

County Council Meeting – 16 October 2012

## **REPORT OF THE CABINET**

The Cabinet met on 24 July and 25 September 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 24 July and 25 September 2012 meetings are attached as an Annexe to this report. 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 (Monday 15 October 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**

24 July 2012

#### **A LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND (LARGE BID) – SURREY TRAVEL SMART**

1. Surrey County Council has been awarded £14.304 million from the Department of Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund. The Local Sustainable Transport Fund aims to reduce carbon emissions and promote economic growth by encouraging alternative modes of transport to the private car. The award of £14.304 million from the Large Bid fund followed on from Surrey County Council's success in receiving £3.93 million from the key component part of the Fund in July 2011.
2. The funding will be put towards projects such as the planned Park and Ride scheme in Guildford, the Sheerwater Link Road in Woking and many smaller walking and cycling schemes which will improve existing routes. Delivery of the projects will depend on a shortfall of £1.696 million over the three financial years being made up and schemes will be progressed with partner authorities, where appropriate.
3. Since the submission of the revised business case for the Large Bid on 19 December 2011, consultation has taken place with the following:
  - Task Groups set up by Guildford, Woking and Reigate and Banstead Local Committees,
  - Local Committees in each of the three areas,
  - Businesses based within the three towns,
  - Local communities within Sheerwater & Maybury (Woking), Westborough

(Guildford) and Merstham (Redhill),

- Public consultation 2 April to 14 May 2012.

4. The Local Committees and Task Groups will have a significant ongoing involvement in shaping the programmes locally and monitoring progress during the project.

**5. The Cabinet agreed:**

(1) That the £14.304 million grant funding offer from DfT indicated in Table 2 of the submitted report, and subject to the terms and conditions set out in their DfT letter 6 July 2012, be accepted.

(2) That the additional local contribution of £1.696 million, over the three financial years (2012/13 to 2014/15) be approved in principle, with the detail to be worked out. A number of possible sources of funding have been identified. Where necessary, formal agreement with partners will be sought and within the county council's democratic processes this funding will be used.

(3) An Equalities Impact Assessment be carried out as part of the development of each of the transport schemes that underpin the successful project.

(4) That an Annual draft Programme and Plan be submitted to the Local Committees for Guildford, Woking, and Reigate and Banstead detailing schemes for implementation in the respective areas.

**B CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY 2012 - 2017**

1. The Children and Young People's Strategy 2012-2017 sets out the Council's ambitions and priorities for Surrey's children and young people over the next five years. It was developed through engagement with elected Members, practitioners from Surrey County Council and partner organisations, parents, children and young people. The strategy is underpinned by the Lifecourse Outcomes for Children and Young People. This is a new way of thinking about childhood development in Surrey that identifies the outcomes that children and young people should achieve at each stage of their development. This approach is intended to develop a common narrative for aspirations for children and young people in Surrey and, over time, will become a corner piece of the commissioning framework.

2. The five-year strategy will be delivered, with partners, through the three plans. The first of these, the Young People's Employability Plan, was agreed by the Cabinet at its meeting on 24 July 2012. The Health, Wellbeing and Safeguarding Plan and the Education and Achievement Plan will be presented to Cabinet from January 2013 onwards following further engagement and development.

3. The Children and Young People's Strategy sets out four priorities for children, young people and their families, namely - Prevention, Protection, Participation and Potential. These priorities will be delivered through the three delivery plans for health, wellbeing and safeguarding, education and achievement, and employability, and by a Public Value Programme focused on family support, early help and disability services. Primarily, a County Council strategy, it also shows where shared priorities with key partners are essential to achieving good outcomes for children and families.

4. The Children and Young People's Strategy 2012 - 2017 will support delivery of the Corporate Strategy previously approved by Cabinet. The strategy and delivery plans have been informed by other key strategic approaches including the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Primary Vision and Secondary Vision.

**5. The Cabinet agreed:**

(1) That the Children and Young People's Strategy 2012 - 2017 and Lifecourse Outcomes as an overarching framework for developing more detailed delivery plans be approved.

(2) That it be agreed that the Strategic Director for Children, Schools and Families in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Families can sign off any subsequent amendments to the Strategy and Lifecourse Outcomes, provided there are no substantive changes.

**C YOUNG PEOPLE'S EMPLOYABILITY PLAN 2012 -2016**

1. The Young People's Employability Plan is one of three plans that will help deliver the Children, Schools and Families Directorate Strategy 2012-17. The Young People's Employability Plan sets out proposals to ensure that there is a good range of high quality education, training and employment opportunities available to enable participation in education, training or employment for all our children and young people, with a focus on the age range 14 to 19, extending to 25 for young people with learning difficulties or disabilities.

2. The Plan also addresses the new statutory requirements for raising the participation age to 17 years old in 2013 and 18 years old in 2015. The raising of the participation age would have a significant effect on communities in the future. Full participation will improve outcomes for young people, particularly those groups who are over represented amongst those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) such as young people with learning difficulties and disabilities, care leavers and young people who have offended.

3. For some of these young people, support is being provided by more than one County Council service and sometimes by partner organisations as well. The plan supports more integrated working across the Council and with other partners to focus on full participation in education, training and employment and ties in with the troubled families agenda.

4. In some families, parents and carers will be experiencing family worklessness as well as the young person being NEET. This brings additional challenges as the family may view family worklessness as the norm. An integrated approach will be taken to working with these families joined up with the Family Support Programme (Surrey's approach to the National Troubled Families agenda).

5. The Government has confirmed its commitment to the Raising of the Participation Age, which was originally set out in legislation in the Education and Skills Act 2008. This requires that by 2013 young people remain in education, training or employment with training to the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 years old. Then, by 2015, young people are required to remain in education, training

or employment to the end of the academic year in which they turn 18 years old. Children and young people that participate fully in education have a better chance of getting a job when they leave school or college. This focus on participation is in line with the County Council's youth policy adopted by Cabinet in December 2010 to work towards full participation in education, training and employment.

6. Central to the objective of full participation is preparing young people for the 21st century labour market. Today, this is a market with fewer low skilled jobs and semi-skilled manufacturing jobs and increasing service sector, managerial and professional jobs. There is also growing demand for 'technician level' jobs, vocational roles requiring higher-level qualifications and high-skilled manual roles. Surrey is increasingly promoting the idea of 'job readiness' as the description of 'where we want learners to be at 19 years'. The plan also includes actions working with schools, colleges, 14-19 Networks and Babcock 4S to develop curriculum pathways that support young people's progression and employment.
7. Free school meal provision would be extended to those eligible Year 12 students, from September 2012, who chose to study at a college rather than a school sixth form. This would be on the basis that sufficient safeguards were put in place to ensure that the entitlement for meals would only apply to those who could be shown to be regularly attending classes. Further consideration would also be given to extending free school meal provision to those eligible Year 13 students from September 2014, in line with the changes to the participation age, however this would be dependent on funding being available.

#### **8. The Cabinet agreed:**

- (1) That the Young People's Employability Plan 2012-2017 be approved.
- (2) That provision of free school meals from 2012 for all eligible Year 12 students be approved, regardless of whether they study at a school sixth form or college in line with changes to the raising of the participation age.
- (3) That provision of free school meals, subject to the Council's financial planning, from September 2014 for all eligible Year 13 students be considered, regardless of whether they study at a school sixth form or college in line with the raising of the participation age to 18.
- (4) That the Assistant Director for Young People in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Safety be authorised to sign off subsequent amendments to the Employability Plan, provided there are no substantive changes.

*25 September 2012*

#### **D LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION FOR FINANCIAL COMPENSATION**

1. The Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) has investigated a complaint brought by a family that stated due to delay in assessment their child was disadvantaged and without education. The LGO has found maladministration leading to injustice in this case. The LGO has also identified delay in Occupational Therapy provision as well

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as a time and trouble/anxiety distress element on the part of the mother. The LGO has proposed remedy totalling £6,700.

2. The complaint has been fully investigated and the service accepts that there have been failings on their part. These are that the SEN Service, Children's Service and the Education Welfare Service failed to work together appropriately. These shortcomings have been addressed by arranging a meeting where all disciplines are represented, together with attendance by an officer from Legal Services who can appropriately advise on the legal options available so that these can be appropriately considered.
3. In discussion with the service, the LGO has set out his view regarding settlement of this matter which is accepted by the service:
  - That the Council should set aside £1,000 as compensation for its failure to provide suitable education for the child between April 2010 and September 2010.
  - It should acknowledge that, as a Council, it also failed to ensure that the child could access the education available to him, particularly after Easter 2011 and the Council should set aside a further £5,000 as compensation for this failure.
  - The total sum of £6,000 is to be used for the child's education to try to make up for the education lost.
  - The Council should liaise with the complainants on how to identify how this money can best be used for the child.
  - The LGO also recommends that the Council set aside a further £200 in recognition of its failure to provide Occupational Therapy between November 2010 and January 2011. This should also be used toward the child's education.
  - The Council should also pay the complainant compensation of £500 for her anxiety and distress.

**The Cabinet agreed:**

That, following the finding of maladministration leading to injustice the financial remedy of £6,700 as proposed by the Local Government Ombudsman be approved.

**E QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS – 1 JULY – 30 SEPTEMBER 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.

**Mr David Hodge  
Leader of the Council  
5 October 2012**