**Progress Report on the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 2020-21**

Detailed information about the progress that has been made on initiatives outlined in the [Action Plan](https://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/downloads/file/6408/environmental_sustainability_action_plan_2020) for the year 2020/21 is set out in Annex 1 of the [Public Reports Pack for the Executive Committee](https://reigate-banstead.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g1810/Public%20reports%20pack%2018th-Nov-2021%2019.30%20Executive.pdf?T=10) from page 21. Some key elements of this progress are provided below, structured around the four themes within the council’s [Environmental Sustainability Strategy](https://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/downloads/file/6410/environmental_sustainability_strategy_2020).

|  |
| --- |
| **Effective implementation** |
| This section of the Strategy covers ‘cross cutting’ issues such as resourcing, communications, planning and partnership working. Progress in 2020-21 has included:* Establishing a new sustainability team at the Council
* A wide range of communication-related activity, including:
	+ comprehensively updated webpages
	+ Borough News newsletter articles and social media posts about what we are doing as a Council and how residents and businesses can get involved
* New planning guidance on sustainable construction and climate change
* A new Sustainable Business Network and engagement with a wide range of partner organisations including Surrey County Council, the Town and Parish Council, local businesses and community groups
 |
| **Energy & Carbon** |
| This section covers energy efficiency and renewable energy, and low carbon transport. Progress in 2020-21 has included:* The energy the Council purchases is now carbon neutral, through a combination of renewable energy tariffs and offsetting
* 10% of the Council’s vehicle fleet are now electric or hybrid vehicles
* New electric vehicle charging points installed in Horley with plans to install more charging points in Banstead
* Successful joint (Surrey-wide) bids for funding from the Government’s Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery fund which has benefitted 81 of the most energy inefficient homes in the borough at time of writing
* Successful promotion of the Solar Together scheme, with over 800 residents expressing an interest and 273 panels installed at time of writing
* Support for Raven Housing Trust to progress its net-zero plans
* Submission of a bid to the Government’s Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund to upgrade 66 Accent Housing properties and 28 Raven Housing Trust properties
 |
| **Low impact consumption** |
| This section covers waste reduction, water efficiency and responsible sourcing. Progress in 2020-21 has included:* Resuming our flats recycling programme after it was paused due to Covid
* Collecting greater volumes of household waste & recycling, and running campaigns in relation to littering and fly tipping
* Switching our procured stationery so it is more environmentally friendly
* Providing advice on low impact consumption for residents and businesses via our website
 |
| **Natural environment** |
| This section covers tree planting, supporting biodiversity and reducing pollution. Progress in 2020-21 has included:* Planting more trees on our own land, improving areas of soft landscaping and planting native and pollinator species
* Successful joint (Surrey-wide) bid for funding from Defra’s Treescapes Fund to delivery 61 new trees in the borough
* Publishing a community tree planting guide and running workshop sessions to support residents and community groups to plant in their local areas
 |

These are tangible examples of some of the progress that has been made. Alongside this work, the Sustainability Team has supported managers and officers across the Council to understand sustainability and climate change and identify opportunities to make a difference, and to establish processes to assist with reporting. This is work that will continue to ensure that sustainable ways of working become embedded within the Council.