

## **CABINET STATEMENT**

### **CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR RUPERT KYRLE**

The Council's vehicle fleet will be operating on Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel from 22 November. HVO is a sustainable renewable substitute for diesel and entirely made from materials such as used cooking oils and other waste oils, it also does not include any virgin crop. Stopping the use of diesel will reduce our vehicles emissions by 90%, which is great news and will benefit the whole Borough, in providing a greener way of collecting waste, maintaining our open spaces and cleaning our streets.

As a council, we declared a climate emergency in 2019 and set the goal to reach carbon neutrality by 2025, in addition air pollution is the biggest environmental killer in the UK, so in my view it's vital for us to take steps to make the air we breathe cleaner for everyone.

We have recently supported the Climate and Environmental Emergency work by reallocating £250,000 from existing budgets and reserves to support work to audit our buildings to improve their energy efficiency, reduce the carbon impact of developments such as One Horton Heath and roll out the carbon literacy training project to staff.

I'm also pleased to say that the Green Energy Manager, Nigel Fox has now started in September, as too, has Mike Culver, the new Strategy Development Senior Specialist for Environment. Collectively Nigel and Mike will help deliver actions across the CCE programme as we work towards our carbon neutrality targets for the Council and the Borough.