

## Agenda Item 6

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Claire Malcomson, Cabinet Member for Environment
<b>Strategic Leadership Team Lead Officer</b>	Paul Anderson, Executive Head of Service (Resources)
<b>Author</b>	Paul Anderson
<b>Telephone</b>	01306 870613
<b>Email</b>	Paul.anderson@molevalley.gov.uk
<b>Date</b>	3 December 2019
<b>Ward (s) affected</b>	All

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Climate Change Emergency</b>
<b>Recommendation</b>	That Council notes the progress being made following the declaration of the Climate Change Emergency.
<b>Council Strategy Priority Outcomes</b>	Acting Sustainably: Meeting the needs of the present without compromising future generations requires responsible decision-making and innovation.  Work towards making MVDC and our contractors carbon neutral
<b>Council has the authority to determine the Recommendations.</b>	

### 1.0 Background/Introduction

1.1 At the Extraordinary meeting held on 18 June 2019, Council resolved to:

1. Declare a Climate Emergency.
2. Pledge to make Mole Valley District Council and its contractors carbon neutral by 2030, or earlier if possible, taking into account both production and consumption emissions.
3. Lobby Surrey County Council and the Government to provide resources that will make possible the 2030 target date set by scientists for total carbon neutrality.
4. Work cross-party within Mole Valley District Council, and with local businesses, land owners, community organisations and residents to make a positively beneficial impact on the environment and biodiversity in the District.
5. Place climate change on agendas to be discussed at appropriate committees - to build strategies and action plans with timescales.
6. Report actions undertaken to address this emergency to Council twice a year and inform Council of planned actions for the next period.

7. Use these actions to help create jobs and a stronger community, along with increased well-being and a sustainable future.

1.2 This report provides Council with an update on actions in the last six months, and sets out the plans for the next six months. It is planned that progress reports will be considered by Council in June and December each year. The report summarises progress made in:

- Revising the Council Strategy and Annual Plan
- Measuring MVDC's Carbon Footprint
- Building management capacity
- Establishing the Mole Valley Environment Forum
- Progressing the Refill Scheme
- Water Bottle Refill Stations
- Working with Surrey County Council
- Eliminating Single Use Plastics from Pippbrook

## **2.0 Summary of Progress**

### **2.1 Revising the Council Strategy and Annual Plan**

The Council Strategy and Annual Plan set out MVDC's key priorities and workstreams. Following the declaration of the Climate Change Emergency by Council in June 2018, it was important that both documents were revised to reflect the ambitions of the new Administration, with a specific focus on Climate Change.

At its meeting on 8 October, Council agreed an amendment to the Council Strategy, to include a specific reference to the Climate Change Emergency "Work towards making MVDC and our contractors carbon neutral". At the same meeting, funding was agreed to enable work to be undertaken to measure MVDC's carbon footprint.

Following the Council meeting, at its meeting on 22 October, Cabinet approved a number of updates to the 2019/20 Annual Plan. There were a number of additions that would lead to improvements to the local environment, however the two additions with specific reference to the Climate Change Emergency were:

- Establish an Environment Forum to bring together key organisations across Mole Valley
- Develop a Climate Change Strategy and delivery plan

### **2.2 Measuring MVDC's Carbon Footprint**

Following the Council decision to provide funding to calculate MVDC's carbon footprint, the Carbon Trust were commissioned to undertake this work. The outcomes of this work were due by the end of November, and a verbal update will be

provided at the meeting.

This work will provide the information which will form the foundations of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

### **2.3 Building management capacity**

The position of Climate Change and Environment Manager has been created. An appointment has been made and the postholder will join MVDC in January. She will initially lead on the development of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and will be responsible for working with colleagues across MVDC to deliver it.

### **2.4 Establishing the Mole Valley Environment Forum**

Although the key focus of the Climate Change Strategy will be around making Mole Valley District Council carbon neutral by 2030, it is recognised that MVDC has a role as a community leader, to work with partners and residents to encourage everybody to reduce their carbon impact. The Mole Valley Environment Forum was established for this purpose. The first meeting was held in October 2019 and was attended by 21 representatives from 15 groups.

The Forum provided an opportunity for people with similar objectives and aims to meet one another, share good ideas and best practice and to identify ways of working together. A number of initiatives were discussed, and in particular, the Forum supported a bid from the Dorking Quakers who have applied to the national Quakers body for funding for a fixed term worker to lead a piece of work in the Mole Valley Community on carbon reduction.

Members of the Forum agreed to develop some joint communication initiatives which will be taken forward in early 2020 with the aim of achieving the maximum impact on residents.

The group will continue to meet on a quarterly basis, with the next meeting scheduled for 29 January 2020.

### **2.5 Progressing the Refill Scheme**

The Mole Valley refill scheme was launched in August 2019 and has been a great success. Public backing for 'Refill Mole Valley' was obtained from Dorking Business Improvement District, Transition Dorking, Surrey Hills Enterprises, Leatherhead & District Countryside Protection Society and SES water.

Promotion of the scheme has continued throughout the autumn, via social media posts and presentations to local groups, including Dorking Town Forum, Transition Bookham, Parish Clerks, Residents Associations and the Leatherhead & District Chamber of Commerce.

As at 25 November, the total number of 'Refill Stations' (i.e. participating businesses) stood at 60.

A series of radio adverts to further promote Refill have been prepared and these are to be aired on Surrey Hills Radio, in early 2020. These will aim to:

- Encourage more businesses to participate in the scheme
- Encourage the public to carry water bottles and use the numerous Refill Stations which are now available
- Recruit volunteers to help promote the scheme.

It is clear that the success of a Refill scheme is enhanced when local groups are actively involved and lead their own local schemes. This has been particularly evident in Bookham, where a member of Transition Bookham volunteered to help with the scheme and obtained 8 sign-ups in the village within two weeks.

## **2.6 Water Bottle Refill Stations**

Two sites have been identified to provide water bottle refill stations in Dorking and Leatherhead. The locations are:

1. St Martins Walk Shopping area, Dorking: the bottle filler will be mounted to the outer wall of the disabled block, close to the main square.
2. The Swan Centre, Leatherhead: the bottle filler will be mounted on a pillar in one of the main squares, close to Costa Coffee and an outside seating area.

SES Water have confirmed that they will be supplying the water and conducting quarterly water quality testing, free of charge. The water dispensed by the bottle fillers will still be metered, so that usage can be monitored and the positive impact of the devices can be quantified (e.g. number of bottles filled and thus not purchased).

Officers are currently engaging with the managing agents for the Shopping Centres, with the goal of obtaining approval for the proposed plans, agreement on a suitable installation date and to open up discussions on a potential launch event.

## **2.7 Working with Surrey County Council**

Surrey County Council, and a number of other Districts/Boroughs have declared Climate Change Emergencies. Officers and Members have started to work together across the County to ensure that we deliver the best outcomes for residents and individual local authorities. Councillor Malcomson has met with Councillor Goodman, SCC Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste to discuss shared ambitions and potential opportunities, and these discussions will continue.

Workshops are being planned through the Surrey Environment Partnership, to identify and define opportunities for joint work, and Members will be updated on these as they progress. The first of these meetings was held on 20 November.

## **2.8 Eliminating Single Use Plastics from Pippbrook**

Work is underway to eliminate the sale and use of single-use plastic products in Pippbrook, by the end December 2019.

The ordering of plastic bottles of drink, plastic cups, plastic cutlery and coffee cup lids have ceased. To compensate for the removal of bottled water from the vending

machine, and to encourage the drinking of tap water (rather than buying bottled water from elsewhere, for example), all MVDC staff have been provided with MVDC branded stainless steel water bottles. A further supply is due in mid December to provide bottles to the Members.

Glasses and metal spoons have been purchased to replace the plastic items which were previously used. Glasses are now used for water during meetings.

There has also been a focus on 'hard to recycle' items. Crisp packet recycling has been introduced with the Grange Centre receiving £2 for every kilogram of crisp packets recycled. Hot drinks pouches, which are used for drinks machines in the meeting rooms, are also being collected for recycling.

Work is now underway to reduce avoidable waste and increase recycling at Dorking Halls. A number of actions have been identified and work is underway to make some positive changes there.

### **3.0 Planned Future Work**

3.1 The key area of focus in the next six months will be around the development of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. The results of the Carbon Trust's work on calculating the Carbon Footprint is fundamental to this, and the outcomes will be used to identify where work is required, to identify actions for the short, medium and long term.

3.2 The Strategy and Action Plan will be developed for consideration by Members during the spring. Some key areas of specific focus will be:

- Re-procuring the Council's energy contracts: The current contracts for gas and electricity expire in September 2020 and initial work is underway to assess the options for future contracts.
- Re-procuring the office cleaning contract – which will have new environmental requirements included within the specification.
- Potential expansion of the Refill scheme.
- A review of MVDC's use of glyphosate in its Grounds Maintenance contract.
- Improved working with Surrey County Council and the other Surrey Districts and Boroughs, through the Surrey Environment Partnership.
- Preparing for other corporate procurements, to ensure that Climate Change is sufficiently addressed as part of both contract specifications and the procurement process

### **Financial Implications**

This is an update report and contains no financial implications. As the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan is developed, the financial implications of that will be considered.

### **Legal Implications**

This is an update report and contains no legal implications. As the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan is developed, the financial implications of that will be considered.

## **Corporate Implications**

### **Monitoring Officer commentary**

The Monitoring Officer is satisfied that there are no specific legal implications for the purposes of this report.

### **S151 Officer commentary**

The S151 Officer confirms that all relevant financial implications have been taken into account.

### **Risk Implications**

There are no risk implications as a direct consequence of this report. As the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan are developed and adopted, there will be risks related to both action and non-action, and these will be considered as part of that process.

### **Equalities Implications**

None

### **Employment and Resource Implications**

There are no implications as a direct consequence of this report. As the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan are developed and adopted, there will be Resource implications, and these will be considered as part of that process and as part of the budget setting timetable.

### **Sustainability Issues**

This report sets out the progress being made following the declaration of the Climate Change Emergency as MVDC develops its Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan to achieve the target of being carbon neutral by 2030.

### **Consultation and Communications**

As MVDC progresses with its work in this area, there will be a need for a range of ongoing communication and engagement with a range of groups and residents. Much of this will be internal, as the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan is developed, although we will also be working with the Environment Forum, partners across Surrey and communicating to residents.

### **Background Papers**

None