

COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 15 JUNE 2010

MINUTES of the meeting of the County Council held at the County Hall, Kingston upon Thames on Tuesday 15 June 2010 commencing at 10:30am, 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 MBE
*	Mr Chapman		Mrs Marks
	Mrs Clack		Mr Martin
	Mrs Coleman		Mrs Mason
	Mrs Compton		Mrs Moseley
	Mr Cooksey	*	Mr Munro
	Mr Cooper	*	Mrs Nichols
	Mr Cosser		Mr Norman
	Mrs Curran		Mr Orrick
*	Mr Elias		Mr Phelps-Penry
	Mr Ellwood		Mr Pitt
	Mr Few		Dr Povey
	Mr Forster		Mr Renshaw
	Mrs Fraser DL		Mr Rooth
	Mr Frost		Mrs Ross-Tomlin
	Mrs Frost		Mrs Saliagopoulos
	Mr Fuller		Mr Samuels
	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 Keith Taylor
	Mrs Hammond		Mr Townsend
	Mr Harmer		Mrs Turner-Stewart
	Mr Harrison		Mr Walsh
*	Ms Heath		Mrs Watson
	Mr Hickman		Mrs White
	Mrs Hicks		Mr Wood
	Mr Hodge		

*absent

54/10 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM 1)**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Amin, Mrs Bowes, Mr Carasco, Mr Chapman, Ms Heath, Mr Lake, Mr Munro (am only), Mrs Nichols, Mrs Smith and Mrs Searle.

55/10 **MINUTES (ITEM 2)**

The Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 11 May 2010 were submitted, confirmed and signed.

56/10 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (ITEM 3)**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- (i) That Denis O'Connor had been awarded a Knighthood in Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Honours List. He also listed other Surrey residents who had received CBEs, OBEs and MBEs, including Mr Ernest Mallett, who was awarded an MBE.
- (ii) That the memorial service for Mr Mike Nevins would take place on Thursday 17 June in Guildford.

57/10 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM 4)**

Mr Rooth declared a personal interest in both Members' Question Time – questions 8 and 13 (item 6) and Statements by Members (item 9) as the Leader of Guildford Borough Council.

58/10 **LEADER'S STATEMENT (ITEM 5)**

The Leader of the Council made a verbal statement, in which he informed Members of the following:

- That it was an exciting time to be involved in both politics and Local Government because it was a 'fast moving' agenda, with almost daily announcements from the new Government.
- The Local Government share of the budget cuts would be in excess of £1 billion. Details of these were starting to emerge.
- There would also be a reduction in revenue funding and the removal of some ring-fenced grant. However, the funding allocated for repairing potholes was guaranteed.
- Capital funding would be reduced by £3.5m and the funding for the new Walton Bridge had been put on hold but the Leader was optimistic that the County Council would receive it in due course.

- Cabinet would be receiving a report, at its 13 July meeting, on the budget implications of the Government's emergency budget.
- That the newly elected Esher MP, Dominic Raab, had made reference to the present 'grant' system and how it affected Surrey County Council (SCC) in his maiden speech.
- He informed Members that he had submitted a motion in SCC's name (with the support of other South East counties / unitaries) to the Local Government General Assembly in July, about the state of the roads.
- The SE7 were also putting a motion to the LGA General Assembly.
- That he had been elected temporary Chairman of South East Strategic Leaders.
- He reassured Members that keeping children safe was one of the top priorities of the council.
- He said that he would be reviewing the bursary scheme set up to help recruiting high calibre social workers.
- He advised Members that he had written to the appropriate Minister to request that the Children's Services Improvement Board was closed down and that its responsibilities were transferred to Cabinet. He also said that an independent expert would be appointed, who would report to him on the progress being made for children and young people.
- That a quality assurance system for all council services be set up within the lifetime of this Administration.
- He expressed a wish that the council become a more transparent organisation and announced that an annual Children and Adults safeguarding report would be published.
- He said that he hoped SCC would promote digital inclusion and advised that the Council would sign up to the national scheme, for which Martha Lane-Fox was the Digital Champion.
- He announced a £8,000 grant for this financial year for the High Sheriff's Youth Crime Prevention Awards.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families was invited to make a statement regarding the Children's Service under this agenda item. (A copy of the statement is attached as Appendix A).

Members had the opportunity to make comments and ask questions in respect of both statements.

59/10 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (ITEM 6)**

Notice of 13 questions had been received. The questions and replies are attached as Appendix B.

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

(Q2) Mrs Sealy said that the reply was not as detailed as she would have liked and asked the Cabinet Member for Environment if she could confirm that the land was definitely parish council land because she believed it was manorial land and may not be registered to a specific owner. She was concerned that, if untreated, the Japanese knotweed could spread to an SSSI site or the highways and urged the council to work with the borough council to control the weed as soon as possible. The Cabinet Member responded by stating that she would re-check the ownership of the land and if it were county council land, action would be taken quickly. She also said that the community gangs were not empowered to deal with this weed, specialist action was required and soil contaminated with Japanese knotweed was subject to Waste Regulations.

(Also, Q2) Mrs Marks stressed the importance of dealing with the problem urgently and asked the Cabinet Member for Environment if consideration had been given to using aphids to control it? The Cabinet Member agreed to look into this option.

(Q3) Mrs White asked the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care for the base figure rather than the percentages given in the response. She also asked what savings had been made on residential care costs since BDR and whether the current contracts were value for money. She accepted the offer of a private briefing with the Cabinet Member on these issues.

(Q4) Mrs Watson said that most of her questions had been answered in the Cabinet Member's statement on Children's Services made earlier in the meeting. However, she asked when would the first report of the independent expert be available and also how many cases were currently unallocated. The Cabinet Member for Children and Families responded by stating that the independent expert had not yet been appointed and on the second point, that she had already given an explanation of unallocated cases in her statement.

(Also, Q4) In response to **Mrs White's** offer to visit Children's Homes, the Cabinet Member for Children and Families said that she would respond outside the meeting.

(Q5) Mr Forster asked the Cabinet Member for Environment if Members of the Cabinet would personally sign up to the 10:10 campaign. The Cabinet Member said that she could not speak for other Cabinet Members. She said that the reasons why the County Council had not signed up had been explored rigorously and the

council was committed to a longer-term programme of carbon emission cuts.

(Q8) Mr Rooth said that the response to his question was not as detailed as he wished and asked for a detailed written answer to the questions he had raised both at Council and at the Change and Efficiency Select Committee. At this point he declared a personal interest as Leader of Guildford Borough Council. He said that this was a long-standing problem for which there was no single solution. He also thanked Mrs Marks for taking the issue up with Surrey Police Authority and thanked Members of the Member Asset Panel, who had visited the site and were fully aware of the issues. The Cabinet Member for Change and Efficiency confirmed that the County Council was committed to resolving this issue but stressed that it was not solely a County Council issue. He confirmed that he would provide a detailed response to Mr Rooth.

(Q9) Mrs Marks asked the Leader of the Council if he could confirm whether similar payments were made to Surrey officers' pension funds. The Leader said that he would respond to her query outside the meeting.

(Q10) Mrs Watson requested that the full response be circulated to all Members. This was agreed by the Leader of the Council.

(Q12) Mr Rooth asked the Leader of the Council why boroughs and districts had not been consulted on the on-street parking proposals. He also asked for a commitment from the County Council that it would continue to fund the Guildford Park and Ride. The Leader responded by stating that his understanding was that consultation had taken place. He also said that due to funding pressures, the council was reviewing the funding arrangements.

(Q13) Mr Rooth requested that all relevant parties were kept informed of developments simultaneously and in the same way. The Cabinet Member for Change and Efficiency said that he would review the communication channels but he also reminded Members that the Member Asset Panel notes were confidential.

60/10 **SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY (ITEM 7)**

No questions had been received for the Surrey Police Authority.

61/10 **REPORT OF THE SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY (ITEM 8)**

A written statement on the work of the Surrey Police Authority had been included in the agenda. The representative of Surrey Police Authority, Mrs Hicks, responded to questions from Mrs Sealy and Mr Harrison in respect of the Operational Policing Review and end of year performance results respectively.

62/10 **STATEMENT BY MEMBERS (ITEM 9)**

There were two statements from Members:

- Mr Rooth on the Hog's Back site, near Guildford (Appendix C)
- Mrs Coleman on recent successes in her Ashford division. (She undertook to email a copy of her statement to Members)

ORIGINAL MOTIONS (ITEM 10)

63/10 **ITEM 10 (i)**

Under Standing Order 12.3, the Council agreed to debate this motion.

Under Standing Order 11, Mr Ian Beardsmore moved the motion standing in his name, which was formally seconded by Mr Cooksey, as follows:

'This Council welcomes the Government's decision to abolish regional spatial strategies. Following this decision, this Council agrees to work with District and Borough Councils in Surrey to ensure that the green belt is protected and that development in the County is in line with the needs and wishes of Surrey residents.'

Dr Lynne Hack proposed an amendment, standing in her name which was formally seconded by Mrs Denise Turner-Stewart, which was to delete 'agrees to' and replace it with 'commends the existing' so that the amended motion read:

'This Council welcomes the Government's decision to abolish regional spatial strategies. Following this decision, this Council commends the existing work with District and Borough Councils in Surrey to ensure that the green belt is protected and that development in the County is in line with the needs and wishes of Surrey residents.'

Mr Beardsmore agreed to accept the amendment and the amended motion was put to the vote and carried.

3 Members spoke on the substantive motion before the motion, as amended, was put to the vote. No Member voted against it and therefore, it was:

RESOLVED:

This Council welcomes the Government's decision to abolish regional spatial strategies. Following this decision, this Council

commends the existing work with District and Borough Councils in Surrey to ensure that the green belt is protected and that development in the County is in line with the needs and wishes of Surrey residents.

64/10 **ITEM 10 (ii)**

Under Standing Order 12.3, the Council decided it wished to hear further before agreeing whether or not to debate this motion.

Mr Colin Taylor made a short statement giving the reasons why the motion should not be referred.

Dr Andrew Povey made a short statement setting out the reasons for referral.

The Council agreed not to debate this motion.

It was:

RESOLVED:

That this motion be referred to the Change and Efficiency Select Committee for consideration. Under Standing Order 12.6, the select committee must report back to the County Council at the earliest possible meeting.

65/10 **REPORT OF THE CABINET (ITEM 11)**

Dr Povey presented the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 18 May and 2 June 2010.

Copies of the minutes from the special meeting of the Cabinet held on 2 June 2010 were circulated to Members on 9 June 2010 and are attached as Appendix D.

(1) Statements / Updates from Cabinet Members

- Cabinet Member for Children and Learning on the Academies Bill
- Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games on Progress on Surrey's Access Channel Strategy and a 2012 update

Copies of all Cabinet Member statements are attached as Appendix E.

(2) Recommendations on Policy Framework Documents

(a) Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2010-11

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety introduced the report. After a short debate in which 3 Members spoke, it was:

RESOLVED:

That the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2010/11, attached at Annex 1 to the submitted report, be approved.

(3) Reports for Information / Discussion

The following reports were received and noted:

- Transition Plan for Services to Children and Young People
- Proposed Changes to Services in Bus Review phase 1 areas and award of contracts for phase 1 network

(Mr Mallett requested that the Leader of the Council look into the change of operator and the use of oyster cards for the 411 bus service. He agreed to ask the Cabinet Member for Transport to respond to him outside the meeting.)

RESOLVED:

That the report of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 18 May and 2 June 2010 be adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned for lunch, part way through the Report of the Cabinet (item 11), at 12.50pm and resumed at 2.00pm with all those present who had been in attendance in the morning session except for Mr Agarwal, Mr Hickman, Mr Gosling, Mr Lambell (from whom apologies were received), Mr Lord, Mr MacLeod, Mrs Moseley, Mr Orrick, Mr Phelps-Penry, Mr Rooth, Mr Sydney, Mr Skellett, Mr Keith Taylor and Mr Townsend.

Mr Munro was present for the afternoon session.

66/10 **APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRMEN
(ITEM 12)**

Nominations had been received from the following Borough/District Councils. It was noted that since the publication of the agenda Mole Valley District Council had confirmed its nomination as Councillor Chris Hunt. The Council was asked to approve the appointments set out below.

LOCAL COMMITTEE	VICE-CHAIRMAN
Elmbridge	Councillor John O'Reilly
Mole Valley	Councillor Chris Hunt
Reigate and Banstead	Councillor Mark Brunt
Woking	Councillor John Kingsbury

RESOLVED:

That the Councillors listed above be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the respective Local Committees for the council year 2010/11.

67/10 **SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL PROGRESS REPORT FOR
DECEMBER 2009 – JUNE 2010 (ITEM 13)**

It was noted that the Chief Executive had attended the Change and Efficiency Select Committee and a Members' seminar to update Members on the Council's progress between December 2009 to June 2010.

After a debate in which 9 Members spoke, it was:

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report of the Chief Executive be noted.
- (2) That the staff of the Council be thanked for the progress made during this year be noted.
- (3) That the Council's support for the actions outlined in the report, to ensure continued progress, be confirmed.

68/10 **AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION – THE EXERCISE OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS (ITEM 14)**

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation in relation to executive functions agreed by the Leader, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.
- (2) That the addition of 'digital inclusion' to the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games be noted.

69/10 **AMENDMENTS TO FINANCIAL REGULATIONS (ITEM 15)**

Mr Few proposed an amendment to paragraph 7 of the report – to add at the end of the paragraph: 'an outturn report at the end of each capital project be produced'.

This was agreed and therefore, it was:

RESOLVED:

That the changes summarised in the submitted report, as amended, and contained in the revised Financial Regulations in Annex 1 to the submitted report (as amended) be approved.

70/10 **PETITION SCHEME (ITEM 16)**

The Chairman informed Members that the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 required all principal councils to provide a facility for electronic petitions and to adopt a scheme for any e-petitions or paper petitions it receives. A draft scheme was set out in Appendix 1, item 16 for consideration.

Mrs Watson, proposed an amendment (which had been emailed to Members and tabled at the meeting – Appendix F). The amendment was formally seconded by Mr Colin Taylor.

After a debate, in which 4 Members spoke, the amendment was put to the vote en bloc, with 12 Members voting for and 41 Members voting against it.

Therefore, the amendment was lost.

Reverting to the original motion, Mr Hodge, seconded by Mr Cosser, proposed an amendment to recommendation (iii) of the report. He proposed the addition of 'by the Change and Efficiency Select Committee' to the end of the sentence.

After a short adjournment, for clarification of who was able to review the Petition Scheme, it was agreed to add 'by the Change and Efficiency Select Committee, with a report back to the County Council for approval'.

Therefore, it was:

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Petition Scheme as set out at Appendix 1, to the submitted report, be approved.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to review the Constitution in light of the agreed petition scheme and report back on any changes required.
- (3) That the effectiveness of the petition scheme be reviewed in 12 months time, by the Change and Efficiency Select Committee, with a report back to the County Council for approval.

71/10 **REPORT OF COMMITTEES (ITEM 17)**

Audit and Governance Committee

The Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee presented the report of the committee, including two small amendments to the wording of the report:

In A2 – Accounts (d): replace 'receive' with 'consider' and also replace 'variations' with 'valuations'.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the following paragraph be added to the Committee's terms of reference:

Accounts

- (d) To consider and approve the Surrey Pension Fund reports on actuarial valuations and employer contributions.
- (2) That the Code of Corporate Governance (Annex 1, to the submitted report) be approved and included in the Council's Constitution to replace the Corporate Governance and Assurance Framework dated 22 July 2009.
- (3) That the report of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee be adopted.

[The meeting ended at 3.05 pm]

Chairman