SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

DATE:  27 SEPTEMBER 2011

REPORT OF:  N/A

LEAD OFFICER:  HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

SUBJECT:  LEADER/DEPUTY LEADER/CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST CABINET MEETING

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

To note any delegated decisions taken by the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members since the last meeting of the Cabinet.

DETAILS:

1. The Leader has delegated responsibility for certain executive functions to the Deputy Leader and individual Cabinet Members, and reserved some functions to himself. These are set out in Table 2 in the Council’s Scheme of Delegation.

2. Delegated decisions are scheduled to be taken on a monthly basis and will be reported to the next available Cabinet meeting for information.

3. The decisions listed in the recommendation below have been taken under delegated authority since the last Cabinet meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Cabinet notes the following decisions taken by the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members since the report to the last meeting of the Cabinet:

(i) WOKING LIBRARY: RELEASE OF THE ROTUNDA AS PART OF THE TOWN CENTRE RE-DEVELOPMENT

RESOLVED that:

1. An Agreement be entered into with Peacocks Ltd and Woking Borough Council whereby Peacocks Ltd is permitted access to occupy the rotunda part of the current Library to carry out the works to create a new restaurant and associated alterations to the library on the ground floor.

2. The County Council not surrender its lease until developer works to the library and café are completed to a satisfactory standard.

3. On completion of the works to the ground floor, the County Council:
(a) Enter into a Deed of Surrender with Peacocks Ltd in respect of the County Council's current lease and to simultaneously,

(b) Take a new lease from Peacocks Ltd of the re-modelled library on the ground floor of the Peacocks Centre for a term expiring on 20 March 2119, at a peppercorn per annum (if demanded) and otherwise on agreed terms and conditions.

(c) Take a new sub lease from Woking Borough Council in respect of the first floor offices above the Library for a term of years from the date of the new lease, and expiring on 17 March 2119 at a peppercorn per annum (if demanded) and otherwise subject to agreed terms and conditions.

4. That Estates Planning and Management be allowed to let a building contract for refurbishment of the library spaces following a robust procurement exercise.

Reasons for decision

- To allow the library service to benefit from an opportunity to modernise the County’s biggest library at the developer’s cost and to subsequently take advantage of the potentially increased footfall which the new town centre may offer.
- To ensure that the library is not left “homeless” during the course of the development.
- To work with Woking Borough Council in re-vitalising Woking Town Centre by offering modern library facilities.

(Decision of Cabinet Member for Change and Efficiency - 19 August 2011)

(ii) FUNDING AGREEMENT 2011/12 BETWEEN SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL AND SURREY CARE ASSOCIATION.

That the request to award grant funding to the Surrey Care Association for the financial year 2011/12 be approved and the continued work to drive value through benchmarking and aligning Surrey Care Association's activities to the Adult Social Care Directorate Strategy be endorsed.

Reasons for decision

Core funding will enable Surrey Care Association to continue its activities which will in turn assist with a number of Adult Social Care Implementation Programme Streams.

(Decision of Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health – 14 September 2011)

(iii) NURTURE GROUPS – SEN CAPITAL STRATEGY

That the release of capital funding, as set out in Annex 1 to the submitted report, be approved.
That projects be approved to proceed to the next stage e.g. detailed drawings and design, planning permissions and to tender for contractors.
Reasons for decision

The proposals deliver value for money and are fundamental to the SEN strategy approved by the Cabinet in January 2010 and by Investment Panel in Aug 2011.

(Decision of Cabinet Member for Change and Efficiency – 14 September 2011)

(iv) APPROVAL TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF CLEANING MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT VIA SUSSEX CLEANING MATERIALS CONSORTIUM FRAMEWORK

That a call off contract be approved for the provision of Cleaning Materials and Equipment to the company detailed in the report, to commence on 7 November 2011, for a period of two years.

Reasons for decision

The existing contract will expire on 7 November 2011. A full tender process, in compliance with the requirement of EU Procurement Legislation has been completed by Sussex Cleaning Materials Consortium.

The recommendations in the report have been shown to provide best value for money for the Council following a thorough evaluation process.

(Decision of Cabinet Member for Change and Efficiency – 14 September 2011)

(v) PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS – DISPOSAL OF THE OLD OBSERVATORY, ABINGER BOTTOM

That the sale of the Old Observatory to Mr Barrack for a sum as specified in the submitted report, be approved.

Reasons for decision

To expedite the sale of a property no longer required for service reasons and to reduce the cost of managing an empty property.

(Decision of Cabinet Member for Change and Efficiency – 14 September 2011)

(vi) PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF THREE PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN CAMBERLEY

That the following proposals, as set out below, be approved:

- Camberley Infant and Nursery School will close as a separate school on 31 August 2012 and become part of the amalgamated community primary school
  - all children attending Camberley Infant will then be on roll at the new amalgamated community primary school
- The Watchetts Junior School will close as a separate school on 31 August 2012 and become part of the amalgamated community primary school
- all children attending Watchetts children will then be on roll at the
  new amalgamated community primary school
- Bristow Infant and Nursery School will expand on 1 September 2012 to
  become a split site community primary school that will include the existing
  Camberley Infant and Nursery School and The Watchetts Junior School
- the Infant Published Admission Number (PAN) of the new school will be
  110, with
  - 50 pupils at the Bristow site
  - 60 pupils at the Camberley Infant site
- the normal Surrey admissions policy will operate, with the tie-breaker for
  allocation to each site within each category will be the straight line
  distance from the child’s home to the site:
  - up to 50 nearest children to the Bristow site will attend there
  - up to 60 nearest children to the Camberley Infant site will attend
    there
- the new primary school will have no separate junior PAN
  - infant pupils attending the Bristow site and the Camberley Infant site
    will automatically move on to junior places in the new primary school
    unless parents/carers choose to apply for a place at another school
    (transfer forms will not be automatically sent out to them)

The Children’s Centre would continue to operate on the Bristow Site, which
would become one of the sites of the newly amalgamated Primary School.
All three current sites will remain in use, catering for the same age groups as
they do now.
The Amalgamation Committee, which has full powers delegated to it to act on
behalf of the governing bodies of the three schools, will make decisions on
behalf of the governing bodies in order to manage all aspects of the formation
of the community primary school through the amalgamation of the three
schools.

Reasons for decision

Provision of sustainable, viable primary education will be of benefit to the
children and young people in the area served by the schools, leading to
certainty of progression through school and improved performance.

(Decision of Cabinet Member for Children and Learning – 14 September 2011)

(vii) PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL PLACES AND CREATION OF PRIMARY
PROVISION IN WALTON AND HERSHAM

That the publication of separate public notices indicating the Local Authority’s
intentions to create primary provision at each of the three schools be
approved in the following way:

- Bell Farm Junior School to expand and extend its age-range from 7-11 to
  4-11 from 2012.
- Burhill Community Infant School to expand and extend its age-range from
  3-7 to 3-11 from 2014.
- Grovelands School to expand and extend its age-range from 3-7 to 3-11
  from 2014.

Reasons for decision
These proposals meet the demand for additional places in the Walton and Hersham area in the future.

There is clear demand from parents of pupils in the local area for these proposals. The consultation responses demonstrate the support that exists in the local community.

These proposals are in line with the Council’s overarching strategy for primary all through provision.

(Decision of Cabinet Member for Children and Learning – 14 September 2011)

(viii) OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT IN NURSERY CLASSES AT MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

That a budget of £535k be allocated from the Extended Services Capital grant to maintained nursery settings, who have been unable to access previous funding streams, to spend on improvements to their play settings.

Reason for decision

To enable the continued improvement of quality provision in Early Years Education and Childcare settings across Surrey, by improving practice and the learning and care environment.

(Decision of Cabinet Member for Children and Learning – 14 September 2011)

(ix) PROCEDURAL MATTERS: PETITION ON THE MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

That the response attached at Appendix 1 be agreed.

Reason for decision

To respond to the petition.

(Decision of Deputy Leader on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and the 2012 Games – 14 September 2011)

(x) REQUEST TO ADOPT NEW ROAD: TRINGHAM CLOSE, KNAPHILL, WOKING

That, under the Scheme of Delegation and in line with Surrey County Council’s previous road adoption policy, the adoption of the road set out in Annex 1 of the submitted report be authorised.

Reason for decision

The request fully meets Surrey County Council’s previous policy on road adoption.

(Decision of Cabinet Member for Transport – 14 September 2011)
(xi) **LAND AT MARSHALLS ROUNDBOUGHT, WALTON BRIDGE ROAD, SHEPPERTON**

That officers be authorised to pursue the stopping up of the highway rights over land at Marshalls Roundabout, Walton Bridge Road, Shepperton identified on the plan attached to the report.

**Reason for decision**

The highway land is now considered unnecessary as highway and is surplus to highway requirements. As such a S116 application may be progressed to avoid further legal action concerning the ownership and highway status of the land.

(Decision of Cabinet Member for Transport – 14 September 2011)

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

To inform the Cabinet of decisions taken by Members under delegated authority.

**Contact Officer:** Anne Gowing, Cabinet Committee Manager, 020 8541 9938

**Sources/background papers:** Agenda and decision sheets from the Cabinet Member, Deputy Leader and Leader meetings are published on the Council’s website.
CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND 2012 GAMES

RESPONSE TO PETITION CONCERNING THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF THE MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

THE PETITION

"We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to rethink the proposed closure of the mobile library service."

More details: The Mobile Library Service provides a vital service to remote areas and an important service to many elderly and disabled residents.

Surrey County Council's own figures show nearly a quarter of mobile library users have difficulties getting about, 15% have hearing difficulties and 11% have sight problems. Also children and families without a car will suffer if the Mobile Library was axed.

Closing the Mobile Library Service will have a serious impact on these Surrey residents, meaning they are unable to access a service that has been at the heart of their communities for many years.

With more promotion and publicity this service could be revitalised instead of closing it for a short term financial gain, leading to long term consequences in our local communities.

RESPONSE

In 2009/10 the total cost of running the five public access mobile libraries plus the Residential Homes Service vehicle was £446,000 per annum, of which £439,000 were direct library service costs and £7,000 were corporate costs including insurance and parking.

The total mobile library registered membership (as at December 2010) was 3,906 people (less than 0.4% of the resident population) Active membership- people actually using the service- was around 2,500 people. Survey results suggest that 88% of users are over 65 and entitled to free bus passes. From the same survey 20% said they considered they had difficulty in getting about.

Whilst the service is highly popular among its users, the use of the service had been in a long decline, total monthly issues between April and June 2010 showing a 14.6% decrease on the same period in 2009, and the service was failing to meet minimum performance standards of ten book issues per visit. The analysis by the Libraries Public Value Review suggested that only 2.2% of stops are currently generating the recommended levels of book issues per minute and almost 40% of stops are generating fewer than 10 issues per stop. So the service, despite being valued by its small number of users, was not cost effective to run and suffering a steep and long term decline in use.

The recommendation of the Libraries Public Value Review was that the mobile library service should close and that the library service should consult with the active users on alternative services which could be provided to assist them to access library services if they wished.
Questionnaires have been sent to all registered members, asking them how they used the service and also giving them the opportunity to ask to receive the library service in an alternative way if they were not able to get to a static library themselves.

Forms were sent out to 3760 people and 1612 replies were received. Of these replies, 918 people requested one of the options. All those who requested a housebound service have been contacted confirming a service will be provided for them, and those who requested more than one option have been contacted to discuss their choice in more detail.

The service has developed a variety of alternative services to suit the needs of the current service users, and to be sustainable to meet future demand. These include Books on Wheels service delivered by WRVS in partnership with the Library service, community transport to travel to a static library, and e-readers on load to customers to enable them to download books from the library website, supported by volunteers if necessary. We are also receiving interest for some areas in setting up a small community volunteer run library and these are being investigated.

In the light of this progress and positive response, Surrey County Council will continue with its plan to close the mobile library service on 30 September and provide a range of targeted alternative individual services to enable people who cannot access a static library to receive library services.

David Hodge
Deputy Leader of the Council
On behalf of
Denise Saliagopoulos
Cabinet Member for Community Services and 2012 Games
14 September 2011