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**Item 6 - Members' Question Time
(Questions and Responses)**

for the meeting of

THE COUNTY COUNCIL

to be held on

4 FEBRUARY 2020

(i)

(ii)

6 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

(Pages 5
- 10)

The Leader of the Council or the appropriate Member of the Cabinet or the Chairman of a Committee to answer any questions on any matter relating to the powers and duties of the County Council, or which affects the county.

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SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2020****QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED UNDER THE PROVISIONS
OF STANDING ORDER 10.1****MIKE GOODMAN (CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE)****1. MRS HAZEL WATSON (DORKING HILLS) TO ASK:**

Since the County Council declared a climate emergency on 9 July 2019, what action that has resulted in tangible outcomes as opposed to plans, has been delivered by the Council in terms of its own offices and services to residents?

Response:

Surrey County Council declared a climate change emergency in July 2019, making a commitment to be a net zero carbon county by 2050, in alignment with Government's target. Since then much work has been undertaken by officers and members in the development of our climate change strategy, which will be launched in May 2020.

We must not underestimate the importance of planning and developing a meaningful strategy which aligns with Government and local priorities, which has been developed with our residents and partners to ensure buy in, as meeting the challenge of climate change cannot be achieved in silo working, and which will deliver the required carbon savings needed to our own estate as well as the county as a whole.

To that end, since July, we have engaged with our residents, schools, businesses and NHS colleagues on climate change related issues. I have visited the Leaders and Chief Executives of each of the boroughs and districts to discuss climate change and joint working opportunities. The cross-party Surrey's Greener Future Task Group was established and produced a Call to Action, following in depth interviews with climate change experts. We have produced a policy baseline to understand where the gaps exist in our current environmental policies and we have commissioned the University of Leeds to provide a detailed emissions baseline for the county, which will include an emissions reduction pathway to get us to net zero by 2050 or sooner, along with recommended measures.

With regards delivery of initiatives which will result in carbon reductions for our own estate and for the county as a whole we have achieved the following since summer 2019:

- Launched an initiative to plant 1.2m new trees by 2030, which will result in the carbon capture of approximately 300,000 tonnes CO₂ once the trees planted reach maturity. We will soon be celebrating Surrey's Tree week with a number of tree planting celebration events which will result in high numbers of trees planted.
- We have developed a pipeline of capital programmes equating to approximately £84m, which will result in carbon reduction. More information on this pipeline will

be included in the Greener Futures report which is report due to go to Cabinet in March.

- Since the summer we have continued to develop infrastructure projects which will result in carbon savings, including a countywide scheme to replace standard street lamps with much more efficient LED bulbs.
- We have worked with four boroughs and districts on a LEP funding bid and have been successful at obtaining funds to allow for the installation of 80 new electric vehicle charging points
- We have applied for funding for the Low Carbon in the South East (LoCASE) scheme. This is a three year initiative which provides grant funding for SME businesses and the public sector to install energy efficiency and low carbon measures which result in CO2 and energy bill savings. The bid has been shortlisted and if successful approximately £4m funding will be available to be spent in Surrey from summer 2020. Kent County Council are leading the bid on behalf of the region and have a very good track record in delivering previous rounds of LoCASE, so a positive outcome is expected.
- Last summer we launched the Greener Futures Design Challenge and since then we have supported ten community groups to develop their climate change project ideas. The result is a range of innovative, community-led projects ranging from a cleaning product re-fill scheme at a local school to reduce single use plastics, to a project which connects people wishing to volunteer and learn how to grow food with local organic farms.

MATT FURNISS (CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS)

2. MR ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK:

What discussions take place between the Council and neighbouring authorities, e.g. London Boroughs, before road repairs on an adjoining stretch of road take place?

Response:

We liaise with neighbouring authorities for any works close to boundaries which we feel may impact on their networks and they reciprocate in terms of their works that may impact on our network.

SINEAD MOONEY (CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH)

3. MR JONATHAN ESSEX (REDHILL EAST) TO ASK:

In the Equality Impact Assessment for Adults Social Care (see summary para 27-28 page 155 of the Council report) highlights that budget changes are likely to increase travel distances for both older and disabled residents and increase demands on Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) organisations sectors.

In light of this:

- a. Please share details of extent of likely increase in distances travelled and how this can be avoided
- b. The rethinking transport initiative aims to reduce distances travelled and the changes to provide extra school places for SEND also aims to reduce distances. Please confirm why the changes for ASC are in the opposite direction.

- c. The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) notes likely increased demands on VCFS which could overload the sector, please provide details of additional support, financial and otherwise, that the Council will be providing to mitigate against this impact.

Response:

Adult Social Care has to deliver savings of £12.3 million in 2020/21. The 'easy wins' have long since been implemented and the Equality Impact Assessment acknowledges that whilst actions are in place to mitigate and minimise negative impacts for people, it will be difficult to do so in all cases. So for example:

- Our strengths based approach means we are helping people to stay connected to their communities with support from family and friends. However, this may mean increasing demands upon the voluntary, community and faith sector to support people.
- To manage care package expenditure we have to ensure placements are made at our guide price. This may mean older people or people with a disability who need residential and/or nursing care, are offered placements at a distance from their family. Consequently families may have further to travel to visit their relative but when making arrangements we work with the family to ensure any impact is minimised.

Many aspects of the Adult Social Care strategy will have positive impacts for residents. For example, the development of extra care and independent living provision will enable people to remain close to their families and community support networks, the growth of digital technology will allow more people to stay independent at home, travel tools will empower more people with learning disabilities and autism to use local transport to access employment and other community opportunities etc.

In response to each of your specific questions:

- a. **Please share details of extent of likely increase in distances travelled and how this can be avoided** - Any increase in the distances travelled by family to visit their relative has not been quantified. When making arrangements our workers support families to find help from friends, volunteer car schemes or may even fund a taxi to help minimise any impact.
- b. **The rethinking transport initiative aims to reduce distances travelled and the changes to provide extra school places for SEND also aims to reduce distances. Please confirm why the changes for ASC are in the opposite direction** - The need to manage care package expenditure means that placements have to be made at our guide price. People may therefore be offered placements at a distance from their family, who then need to travel to visit. Many other aspects of the Adult Social Care strategy will reduce travel.
- c. **The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) notes likely increased demands on VCFS which could overload the sector, please provide details of additional support, financial and otherwise, that the Council will be providing to mitigate against this impact** - The Council continues to support the voluntary, community and faith sector through its grants and contracts programme, facilitating the use of social capital and by working jointly with the voluntary sector to strengthen our community offer. We also work with health, borough and district partners to make the best use of available resources in a 'place'. For example, 'Home First' involves Adult Social Care, community health, Guildford Borough Council and the Royal Surrey County Hospital working in partnership to ensure timely discharge for people back to their home in the community.

SINEAD MOONEY (CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH)

**4. MR ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK:
(2nd Question)**

How many care homes for elderly people are there in Surrey, how many residents and how many staff work in this industry?

Response:

As at 1st Jan 2020 there were 318 care homes providing support to older people¹, this equates to 12,598 beds².

According to the Skills for Care Surrey Workforce report which has published data from 2018/19, there were 35,000 people employed in the care sector. These would include local authority employees, the independent sector and personal assistants working for direct payment recipients³.

SINEAD MOONEY (CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH)

**5. MR JONATHAN ESSEX (REDHILL EAST) TO ASK:
(2nd Question)**

The public health budget of the Council has reduced by one third in the last five years after considering inflation through a combination of reduced government funding and public health spending outside of core areas.

In light of this please confirm:

- a. What reductions in public health provision have occurred in last five years?
- b. This year Stop Smoking service is shifting to only being provided by telephone or online. Please confirm the impact of this based on comparison with other councils who provide the service in this way.

Response:

a. What reductions in public health provision have occurred in last five years?

As a result of reductions in the national allocation to the public health grant and an increase in funding to services provided by elsewhere in the council that deliver public health outcomes, the following budget reductions have been made over the past five years:

¹ Older people are classed as those over 65 years old

² Source: CQV

³ Source: Skills for Care annual workforce dataset. Although it is not mandatory for providers to submit an annual dataset, all local authorities do so. Report annexed.

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| Healthy Child (Health Visiting and school nursing) | £ 200,000 |
| Smoking | £ 250,000 |
| Obesity/ physical activity | £ 300,000 |
| Health checks | £ 750,000 |
| Sexual health | £ 3 million |
| Substance misuse | £ 3 million |
| Salaries (public health staff) | £ 450,000 |
| SCC recharge/ non pay | £ 450,000 |

The figures above represent an overall reduction in spend on the areas in question. It is important to note that areas of public health provision have undergone change in order to ensure that they are delivering at maximum efficiency, based on the needs of the population and the latest evidence base. The reduction in spend cannot therefore be correlated in a proportionate reduction in level of provision.

- b. **This year Stop Smoking service is shifting to only being provided by telephone or online. Please confirm the impact of this based on comparison with other councils who provide the service in this way.**

The specialist stop smoking service will continue to be provided in Surrey. The specialist service does offer provision via telephone and online but a face to face service is, and will continue to be, a major aspect of this provision. It is the Public Health Agreements which would not be renewed and these represent a relatively small proportion of the overall spend on smoking.

The current budget for smoking is:

- £636,416 for the main budget (the Thrive Tribe, specialist service contract). This will remain.
- £115,000 for the Public Health Agreements (although we are only forecast to spend £43,000 out of the £115,000 this year).

The budget of £636,416 will remain in 2020/21 out of a total current budget (2019/20) of £751,416. 84 % of the budget for smoking is remaining in the budget.

The public health team looked at stop smoking services in other local authorities. These follow one of the three models:

- 1) No provision of stop smoking services - i.e. neither specialist services nor through Public Health Agreements (PHAs) with primary care and pharmacies
- 2) Provision of stop smoking services only through Public Health Agreements delivered by primary care and pharmacies
- 3) Provision of stop smoking services through a specialist service only

Surrey County Council is unusual in that we currently provide stop smoking services through a blend of both specialist service provision (through 'One You Surrey') and also through a small number of smoking Public Health Agreements (PHAs) delivered by primary care/pharmacy providers based on provider choice.

Specialist stop smoking services, as described in NICE guideline NG92, still deliver the best outcomes in terms of individual behaviour change models for smokers. More smokers quit through specialist services than through any of the other individualistic models of delivery (<http://ash.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019-LA-Survey-Report.pdf>).

The specialist service will continue to accept referrals from GPs and pharmacies. The specialist service already provides some of their services within GP services.

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed (which is available on request).