

COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 12 JUNE 2012

MINUTES of the Meeting of the County Council held at the County Hall, Kingston upon Thames on Tuesday 12 June 2012 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 Sydney
Dr Grant-Duff	Mr Colin Taylor
Dr Hack	Mr Keith Taylor
Mr Hall	Mr Townsend
Mrs Hammond	Mrs Turner-Stewart
Mr Harmer	Mr Walsh
Mr Harrison	Mrs Watson
Ms Heath	Mrs White
Mr Hickman	Mr Witham
Mrs Hicks	Mr Wood
Mr Hodge	Mr Young

*absent

49/12 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM 1)**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Agarwal, Mr Amin, Mr Elias, Mr Kington, Mrs Moseley, Mrs Nichols, Dr Povey, Mrs Saliagopoulos and Mr Skellett.

50/12 **MINUTES (ITEM 2)**

Mr Butcher suggested some amendments to the minutes of 8 May 2012, which were tabled at the meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 8 May 2012, as amended, were submitted, confirmed and signed.

51/12 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (ITEM 3)**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- The Diamond Jubilee – the Surrey Way. Events included:
 - (i) The Go Surrey concert, held on 29 May 2012, at the Royal Albert Hall, with HRHs Earl and Countess of Wessex in attendance. This event highlighted this 'annus mirabilis' of both the Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics.
 - (ii) The Epsom Derby on 2 June 2012, where HM the Queen and HRH Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the Royal Family were welcomed by Surrey's Lord Lieutenant, Dame Sarah Goad and herself. In a private audience, they presented a gift to HM the Queen, representing Surrey's four racecourses with the Royal Family's racing colours. A letter of thanks had been received, which she read out to Members. Photos will be on the Chairman's blog.
 - (iii) The celebrations in Surrey's communities.
 - (iv) Surrey County Show on Monday 4 June 2012, attended by HRHs Earl and Countess of Wessex and the Vice-Lieutenant, Gordon Lee-Steere.
- The County Council's Civic Service at Guildford Cathedral, held on Sunday 10 June 2012. Thanks were expressed to all those who organised and took part in this event.
- Local events that she had recently attended, with the local Member – Will Forster, included the opening of a new part of Kingfield School.

- Forthcoming events would comprise: (i) the Dean of Guildford's farewell lunch, (ii) Surrey Open Art Studios, (iii) Surrey Economic Forum in Guildford, (iv) Armed Forces Week beginning on 25 June 2012 with the flag raising, (v) SATRO science festival at Brooklands Museum on 26 June 2012.
- Long Service Awards, which she had attended with the Vice-Chairman and the Strategic Directors - 60 awards to staff were presented.
- The visit from Tim Loughton, Cabinet Minister for Children and the presentation from the Surrey Looked After Children in relation to the Surrey County Council's new and innovative savings scheme for Looked After Children. The Cabinet Member for Children and Families was invited to speak. She tabled her statement (Appendix A), and after presenting the Action Card to the Chairman, she made the following points:
 - A Funding stream had been identified to 'match fund' the Looked After Children's saving scheme and had secured Cabinet approval.
 - Due to all elected Members donating £500 each from their local allowances, a new Bursary and Celebration Fund would be set up.

52/12 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM 4)**

There were none.

53/12 **LEADER'S STATEMENT (ITEM 5)**

The Leader made a statement. A detailed copy of his statement is attached as Appendix B.

Members had an opportunity to make comments and ask questions.

54/12 **SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL PROGRESS REPORT FOR
JANUARY 2012 – JUNE 2012**

The Leader introduced the Surrey County Council Progress Report – January - June 2012, the sixth of the Chief Executive's six monthly reports to Members and welcomed the latest report and its findings. He was pleased to report the continued strong progress.

The report had been discussed with the Chief Executive at a recent Members' seminar where the debate had focused on: (i) partnership working, (ii) the impact of high birth rates for Surrey schools, (iii) changes to welfare and its impact on the vulnerable, (iv) impacts of cuts on frontline services, (v) the future of the County Council, (vi)

changes to Government funding and its impact on Surrey County Council, and (vii) the role of Members.

He also said, going forward, Local Government Finances would continue to be challenging because of reductions in Government grant and financial / demographic pressures and it was vital to plan the Council's finances effectively, in order to provide the services that Surrey residents required.

He was pleased that the Council had achieved savings of £61.4m in the financial year 2011/12 and also with the results of the 2011/12 residents survey. He was particular happy to see that there had been 50% reduction in the number of young people entering the criminal justice system and that no Looked After Children had entered the system in 2011/12.

He also stressed that the Council was committed to safeguarding the most vulnerable Surrey residents, whilst recognising that different ways of working may deliver financial benefits.

He stated that the Council would continue to work in partnership with all partners in the public sector, business community and voluntary sector and also would continue to invest in staff.

Members made the following key points:

- The significant improvement in partnership working, in particular, the step-change between the County Council and Boroughs / Districts.
- Tribute to the foster parents of Looked After Children for their dedicated and challenging work undertaken with these children.
- That there was still no room for complacency.
- Congratulations to all those listed for awards in Annex B of the report, in particular, those relating to Adult Social Care.
- A request that the level of grant from the County Council to Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector organisations would be maintained.
- Thanks to all staff for their service to Surrey and its residents.
- Acknowledgement of the progress made to date relating to workplace bullying and harassment but recognition that more work was needed.
- Referring to the case study on page 30 – New Relationship with the Armed Forces – clarification was requested concerning the number of children expected to join Brookwood School. (The Cabinet Member for Children and Learning was asked to respond outside the meeting).

- Recognition of the number of SEN children and the importance of developing partnership arrangements with SE7 to develop joint purchasing in this area.
- Acknowledgement of the Chairman's efforts in promoting the Community Covenant.
- The effect that the population growth would have on Surrey's infrastructure.
- Both the report and the Members' seminar were invaluable.
- A request that future reports from the Chief Executive included information on current and forthcoming areas of concern for the Council and also an update on Adult Social Care personal packages and Telecare.
- The great deal of work undertaken to date for the Olympics.
- The report (paragraph 15) refers to a 4 year plan, agreed shortly after the last County Council elections, which set out how the Council would achieve its aims.
- Surrey County Council was a business and the importance of a strategic approach.

After the debate, it was:

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report of the Chief Executive be noted.
- (2) That the staff of the Council be thanked for the progress made during the last six months.
- (3) That the support for the direction of travel be confirmed.

55/12

MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (ITEM 7)

Notice of 10 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) Mr Butcher asked for an explanation for the delay of the report on proposals for the Council's future Standards regime. The Vice-Chairman of the Council responded by informing him that the detailed regulations, which were required by the working party to enable them to formulate proposals, had only recently been received. He hoped that the report would be finalised shortly and available for debate at the next Council meeting in July.

(Q3) Mr Hall asked, was the Cabinet Member also aware that Biffa were major suppliers of waste and recycling services to the private sector as well in Mole Valley and presumably elsewhere in the County. Also, did he know that under its new Strong Leader that

Mole Valley Council had no other Executive Members and he was a bit lonely? The Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment said that the situation had been investigated by officers two months ago and a contingency plan had been put in place – Surrey Waste Partnership had been involved. He considered that Mole Valley's Leadership problems were a local matter.

(Also, Q3) Dr Hack asked what would happen about a landfill site in her division, which was owned by BIFFA. The Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment confirmed that he was aware of this site and contingency plans were in place.

(Q4) Mrs Watson said that, as there were no expected financial savings in 2012/13 in the library service as a result of the Community Partnered Libraries proposals and therefore, there would be no need to continue with them. The Leader of the Council disagreed.

(Also, Q4) Mr Harrison requested that the Leader noted that volunteers, to staff the local library in his area, came forward because they were concerned that it would close, and if that was not the case, volunteers would be less forthcoming.

(Q5) Mrs Smith asked both the Cabinet Members for Children and Families and Adult Social Care and Health if they would advise all Members of the proposed changes, as a result of the Welfare Reforms. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health said that as soon as the process had been finalised, a briefing note would be sent to all Members providing details of the appropriate contact that could process their residents' enquiry.

(Q6) Mrs White asked the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health to confirm whether the grant funding to voluntary organisations that provided advice and support on welfare benefit issues would be protected. The Cabinet Member said that this valuable service would be protected wherever possible but considered that it was inappropriate to confirm the funding arrangements at present.

(Q8) Mrs Watson considered that the excessive council tax meant that residents were spending their own money to support the Council's earmarked reserves. The Leader of the Council referred to the Table 5 – 29 May 2012 - Budget report to Cabinet, which provided an explanation of the earmarked reserves. Also, the Cabinet Member for Change and Efficiency suggested that further finance training could be offered to all Members and attendance at the session published.

(Q9) Mrs Watson asked the Leader of the Council, who declined, to reconsider his reply.

(Q10) Mrs Watson asked the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment if he considered that all Members should have an input into any major Highways schemes in their divisions. The Cabinet Member confirmed that Members did have an input.

56/12 **SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY (ITEM 8)**

One question had been received for the Surrey Police Authority. The question and reply is attached as Appendix C.

In relation to the written response provided, Mr Butcher referred to the statement on the Surrey Police website and said that he didn't want threats to be monitored, he wanted them dealt with. Mrs Hicks, as the Surrey Police Authority representative, responded by saying that she considered that Surrey was prepared, 'back-up' arrangements were in place if required and she invited everyone to enjoy the Olympics.

57/12 **REPORT OF THE SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY (ITEM 9)**

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

58/12 **STATEMENT BY MEMBERS (ITEM 10)**

There was one local Member statement from Mr Butcher in relation to the current arrangements for pedestrians, especially school children, to cross the A307 Portsmouth Road, Cobham. (Appendix D)

59/12 **ORIGINAL MOTIONS (ITEM 11(i))**

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

Under Standing Order 12.1, Mr Stephen Cooksey moved the motion standing in his name which was:

'This Council notes that there have been delays in meeting the timescales set by the County Council in:

- i) permanently repairing highway defects
- ii) repairing highway safety defects
- iii) replacing items such as man hole covers and signs.

This Council further notes that there has been a lack of communication to residents and members advising them when a defect is to be and has been repaired.

Council calls upon the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment together with the Leader to take urgent action to ensure that Surrey's highways network is brought up to a standard that Surrey's Council Taxpayers would rightly expect to ensure the safety of highway users, the protection of their vehicles and a reduction in the cost of highways insurance claims against the County Council.'

Mr Cooksey began by saying that the reason for his motion was to encourage the County Council to take action to improve the timescales for permanently repairing highway defects, repairing highway safety defects and replacing items such as manhole covers and signs. He acknowledged that May Gurney had performed well in other aspects of the highways contract and that the highways maintenance backlog was huge when they took over the contract. However, the main issue was the small schemes – this had already been raised at the Environment and Transport Select Committee.

He also said that in 2010, the County Council had been named as the worst council for the number of potholes in its roads and this had resulted in a large number of compensation claims. However, that situation has now improved but there were still communication issues between residents reporting defects to the Contact Centre and the contractors carrying out the work.

The motion was formally seconded by Mr Will Forster.

The Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment responded by stating that there had been substantial improvements to Surrey Highways since the contract was awarded to May Gurney in April 2011 – costs were significantly lower but the quality of work was demonstrably better. He said that initial problems, created by the outgoing contractor were required to be dealt with by May Gurney prior to full commencement of the new contract and since December 2011, there had been major improvements and he cited examples. Therefore, he considered that the issues raised by Mr Cooksey had been actively addressed by May Gurney working as One Team with County Council officers.

He said that this contract was unique to Surrey and had been acknowledged by the Department for Transport and also that work was ongoing with SE7 which he hoped would bring further savings and efficiencies. He was also taking action to address the issues caused by utility companies on Surrey roads.

He said that local decision making was a key element of future plans, as demonstrated by pilot schemes with parish councils, residents' associations and increased funding for highways delegated to local committees. There was also robust monitoring of

the contract, with the next update being considered by the Environment and Transport Select Committee on 19 July 2012.

Other points made in the debate were:

- The motion was misleading and factually incorrect. It did not reflect the changes and results that had occurred since May Gurney took over the contract.
- There had been a reduction in the number of insurance claims since 2009. Communication did work well and there were fewer complaints about Surrey Highways.
- Acknowledgement that there had been improvements but not uniformly across the county.
- Due to long term vacancies, there were not enough engineers to supervise the work in some areas.
- Members were informed that an audit on the Highways contract would be issued later in June 2012.
- Major maintenance was not within the remit of local committees.
- There had been issues with the website with data having to be entered twice, when reporting potholes.
- Investment in the highways structure benefited the local economy.

After the debate on the motion in which 8 Members spoke, it was put to the vote. 18 Members voted for and 42 Members voted against it. There were 2 abstentions.

Therefore, the motion was lost.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 1.00pm and resumed at 2.15pm, with all those present who had been in attendance in the morning session except for Mrs Bowes, Mr Brett-Warburton, Mr Beardsmore, Mr Carasco, Mrs Curran, Mr Chapman, Mrs Coleman, Mr Ellwood, Mr Forster, Mr Goodwin, Dr Hack, Ms Heath, Mrs Hicks, Mr Lake, Mrs Lay, Mr Phelps-Penry, Mrs Searle, Mr Colin Taylor, Mr Townsend and Mr Witham.

60/12 ITEM 11(ii)

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

Under Standing Order 12.1, Mrs Helyn Clack moved the motion standing in her name which was:

‘This council warmly congratulates Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Her Majesty, as our Sovereign, is much loved throughout Surrey.

Members resolve here today to send some of their memories of the celebratory events in their divisions of this Diamond Jubilee through letters, emails, photos and video for the Cabinet Member for Communities and the 2012 Games to collate and preserve at the Surrey History Centre as a legacy for future generations.'

Mrs Clack began by saying that the jubilee celebrations would continue during the summer and said that there had been many parties and church services held in HM the Queen's honour – Surrey had more street parties than any other county in the South East.

She mentioned four long serving County Councillors – Mrs Fraser, Mrs Hicks, Mr Skellett and Mrs Watson who between them had nearly 100 years of service to Surrey. She also referred to the staff long service awards.

Her hope was that Members would send details of events in their divisions to her so that they could be archived at the Surrey History Service for future generations to view at the next jubilee.

She hoped all Members would support her motion and ended her speech with 'Long may HM the Queen reign'.

The motion was formally seconded by Mrs Sally Marks.

Other points made in the debate were:

- The Jubilee celebrations were an enormous coming together for everyone.
- The lighting of Beacons across the country and the fireworks were a fantastic way of marking the event.
- To remember HRH Duke of Edinburgh who had served his country magnificently for the duration of HM Queen's reign.
- To investigate the possibility of whether the flag could fly from the County Hall building before the start of the Armed Forces Week.
- A desire to have flagpoles in Surrey schools.

After the debate on the motion in which 7 Members spoke, it was put to the vote.

It was:

RESOLVED:

That this council warmly congratulates Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Her Majesty, as our Sovereign, is much loved throughout Surrey.

Members resolve here today to send some of their memories of the celebratory events in their divisions of this Diamond Jubilee through letters, emails, photos and video for the Cabinet Member for Communities and the 2012 Games to collate and preserve at the Surrey History Centre as a legacy for future generations.

61/12

**ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN
2012/13 (ITEM 12)**

(a) Vice-Chairman of Woking Local Committee

It was:

RESOLVED:

That Cllr. John Kingsbury, from Woking Borough Council, be appointed as Vice-Chairman on the Woking Local Committee for the remainder of the council year 2012/13.

(b) Vice-Chairman of Adult Social Care Select Committee

It was:

RESOLVED:

That Mrs Yvonna Lay be appointed as Vice-Chairman on the Adult Social Care Select Committee for the remainder of the council year 2012/13.

(c) Vice-Chairman of Education Select Committee

It was:

RESOLVED:

That Mr Denis Fuller be appointed as Vice-Chairman on the Education Select Committee for the remainder of the council year 2012/13.

62/12 **AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION – THE EXERCISE OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS (ITEM 16)**

The Leader presented the report. It was:

RESOLVED:

That the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation in relation to executive functions, agreed by the Leader as detailed in the submitted report be noted.

[The meeting ended at 2.50pm]

Chairman