

COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 11 OCTOBER 2011

MINUTES of the Meeting of the County Council held at the County Hall, Kingston upon Thames on Tuesday 11 October 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

88/11 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM 1)**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs King, Mrs Nichols and Mr Wood.

89/11 **MINUTES (ITEM 2)**

The Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 19 July 2011 were submitted, confirmed and signed.

90/11 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (ITEM 3)**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- (i) The passing of John Bale (Action for Carers).
- (ii) The memorial concert for Keith Willis, formerly Head of the County's Arts and Music, attended by the Vice-Chairman of the Council at the Yehudi Menuhin School.
- (iii) Visits undertaken to two prisons: (a) Bronzefield, a women's prison in Ashford, and (ii) Highdown in Banstead, which also included a visit to The Clink restaurant.
- (iv) Visits were also made to Nexus, a centre for People with Learning Disabilities and to the Children's Trust at Tadworth, a centre for children with complex health needs.
- (v) Last Friday was the annual Service for the Judiciary, which signified the start of the legal year in Surrey.
- (vi) Support had been given for the 'Toast of Surrey Business Awards' where the Apprenticeship Schemes had featured for the first time this year.
- (vii) Finally, she was pleased to announce the success of several 'Looked After Children' in obtaining excellent GCSE results – an overall improvement of 64% since last year. She gave details of specific successes.

91/11 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM 4)**

Mrs Smith declared a personal interest in the Original Motion (item 12) because she was the secretary of the Friends Group at Knaphill Library.

Mr Marlow declared a personal interest in the Original Motion

(item 12) because his wife was Chairman of the Friends of Byfleet Library.

Mr Orrick declared a personal interest in the Original Motion (item 12) because his wife was employed at a Surrey Library.

Mr Walsh declared a prejudicial interest in the Original Motion (item 12) and the Report of the Cabinet, paragraph B (item 13) because his wife worked part-time at Shepperton Library for Surrey County Council.

92/11 **OUTGOING LEADER'S STATEMENT (ITEM 5)**

The outgoing Leader of the Council made a verbal statement.

He said that it had been an honour and privilege to serve as Leader of the Council for the past two and a half years and thanked his Cabinet Members, the Chief Executive and the Council Leadership Team, and the Chief Constable for their hard work and support.

He also thanked officers for their support, in particular – Glynis Carr, Michelle Cahill, Helen Stevenson and Claire Hamilton.

He highlighted the changes and achievements of his time as Leader, namely:

- A change in culture and new ways of working.
- Monthly Cabinet meetings, the introduction of Cabinet Member Decision Making meetings and quarterly accountability meetings with Cabinet Members.
- Introduction of webcasting for some Council meetings.
- More openness and transparency, with more information published on-line.
- Value for Money and the Public Value Review programme.
- Surrey First Initiative with Districts and Boroughs.
- Compilation of a list of all Surrey's assets.
- New Data Centre.
- The Apprenticeship Scheme.
- Medium Term Financial Strategy which enabled the Council to identify and realise significant savings.
- Quality Assurance.
- Drive Smart – a major initiative with Surrey Police, which had been successful in reducing the number of casualties on Surrey's roads.
- Support for the Olympics locally.
- The Eco-park and the re-cycling targets.
- Reduction of young people not in Education, Employment or Training.

- Several policy initiatives which had put Surrey County Council on the road to becoming 'World Class'.
- Setting up the SE7 group with other SE Counties.
- Major successes with Special Educational Needs – the Council had input into the Green Paper and Government thinking.
- Campaigning, with SE Strategic Leaders for additional funding for increased investment in the South East, and in particular for winter maintenance.
- Support for Superfast Broadband.

Finally, he said that he believed that in the last two and a half years, Surrey residents had benefitted from better services.

He wished the new Leader every success and confirmed that he was standing down as Leader.

On behalf of the County Council, the Chairman thanked him for his services to Surrey.

93/11 **ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (ITEM 6)**

The Chief Executive announced that he had received one nomination, namely Mr David Hodge, for the Leader of the Council.

Both Mr Martin and Mrs Clack made a short speech in support of the nomination.

RESOLVED:

That Mr David Hodge be elected Leader of the Council to continue in office until the day of the post election annual meeting in 2013.

94/11 **NEW LEADER'S STATEMENT (ITEM 7)**

Mr Hodge expressed his thanks to Members of the Council for electing him as Leader. The newly elected Leader made a detailed statement and started by paying tribute to the work that Dr Povey had done as Leader.

He acknowledged that the role as Leader of the Council came with huge responsibilities and said that he would do everything possible to improve services for Surrey residents.

The key points from his speech were:

- The importance of working together as One Team.
- That the County Council needed a new approach and his approach would be based on listening, learning and localising before deciding.

- The announcement of one crucial policy change – that the single countywide policy for on-street parking would end today. In future these decisions would be made by local committees working with Districts and Boroughs.
- Stressing the importance, as a County, of living within our means and working with the funds available and recognising that difficult decisions would need to continue to be made.
- Commitment to completing the Public Value Review programme to identify further savings and improve the quality of services whilst preserving front line services.
- The intention to lead Surrey not as a strong Leader but through strong collective leadership. This style of collective working would be replicated through the County Council and with Surrey's partners.
- A request for the Chairman to assemble a small team of Members to work with the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer and the Democratic Services Lead Manager to look at the Constitution and build in the One Team approach as the cornerstone of how the Council would operate.
- Focusing on developing Surrey County Council to be the best local authority in the country.
- The announcement of Peter Martin as Deputy Leader and the appointment of two new Cabinet Members – Tony Samuels and Helyn Clack. Copies of the Cabinet portfolios were tabled at the meeting. (Appendix A)
- He thanked Lynne Hack for her service on the Cabinet and her work achieved as the Environment portfolio holder.
- Finally, he said that both he, and the Chief Executive, would be visiting staff in Woking, Reigate, Leatherhead, Runnymede and Kingston tomorrow to thank them for the work they do for Surrey.

Members had an opportunity to make comments and ask questions.

95/11 **ADDITION – CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY STATEMENT**

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety made a statement on three high profile incidents that had occurred in Surrey, in four days over the previous two weeks. (Appendix B)

96/11 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (ITEM 8)**

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

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

(Q2) Mrs White asked the former Cabinet Member for Change and Efficiency if he agreed that it was disappointing that she, as the local Member, was not made aware of the ongoing discussions with Guildford Grove and Kings College concerning the viability study. She also asked him to comment on whether he considered that if the property had been properly cleared out and decommissioned when the school vacated the premises, most of the problems could have been avoided. The Cabinet Member responded by agreeing and stating that, as the new Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, he would endeavour to improve communications for local Members. He also made reference to the Rapid Improvement Event on School Place Planning.

(Q3) Mr Lambell asked the Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games for more information concerning the new 'Library Direct' service, including the budget allocated for its provision. The Cabinet Member said that discussions were on-going with Adult Social Care concerning the provision and she agreed to provide further details outside the meeting.

(Q6) Mr Beardsmore requested that the new homecare contract would ensure that the care assistants spent the contracted amount of time with their clients. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health provided an explanation of the technology, which would include quality control, that the service hoped to introduce but said that these developments were long term solutions. The Council was considering using the Telecare system as an interim solution. He assured Members that the business case for the new 'in-house' electronic monitoring for Surrey County Council's reablement homecare services in 2012 would be scrutinised by the Adult Social Care Select Committee.

(Also, Q6) Mrs White also expressed concern about clients being 'shortchanged' in their care plans and urged that the new home care contracts were amended accordingly. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health confirmed that changes would be made and monitoring and spot checks would also take place.

(Also, Q6) Mr Colin Taylor mentioned that travelling time would need be included in the new contract. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health confirmed that this element would be included within the contracted hours.

(Q7) Mrs White asked the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment who said that he would confirm by email the timescale for when the bus cages in Southway, Guildford would be refreshed by the contractor.

(Q8) Mrs Watson asked the Leader of the Council if he agreed that alternative services should have been put in place prior to the cessation of the mobile library service. The Leader said that the County Council was often faced with difficult decisions that were not always popular with some groups of the community. However, the Cabinet had a responsibility to all its residents and he considered that the consultation had taken place and the decision concerning different options for mobile library users had been made.

(Q10) Both Mrs White and Mrs Searle requested that the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment arranged for the much postponed road maintenance of Rydes Hill Road to be re-programmed into the Highways maintenance programme as soon as possible. The Cabinet Member gave an assurance that he would endeavour to get this work done.

(Q11) Mrs Watson considered that the A25/A24 were not adequately gritted during last winter's severe weather and requested reassurance that there would be adequate arrangements in place this coming winter. The Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment said that the service was fully prepared for winter and committed to delivering the best possible service this winter.

(Q 13) Mr Colin Taylor expressed concern that the agreed programme of road reconstruction and resurfacing would not be published until March 2012 and was advised by the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment that if Members had particular issues they should contact the service directly to ascertain where a particular road was on the schedule.

97/11 **SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY (ITEM 9)**

There were no questions for the Surrey Police Authority.

98/11 **REPORT OF THE SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY (ITEM 10)**

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

99/11 **STATEMENT BY MEMBERS (ITEM 11)**

There were two local Member statements:

- Mr Bennison concerning the fire in sheltered accommodation at Gibson Court, Hinchley Wood.
- Mr Young concerning the historic street lighting and highways in Cranleigh.

Copies of the statements were tabled and are attached as Appendix D(i) and D(ii)..

[Note: items 13, 14, 15, 17 and 18 were taken next]

100/11 **REPORT OF THE CABINET (ITEM 13)**

Dr Povey presented the reports of the Cabinet meetings held on 26 July and 27 September 2011.

(1) Statements / Updates from Cabinet Members

- Mr Martin, Deputy Leader and former Cabinet Member for Children and Learning on the Annual Report of Services to Children, Schools and Families 2010/11.
- Mr Gosling, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health on Members attendance at the recent seminar on the Health and Social Care Bill.
- Mrs Saliagopoulos, Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games tabled a statement providing an update on the 2012 Games and the benefits for Surrey businesses and residents (Appendix E).

(2) Reports for Information / Discussion

The following reports were received and noted:

- Cabinet Decisions Called In – Proposed on-street ‘pay and display’ parking charges in Guildford
- Public Value Review of Surrey Library Services – progress update
- Quarterly Report on Decisions taken under Special Urgency Arrangements – 1 April – 30 June 2011

RESOLVED:

That the reports of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 26 July and 27 September 2011 be adopted.

101/11 **REPORT BACK ON MOTION REFERRED (ITEM 14)**

Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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

The Chairman of the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the report of the committee from its meeting held on 13

September 2011, in which it considered the motion referred to it by the Council on 19 July 2011.

She said that there had been a robust discussion but the general principles had been supported. A draft Consultation and Engagement Policy had been developed which was launched for a 12 week consultation period on 12 September 2011. The outcome of the consultation process would be considered at the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February 2012 and reported to County Council in March 2012.

RESOLVED:

That the general principles of public consultation set out in the motion be supported.

102/11 **MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (ITEM 15)**

On 19 July 2011, the County Council approved the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme for submission to the Department of Communities and Local Government. In accordance with Regulations, the Council was required to formally agree to bring the scheme into effect.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme previously agreed on 19 July be amended; and

(2) That the revised Minerals and Waste Development Scheme October 2011 (Annex A) be approved, with effect from 12 October 2011.

103/11 **AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION – THE EXERCISE OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS (ITEM 17)**

The Leader presented the report and it was:

RESOLVED:

That the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation in relation to Community Partnership Functions, Library Opening Hours and Approval of Approved Mental Health Professional Warrants, agreed by the Leader as detailed in the submitted report be noted.

104/11 **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES (ITEM 18)**

The announcement of the Leader's Cabinet earlier in the meeting resulted in a vacancy for Vice-Chairman of the Adult Social Care Select Committee.

One nomination – Mrs Sally Marks - was received and put to the vote, with the majority of Members voting for Mrs Marks.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.45pm and resumed at 2.05pm, with all those present who had been in attendance in the morning session except for Mr Amin, Mr Brett-Warburton, Mr Elias, Mr Ellwood, Mrs Mason, Mrs Moseley, Dr Povey, Mr Sutcliffe, Mr Walsh and Mr Young.

105/11 **ORIGINAL MOTIONS (ITEM 12(i))**

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

Under Standing Order 12.1, Mr Eber Kington moved the motion standing in his name:

‘This Council notes

- that the plans for Community Partnership libraries has failed to gain support from most library users, Friends of Library Groups and the wider community.
- that there is support for increasing volunteering, but within the context of a fully professional library service.

Therefore this Council calls upon the Cabinet to abandon its plans for Community Libraries and adopt a library policy that retains professional staff in all libraries, whilst seeking increased voluntary support across all 52 libraries in the County.’

Mr Kington began by referring to the Public Value Review of the Library Services update report, together with 11 questions from members of the public, which were considered by Cabinet on 27 September 2011.

He then set out the reasons for his motion which included: (i) that he was not suggesting that there should be no savings, it was the proposals that were wrong. He considered savings should be taken across all 52 libraries and not just from the 10 selected libraries earmarked for Community Partnered Libraries, (ii) that other options / alternative ways to make savings were not considered, (iii) there had been no engagement with residents, (iv) that increased volunteering across all 52 libraries should be considered, (v) the County Council needed a new approach and he was looking to the new Leader for fresh ideas, and (vi) the importance of listening and learning before deciding.

The motion was formally seconded by Mr John Orrick.

The Cabinet Member for Community Services and 2012 Games responded to the motion and said that despite the impending call-in of the Library Service progress report, due to be considered by the Communities Select Committee on 18 October 2011, she was willing for the debate to take place today.

She believed that Community Partnered Libraries were an alternative to closure of libraries. She quoted library statistics re. active membership, citing that the registered active usage at the 10 libraries proposed for Community Partnerships was 4%. She also referred to the e-petition with 1466 signatures. However, she considered that most Surrey residents were largely unconcerned about the proposals and given the high level of interest expressed from prospective volunteers, plans were supported.

Finally, she said that the County Council was committed to retaining all 52 libraries and in order to achieve this, the aim was to retain a core network with the remainder being community partnership libraries and she believed the proposals were innovative and fair.

Other points made in the debate were:

- All services were required to make savings in these difficult economic times
- Due consideration would be given to the call-in by the Communities Select Committee
- A belief that professional staff should operate in all Surrey libraries
- Concern about the on-going support for volunteers and also the ability to continue to recruit them over time
- Most voluntary services that were successful usually had some paid staff
- The importance of listening to the views of communities
- The need to work together as one Council to provide services for the people of Surrey
- The concept of Community Partnered Libraries represented an opportunity to look for synergy
- Concern about the reliability of Community Partnered Libraries
- Savings should be shared across the whole service.

Mr Orrick requested a recorded vote and 10 Members stood in support of this request.

The following Members voted for the motion:

Mr Agarwal, Mr Beardsmore, Mr Cooksey, Mr Cooper, Mr Forster, Mr Frost, Mr Goodwin, Mr Harrison, Mr Hickman, Mr Kington, Mr Lambell, Mr Mallett, Mr Orrick, Mr Phelps-Penry, Mrs Searle, Mrs Smith, Mr Colin Taylor, Mr Townsend, Mrs Watson, Mrs White

The following Members voted against:

Mrs Angell, Mr Barker, Mr Bennison, Mr Butcher, Mr Carasco, Mr Chapman, Mrs Clack, Mrs Coleman, Mr Cosser, Mrs Curran, Mr Few, Mrs Fraser, Mrs Frost, Mr Fuller, Mr Furey, Mr Gimson, Mr Gosling, Dr Grant-Duff, Dr Hack, Mr Hall, Mrs Hammond, Mr Harmer, Mr Hodge, Mr Ivison, Mrs Kemeny, Mr Lake, Mrs Lay, Ms Le Gal, Mrs Marks, Mr Marlow, Mr Martin, Mr Munro, Mr Norman, Mr Pitt, Mr Renshaw, Mrs Ross-Tomlin, Mrs Saliagopoulos, Mr Samuels, Mr Skellett, Mr Sydney, Mr Keith Taylor, Mrs Turner-Stewart.

There were 2 abstentions – Mrs Hicks and Mr Macleod.

Therefore, the motion was lost.

106/11

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND – ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL (ITEM 16)

Mr Tim Hall introduced the report, on behalf of the working group, and said it was the latest stage in the Electoral Review of Surrey County Council by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

He expressed thanks to members of the Electoral Review Working Group and to the officer team that had supported them. He also confirmed that Members comments from this meeting would be transcribed and sent as the Council's Stage 3 response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, together with the submitted report, Appendix 1 included within the Council's agenda papers.

He also encouraged Members to write individually to the Commission with any particular concerns.

The Chairman invited Members to make general points on the report, and then went through the Appendix taking comments on each Borough and District in turn.

RESOLVED:

That the Council notes the Working Group report and agrees its submission to the Commission, alongside the views of Members

expressed in the debate, for the Commission to consider in agreeing its final recommendations.

[Note: Mr Butcher requested that his vote against this recommendation be recorded.]

[The meeting ended at 4.00pm]

Chairman