

County Council Meeting – 11 October 2011

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 26 July and 27 September 2011. Members are reminded that all reports have been circulated with the agenda for that meeting.

In accordance with the Constitution, Members can ask questions of the appropriate Cabinet Member, seek clarification or make a statement on any of these issues without giving notice.

The minutes containing the individual decisions for the 26 July meeting are attached as an Annexe to this report. The minutes of the 27 September meeting will be circulated separately. Cabinet responses to Committee reports are included in or appended to the minutes. If any Member wishes to raise a question or make a statement on any of the matters in the minutes, notice must be given to Democratic Services by 12 noon on the day before the County Council meeting (Monday 10 October 2011).

For members of the public all non-confidential reports are available on the web site (www.surreycc.gov.uk) or on request from Democratic Services.

1. STATEMENTS/UPDATES FROM CABINET MEMBERS

None received.

2. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

26 July 2011

A CABINET DECISIONS CALLED IN – PROPOSED ON STREET ‘PAY AND DISPLAY’ PARKING CHARGES IN GUILDFORD

1. On 12 January 2011 the Cabinet Member for Transport approved a consultation programme for the introduction of on street pay and display parking charges in Surrey. These proposals were reviewed by the Environment and Transport Select Committee, with decision making devolved to Local Committees.
2. Subsequent to the Cabinet meeting held on 24 May 2011, the Deputy Leader provided clarification on the criteria within which Local Committees were to consider on-street charging for their District.
3. The Guildford Local Committee considered a report at its meeting on 22 June 2011 which sought approval to formally advertise the new areas for on street parking charges in Guildford Borough and agreed:
 - (i) Not to approve the statutory advertisement of the amended parking charges and proposals shown on the plan in Annex 1 (attached to the report to the committee).

(ii) Not to defer the implementation of previously agreed changes to parking restrictions in Woodbridge Hill and Weston Road (east) until consultation had been carried out about on street charges in these locations.

4. Members of Guildford Local Committee determined that the business case for implementing the proposed changes was not proven. Their view was that Guildford has well-managed, established and profitable on-street parking arrangements already in place and unanimously agreed that it would be better to continue with the comprehensive process that was already in place for reviewing the effectiveness of on-street parking in the borough.
5. Following publication of the decision notice, the Leader of the Council called-in the decision of the Guildford Local Committee for review by the Cabinet under Article 6.07 of the Constitution (Call-in of Local Committee Decisions by Cabinet) within the designated call-in period.
6. The reason given for the call in was that the decision made by the Local Committee had significant policy implications.

7. The Cabinet agreed:

That the decision be referred back to the Guildford Local Committee for Members to reconsider the details of locations to be formally advertised for on-street charges. It was noted that the Local Committee would have a further opportunity to comment once the traffic regulation order had been advertised should any objections be received.

If the Local Committee feels unable to progress this matter, the decisions can be referred back to the Cabinet for determination.

27 September 2011

B PUBLIC VALUE REVIEW OF SURREY LIBRARY SERVICES – PROGRESS UPDATE

1. The three key recommendations that arose from the Public Value Review (PVR) of the Library Service were to:
 - Consult with Community Groups about transferring the management of eleven libraries in Surrey to create Community Partnered Libraries.
 - Identify a county managed network of libraries in Surrey.
 - Withdraw the Mobile Library Service and provide targeted alternative services.
2. The Council's work in developing and establishing Community Partnered Libraries is at the cutting edge of the local service delivery agenda.
3. Some of the key areas of focus in order to enable local service delivery included:
 - a. Implementing self service in 11 libraries

- b. The library service providing ongoing support, mentoring and advice to the community organisations, from within current budgets.
 - c. Supporting the building of capacity in community organisations, through developing partnership working with organisations such as Voluntary Action Elmbridge (Molesey Library), the Runnymede Association of Voluntary Services (New Haw Library) and the WRVS.
 - d. Setting up new principles and arrangements with corporate partners (Estates, Property & Management; Finance; Audit; Risk Management; Health & Safety; Legal; Procurement; HR) to ensure these partnerships receive the support and freedoms they need to operate.
 - e. Revising and adapting operational procedures and policies to form a community partnered network within the library network.
 - f. Developing a training plan for set up and ongoing training needs for the partnerships.
4. Although good progress is being made in establishing the community libraries, it is important to recognise that not all sectors of the local communities are supportive of the approach that is being taken by the Council. They believe that libraries should be managed, staffed and organised by the Council, not community volunteers, and are working on developing arrangements because they want to retain local library services. So, whilst good progress is being made, it is important to recognise the context around this.
 5. If it becomes clear that a viable partnership or business plan is not in place for a library or libraries and communities are not progressing towards Partnership, then in consultation with the Cabinet Member a further report on the closure of those libraries will be considered by the Cabinet in December.
 6. It remains the aim of Surrey County Council not close any libraries. Where any Libraries do not have a partner in place, the Library Service will work in those local communities to try and establish a viable group so that library provision can be maintained.
 7. It is important that any decisions about the future of these libraries are taken by December to ensure that this can be properly managed. There is no staff funding identified in the Library Service Medium Term Financial Plan from 2012/13.
 8. The Library Service following discussion with the Member Reference Group, has developed an aspiration to base library provision on a Strategic Library Network consisting of a Surrey County Council managed network of 33 larger libraries in strategic locations, with a strongly supported Community Library network and the Cabinet has agreed a proposal for a County Managed Network of 33 libraries. These libraries are:

Addlestone, Camberley, Caterham Valley, Chertsey, Cranleigh, Dorking, Egham, Epsom, Farnham, Godalming, Guildford, Leatherhead, Oxted, Redhill, Staines, Walton, Woking, Merstham, Stanwell, Ashford, Ashted, Banstead, Bookham,

Cobham, Dittons, Esher, Ewell, Haslemere, Horley, Molesey, Reigate, Sunbury & Weybridge.

9. The Library Service will continue to actively seek local community support in these 33 locations and encourage volunteering to further extend and add value to existing managed services.
10. The two remaining Priority Places, Sheerwater/Maybury and Westborough, will be drawn into a more formal relationship with their nearest Library in the County Managed Network. In addition, the Library Service will develop innovative service delivery methods in those locations - building on the positive ideas and new relationships emerging from the development of alternative services to the Mobile Library.
11. Molesey Library meets the criteria for inclusion in the County Managed Network and it was agreed that Molesey be brought into this network, but continues to harness the strong community support that has been generated to extend and add value to services. The scale of the operation in Molesey Library singles it out compared to the other libraries working towards Community Partnerships.
12. There are 9 Libraries: Ash, Caterham Hill, Frimley Green, Hersham, Horsley, Knaphill, Lightwater, Shepperton & West Byfleet not currently identified as potential Community Partnerships or within the proposed managed network. Therefore, it was proposed that the Council continue to fully support the service provision at these locations and that no decision be taken by the Cabinet to move these into Community Partnership until the pilot Community Partnered Libraries have been in existence for a full year, commencing 1 April 2012, and the success of the models has been fully evaluated and proved to be sustainable. The 9 libraries above will continue to form part of the County Managed Network until this process is completed and appropriate consideration given by the Cabinet. Meanwhile, the County Council would welcome an approach from the community in any of these localities to develop a relationship and explore the potential for volunteers to enhance and extend services.
13. Concerning the Mobile Service, the focus had been in preparing for the withdrawal of the funded service on 30 September. The most important aspect of this had been on engaging with service users and partners about mitigating the impact on them and enabling them to have continued access to a library facility.
14. Following the withdrawal of the mobile service there is likely to be a gap before alternative provisions are in place, although this would be less so for those who have said they are homebound. To support customers during this change, they will be allowed to loan a greater number of books in September so that they have books to read pending the introduction of the new arrangements.
15. Comments from the Communities Select Committee were also considered at the meeting.

16 The Cabinet agreed:

- (1) That the libraries provision in the 10 areas, Bagshot, Bramley, Byfleet, Ewell Court, Lingfield, New Haw, Stoneleigh, Tattenhams, Virginia Water, Warlingham be delivered via the Community Partnerships Model.
- (2) That Molesey Library is not created as a Community Partnered Library but to be included in the strategic library network.
- (3) That it be noted that the MTFP contains no provision for staffing for the Community Partnered Libraries 2012/13 and that it be agreed that in the event that any of the communities are not progressing towards Partnership, a further report on the future of those libraries will be considered by Cabinet in December.
- (4) That the Strategic Library network as set out in paragraphs 20-23 of the submitted report be approved.
- (5) That no further libraries be considered for Community Partnership until at least the pilot libraries have been operating for one year commencing 1 April 2012, and have undergone a subsequent full evaluation of their sustainability and success.
- (6) That the service developments being introduced to replace the Mobile service be endorsed.

C QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS – 1 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2011

1. The Cabinet is required under the Constitution to report to Council on a quarterly basis the details of decisions taken by the Cabinet and Cabinet Members under the special urgency arrangements set out in Article 6.05(f) of the Constitution. This occurs where a decision is required on a matter that is not contained within the Leader's Forward Plan, nor available 5 clear days before the meeting. Where a decision on such matters could not reasonably be delayed, the agreement of the Chairman of the appropriate Select Committee, or in his/her absence the Chairman of the Council, must be sought to enable the decision to be made.

There have been no decisions taken under 'special urgency' arrangements in this quarter.

30 September 2011

Dr Andrew Povey
Chairman