

County Council Meeting –8 May 2012

## REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 27 March and 24 April 2012.

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 27 March 2012 meeting are attached as an Annexe to this report. The minutes of the 24 April 2012 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 last working day before the County Council meeting (Friday 4 May 2012).

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

### 1. STATEMENTS/UPDATES FROM CABINET MEMBERS

None.

### 2. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

27 March 2012

#### A ONE COUNTY, ONE TEAM: OUR COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

1. One County One Team – Surrey County Council's commitment to public involvement was developed in line with the principles of the Council's Corporate Strategy. It sets out how the Council's approach to public involvement will help to deliver the Council's vision to become the most effective County Council in England by 2017.
2. This commitment will be supported by working in an open and transparent way and is aligned with the Government's view that transparency is a powerful tool to help reform public services, foster innovation, empower citizens and drive economic activity.
3. It provides a clear sense of how involving residents, Members, partners and staff by being more open will add value for the residents of Surrey. This commitment will support and enable the Council to deliver on a number of its key priorities (as set out in the One County One Team, Corporate Strategy 2012-2017) such as devolving decision-making to local levels and supporting Surrey businesses.
4. It is not just about sending out more surveys or publishing data. The approach is designed to ensure the Council is listening and learning, focusing on the things that are important to residents, informed by customer feedback, complaints and other requests for information.

**5. The Cabinet agreed:**

- (1) That the One County One Team - our commitment to public involvement be approved.
- (2) That progress be tracked by the Council’s Quality Board, chaired by the Chief Executive and attended by the Deputy Leader.

**B ONE COUNTY, ONE TEAM: FAIRNESS AND RESPECT STRATEGY 2012 - 2017**

1. The Equality Act 2010 introduced a Public Sector Equality Duty that places new statutory responsibilities on public bodies. In order to ensure that Surrey County Council complies with this Duty and to support the organisation’s commitment to promote fairness and respect in the services it provides, the Council has developed a new *One County One Team, Fairness and Respect Strategy 2012-2017*.
2. This Act requires the County Council to set equality objectives every four years beginning on 6 April 2012. The Council is taking a proportionate approach to these requirements. It is complying by setting out its priorities within this Strategy and ensuring that they are integrated into Directorate Strategies. This approach was agreed by the Council’s Quality Board, chaired by the Chief Executive on 27 February 2012 and informed by work with a cross-partner external advisory group, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety.
3. The specific priorities that underpin this Strategy were developed using a two-stage process.
  - **Stage one:** The Council undertook a detailed review of existing data on community need, and developed a series of draft fairness and respect priorities; and
  - **Stage two:** These draft priorities were then refined through internal testing with Directorates, consultation with external stakeholders via the Council’s established fora, and discussion with the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
4. The Strategy also confirms the fairness and respect priorities that the Council will address during 2012-2017. These priorities are aligned to the outcomes set out in the *One County One Team, Corporate Strategy*.

Corporate Strategy Outcome	Fairness and Respect Priorities
Every child has a great start to life	<p>Invest in our support to schools to further the attainment of pupils, especially those from vulnerable groups</p> <p>Provide targeted support to low-income families to increase access to employment, training and support networks</p>

<p>Every child or adult in need of care is protected and supported to lead an independent life</p>	<p>Continue to support older people, the physically-disabled and those with learning-disabilities to live independently</p> <p>Reduce differences in life expectancy and healthy-life expectancy between communities</p> <p>Support carers to balance their caring role and maintain their independence and quality of life</p>
<p>Our economy is strong and competitive</p>	<p>Work with public, private and third sector partners to increase employment and training opportunities for young people (19 – 25)</p>
<p>Surrey has strong and vibrant communities</p>	<p>Increase volunteering rates across all of Surrey's communities</p> <p>Reduce instances of domestic abuse through strong leadership and partnership working</p>
<p>The county is low-carbon with a sustainable infrastructure that conserves our rich environment</p>	<p>Ensure rural communities have access to services through new technologies</p>
<p>Surrey County Council is acknowledged as the most effective council in England</p>	<p>Increase our understanding of the needs and aspirations of Surrey's residents and their differing experiences of Council services</p> <p>Surrey attracts, recruits and retains the best, highly skilled and high performing workforce, which reflects the diversity of the county</p>

**5. The Cabinet agreed:**

- (1) That the One County One Team, Fairness and Respect Strategy 2012-2017 be approved.
- (2) That progress towards the priorities it contains be reported to the Cabinet as part of its quarterly business report.

**C QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS – 1 JANUARY – 31 MARCH 2012**

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.

**27 April 2012**

**Mr David Hodge  
Leader of the Council**