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Supplementary Agenda and Reports

for the meeting of

THE COUNTY COUNCIL

to be held on

21 MARCH 2017

(i)

(ii)

The following papers were not available at the time of publishing the main agenda. Please bring them with you to the meeting.

6 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

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1. Member Questions and responses
2. Cabinet Member Briefings on their portfolios

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SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

TUESDAY 21 MARCH 2017

**QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED UNDER THE PROVISIONS
OF STANDING ORDER 10.1**

MR DAVID HODGE CBE, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

(1) MR ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK:

At the last Council meeting the Leader declined to release details of all his budget communications with MPs and the government.

In view of all that has happened since, does he now feel it would have been better to have been more honest and open in the first place?

Response:

I did not decline to release this information and all such requests have been handled via the Council's Freedom of Information process. The Council has published the FOI requests about council tax for 2017-18 and our responses are on the county council's website. This information is available to all members as well as the public.

MR DAVID HODGE CBE, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

(2) MS NIKKI BARTON (HASLEMERE) TO ASK:

Why is this Council investing £30 million of council taxpayers' money in the Brightwells Development, a scheme that for over fifteen years nobody in the private sector would invest in? What financial benefit has the Cabinet discovered which has not been evident thus far to the private sector?

Please provide a full written answer without referring me to Cabinet Papers.

Response:

The council's participation in the proposed regeneration is in line with its corporate priority of economic prosperity and is an opportunity to work with partners. The market based approach to the purchase is designed to ensure that the council is paying an appropriate price for the assets, with the level of return being commensurate with the risk.

MR JOHN FUREY, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND FLOODING

(3) MR JOHN BECKETT (EWELL) TO ASK:

Epsom and Ewell Councillors have received many enquiries about the new part-night street lighting regime and one consistent point is raised time and time again. Trains through, and to, Epsom arrive at the Borough's 4 stations after 12 midnight and commuters and late night travellers are walking home in dark unlit streets. I do recognise that certain streets attached to stations remain lit but these are proving inadequate.

Concerned at these comments and the number raised by residents, Epsom and Ewell Local Committee asked officers to investigate. It has been advised that a change to a switch-off time of one hour later, to 1.00am, would cost just £5578 per year. Will the Cabinet member agree to authorise this change so that rail travellers returning to Epsom and Ewell between midnight and 1.00am continue to have the benefit of well-lit streets.

Response:

As a result of the need to make significant savings in the Council's budget, the Cabinet has taken the decision to implement part night lighting in residential areas to contribute to this. The timings (from midnight to 0500) not only reflect the reduced vehicle and pedestrian traffic on the Council's roads during this time but also policies in place or being introduced elsewhere in the UK.

As noted by Mr Beckett where trains or buses arrive close to or later than midnight or before 0500, lights that would otherwise be switched off in the near vicinity will be left on later or turned off earlier to accommodate this. Generally speaking, in the case of trains, this will provide a route from the station to a primary traffic route which will remain lit all night. However beyond that, it is impossible to accommodate all roads to allow for possible journeys that might be made on foot or by car from the station to the ultimate destination without amending the overall policy and impacting on the planned savings as described above.

As the media has recently publicised, through discussion with Surrey Police and Road Safety teams, in excess of 4,000 lights have been excluded from the programme. Residents who have concerns about specific roads can request that the decision be reviewed and the process is detailed on the Council's website. However generally speaking decisions are only likely to be overturned if new information is presented or something was missed during the site surveys.

Mr Beckett highlights that the cost of keeping the lights on for Epsom and Ewell alone would be in excess of £5500 per annum at today's prices. However such a change as suggested would not only be applicable to Epsom and Ewell but to the whole County. Any decision to change this either to exclude a specific group of lights or to start later will inevitably reduce the amount of savings and require even greater savings to be made elsewhere in the Council's budget. For example, amending the policy to commence switch off at 0100 across

Surrey would reduce the expected savings by around £40000-50000 per year – a figure that would need to be found elsewhere

MR MEL FEW, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE, WELLBEING AND INDEPENDENCE

(4) MR ERNEST MALLETT (WEST MOLESEY) TO ASK:

You will be aware of the letter from representatives of the Simon Trust who have offered up to £800,000 of funds to help establish a high quality community social unit for autistic children/adults at the Lindon Farm site. The letter gives a disturbing account of non-co-operation from Surrey County Council and of broken promises and a disregard for the interests of those concerned with the Simon Trust by SCC.

What is now being done to address and put matters on a proper considerate base, in relation to the 9 points in the Simon Trust letter addressed to the Chairman of the Council, the Chief Executive and the local M.P?

Response:

The Simon Trust - Mr and Mrs Lawrence are the parents of Simon Lawrence, a young adult with autism and high support needs. Simon is resident at Prior's Court and is due to leave in Summer 2018. Mr and Mrs Lawrence were instrumental in finding Lindon Farm and in developing a business case which resulted in the Council acquiring the property. The Simon Trust is a registered charity which was set up in 2015 with the aim of raising over £500,000 towards creating a home for adults with severe autism and complex needs in Surrey. Mr & Mrs Lawrence are members of the Stakeholder Group which acts as a sounding board and critical friend for the development at Lindon Farm.

Vision - The Simon Trust has a vision for Lindon Farm as a centre of excellence for adults with autism, with an activity centre, a mini-farm, woodland and with activities being made available to other disabled people in the local community. The Council has a slightly different vision. It sees Lindon Farm as people's homes, so not be open to the local community, and with residents wherever possible going out to use local community facilities which reflect their individual needs and interests. It is about creating a balance of activities for individuals at home and in their local community.

Design team - The Council has employed a design team of specialist consultants and advisors to work alongside our in-house staff. The Council awarded the contract for the design of the development to Haverstock Associates LLP. Haverstock are widely regarded as one of the leading architects in the design of buildings for people with special education needs and have delivered a number of autism specialist projects. Prior's Court, a specialist school with supported living and a learning environment for young adults, is providing advice to the Council on a consultancy basis. Six of the young people who have been offered tenancies at Lindon Farm currently live at Prior's Court, including Simon Lawrence, so this has enabled us to ensure the design, space and facilities will meet their needs.

Stakeholder Group – The Council holds regular joint meetings with the Stakeholder Group and they have been engaged on all the key decisions. The Council has for example taken on-board their suggestion to include individual lounges in the shared flats, replaced the pond with an underground water storage facility and included a

horticultural area. Members of the Stakeholder Group participated in our engagement with the local community, have attended planning application meetings and are invited to the turf cutting event.

Investment and pace – The Council has made significant progress since the decision to acquire the site in August 2015. Detailed feasibility and costing work has been completed, which showed that an all-new build facility was the best option with existing buildings to be demolished. Detailed work on the financial case enabled officers to demonstrate that a high quality scheme costing c £5.5m to construct was both feasible and deliverable resulting in full business case approval by Cabinet on 21 June 2016. Further detailed design and evaluation work paved the way for a successful planning application with consent being obtained on 11 January 2017 'subject to conditions' to build long term supported living accommodation for ten young adults with autism and high support needs at Lindon Farm in Alfold.

Space – The provision of large spaces at Lindon Farm has been a key objective for Mr and Mrs Lawrence. In response, the Council's design team has tried to maximise the size of the rooms. For example, in the shared flat for three young people, the bedrooms are 13m² and 17m², the en-suites 6m², the individual lounges 10m²; the shared kitchen/diner 25m², and the shared lounge 18m². Adult Social Care believes the accommodation and space is appropriate for the young people who have been offered tenancies. During the last couple of months as the designs have been finalised, any adjustments to the internal areas have been kept to a minimum but the build-up of internal wall thicknesses and brick/stone setting out have resulted in slight changes. There has been no change to the overall gross internal floor area and room sizes are significantly larger than the equivalent spaces at Priors Court.

Commuted sum – The Council will fund the baseline scheme which will meet the needs of the tenants at Lindon Farm. The Council has invited The Simon Trust to fund items to personalise and enhance Lindon Farm. Items suggested include a sensory garden, greenhouse, basketball area, chicken coop, water features, benches, fruit cages, trampoline, swing etc. All these items will become the responsibility of the Council and will have a financial implication in terms of future revenue funding for inspection, maintenance, insurance costs etc. Cumulatively this could add up to a significant sum. The Council has not made provision for these additional costs in its financial plan and is unable to commit tax payer's money to fund these additional on-going costs, particularly at a time when we face unprecedented financial pressures. We have therefore asked The Simon Trust for a commuted sum to cover these additional costs for a reasonable period.

MR RICHARD WALSH, CABINET MEMBER FOR LOCALITIES AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

(5) MR MICHAEL SYDNEY (LINGFIELD) TO ASK:

In your reply to my first question (No.11) at Full Council on February 7th you seem to have misread my words. I wanted to know how far we are from returning the CPL borrowing figures to the level they were before they were converted into Community Partnered Libraries. This you did not achieve. The figures I give below on chart A together with the figures at the top of chart B. would indicate that only Warlingham (which is a special case with paid professional staff) has managed to come anywhere near meeting the level of borrowing achieved before they became a CPL. The remainder have fallen back by as much as 30-40% with little sign that they are now increasing.

You claimed that the 10 CPL libraries were chosen as they were "experiencing low and declining use". The figures at the top of Chart A would confirm this except for Lingfield which shows growth of just over 16% over a four year period. The figures at the bottom of Chart A are from a random 14 of the staffed Libraries which show declines generally as bad as the CPL's for the period 2005-09 yet they were not regarded as CPL material. Why?

In your reply to my second question you again seem to have failed to understand what I was seeking. In February 2011 at the Communities and Safety Select Committee the Head of Cultural Services stated that "the savings of removing staff from the 11 Libraries would be around £400,000." However according to figures provided by SCC under Freedom of Information requests, the annual total costs of the CPL cost centre - now the Customer Network Lead - which supports the CPL initiative exceeded £400,000 in the three 2012/13 to 2014/15 and £356,00 in 2015/16. Could you please explain how any savings have been achieved?

Chart A

Surrey CPL Issues 2004/5 and 2008/9

	2004/5	2008/9
Bagshot	13793	16705*
Bramley	35392	29928
Byfleet	35294	35886*
Ewell Court	43097	34589
New Haw	45993	41843
Stoneleigh	43036	38237
Tattenhams	57135	48415
Virginia Water	18980	22891*
Warlingham	34370	25690
Lingfield	14174	16685*
*increase over 5 years prior to PVR		

	2004/5	2008/9
Banstead	198733	143060
Camberley	332565	218566
Cranleigh	130368	95991
Dorking	225304	180061
Epsom	311984	226454
Farnham	241223	188122
Guildford	386419	294642
Haslemere	124837	86383
Horley	185292	145566
Redhill	288220	225957
Staines	192184	139583
Stanwell	14451	12450
Weybridge	158209	102215
Woking	562125	376880

Chart B
Borrowing from Surrey CPL's

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Bagshot	16002	15436	14827	12150	10860	11058	12577
Bramley	27839	25155	21755	19665	18696	17218	20581
Byfleet	31417	38359	35514	26072	23555	24197	24412
Ewell Court	31458	31634	28623	26263	22958	16433	20420
New Haw	41440	39562	36800	30250	27434	30856	33189
Stoneleigh	38118	38584	33727	28644	27419	27831	27465
Tattenhams	45863	39526	42501	33737	31497	34720	30747
Virginia Water	19237	17941	14293	12603	12077	14336	14126
Warlingham	25499	25916	24184	21567	21561	23550	23896
Lingfield	17338	17428	16310	16745	18531	19749	17779

Response:

The methodology of the library review in 2010/11 which established which libraries would become CPLs was fully audited and subsequently the council policy on implementation in July 2012 was fully debated at the time.

Although a range of measures were used to decide which libraries were proposed for community partnered arrangements they all had low levels of use and many had declining use, which was not by itself a defining criterion.

The objective of the CPL initiative was not explicitly to address levels of use but to keep these libraries open. There are currently in the SCC managed network a number of libraries where use has declined but these libraries account for a larger proportion of the total network volumes and serve larger communities.

Regarding the staff savings achieved by the CPL initiative these have been fully audited. The savings target was permanently taken off the baseline of the annual revenue budget of the library service. As has been highlighted in earlier correspondence any management support costs attributed to these libraries via a cost centre would be in place regardless of their operational model, and the support given to the CPLs has been an important factor in their successful continuance.

The volunteers at a number of CPLs have, with the hard work and commitment they are able to devote to their local library, been able to achieve some success in reversing trends in downward use. The situation at Lingfield is noted and the partnership between the library service and the local library steering group, now established and working well, aspires to remedy the situation.

MR DAVID HODGE CBE, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

(6) MRS HAZEL WATSON (DORKING HILLS) TO ASK:

Will the Leader of the Council confirm the date he will release the full written CIPFA report on financial resilience, which cost tax-payers £25K, to all county councillors?

Response:

We aim to make the report available by the end of the day Tuesday 21 March 2017.

MR MEL FEW, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE, WELLBEING AND INDEPENDENCE

(7) MRS FIONA WHITE (GUILDFORD WEST) TO ASK:

Will the Cabinet Member outline the extra funds for social care for Surrey announced in the Spring Budget over the next 3 years? How does this funding compare to the amounts received by

Hertfordshire
West Sussex
East Sussex
Essex
Kent

in each of the 3 years?

Response:

The Chancellor announced additional funding for social care in his Spring Budget Statement. Nationally an additional £1 billion pounds is being provided to local authorities with social care responsibilities in 2017/18. The additional funding reduces nationally to £674 million in 2018/19 and then to £337 million in 2019/20.

This funding is on top of the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) monies previously announced. It has been allocated to authorities taking into account the funding they are already receiving from the iBCF and the Adult Social Care precept (assuming that all authorities choose to levy the maximum precepts of 3% in 2017/18 and 2018/19). Due to this allocation methodology Surrey County Council's allocations of iBCF and the additional social care funding are considerably lower than would be the case if these funding streams were allocated purely based on the relative needs of the local population. This is because Surrey receives relatively more income through the ASC precept than most authorities.

The table below sets out the additional funding Surrey County Council is due to receive along with the other authorities that were requested. On a relative needs basis Surrey would have received £16.6 million in 2017/18, whereas the actual amount allocated to Surrey in 2017/18 is £7.5 million. The table also shows the total funding over the three years per head of 65+ population. Surrey is receiving significantly less per head than the other authorities outlined in the table and substantially less per head than the vast majority of other authorities across the country.

Local Authority	2017/18 £m	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m	Total 2017-20	Total funding per head of 65+ population
Surrey	7.5	7.9	5.6	21.0	£97
Hertfordshire	13.0	11.6	5.8	30.5	£157
West Sussex	11.4	9.3	4.6	25.3	£136
East Sussex	11.0	7.3	3.6	22.0	£162
Essex	24.7	16.8	8.3	49.9	£171
Kent	26.1	17.5	8.7	52.3	£174

MRS LINDA KEMENY, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS, SKILLS AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

(8) MR DAVID GOODWIN (GUILDFORD SOUTH WEST) TO ASK:

What representations, whether by email, phone call, letter or in person, has the Cabinet Member made to Government regarding the 75% cut in the Education Services Grant?

Response:

Linda Kemeny, Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills, and Educational Achievement, raised the council's concerns regarding the ceasing of the Education Services Grant and the potential impact of the national funding formula directly with Sam Gyimah (then Parliamentary Under Secretary at the DfE) last year. She also raised these issues with the Regional Schools Commissioner.

Additionally, David Hodge, Leader of the council sent a letter to Sam Gyimah on 5 April 2016 reiterating Surrey's concerns about the reductions in Education Services Grant and other proposed changes to schools funding. Sam Gyimah responded on 10 May 2016.

On 9 May 2016 the Leader met with Nicky Morgan, then Secretary of State for Education, to discuss these issues further. Notes indicate that he gained assurances that a process had been put in place to find a positive way forward on education reforms and other key issues.

MRS HELYN CLACK, CABINET MEMBER FOR WELLBEING AND HEALTH

(9) MR STEPHEN COOKSEY (DORKING SOUTH AND THE HOLMWOODS) TO ASK:

In September 2017, the Cabinet agreed to a new contract for the "Provision of an Integrated Sexual Health Service" for Surrey. Can the Cabinet Member explain where in the papers that were agreed by her and her colleagues does it mention that contraception clinics at [Caterham](#) Dene Hospital, Cobham Hospital, [Dorking](#) Hospital, Epsom Clinic, [Horley](#) Young People's Centre and [Oxted](#) Therapies Unit will close?

Can she confirm whether there are proposals to close clinics in Leatherhead, Chertsey and Frimley Green? Does it also mean the closure of the southern clinics at Camberley Health Centre, Guildford's Jarvis centre and seven sites in North West Surrey including Molesey Clinic, Staines Health centre, Stanwell Health and Community Centre, Sunbury Health Centre, Walton Health Centre, Weybridge Health Centre and Woking Hospital?

Response:

The Cabinet decision in September 2016 was to award the contract for an integrated sexual health service for Surrey consisting of hub, spoke and outreach services following a competitive tendering process. The service specification reflected local engagement work with clinicians, staff and patients undertaken throughout the early part of 2016 to tailor this to meet local needs. This included a well-attended Concept Day, a 'Surrey Says' survey and a Market Engagement Event.

The successful provider is required to ensure areas with the greatest need are where

services will be provided, based on the evidence from the sexual health needs assessment. The new service will have an emphasis on supporting young people with greater access to services and extended opening hours with online support. The new service will deliver an extended Outreach Programme with increased access to LARC (Long Acting Reversible Contraception), EHC (Emergency Hormonal Contraception) and STI (Sexually transmitted infections) testing and treatment. The provider will also be targeting support for the following high need groups: men who have sex with men (MSM), the Black African population and sex workers. The successful provider will be working with the Surrey Clinical Commissioning Groups to identify where clinics will be run from as some of the existing premises are owned by the previous service providers and therefore not available for the successful provider.

The HIV element of the service (commissioned by NHS England) required further work during mobilisation. Due to the interdependencies between the HIV service and mainstream sexual health services, this has impacted on the speed of mobilisation of the service commissioned by Surrey County Council and the resulting communications which will be sent to all partners imminently and will be available on www.healthysurrey.org.uk.

MR DAVID HODGE CBE, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

(10) MR JOHN ORRICK (CATERHAM HILL) TO ASK:

How many EU nationals currently work for Surrey County Council?

Response:

As of March 2017, the number of non-school EU national employees working for Surrey is 415 and the number of school EU national employees is 5. The total number of EU nationals currently working for Surrey is 420.

MR DAVID HODGE CBE, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

(11) MR GEORGE JOHNSON (SHALFORD) TO ASK:

The average pay gap between the highest and lowest paid employees in the United Kingdom is reputed to be among the widest in Europe. In the interests of transparency and in order to demonstrate that Surrey County Council is not complicit in this unwelcome situation, will the Leader set out the average remuneration package of the ten highest paid full-time, permanent employees of the Council (excluding the Chief Executive), and, similarly, the average remuneration package of the ten lowest paid, full-time, permanent employees.

Response:

This information is already publically available to Mr Johnson. Figures relating to the remuneration of senior officers are published every July in the Annual Statement of Accounts and if Mr Johnson would like to refer to the Pay Policy Statement, which was in his December Council papers, and which is now available on our website, he will find the additional information he is requesting.

MR JOHN FUREY, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND FLOODING

(12) MR JONATHAN ESSEX (REDHILL EAST) TO ASK:

Please provide a full breakdown of highway spending, split by borough and district council area provided, in each of the last four years (including a budget or estimated figure for this year) under the following categories: a) resurfacing of roads, b) local structural repair and c) pothole filling d) pavement works and e) structures and for the budgeted amounts for the next year, broken down into the same categories.

Response:

a) Resurfacing of roads

Borough/District	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Elmbridge	3,967	4,598	4,187	1,093	159
Epsom & Ewell	434	1,653	2,792	1,896	2,235
Guildford	5,171	6,472	3,711	1,503	2,460
Mole Valley	5,445	4,692	5,862	4,945	127
Reigate & Banstead	2,438	5,622	5,243	2,466	3,212
Runnymede	282	3,587	475	273	177
Spelthorne	763	2,970	1,030	683	175
Surrey Heath	1,689	1,911	1,772	799	425
Tandridge	10,265	4,969	9,287	1,411	1,401
Waverley	4,137	4,907	2,984	1,391	1,913
Woking	2,349	3,205	1,521	253	648
	36,940	44,586	38,863	16,713	12,930

Figures above include, Major Maintenance (Horizon) and Surface Treatment Schemes Costs are included in above figures for LEP Resilience schemes in Tandridge (2015/16, & 17/18), Epsom & Ewell (2017/18) Mole Valley(2015/16 & 2016/17) & Reigate and Banstead (2017/18).

b) Local Structural Repair

Borough/District	£000 2013/14	£000 2014/15	£000 2015/16	£000 2016/17	£000 2017/18
Elmbridge	474	286	377	282	To be determined by local committees
Epsom & Ewell	237	146	44	128	
Guildford	334	121	0	25	
Mole Valley	162	164	188	134	
Reigate & Banstead	195	321	187	114	
Runnymede	128	0	151	185	
Spelthorne	309	81	172	177	
Surrey Heath	2	0	164	125	
Tandridge	141	168	142	162	
Waverley	98	52	0	5	
Woking	144	30	86	184	
	2,224	1,369	1,511	1,521	

c) Pothole Filling

Borough/District	£000 2013/14	£000 2014/15	£000 2015/16	£000 2016/17	£000 2017/18
Elmbridge	257	308	347	335	Not possible to forecast
Epsom & Ewell	85	210	210	193	
Guildford	188	331	360	322	
Mole Valley	352	333	457	449	
Reigate & Banstead	326	411	483	582	
Runnymede	54	67	83	93	
Spelthorne	115	167	178	163	
Surrey Heath	121	170	191	260	
Tandridge	242	273	306	394	
Waverley	368	400	500	435	
Woking	86	138	112	147	
	2,195	2,807	3,227	3,373	

Figures above include potholes in both roads and pavements.

As potholes are paid for via lump sum the figures above are reflective of the volumes of defects in each borough/district and costs have been apportioned as a percentage of each years lump sum.

d) Pavement Works

Borough/District	£000 2013/14	£000 2014/15	£000 2015/16	£000 2016/17	£000 2017/18
Elmbridge	186	143	207	398	30
Epsom & Ewell	81	500	360	687	420
Guildford	511	109	212	223	187
Mole Valley	29	0	46	469	107
Reigate & Banstead	152	73	186	1,758	884
Runnymede	100	29	43	133	145
Spelthorne	166	242	63	1,387	80
Surrey Heath	85	125	55	328	66
Tandridge	16	22	37	130	54
Waverley	82	16	16	79	230
Woking	12	72	23	58	170
	1,420	1,332	1,248	5,650	2,373

Figures above include Pavement Reconstruction and Pavement Slurry Schemes

e) Structures

Borough/District	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Elmbridge	1,048	399	13	22	400
Epsom & Ewell	0	13	0	0	120
Guildford	1,727	602	407	10	490
Mole Valley	2	629	673	1,280	200
Reigate & Banstead	16	35	72	14	100
Runnymede	344	141	0	0	0
Spelthorne	5,113	1,516	0	0	0
Surrey Heath	3	258	7	0	0
Tandridge	1,142	420	152	17	90
Waverley	1	252	331	35	300
Woking	0	186	1	0	0
Countywide*	200	106	201	2	400
	9596	4558	1857	1380	2100

Costs are included in above figures for LEP Resilience Structures work in Mole Valley (15/16).

Costs for Walton Bridge are included under Spelthorne although part of the structure is in Elmbridge.

*These costs cannot be apportioned to individual Boroughs/Districts

MR DAVID HODGE CBE, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

(13) MR ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK: 2ND question

How much did the CIPFA study cost? Can all members have sight of it now?

Response:

As has previously been confirmed, this work cost £24,500 and we aim to make the report available by the end of the day, Tuesday 21st March 2017.

MRS DENISE LE GAL, CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS SERVICES AND RESIDENT EXPERIENCE

(14) MR MICHAEL SYDNEY (LINGFIELD) TO ASK: (2nd question)

In your reply to my question at the meeting on February 7th you said "Property Services has the right mix of skills, qualifications, and experience to deliver the services it is responsible for". If this is the case then how is it that our tenant farmers are visited by Officers, representing themselves as County staff, but clearly not skilled in the way you suggest?

Response:

Property Services have a strong mix of qualified and professional staff. Contractors, where used, have also been through a corporate procurement selection process to ensure that they provide the right fit to meet the needs of the property delivery.

The service have no outstanding or current complaints raised by tenant farmers relating to not being able to represent their needs due to a lack of appropriate skill set. So therefore I'm unable to comment further upon specifics to which your question may relate.

MR MIKE GOODMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

(15) MR STEPHEN COOKSEY (DORKING SOUTH AND THE HOLMWOODS) TO ASK: (2ND question)

The 465 bus is an essential service for residents in Mole Valley and there has been much speculation about the possibility of the Leatherhead to Dorking section of the service being abandoned as a consequence of the withdrawal of the Surrey CC subsidy for cross-boundary routes.

Would the responsible Cabinet member:

1. Confirm that more than half of the journeys on this route are made solely within the Surrey County Council area;
2. Agree that this provides a sound basis for the provision of a subsidy for this service;
3. Acknowledge that the withdrawal of the Leatherhead to Dorking part of the route would isolate communities between the two towns with no other bus service, create significant problems for pupils attending secondary schools in

- Leatherhead and Dorking and add to the already very heavy traffic congestion in Dorking town centre;
4. Report on the latest discussions regarding the future of this service between SCC and TfL

Response:

This council is managing a range of cost pressures in local bus provision alongside the delivery of the 3-year Local Transport Review. In managing this we have clearly demonstrated that we have maintained the services our residents rely on the most and that we have worked hard to minimise any adverse impact.

Work is now focusing on the long term future of our bus network, including the cross boundary Transport for London services, within the envelope of a balanced budget. I can confirm that no decision on the future of the 465 has been taken. This is subject to on-going discussions with Transport for London.

Regarding the level of patronage with fifty percent being made solely within the Surrey County Council area on route 465, the figures supplied by TfL does not show this.

MR DAVID HODGE CBE, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

(16) MRS HAZEL WATSON (DORKING HILLS) TO ASK: (2nd question)

How much has the County Council spent on Special Responsibility Allowances for Cabinet Associate posts since they were created?

Response:

£192,820

MR DAVID HODGE CBE, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

(17) MR JONATHAN ESSEX (REDHILL EAST) TO ASK: (2nd question)

Please confirm the level of job and budget reductions that are planned as part of the proposed changes to all of the different parts of Surrey County Council services, as part of the budget for 2017-18 passed at the February 2017 Council meeting. In particular please confirm details of proposed staffing and budget reductions for the 2017-18 year in adult social care, children's care and in the children and families directorates.

Response:

A summary of Surrey County Council's gross expenditure budgets for 2016/17 and 2017/18 shows expenditure on social care for adults and for children is rising. Other council services' expenditure reduces over this period.

Gross expenditure budget	2016/17	2017/18	Change
	£m	£m	£m
Schools & SEND	229.9	234.3	4.4
Children's services	104.7	112.8	8.0
Commissioning & Prevention	98.1	107.7	9.6
Children, Schools & Families (CSF) excluding delegated schools	432.7	454.7	22.0
Adult Social Care	437.4	460.8	23.3
Services other than ASC and CSF	426.8	416.0	-10.9
Surrey County Council excluding delegated schools	1297.0	1331.5	34.5

The level of budget reductions and full time equivalent employees for each service will form a part of the cabinet papers for the meeting on 28 March 2017.

MR DAVID HODGE CBE, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

(18) MR ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK: (3rd question)

Will the Council list its current membership by age brackets i.e. how many councillors are aged 21-30, 31-40 etc. What is the mean age for members of Surrey County Council?

Response:

As of today, the composition of the Council's membership by age bracket is as follows:

Age:	Number:
21-30	1
31-40	1
41-50	6
51-60	21
61-70	29
71-80	20
81-90	3

The mean age is 64.5 years old.

MR DAVID HODGE CBE, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

(19) MR MICHAEL SYDNEY (LINGFIELD) TO ASK: (3rd question)

In your response to my question at the Meeting on February 7th you say, apropos the Basingstoke Canal, "I understand that activity is already underway to look at the options to deliver further income from the Basingstoke Canal". This would have been

the answer to this question at each of the Council meetings over the last six years. When do you expect a result?

Response:

The Canal is owned and managed by Surrey County Council in Surrey and Hampshire County Council in Hampshire. Any future plans for the canal as a whole need to be agreed by both parties. The nature of the canal means that it needs ongoing investment in management and maintenance in order to ensure it remains safe and navigable.

Our aim is to identify a financially sustainable solution for the canal. To this end, we are in dialogue with the Canals and Rivers Trust (CaRT) about the future management of the Canal and are jointly reviewing the asset management plan and revising the business plan to reflect a number of scenarios. This is being undertaken with advice from property consultants.

In the interim, work has been continuing to increase income generation on the Canal, for example new moorings have been constructed at the Canal Centre in Mytchett and are now let, and further moorings are due to be installed at Woking. Plans are underway to improve the facilities at the Canal Centre as part of a phased development and other property along the canal is being assessed for its potential to generate an increased income.

MRS DENISE LE GAL, CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS SERVICES AND RESIDENT EXPERIENCE

**(20) MR ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK:
(4th question)**

Before buying the Vue Cinema, Nando's and Subway in Worcester, what investment opportunities in Surrey did the Council consider?

Response:

Prior to acquiring the Vue Cinema, the Council, through its Investment Advisory Board (IAB) considered a number of opportunities both in and out of county. The adopted Investment Strategy is to build a resilient revenue stream from a diverse portfolio of assets, across both different asset classes (e.g. offices, retail and warehouses) and across geographies.

Prior to any purchase, an opportunity is assessed by the IAB across a number of criteria, including the level of return relative to the risk, the length of lease(s) and the strength of the tenant(s) as well as the locational attributes (both at a macro and micro level).

The Investment Strategy approved by Cabinet in 2013 provides for where there is a choice of investment opportunities with a comparable financial return, the Investment Advisory Board will give priority to securing such additional benefits for Surrey.

The Council continues to consider investment and regeneration opportunities in Surrey and this includes the council's involvement in the Brightwell's development in Farnham, following the dismissal of the Judicial Review claim.

MR DAVID HODGE CBE, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

(21) MR MICHAEL SYDNEY (LINGFIELD) TO ASK: (4th question)

In response to my second question at the Meeting on February 7th about Surrey's failure to develop the use of wood fuel both as a product to sell and as a heat source for its buildings have you asked why it is so difficult to do this in Surrey while other counties seem to have found it very useful? And the fact that natural gas is widely available does not sit comfortably with our efforts to combat climate change.

Response:

There has been good progress in re-introducing active management of Surrey's woodlands for wood production even though the character of woodlands in Surrey represents some significant challenges. There is a higher proportion of broadleaved trees rather than fast growing species, a fragmented distribution, a large proportion of them subject to nature conservation protection and a general public concern with tree felling activities.

However, significant progress has been made in overcoming these challenges and many sites have recently been brought back into active management for wood products including timber for construction and wood fuel for biomass energy. Examples include new management plans for productivity on the estate of the Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT), which are approved by the Forestry Commission and Natural England. As a County we are also running the Wood Processing Grant (Local Growth Fund money from the LEPS) and have worked with the Forestry Commission to make the applications to both C2C and EM3 and are now delivering the programme of grants. This is funding sawmills and wood hubs as an example, to support the development of the sector. The most recent hub in Surrey is at the Albury Estate.

The high land values in Surrey can also affect the commercial viability of the wood fuel industry infrastructure. Consequently, there are no wood pellet producers within the county. In addition, the relative cost of wood fuel compared to fossil fuels is a significant factor in assessing a business case for wood hubs. Although the price of gas and heating oil can be subject to significant fluctuations both are currently cheaper than wood pellets, gas considerably so.

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Peter Martin - Economy and Prosperous Places**Enterprise Zones**

The new Enterprise Zone covering Longcross Park in Chertsey - one of the largest available sites for commercial development in Surrey - as well as Basing View in Basingstoke and Whitehill and Bordon's Louisburg Barracks in East Hampshire will start operations from 1 April 2017 and last for 25 years.

Enterprise Zones (EZs) are an initiative to support business growth, create new jobs and attract private sector investment to specific areas. Within the designated EZ boundaries newly located or expanded businesses are able to benefit from financial incentives, including reduced business rates. Business rate growth accruing from these new businesses is used for investment to support the EZ.

The Government announced applications for a new round of EZs in July 2015. This was aimed at ensuring that all Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas could benefit from an EZ and local authorities were encouraged to work with LEPs to develop bids. The new Zone is the bid made by the Enterprise M3 LEP which covers the west of Surrey and the north of Hampshire.

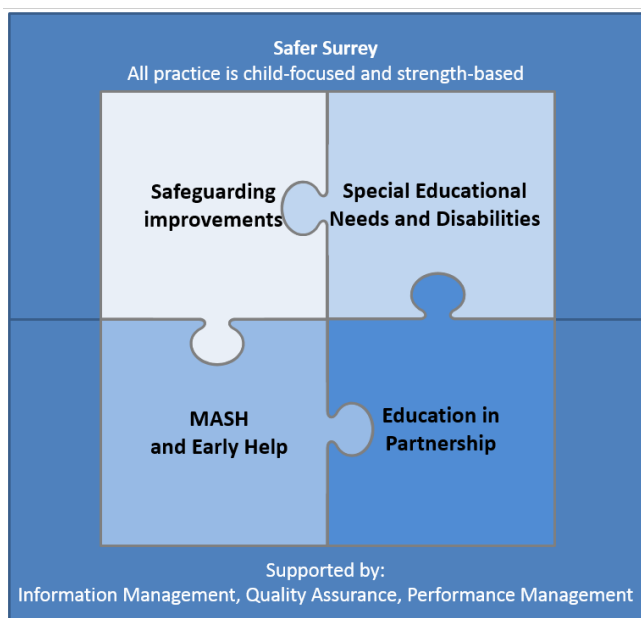
Before the EZ is formally established, a five year Implementation Plan setting out an investment programme to accelerate growth in the area and enable a greater business rates uplift has to be prepared. The Cabinet Paper going to the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 28 March provides a detailed update on the Implementation Plan and the implications for Surrey.

Over 25 years the EZ could deliver about 130 new businesses, over 10,000 new jobs and generate an additional £193 million in retained business rates. For the Longcross site there could be 32 new businesses, 4,100 new jobs and 90,000 sqm of new floor space with the development generating over £140 million in additional business rate income over the full 25 year period.

Successful implementation of the EZ requires support from all the relevant local authorities. The county council will work with Runnymede borough council on the infrastructure and other interventions that are needed to maximise development on the Longcross site and to promote local place making initiatives.

Clare Curran - Children and Families Wellbeing

Children’s Schools and Families improvement and transformation – whole system change -The Children’s, Schools and Families directorate is undergoing a significant amount of change and transformation in order to ensure we have a sustainable approach that best meets the needs of children and families. There are a number of key work streams that are interconnected and are being managed as a part of wider whole system change.



Area	Purpose
Safer Surrey	Embed consistently good practice that is child-focused and strength based, developing a culture that supports and enables this
Safeguarding	Ensure children in Surrey get the right help and protection at the right time so that they are safe and can thrive (Children’s Improvement Plan)
MASH and Early Help	Implement a single front door for safeguarding concerns (MASH) and build a new operating model for CSF Early Help services and re-shape the local early help offer and delivery with partners
SEND	Improve the experience children and families have of the SEND system (response to Ofsted inspection)
Education in Partnership	Create an education system that is financially stable for schools and the Council, and delivers sustainable, high quality and inclusive education and training

Progress so far - There has been some positive progress over recent months. This was reflected in feedback from the Department for Education (DfE) and Ofsted following separate reviews in January 2017. They confirmed that the pace of change has gained momentum. Progress continues to be strongly linked to how teams are embedding the Safer Surrey approach into their practice. [Safer Surrey](#) provides a robust framework for practice and helps secure better outcomes for children through its emphasis on the voice of the child.

Key challenges - The progress made to date is encouraging. However, there is much more to do. Day-to-day practice needs to be consistently good and we are working relentlessly to address areas we know require improvement – for example, raising performance in the MASH and for SEND services. And we have to transform the wider system in Surrey with our partners at a pace sufficient to meet the growing needs of children and families during in period of ever tightening financial constraint. This won’t be easy, but I am confident that we now have the stronger leadership, improved partnership working, and right focus to succeed.

Benefits for children and families - The changes we are making are essential to ensuring all children in Surrey get the right support at the right time, whatever their specific needs or the specific services involved. We are shifting to a system where support is provided earlier, is integrated, and is designed *with* children and families, drawing on the strengths they and their communities have.

Denise Le Gal - Business Services and Resident Experience

Over the last financial year Surrey County Council along with its partner East Sussex County Council have operated the Orbis partnership across the back office functions from both Councils under an integrated management structure.

Orbis has had a number of successes in its first year of a year business plan and had delivered savings to date of across the partnership of £2.4M for the sovereign authorities.

Whilst continuing to deliver services to both organisations Orbis has at the same time reshaped its organisational structure and now, as planned, operates an integrated leadership team through a joint governance structure across all 6 functions of, Property, IT & Digital, Finance, Procurement, Business Operations and HR&OD. This was supported by the Orbis pay strategy which allows for blended roles across three partners.

The team has continued to build an identity and culture that has provided opportunities for Orbis to grow its presence and talent through internally developed and delivered programmes such as Ingenium, EPIC+ and a Shadow Board. This approach is unique and a differential that sets Orbis apart as an employer in the market place and has in the last year been recognised with a number of awards, including 'Organisational Culture Excellence Award' at the OC Excellence Awards and highly commended in 'Most Effective Partnership' at the PPMA awards.

Orbis is also a founding member of the Shared Services network and participated in the inaugural Shared Services Summit with the two other leading public sector partnerships, LGSS and OneSource. The three organisations look to bring together ideas and learning from across the public sector business services arena to develop and learn from each other and meet the challenges the sector is facing.

Orbis, as well as delivering efficiency, has also won in a commercial environment business delivering pension services for Hillingdon, as well as gaining acceptance on the Norfolk framework as the supplier of pension administration, creating opportunities for further income. Work has also been ongoing to ensure hygiene technology factors are met when working across multiple locations.

The ultimate endorsement of the approach to the partnership working is Brighton and Hove City Council looking to join the partnership under a shadow year arrangement in 2017.

Orbis will continue to deliver to its business plan whilst looking at opportunities to enhance the value it brings to not only its sovereign authorities but its partners and customers through the core ethos of Orbis.

Helyn Clack - Wellbeing and Health

Health and Wellbeing Board – Since my December update we have had four Health and Wellbeing Board Meetings covering a wide variety of topics including: Safeguarding, Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs), prevention, homelessness, carers, mental health, older adults health and wellbeing, and children’s health and wellbeing. We have had interesting discussions which have helped to progress the integration health and social care across Surrey. For the latest information on the Health and Wellbeing and to read a summary of the discussions, please read the [Public Update](#).

From 1 April we will have a new co-chair – Dr Claire Fuller, Clinical Chair at Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group – and the Police and Crime Commissioner, David Munro has replaced the Chief Constable on the Board to represent Surrey Police.

Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) continue to progress in the three geographical footprints covering Surrey shaping the way health and care is delivered to Surrey residents. Surrey Heartlands STP - covering the largest geographical area in Surrey - has strong joint leadership from both health and local government. The involvement of the County Council at all levels in the STP (from the CEO chairing the Transformation Board to officers helping to shape various workstreams) is helping to bring together two very different cultures, approaches and languages of the NHS and local government. This not only helps to smooth and accelerate integration of services, but also improves each organisation’s understanding of the different pressures each is under. Plans are beginning to take shape to devolve health and social care powers in Surrey Heartlands. For more information see the Cabinet report for the March 24 Cabinet and Councillor Mel Few’s Cabinet Member update for Council which includes detail of the devolution plans.

The **Surrey Tobacco Control Strategy 2016-21** has been launched, after a consultation took place in the Autumn. Smoking is still the main cause of preventable illness and premature death, and the single biggest cause of health inequalities, resulting in people who are the worst off experiencing poorer health and shorter lives. The [Strategy](#) provides a comprehensive, strategic, multi-agency approach to reducing the smoking prevalence in Surrey. The Smokefree Surrey Alliance will deliver the strategy and ensure effective, coordination of multiple partners, delivering interventions designed to reduce the harm caused from tobacco in Surrey.

The Public Health team has been working with the 11 Borough and Districts to help produce the **Surrey Homeless Health Needs Audit**, designed to develop the evidence base and inform the improvement of the health offer to homeless people in Surrey. 329 people responded to the audit, including those who are street homeless and those in hostel and supported accommodation. The audit provides valuable local insight into a group who has a lower life expectancy and greater health and support needs compared to the general population. The report can be accessed on [Surrey](#).

John Furey - Highways, Transport and Flooding

Project Horizon's road and pavement programme - The programme is now available, which will enable the next five years to be planned. However, learning from the past four years, it became apparent that setting a five year programme in stone introduced a risk level for other roads not on the programme to deteriorate to a degree that required intervention.

Therefore the programme will be flexible, initial detail in year two and further years will be subject to change, dependent upon the asset condition.

Members should therefore be aware that programme details are capable of change to help local difficulties newly identified and to have a firm understanding that where possible the programme will be delivered as set down.

Flooding Issues - We now have in place 17 local Flood Forums formed across the county operated by local people. It is our intention to further deepen residents' understanding of the manner in which they can lead and determine the areas of spend required in gullies, ditches and wet spots.

Members should be clearly aware that the wet spot list does not reduce as we tackle the prioritised issues. We retain all listed wet spots to ensure that not only have we been aware, but there will be continued attention given to those areas.

Furthermore, I am requesting additional funding from the Thames Regional Flooding and Coastal Committee, to set up an exemplar for all the other authorities dealing with flooding.

Part Night Street Lighting - The rollout to the Boroughs and Districts continues apace. To date, following a request for review, over 4,000 lights have been turned back on.

The request to review has worked extremely well, and the public have responded accordingly and on occasions accepted that there would be no change following the safety team and police review.

I have received a number of complimentary and supportive emails and letters from the public expressing their delight at the reduction in light pollution and their new found ability to enjoy the sky at night.

Mel Few - Adult Social Care, Wellbeing and Independence

Tower Awards - At the last Social Care Services Board meeting I was extremely pleased to be able to present Tower Awards to members of the team who had the tough task of converting the old collapsing Adults Social Care computer programme, known as the AIS, to the new liquid logic system.

What made this implementation successful (very unusual in IMT programme implementation) was bringing the system online in time and within budget, with no complaints from the users.

Integration with Health - The next step in the integration journey was achieved recently with formal legal agreements signed with Epsom Health and Care Alliance and Surrey Heath Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The next year will see the Adults service working in shadow form with health including pooled budgets. Work in moving ahead with other CCGs is progressing albeit steadily and includes the Heartlands STP submitting their MOU to NHS England for a shadow year in 2017/18.

An example of this work is the integrated hubs whose key objective is to ensure that there is a central point where elderly frail patients are triaged by a multidisciplinary team and clinically managed by the team to avoid emergency acute hospital admissions.

Accommodation with Care and Support Project - Planning approval has now been received for the construction of a residential home for 10 young adults with severe autism in Alfold, Surrey. This is the first project of this type for residents with learning disabilities but we expect to see more supported living projects going forward.

The older people strategy for extra care accommodation has identified 5 potential sites which can accommodate a 40-60 unit facility within Surrey. A provider market workshop is planned for April to obtain expressions of interest for extra care provision in Surrey which hopefully can be commenced shortly.

Richard Walsh - Localities and Community Wellbeing

Library Service - The library service lends to Surrey residents in a year over 5,616,000 books and 300,000 audio-visual items from a stock of over 1.3 million items. Children under 13 borrowed more books than ever from Surrey libraries in the last year- over 2 million, the highest figure for more than a decade. The library network receives annually 3,448,600 physical visits by Surrey residents. The service answers per year 886,000 library information enquiries and fulfils 281,000 book requests. 1,601,900 on-line visits are made annually to the library's website. The service has 319,000 members and 73% were active last year. Children 0-14 make up 27% of borrowers and people 15-65 make up 55%, older adults 65+ make up 17% of borrowers. Since 2009, the 65+ age group, as a % of total active borrowers, has risen from 15.9% in 2009 to 20.7% in 2015. The library service, with the help of volunteers, provides books to a thousand housebound readers. The library service delivers a wide range of health and wellbeing related activities including recently over 40 dementia tea parties for sufferers and carers. As the contract holders for Dementia Access Alliance staff have been working with stakeholders such as Surrey Choices (for Autism), Dyslexia Action and the Alzheimer's society and are working towards a checklist of design and signage solutions to improve the use of libraries for these groups of people including a pilot library.

Customer Satisfaction survey - All libraries have been surveyed in phases over the last two years. The corporate satisfaction rate target was 95%. The overall satisfaction rate was 97% and a number of SCC managed and community partnered libraries scored 100%. The top 3 aspects most valued are friendly helpful and knowledgeable staff, breadth and wide selection of stock, and location and convenience. The top three areas for improvement are longer opening hours, a greater selection of titles, access to toilets and baby changing facilities.

Registration Services - Surrey is one of the biggest registration services in the country; we registered 20,000 births, 12,000 deaths (5% increase on last year) and 9,000 notices of marriage/civil partnership. We conducted 4,000 marriage and civil partnership ceremonies and 2,200 new British citizenship ceremonies (15% increase on last year). Over 95% of customer comment cards give us the highest satisfaction rating.

Surrey Adult Learning - Surrey Adult Learning continues to have strong growth on its programme, with learner numbers up 7.1% in the autumn term compared to the previous year. The growth is self-funded through learner fee income, which is on course to exceed 2 million pounds in the 2016-17 academic year.

Surrey Heritage - Surrey Heritage, marked LGBT (Lesbian, Gay Bi and Trans) History Month with a display of items for the archive celebrating the history of sexual diversity in Surrey that was viewed by over 2,000 people. Professor Peter Hegarty of the University of Surrey wrote, *'Thank you for making my history accessible. A truly lovely event, and a great success.'*

The service completed a Heritage Lottery Fund project celebrating the Surrey playwright, R C Sherriff. Working with schools in Elmbridge, Sherriff's letters from the trenches were turned into a play. Sherriff's biographer wrote, *'I think you should feel fantastically proud with what you've accomplished'*. Surrey in the Great War: A County Remembers continues, involving over 150 volunteers from across the county, ranging in age from 14 to 80. The project website now carries thousands of records and several hundred World War I stories.

Mike Goodman - Environment and Planning

Countryside – On 9th March Surrey Countryside and Rural Enterprise Forum held its third annual conference attended by organisations across Surrey, focusing on farming and its role in managing the countryside, rural business and engaging the public. I am pleased to confirm the Planning Inspectorate has given Commons Consent to enable us to progress with parking charges at Newlands Corner. Parking charges are part of a number of activities in the Surrey Wildlife Trust's Business Plan for the Countryside Estate that will provide the funding needed to make the Countryside Estate self-sufficient by 2020 and ensure it is available for future generations. The business plan will be published shortly.

Waste - Work continues to secure savings and efficiencies across the waste service. Changes to the operation of the community recycling centres, including reduced hours during least busy times and charges for some non-household waste have been successfully implemented and are starting to deliver required savings. Reuse shops have opened at Leatherhead, Witley and Woking CRCs with a reuse shop at Earlswood due to open in April. These provide income to offset operating costs.

Fly Tipping – Nationally levels of fly tipping have increased but in Surrey I am pleased to say that, thanks to concerted efforts from Surrey Waste Partnership, levels of fly tipping decreased from April 16 to Feb 17 by over 1,110 tonnes compared to the same period in the previous year, saving around £120,000 in reduced disposal costs. The Partnerships and Intelligence Officer began work in November 2016, working closely with district and boroughs to assist with detection and enforcement of fly-tipping activities, supported by the Partnership's 'Tip Off' communications campaign. A number of districts and boroughs have had successes finding and prosecuting offenders. Better sharing of intelligence and best practice will enable others to do the same.

Air Quality - The links between air quality, public health and transport are now well understood. Transport and public health teams are working closely with the boroughs and districts to develop a multi-agency approach. We are updating the Local Transport Plan Air Quality Strategy and developing a joint action plan. This will be overseen by the Health and Well-being Board.

Bus Service - Despite Abellio's resignation from a number of bus contracts, we managed to maintain most impacted services. We are monitoring services to ensure Surrey gets the best value for money. I can report significant improvements in service reliability, performance and reductions in complaints. Work is now focused on the long term future of the network, including dialogue with Transport for London about the future sustainability of cross boundary services, within the envelope of a balanced budget.

Rail - The need for southern rail access to Heathrow has been raised with the Aviation Minister and the Secretary of State for Transport. More detailed assessment work is commencing to help us make the case for this vital scheme. We continue to lobby government to commit to enhancements on the Brighton Main Line and take Crossrail 2 to the next stage of development. Our work in these vital areas is also helping shape enhanced partnership working with TfL. We are also working with Great Western Railway and Network Rail on additional services on the North Downs Line, to transform this vital orbital transport link. We are also lobbying the two shortlisted bidders for the replacement South West Trains franchise to ensure the needs of residents and businesses are met.

Aviation – We recently responded to the Government's consultation on night flights and are currently preparing our responses to two Government consultations on a draft Airports National Policy Statement (NPS) and changes to UK Airspace Policy. In addition to our view on southern rail access, we are particularly concerned that the consultation on the NPS is being undertaken when the final flightpaths and possible respite measures are not yet known. Noise is a significant issue for many communities in Elmbridge, Runnymede, Spelthorne and Surrey Heath. Therefore, I am very disappointed that no consultation events were planned for Elmbridge and Surrey Heath. I raised this with the Minister for Aviation, who declined to make changes to the consultation arrangements. I have now written to the Government's independent adviser on the consultation arrangements to challenge this. On the UK Airspace consultation, we will be expressing our concern over the potential impacts that concentrated flightpaths from airports could have on Surrey.

Linda Kemeny - Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement

Corporate Parenting: As Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) which is a multi-agency partnership, I have this month completed the Lead Member Report for Corporate Parenting 2016 which has been scrutinised by the Social Care Services Board and presented to the CPB for consideration. As Members of the Council, one of the primary responsibilities we have is to ensure that those children who are growing up in the care of the County Council as our looked after children and care leavers are provided with the best possible opportunities and support to achieve their full potential.

As corporate parents, we have a duty to ensure as far as possible that all the children in our care and those leaving care have the same life chances and outcomes that all good parents want for their own children. An important part of our responsibilities is our pledge to consult with children and young people which is a part of our Corporate Parenting Strategy (2015-2018), currently being refreshed.

With our largest number of looked after children in 2016, 903 up from 779 in 2015, including 153 unaccompanied asylum seeking children, plus 479 care leavers who are entitled to ongoing support until the age of 21 or 25 if in higher education, I am pleased at the efforts made last year to ensure that our looked after children and care leavers have a voice and an opportunity to tell us what they think of our services. The 2016 BIG Report collated the views of 168 children and young people, the majority of whom told us they were happy in their placement as well as confident about their health.

Looked after children and care leavers have a range of ways in which they can share their views. Care Council is a group of young people aged 13-24 who meet monthly to talk about what is important to them, as do younger children in care through Care Council Juniors. They come up with ideas and inform the CPB about what they would like to stop, start or change about the care system in Surrey. Care Council members and our Children's Rights Apprentices attend the CPB for alternate meetings, providing a welcome space to hear directly from each other and to give feedback about our progress in making changes and improvements. Feedback last year was generally very positive and some important suggestions were made, such as 'Stop changing my social worker', 'Need to see my social worker more often', 'Knowing and understanding my personal education and health plans', and 'Give me support to deal with bullying', which are all being addressed and followed up.

Growing up in care can be a positive experience for children and young people, provided we make sure that our services work effectively to improve outcomes. Overall there has been some positive progress in 2016, with evidence of improvements in the priority areas for action identified for the year including improved practice to safeguard children from child sexual exploitation, children who go missing, and unaccompanied asylum seeking children. An independent return home interview is in place for children reported missing, supporting work to understand why children go missing and to reduce the number of episodes. A key area of concern continues to be the high percentage of our children (22%) who are placed outside Surrey. While there are often good reasons for this, we will be looking at further ways to enable them to remain in the county where appropriate.

Looking forward, with stronger leadership in place in Children's Services and improved partnership working, I believe the CPB will continue to strengthen its effectiveness and impact for children in 2017. The new Council will also need to ensure that all Members are fully trained to fulfil what is a critical corporate parenting role, including participating in our excellent Total Respect training.

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