

Cleaner, Greener Spelthorne eNews



February 2025



Welcome to Cleaner, Greener, Spelthorne!

We are excited to introduce our new bi-monthly eNews, Cleaner, Greener Spelthorne, dedicated to keeping you informed about key sustainability issues and initiatives across our Borough. In each edition, you can expect to find:

- **Key sustainability Issues:** Stay updated on the latest environmental challenges and opportunities in Spelthorne

- **GHG reporting:** Learn about our greenhouse gas emissions and the steps we are taking to reduce them
- **Council climate change projects:** Discover the innovative projects we are implementing to combat climate change
- **Community involvement:** Read about climate change projects involving residents and how you can get involved
- **Events and awards:** Get information on upcoming community events and best practice awards
- **Policy impacts:** Understand how national and regional policies affect our area
- **Sustainability announcements:** Keep up with important sustainability news and updates
- **Resources for charities and community groups:** Find key information on grants, public service announcements, and resilience advice

By subscribing to Cleaner, Greener Spelthorne, you will be joining a community committed to making our Borough a more sustainable place to live. Together, we can make a difference!

Sign up today by sending your email address to NetZero@spelthorne.gov.uk

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Introducing Project Horizon: Paving the way to net zero

With just five years remaining to achieve our net-zero target, Spelthorne Borough Council's Climate Change team is excited to announce the launch of **Project Horizon**. This ambitious program is designed to significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions through a coordinated effort across all council departments.

Project Horizon will focus on areas:

- **Zero-carbon fleet:** Transitioning our council vehicles to zero-emission alternatives
- **Insetting tree-planting plan:** Implementing a comprehensive tree-planting strategy to offset carbon emissions
- **Public building decarbonisation:** Upgrading and retrofitting public buildings to enhance energy efficiency and reduce carbon footprints
- **Adaption:** improving resilience to the growing threats posed by climate change

By integrating these initiatives, the Climate Change team aims to make substantial progress in our journey towards a greener, more sustainable future. We believe that **Project Horizon** will be instrumental in helping us achieve our climate goals and create a cleaner, healthier environment for all residents.



New Taxi Policy: Driving Towards a Sustainable Future

The Council has released a new 'Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy' as of 4 December 2024. This new policy demonstrates the Council's commitment to improving air quality and reducing emissions across the borough.

Key changes:

- **From 1 October 2025:** New licenses will only be granted to ULEZ compliant vehicles, with a maximum age of 15 years
- **From 1 October 2028:** New non-wheelchair accessible vehicle licenses will only be granted to zero emissions (electric) vehicles, with no age limit. New wheelchair accessible vehicle licenses will only be granted to ULEZ and/or electric compliant vehicles, with a maximum age of 15 years

Key considerations to ensure a just transition:

- An appropriate time frame for the local taxi industry to make necessary economic and social changes and considerations for their business
- **Continuous improvement:** Recognizing the rapid pace of technological advancements, the Council has committed to continuously reviewing the policy. This ensures that the regulations remain relevant and effective in promoting sustainability.
- **Equity and accessibility:** By setting different standards for wheelchair accessible and non-wheelchair accessible vehicles, the Council ensures that the transition to greener vehicles is equitable and considers the needs of all passengers.

Through these measures, the Council hopes to achieve our sustainability goals for the borough with a just transition that ensures equity for all stakeholders and residents involved in the local taxi industry.

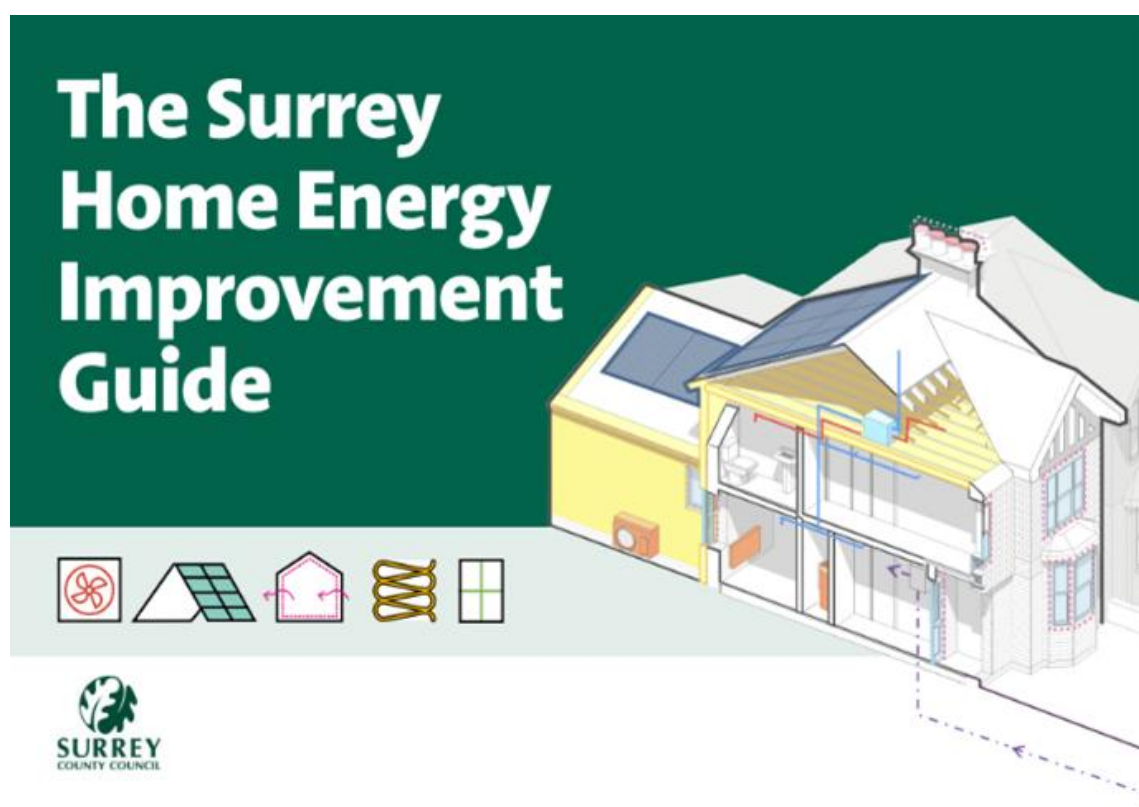
[Download the full Taxi and Private Hire Policy:](#)

Grant grid

Our new grant grid provides a comprehensive overview of available grants, including key details such as eligibility criteria, deadlines, and application requirements.

For all grant application queries contact:

Who For	Grant Name	Funding Amount	Opening Date	Closing Date
Community	Energy Efficiency Sharematch (Crowdfunder) of the Environment and Countryside (Nineveh Charitable Trust)	Share of 250,000	Open	31st Mar 2025
Community	Funding for community-led sustainability projects (Stobart Sustainability Fund)	Unsure	Open	Indefinite
Community	Free trees for schools and communities	Unsure	Open	Indefinite
Community	Support Community and Environmental projects (Veol)	Up to 420 saplings	Open	13th Jan 2025
Community	The Community Ownership Fund	75,000	Open	7th Jan 2025
Community	The Community Ownership Fund	250,000	Open	31st Mar 2025
Community	Energy Resilience Fund	25,000 - 250000	Open	Indefinite



Surrey Home Improvement Guide

Surrey have released a fantastic new Home Energy Improvement Guide. This comprehensive resource is designed to help our residents upgrade their homes

with energy-saving measures, aligning with our commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

What's inside: The guide offers tailored recommendations for various housing types commonly found in our borough, including terraced, semi-detached, and detached homes. It covers a range of energy-saving measures, from simple upgrades like draught-proofing to more extensive retrofits such as installing solar panels and heat pump systems.

Please find the document with this link: [The Surrey Home Energy Improvement Guide](#)



Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: What It means for Spelthorne residents

In December 2024 the UK government set out the 'Clean Power 2030 Action Plan' which is a bold vision for a clean, sustainable energy future. This plan aims to transition the country to a clean power system by 2030, addressing three major challenges: maintaining a secure and affordable energy supply, creating new industries and investments, and protecting the environment from the most damaging effects of climate change.

Key elements of the Plan:

- **Decarbonisation of the Power Sector:** The plan focuses on accelerating the deployment of low-carbon energy sources, including wind, solar, and nuclear power
- **Infrastructure development:** Significant investments will be made in upgrading the national grid and energy storage systems to support the increased use of renewable energy
- **Energy efficiency:** The plan includes measures to improve energy efficiency in homes and businesses, reducing overall energy demand¹

Implications for Spelthorne residents:

- **Lower energy bills:** As the plan aims to reduce reliance on volatile fossil fuel markets, residents can expect more stable and potentially lower energy bills in the long term
- **Job Creation:** The transition to clean energy will create new job opportunities in the renewable energy sector, benefiting the local economy.
- **Support for home upgrades:** Residents will have access to grants and incentives for making their homes more energy-efficient, such as installing insulation, heat pumps, and solar panels
- **Community involvement:** The plan encourages community-led renewable energy projects, providing opportunities for residents to get involved in local sustainability initiatives.

By embracing the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan, Spelthorne can look forward to a cleaner, greener future with numerous benefits for its residents.

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