

COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING – 8 MAY 2012

MINUTES of the Meeting of the County Council held at the County Hall, Kingston upon Thames on Tuesday 8 May 2012 commencing at 10:30am, the Council being constituted as follows:

	Mr Agarwal		Mrs Kemeny
*	Mr Amin		Mrs King
	Mrs Angell		Mr Kington
	Mr Barker OBE	*	Mr Lake
	Mr Beardsmore		Mr Lambell
	Mr Bennison		Mrs Lay
	Mrs Bowes		Ms Le Gal
	Mr Brett-Warburton		Mr MacLeod
	Mr Butcher		Mr Mallett
	Mr Carasco		Mrs Marks
	Mr Chapman		Mr Marlow
	Mrs Clack		Mr Martin
	Mrs Coleman		Mrs Mason
	Mr Cooksey		Mrs Moseley
	Mr Cooper		Mr Munro
	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 Sealy
	Mr Gimson		Mrs Searle
	Mr Goodwin		Mr Skellett CBE
	Mr Gosling		Mrs Smith
	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 Witham
	Mr Hodge		Mr Wood
	Mr Ivison		Mr Young

*absent

27/12 **CHAIRMAN (ITEM 1)**

Upon the motion of Mr Hodge, seconded by Mr Harrison, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED:

That Mrs Lavinia Caroline Sealy be elected Chairman of the Council for the council year 2012/13.

28/12 **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Mrs Sealy made the statutory declaration of office and took the Chair. The newly elected Chairman expressed her thanks to the Members of the Council for electing her as Chairman.

She said that it would be an exciting year ahead with both Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the Olympics taking place.

Looking back over her last twelve months as Chairman of the County Council, she referred to the following highlights and important events that had happened in Surrey:

- Royal Visits

Her Majesty the Queen and HRH Duke of Edinburgh had attended a service at Guildford Cathedral, 50 years after Her Majesty the Queen had attended the consecration service for the cathedral. They had also visited East Surrey College and officially opened its new building.

HRH Princes of Wales and HRH Duchess of Cornwall had officially opened Watts Gallery.

HRH Princess Royal had attended the 125 years' anniversary celebrations at Royal Holloway College.

HRH Duke of Kent had made several visits, in particular to the science festival at Brooklands.

- Several Surrey residents had been recognised for their work in Her Majesty the Queen's Honours List.
- Last year's High Sheriff's initiative, highlighting the dangers of alcohol, and the work he had done with schools to highlight this issue had been nationally recognised.

- The voluntary sector in Surrey and its excellent work – particular mention was given to (i) Peer Productions, (ii) Surrey Community Action.

She also stressed the importance of working together with the voluntary sector to optimise services for the communities of Surrey.

- She hoped that she ran the Council meetings fairly and impartially and also said that she had been pleased with her visits to specific events in Members' divisions.
- She also mentioned her support for Guildford Cathedral and said that the Dean, who was about to retire, would be attending the County Council lunch today. She said that she was trying to have more contact with both the Southwark diocese and the new Bishop of Croydon.
- The Community Covenant with the Military, that she, Dame Sarah Goad, the Lord Lieutenant, Brigadier Simon P Wolsey OBE – Regional Brigade Commander 2(South East) Brigade, NHS Surrey, the Chamber of Commerce and Voluntary Sector representatives had recently signed at Pirbright. She hoped that continued progress would be made through the next 12 months.
- Attendance at a Royal Logistics Corp Concert at Guildford Cathedral, with Mayors and Chairmen from across Surrey.
- Finally, she thanked David Munro, the Vice-Chairman of the Council, and officers from the Chairman's Office for their hard work during the last 12 months.

29/12 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM 2)**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Elias, Ms Heath, Mrs Ross-Tomlin and Mrs Saliagopoulos.

30/12 **MINUTES (ITEM 3)**

The Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 20 March 2012 were submitted, confirmed and signed.

31/12 **ELECTION OF COUNTY COUNCILLORS (ITEM 4)**

The Chief Executive reported the election of Mr Keith Witham as County Councillor for the Worplesdon Electoral Division.

32/12 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (ITEM 5)**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- Lynne Owens, the new Chief Constable for Surrey would be addressing the Council, following the Leader's statement.
- The County Service would be held at 3pm on Sunday 10 June at Guildford Cathedral. All Members are invited.
- The Epsom Derby would be held on Saturday 2 June – the first day of the Diamond Jubilee weekend.
- Surrey's young people would be participating in a musical concert at the Royal Albert Hall on 29 May 2012. The Earl and Countess of Wessex would be attending.
- Dame Sarah Goad, Lord Lieutenant for Surrey would be speaking at the Council lunch, about her role and the relationship with the county.

33/12 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM 6)**

There were none.

34/12 **VICE-CHAIRMAN (ITEM 7)**

Upon the motion of Mrs Frost, seconded by Mr Colin Taylor, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED:

That Mr David John Munro be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the council year 2012/13.

35/12 **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Mr Munro was invested by Mrs Sealy with the Vice-Chairman's badge. He made the statutory declaration of office and expressed thanks to the Members of the Council for electing him as Vice-Chairman.

36/12 **LEADER'S STATEMENT (ITEM 8)**

The Leader of the Council made a statement, in which he announced an additional investment of £2m per year, every year until 2017 to support joint work with Borough and District Councils, the Alzheimer's Society and Surrey's voluntary organisations to support people with dementia, physical and learning disabilities and those with mental health issues.

A detailed copy of his statement is attached as Appendix A.

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

37/12 **CHIEF CONSTABLE (ITEM 8b)**

The new Chief Constable, Lynne Owens, was invited to address the Council.

The key points made were:

- Surrey Police were important partners of the County Council.
- She was delighted to have the opportunity to lead Surrey Police.
- Putting the 'Surrey Public First' worked as a brand.
- There was a risk that policing could be over complicated.
- The public wanted three key things: (i) to keep them safe, (ii) that the 999 emergency response was very good, and (iii) relentless pursuit of criminals.
- Significant cuts to the budget and the development of partnership working with Surrey and West Sussex.
- The delivery of a safe and secure Olympics.
- The new Police and Crime Panel and the appointment of the Police and Crime Commissioner later this year.

38/12 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (ITEM 9)**

Notice of 12 questions had been received. The questions and replies are attached as Appendix B.

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

(Q2) Mr Cooksey asked the Leader whether the County Council would comply with the Information Commissioner's decision notice. The Leader drew his attention to the written response.

(Q3) Mrs White referred to the partnership working through Surrey First and SE7 and asked the Leader if he thought that more savings could be made and whether he had that strategic role across the county. The Leader responded by stating that he did not consider that it was his role to tell other Leaders what to do.

(Q5) Mr Forster asked the Cabinet Member for Assets and Regeneration Programmes if he would meet with him and the relevant Borough Councillor to find a solution. This was agreed. The Cabinet Member also informed Members that Estates, Planning and Management would be running monthly drop-in sessions, starting in August, and urged Members to take advantage of them to discuss property issues in their divisions.

(Q6) Mr Barker queried the number of sites, which are licensed to receive green waste for processing and those licensed to receive hard core building site waste. The Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment provided some details concerning highways traffic and access conditions and also agreed to discuss this matter further with Mr Barker outside the meeting.

(Q7) Mr Kington considered that there should be an apology from the leadership concerning the three failings this year where the County Council had acted contrary to the law. The Leader said that the County Council had made significant improvements over the last three years and to put the decision into context, the authority processed nearly one million transactions every week. He also drew attention to the cost to the County Council of the FOI requests.

(Q8) Mrs Watson asked the Leader why she had not received a copy of the Community Partnered Libraries statement at the recent Cabinet meeting. The Leader praised the efficiency of the communications service and declined to comment further.

Mr Few asked whether Mrs Watson had signed up to the Council's twitter feed.

(Q9) Mr Forster asked the Leader to confirm whether County Hall would move from Kingston in the next eight years. The Leader said that the Authority continue to review its office portfolio to maximise its assets and currently, as County Hall was the office base for many staff, it was cost effective.

(Q10) Mr Kington requested that the Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games considered that the employment of two additional media officers would be perceived as a resident priority. The Cabinet Member said that the county had benefitted enormously from the Olympics, with £750m contracts being obtained by Surrey businesses, and therefore her answer was 'yes'.

(Q11) Mrs Watson did not consider that 'drop-in' sessions were as beneficial as the Member Asset Panel meetings. The Leader disagreed and referred to his written response because he considered that Members would now have the opportunity to be involved at the early stage of projects.

Both **Mr Harrison** and **Mrs Marks** spoke in support of the Member Asset Panel.

(Q12) Mrs Watson asked the Leader, who disagreed, whether the Communities of Practice were a way of avoiding Freedom of Information requests.

39/12 **SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY (ITEM 10)**

One question was received for the Surrey Police Authority.

The Chairman informed Members that the Chief Executive had a copy of the briefing paper. As this was a restricted document, Mr Butcher was invited to view it outside the meeting and if he had further concerns, to put a question to the next council meeting or to next week's Surrey Police Authority meeting.

The Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games reminded Members that an important seminar on the Olympics was being held on 14 May and all Members had been invited to attend.

40/12 **REPORT OF THE SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY (ITEM 11)**

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

41/12 **STATEMENT BY MEMBERS (ITEM 12)**

There was one statement from Mrs Coleman concerning the Colne Valley Regional Park.

A copy is attached as Appendix C.

42/12 **ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY – 2012/13 (ITEM 13)**

The report on the Scheme of Proportionality was circulated to Members on Friday 4 May 2012.

RESOLVED:

That the committee sizes and scheme of proportionality for 2012/13 as set out in the scheme, attached at Annex 1 to the submitted report, be adopted.

43/12 **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES (ITEM 14)**

The nominations of the Group Leaders for the appointment of committees were tabled at the meeting.

Recommendation (3) was amended to reflect the response to Mr Colin Taylor's question (item 38/12, q.4).

RESOLVED (unanimously):

- (1) That the Members, as set out in Appendix D, be appointed to serve on the committees of the Council for the council year 2012/13 in accordance with the wishes of political groups.
- (2) That the Chief Executive be authorised to make changes to the membership of any of the Council's Committees as necessary during the council year in accordance with the wishes of political groups.
- (3) That the county councillors for each district / borough area be appointed to serve on the appropriate Local Committee for the council year 2012/13, and that the Chief Executive be authorised to appoint an equal number of district / borough councillors to the Local Committees following nominations by the district and borough councils, which they should be requested to make politically proportional to their membership.

44/12

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN 2012/13 (ITEM 15)

The nominations for the Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen were tabled at the meeting.

Mr Cooksey asked the Leader of the Council to explain why the Vice-Chairman of Mole Valley Local Committee would not be a Borough / District Member and was informed it was a Conservative Group decision.

RESOLVED:

That the Members listed below be elected as Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees, as shown, for the council year 2012/13.

SELECT COMMITTEES		
	Chairman	Vice-Chairman
Council Overview & Scrutiny	Mel Few	David Harmer
Adult Social Care	Sally Marks	Linda Kemeny
Children and Families	Clare Curran	Liz Bowes
Communities	Steve Cosser	Chris Norman

Education	Denise Turner-Stewart	Stuart MacLeod
Environment and Transport	Steve Renshaw	Mark Brett-Warburton
Health Scrutiny	Nick Skellett	Zully Grant Duff
PLANNING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE		
	Marisa Heath	Keith Taylor
AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE		
	Nick Harrison	Bill Barker
PEOPLE, PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		
	David Hodge	Peter Martin

LOCAL COMMITTEES		
DISTRICT	CHAIRMAN	VICE-CHAIRMAN
Elmbridge	Mike Bennison	Margaret Hicks
Epsom & Ewell	David Wood	Chris Frost
Guildford	Mark Brett-Warburton	Graham Ellwood
Mole Valley	Clare Curran	Helyn Clack
Reigate & Banstead	Zully Grant Duff	Frances King
Runnymede	Chris Norman	Yvonna Lay
Spelthorne	Richard Walsh	Carol Coleman
Surrey Heath	David Ivison	Stuart MacLeod
Tandridge	Michael Sydney	Nick Skellett
Waverley	Pat Frost	Steve Renshaw
Woking	Liz Bowes	1 District / Borough Member (vacancy*)

* District / Borough Member to be nominated once the co-opted Members are appointed, and reported to County Council on 12 June 2012 for final agreement.

- (2) That the appointment of Simon Edge and Marion Roberts as the Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively of the Standards Committee be ratified.

45/12 **SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY 2012/13 (ITEM 19)**

The nominations for Members to serve on the Surrey Police Authority were tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Members named below be appointed to serve on the Surrey Police Authority for the period May – November 2012:

Mr Bill Barker, Mr David Harmer, Mrs Margaret Hicks,
Mrs Yvonna Lay, Mr Ernest Mallett, Mr Geoff Marlow,
Mr Nick Skellett, Mrs Hazel Watson and Mrs Fiona White

- (2) That the Chief Executive be authorised to make changes to the Council's membership of the Surrey Police Authority as necessary during the council year in accordance with the wishes of political groups.

46/12 **POLICE AND CRIME PANEL (ITEM 17)**

The Leader of the Council introduced the report and informed Members that the Police and Crime Panel must be a joint committee of all the authorities in the Surrey Police area and therefore each Borough and District must also pass a formal resolution in order to establish the Panel which in Surrey would comprise 12 appointed Members. The political proportionality across the county would equate to 9 Conservatives, 2 Liberal Democrats and 1 Residents' Association representatives.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the establishment of the joint committee to act as the Police & Crime Panel in accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 be approved.
- (2) That the arrangements for the Panel, including the process for appointing co-opting members, shall be as set out in Appendix 1 of the submitted report.

- (3) That minor changes to the panel arrangements made necessary by any final regulations from the Home Office be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Group Leaders.
- (4) That Surrey County Council will act as the host authority, providing administrative support for the Panel.
- (5) That Mrs Dorothy Ross-Tomlin be nominated, as the Surrey County Council representative, to the Panel for the council year 2012/13, having regard to the person specification attached at Appendix 2 of the submitted report.

47/12 **REPORT OF THE CABINET (ITEM 18)**

The Leader presented the reports of the Cabinet's meetings held on 27 March and 24 April 2012.

(1) Statements / Updates from Cabinet Members

A statement from the Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games on re-affirming Surrey County Council's commitment to volunteering was tabled at the meeting. (Appendix E)

(2) Reports for Information / Discussion

The following reports were received and noted:

- One County, One Team: Our Commitment to Public Involvement
- One County, One Team: Fairness and Respect Strategy 2012 - 2017
- Quarterly report on decisions taken under Special Urgency Arrangements – 1 January – 31 March 2012

(3) Cabinet Minutes Annex (item no. 42/12)

Mrs Watson had given the required notice and asked the Cabinet Member for Community Safety for an update on the progress being made to set up steering groups for each youth centre. She was informed that this was a matter for individual Local Committees to take forward.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 March and 24 April 2011 be adopted.

48/12 **AMENDMENTS TO FINANCIAL REGULATIONS (ITEM 19)**

The Leader said that he had discussed this report with the Leaders of the Minority Parties and agreed that the item be deferred and brought back to a later meeting.

[The meeting ended at 12.53pm]

Chairman