



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (RUNNYMEDE)

An Update on the Surrey Strategic Partnership's Plan: Standing Up for Surrey

26 February 2010

KEY ISSUE

This report is for information only and provides an update on progress of the Surrey Strategic Partnership plan, *Standing Up for Surrey* which is the Sustainable Community Strategy for the county.

SUMMARY

The Surrey Strategic Partnership (SSP) brings together representatives from Surrey County Council, the district and borough councils, Surrey Police, NHS Surrey, representatives from local business groups and the voluntary, community and faith sectors. The partnership aims to provide community leadership through a sense of shared priorities for the area that reflect the aspirations of Surrey residents. Through working together, partners seek to address some of the more difficult challenges facing the county and to provide better value for money.

The Surrey Strategic Partnership has recently agreed its Partnership Plan Standing up for Surrey, which is the new Sustainable Community Strategy for the county setting key challenges and priorities for the area along with how partners will work together to make Surrey a better place to live, work and do business in.

The annual refresh of the Local Area Agreement 2008-11 has been agreed and adopted by Surrey County Council as the accountable body. Progress against the LAA targets is summarised and some recent successes highlighted.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Surrey Strategic Partnership (SSP) is one of 12 Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) in the county: the countywide LSP and each of the eleven district/borough LSPs. The partnership brings together representatives from Surrey County Council, the district and borough councils, Surrey Police, NHS Surrey, representatives from local business groups and the voluntary, community and faith sectors. These partners come together to coordinate their activities to improve the quality of life for those who live in Surrey.
- 1.2 The partnership aims to provide community leadership through a sense of shared priorities for the area that reflect the aspirations of Surrey residents. Through working together, partners seek to address some of the more difficult challenges facing the county and to provide better value for money.
- 1.3 The work of the SSP is directed by the SSP Leadership Group and delivered by five delivery partnerships leading the themes of work encompassing Surrey's priorities: Children and Young People; Safer and Stronger Communities; Health and Well-being; Economic Development; and Housing, Infrastructure and Environment. The leadership group is supported by the Delivery Management Group, which includes lead officers of each delivery partnership to provide coordination across the themes.
- 1.4 The Local Government Act 2000 requires Local Authorities to work with partners and local people to set out their vision and priorities for the area and people in a Sustainable Community Strategy. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires partners to agree targets with the government in a Local Area Agreement (LAA) to help deliver that strategy.
- 1.5 Surrey will receive performance reward grant from the government for achieving the LAA targets. The maximum performance reward grant Surrey can receive is £6.5M. Performance reward grant becomes payable on achievement of 60% of the agreed improvement across all the LAA targets. This increases linearly to 100% of the reward grant for achievement of all targets.

2 ANALYSIS

Sustainable Community Strategy

- 2.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy is a partnership plan that sets out key challenges and priorities for the area along with how partners will work together to make Surrey a better place to live, work and do business in. The Surrey Strategic Partnership plan was subject to a 3-month consultation prior to the elections of summer 2009 and

publication was paused to enable the new leadership group to reflect on the peer review and confirm their commitment to delivery. The Leadership Group agreed their plan *Standing Up for Surrey* at their December meeting in 2009.

2.2 In addition to the priorities and targets presented in the original draft, *Standing Up For Surrey* asserts that Surrey is special and argues that concerted action from partners and residents will be required to ensure the county remains one of the most attractive in Britain. It highlights 5 key challenges we need to deal with effectively together:

- Climate change – taking effective action locally to ensure that Surrey’s special environment is preserved while avoiding unsustainable costs to business and services.
- Sustainability – having an honest debate about the balance between balance to be struck between provision of housing and infrastructure, stimulating economic growth and the use of the county’s resources (especially natural ones).
- Connectivity - ensuring Surrey has the internet capability to remain globally competitive
- Crisis in public finances – better understanding of the real needs of our local people and working better together to meet those needs in the most effective and efficient ways
- Taking advantage of the opportunities created by the economic crisis and the changing political landscape to radically reshape local public service.

Local Area Agreement 2008-11

2.3 Surrey’s Local Area Agreement contains 27 targets negotiated with the government to support delivery of Surrey’s partnership priorities, across education and skills, child protection, health, independent living, community safety, satisfaction and engagement. The partnership has recently agreed the annual refresh of the Local Area Agreement. The refresh concentrated on five indicators for which final targets are outstanding, either because they were new indicators or because the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) had offered some flexibility to review targets.

2.4 Due to the uncertainty of the economy and its likely impact upon certain targets at the time of the 2009 refresh, the partnership negotiated the option to review the targets for Net Additional Homes Provided (NI 154) and Affordable Housing (NI 155) at the 2010 refresh. The partnership has agreed that there would be no advantage to Surrey in renegotiating these targets, as significant over-achievements in year one and two will contribute to the cumulative target in year three.

2.5 The partnership has agreed to take up an option to remove the target for underage conceptions (NI 112) from the reward framework during the 2010 refresh. This target is part of the Children and Young People’s

Alliance priority to reduce health inequalities and make healthy choices easier. There is a range of actions taking place to improve performance, including much targeted activity. Performance is improving, but the final year LAA target is extremely challenging and unlikely to be achieved. Removing the target from the reward framework will reduce the risk to the reward grant available for Surrey but does not reduce our commitment to this priority. It remains a designated target in the LAA so will continue to be performance managed by the Delivery Management Group of the Surrey Strategic Partnership and the Strategic Forum of the Surrey Alliance for Children Young People and Families. It will also be monitored through the improvement board.

- 2.6 Surrey already had the lowest 2007 teenage conception rate (23.4 per 1000 female population aged 15-17) of all counties in England and the eleventh lowest for upper tier local authorities in England. Surrey's reduction by 2007 of 15.2% compared with the 1998 baseline is more than the regional (13.3%) and national (10.7%) reductions. It is also the fourth highest reduction in its group of 16 comparator authorities.
- 2.7 Performance against the Local Area Agreement is overseen by the SSP Delivery Management Group. Quarterly performance is reported to the SSP Leadership Group and published on the SSP web pages. Of the 27 designated targets in the Local Area agreement 24 are included in the reward framework. 12 are estimated as being on track to achieve the targets (green), 4 targets are assessed as at risk of full achievement but expected to get some reward (amber), and 3 are assessed as unlikely to achieve any reward (red). There is insufficient data to estimate progress against 8 of the targets because of the frequency of assessment.

Recent successes

Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour - NI 21

- 2.8 Surrey is now the top county in respect of this target as measured by the quarterly British Crime Survey. This is a real sign of the SSP delivering through the long term work of the CDRPs and more recent joint initiatives such as Operation Quake and Drive Smart campaigns. Surrey is now more joined up in terms of communications with the Surrey Comms Group ensuring that impact of campaigns is greatly increased without increasing resources.

Tackling the impact of the recession

- 2.9 Surrey Economic Partnership led a bid that has won nearly £2.3 million from the Future Jobs Fund to tackle youth unemployment. Approximately 350 work opportunities will be created for 18 to 24 year-olds who have been out of work for a year. The work will last for six months and equip people with the skills to find a permanent position or continue in their current role.

Comprehensive Area Assessment

2.10 The area assessment – a health-check on the overall state of Surrey’s public services and their effects on people’s lives – was published in December 2009. It painted a generally positive picture of the work done in partnership in Surrey. The report recognised the partners understand the needs of the people of Surrey and the pressures ahead, including the increasing strain on public finances from the credit crunch and recession. It identified no ‘red flags’ that would suggest problems that need urgent attention. Nor did it indicate any ‘green flags’ that could act as models of exceptional practice. The SSP Delivery Management Group Are developing an action plan, not only to manage those areas the Audit Commission indicated they would keep under review, but also to identify those areas where we aspire to have outstanding practice and would seek to be recognised for it.

LEAD OFFICER: Neelam Devesher, Head of Corporate Policy
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 0020 8541 9025
E-MAIL: neelam.devesher@surreycc.gov.uk
CONTACT OFFICER: Tim Nimmons, Senior Manager Corporate policy
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 020 8541 7723
E-MAIL: Tim.Nimmons@surreycc.gov.uk
BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Surrey Strategic Partnership Plan, Standing Up for Surrey 2010-2020
 Surrey’s Local Area Agreement 2008-11 (2010 refresh)
 Local Area Agreement Performance Report, Quarter 3 2009-10 July - Sept 2009