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Supplementary Agenda

for the meeting of

THE COUNTY COUNCIL

to be held on

17 MARCH 2020

(i)

(ii)

5a CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

(Pages 5
- 8)

In light of the national situation around coronavirus and in preparation for any special arrangements that may be required in order to allow council business to continue, Council are asked to authorise the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to make the necessary amendments to the Constitution.

6 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

(Pages 9
- 30)

1. 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.
2. Cabinet Member Briefings on their portfolios

There will be an opportunity for Members to ask questions.

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OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

The Council's Constitution sets out the rules and procedures for both executive (Cabinet) and non-executive (Council) decision making. In light of the national situation around coronavirus and in preparation for any special arrangements that may be required in order to allow council business to continue, Council are asked to authorise the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to make the necessary amendments as set out in this report, to the Constitution.

Members will still be accountable and responsible for decision making and it is proposed that this continues so far as possible. Where it is not possible to hold a Cabinet or committee meeting, any notice will still be published, any reports will still be provided and members will be fully involved in contributing to consideration of the issues. If a formal decision is required this will be made through a delegation to an individual Cabinet member or officer and where appropriate call in procedures will apply.

A protocol will be developed and will take into account other democratic procedures such as questions and petitions.

DECISION MAKING:

Executive (Cabinet) decision making and Scrutiny

The Leader has authority to make any executive decision and may delegate to Cabinet, individual Cabinet Members or officers as the Leader considers necessary for the proper management of council business.

While the Leader is able to amend the delegations with the Leader's Scheme of Delegation, the Council's Financial Regulations and Procurement Standing Orders set out the thresholds for decision making and provide that some decisions need to be made collectively by Cabinet.

To provide for ongoing decision making in areas such as procurement, property and budget virements it is proposed that Council agrees to amend the Financial Regulations and other rules so that any reference to Cabinet requires either a formal Cabinet meeting or the Leader or nominated Cabinet Member individually making a decision in consultation with two other Cabinet Members (a quorum of Cabinet).

Any individual decision will be made as a formal decision of a Cabinet Member with full public notice and the right to scrutinise. All executive decision (unless under special urgency) will be subject to call in procedures.

If an item is called in it will be considered in a virtual manner by committee members in with the protocol that will be developed.

Non-executive decision making

Council has responsibility for non-executive decision making and has delegated some function to committees and officers e.g. planning and regulatory committee and audit and governance committee.

It is proposed that all non-executive decision making is delegated to officers (as far as the law allows). These delegations will only be used on a case by case basis and following agreement of the chairman or nominated member of the relevant regulatory committee.

Urgent decisions

The Council already has arrangements in place for decisions that need to be made in cases of special urgency. Standing orders enable the Chief Executive to act on behalf of the organisation in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer and Cabinet Members as appropriate.

Non-attendance at council meetings

Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that all councillors must attend a committee meeting of the council within a six month period unless the failure was due to a reason approved by the local authority.

Council is asked to resolve that special dispensation is granted to all members for any non-attendance at meetings for virus related reasons to the end of December 2020.

Appointment of chairmen and committees

In default of further council decisions, Council is asked to approve that any existing appointments of chairmen, vice-chairmen and committee members continues in accordance with the wishes of the political groups.

Emergency Legislation

The Council is aware that the Government is looking at options regarding the introduction of emergency legislation to allow meetings to take place virtually and awaits further detail on this. When guidance has been made available this will be incorporated into the protocol for meetings and communicated to Members.

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| RECOMMENDATIONS: |
|-------------------------|

1. To amend the definition within the Council's Constitution (as far as the law allows) to define Cabinet as a formal meeting of Cabinet **or** the

Leader or nominated Cabinet Member making a decision in consultation with at least two other Cabinet Members.

2. To delegate all non-executive decisions (as far as the law allows) to the relevant proper officer in consultation with the relevant chairman or member nominated by the chairman.
3. To agree that any member unable to attend a council meeting for a period greater than six months for virus related reasons, receives a dispensation further to section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to December 2020.
4. To resolve that a protocol be agreed with the Chairman of the Council and group leaders to set out the arrangements for decision making with committee members prior to any officer decision usually referred to committee. Protocol to include:
 - a) Notice and reports for the public and committee members
 - b) Any representations from members on decisions
 - c) Arrangements for 'virtual' meetings, discussions or recommendations from members of the committees/members of the public/other councillors.
5. To agree that the Audit and Governance Committee will monitor the use of the protocol and make recommendations on any required amendments to the protocol to ensure that Members remain informed in relation to council decision making.
6. To authorise the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman of the Council and group leaders to incorporate any legislative changes issued by Government into council business processes.
7. To agree existing chairmen, vice-chairmen and committee appointments continue in line with political group wishes.
8. To review these measures at the 13 October 2020 meeting of the Council or as soon as practicable thereafter as determined by the Audit and Governance Committee.

Lead/Contact Officers:

Paul Evans, Director of Law and Governance

Email: paul.evans@surreycc.gov.uk tel: 02082132584

Sources/background papers:

Constitution of the Council

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SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2020****QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED UNDER THE PROVISIONS
OF STANDING ORDER 10.1****MIKE GOODMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE****1. MR JOHN O'REILLY (HERSHAM) TO ASK:**

On the 27 February 2020, the Court of Appeal ruled that the Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS), which favours the development of a third runway at Heathrow, has no legal effect unless and until the Government reviews it, because it did not take into account the Government's climate change commitments. The Court did not quash the ANPS and a third runway could still go ahead as long as it fits with the UK's climate policy.

In view of this judgement how does Surrey County Council see any future aviation expansion at Heathrow and Gatwick?

Response:

At its meeting on 8 October 2019, Surrey County Council agreed that expansion of Heathrow airport is not consistent with either the Council or the Government's declaration of a climate emergency and the need to reduce net carbon emissions to zero by 2050. This Council therefore welcomes the Court of Appeal ruling on 27th February that the statutory process for the formulation of government policy in the Airports National Policy Statement, which supported the Heathrow expansion project, was unlawful as the Government's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and mitigating climate change under the Paris Agreement was not taken into account.

Heathrow and Gatwick airports play a crucial role in supporting employment for Surrey residents, generating investment in the Surrey economy and in attracting and retaining major businesses to locate in the county as well as a key role in boosting the UK's global connectivity and supporting national economic growth.

Many Surrey residents will be significantly impacted by the current expansion proposals for Heathrow and Gatwick airports. This Council calls on the Government to set out its position on reviewing the Airports National Policy Statement and its policy on the future of UK aviation, making clear its approach to airport expansion and to delivering a robust decarbonisation plan, to end any uncertainty as soon as possible.

It is vital that both airports have a comprehensive surface access strategy and that the necessary infrastructure for improved public and active transport links is in place before expansion at either airport is delivered and operational, along with appropriate mitigation measures and commitments to address environmental impacts. For Heathrow, this must include a southern rail access scheme, which supports strategic transport and economic objectives and contributes to addressing environmental impacts.

This Council will continue to engage with both airports alongside other local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships and other organisations on their expansion plans in order to protect and promote the interests of Surrey residents and businesses.

TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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

Martin Tett, the Conservative Leader of Buckinghamshire County Council said recently that his new unitary authority *'paves the way for a brand-new council, fit for the future, created by combining the best of both county and district councils. This new council will be simpler, better value and more local to our residents. It will also have more clout to face head-on the great strategic challenges facing the county over the coming decades.'*

Has Surrey had any discussions with Buckinghamshire and in an era of providing better value and more efficient local government, is not it time to consider following Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Dorset, Berkshire, Cornwall and all the other areas that have recognised the need to modernise themselves?

Response:

The Government's forthcoming Devolution White Paper represents a tremendous opportunity for Surrey that we should take very seriously. The chance to secure freedoms and flexibilities to do what's best for the future of Surrey will likely come with expectations of strengthened governance and accountability. There is a strong case for examining the future of public service delivery in the County so we can deliver the best services and the best value for money for our residents. We are interested to learn from the experience of other places, including Buckinghamshire.

But an "off-the-shelf" arrangement where Surrey simply replicates what has been done in other places is not necessarily the right approach either. To grow our economy in Surrey and improve the lives of our residents, we need an approach that is tailored to our local circumstances. We are looking forward to picking up this discussion with Government once the White Paper is published later this year.

DENISE TURNER-STEWART, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, FIRE & RESILIENCE

3. MR WILL FORSTER (WOKING SOUTH) TO ASK:

Following the decision of the County Council to consult the public on Prudential Ride London-Surrey cycle event, will the Council also be consulting the public on the Surrey Half Marathon?

Response:

The current process for agreeing any sporting event on the highway, other than the Prudential Ride London, follows the 'Process for Organising Road Closures for Sporting Events' policy that was agreed with Cabinet in 2013. There are no current plans to review this policy or the approach to consultation on the Surrey Half Marathon.

Within the existing policy there is a requirement to engage with critical services, local communities, councillors and other stakeholders, with parties having the opportunity to support or object to road closures considered necessary for the event. The Woking Joint

Committee was consulted on the Surrey Half Marathon event on the 28th November 2018 and the committee agreed to the event continuing until 2022. Consideration of the event post 2022 is expected to go back to the Joint Committee for further review.

The Surrey Half Marathon is a Woking Borough supported event. Surrey County Council's role in the event is to scrutinise the plans with other partners on safety grounds and use our legal powers under section 16a of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to support the successful delivery of the event.

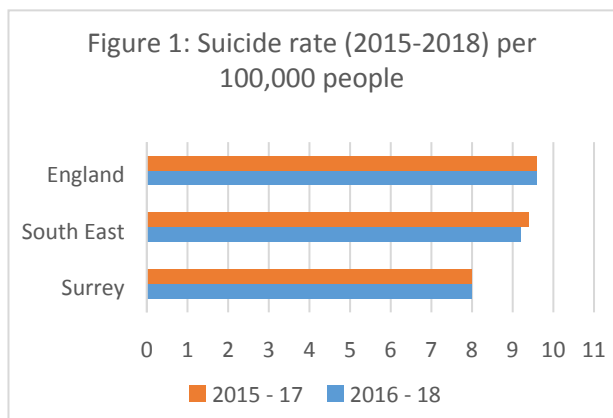
SINEAD MOONEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

4. MR CHRIS BOTTEN (CATERHAM HILL) TO ASK:

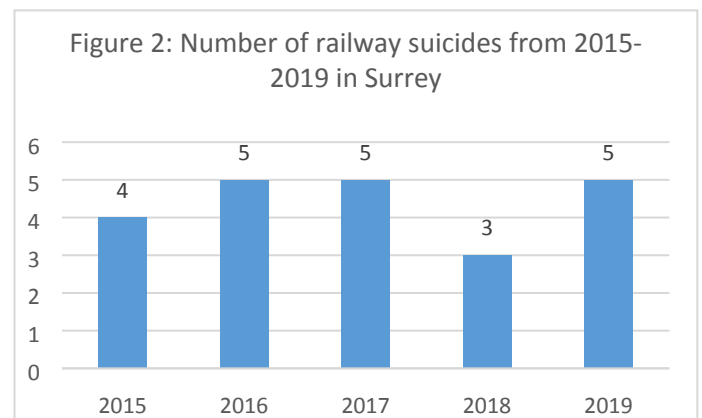
What has the annual suicide rate of Surrey residents on railway lines been over the last five years?

Response:

The latest data by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on suicides Surrey has had a stable suicide rate of 8 per 100,000 people from 2015-2018. This is lower than both South East region and England (Figure 1). According to the latest data from the *Primary Care Mortality Database* (Figure 2), there has been a total of 22 suicides from 2015 to in 2019 at Surrey stations (average = 4.4 suicides per year). The stations with the highest number of suicides are Ashford, Working and Weybridge stations, each with a total of three deaths from 2015-2019. Since these numbers are small, it has not been possible to convert the data into rates.



Source: *Public Health Fingertips (Public Health Profiles)*¹



Source: *Primary Care Mortality Database (based on ONS Registered Deaths)*

The Public Health team are working in collaboration with a number of partners across Surrey, (including the National rail) particularly in areas that were identified as high-risk locations. Some of this work include:

- Training and awareness of key agencies
- There are now welfare officers on the platforms of some Surrey train stations

¹ Public Health Profile

<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/suicide#page/4/gid/1/pat/6/par/E12000008/ati/102/are/E10000030/iid/41001/age/285/sex/4>

- Network Rail commissioned a report looking at Woking station. A number of changes around signage, end barriers and staff training have been made.
- Woking Street Angels have 50 people trained in basic suicide awareness. They have also included Woking station on their patrols.
- Additionally, we have a project to introduce real time surveillance of suicides which will allow us and key partners to have better information in the future.

ZULLY GRANT DUFF, CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SUPPORT

5. MRS ANGELA GOODWIN (GUILDFORD NORTH) TO ASK:

What steps has the Council taken to ensure its suppliers, contractors and service providers pay their own employees the 'real living wage'?

Response:

Council suppliers, contractors and service providers are required to operate in a manner that meets their legislative and statutory duties. In the United Kingdom this includes compliance in the payment to their employees of the appropriate National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage. From 1 April 2020 this will increase by 6.2% to £8.72 per hour for over 25 year olds, with 21-24 year olds seeing a 6.5% increase to £8.20 per hour.

Payments beyond the legislative and statutory limits are a matter for each individual supplier, contractor or service provider, taking into account their own recruitment, market conditions and employment policies. The 'real Living Wage' is a voluntary code of conduct, introduced by the Living Wage Foundation.

The Council contracts in an open, competitive basis in accordance with UK Public Procurement Directives and Standing Orders in securing best value for money. Surrey County Council's published [Supplier Code of Conduct](#) is the code which all suppliers are required to agree to follow, as part of the tendering process.

This includes the following in relation to wages and contracts:

- Provide wages and benefits at rates that meet at least national legal standards of the country in which the services are performed.
- Provide employees with an easy to read contract of employment clearly explaining wage levels and other benefits. Where employees are unable to read, the contract should be explained to them by a union representative or another appropriate third party.
- Work with us post-award to ensure zero hours contracts are used only when clearly beneficial to both employer and employee.
- Wages should be monetary and not in kind (e.g. goods, vouchers) with no deductions made unless permitted under national law or agreed by the employee, without duress.
- Ensure that relevant criteria or standards for workers to be treated as self-employed are followed.
- Comply with national and international law or industry standards on employee working hours, whichever affords greater protection for the employee.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS

6. MR EBER KINGTON (EWELL COURT, AURIOL & CUDDINGTON) TO ASK:

I note that new Highway Tree Planting and Verge Enhancement Guidelines are to be put before the Cabinet for approval in April, with the intention of actively encouraging more planting in our residential streets. Will the Cabinet Member for Highways confirm that data will be kept on the number of applications (individual tree numbers) submitted in each Borough/District, the number of successful applications and details of the reasons behind any applications that fail?

Such data collection will enable the new policy to be evaluated, and the number of new trees planted recorded annually as part of SCC's drive to facilitate the planting of 1.2 million trees in Surrey by 2030.

Response:

As part of the Council's initiative to facilitate the planting of 1.2M new trees in the county we will be putting in place a system which will capture details of trees planted. The requirements of this system are still being explored by officers.

The Council does not currently have a process or system for capturing Highway tree planting across the County reliably. This is because although the Highways Arboriculture Team is involved in some tree planting and can record those newly planted trees that they are involved with, the team is not involved in all tree planting projects.

Under the Highways Act Boroughs and Districts are legally able to plant trees on the Highway with our permission. If these requests, go through the Highways Arboriculture Team then we would be able to record them. The Council has not kept any record of sites that have been declined.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS

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

How does the Council propose spending the extra £672,000 for buses recently allocated to Surrey and what will be the process for making that decision?

Response:

As part of the government's 'A Better Deal for Bus Users' initiative, £30m extra bus funding is being made available to councils in 2020-2021 to improve current supported bus services, to restore lost services where most needed or to introduce new services. The one-off revenue funding allocations are based on local authority supported bus mileage since 2004/2005. Our allocation is £671,945.

Government timelines prohibited a public consultation on the potential use of this funding. We have therefore used feedback from previous 'Bus Reviews', Bus User Groups and 'Bus User Surgeries', which all highlighted a clear concern of residents over lack of evening and weekend services, which currently constrain bus use. The requirement to consult with our MPs has been achieved within the very short time window set by Government.

This Council proposes to release our funding allocation to operators of enhanced services over a two-year period. Doing so will allow more time for patronage to build and for revenue

to be established. Bus operators will then need to assess whether the services are sustainable, with or without further support funding.

A Statement of Intent was submitted to the Department of Transport by 13 March 2020 deadline. It contained our proposals to enhance or introduce a number of evening and Sunday bus services in Surrey, focussing on the provision of services on key corridors, from well-used rail stations back to local communities in the evenings and serving the increased retail activity in towns on Sundays.

The proposals are based on provisional cost estimates. When confirmation of funding release is received, costs will be confirmed and detailed timetable planning completed in preparation for detailed services announcements.

It is expected the enhanced services will start during the coming summer.

Separately, the council has worked with Falcon Buses to introduce some service improvements in Elmbridge and Runnymede Boroughs from 23 May 2020. A direct bus link to St.Peter's Hospital from Molesey, Walton and Weybridge will be restored, every thirty minutes, by extending service 461 from Addlestone to the hospital. Changes to services 514, 515 and 564 will see connection introduced or enhanced between Thames Ditton and Molesey, Molesey and Esher, Field Common Estate and the southern part of Molesey with Kingston, parts of Walton with Brooklands retail opportunities and from Weybridge area to Xcel Leisure Centre at Walton.

MIKE GOODMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE

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

What lessons does Surrey County Council take from the members Climate Change seminar on February 24 and in view of the urgency, is any action proposed for this county?

Response:

The Member's Climate Change seminar on 24 February was organised to inform members of the work that Surrey County Council, and Surrey's borough and district partners, have been undertaking in order to develop a climate change strategy for Surrey – in particular the emissions based modelling by Leeds University which has created a sectoral baseline for the county and a science based pathway to net zero carbon by 2050.

The presentation given by Professor Andy Gouldson, from Leeds University, set out the challenge ahead in order for Surrey to keep within our quota of global carbon emissions in order to have the best chance of keeping within a 1.5 degree temperature rise and preventing run away climate change, which will have catastrophic impacts for our food systems, weather patterns and ecosystems. The crucial finding was that the current rate of emissions output would result in the County using up its carbon budget within 8 years, and that transport is the biggest contributor to this output, making up 46% of our total emissions.

In response to this urgency, Leeds University has provided us with carbon reduction pathways with 5 year milestones between 2020 and 2050 across a number of sectors (including transport, housing, commercial buildings and industry), which have informed the carbon reduction targets within our climate change strategy. Andy Gouldson and Emma Jones from Ashden (who also presented at the members seminar) began to outline the types of outcomes that would be required to see a significant reduction in emissions and meet

these targets e.g. reduction in private transport etc. SCC and its partner authorities have been working to identify ongoing and best practice policies/actions to be include in the strategy to achieve these behavioural shifts.

The final strategy will consist of the 'The Strategic Framework' with the emissions targets and key strategic priorities likely to be for all authorities, and an accompanying 'Action document'. These are expected to go to Cabinet at the end of April for discussion.

TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

**9. MR CHRIS BOTTEN (CATERHAM HILL) TO ASK:
(2nd Question)**

Can the Leader offer assurance that in future all Health and Wellbeing Board meetings will be held at venues that allow them to be webcast?

Response:

The Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board is a partnership set up to identify opportunities for collaboration and integration across agencies, and to develop direct links to services users, patients and local stakeholders. To develop these links the Board collectively decided to undertake public meetings across the county, beyond County Hall, in spaces provided by partner organisations to allow for resident engagement and a genuine sense of partnership working.

Given the variety of venues used it will not always be possible to webcast every meeting. The Board continues to meet in public with opportunities for Surrey residents to attend and participate in meetings with minutes of proceedings published and updates made available on its website (www.healthysurrey.org.uk).

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS

**10. MR EBER KINGTON (EWELL COURT, AURIOL & CUDDINGTON) TO ASK:
(2nd Question)**

The new Highway Tree Planting and Verge Enhancement Guidelines state that "*many grass verges which run alongside the highway are the responsibility of Surrey County Council. We work very closely with the 11 District and Borough Councils within Surrey, and in some areas they directly manage these grass verges on our behalf*". Given that District and Borough Councils managing the grass verges currently determine how that management is undertaken based on their knowledge and understanding of local community preferences, can the Cabinet Member for Highways confirm that any applications to change the local grass maintenance regime will be discussed and agreed with the appropriate District or Borough council?

Response:

Yes. The County Council has agency agreements with nine of the Surrey Districts and Boroughs to manage grass verges. In all cases where there is an agency agreement, the County Council will work with our District and Borough partners to collectively agree any changes.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS

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

What is the Council's budget for tree maintenance, pruning and planting in this current year (2019-20) and next year (2020-2021) - not including removing trees or part of trees that impact on the highway? How many trees have fallen down or have been removed from highway land so far this year?

Response:

The County Council, as Highway Authority is responsible for approximately two million trees on the highway. These need to be inspected and managed. Safety is the primary concern and to achieve this we will undertake whatever is the most appropriate form of maintenance. This can include felling, but we only do so where there isn't any other safe option. The initial budget for highway trees in 2019/20 was £1,073,292 but spend was increased in year (from other service savings) to £1,305,639, specifically to tackle safety issues. It is not possible to accurately identify the costs associated for just felling trees from the gross budget. For 2020/21 the budget has increased to £1,453,344. This includes an additional sum to specifically target the risk caused by ash dieback disease.

Since 1 April 2019 an estimated total of 9168 trees have been removed from the network. There have been 605 tree related emergency call outs, which will have dealt with fallen trees or large branches. The total includes these emergency call outs and other trees which have fallen naturally, where we are aware of them. Over 8000 were in groups of mixed broad leaf (including much Ash and Elm). Ash dieback is a serious disease which causes Ash trees to die and eventually fall. If an Ash tree is diseased and likely to cause a danger to a highway user, we will remove it.

We have an ongoing large-scale planting scheme in Long Ditton, which when completed will increase the number of trees on the highway by up to 40,000. This involves widespread planting on an area of land near to the A309 (Kingston Bypass) The scheme will create an attractive new highway woodland in an appropriate and safe location. In addition to this, the service is aware of 58 new trees that have been planted on the highway, promoted by Resident Associations, Members and Officers. This figure will be increased by self-seeded trees and those planted without our knowledge.

MIKE GOODMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE

**12. MR ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK:
(3rd Question)**

The Court of Appeal ruled on 27 February 2020 the current plans for Heathrow expansion illegal, as they do not take account of the Government's commitments to climate change. Notwithstanding any further appeal, will Surrey County Council re-iterate its support for improved surface access to the airport in particular, the Heathrow Southern railway plan?

Response:

At its meeting on 8 October 2019, Surrey County Council made its position in respect of Heathrow Airport clear. This included calling on the Government to prioritise a southern rail access scheme, which supported strategic transport and economic objectives and

contributed to addressing environmental impacts, to be in operation before any new runway comes into service.

The County Council's formal response to the Heathrow Airport Expansion Consultation submitted in September 2019 reaffirmed this position and stated that the Southern Rail Access is a priority infrastructure project for this council and as it will support economic and sustainable growth. The rail link is essential to achieve greater modal shift from the south and, in the County Council's view, if there is no fast and reliable public transport provision to Heathrow serving Woking, Guildford and other parts of Surrey plus the wider south east, Heathrow Airport Limited may not be able to meet their public transport targets.

Irrespective of the Court of Appeal ruling and the Government's need to review the Airports National Policy Statement, this remains the County Council's position.

MARY LEWIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

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

Surrey County Council is currently consulting on the use of its children's centres by voluntary and faith groups to provide universal youth work, which up until 30 April (<https://www.surreysays.co.uk/csf/universal-youth-work-proposal/>) was provided by the county council. This follows an earlier cut in the number of qualified Surrey County Council youth workers and consequent reduction of open-access (universal) youth clubs, such as used to be provided on a Friday night in Redhill town centre until July 2018.

Please can you confirm that, following the current consultation and in line with the pledge made for libraries:

- a. All youth centres will remain operational and functioning as youth centres?
- b. If there are locations where the voluntary and faith sector are not able to provide sufficient use of a building, Surrey County Council will increase its number of youth workers, to maintain a consistent level of service across the whole county?

Response:

The County Council is proposing to enable the voluntary, community and faith sector to make full use of the youth centres that are owned or leased by the county council for little or no cost. Whilst it is too early to predict the outcome of the consultation the level of interest so far has been very high. If however an appropriate solution for maximising the use of any of the youth centre does not emerge from the consultation then alternative uses for the building will be considered.

Surrey County Council is proposing to not provide open access universal youth work in the future. If following the conclusion of the consultation this proposal is taken forward, Surrey County Council will no longer provide open access universal youth work. We will however support and enable the voluntary and community and faith sector to make use of the youth centres. If following the consultation the County Council continues to provide open access universal youth work it will need to be achieved within existing resources, it is therefore unlikely that we will be able to increase the number of youth workers in the youth centres.

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CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Colin Kemp

PORTFOLIO: Economic Prosperity

Economic Development Strategy for Surrey: Consultants ARUP have now completed their baseline assessment and consultations to develop an economic development strategy for Surrey. The work has been commissioned by Surrey County Council working with the Surrey Future Steering Board and will recommend a strategy for economic development across the county as well as specific actions for the economic growth team in the County Council.

The consultants have reviewed the evidence bases produced by the Local Enterprise Partnerships for their Local Industry Strategies, and District and Borough Economic Development Strategies. These were discussed with the District and Borough Economic Development Officers at a check-and-challenge workshop. The work has also included face to face consultation with key stakeholders and a workshop to discuss priority drivers of change which will influence the county going forward. The final stage of the work will be a workshop with Surrey County Council officers across a number of directorates to review the emerging recommendations and how they will affect delivery of cross-cutting programmes and policies throughout the County.

Infrastructure Study: Consultants ARUP have been commissioned to undertake a refresh of the Surrey Futures Infrastructure Study undertaken in 2016 by AECOM Consultants. This work will complement the work being done by ARUP in respect of the Economic Development Strategy. The work has been commissioned by the County Council working with the Surrey Future Steering Board and will provide a refreshed list of proposed infrastructure schemes to form a pipeline of future deliverable projects. In addition the work will provide a rail strategy refresh, a prioritisation tool and a GIS Spatial tool with the ability to identify any gaps in infrastructure provision.

The work is in two phases. The first phase, which will complete this month, will provide for a baseline refresh of the original study reviewing current policy's and strategy's, local plans and the latest developments in respect of the LEP Local Industrial Strategy's LIS, together with the refreshed rail strategy and the GIS Spatial tool. The second phase, which will commence after we have had the opportunity to fully understand the outcomes of Phase 1, will provide a revised list of projects with a suggested prioritisation. Phase 2 should be complete by the summer. For the final stage of the work we will be looking to have a workshop with officers from the County Council and Districts and Boroughs to review the revised list and suggested prioritisation to sense check against the programmes and policies across the County.

We Are Surrey: In November 2019, SCC organised a successful social value event called We Are Surrey, at Guildford Cathedral, attracting over 200 delegates from business and the charity sector. The event was sponsored by Balfour Beatty and the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB). The aim of the event was to help charities build and strengthen their relationships with local businesses in order to foster vital corporate social responsibility (CSR) opportunities to benefit local people and communities – for example food donations to Stanwell Food Bank and offers of inspiring career talks to local schools. Following on from the event, I have written to all business delegates to thank them for participating and as a result we have received a number of additional offers of help and support. In addition, we will be launching a Social Value Marketplace to facilitate CSR transactions between business and community groups.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Matthew Furniss

PORTFOLIO: Highways & Transport

Storm Ciara and Dennis response: The heavy rainfall before Christmas and storms Brendan, Ciara and Dennis that followed caused severe disruption to many residents and local businesses across the county. During that period Kier dealt with 1887 emergency calls out compared with 688 for the same period last year. Storm Ciara: 330 jobs – 277 Trees, 9 Floods and Storm Dennis: 364 Jobs – 178 trees, 137 Floods. On top of responding to emergencies on the network, we also supported our partner organisations in responding to flooding caused by heavy rainfall.

Buses update: Government announced several bidding opportunities for buses on 6 February. This includes bids for Ultra Low Emission Bus Towns, where up to 75% of the cost difference between a zero-emission bus and a standard conventional diesel bus is on offer, plus capital for charging technology and infrastructure. Key to any bid being successful will be complementary measures to deliver modal shift, including highways improvements to ensure buses turn up when they are supposed to. A Rural Mobility Fund has been established to trial demand-responsive transport solutions in providing transport services that work better for local residents of rural and suburban areas than traditional bus services. These would either fill a gap in provision, or complement existing timetabled bus services, for example by acting as a feed-in service. Bids for both opportunities are being developed, supported by our own Greener Futures investment alongside partner commitments. In addition, funding is being made available in 2020-21 to improve supported bus services, with £671,945 ear marked for Surrey.

Cycle update: This academic year the council's cycle training team have taken bookings to provide cycle training to a total of nearly 17,000 young people in schools across Surrey. Central government announced on 7 February a "significant expansion" of the national Bikeability cycle training programme with a commitment that "all children in England will be taught the skills for a lifetime of cycling". Investment in cycling infrastructure is ongoing in Staines, Guildford and Weybridge with schemes funded by the Local Enterprise Partnership. Some highlights include:

- the Staines to Heathrow cycle route where we are currently constructing a cycle track on Park Road in Stanwell. the Guildford Sustainable Movement Corridor where an improved off-road cycle track has recently been constructed between the Royal Surrey County Hospital and the University Stag Hill campus;
- the Guildford College Link where work to construct a cycle route between Guildford Station and Guildford College will commence in the coming months. The scheme will include the implementation of a signalised Toucan crossing for pedestrians and cyclists on Woodbridge Road near the cricket ground; and
- the Brooklands Park Accessibility Project where an off-road cycle track is currently being constructed on Heath Road between Weybridge Station and Brooklands Lane.

A Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan (LCWIP) has just been completed for Woking, and the output is a list of prioritised cycling and walking infrastructure improvements. The creation of LCWIPs is how the Department for Transport want local authorities to plan for future investment in walking and cycling infrastructure and will place us in a prime position to take advantage of any future funding opportunities.

Highway tree planting and verge enhancement: Later this month as part of the "Surrey's Greener Future Investment Programme", Cabinet will consider new guidelines for "Highway Tree planting and verge enhancement". Most Members here today will have had opportunity to read a draft of the document which I circulated last month. This fresh approach will help the County Council, and residents support our target of 1.2 million extra trees and offer more opportunities for rewilding our highway verges. The County Council as Highway Authority has a responsibility to make the sure the network is kept safe and accessible to all, but by recognising the importance of green issues to both residents and in tackling climate change we will look to increase our support of new measures where it is both safe and sensible to do so.

Horizon and 2020/21 investment plans: The Horizon programme for 2019-20 is almost complete and plans are in place for the enhanced Horizon 2020-21 programme. Details of planned and completed schemes can be found on the [Horizon Maintenance Investment Programme](#) page of our website which will be updated regularly throughout the year.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Denise Turner-Stewart

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety, Fire and Resilience

Military/Civilian partnership and community resilience: Surrey's annual Armed Forces Covenant Conference took place at the Army Training Centre in Pirbright on 4 March. The event brought together over 150 people who support the Armed Forces in Surrey to share, celebrate and build on the partnership between Surrey's Armed Forces and civilian communities. Surrey continues to be a national exemplar for the way we are supporting our Armed Forces community. Following the success of the Veterans Hub at Guildford Fire Station, links have been made with the NHS England 'Transition Intervention and Liaison Service (TILS)' for serving and ex-armed forces personnel who may have mental health issues. From 10 February 2020 TILS will be running assessments and treatment out of Guildford Fire Station. Community resilience messages covering a range of issues including adverse weather, utility outage, public health messages and community action continue to be widely promoted through the monthly #SurreyPrepared communications toolkit. This is shared with the Surrey Communications Group, Parish Councils, Residents Associations, Flood Action Groups and other interested members of the community.

Community Safety: In Summer 2019, Surrey's Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable and other key stakeholders committed to adopting a Public Health Approach to Serious Youth Violence. This whole system approach seeks to prevent and reduce violence through identifying and addressing its root causes. The initial phases of the project evidenced the nature of SYV across the county, as well as illustrating the components of effective prevention and early intervention methods. The partnership is now using the insights developed to set the direction for the prevention and early intervention of SYV. The Domestic Abuse Redesign Programme is taking a whole system approach to prevent domestic abuse (DA) and mitigate the harm to victims through offering appropriate intervention at the earliest opportunity. The Programme will ensure that survivors of DA are central to all policy and system change, recognising survivors as experts with lived experience.

Corporate Health & Safety: The health & safety hub continues to work well. We are promoting more joined up working which has involved advisers delivering training, going out on inspections and discussing joint health and safety campaign messages. Corporate health & safety have completed a submission for The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) International Health & Safety Award. The submission covered several areas including policies, accident data, trends, training and leadership involvement. The result is due this month.

Countryside Estate (CE): A report to Cabinet on the 31 March "Returning the Countryside to Surrey Residents" sets out a new delivery model for management of the estate which returns the responsibility for visitor services and access to the Council from 1 April 2020. The CE's property portfolio will also return to the Council and rental income from this will fund a new operational team in SCC's Countryside Department to manage day-to-day visitor access. A new capital programme for 2020/21 will deliver improvements to the infrastructure and information on site, including new branding and messaging for residents. A new transformational programme will create and deliver a vision for the countryside with residents and other SCC departments. Activities will be co-designed with site-based interest groups which enhance the current offer and support complementary strategies such as Health and Wellbeing.

Voluntary Car Park: Work is currently being undertaken to set up Voluntary Donation scheme in the countryside car parks where compulsory charges are currently in place and will cease from 01/04/20. Work involves changing all site notices and information, increasing public information on where the donations will be spent, setting up the financial contracts to collect ticket sales, altering the 19 existing parking meters to collect donations, setting up a new account and system for mobile phone payments via the Ringo system. The suggested donations will be £1, £2 & £5. An annual donation facility will be set up, with an 'I support Surrey's countryside' car sticker available for a donation of £30 or £50.

Rights of Way: Four additional staff will be recruited to the Countryside Access Team to undertake: replacement of backlog of closed/damaged PRow bridges, replacement of path signing, particularly roadside 'finger posts', repair of path surfaces that are in unsafe condition, develop schemes to improve the PRow network in line with the Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan, and refurbish and develop high profile paths, such as the Downslink.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Mike Goodman

PORTFOLIO: Environment & Waste

Waste Plan & Minerals Plan: The Waste Plan public examination process is now nearing its completion following public hearings in September 2019. The period for consultation on the proposed Main Modifications to the Plan ended on 23 February. A summary and all the representations have now been sent to the Inspector and her response is awaited. We expect that she will soon conclude the examination by sending us her recommendations and conclusions as to whether the Plan is sound and legally compliant. The review of the Surrey Minerals Plan is due to commence following the adoption of the Waste Plan. The amended Minerals & Waste Development Scheme, which will outline the timetable for the review of the Minerals Plan, is scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on 26 May.

Rail: I met recently with the MD of South Western Railway, when I reasserted the need for the current industrial dispute to be resolved as quickly as possible, given the unacceptable impact on our residents and businesses. I will also be raising this again with Government when I write to the new Rail Minister. More positively, the Council has been successful in two of the three bids submitted to the South Western Railway Customer and Communities Infrastructure Fund. Our first bid for Godalming Station will deliver improved public transport integration and pedestrian accessibility. Our second bid will see bus real time passenger information displays provided at Ash Vale, Bookham, Cobham & Stoke D'Abernon and Frimley stations. The results of a consultation by SWR on late evening services resulted in an announcement by SWR that on a trial basis from December 2020, there will be more late-night services on Fridays and Saturdays.

Aviation: The recent judgement from the Court of Appeal means that Heathrow's targeted consultation planned for April will no longer take place, although the airport has indicated that they expect to engage with local authorities to keep them updated on developments. We have continued to engage with Gatwick and local authorities impacted by their expansion proposals in the run up to their statutory consultation still planned for later this year.

Waste Management: Officers are currently working to develop a new waste strategy for the council. As a first step, we are seeking views from district and borough councils on their aspirations for waste management and their appetite for more joint working with the county council. I expect to be able to present a new strategy to Cabinet in the summer. We are gearing up for the further consultations on the various elements of the National Waste and Resources Strategy, which are expected to be released later in 2020. The strategy will redirect financial responsibility for managing packaging waste to the producers of that packaging, will introduce deposit return schemes for drinks containers and drive consistency in local authority recycling collection systems. It will be the most radical and positive change in waste management for decades.

Tree Planting: Surrey tree week took place 1-8 March. This involved a series of tree planting events to promote tree planting and the benefits of trees. All Surrey MP's planted a tree in interesting locations in their constituencies. By April it is estimated that the Council and our partners will have planted in excess of 50,000 trees in the county. Officers are continuing to finalise the New Tree Strategy, following consultation. The strategy will come to Cabinet in April.

Climate Change: Officers are continuing to develop the climate change strategy, which will come to Cabinet in April. The strategy includes a strategic framework which has been informed by Leeds University. The University were commissioned by the Council to calculate the current emissions baseline for the county and advise on emissions reduction pathway for each of the strategy theme areas and the measures which would result in the most significant carbon reductions. A member's seminar on climate change took place in February. The development of the strategic framework has been led by a working group of four representative members from the Leaders and Chief Executives forum to ensure that our borough and district partners will endorse the approach. Officers are also working closely with residents and community groups as we develop the strategy to ensure that we embed their opinions. In addition to developing the strategy we are also focusing on identifying opportunities to use our investment to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate. A Greener Futures Investment report has been produced for Cabinet in March, which sets out that over the next five years what the Council has, approved capital schemes and pipeline capital schemes which will lead to significant environmental improvements.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Julie Iles

PORTFOLIO: All-Age Learning

Feedback from the DfE and NHSE on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND): On 10 December 2019, DfE and NHS England reviewed the progress of Surrey's SEND action plan over the previous six months. Officials provided positive feedback and highlighted:

- A reassurance that progress is being made in improving the attendance of children with SEND;
- Agreement that Surrey's focus on building positive relationships and collaboration to achieve a whole systems approach is the right one;
- The need to prioritise shifting the focus to early help and interventions and ensuring that children and young people get the support they need without requiring an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP);
- Key next steps to strengthen the impact measures in the action plan and to communicate with partners, especially parents, how our actions are improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

There is more work needed to improve SEND and the Council's SEND transformation programme is focussing on the strategic and operational change of the system.

School Admissions: On 2 March 2020, Surrey's School Admissions team issued the outcomes for Secondary school places for September 2020. In total 81.4% of Surrey applicants were offered a place at their first preference school (up from 81.1% last year) and 95.1% of Surrey applicants were offered a place at one of their six preference schools (up from 94% last year). This means that 4.9% of Surrey applicants were not offered one of their preferred schools but each of these applicants has been offered an alternative school place. Primary admissions follow a different timetable and primary offers will be made available to parents and schools on 16 April 2020.

Libraries: Surrey Libraries are planning to bid for funds from the Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants, the new open access programme for arts, museums and libraries projects. The bid will be for funding a new cultural events programme in Surrey Libraries. Small grants can be up to £15,000 and larger grants are also available. We hosted a visit from the Arts Council on the 11 March to showcase the library service and talk about the potential funding opportunities in more detail.

Additional SEND places: Cabinet gave approval of a 10 year SEND place planning paper, on 24 September 2019 (which included a 4 year plan to provide an additional 883 specialist school places in Surrey). We are now consulting on one of the specific projects listed in that strategy: the proposal to expand Brooklands School in Reigate. It is proposed to expand Brooklands School by 70 places with the school operating over two sites and continuing to provide specialist school places. The proposal will expand the existing 83-places to a 153-place primary school. The additional places will cater for children with needs associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). A decision on the proposal to expand Brooklands School will be taken on 14 April.

Update on SAfE: Surrey Council entered into a 3 year contract with the Schools Alliance for Excellence (SAfE) in September 2019, to deliver its statutory school improvement duties. It is a not-for-profit, schools-led company working in partnership, and independent to the Council and other key partners in the education community. SAfE builds upon a strong legacy of partnership working between schools to bring coherence to the education system. It works in a co-ordinated way aligning the DfE School Improvement offer and additional preventative support to schools as well as signposting to good practice and giving input on evidence-driven curriculum support. One of SAfE's key priorities is to improve outcomes and progress for identified vulnerable groups.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Sinead Mooney

PORTFOLIO: Adults and Public Health

Loneliness Steering Group: On 5 February 2020, I was invited to attend a Loneliness and People with Learning Disabilities Steering Group hosted by Surrey and Borders Partnership. I was asked to brief the Steering Group on the political priorities and strategies in place at Surrey County Council to tackle loneliness. Referring to our refreshed Organisation Strategy 2020-25 and the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy, I was able to discuss in detail with the Steering Group the strategies and activities the council had in place to tackle loneliness and support the emotional wellbeing of our residents, including, developing an accessible community transport offer that supports people's social connections, establishing Dementia Friendly communities and developing our social prescribing programme.

Accommodation with Care and Support (Supporting Independence): Our joint venture partner is currently finalising Indicative Site Development Plans on two sites for extra care. The Executive Directors for Adult Social Care (ASC) and Resources will decide on the preferred approach to delivery in consultation with myself and the Cabinet Member for Finance. The service will then host a market engagement event on the tender for the remaining site allocated for extra care. The tender will be made live on our procurement system after this event. We are continuing to recruit to the dedicated project team and have successfully recruited a procurement manager. We have established the site criteria and mapped demand for ASC specialist accommodation. This data has been shared with Property Services who continue to identify sites for specialist accommodation, with three non-operational sites identified for extra care. These sites will be financially appraised and a recommendation on development will be brought to Cabinet for approval.

Surrey Disability Register

A consultation survey on the proposal to close the Surrey Disability Register (SDR) commenced on Monday 27 February and closed on Friday 6 March. The Register is not a statutory requirement and many other local authorities do not run a disability register. Paper questionnaires were issued to all members and views could be submitted via an online survey on Surrey Says. Members also had the opportunity to call the ASC Contact Centre and give their views over the phone. As of 5 March, the day prior to the closing date of the consultation, 1,302 (28%) responses had been received. The feedback from the consultation is being collated and analysed. A full report will be prepared and shared with both myself and the Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Public Health to make a decision on the proposal.

Appointments update: The following appointments have been made-

- Wendy Hale has been appointed as the substantive Area Director for Guildford and Waverley.
- Lorraine Branch will continue to cover the Area Director role for Mid Surrey.
- Area Director, East Surrey – Avril Mayhew – start date 1 April.
- Assistant Director, Commissioning & Transformation – Jonathan Lillistone – start date 4 May.
- Liz Uliasz, Deputy Director continues to manage the Mental Health service since it transferred back from Surrey and Borders Partnership (SABP) at the end of 2019.

Technology Enabled Care (TEC): A Session was held with the LGA and their consultant's RETHINK partners. RETHINK partners are keen to work with us on improving our TEC offer and a discussion will be taking place around what their proposals might look like. The Transition's Team have commissioned 30 licences for Brain in Hand and will be starting this pilot shortly. Brain in Hand delivers support services using assistive technology for people with a range of neurodiverse and mental health difficulties.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Mary Lewis

PORTFOLIO: Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families

Ofsted Update: I am pleased to feedback some positive reports of progress that we have received since my December update following inspections by Ofsted and the Surrey's Children's Commissioner. Ofsted have published their latest report following the fourth Monitoring Visit in November. The inspectors found that the Assessment and Family Safeguarding services have made substantial progress over the last year. While the progress made in these areas of children's services has been recognised by Ofsted, there is still more to do and the inspectors commented that "practice is not yet consistently strong for all children".

Commissioner's final review: This review of our progress was completed in December and we have received his report to the DfE and Minister. The Commissioner's findings were overall very positive with recognition of the "significant progress that has been made in all ten areas" that were highlighted in his first report in September 2018. In summary, the Commissioner's view is that "sustainable improvement is underway in the Authority and that an alternative delivery model no longer needs to be a consideration". We still await agreement from the Minister on the Commissioner's recommendation and the formal publication of the report.

Children's Single Point of Access (C-SPA) visits: Since the last meeting of full Council, I have carried out 'Recommendation 41 Visits' to the Children's Single Point of Access (C-SPA) and North East Quadrant Teams. I would like to thank the Members of the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning & Culture Select Committee and to other Members for joining me on these visits and reporting on their findings. Services supporting Children with Disabilities (CWD) is another area I have been focussing on, monitoring the progress of their improvements and delivery of the action plans. I consider improvement in CWD to be a crucial way that Children's Social Care can support overall improvement in SEND. I have also been meeting regularly with the Quality Assurance service to carry out deep-dive audits into individual children's cases. These give me insight into the lived experiences of the children and families we are supporting and highlight the real practice strengths and challenges faced by our frontline teams.

Provision for Children in Care: Ensuring we have the right provision for children in care is a key part of the improvement programme and bringing children in care closer to home remains a priority for the service. We have had a strong focus on expanding the pool of SCC foster carers throughout 2019 and this has resulted in 28 new foster carer households being approved since April with a further 15 being assessed before the end of March. SCC's residential children's homes have an important role to play and it is noteworthy that two of our in-house services, Libertas and Burbank, have both received Outstanding judgements from Ofsted in the last few months. The 2020/21 capital budget includes funding for a review of and improvements to our in-house residential provision, supporting the sustained focus on giving children homes in or close to Surrey and the widely publicised findings of the All Party Parliamentary Group report 'No Place at Home' and the report by the Children's Commissioner 'Pass the Parcel' reinforce the need for this. It will, however, take some time for the overall numbers of looked after children living outside of the county to reduce significantly.

'Our Voice Matters' survey: I have made listening to children and young people one of my priorities for the year and would like to highlight a survey currently underway to help us to understand more about what it is like to be a child or young person in Surrey in 2020. The 'Our Voice Matters' survey, running until 18 April, asks Surrey's children and young people about their community, their health and happiness and gives them a forum to have their voices heard. The surveys are available on 'Surrey Says', one for primary school aged children and another for those in secondary school and college. Please could all Members publicise these within your local communities and encourage children and young people to share their views on the things that matter to them.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Zully Grant Duff

PORTFOLIO: Corporate Support

Customer Service Excellence Accreditation: Customer Services has successfully retained the Customer Service Excellence (CSE) accreditation for a further year. Continuing to meet this best practice standard reflects the hard work and commitment of the service to ensuring an excellent experience for our residents when they contact the council for help and support, either by phone or online. The CSE assessor highlighted two areas of “compliance plus” in his report; how Customer Services engages actual users in the testing of the council’s website, and the effectiveness of the triage model used by the Request for Support Team, a vital part of the Children’s Single Point of Access (C-SPA).

Improved online self-service options: A significant amount of work has been done to improve the digital journey for reporting highways’ defects and to make it easier to self-serve online. Using the re-designed pothole reporting journey as an example (because it has been ‘live’ the longest and is most comparable to previous periods), results indicate:

- an overall increase in the number of people starting the online transaction
- web pages designed to better manage customer expectations by directing them to additional information for low priority reports, are showing success in reducing unnecessary reports
- the % of completed transactions from the point of selecting the location is steadily increasing
- the number of abandoned transactions at the point of the location page has decreased significantly by an average of 26% over the 6 months from August ‘19 to January ‘20.

Digital Strategy: Katherine Church, the new Joint Strategic Chief Digital Officer is now in post. Katherine will oversee digital transformation in Surrey Heartlands, working closely with the IT&D teams in Surrey County Council and our health partners. This alignment is reflected in our Digital Strategy for Surrey County Council which will be brought to Cabinet for approval at the end of March, followed by Resources and Performance Select Committee in April. Once approved, the strategy will set the direction for the Digital Transformation Programme, ensuring that activity and resource deployment is aligned with the Council’s Organisation Strategy.

Agile - engagement with staff: Considerable engagement with staff around agile working has taken place over the past few weeks. The council’s policy on payment for additional home/work travel has been aligned to agile workstyles and agreed through 2020/21 Surrey Pay negotiations and all County Hall based roles (the initial area of focus) have been assigned agile workstyles. Approximately 70% of managers with County Hall based teams have participated in Agile Leadership workshops and/or service bespoke engagement sessions and a further series of workshops are scheduled over April/May for managers and their teams across the county. This is being supported by the roll-out of agile enabling technology and accompanying training, as well as business process re-engineering to maximise productivity/efficiencies as we move towards smarter, more modern ways of working. Engagement more broadly has continued with recent Leader/Chief Executive roadshows as well as active online staff communications via Jive.

Data Insights Programme: The Data Insights Transformation programme aims to improve how we use data and research to inform policy, decision making and service design in Surrey County Council. The focus of the programme will be on using advanced techniques such as predictive analytics and behavioural science to help the council meet our strategic objectives, and to create insight that is actionable and can lead to measurable improvements. The programme is currently in the design and exploration phase with several activities in progress, such as designing our overarching data strategy and operating model and defining and prioritising the ‘Big Questions’ that we wish to use data analytics to investigate.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Mel Few

PORTFOLIO: Finance

Financial Results:

Revenue:

- The flash results for the year to date ended January 2020 (period 10) which will be reported to Cabinet at the end of this month indicate that there is a strong probability of ending the financial year with a balanced outturn without the use of reserves.

Capital Expenditure:

- Actual spend vs budget at the end of period 10 is £94.2m vs a revised budget of £117.4m.
- Work is currently underway in determining the state of the remaining projects to assess the likelihood of being completed in the current financial year.

Finance Improvement Workstream:

The work under this programme has now been completed, with a final report to Cabinet due later.

The results will establish virtual teams around services which make a real impact and ensure seamless and effective liaison with the services thereby assisting achievement of service priorities.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Natalie Bramhall

PORTFOLIO: Property

Service: The L&P Improvement programme is confirmed with £0.5m budget for 20/21 secured from the Transformation Board the focus is across clients, people, communications, systems, data, processes and services. The draft structure redesign is in discussion with HR and a recruitment programme is underway to support and deliver the Capital Programme: 4 Contract Managers, 6 Development Managers and the remaining vacancy for a Client Account Manager (Children's). A skills assessment is at the design stage to build overall capability. A suite of business performance dashboards are in design to support all stakeholders. L&P Staff Forums were completed in early March with positive feedback. The procurement of a new Property Asset Management System is due to launch during March.

Disposals: As of March 2020, there are a total of 101 assets that are either being disposed of, or held for future service use to support our key services. Of these seven sites are under preparation for demolition to address significant health and safety issues on those sites with vandalism and anti- social behaviour. Within the disposal element over £30m of new capital receipts for the next financial year in 20/21 are being forecast.

I am also pleased to say that officers are continuing to work through the wider portfolio to help drive and deliver a combination of saving and income opportunities that support our important front line services and to help deliver efficient services to our residents in addition they have identified an additional eighteen assets that have now been repurposed to provide revenue income generation by letting to the marketplace.

Residential JV: Batch One Sites: a total of circa 46 much needed new homes have been identified following planning approvals for the first four sites. Following market engagement to appointment contractors it is anticipated that three of the four sites could see activity by the early summer of 2020. Further due diligence and contractor conversations are progressing on the fourth site to deal with potential challenging ground conditions.

JV Extra Care across the two sites at Pinehurst, Camberley (Surrey Heath BC) and the Brockhurst site in Ottershaw (Runnymede BC) Indicative Site Development Plans have generated circa 115 new homes across the two sites. Further financial modelling is now being undertaken to ensure that these new homes are at rents and service charges that reflect the Local Housing Allowance rates to generate 100% of homes that can have affordable rents that support full nomination rights across both schemes.

Shape – One Public Estate Board: SCC members and officers are currently in discussions with One Public Estate (OPE) directorate in Cabinet Office with a focus on optimising the use of public assets and facilities across the county. Proposals to re-launch the OPE programme across Surrey, under the working title 'SHAPE 2030', will see a greater emphasis on improving the Health Estate across the county. A strengthened and streamlined partnership arrangement will bring together stakeholders from across NHS, local government and other stakeholders to drive this initiative. This new partnership arrangement will work with a range of stakeholders to ensure that public services, particularly health and social care provision are delivered in facilities that are in the right location, sustainable and fit for purpose.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Mark Nuti

PORTFOLIO: Supporting Libraries and Heritage/ Capital Budget/ Capital Project Fund

Libraries: The Co-Design locations and approach were agreed at Project Board. The recruitment of a Co-Design team who will plan and manage co-design in each locality is underway with a good level of interest generated largely from within library services– aiming for team to be in place late March/early April. We have received very positive feedback from recent staff engagement events on co-design and the wider programme: 75% of respondents were either very confident or confident they could describe co-design to colleagues and customers.

Engagement is underway with Strategic Partners and Districts and Boroughs around the co-design approach, with joint member briefings commencing this month. An Executive Summary of the Libraries and Cultural Services Strategy has been produced to support engagement activity in March and beyond. Library Services' digital ambitions were agreed at Board, with agreement to work with Council colleagues to plan for Digital Transformation.

Capital: In February, Council approved a Capital Programme of £1.4 billion over five years, with £176 million planned for 2020/21. This represents a step-change in the size and ambition of the Capital Programme. Priorities include Highways Maintenance, Extra Care, SEND, Greener Futures and the Community Project Fund. Now, the focus is on ensuring that we are geared up to deliver the ambition and that strong governance is in place to drive that delivery.

A Major Projects Board has been created that will bring together Members and Officers to drive delivery of key priorities. Directorates are ensuring that resources are in place and that the organisation has the capacity to deliver the programme. The programme will be closely monitored throughout the year, with key information provided in time to make informed decisions and keep Members updated on what is being delivered.

Capital Project Fund: Since agreeing the allocation of £100m for funding community centric projects at the last meeting of full Council, we have developed a strong concept for what our fund will look like and how we will make sure that we are listening to our residents. We held a member briefing on the 9 March which was well attended, the briefing brought forward some areas for specific focus. With these focuses in mind, our work will be shaped by Select Committee over the coming months.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Alison Griffiths

PORTFOLIO: Health

Surrey Staff Carers Survey: We estimate that around 2,500 of our staff balance their role within Surrey County Council and care for a relative or friend because of illness, frailty or disability. It is the council's vision to enhance its offer to carers to develop its 'Carer-friendly' employer offer. A survey was sent to all staff asking how we can better support a healthy work/ life balance which will help inform our plans to be a 'Carer friendly' employer and make sure all your voices are heard. There was 583 responses from staff across the county council, 147 of these were managers. When asked 'have you been signposted to carer's support services by your line manager' 73% of people responding said 'No'. On a positive note when asked 'In the last 12 months have you needed to change or be flexible with your usual working pattern in order to support your caring role?' We were told by 55% that they were able to change their working pattern with only 5% telling us that although they needed to do this they were unable to. These are some top-level findings and a full report will be published in due course.

Becoming a County Councillor: Earlier this year, I was filmed by our communications team as part of the council's Becoming a Councillor campaign. The campaign, led by Democratic Services, aims to promote interest in local democracy and ensure that anyone interested in becoming a councillor has the tools and information to do so. The video follows me as I visited St Saviours Sunbury Community Foodbank and discussed what motivated me to become a councillor.

Following the video, I was delighted to take part in the council's 'Becoming a Councillor event' at Woking Borough Council on February 28 2020. Over 30 prospective councillors from all walks of life attended and I was able to answer their questions via a panel discussion alongside Councillors Will Forster and Nikki Barton. It was fantastic to see so much enthusiasm from local people for getting involved in democracy and we hope to see many of them stand in 2021.

Public Health Peer Review: Further to the LGA peer challenge in November 2019, the public health team have developed an action plan in order to ensure all recommendations are acted on and delivered. Where applicable these actions have been reflected in the key activities listed below which are from the public health team's annual plan for 2020/21. The priorities below also reflect the statutory responsibilities of the public health function and the priorities of Surrey County Council and partners.

1. Continue to optimise performance of preventative commissioned services within budget alongside approaches that are delivered through other local partners.
2. Promote a clear shared understanding of where inequalities exist and how they can be effectively addressed based on evidence and local intelligence.
3. Provide evidence to system partners to enable decisions that are based on people's need and what is effective
4. Provide specialist public health expertise and advice to NHS commissioners to support them in delivering their objectives to improve the health of their population as per the statutory requirement.
5. Provide local leadership to ensure an appropriate response to Covid-19 in Surrey and other health protection priorities.
6. Provide strategic leadership and oversight for the HWB strategy alongside delivery of priority one through chairing and coordination of Surrey Prevention board.
7. Deliver key Public Health led actions from Surrey Health and Wellbeing strategy implementation plans.