Principal Sustainability Officer Comments

Application No	APP/26/00318
Address	Saffron House, 6 South Street, Emsworth, PO10 7EH
Development	Proposed installation of Solar Panels and Air Source Heat Pump
Case Officer	TF
Comments By	EC
Date of Comments	28th October 2026

Climate Change and Sustainability considerations are included in the below policies of the adopted local plan and within the Councils Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

The Council adopted its Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in 2024 and has ambitious goals to be a net zero borough by 2045 and to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 68% by 2030.

The council declared a climate emergency in November 2024 acknowledging the need and transformative action in response to the climate crisis and in 2025 the authority declared a nature emergency. Therefore, weight should be given to applications aiming to encourage the installation of sustainable and low carbon technologies and support the removal/reduction of greenhouse gas emissions being produced.

Within the Councils adopted Local Plan (Core Strategy) the following policies are relevant

- CS13- Green Infrastructure
- CS14- Efficient use of resources

National and Local Planning Policy

Chapter 5 of the National Planning Policy Framework (August 2026) outlines under CC1 that development plans must support the transition to net zero by 2050 in line with the Climate Change Act 2008. Spatial strategies should help achieve radical greenhouse gas reductions, supported by optional carbon assessments for development options.

Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

The Councils Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan is striving to achieve a 68% reduction in emissions by 2030 with net zero targets agreed for the authority by 2035 and for the borough by 2045. Building sustainable development within the Borough is significantly important for achieving these targets.

The application proposes to install a number of solar panels to the rear roof slope which are to be finished in a dark material and designed to reduce reflectivity and glare. The applicant has submitted specifications regarding the panels from JA Solar JAM54D41 LR outlining the appearance and functionality of the panels. Further to this an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) is proposed with specifications outlined within the documentation submitted.

Therefore, as the scheme is proposing to enhance its renewable energy provision and move the development away from a reliance of fossil fuels it is considered that the development proposal should be supported.

Conclusion:

The proposal is seeking to decarbonise Saffron House and move it's reliance of energy over to renewable sources and away from fossil fuels. The proposal is therefore considered to directly support the aims outlined within the Councils Climate Strategy and the guidance given within the NPPF and should be supported.