COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 14 JUNE 2011

MINUTES of the Meeting of the County Council held at the County Hall, Kingston upon Thames on Tuesday 14 June 2011 commencing at 10:30am, the Council being constituted as follows:

Mrs Sealy – Chairman
Mr Munro – Vice-Chairman

	Mr Agarwal	*	Mr Ivison
	Mr Amin		Mrs Kemeny
	Mrs Angell	*	Mrs King
	Mr Barker OBE	*	Mr Kington
	Mr Beardsmore	*	Mr Lake
	Mr Bennison		Mr Lambell
	Mrs Bowes		Mrs Lay
*	Mr Brett-Warburton		Ms Le Gal
	Mr Butcher		Mr MacLeod
	Mr Carasco		Mr Mallett
	Mr Chapman		Mrs Marks
	Mrs Clack	*	Mr Marlow
*	Mrs Coleman		Mr Martin
	Mr Cooksey	*	Mrs Mason
	Mr Cooper		Mrs Moseley
	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		Mrs Ross-Tomlin
	Mrs Frost		Mrs Saliagopoulos
	Mr Fuller		Mr Samuels
	Mr Furey		Mrs Searle
	Mr Gimson		Mr Skellett CBE
	Mr Goodwin		Mrs Smith
	Mr Gosling		Mr Sutcliffe
	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	*	Mr Young

*absent

54/11 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM 1)**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Brett- Warburton, Mrs Coleman, Mrs Hammond, Mr Ivison, Mrs King, Mr Kington, Mr Lake, Mr Marlow, Mrs Mason, Mr Pitt, Mr Colin Taylor, Mr Young.

55/11 **MINUTES (ITEM 2)**

The Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 10 May 2011 were submitted, confirmed and signed.

56/11 **ELECTION OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR (ITEM 3)**

The Chief Executive reported the election of Mrs Linda Kemeny as county councillor for the St Johns & Brookwood Electoral Division.

57/11 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (ITEM 4)**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

(i) Congratulations were given to Mrs Caroline Breckell, Assistant Clerk to the Surrey Lieutenancy and Under Sheriff had been awarded the Member of the Victorian Order and Mr Peter Denard, Head of Trading Standards had been awarded the MBE in Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

(ii) The opening of the Watts Gallery by their Royal Highnesses, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. On the same day, they also visited Denbies and Painshill Park.

(iii) Surrey History Centre's work championing Surrey's rich heritage, in particular a display organised at the Epsom Derby in recognition of the Derby and its Romany connections.

(iv) The reception arranged at County Hall for the International Day Against Homophobia and Gay Surrey.

(v) She thanked staff for arranging two major events which highlighted the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.

(vi) A recent visit to the Council from the Chinese delegation from Zibo Zouchun City. Progress with Surrey County Council's Memorandum of Understanding with Zibo City was noted, in particular the plan to have a ceramics exhibition in the Lightbox in Woking in the Autumn.

(vi) Finally, she welcomed Mr Gimson and Mrs Kemeny to their first County Council meeting.

58/11 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM 5)**

Mr Barker, Mrs Hicks, Mr Harmer, Mr Skellett, Mrs Watson and Mrs White declared personal interests in the original motion standing in the name of Mrs White (item 11ii) because they were members of the Surrey Police Authority nominated by the County Council.

Mr Forster declared a personal interest in Members' Question Time (item 7), questions 13 and 14 because he was a member of Woking Borough Council.

59/11 **LEADER'S STATEMENT (ITEM 6)**

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

- The opening of Watts Gallery. He endorsed the Chairman's comments and said that the Council's financial contribution was tied by Service Level Agreement to policy objectives, which included discounted rates for Looked After Children.
- His attendance and speech at the Primary Headteachers' Conference, where he emphasised the Council's commitment to support and working in partnership plus the importance of a good standard of Education together with the primary school role in Society.
- That a new Chairman and Group Leaders would be elected for the Local Government Association. As a result, he hoped that Surrey would have a bigger role and would become more proactive rather than reactive to Government initiatives.
- He considered that there were three strands of the Big Society – (a) community empowerment, (b) opening up public services, and (c) social action.
- The importance of the development of superfast Broadband throughout Surrey.
- The compilation of the Capital and Assets Register and the County Council's progress towards making the most effective use of the assets – currently 7,000 public buildings and land had been identified in Surrey.
- He updated Members on Surrey Connects Local Enterprise Partnership and the progress made for resubmission of the bid and also the funds made available to support innovation.

Members had the opportunity to make comments and ask questions in respect of this statement.

[Note: item 14 was taken next]

60/11 **SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL PROGRESS REPORT FOR JANUARY 2011 – JUNE 2011 (ITEM 14)**

The Leader introduced the Surrey County Council Progress Report – January to June 2011 and drew attention to the outstanding examples set out in the report. He congratulated the Chief Executive for the strong progress made during the last six months.

Members made the following key points:

- Concern about the increase in incidents of bullying and harassment witnessed by staff and a recognition that the Ending Bullying and Harassment Policy applies to all staff and Members.
- That the report should include a summary and also highlight Areas of Improvement and 'What Happens Next'.
- The seminar with the Chief Executive prior to this report being presented to Council was useful.
- Baseline data was difficult to link with the report.
- The benefits of partnership working, as indicated by the example (page 16 of the report) relating to Ockley, near Dorking.
- The importance of recognising achievements.
- Thanks to staff for their loyality at a time of great uncertainty.

After the debate, 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.

(3) That the support for the direction of travel, to ensure continued progress, be confirmed.

61/11 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (ITEM 7)**

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:

(Q2) Mr Townsend asked, and it was confirmed by the Deputy Leader, that local committees would be able to decide to reject on-street parking proposals if they were not financially viable.

(Q3) Mrs Watson asked the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health for continued regular updates on the evolving situation concerning Southern Cross Healthcare. This was agreed.

(Q4) Mr Forster asked the Cabinet Member for Environment for the estimated sum that the County Council may have to repay to Central Government if the Council failed to deliver all the conditions of the Waste PFI contract. The Cabinet Member said that it would be a matter of negotiation with Defra / SITA if the Council failed to deliver aspects of the contract.

(Q5) Mrs Nichols asked the Cabinet Member for Environment what steps Defra would take against the County Council if the planning application for the Ecopark was rejected by the Planning and Regulatory Committee. The Cabinet Member considered that it was inappropriate to comment on a 'live' planning application. However, she said that officers had been working closely with Defra concerning this application and the reasons for its delay.

(Q7) Mrs White considered that her question had not been answered. The Deputy Leader responded by stating that she had not been specific in her request for this information. However, he advised her that technology was now in place to support the publication of spend on purchase cards over £500 for April – June 2011 and it could be scrutinised by all Members / residents.

(Q11) Mr Wood considered that Epsom had a high need for Fire station cover and expressed concern that it was proposed to reduce this and rely on cover from the London Fire Brigade. In the absence of the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, the Cabinet Member for Change and Efficiency confirmed that negotiations were on-going and that the portfolio holder was aware of the concerns of Epsom and Ewell Members.

(Q13) Mr Forster asked the Cabinet Member for Community Services and 2012 Games for details concerning possible closure of Woking Library during its refurbishment and whether local Members would be consulted. The Cabinet Member provided reassurance that local Members would be consulted when the proposals were available and that any closure would minimised.

62/11 **SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY (ITEM 8)**

There were no questions for the Surrey Police Authority.

63/11 **REPORT OF THE SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY (ITEM 9)**

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

64/11 **STATEMENT BY MEMBERS (ITEM 10)**

There were no local Member statements.

ORIGINAL MOTIONS

65/11 **ITEM 11(i)**

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

Under Standing Order 12.1, Mrs Diana Smith moved the motion standing in her name:

'This Council agrees to establish a member-led inquiry to ensure that school place planning is improved to better forecast and plan school places to meet demand in Surrey.'

Mrs Smith set out the reasons for requesting a Member-Led Inquiry for school place planning which included: (i) existing schools in the wrong places, (ii) reduced number of preferences being successful, (iii) schools in special measures, (iv) length of journey to school for some pupils, (v) forecasting and the shortfall of places, (vi) insufficient investment, (vii) rising birth rate, (viii) fewer children attending private schools.

The motion was formally seconded by Mr Ian Beardsmore.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Learning responded to the motion and expanded on his three priorities for his portfolio. These were (1) Building Primary Schools, (2) Raising Standards, and (3) Looked after Children.

He said that the birth rate had risen sharply in Surrey since 2004 and that a School Organisation Plan was in place and formed the basis for the school building programme.

He drew Members attention to the Local Authority's responsibility for the provision of school places and said that he considered that there were processes already in place for Members to contribute to school place planning and therefore a Member-Led Inquiry was not appropriate.

Other points made in the debate were;

- The Education Select Committee scrutinised School Admissions.
- School place planning would be covered in the Public Value Review of Education Services.
- A Member-Led inquiry would lead to duplication of work.
- Member Asset Panel Involvement
- School Place Planning has improved.
- The number of planning applications for demountable classrooms indicated that there was no long term planning.
- Local Member input was beneficial.

After the debate, the motion was put to the vote with 12 Members voting for and 52 Members voting against it. There were 2 abstentions.

Therefore, the motion was lost.

66/11 **ITEM 11(ii)**

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

Under Standing Order 12.1, Mrs Fiona White moved the motion standing in her name:

'This Council:

- notes that the Government wants to have directly elected police commissioners with the intention also to axe police authorities, and that the Local Government Association is opposing this change.

- expresses deep concern that this will lead to the politicisation of Surrey Police and jeopardise their operational independence. Such a radical change would be a diversion, at an estimated cost of between £1 million and £1.25 million, in precious resources away from front-line policing.

- believes accountability of the police in Surrey would be best served in strengthening the ties, by other means, between our local neighbourhoods and councillors.

- asks the Leader of the Council to write to the County's MPs informing them of this motion and asking them to oppose the Government's proposals for elected Police Commissioners.'

Mrs White made the following points:

- The Bill would change the way that the Police Force was run in future.
- The current tri-partite agreement worked well and that legislation must protect the impartiality of the Police Force.
- An elected Commissioner in Surrey would have responsibility for 11 Districts and Boroughs.
- The Police Force would be influenced by one political party.
- These proposals were not Value for Money and would reduce co-operation between other Police Forces.

The motion was formally seconded by Mrs Hazel Watson.

Other points made in the debate were;

- Any concerns being raised would be dealt with when the Bill returned to the House of Commons.
- A strong Police Force with effective Governance was needed for Surrey and the appointment of a Commissioner would improve this.
- Better transparency.
- A Police Commissioner would be subject to scrutiny and challenge.
- It was an opportunity to appoint a person who would represent Surrey residents.
- The current Surrey Police Authority was effective and the new Commissioner would have excessive powers.

After the debate, the motion was put to the vote with 15 Members voting for and 42 Members voting against it. There were 9 abstentions.

Therefore, the motion was lost.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.55pm and resumed at 2.00pm, with all those present who had been in attendance in the morning session except for Mr Amin, Mr Carasco, Mr Chapman, Mr Elias, Mr Ellwood, Mr Forster, Mrs Frost, Ms Heath, Mr Hickman, Mrs Moseley, Mr Sutcliffe, Mr Sydney.

67/11 **REPORT OF THE CABINET (ITEM 12)**

Dr Povey presented the reports of the Cabinet meeting held on 24 May 2011.

(1) Statements / Updates from Cabinet Members

- Cabinet Member for Change and Efficiency on the Information Commissioner's Office.
- Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health on the Health and Social Care Bill.

Both statements were tabled at the meeting and are attached as Appendix B.

(2) Reports for Information / Discussion

The following report was received and noted:

- Superfast Broadband Project
- Home to School / College Transport Policies including the provision of Transport to Denominational Schools

RESOLVED:

That the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 May 2011 be adopted.

68/11 **APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRMEN (ITEM 13)**

Nominations had been received from both the Woking Local Committee and the Runnymede Local Committee.

To date, no nominations had been received for the Mole Valley Local Committee and the Chairman asked for nominations at the meeting. After a short discussion, one county councillor nomination was made for the Vice-Chairman of Mole Valley Local Committee – Mrs Helyn Clack.

The Council was asked to approve the appointments set out below.

LOCAL COMMITTEE	**VICE-CHAIRMAN**
Mole Valley	Mrs Helyn Clack
Runnymede	Mrs Yvonna Lay
Woking	Councillor John Kingsbury

RESOLVED:

That the Councillors listed above be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the respective Local Committees for the council year 2011/12.

69/11 **REPORT BACK ON MOTIONS REFERRED (ITEM 15)**

Under Standing order 12.6, the Council was required to consider this report.

The Chairman of the Environment and Transport Select Committee presented the report of the committee from its meeting on 18 May 2011, in which the committee considered the motions referred to it by the Council on 22 March 2011.

After a short debate in which 7 Members spoke, it was

RESOLVED:

That the County Council does not endorse the motion.

[The meeting ended at 2.45pm]

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Chairman