

**One County, One Team Corporate Strategy 2012 - 2017**

*Madam Chairman and Members:*

I would now like to discuss the Cabinet recommendations for the Corporate Strategy 2012-17- 'One County...One Team'. As I touched on in my Budget Statement, the 'one team' approach is integral to our ambitions for the future. As we embed this idea across all Directorates within the Council and with our partner teams beyond the Council, it is my belief that we will be ready to face any challenges which come our way and able to deliver the highest quality of services to the residents of Surrey.

Madam Chairman, perhaps on reflection it would be fair to say that while previous Corporate Strategies may have had the right intentions, too often they were cumbersome and unhelpful, clouded in the kind of obscure language which residents found confusing and off-putting. We specifically aimed to make this strategy as simple, clear and concise as possible. It sets out our purpose and our vision for Surrey and what we hope to achieve by 2017, namely to be the best Council in England.

Over the last 3 years we have worked extremely hard to improve performance throughout the Council, cut expenditure substantially in challenging financial times and built solid foundations to enable us to adapt for the challenges ahead.

Our next objective is to build the organisation's strength so that we are able to face future challenges, but also take full advantage of new opportunities. This is a difficult time, a time of uncertainty. But it's also a time for leadership: leadership to ensure that the Council is on a solid financial footing and able to meet the needs of our residents. It's also a time for change. To change the way we operate, by making us more financially efficient and more Localist in our approach by devolving decision-making down to local committees. This will enable us to be more responsive to residents' needs.

The strategy comprises 6 key components:

- Residents- The one-size fits all approach to serving residents simply doesn't work. We want to put more power into our residents' hands, so that the differing aspirations for residents across the County are met
- Value- We will embed Public Value in everything that we do, so that we maximise every pound of our Council taxpayers money
- Partnerships- By putting residents at the heart of what we do, we will set aside boundaries and work with our partners across the County, to achieve the best outcomes possible for Surrey residents
- Quality- Delivering high quality services to Surrey residents, means looking for fresh ways of doing things, investing in new technology where appropriate and trying to anticipate problems before they arise

- People- Surrey County Council's best asset is its staff. By giving people the right skills and investing so that those skills can develop, we will be able to improve productivity across the organisation, which will again benefit the residents of Surrey
- Stewardship- This is one of the most beautiful Counties in the country. We will be responsible for the safeguarding of Surrey's natural resources, while being rigorous and astute in our financial and risk management strategies.

We have also developed a 'Strategy Bookcase', which, once developed, will allow our residents' to easily access all of our strategic aims and the documents underpinning these, and which we can update without costly reprinting.

This will increase accountability and transparency, enabling Surrey residents to clearly understand what the County Council wants to achieve and challenge us if we aren't achieving those aims.

The 'one team' approach is now firmly embedded within Surrey County Council and with our partners- not just paying lip service to the term but in true partnership- we will continue our improvement journey.

**David Hodge**  
**Leader of the Council**  
**7 February 2012**