowfold, Storrington and parts of the Horsham town centre, part of this study should be to examine the paper evidence and carry out prototype interventions to understand the effectiveness of micro-interventions on air quality

As part of its recognition of a climate emergency, Horsham is also committed to reduce carbon emissions throughout the district although they do not pretend to be massively significant, micro-interventions can, if the evidence shows this to be the case, improve air quality, they are also a very public statement which hopefully will encourage debate and be a popular initiative with the children of the district.

Evidence

Desired Outcomes/ Objectives/Possible terms of reference

The outcome of this work programme will be to produce a set of evidence on the effectiveness of micro-interventions using plants

Assuming the evidence supports this, a set of micro initiatives to be deployed across the district with a measure and monitor environment together with estimated costing

A programme to encourage individuals and groups to either sponsor further micro-initiatives or undertake their own alongside and education support programme.

Identify sources of funding from outside HDC

Identify other related small scale initiatives such as micro- generation of electricity, water conservation and higher quality house building which could feed off this Task and Finish study as studies in their own right.

Objective

The key objective is to verify the viability of using micro-initiatives and, if proven, to adopt them as part of the District's carbon reduction tool kit.

By co-opting outside green champions, develop stronger links between HDC and activists and encourage understanding of each other's perspective

Terms of reference

Recruit a Task and Finish Group to include green champions from outside HDC

Study what has been achieved in Utrecht and to set up dialogue with Utrecht

Devise measures of the effectiveness of micro-intervention

Critically examine data from Utrecht's programme

Run prototype initiatives

If warranted to recommend pilot schemes and a programme of scaling those up

Incorporate a Horsham biased methodology into the Corporate Plan