

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 21 JULY 2009**

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of the County Council held at the County Hall, Kingston upon Thames on Tuesday 21 July 2009 commencing at 10:00am, the Council being constituted as follows:

Mr Marlow – Chairman  
Mrs Sealy – Vice-Chairman

	Mr Agarwal		Mr Ivison
*	Mr Amin		Mrs King
	Mrs Angell		Mr Kington
	Mr Barker OBE		Mr Lake
	Mr Beardsmore		Mr Lambell
	Mr Bennison		Mrs Lay
	Mrs Bowes		Ms Le Gal
	Mr Brett-Warburton		Mr Lord
	Mr Butcher	*	Mr MacLeod
	Mr Carasco		Mr Mallett
	Mr Chapman		Mrs Marks
	Mrs Clack		Mr Martin
	Mrs Coleman		Mrs Mason
	Mrs Compton		Mrs Moseley
	Mr Cooksey		Mr Munro
	Mr Cooper		Mr Nevins
	Mr Cosser		Mrs Nichols
	Mrs Curran		Mr Norman
	Mr Elias		Mr Orrick
	Mr Ellwood		Mr Phelps-Penry
	Mr Few		Mr Pitt
	Mr Forster		Dr Povey
	Mrs Fraser DL		Mr Renshaw
	Mr Frost		Mr Rooth
*	Mrs Frost		Mrs Ross-Tomlin
	Mr Fuller		Mrs Saliagopoulos
	Mr Furey		Mrs Searle
	Mr Goodwin	*	Mr Skellett CBE
	Mr Gosling		Mrs Smith
	Dr Grant-Duff		Mr Sydney
	Dr Hack		Mr Colin Taylor
	Mr Hall		Mr Roy Taylor
	Mrs Hammond		Mr Keith Taylor
	Mr Harmer		Mr Townsend
	Mr Harrison		Mrs Turner-Stewart
	Ms Heath		Mr Walsh
	Mr Hickman		Mrs Watson
	Mrs Hicks		Mrs White
	Mr Hodge		Mr Wood

\*absent

65/09 **MINUTES (ITEM 1)**

The minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 23 June 2009 were submitted, confirmed and signed.

66/09 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM 2)**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Amin, Mrs Frost, Mr MacLeod and Mr Skellett.

67/09 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (ITEM 3)**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- He invited Mrs Fraser to make a statement in which she clarified her remarks made at the County Council AGM. She said that she supported the Council's Equality and Diversity and Health and Safety Policies and apologised unreservedly if her remarks had caused offence. She assured Members of her on-going commitment to Surrey County Council.
- He congratulated the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service for recently achieving Level 3 of the Equality Standard for Local Government and invited the Cabinet Member for Community Safety to accept the award on behalf of the service.
- He informed Members that Michael Jennings, Assistant Chief Executive was retiring at the end of July 2009, after 25 years of service for Surrey. Members were invited to show their appreciation for his support and dedication to the county.
- Finally, he also said that this was the last meeting for the interim Chief Executive, Michael Frater.

68/09 **DECLARATION OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS (ITEM 4)**

Dr Povey declared a personal interest concerning social care matters in the general debate of the meeting because he was a director of a company that supplies social care to adults in Surrey.

69/09 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (ITEM 5)**

Notice of 14 questions had been received. The questions and replies are attached as Appendix A.

A number of supplementary questions were asked and a summary of the main points is set out below:

**(Q1) Mrs Watson** asked the Leader of the Council, who agreed, that the table of allowances be amended to include the figures set out in the response.

**(Q4) Mr Forster** asked the Leader of the Council when the decision would be made by Surrey County Council on whether to provide funding for the Surrey Save Credit Union and whether that decision would be made public. The Leader responded by stating that any decision would be made in public but to date, this item had not yet been scheduled into the Cabinet's Forward Plan.

**(Q5) Mr Colin Taylor** said that his supplementary questions would be too detailed for Members' Question Time but he asked the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services what lessons he considered that Surrey County Council had learnt from this issue. The Cabinet Member responded by stating that he had not been in post when the previous decisions had been made. However, he stressed the importance of opening negotiations from the same starting point.

**(Q6) Mr Cooksey** said that he was disappointed with the reply to the first part of his question and asked the Leader of the Council what consultation had been undertaken prior to reducing the size of the select committees. The Leader said that Group Leaders had been advised before the decision was made and that he hoped that the reduction would prevent Members from being over stretched and enable high quality scrutiny to be undertaken by each select committee. However, the committee size would be reviewed after six months.

On the second part of his question, Mr Cooksey asked the Leader of the Council when Members would receive a report on the likelihood of webcasting Council meetings. He was advised that the Leader would provide him with a written answer concerning timescale outside the meeting.

**(Q7) Mr Kington** asked the Leader of the Council to ensure that the group set up to examine the Constitution and Corporate Governance would include Members from all political parties plus one newly elected Member. The Leader said that it was important to achieve the right balance for the group and confirmed that it would include Members from other political groups.

**(Q10) Ms Heath** asked the Leader of the Council, and it was agreed, to circulate a copy of his letter to the Chancellor to all Members of the Council.

**(Q11) Mr Kington** said that he considered that Highways engineers needed to actively seek the views of Local Committees prior to making decisions on which secondary roads required precautionary salting. The Leader of the Council said that a report would be presented to Cabinet concerning the winter maintenance programme and that this report could be circulated to local committees.

70/09 **SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY (ITEM 6)**

No questions had been received for the Surrey Police Authority.

71/09 **REPORT OF THE SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY (ITEM 7)**

A written statement on the work of the Surrey Police Authority had been included in the agenda.

72/09 **STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS (ITEM 8)**

There were no statements from Members.

73/09 **ORIGINAL MOTIONS (ITEM 9)**

Under Standing Order 12.3, Mrs Hazel Watson moved the motion standing in her name, which was formally seconded by Mrs Fiona White, as follows:

‘This Council notes that for the 2008/09 financial year the County Council budget planning resulted in an unrealistic budget. This led to significant over and under spends, for example Children, Schools and Families overspent by £14m and the capital budget was underspent by £10.4m.

In view of these problems, this Council agrees that the budget planning and preparation for the 2010/11 Council Budget must be started and completed earlier in the financial year and be improved to make the budget more accurate, realistic and transparent in order to obtain value for money services for Surrey’s residents.’

After the debate on the motion, in which 9 Members spoke, it was put to the vote.

21 Members voted for the motion and 52 Members voted against it. There were 2 abstentions.

Therefore, the motion was lost.

74/09 **REPORT OF THE CABINET (ITEM 10)**

Dr Povey presented the report of the Cabinet’s meeting held on 29 June 2009.

**(1) Statements/updates from Members**

(i) The Leader of the Council made a verbal statement in which he informed Members that:

- David McNulty, the new Chief Executive had started on 13 July 2009.
- He had attended the LGA conference where he had drawn attention to the special incentive packages for the recruitment of social workers to Surrey.
- He had attended his first meeting of the Surrey LGA.
- He had reduced the number of Members on the Surrey Strategic Partnership
- He agreed to circulate to Members a diagram illustrating the relationships between the various organisations / groups in the proposed Governance Arrangements for Regional Strategy in the South East.
- He had signed the Federation of Small Businesses Engagement Accord.
- He had suggested that Local Committee Chairmen could accept questions from local Surrey businesses at their meetings and proposed formalising this arrangement by amending Standing Orders at the next council meeting.

(ii) The Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games regarding the 2012 Games (Appendix B)

(iii) The Cabinet Member for Community Safety also made a verbal statement regarding the swine flu pandemic:

- She drew Members attention to Appendix A in the agenda and then provided a current situation report.
- She said that, nationally, it would be managed through the Department of Health.
- Advice had been issued to all households and most cases would be mild.
- That the UK had moved to the 'treatment' phase on 2 July.
- In Surrey, the situation would be managed through the Emergency Planning Centre. She confirmed that the County Council had a strategy

and that Business Continuity Plans were in place.

- Staff and Members would be kept informed via email and the Council's website.

Members were invited to comment on each of the three statements.

## **(2) Reports for Information / Discussion**

The following report was received and noted:

- Standing up for Surrey – Providing Clear Direction and Strategic Leadership

### **RESOLVED:**

That the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 29 June 2009 be adopted.

75/09

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (ITEM 11)**

The Leader of the Council introduced the report, setting out the amendments to the Constitution and made three minor amendments to the following Cabinet Portfolios:

- Environment, adding in Gypsies and Romanies with Travellers.
- Community Safety, adding in Diversity with Equalities
- Community Services and the 2012 Games – replacing Olympics with 2012 Games.

Mr Harrison and Mr Butcher also requested small amendments. It was agreed to take these outside the meeting and, if required, to bring back the amendments to the next council meeting.

Therefore, it was:

### **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That authority be delegated to the Democratic Services Lead Manager to make the necessary amendments to the Constitution arising from the decisions of the Leader in respect of the appointment of a Cabinet, and to update any other terms and/or structures within the Constitution which are now out of date and do not reflect the current Council structure.
- (2) That the functions delegated to individual Cabinet Members and those retained by the Leader as detailed in Table 2, attached at Annex 1 to the submitted report, be noted.

Item 1

- (3) That authority be delegated to the Head of Legal Services to make the necessary amendments to the Scheme of Delegation arising from the decisions of the Leader to delegate executive functions to individual Cabinet Members and Local Committees/local Members.
- (4) That the Financial Regulations attached at Annex 3, to the submitted report, be adopted.

76/09 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE (ITEM 12)**

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That Mr Simon Edge be appointed as Chairman of the Standards Committee for the 2009/10 Council Year.
- (2) That Ms Karen Heenan be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee for the 2009/10 Council Year.

77/09 **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES (ITEM 13)**

**(a) Standards Committee**

The Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee presented the report of the Standards Committee meeting held on 3 July 2009.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 3 July 2009 be noted.

[The meeting ended at 12.05pm]

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Chairman