

**ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
COUNCILLOR FEEDBACK REPORT FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

**Report to Corporate Policy and Performance Committee – 1 September 2021**

<b>Name of Meeting:</b>	West Sussex County Council's Joint Climate Change Board
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	7 July 2021
<b>Report by:</b>	Councillor Samantha-Jayne Staniforth
<b>Committee:</b>	Corporate Policy and Performance Committee

These are my notes from the Joint Climate Board meeting. Both Philippa Dart, Director of Services, and I attended. I previously attending this as Cabinet Member also.

The Joint Board is a place for Officers and some lead Councillors to go along and listen to what other areas are doing towards their Climate Crisis agenda. There was one other leader there this time, but mainly Officers and a few Councillors. It is not a place for speeches, asking for things or general debate. It is purely to see what others are doing and hopefully helping everyone to work towards the same environmental goals. It can be really informative, and it was great to hear positive things going on in all areas.

So, my notes are just that, notes of what I heard, and of course I am happy to answer any questions.

**Draft West Sussex Transport Plan**

Daniel Lemmings, Transport Manager, Chichester

In 2026 the current plan expires but a bit out of date already so needs reviewing. New plan must support Councils' objectives and be fundable, economic, environmental and include social issues.

The transport network sets out the vision and objectives to include:

- Active travel
- Shared transport
- Rail Strategy
- Access to Gatwick etc

The Vision: carbon neutral, clean air, electric charging, net zero 2050 through electric services.

Planning on less cars on the road with good transport links.

The thematic and area strategies:

Active travel plan such as walking, riding, scooters

Shared transport: buses, mobility services, access network, but priority for congestion. Rail network for long distance connections,

Access to Gatwick, shared transport

Road network Strategy: To improve strategic routes,

Area transport strategies: 8 place-used strategies, new local plans with long and short term strategies

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**Implementation:**

Action plan to include short term actions over next 5 years, which will be reviewed annually and again in full every 5 years. Local plans can then be updated.

Delivery will be dependent on funding, resources and partnership working.

Priority on how things fit with existing policies, and value for money.

Support the implementation by monitoring the direction of travel for direct and local impacts such as environmental.

Consultation will be from 16 July 2021

Adoption of the plan will go to Full Council 18 February 2022 - WSCC

**Questions asked by others:**

**Network rail partnership, how will we influence them in working together?**

We work with transport for the south east so hoping that relationship may help.

**Do you have any specific carbon reductions targets?**

Nothing set yet, as funding still uncertain. We are setting out a direction of travel though.

**When we last heard, Stagecoach was asked if they were getting electric buses. They didn't have any plans. Has this changed?**

Compass and metrobus operators and stagecoach have been asked. Stagecoach have worries over electric not really being the solution for buses. This is seen across the industry and they are more looking at hydrogen. (Hydrogen Sussex group). We think this is the way it will go. Surrey CC are also looking at this.

**The elephant in the room is the pop-up cycle lanes which didn't work that well - mixed reception. How do we take the public with us on this, given cycle lanes are not that popular?**

The approach we have taken is that we will consult early on for active travel and prioritise things that will increase in demand. Routes with most gains. Taking into account the impact. Best value for money routes, feasible and supported by stakeholders. This could be down to political lead. The Shoreham cycle scheme has been more successful which seems to be because they have been talking to Parish Councils and residents and the engagement has taken a lot of time. Focusing on the things with a good level of support is good.

**Vauxhall have opened a new line of electric vehicles, making it more affordable with government funding. How will we get congestion down if people have electric cars still blocking up roads albeit electric ones?**

Not all A roads are strategic, A27 is under pressure of course and we want to address those issues - Strategy states we will improve the efficiency of the routes, rather than making new roads, looking at pinch point junction improvements - some schemes already in the pipeline. Funding for the next 5 years should support this, following more development. Highways England decide how the improvements are delivered. Arundel, Chichester, and Worthing bottle necks are being focused on.

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**Air Quality**

Direction of travel. There are 11 air quality management areas in the County. 2-3 years the improvements in air quality in some areas. Some local authorities are thinking of un-declaring those areas as they are below the national quality standard.

Difficult to make long term judgements as 2020 was not a typical year. Transport plan relates to air quality plans, priority for the next 5 years.

More electric vehicles should mean a fall in levels over the years too.

In Chichester there are 2 showing compliance. Orchard Street and Stockbridge Roundabout. Reasons for this we do not know, but assuming engine technology. There is a plan out for consultation. Midhurst Rumbles Hill is consistency high - although not a busy road, air can't blow away and gets trapped.

**Waste**

Proposal to develop a joint resources and waste plan for West Sussex. They are trying to develop a new joint Strategy, and as the current one is out of date. Overseen by Environmental Directors Group and Strategic Waste Officers Group SWOG.

This is driven by reducing carbon, recycling targets (currently 53%) 55% by 2025, 65% by 2035.

New duties of separating food waste and other recycling materials.

New funding streams – do not know size, but producers of packaging will have to pay for collections of waste packaging.

New Government deposit return scheme, on beverage containers. Which has big knock on effects down the line for collections. We all must work together to align the collections. New review sets out a common vision, agreement over Districts and Boroughs, consistent education, and communication to public. Same plan across all areas if possible.

We want to outline a proposal to the SWOG on 15 July 2021 and draft a more fully worked up scheme for our Climate Board October meeting, linking results from trials across the board.

Public consultation spring 2022 and then implement with a timeframe 2022/23.

**Q&A**

**If we are serious about this, we need to show commitment to waste, Horsham have set up a re-use shop opposite the tip, to try and move towards waste minimisation. Hertfordshire has a re-use shop at every tip placement. Directing waste away from tips.**

This will be picked up at the review for similar strategies

**Food waste led by Government is the most significant change we can make to improve recycling rates. How do we know Districts and Boroughs are looking at this seriously rather than just doing it because of the impending Government guideline?**

The feeling of the Environment Director is that we should work towards all of this, regardless of Government dates, and hopefully implementing sooner.

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**Chichester already separates food waste, how is this qualified as carbon reduction? Arun is doing 321, Worthing only have 140L bins, nervous on the 321 with smaller bins.**

County do not set the service they just advise, the trials are to explore these issues, such as what bin capacity do residents have/need. Then the system implemented will be based on this information gathered.

Carbon impact, food separation - do not count in recycling rates. We need make sure it does as it is used in agriculture etc - but it is the overall waste reduction we need to look at. This is the big gain, even if we need extra resources to collect it.

**321 food trial - Philippa Dart**

Philippa talked about our trial on food and hygiene separation, which is funded by the West Sussex Waste Partnership. Exciting as we have a weekly service still. The trial gives us an opportunity to move forward in line with our climate crisis announcement. We also talked about our subscription green service. The whole project has involved a lot of work in comms, education, etc. We started in May 21, 1500 cross section of housing. Second phase due in September with 300 different properties such as HMOs and flats, in more challenging areas. This has involved massive communication and a project team that meets regularly to assess how it is going and adapting as necessary.

85-88%

High tonnage of food waste, shows food wasted. From the initial outset though, the food starts to dramatically reduce as people see what they are throwing out - behaviour change, realisation of money being wasted too.

Less residual waste as food taken out.

150 people are now using absorbent hygiene service.

Our rates are good for recycling.

Some of the communal flats and bins have not worked as well as hoped and these are being targeted now, adapted, and working better.

Seeing 43% up to maybe 60% food waste.

**What will happen to properties after trial? As Government dates are 2023 to start this.**

No formal decision has been taken yet. Intention is to continue if residents are happy and running smoothly. There is funding available to continue, which is great. If the Government put back dates, we would have to talk about that but assuming it does stay the same WSCC are continuing to fund this.

**Where is the food taken and do we need to prove this collection system is better?**

Yes, we do need to show we are collecting to the same quality standards. Should be easy through Ford MRF?

Material currently goes to anaerobic digester near Basingstoke, as nowhere here that offers this. Long term we need to provide this within the County. Must all work together to make sure it is processed at the same time to make this work successfully.

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**Decarbonising homes, boilers etc. Louise from Crawley, how they plan to do it:**

The paper shows how we are working together to achieve this lower carbon within their housing stock, also maybe relevant to private housing. Crawley still owns most of its social housing. 8,000 properties, working on improving energy via upgrades to boilers, windows etc. "net zero collective" joined the group, discuss renewable energy technology. Heat pumps etc. The plan is to do a large retro fit of the properties. Research into looking at differing types of properties and how they perform and then planning the retro fit. Paper shows how this will be delivered, in a scalable manor creating jobs too. 10 homes differing types were put forward, differing construction fitted with monitoring equipment. Data over 6 months. Just got outcomes, with University of Southampton who crunched all the data.

Looking at carbon savings and costings, making a plan to apply across all the properties.

20,000 estimated average cost per property. Some property types cannot be retro fitted due to construction, cost, decarbonised etc.

Flats with solid wall insulation not always possible as some now been privately bought within the block.

Over next year they will be developing a plan to move forward.

Retro fit grants for private homes, using their research model. They have some funding for training for delivery, as there will need to be lots of people for the retro fitting.

COP26, is an Environmental conference, Glasgow, October this year - International event.

Residents need to know what we are doing as a Council for COP.

Schools, pack launches lunched by PM. Activities are needed for Nov/Dec as part of this. Also, for young people, school leavers.

**Next meeting October to be set.**

Focus on:

Environment Bill (SJS needs to read up on!) and implications.

Biodiversity and Nature Record Networks will be presenting

Sussex Wildlife Trust also joining us.