

COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 14 DECEMBER 2010

MINUTES of the meeting of the County Council held at the County Hall, Kingston upon Thames on Tuesday 14 December 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 Sutcliffe
	Dr Hack	Mr Sydney
	Mr Hall	Mr Colin 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

109/10 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM 1)**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Agarwal, Mr Butcher, Mrs Compton, Mrs Moseley, Mrs Nichols and Mrs Searle.

110/10 **MINUTES (ITEM 2)**

Subject to amending minute number 97/10, 11th bullet point on page 3, from SE7 to read SESL, the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 12 October 2010 were submitted, confirmed and signed.

111/10 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (ITEM 3)**

The Chairman informed Members that, at the recent LGC awards, the Surrey Pension Fund received the Pension Fund of the Year award, in recognition of the significant improvement in the fund's performance over last year and the training programme for Members of the Investment Advisors Group. He congratulated the officers involved for their hard work.

112/10 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM 4)**

There were none.

113/10 **LEADER'S STATEMENT (ITEM 5)**

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

- That the Deputy Leader would be making a statement about the Local Government settlement announced on 13 December 2010.
- That the White Paper on Schools clarified a strong but slightly different role for Local Government.
- The Public Health White Paper set out specific duties that would be coming back to Local Government. He considered that these new duties would fit well with the Council's key strategies of keeping the people of Surrey safe.
- He said that he hoped the Health and Well-Being Board would be set up early next year.
- On the Police and Social Responsibilities Bill, the Council would need to consider the implications of a directly elected commissioner and its relationship with them.
- The Localism Bill comprised details concerning de-centralisation and empowering communities.
- He made reference to the Chief Executive's report (item 12) and thanked both him and officers for the progress to date.

- He highlighted the Annual Performance Assessment for both Children's Services and Adult Social Care – both services had been judged as 'performing well.'
- Thanks were also expressed to Members and officers involved in devising and formulating the new Highways contract.
- He said that, with the culture change at Surrey for openness, transparency and quality assurance, he considered that Surrey would be both a world class local authority and a world class place to live.
- That the Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games would make a statement on developments relating to the Olympics.
- He acknowledged that the Budget would be tough but considered that there would be opportunities, in this tough financial climate. For example, the youth transformation project which included the ambitious 'Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs)' target.
- He announced the successful recipients for the 'small disadvantaged area fund' – full details set out in Appendix A.
- Finally, he said that this Administration would continue to build the Big Society within Surrey.

The Deputy Leader made a statement on the provisional funding settlement for 2011/12 (Appendix B).

The Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games made a statement about promoting business and encouraging economic development in Surrey. She was delighted to announce that £738m of the contracts awarded for the Olympics had gone to businesses in Surrey (Appendix C).

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care made two statements: (i) 2009/10 Adult Social Care Annual Performance Assessment, and (ii) The Right to Control – a new national policy to give disabled clients more choice and control over their publically funded care and support (Appendix D(i) and (ii)).

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

114/10 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (ITEM 6)**

Notice of 18 questions had been received. The questions and replies are attached as Appendix E.

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

(Q1) Mr Lambell asked the Cabinet Member for Transport for the target figure for reliability and was informed that 95 to 100% was the target figure that the council sought to achieve.

(Q3) Mrs Smith asked if the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning had spoken to Michael Gove, the Secretary of State of Education concerning Academy Status. The Cabinet Member said that Surrey's position was not unique and that there would be schools in the county that would move to Academy Status.

(Also, Q3) Mr Townsend referred to 'the Way Forward' section of the response and asked the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning for further details on £145m required to expand primary school provision. The Cabinet Member confirmed that, to date, the funding was not supported by Government funds but that he hoped to be able to persuade Government to fund this expansion. He also said that further funding would be required in a few years time to deal with secondary school expansion.

(Q5) Mr Mallett inquired whether the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning could give an assurance concerning the funding for contract staff at Children's Centres. The Cabinet Member acknowledged the issue but said that the settlement had only just been received and therefore he was unable to provide any guarantee at this stage.

(Q6) Mr Rooth expressed concern that the limited opening hours at Ash and East Horsley libraries meant that these libraries were not suitable for local residents to use for applying for the concessionary bus fare passes and asked the Cabinet Member for Transport if there were plans to open these libraries more regularly. He also said that reverting to a 9.30am start time would prevent elderly passengers travelling to early appointments. The Cabinet Member responded by stating that Guildford Library was in a central position in the Borough and would be used for issuing the passes. He acknowledged that the difficult financial constraints may affect concessionary bus fare passengers but pointed out that disabled passengers and their companions had no restrictions on the use of their passes.

(Also, Q6) Mrs White said that she was concerned for those residents living in rural areas. Whilst she acknowledged that 'Dial a Ride' could be used, this service did not accept the concessionary bus fare passes and considered that rural residents were being unfairly penalised. **Mr Barker** queried why provision at East Horsley Library was unsuitable for issuing concessionary bus passes. The Cabinet Member for Transport agreed to provide a full response to all Guildford county councillors outside the meeting.

(Q7) Mr Frost asked the Cabinet Member for Transport whether the council had considered issuing bags of grit to Surrey residents. The Cabinet Member said that this was one of a number of suggestions that he had received, following the latest bout of adverse weather. These would be considered as part of the review of winter maintenance by the task group. However, he added that he had discussed this suggestion with Districts and Boroughs.

(Also, Q7) Mrs Frost said that she had used her Members' Allocation to purchase 2 grit bins for her division but had yet to receive them. The Cabinet Member said that he would refer her query to officers to respond and said that he hoped the bins would be in place and filled by Christmas.

Other Members also made suggestions concerning gritting in the county which the Cabinet Member for Transport said that the task group would consider as part of their review of winter maintenance.

(Q10) Mrs Watson requested that £700,000 cut from the Highways Maintenance Budget should be reinstated. The Cabinet Member for Transport was unable to agree to this request but said that it may be considered as part of the budget review.

(Q11) Mr Cosser asked the Cabinet Member for Transport, and was informed, that the ability for Members to identify the three worst roads in their division would continue under the new Highways contract.

(Also, Q11) Mr Harrison reminded Members that the current scheme had been agreed by Cabinet and asked the Cabinet Member for Transport that any revised scheme received full scrutiny. The Cabinet Member confirmed that there were no plans to alter the current scheme.

(Q12) Mrs Sealy said that the current funding for the Schools Sports Partnership (SSP) had been successful and asked the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning if there was anything that Members could do locally to ensure the funding continued. The Cabinet Member acknowledged her concern and confirmed that he would try to preserve as much funding as possible for SSP.

(Also, Q12) Mrs Saliagopoulos expressed concern over the possible cuts in this funding because it could result in a reduced programme for the Schools Olympics next year. The Cabinet Member for Children and Learning said that it was a risk but he hoped to mitigate its effect on the planned 100 days of sport.

(Q13) Mr Lambell asked the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, who confirmed that there were no plans to switch off the speed cameras in Surrey. She referred to 'Drive Smart' and

considered that they acted as a deterrent and said they would remain operational.

(Also, Q13) Mrs Coleman referred to the community speed watch scheme, which she had part funded in her area through her local allocation, and asked the Cabinet Member for Community Safety if she felt that they helped reduce speeding. The Cabinet Member was very supportive of these schemes and considered that it was a good use of Members' Allocations.

(Q14) Mr Kington thanked the Cabinet Member for Community Safety for her detailed response, which had clarified some issues. However, he requested clarity concerning bullet point 1 of his question. The Cabinet Member gave a detailed explanation of both the current and proposed emergency response times, set out in the Public Safety Plan (currently out for consultation). Both **Mrs Mason** and **Mr Mallett** asked the Cabinet Member further questions concerning the same issues.

(Q17) Mr Forster asked the Cabinet Member for Environment if the target for reducing waste to landfill from 2013/14 to zero would be amended because he considered that it was factually incorrect. The Cabinet Member said that the target stated that the County Council aimed to achieve zero waste to landfill and she hoped that in the long term this would be achievable. She also said that increased recycling by Surrey residents this year had resulted in saving £3m in landfill taxes.

115/10 **SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY (ITEM 7)**

No questions had been received for the Surrey Police Authority.

116/10 **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.

117/10 **STATEMENT BY MEMBERS (ITEM 9)**

There were two Member statements:

- Mr Mike Bennison concerning the incident at Oxshott railway station on Friday 5 November 2010, included in the council agenda.
- Mr Eber Kington relating to his residents' concerns about the County Council's performance during the recent adverse weather. (Appendix F)

ORIGINAL MOTIONS (ITEM 10)

118/10 ITEM 10 (i)

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

Under Standing Order 12.1, Mrs Hazel Watson moved the motion standing in her name, as set out on the agenda. The motion was formally seconded by Mrs Diana Smith.

Mrs Kay Hammond proposed the following amendment, which was formally seconded by Mr Steve Cosser.

The amendments to the original motion are shown in bold:

This Council **supports:**

- (1) ~~Values~~ the important role of youth services in providing support for Surrey's young people;
- (2) ~~Recognises~~ the need for professionally qualified youth workers to provide support to young people;
- (3) ~~Supports~~ the retention of youth centres to provide safe places for young people to meet; ~~and~~
- (4) ~~Supports~~ the County Council's continued role in **enabling** delivery of services for young people **and supports co-ordination between other agencies including the police, the voluntary, charity and faith sectors;**
- (5) **Great involvement of local committees in making decisions locally;**
- (6) **The ambitious target set by the Surrey Strategic Partnership (SSP) of ensuring all young people are in employment, education or training (NEETS) by 2015 at the latest;**
- (7) **Thanks the officers and Member Reference Group for their sterling work on the Public Value Review report to be presented to Surrey County Council's Cabinet on 21 December 2010 for determination, as appropriate.**

In support of her amendment, Mrs Hammond said that the additional clauses provided a better reflection of the services for young people.

After the debate, the amendment was put to the vote. Mr Kington requested that a vote was taken on each clause of the amendment:

Clauses (1) – (3), the majority of Members voted in favour.
Clause (4), 59 Members voted in favour. There were 10 abstentions and no Member voted against it.
Clause (5), 66 Members voted in favour. There were 3 abstentions and no Member voted against it.

Clause (6), 67 Members voted in favour. There were 2 abstentions and no Member voted against it.

Clause (7), 55 Members voted in favour. There were 14 abstentions and no Member voted against it.

Therefore, the amendment to the original motion was carried and became the substantive motion.

Mrs Fiona White, proposed a further amendment:

Amend clause (4) to read:

‘ the County Council’s continued role in enabling or directly providing services for young people and supports co-ordination between other agencies including the police, the voluntary, charity and faith sectors’

After the insertion of: ‘the delivery of’ after ‘providing’, this amendment was accepted by Mrs Hammond.

The substantive motion was put to the vote. The majority of Members voted in favour. One Member voted against it. There was one abstention. The motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

This Council supports:

- (1) the important role of youth services in providing support for Surrey’s young people;
- (2) the need for professionally qualified youth workers to provide support to young people;
- (3) the retention of youth centres to provide safe places for young people to meet;
- (4) the County Council’s continued role in enabling or directly providing the delivery of services for young people and supports co-ordination between other agencies including the police, the voluntary, charity and faith sectors;
- (5) Great involvement of local committees in making decisions locally;
- (6) The ambitious target set by the Surrey Strategic Partnership (SSP) of ensuring all young people are in employment, education or training (NEETS) by 2015 at the latest;
- (7) Thanks the officers and Member Reference Group for their sterling work on the Public Value Review report to be presented to Surrey County Council’s Cabinet on 21 December 2010 for determination, as appropriate.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned for lunch, partway through the debate on the motion standing in the name of Hazel Watson, item 10(i), at 12.45pm and resumed at 2.00pm with all those present who had been in attendance in the morning session except for Mr Amin, Mr Brett-Warburton, Mr Carasco, Mr Elias, Mr Ellwood, Mrs Frost, Mr Goodwin, Mr Gosling, Mrs Hicks, Mrs Marks, Mr Orrick, Mr Renshaw, Mr Rooth, Mr Skellett, Mr Sutcliffe and Mr Sydney.

119/10 **ITEM 10(ii)**

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

Under Standing Order 12.1, Mr Stephen Cooksey moved the motion standing in his name as set out on the agenda. The motion was formally seconded by Mr Peter Lambell.

The Cabinet Member for Transport said that the matter had been considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 30 November 2010. Therefore, the Deputy Leader moved:

‘That the question be now put’

20 Members stood in support of this motion and the motion was put to the vote.

17 Members voted in favour of the motion, with 38 Members voting against it. There were no abstentions.

Therefore, the motion was lost.

120/10 **REPORT OF THE CABINET (ITEM 11)**

Dr Povey presented the report of the Cabinet meetings held on 26 October and 30 November 2010.

Copies of the minutes from the Cabinet meetings held on 26 October and 30 November 2010 were circulated to Members on 10 December 2010 and are attached as Appendix G.

(1) Statements/Updates from Cabinet Members

Cabinet Member for Children and Learning on the results of the Annual Children’s Services Assessment 2010 by Ofsted (Appendix H).

(2) Recommendations of Policy Framework Documents and the Council's Constitution

(A) Revision of Procurement Standing Orders

RESOLVED:

That the revised Procurement Standing Orders, attached as Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be adopted.

(3) Reports for Information/Discussion

The following reports were received and noted:

- Ofsted Inspection of Services for Children in Surrey.
- Local Government Ombudsman Report with a finding of Maladministration.
- PVR Re-thinking Surrey Highways and approval to award the contract for Surrey Highways Maintenance and Construction.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 26 October and 30 November 2010 be adopted.

121/10 **SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL PROGRESS REPORT FOR JULY – DECEMBER 2010 (ITEM 12)**

The Leader of the Council thanked the Chief Executive for this very comprehensive report.

RESOLVED:

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

122/10 **RETIREMENT OF HM CORONER FOR SURREY, MR MICHAEL BURGESS OBE, AND RECRUITMENT PROCESS (ITEM 13)**

Mrs Fraser asked that thanks to Mr Burgess be recorded for the hard work undertaken by him for Surrey.

The Leader of the Council tabled an amendment to the recommendation, which was agreed. Therefore, it was:

RESOLVED:

That the selection of the HM Coroner for Surrey to take up post on the retirement of Mr Burgess OBE, in accordance with the process set out in the submitted report be agreed, amending the panel to include 2 Members of the Council (to be agreed by the Group Leaders) and the selection and recommendation of a candidate to Council for approval be delegated to the appointment panel.

123/10 **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 and agreed by the Leader, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.
- (2) The addition of 'European issues' to the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Environment and the consequent change to the Leader's own portfolio be noted.

124/10 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND – ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL (ITEM 15)**

RESOLVED (there was 1 abstention):

That the Council Size Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be ratified.

125/10 **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Audit and Governance Committee

The Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee presented the report of the committee. He apologised for the late submission of the report but said that the committee's meeting was on 9 December 2010.

A copy of the report of the Audit and Governance meeting held on 9 December 2010 is attached to these minutes (Appendix I).

After a short debate, it was:

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Audit and Governance Committee, held on 9 December 2010, be noted.

[The meeting ended at 3.00pm]

Chairman