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Supplementary Agenda

for the meeting of

THE COUNTY COUNCIL

to be held on

8 DECEMBER 2020

(i)

6 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

(Pages 5
- 34)

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.

Member questions and responses, and Cabinet Member Briefings are attached.

8 ORIGINAL MOTIONS

Item 8 (i)

Amendment by Mrs Mary Lewis (Cobham) to the motion standing in the name of Mrs Fiona White

(additional words underlined and deletions crossed through)

This Council notes:

That it recognises that child poverty, ~~especially child food poverty,~~ **including food, fuel, digital, housing and transport poverty which impact the whole family**, is a systemic problem, not a temporary one which can be solved with short term measures.

It further recognises that the key objective that no-one is left behind must start with our youngest children.

It recognises ~~too that breakfast clubs and other on-site initiatives delivered through schools make a huge difference not just to pupil wellbeing but also to the quality of learning and other outcomes.~~ **that system-wide initiatives delivered through early years settings, schools, health settings, family centres and elsewhere make a huge difference not just to child wellbeing but also to the quality of learning and other outcomes.**

Therefore resolves to:

1. ~~Encourage all schools to set up breakfast clubs by making a one-off capital allocation to those schools which require it to amend premises or provide equipment, to enable schools to make breakfast provision~~
2. Ask officers to ~~produce a report on child poverty in Surrey~~ **to assess data from the Community Impact Assessment and on-going work with the DWP, Citizens' Advice Bureau, Surrey Welfare Rights Unit and the Community Foundation for Surrey to produce a report on poverty in Surrey, so Council can fully understand the complexity, scale and impact on children of poverty in Surrey, including the wider cohort of families now experiencing poverty.**
3. ~~Consider setting aside in the next revenue budget sums to enable an action plan falling out of that report which could meaningfully address~~

(iii)

~~the impact of child poverty on learning and wellbeing and~~

4. ~~Lobby government to consider reforms to the welfare system which address the fundamental causes of child poverty, such as the failures of the Universal Credit system and the inadequacy of the minimum wage~~ **to continue to fund local government appropriately to mitigate the social effects of Covid-19, especially those affecting children and families.**
5. **Support the work of the One Surrey Growth Board in seeking to support post-Covid economic recovery and to provide the quality jobs and training that can offer a long- term solution to the issue.**
6. **Support the new Executive Director of Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture to lead a Council wide response to the report on child poverty in Surrey and to address the issue of poor outcomes for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, including working with schools to provide an Inclusive curriculum that supports the most disadvantaged and developing the Helping Families Early initiative with partners, built on the principle that 'everyone can do something'.**
7. **Support the Leader as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board to continue its work in addressing and prioritising this issue.**
8. **Support the First 1000 Days initiative with Health/County Council integrated commissioning to improve life chances of babies and young children (now in its second year).**
9. **Welcome the £2.2 million winter package funding received by Surrey CC from central government and the work being done with partners to use it to target support to those in most immediate need, alleviating food and fuel poverty.**

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2020****QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED UNDER THE PROVISIONS
OF STANDING ORDER 10.1****MARK NUTI, DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER - SUPPORT FOR THE LEADER****1. MR EDWARD HAWKINS (HEATHERSIDE AND PARKSIDE) TO ASK:**

At a Divisional Question & Answer session I held this week, I was asked on a number of occasions about Surrey County Council's stated desire to reinvigorate its relationship with residents and give communities a greater say on matters that impact them and where they live. Could the Deputy Cabinet Member - Support for the Leader - please advise how Surrey County will ensure that arguably the most important aspect - the community - including all groups and businesses will be at the heart of those conversations?

RESPONSE:

The Council has recently agreed a refreshed Organisation Strategy and a key priority is to empower our communities; we want to 'Reinvigorate our relationship with residents, empowering communities to tackle local issues and support one another while making it easier for everyone to play an active role in the decisions that will shape Surrey's future'.

To support this priority, we want to improve and increase our conversations with our communities using a range of tools, both digital and physical, to reach a wider section of our residents and businesses. Members have already started some of these conversations in communities and these digital conversations have already resulted in connecting with a far wider group of people than our more traditional engagements; other Members have been polling their residents for views or holding local meetings within their divisions.

We will also be exploring the engagements we have planned around libraries or other key Surrey County Council activities in our communities and supporting these conversations with other tools such as Commonplace (our map based engagement tool which is already in use for Active Travel and Your Fund Surrey), to seek wider views on how we might develop the places where people live and building on our conversations as we go.

We want to understand the experiences residents have locally and use this to shape our policies and services. Working with our partners we aim to join up our conversations locally, listening to resident's ideas and issues, and working with communities to agree local priorities that become real projects on the ground that we can deliver together.

We have also launched Your Fund Surrey (YFS), a £100million capital fund, inviting communities to bid for monies to deliver local projects that make a big difference to local people. We have already seen over 250 project ideas on the Commonplace Your Fund Surrey map and over 18,000 visits to view the map. We will monitor the take-up of YFS to ensure we are reaching every community in Surrey, but this is already increasing the engagement we have with our communities and will build positive community led projects and connect people together in their communities.

We want to utilise both these initiatives to build our conversations, to grow mutual understanding and shared ambition for each community. Sharing the vision for the future of Surrey and discussing with communities what this might mean for their area, from planting trees to support a greener future, to developing ways to support people's mental health. We are kick starting the journey to empower our communities to take more control, get involved in shaping Surrey's future and making things happen in the places where they live.

TIM OLVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

2. MS BARBARA THOMSON (EARLSWOOD AND REIGATE SOUTH) TO ASK:

While many residents and businesses thrive in Surrey, not everyone has the same opportunities to flourish, so Surrey County Council is rightly focused on tackling inequality and ensuring no-one is left behind. Could the Leader provide an update on the valuable work the Council is doing to support people and businesses across Surrey to grow during the economic recovery and to re-prioritise infrastructure plans?

RESPONSE:

Throughout the pandemic, Surrey County Council has recognised the importance of ensuring that our businesses are aware of and able to take up the range of practical Government support available to them to support recovery from the negative economic impacts of the pandemic. Through our leadership of the local Covid-19 Recovery Co-ordinating Group (RCG), we have worked to ensure businesses are provided with or could access information when they needed it. We continue to provide a lead coordination role in relation to some of the medium term impacts identified through the Retail and Economy Sub-group, for example supporting our high street businesses to open and operate 'Covid-safely' and develop a better online presence.

We have sign-posted businesses to relevant local support networks so that they could receive help and guidance, such as Government grants channelled through District and Borough councils, business advice and support made available through LEP Growth Hubs, as well as through other business support intermediaries. We also made a direct grant award to the Surrey Chambers of Commerce and Federation of Small Businesses to support Surrey small businesses to gain valuable access to emergency advice and support, as well as continuing to give dedicated grant support to Surrey based social enterprises which provide a front-line business advice function.

The County Council set up and actively supports the Surrey Employment and Skills Board (ESB) as a proactive employer-led partnership dedicated to improving the skills and employment system within Surrey to the benefit of both employers and residents. The Board's work includes a targeted response to the Government's Plan for Jobs schemes, designed to maximise the awareness and uptake of schemes to benefit Surrey. These are led by senior representatives from local employers, such as McLaren Automotive and the Institute of Directors in Surrey, alongside providers including East Surrey College and the University of Surrey. Through this role, we are specifically supporting the delivery of Surrey's 'Kickstart' youth employment programme and the securing of over 500 Kickstart work placements for unemployed 16-24-year olds led by the Surrey Chamber of Commerce.

In conjunction with this, the Surrey ESB is involved in helping steer the development of employment youth hubs with funding from DWP. The hubs are expected to open across the county in 2021 and will provide young people with wrap-around employment support, guidance and connection with local employers over the next year.

This front-line response has been delivered with our partners, alongside a strategic response and the development of 'Surrey's Economic Future: Our 2030 Economic Strategy Statement' by the County Council. This framework for action builds from the work of the Surrey Economic Commission (Chaired by Lord Philip Hammond) and is underpinned by research undertaken by the University of Surrey; a post-COVID sectoral impact assessment from ARUP; and an insightful socio-economic evaluation of key emerging themes. It also includes an 'invitation to engage' – a call to key local stakeholders to come together to contribute to the development of the work and specifically to the identification and/or design of critical initiatives and interventions that will drive economic growth.

With regard to infrastructure, officers have been working with partners to develop the Surrey Infrastructure Plan (SIP) and will be bringing this to Cabinet in February 2021 for approval. As well as traditional infrastructure schemes associated with transport and highways, we will be looking to deliver a wider range of infrastructure that supports our objectives, including enhancements to digital, energy, active travel, new technology, flood defences and the environment. Importantly, schemes will contribute to the kind of balanced economic growth envisaged in our Surrey's Economic Future 2030 Strategy Statement, ensuring we align our infrastructure investment to a wider range of community benefits.

Alongside the SIP, our recently launched £100m Your Fund Surrey, will enable communities to develop infrastructure projects for their local areas that are important to them. We have specifically made clear our intention to ensure that this fund reaches those communities that need it the most, and will be working hard to encourage communities across Surrey to submit their ideas for Your Fund Surrey, the investment of which will complement our wider infrastructure programme.

SINEAD MOONEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS AND HEALTH

3. MRS TINA MOUNTAIN (EPSOM TOWN & DOWNS) TO ASK:

I note Surrey County Council's strong commitment to providing older people with the care and support they deserve, while promoting their privacy and independence. Could the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health provide an update on where the Council is on meeting its target of developing new extra care housing? How much of an impact does the Cabinet Member think the recently approved plans to provide more than 135 new homes in Surrey Heath and Epsom will have?

RESPONSE:

I would like to thank the County Councillor for Epsom Town and Downs for acknowledging our strategy to deliver accommodation with care and support by 2030 that will enable people to access the right health and social care at the right time in the right place; with appropriate housing for residents that helps them to remain independent, achieve their potential and ensures nobody is left behind. This will support Surrey County Council to achieve its Community Vision for 2030.

The Accommodation with Care and Support team has made good progress to deliver its target of 725 affordable units of Extra Care Housing. In total, across all the sites we have identified for Extra Care Housing, we have plans to deliver circa 310 units, which is 43% of our target. This is the progress we have made against our existing plans:

- We are in the process of finalising the Contract Award for a development and housing management strategic partner for the Pond Meadow tender.
- We plan to publish the Invitation to Tender for a development and housing management strategic partner for Brockhurst and Pinehurst in December.

- We plan to publish the Invitation to Tender for a development and housing management strategic partner for the two sites recently approved, Lakeside and Salisbury Road, in the new year.
- We continue to work with our Land and Property Service to identify the required sites to achieve our full target of 725 affordable units.

We are pleased that Cabinet approved the use of two further sites for Extra Care Housing in Surrey Heath and Epsom. This marks another positive step towards achieving our ambition to increase the availability of affordable Extra Care Housing by 725 units for Surrey's residents.

TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

4. MRS CLARE CURRAN (BOOKHAM AND FETCHAM WEST) TO ASK:

I note the recent Community Impact Assessment which explored how Surrey communities have been affected by Covid-19, what support residents need, and their priorities for recovery. Can the Leader confirm how Surrey County Council is responding to the risk that the pandemic will increase inequality between communities in the long term, particularly among the vulnerable groups? How does the County Council aim to engage its partners across Surrey to target resources and support towards those communities where there has been the greatest impact, and to ensure that no-one is left behind?

RESPONSE:

The Community Impact Assessment (CIA) is a key piece of research conducted by the Council to understand the impact of Covid-19 on residents of Surrey; to understand their priorities for the future and to ensure that we can target support towards residents and communities who will be most vulnerable going forward. The work aligns closely to our organisation strategy and four priority objectives and includes findings and recommendations around growing an inclusive economy, tackling health inequality, enabling a greener future and empowering communities.

The findings and recommendations are being used to inform strategy development across the Council and with partners; and the reports have been shared at various strategic forums such as the Health and Wellbeing Board, Surrey Heartlands ICS, Recovery Co-ordinating Group (RCG) and Health Inequalities group.

We come together with our partners in the Health and Wellbeing Board to work to deliver against the Surrey's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which has as an underpinning principle addressing health inequalities and ensuring no-one is left behind. Delivery of this strategy encompasses a great deal of partnership programmes within each of the three priorities areas, from domestic abuse to air quality to mental health. The recent reports on this work that were presented to the board are already showing how resources are being refocused within these areas. Each of the boards and groups responsible for taking forward the three priorities will be further reviewing the recommendations that have come out of the CIA process to identify what more can be done to further target this work.

The findings have also informed our immediate response during the second wave, helping to guide actions where Covid-19 rates are high. Specific groups have been identified as having been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and these findings are feeding into and are guiding specific recovery workstreams.

Some examples of where the CIA is informing our response are set out below:

- It has helped us to understand people's experiences of worse mental health during the pandemic and is informing outreach plans and decisions around restoration of services being led through the Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health Reference Group.
- To address issues identified around access to services for BAME communities and for specific communications to these groups through the BAME Population Steering Group. We are also working with voluntary sector partners to address the low levels of foodbank awareness among BAME communities.
- The Surrey Public Health team has taken a lead role in supporting the multi-agency response to homelessness. This has resulted in urgent action being taken with health and district and borough partners to ensure an effective response to the immediate impact of COVID-19. This is now an ongoing programme of work with longer term objectives.
- The insights derived from the needs assessment focused on the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) community and has led to formation of the GRT strategy group. The purpose of this group is to drive cultural and practice change across the strategic partnerships in Surrey to promote equality of access and outcomes.
- Work is underway to support staff engaged with under 25s affected by substance misuse and to explore alternative approaches to working virtually. A hardship fund is also being created to support young people with equipment/data allowances to help them maintain contact with keyworkers and engage with self-help groups online.
- The CIA has been informing our recovery work in mental health, with good discussions underway with the DWP, CAB and Richmond Fellowship to ensure people who recently lost their jobs can access emotional wellbeing and mental health support. A course on money and debt management is now being delivered by peer mentors and DWP through Recovery College.
- Our healthcare partners are using the CIA to inform and guide their system-wide recovery efforts as well as responding to the NHS Phase 3 Implementation requirements.
- The CIA findings are supporting the development of a Mass Vaccination Equality Impact Assessment and supplying insight to provide targeted support/action for our vulnerable communities, including culturally appropriate information.
- It has supported the identification of specific areas to pilot Population Health Management projects which focus on reducing health inequalities and targeting groups who are at risk of worse health outcomes.
- It has informed our portfolio of programmes around empowering communities, helping us to understand community dynamics during the pandemic and ensuring that we focus our pilot projects on places that have seen significant impacts from Covid-19.

There are many more such examples and the teams in the Council are continuing to share the insights with colleagues and partners and helping to shape strategic and operational decisions. This in turn will help to ensure that our response is as effective as possible, and that resources are targeted at vulnerable groups who are most at risk of being left behind.

Longer term the CIA will provide the basis for a new and refreshed joint strategic needs assessment, which is overseen by the partners on the Health and Wellbeing Board and will be used to ensure the issues that have been highlighted by this initial process can continue to be investigated and used to inform and underpin the wider delivery and commissioning of services over the coming years.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT

5. MR PETER SZANTO (EAST MOLESEY AND ESHER) TO ASK:

I am delighted that the Government recognises Surrey County Council's ambitious programme to support walking and cycling safely in the county and has allocated £6.4 million to the Council. Could the Cabinet Member for Transport please clarify how this additional funding will be used to support the roll-out of the active travel schemes, and encourage residents to reduce their car use?

RESPONSE:

Following our Tranche 2 funding bid, we received a funding award of £6,445,750 against our ten schemes with a value of £7.8m. We therefore have a shortfall of £1.35m. We are working up all ten schemes to concept design, which looks to prove the buildability, as well as detailing the route for the scheme.

After we reach concept design stage, we will consult with the communities affected as well as all key stakeholders for a period of around four weeks, commencing in early February.

After that, we will submit a report to Cabinet, which will consider all the consultation responses as well as the cost of each scheme. It is anticipated that Cabinet will make a decision in the spring on which schemes to fund.

We will start to deliver our chosen schemes in early June and complete all scheme delivery by March 2022.

In addition to the government funding, we are also developing a sustainable travel campaign to inform and encourage residents to consider alternative travel options, alongside a four year investment in active travel schemes, that will enhance our existing active travel infrastructure.

NATALIE BRAMHALL, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

6. MR MIKE GOODMAN (BAGSHOT, WINDLESHAM AND CHOBHAM) TO ASK:

I note Surrey County Council's ambitious goal of net zero carbon by 2050, along with the Council's aim of boosting the energy efficiency of Surrey houses, in turn improving the lives of many residents. Could the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change provide an update on the Green Jump Surrey project, and how it will help residents to save money on energy bills and to keep warm in their homes this winter?

RESPONSE:

In August 2020 the Government announced a £2 bn Green Homes Grant with the purpose of stimulating a green recovery through investment into the UK energy efficiency and low carbon sectors, significantly reducing carbon emissions (CO₂) from housing to mitigate climate change, as well as reducing instances of fuel poverty. Of this funding £200m was allocated to a Green Homes Local Authority Delivery (GH LAD) programme. This funding is targeted at low income households (with a total income of £30,000 p.a. or less), living in the most inefficient homes (homes with an Energy Performance Certificate EPC rating of E, F or G). The funding can be used for measures which improve the EPC rating of these homes, such as energy efficiency lighting, insulation, and renewable heat technologies, which reduce resident's fuel bills and also result in CO₂ reductions.

Surrey County Council, in partnership with Action Surrey and ten Boroughs and Districts, submitted a successful application to the fund in September this year and were awarded £6.2m. This funding is being used to deliver the Green Jump Surrey programme, enabling measures of up to £15,000 per property to be installed into approximately 600 low income households in the county. SCC has contributed £750,000 to the programme in order to secure the investment and unlock further cost prohibitive measures, such as solid wall insulation and heat pumps, which result in additional carbon savings and which otherwise might have fallen outside of the scope of the programme.

The Green Jump Surrey Programme was launched in October and will run until March 2021. To date, 185 eligible households have been identified by Action Surrey, of which 156 are looking to proceed to installation.

This programme aligns closely with our updated Organisation Strategy and in particular the Greener Futures priority objective within the strategy. This objective states that we will work to tackle emissions challenges to make sure we achieve our carbon reduction targets. Green Jump Surrey also links to the Tackling Health Inequality priority objective, as it focuses on tackling fuel poverty and reducing energy bills for our lowest income households. Fuel poverty occurs when a household cannot afford to keep adequately warm at a reasonable cost, given their income, and it is linked to health conditions, such as pneumonia as well as increased instances of falls in elderly and vulnerable people, both of which result in increased hospital admissions.

JULIE ILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR ALL-AGE LEARNING

7. MR TIM HALL (LEATHERHEAD AND FETCHAM EAST) TO ASK:

I welcome the Conservative Government's new £170m Covid Winter Grant Scheme to support children, families and the most vulnerable over winter. As Surrey County Council will receive over £2.1 million share of the scheme, can the Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning please confirm how the money will be effectively spent in order to best protect the hardest hit families and most disadvantaged children?

RESPONSE:

I would like to thank the County Councillor for Leatherhead and Fetcham East for highlighting the very welcome winter support scheme announced by the government on 8 November 2020. It is designed to directly help families and individuals who have been hardest hit by the pandemic, with the majority set aside to ensure children do not go hungry during the winter months.

We have been working very closely with school leaders and partners to identify means of distributing the funding effectively to families, not only during the school holidays, but also throughout the winter months. We know that families can struggle at any time and getting support when they need it most is vital.

Working with schools, we are using the funding to support all 17,000 children in the county eligible for free school meals. This will be done through food vouchers sent to the children's families throughout the Christmas holidays.

There will also be a winter grant to care leavers, and direct food vouchers for families of younger children eligible for the pupil premium.

A large amount of the funding – around £200,000 from the first tranche of money – will be given to the Surrey Crisis Fund and made available to any resident who is struggling through the winter. This money will provide support towards food costs and utility bills, and also emergencies such as replacing broken white goods, to guide people away from long lasting debt. I would encourage any resident who needs help this winter to contact the Surrey Crisis Fund for support. Full details are available on our website.

We know that many more people are struggling financially because of the pandemic and we are here to help.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT

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

As part of the first tranche of the Active Travel initiative, Surrey County Council installed bollards under Victoria Arch in Woking to temporarily widen the pavement.

Please can the Cabinet Member for Transport confirm:

- Whether the Council has analysed the impact of this scheme?
- What has been the cost of implementing the scheme?
- When will the Council remove the bollards?

RESPONSE:

The impact of this scheme has been assessed. Periodic observations have indicated that the additional space created for pedestrians has not been utilised, with pedestrians preferring to walk on the existing footway rather than on the carriageway surface. There have also been ongoing issues with the traffic management features in place being hit and requiring maintenance. This is due to the limited width of the carriageway and the A320 bearing a high volume of traffic and large vehicles. This scheme has been in place for approximately 12 weeks, but due to maintenance issues and lack of use, it has been decided to remove it from the network.

The total cost of implementing this scheme, including removal costs and daily site checks, is £11,910.

A date for removal is not yet available, but has been requested from our contracting partner Kiers. It is likely that the scheme will be removed in the week commencing 7 December 2020.

In the longer term, the Victoria Arch is to be replaced as part of a partnering project with Network Rail, Surrey County Council, and Woking Borough Council. As part of this replacement work, permanent enhanced pedestrian and cycling facilities will be provided.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT

9. MRS HAZEL WATSON (DORKING HILLS) TO ASK:

In responding to 20s Plenty for Surrey, Matt Furniss, as Cabinet Member for Transport, recently stated: *“Within Surrey, decisions on speed limits are delegated to local committees of elected members within each District or Borough, along with a budget allocation for highway improvements. It is for local members to decide upon the priorities for highway improvements in their areas, and whether they would like to pursue 20 mph speed limit*

schemes as opposed to other highway improvements on the roads that they are responsible for.”

This appears, to use a famous quote from Alan Clark, to be being “economic with the actualite”.

The Mole Valley Local Committee budget for all locally approved highways schemes for next year is £76,667, which means that it is impossible for the Local Committee to commit to undertake the necessary speed surveys, the design work, and then implement the reduced speed limits. The decision not to proceed with such speed limits has thus been taken out of the hands of the Local Committee and has been made by the Cabinet through the refusal to delegate the necessary funding to the Local Committee to enable such reduced speed limits to be introduced.

In order to provide substance behind the Cabinet Member’s response to 20s Plenty for Surrey, will the Cabinet Member look again at the budgets delegated to the Local Committees for such highways improvements and increase the delegated budget so that Local Committees can actually make these decisions that he has stated they are delegated to take?

RESPONSE:

While I support 20mph speed limits in appropriate locations, as I have explained the decision for promoting speed limits currently sits with the Local and Joint Committees. Our speed limit policy (link below) indicates the circumstances necessary to ensure they can be successfully introduced:

[Speed limits - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](http://surreycc.gov.uk)

This year, the eleven Local and Joint Committees across Surrey have a total of over £3.6m council resources directly allocated under their control for maintenance and other improvements. Many Committees supplement this by investing income from parking surpluses and using CIL and S106 contributions. Mole Valley Joint Committee has resisted parking charges and their on-street parking account operates at a significant deficit. In 18/19 the loss was £66,096, we are waiting confirmation of accounts for 19/20 from the District Council but this is likely to be a deficient too. As the Cabinet Member I do not recognise the £76,667 figure quoted as this is how your Local Committee will have determined to allocate funds. I can though confirm that Mole Valley Local Committee will have access to resources greater than that sum in 21/22.

The table below details what was allocated in 20/21 and what will be allocated in 21/22:

	Elm	E&E	Gui	MV	R&B	Run	Spel	SH	Tan	Wav	Wok
Capital	£311k	£217k	£335k	£241k	£335k	£241k	£264k	£241k	£241k	£311k	£264k
Revenue	£67.5k	£37.5k	£75k	£45k	£75k	£45k	£52.5k	£45k	£45k	£67.5k	£52.5k
TOTAL	£378.5k	£254.5k	£410k	£286k	£410k	£286k	£316.5k	£286k	£286k	£378.5k	£316.5k

Note - the above is supplemented by parking surpluses and CIL / S106

I understand that there have been two 20mph schemes installed within Mole Valley in the last year (St Giles Infant School and Fetcham Village School / Oakfield Junior) and the Committee has identified a further eight other sites where you wish to look at speed limit

reductions. It is for your Local Committee to prioritise this work as the committee deems appropriate, balancing against other pressures.

DENISE TURNER-STEWART, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES

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

Can the Cabinet Member please confirm the number of FTE firefighters actively employed by SFRS, year on year since 2010?

RESPONSE:

In the past 10 years the landscape in which fire and rescue services operate, has transformed. There has been a considerable reduction in the number of fires across the country (fire incidents have reduced by 45% nationally and 30% in Surrey over the past decade). There is also much greater emphasis on prevention and protection activities; in response to which Surrey Fire and Rescue Service has just recruited 29 new staff members into its Prevention and Protection team.

The significant technological advances in the past decade have also enabled:

- improved safety equipment;
- more efficient working patterns, including the ability to pre-alert for incidents;
- the ability to respond dynamically to risk and incidents using live streamed data (rather than maintain old fashioned working practices like “station grounds”); and
- the reduction of crewing levels required per fire appliance in Surrey from 5 in 2010 to 4 with a consequent reduction in the number of response-based firefighters FTE required.

All of the above factors, as well as changes in culture and practice, allow for much more sophisticated workforce planning. This is all whilst maintaining, over the past decade, the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service’s response standard of 10 minutes for the first fire appliance at a critical incident and 15 minutes for the second. So far this year the service’s average response time for the first appliance is in fact 7 minutes and 16 seconds; well within the 10 minutes.

Every fire and rescue service in the country is required to have an Integrated Risk Management Plan. This plan looks at the risk in communities and then sets out what resource (including workforce) is needed by a fire and rescue service for public safety. In the case of Surrey, this is contained in the Making Surrey Safer Plan 2020-2023. Surrey Fire and Rescue’s plan is based on data that has been externally verified. The plan also takes into account matters such as changes in demographics and the impact of climate change in Surrey, as well as incident data. For example, the increased risk of wildfires has led to the creation of two new Rural Affairs Officers to work with landowners and farmers to prevent wildfires (as well as the need for animal rescue). In terms of responding to incidents (rather than the vital prevention and protection work that is also required for public safety), the Making Surrey Safer Plan sets out the minimum number of appliances required in Surrey to meet the risk. This is 16 fire appliances at night and 20 in the day. The Service will be at full establishment regarding the number of firefighters needed to crew these appliances when the plan is fully implemented in January 2021.

The number of FTE firefighters employed by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service from 2010 is set out in the table below:

Year	FTE Whole-Time firefighters	FTE On-Call firefighters
2010	622	104
2011	641	103
2012	619	93
2013	594	106
2014	590	104
2015	553	100
2016	524	94
2017	487	90
2018	469	89
2019	454	88
Nov-20	448	80

TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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

A recent survey of councils across England by The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) shows that:

- 82% of adult social services directors report rising demand for help from people being discharged from hospital;
- 69% report an increase in cases of domestic abuse and safeguarding of vulnerable adults; and
- 63% report growing numbers of people seeking help because of the breakdown of unpaid carer arrangements through sickness or unavailability.

Given that even before the full impact of Covid-19 is seen across the Adult Social Services sector, Surrey County Council has been seeking to reduce its costs through wholesale transformation of the services it provides. Will the Leader commit the Council to leading on a Summit of key stakeholders and partners, in order to identify practical steps to tackle this pending crisis county-wide, while we await the long promised Government paper on Social Care reform?

RESPONSE:

I would like to thank the County Councillor for Guildford North for her question.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic certainly has emphasised the health inequalities we were already facing in Surrey and has also had a negative impact on our local economy. Fortunately, the County Council was already focussed on these issues and we will be working determinedly to reduce the pandemic's long term impact on Surrey.

We have responded to the immediate pressures outlined in the question, which of course have been evident in Surrey too. Our view is that the support the Government has offered local Councils, and through us to the wider care sector, has been sufficient to enable us to

respond to the specific additional costs associated with the pandemic and also to deal with the increased demands. The budget proposals we are putting forward for 2021/22 take account of the continuing impact of the pressures we have faced, which include the impact of hospital discharges and the strain on carers. We are working closely with partners to tackle the impact of domestic abuse and just as an example, have enabled additional refuge provision to be made available.

Because the Council is in a sound financial position overall, with more than adequate reserves, we are confident that we will be able to meet the care needs of Surrey's residents without there being a sense of crisis. I agree with the Member that a national solution to the problem of sustainably funding Adult Social Care is now long overdue.

NATALIE BRAMHALL, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Regarding the commissioning of gasification and anaerobic digestion plants at Charlton Lane, I understand the level of waste infrastructure grant paid to Surrey County Council was scheduled to increase on completion of hot commissioning, and then full service commencement of the gasification facility at the Charlton Lane site (see https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/621127/response/1531586/attach/3/20200120%20Second%20re%20profiling%20of%20Surrey%20WIG%20signed%20by%20LW%20Redacted.pdf?cookie_passthrough=1).

In light of this can the Cabinet Member please confirm:

- i) The deadline set by Defra for hot commissioning to be completed;
- ii) The total payments of Waste Infrastructure Grant from Defra to Surrey County Council to date and the amounts outstanding;
- iii) The cost implications to the Council of non-completion by that date with regard to payments from or returned to Defra; and
- iv) Whether the full commissioning of the Anaerobic Digestion plant at Charlton Lane impacts upon on payments to/from Defra.

RESPONSE:

- i) Defra have not imposed a deadline for the project to be completed. The project is under review from Defra who monitor construction progress given their financial commitment to the project.
- ii) At the end of September 2020, the Council had received Waste Infrastructure Grants totalling £142m with £63m outstanding.
- iii) Currently there is no Defra 'deadline' as per question i).
- iv) Yes, we do know that the release of the full remaining Defra payments will be linked with Acceptance of the gasifier and AD plants. Payments are currently made at a reduced rate prior to Acceptance (any agreement we can reach on AD plant payments is subject to further discussion).

NATALIE BRAMHALL, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

13. MRS HAZEL WATSON (DORKING HILLS) TO ASK: (2ND QUESTION)

In Mid-October I invited the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change to work with me in developing a proposal for an urban forest in Dorking, given that the County Council has both declared a Climate Emergency and has committed to plant 1.2million trees over the next few years.

The proposal is to plant an area of land which is currently owned by the County Council and which is held for “green purposes”, given that the area is landlocked and has no apparent potential alternative use having been withheld from The Ashcombe School as surplus land when the school became an academy. Furthermore, the land is completely separate from the school grounds, being separated from the school grounds by a public footpath, and over the last couple of years it has been left to grow wild with nettles and brambles causing the County Council to incur cost to maintain it and to prevent fly-tipping.

The Cabinet Member’s most recent responses to me are: “I do feel that in years to come the trees could prove difficult to manage in the school setting.” and “Shall we pick this up in the New Year.”

On the basis of this reply, can the Cabinet Member explain:

- a) How a piece of land separated from a school by a public footpath could prove difficult to manage in the school setting, especially as it has a separate maintenance access alongside the railway line from the public highway?
- b) How, given that we have declared a Climate Emergency, doing nothing from October to at least the following January is providing an adequate and timely response to an “emergency”?
- c) How ignoring such an opportunity assists the County Council in meeting its stated aim to plant 1.2million trees?
- d) How her inaction promotes the County Council, given that District Councillors from all parties representing Dorking and the surrounding villages, including her own party, are proposing the planting of an urban forest in the area?

Furthermore, will the Cabinet Member commit to working with me to develop this exciting proposal with a view to implementing it, if it is assessed as viable and feasible, during the calendar year 2021?

RESPONSE:

Surrey County Council is committed to facilitate the planting of 1.2 million trees by 2030, in order to sequester carbon emissions and provide a wealth of other benefits to our residents and local biodiversity. With competing demands on our resources it is necessary to follow the key principles set out within our New Tree Strategy, of planting the right tree in the right place and prioritising locations which are the most appropriate for tree planting. We are also working hard to ensure an equitable division of trees across the county, so that all of our residents can reap the benefits. It is therefore important that we prioritise tree planting in areas where the trees will serve the greatest benefit from a social, biodiversity or health perspective and also where larger volumes of trees can be planted most cost effectively.

It is inaccurate to suggest that nothing has happened during the period from October 20 to January 2021, when in fact we have created, and are continuing to create, numerous opportunities for tree planting. This includes the following activities;

- In the last few weeks we have given 540 free trees and hedge plants to 92 schools in Surrey, with every school given the opportunity to access a free tree and hedge. Schools that have benefitted include Powell Corderoy Primary, Surrey Hills All Saints and the Priory CofE school, in the Dorking area, as well as neighbouring schools in Capel, Redhill, Reigate and Horley. I have myself helped to plant 20 mature Silver Birch trees in Colesmead in Redhill in November 2020.
- We are in the process of planting 20,000 trees, creating new areas of woodland on Surrey land. This includes planting locations along the highway where trees have had to be removed due to ash die-back.
- The County Council is commissioning an assessment of all of our land, as well as land owned by ten of the Boroughs and Districts, to determine suitable sites for woodland planting in future years. This work will be completed early next year.
- We have created an Urban and Highways Tree Planting Fund, providing funding for trees planted at sites suggested by residents and community groups via their County Councillors. We have received a very positive response and tree planting is starting imminently on suitable sites.
- We have launched our Trees for Christmas campaign for the second year, in partnership with the Surrey Wildlife Trust, Squires Garden Centres and other Christmas Tree retailers, asking residents to donate £3 to plant a tree in Surrey when they purchase their Christmas Tree.
- We held a member seminar on 26 October 2020, focusing on tree planting to promote the above opportunities and answer questions regarding tree planting and maintenance.

With regards to the site in question, where you have specifically requested a Miyawaki Forest, which will need to be monitored for 3 years, I can assure you that officers will visit the site to assess it and determine whether it can be incorporated into our future planting programme. The decision will be based upon a number of factors, including the habitat value that it currently serves, the size of the site and the number of trees that it will sustain and the feasibility of maintaining the trees in the future. As you can imagine, tree and woodland planting is an agenda that raises a lot of interest, and we receive numerous questions and requests which officers do their best to respond to. This is a ten-year strategy and so we will certainly have many opportunities to plant more trees in coming years.

TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

**14. MR ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK:
(2ND QUESTION)**

What special measures is the Council considering, in cooperation with the County's eleven boroughs and districts, to ensure as many citizens as possible have the opportunity to participate in next year's local elections?

RESPONSE:

The County Council is working closely with the District and Borough Electoral Services Teams and the Electoral Commission to prepare for running the polls in May 2021. Regular meetings are taking place to discuss and agree project plans to ensure that electors are able to cast their vote safely, either by post or in person at a polling station. A countywide communications campaign will be launched in line with guidance from the Electoral Commission to encourage residents to use their vote and to reassure them that polling

stations will be safe places to visit. Further information on this will be shared with Members in due course.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT

**15. MR JONATHAN ESSEX (REDHILL EAST) TO ASK
(2ND QUESTION)**

Regarding double yellow lines and road safety signage, my understanding from speaking to our local parking enforcement team, is that once a road marking, such as a double yellow line is faded away or has a break in it, it then becomes unenforceable, which has an impact on the effectiveness of the County Council's subcontracts to our districts and boroughs to carry out parking enforcement. There are a significant number of yellow lines on Surrey's highways that are currently unenforceable. Similarly, there are a significant number of missing or damaged road signs which have an impact on road safety. Please confirm what the priority time is to repaint defective road markings and replace road safety signage?

RESPONSE:

It is correct that parking restrictions cannot be enforced if they are not clearly and correctly marked or signed and we work in partnership with the district and borough council parking enforcement teams to ensure that these restrictions stay in good condition. Typically, the enforcement team will report areas in need of maintenance to us and we will then arrange for the road marking work to be carried out in our next 'ad hoc' works order. In some cases, when restrictions need to be replaced more urgently, this can be arranged.

All road markings on the main roads are refreshed as part of a 5-year cyclical maintenance programme, which includes all give-way markings and yellow lines. All other road markings are refreshed on an ad-hoc basis, with requests being batched up to maximise value for money efficiencies and taking around two months to complete, depending on weather conditions.

Road signs are inspected as part of the Highway Safety Inspection regime and any that are identified as unsafe (bent, twisted or projecting to an extent that the public is put at high risk, or missing junction signs (Give-way and Stop signs) will be repaired or made safe within 20 working days. Any other non-safety related sign defects can be raised by Members, residents and other members of the public through Surrey's reporting system. Replacement or repair can take between two to three months to complete depending on the type of sign and the traffic management required to safely undertake the work.

Highway signing and lining defects can be reported [via our web pages linked here](#).

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT

**16. MR JONATHAN ESSEX (REDHILL EAST) TO ASK:
(3RD QUESTION)**

Regarding the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, the draft capital budget includes a significant item for Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans. Please confirm the timescale envisaged for completion of these plans for each of our boroughs and districts, and whether decisions on spending to implement these will be taken centrally or via our local and joint committees.

RESPONSE:

Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plans, known as LCWIPs, will provide a countywide network of routes and interventions aimed at increasing active travel and enhancing safety. A pilot LCWIP for Woking was completed earlier this year. We are now developing another ten LCWIPs across the county. Each LCWIP is broadly based on borough and district areas, although there will necessarily be some overlap to create strategic cycle area plans. LCWIPs will be developed with our district and borough partners, encompassing a concept stage followed by a feasibility and design stage. This methodology will provide the basis for strong business cases to be produced for funding bids, for example, to the Department for Transport. Similar to the approach used for sustainable transport packages such as the recently completed package in Redhill, once a programme of work is funded the proposed improvements would be taken through the local committee to provide the necessary scrutiny and local decision making.

We expect to complete both work stages for each of the ten remaining LCWIPS during the current and next two financial years.

These will be completed in batches of three or four LCWIPs at a time, with the first batch covering three areas:

1. Reigate & Banstead, which has recently started and should be complete by July 2021.
2. Elmbridge, which is due to start next month and will be complete by September 2021.
3. Runnymede, with a planned start date for February and completion by October 2021.

The second batch will be completed by quarter three of 2022/23 and the third batch by quarter two of 2023/24. We are working with our borough and district partners to agree which LCWIP is in each future batch.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Tim Oliver on behalf of Colin Kemp

PORTFOLIO: Deputy Leader; Economy & Infrastructure

We are working with partners and Districts and Boroughs to support people and businesses across Surrey to grow during the economic recovery from Covid-19 and we are actively reviewing how our infrastructure can support our economic, climate and inclusion ambition to further our strategic priority of 'growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit'.

Recovery from Covid-19: Surrey's Community Impact Assessment highlights how the economic impact has been felt most acutely in those areas with a higher reliance on certain industries, such as aviation. The number of people claiming Universal Credit or Job Seeker's Allowance has increased by over 300% in some areas of Surrey. Throughout the second lockdown, the Economy and Growth Team has been working with District and Boroughs and business network organisations to direct Surrey businesses to Government and locally administered business grants and loans. For those facing unemployment, we have supported them to maximise the benefits of the Government's 'Plan for Jobs' through our engagement with the Surrey Employment and Skills Board and our partners such as Surrey Chambers of Commerce which has identified almost 500 local opportunities for the Governments proposed 'Kickstart' youth employment programme.

Surrey Business Leadership Forum: We have also set up a Business Leadership Forum as a recognised business engagement association for senior executives of larger and/or multi-national companies to network consider shared opportunities and challenges and promote the benefits of a Surrey location. The Forum includes representation from Pinewood Group, Philips, Maclaren, Hyundai, Pfizer, Jellyfish, Berkeley Group, Atkins Global, Sandoz, Capgemini and Wates Group and will meet for the second time in December. One of the primary areas of interest from the Forum is that of the 'Surrey Brand' and the need to promote Surrey as a place for business, this will become particularly important as we better understand our new relationship with London following the potential long-term structural impacts that we believe might emerge.

The One Surrey Growth Board: At its October meeting, the One Surrey Growth Board received recommendations from Lord Philip Hammond, on behalf of the Future Economic Surrey Commission, presenting a variety of actions that need to be considered to ensure swift economic recovery and support medium-term growth. At the next meeting in December, the Growth Board will build from these recommendations and consider next steps, including development of its Plan for Growth. The Board will also hear about 'Surrey's Economic Future: Our 2030 Economic Strategy Statement' and be invited to engage on the ambitions and delivery programmes that are emerging.

'Surrey's Economic Future: Our 2030 Economic Strategy Statement': This Strategy Statement will be presented to Cabinet on 15 December and is both a statement of SCC ambition and intent but also an 'Invitation to Engage' which is offered to wider stakeholders and partners. Through this approach we will be able to move to immediate delivery on identified interventions that SCC will deliver whilst, at the same time, working up larger-scale cross-cutting programmes of work for the medium – long term. Projects identified build tangible actions from the breadth of evidence and research that we have. Through the 2030 Strategy Statement we lay out our priorities for the next 10 years, providing a clear framework for action that will not only support the growth of Surrey's resilient, productive and high-value economy but also recognises and promotes the role that Surrey has in supporting the wealth of the wider sub-region and the whole of the UK.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Matthew Furniss

PORTFOLIO: Transport

Highway Contract Procurement: The first phase of the supplier selection is now complete. Positively, several significant market players have participated in this phase which demonstrates the attractiveness of our contract opportunity and gives us the reassurance of a good quality outcome when it comes to award. We now go into the next phase where we start to explore how the final four suppliers will introduce improvements and deliver our services in future. The selection process will continue through most of next year to identify the final successful supplier, with award anticipated in the Autumn of 2021 as previously advised.

Highway Tree Planting: Work has progressed to make it easier for residents and community groups to request new trees on the highway. A briefing session was held for all Members at the end of October, and the step by step process is now available on our website. Demand is considerable, and there have been 300 requests in the last three months which are all being assessed. Where it is safe and locally desired, officers will work to facilitate planting which will support our goal of enabling a greener future for residents.

Active Travel Award: The County Council has been awarded £6,445,750 in the second tranche of the "Active Travel" allocations from the Department for Transport. This is the third highest allocation in the Country, and testament to the quality bid this authority produced. There are ten potential schemes, and we are finalising how we ensure inclusive consultation on these proposals, so we can genuinely gauge levels of support amongst our residents. Further details can be found on our website. This is an exciting opportunity to improve our infrastructure and widen travel options for all of our residents, whilst furthering progress to tackle environmental challenges.

ULEV Bus Grant: On 24 November Cabinet agreed to invest £49m in cleaner buses and cleaner community transport vehicles. Core to this is the creation of a Surrey Ultra Low and Zero Emission Scheme that will go live early next year. The bus industry and community transport providers will be able to bid to the scheme to support the early transition to greener fleets, including a requirement for complementary investment. Our scheme will introduce up to 80 ultra-low or zero-emission buses and 50 community transport minibuses. Of the funding, £9m will be invested in bus priority measures to tackle identified points of delay; £1.4m will be invested in more real time passenger information; with over £32m for the new ultra-low and zero emission buses and over £6m for 'clean' electric community transport vehicles.

Lane Rental: After careful consideration of responses received from the close of consultation on 2 October, we submitted our Scheme Application to the Department for Transport (DfT) on Friday 30 October and are awaiting their final approval. Once DfT have approved our scheme they will recommend it to the Secretary of State, and we anticipate commencing the scheme in Spring 2021. We expect Surrey to be the first authority to get approval for a Lane Rental Scheme under the current guidance, so well done to all involved. This will be a fantastic step in empowering our communities and tackling issues that concern them.

LED Conversion: The upgrading of our streetlights is going to plan and making excellent process. To date, 16,674 columns have been upgraded and we are ahead of programme as our target was 10,500. The project is due to be completed by April 2023, but if we continue to make good progress, we should be able to reduce this by a few months. Once complete, 89,045 streetlights will have been converted to the latest LED technology and we expect to reduce energy consumption by 65%.

Highways Innovation: Eight Highways Inspectors vehicles have been equipped with sensors that use AI to detect and report potholes with the trial expected to complete in March 2021. In addition, two cameras that use AI to report on general road condition, white line degradation and street furniture assets are being installed onto vehicles this week to increase efficiency in road condition surveying. The first 8 of 25 road temperature sensors have been deployed to the road network and are being tested with the aim of increasing the accuracy of forecasts and driving efficiencies in the winter gritting service. The first phase of high-tech traffic survey sensors is expected to be deployed to the area around Frimley Park Hospital in mid-January. These use AI and edge-computing to measure and classify traffic movement across the area. Additional sensors are expected to be deployed across Surrey through January and February. Data from the cycling app Strava has been used to provide information about changes in behaviour in Farnham. It is expected that access will shortly be expanded to obtain live and historic traffic flow information from the sat-nav app Waze.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Natalie Bramhall

PORTFOLIO: Environment & Climate Change

Climate Change: I am pleased to update you with the progress we have made towards our Greener Futures organisational priority. The Low Carbon in the South East (LoCASE 3) programme, which will enable SME businesses to access 50% grants for energy efficiency and low carbon support, started on 24 November, and is expected to bring around £7m investment into Surrey over its 3-year running period. SCC and Elmbridge BC's entry to the LGA and Design Council's Design Challenge, which is to develop a Green Procurement policy and framework, has been accepted. On 16 November we held a member webinar with experts to help Districts and Boroughs identify funding and investment opportunities. We have launched the Green Jump Surrey programme in ten District and Borough areas, starting work to install insulation and low carbon heating in low income properties, funded by an SCC capital contribution and £6.2m Government GH LAD funding.

CRC: All community recycling centres are now operating normally with Covid safety measures. The range of materials offered at each site is now largely back to normal with the exception of glass, plastic bottles and cans as these materials are collected in kerbside collection services and the extra space helps with social distancing. Reuse shops at Shepperton, Earlswood and Leatherhead were temporarily closed during the November lockdown but are now open. A booking system trial at the Epsom CRC commenced on 5 November and the results have been positive in reducing queuing.

Countryside Improvement Programme: The countryside estate has now been rebranded and changes will be operational from mid-January 2021. Work at Newlands Corner to the Discovery Centre and the toilet refurbishment will begin in February 2021. We will install new information boards before the end of March. Plans continue for three car park upgrades, with new picnic spaces, natural play areas and mobile catering. A partnership with the Youth Offer Team means they have been able to continue operating at two outdoor locations at Norbury Park during lockdown. Licences for activities on the estate continue to be for filming during lockdown, but we have a full calendar of activities and events in 2021. Options appraisals for three sites at Norbury Park have begun and we begin a master planning process for the whole site with stakeholders early in the new year.

Flooding: A Member Seminar was held on 30 November to give an overview of our strategic approach to managing flood risk in Surrey. The Caterham on the Hill flooding scheme was approved at Cabinet in October. We are expecting confirmation from the Treasury that funding for the River Thames Scheme has been approved this month; we will then engage with residents and stakeholders and develop the Development Consent Order.

Tree Strategy: We have identified sites on council owned land where approximately 20,000 trees will be planted this season to create new areas of woodland. We held a Member tree planting webinar on 26 October, which was well received and through which we promoted our funding programme for highways and urban tree planting. Site suggestions have been received from Members and tree planting will be underway from December to February 2021. We are distributing free trees to Surrey's schools to plant during Tree Week in early December. 92 schools have taken up this offer and 300 trees and 240 hedge plants have been allocated. We are again running our Trees for Christmas campaign, in partnership with Squires Garden Centres and other Christmas tree retailers, encouraging residents to donate £3 when they purchase their Christmas trees which will be used to plant a new tree in Surrey.

Rights of Way: The public rights of way network has been heavily used during the Covid-19 restrictions, leading to a 400% increase in reports from the public this year. As a result of the Capital Funding programme the Countryside Access Team has continued to make significant improvements to the network including the replacement or repair of a backlog of closed bridges, replacement of missing finger posts and repair of unsafe path surfaces. Thirty-one footpath and bridleway bridges across the county have been replaced or repaired and 7,000m of surfacing completed so far this year. A further 16 bridges will be completed by the end of the year. Without the Capital Funding, some high-profile routes would have had to have been closed. We have replaced nearly 150 missing or damaged signs on the roadside network, this work will be completed by the end of March.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Julie Iles

PORTFOLIO: All-Age Learning

Progress since my last update to Council: As I discussed in my interview on BBC Radio Surrey on 19 November, the vast majority of schools are open across the county and attendance is above the national average. However, we do know that some schools have been impacted by staff shortages as teaching staff have needed to self-isolate. Schools, colleges and nurseries are communicating directly and promptly with families where they need to send children home to self-isolate. We continue to work very closely in partnership to keep settings open and support children and young people to attend right up to the Christmas holidays.

Economy, Employment and Skills: As of October 2020, Surrey had over 60,000 Universal Credit claimants; an increase of 250% on last year. Approximately 16% of claimants are under 25. As part of its core organisational priorities, the Council is focussing on growing a sustainable economy. Through the Surrey Employment and Skills Board (ESB), we are providing a proactive, employer-led response to the government's Plan for Jobs to maximise schemes such as Kickstart, in collaboration with the local Job Centre Plus branches. The Surrey Chamber of Commerce is a Kickstart Gateway organisation and is currently working with over 100 Surrey businesses to offer over 300 work placements to young people who are 18-24 and on Universal Credit. In addition, the ESB is providing a steer to the Department of Work and Pensions about local progression pathways for young people into apprenticeships and further education and training. The Council's Adult and Community Education service is working alongside the Economic Recovery Group to develop the availability of apprenticeships and training course. It will also review its provision, to ensure this better addresses skills gaps; enabling those who have recently lost their jobs to study for qualifications which increase their employability.

School Funding: Surrey County Council proposed to transfer £3.4m of school funding in 2021/22 to support the high needs block Dedicated Schools Grant deficit, which is currently projected to be £31.6m in 2020/21, a further £24m in 2021/22 and a cumulative total of £104m by March 2022. The proposed transfer was supported by 29% of schools in a consultation in September, but not supported by Schools Forum on 1 October. The Council is now submitting an appeal to the Secretary of State and the outcome is likely to be known in January. The Cabinet considered other proposals for schools funding in 2021/22 at its meeting on 24 November, mainly concerning funding rates for schools, and these were agreed, subject to review in January, when final data on pupil numbers will be available. At the time of writing, no details are yet available on the level of Surrey's Early Years funding for 2021/22.

Autism Strategy: Following the closure of the public consultation in September, work continues on analysing responses and planning for a series of workshops later this month. Working with London South Bank University, analysis has already highlighted several key themes which will form the basis of the final Strategy. These themes will be closely linked to our understanding of how autism is manifested in Surrey over time, with consideration given to how we can make a difference for children with autism and their families in the short, medium and longer-term. The final All Age Autism Strategy will be published on 1 April 2021. Prior to publication, work is being undertaken to promote 'Autism Friendly Communities' and 'Autism Friendly Schools', a key part of our core priorities to address health inequalities and empower communities in Surrey, as per our organisational strategy.

Virtual School Governing Board: Following a review of the existing Virtual School Governing Board (VSGB) by Ruth Murton (Director of Leadershipwise and National Governance expert), a proposal was submitted to the VSGB in November to reconstitute as the Education subgroup of the Corporate Parenting Board. The main reason for the change is the significant progress made by the Virtual School in improving all aspects of its practice, services and outcomes – as supported by the VSGB. In becoming a subgroup, the Corporate Parenting Board will be enhanced as an influential decision-making group, holding all services to account for the outcomes of children and young people.

Member Seminar– SEND Transformation: A virtual seminar on SEND Transformation was held on 2 December and I was pleased so many Members were able to attend, as this is such an important area of work for us. The seminar provided an update on how the Transformation Programme is making a difference for children, young people and their families. It also discussed the funding mechanism for SEND and the plan for achieving financial sustainability. As no new government funding has been announced for SEND in the spending review, I made the point that we will continue to make representation to national government for funding which reflects the increased demand and additional responsibilities for local authorities.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Mary Lewis

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families

Empowering Communities: One of my main priorities has been to ensure that the voices of children and young people are heard, recognised and heeded by services that seek to support them. This is in line with our wider council objective to empower communities, through a renewed relationship with residents, that places their concerns and needs at the fore of everything we do. Although the ongoing pandemic has challenged my engagement efforts, I am grateful that technology has helpfully filled the gap and allowed me and other Members of the Corporate Parenting Board to connect with this crucial group. We regularly spend time listening to the opinions and views of children and young people on Zoom/Teams prior to Corporate Parenting Board meetings. As Members are aware, we all have a responsibility as corporate parents. At a recent meeting with our Regional Improvement Organisation (SESLIP) it was highlighted that we could benefit from the support of opposition groups with their colleagues in the majority groups on three District and Borough councils which do not currently support a unified Care Leaver offer: Epsom and Ewell, Waverley and Tandridge. Fairness for LAC and Care Leavers across the county was an Ofsted inspection issue.

Care Leavers: In an effort to better understand the experiences of children and young people, Julie Iles, Becky Rush and I took part in the Reality Cheque Challenge in November, which challenges people to live on the average budget of a care leaver for five days. While not all care leavers have to manage such a small budget, the challenge provided us with an insight into some of the budget constraints faced by this group and how we need to support all children in care better with life skills, such as cooking and budgeting. We are pleased to report increasing support from across all Council services for children in care and care leavers: maintenance issues in care homes were acted on recently in response to a series of Member visits, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service have started to support care leavers with home fire safety visits, and the Chief Executive took on and completed an action for graduate trainees in the council to mentor Children in Care with career decisions and university applications.

New Executive Director for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning: I am delighted to welcome Rachael Wardell who has now officially joined the County Council as Executive Director for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning. Rachael joins us, following a successful tenure at the London Borough of Merton, which concluded with high praise from Ofsted last month, for the high quality of work done to keep local children safe during the pandemic. As she assumes her role, I would like to thank the interim leadership of this directorate and all staff, who have continued to do their very best work for children and young people since the death of Dave Hill. I am confident that in Rachael, Surrey has a talented and experienced leader, who will build upon Dave's legacy and lead us determinedly on our journey to Good and beyond.

Family Safeguarding Model: As part of our Improvement journey we have adopted the Family Safeguarding Model, which aims to provide comprehensive support to families, through integrated teams that span both children's safeguarding and more adult-focused services. Recently, I was encouraged to see Hertfordshire, which pioneered this model, receive praise from the Department of Education, which noted how the model had generated "greater impacts for children and families". As we continue to embed this system further across the county, we will benefit from the expertise of Rachael Wardell who led on Family Safeguarding in West Berkshire.

Single Point of Access: Following on from the successful launch of the Learners Single Point of Access (L-SPA), we are looking to merge this with the Children's Single Point of Access (C-SPA) early next year, in order to provide one place where families can share their story and access the necessary help. It is planned that both teams will be relocated in a larger workspace in Woking. Inevitably, Covid-19 has impacted on both C-SPA and L-SPA, increasing the amount of contacts and referrals that both have received. Moving forward, we will continue to work closely with our partners to tackle these difficulties, using a partnership approach to ensure the needs of our most vulnerable are best met.

Early Intervention: We are additionally preparing for the launch, in April 2021, of our new Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service, which I know will support our desire to focus on early intervention. The importance of this was further highlighted by the recent Mental Health summit, addressed by a young CAMHS service user. 2020 has been an unforgettable year for the directorate and challenges have been met with the indomitable spirit of our children, young people, foster carers and staff, who have always risen to the occasion. It is therefore apt, that later this month, our User Voice and Participation Team will hold the first virtual 'Recognising You' Awards, which have already received over 200 nominations. Social Workers will also be recognised in a special Social Care Awards.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Sinead Mooney

PORTFOLIO: Adults and Health

Covid-19 update: Following news of multiple vaccine candidates for Covid-19 and the authorisation by the MHRA for use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, we can say with much certainty, that there is light at the end of the tunnel and that a return to normality is within our grasp. The Surrey Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB) shall remain an instrumental public-facing board, continuing to provide strategic insight and direction, as we look to an eventual exit strategy. Public Health colleagues continue to work tirelessly with system partners to support our Covid response within the community and across all high-risk settings, including care homes, universities and other education settings. I am pleased that via central government, we have received further funding to support our testing, contract tracing and other prevention efforts throughout the Winter and early Spring.

In this season, we are stepping up our efforts to additionally house those without a home to isolate where they are COVID positive or showing symptoms, in line with our organisational strategy commitment to tackle health inequality. We are working with local agencies and local Housing teams to ensure that additional units, available from mid-December can be accessed. These also include winter provision to respond to a lack of winter shelters during the pandemic.

Domestic Abuse: We have also renewed our work with the Domestic Abuse partnership, and have re-established weekly calls to arising issues, refreshed our communications and worked closely with colleagues in Health and Police, to ensure both services are aware of how to identify the signs of domestic abuse and share information. In addition to this, it has been agreed by that we will recruit four independent domestic violence advisors (IDVAs) working across the county, to support victims of domestic abuse to become safer sooner. Funding opportunities for these key roles is being identified.

Adult Social Care: Over the next few months, ASC face several challenges that could impact service delivery, which we are working to mitigate against. As well as our ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are planning for seasonal pressures such as the flu, severe weather and the uncertainties related to the end of the EU transition period. The service is focussed on preparedness and resilience and I am pleased that all business continuity plans have been tested and updated. The service is also using this period to implement the new Hospital Discharge to Assess model. This will ensure people are safely discharged home, assisted with short-term support from our primary and community health services working collaboratively with our reablement teams.

With regards to technology enabled care, a pilot delivered in partnership with Mole Valley will commence in January 2021 to trial embedding technology as a key consideration when supporting people coming out of hospital into the reablement pathway. I look forward to sharing the results of this pilot later next year.

Supported Independent Living: In November Cabinet approved, in principle, the use of four sites for supported independent living. Business cases will be presented to confirm final approval for the development of these sites in the New Year. We continue to make progress on the Extra Care Housing Programme. We are close to appointing a development and housing management strategic partner for the Pond Meadow site. We are hosting a market engagement event for the upcoming tender on the Brockhurst and Pinehurst site and the Invitation to Tender will be published later this month.

Budget Forecasting: At the end of October, ASC was forecasting an underspend of £2m against its 2020/21 budget. This reflects a significant reduction in the number of care packages funded by the Council due to the pandemic. The Public Health (PH) service, as of the end of October 2020 was forecasting a balanced budget. Surrey's PH grant has increased by £2.4m in 2020/21, the first increase since 2014/15. The full £2.4m grant increase has been allocated to the PH service to cover the £0.8m cost of implementing the NHS Agenda for Change pay award for some PH commissioned services, with £1.6m remaining for investment in essential services.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Marisa Heath

PORTFOLIO: People

Update on Preparation for Adulthood: This has been lifted as a priority within the Transformation Programme to ensure a system wide, collaborative approach to improve the experiences of young people going through transitions at myriad stages of their lives. This is in line with our council objective, to empower communities and help our most vulnerable access the help and support needed to live empowered, independent lives. The Preparation for Adulthood task group has now been formed and met twice to agree its vision and approach. This task group brings senior teams from Children's and Adults Services together with Health representatives and the Transition manager.

Priority workstreams include children with disabilities (CWD) and early engagement, mental health pathways, continuing work on positive futures for those young people not eligible for ASC through employment, vocational options and continued learning, engagement with health partners through strong governance and joint training. We have expanded employment pathways this year and we are monitoring their success with a view to expanding this offer again in September 2021 and we are working on promoting and communicating this offer to parents and the young people themselves to ensure they are well informed about the choices in their lives. Through the Task group we will create a strong communication touchpoint that keeps users of the service informed in a clear and accessible way.

The Task group will meet every three weeks and will report to the Transformation Board. I will continue to report to Council and will engage elected Members in the work around the communication platform.

How the Registration is working under Covid-19: Birth registrations and notice of marriage/civil partnership appointments have continued face-to-face all through lockdown. The back log of birth registration has nearly been cleared with any remaining families being contacted to arrange appointments. There is an online booking system which we are improving regularly to get as many appointments in as possible. Death registrations continue to be carried out by telephone appointment.

Under the tier system, marriages and civil partnership ceremonies will be able to go ahead with a maximum of 15 people (the couple and up to 13 guests). Wedding receptions will be allowed in tier 1 and 2 but wedding receptions will not be allowed in tier 3. The Registration team has done a brilliant job in working to keep the system going and I would like to thank them for being able to set up the capacity to enable urgent weddings for those couples facing exceptional, and often very sad, circumstances where getting married is hugely important to them.

The team are planning for next year and thinking about the infrastructure and staff requirements as the situation around Covid-19 changes and the recovery of income will be a priority. A business case will come forward shortly outlining how we will operate in a more efficient way that better meets the needs of our residents.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Denise Turner-Stewart

PORTFOLIO: Communities

Trading Standards: Recent lockdown legislation has seen the Trading Standards Service very busy with advice to businesses and enforcement of the legislation relating to retail businesses. We continue to work with partners, particularly Environmental Health, in the Districts and Boroughs, to ensure we are tackling the issues efficiently. This lockdown saw different legislation to the spring lockdown and therefore much of our role has been to help businesses understand what they need to do. So far, all businesses that we have dealt with in Surrey have responded to the advice and guidance meaning we have not had to resort to Prohibition or Fixed Penalty Notices.

Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector: The Community Impact Assessment (CIA) work in collaboration with partners has been completed. This has been a hugely successful and useful compilation of a range of assessments into how communities are currently feeling and the impact of Covid. The findings from these analyses are being shared with partners and we will be bringing a focus group together in particular to look at some of the impacts on BAME communities. For example, the survey showed only 19% of BAME communities knew about the existence of foodbanks as opposed to 48% of the general population. In line with our organisational strategy to help all communities access help and support, we will explore with partners the reasons behind this and how this can be addressed.

As part of the 'Hidden in Plain Sight' research, the Community Foundation for Surrey hosted a series of webinars highlighting key findings. The latest one was on 'The Truth about Poverty' and we supported by presenting insights from the CIA and wider datasets, such as 16% of households in Surrey are classed as 'living in poverty'. Covid-19 means that many are receiving support for the first time with a 300% increase in new benefit claimants in some areas of Surrey. We will also be working with Binti, a charity focusing on Period Poverty, and running a 3-month pilot in the new year to equip all libraries with sanitary products for women, so everyone has equal access and to reduce the stigma associated with this. Products will initially be donated by the charity and over the 3 months we will assess both the usage and need and explore options for ongoing sustainability.

Community Safety Team: Monthly Prevent Channel panels are still being held virtually. The number of Prevent referrals reduced considerably during the initial lockdown with the closure of educational establishments, which historically have been the pathway for most referrals, however, a review of referral processes across our partners is now resulting in an increase in cases. Governance of Prevent through the Prevent Executive Group takes place on a quarterly basis. Work continues to implement a county wide plan to mitigate the risks of exploitation and radicalisation detailed in the Counter-Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP), and the implementation of a South East Counter-Terrorism Advisory Group.

Coroners' Service: Surrey Coroners' Service continue our transformation journey to becoming a first-class service; the two key aims being that the deceased should be treated with dignity and respect, and that the bereaved should be treated with care and compassion and their wishes for the deceased respected wherever possible. This includes establishing a long term, strategic business plan to deliver this vision and ensuring that appropriate systems are adopted to support a proper documentation process. Work also continues with Land & Property colleagues and in strategic partnership with Health, to address the long-term issue of mortuary provision, not only during the winter period where demand peaks, but to provide greater resilience all year round for the future.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Zully Grant-Duff

PORTFOLIO: Corporate Support

The Digital Transformation: This programme continues to build the Council's digital capability and capacity. Examples include the Surrey's Little Help Shop, a portal to improve early identification of a child's need, which is being developed by the Digital Design Team in partnership with Children's Services and is expected to be released to stakeholders in January 2021. Also, in partnership with Surrey Heartlands, Tech 4 You, a new service model deploying sensors at home to support our most vulnerable residents to remain independent; and the work on the Surrey Care Record for Children's Services, its data scope and access governance arrangements. Both these projects are aligned to our organisation priority to reduce health inequalities in the county.

Agile working practices: These continue to be developed across the Council and feedback from staff engagement shows a majority prefer a mixed office and home working arrangement. This new way of working will reduce staff travelling and help us realise our ambition for a greener future for Surrey by contributing to a reduction of our carbon emissions. Extensive engagement has taken place with teams due to move out of County Hall, including those relocating to Woodhatch, and specific plans are in place for teams heavily reliant upon an office environment including Business Operations, Customer Services and Legal team. The IT infrastructure at Woodhatch will be installed and live from January 2021.

Covid-19 Local Contact Tracing Partnership: This joint project with Public Health and Customer Services went live on 26 November with local tracing in Surrey utilising local expertise and knowledge to follow up on people who have tested positive for Covid-19 but whom NHS Test & Trace has been unable to reach. The initial pilot phase covers four District & Borough areas (Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Runnymede & Spelthorne), and will then expand to the whole of Surrey. The service is operating six days a week (Mon-Sat) and in the first 5 days received 75 contacts from NHS Test & Trace - 69% of which have been successfully contacted.

The Customer Experience Transformation: This programme has been refreshed with a renewed focus on managing enquiries in a more efficient, proactive and connected way and increasing the use of digital self-service and automation. Joint working with services such as Home to School Transport is underway to devise specific service improvements. A proof of concept trial for chatbot technology (called Sur-i) is now live on the school admissions web pages, as part of a joint project with IT & Digital, the Transformation Support Unit and School Admissions teams. Initial indications are that this will be a valuable self-service function. Customer usage of live web chat continues to grow, with over 1906 chats served in the period 1 September to 25 November, with a customer satisfaction level of 96.1%.

The Legal Team Covid-19 response: This has involved close working with Children's Services to meet the increased demand from children's safeguarding cases; this commitment has been recognised by the Local Family Justice Board. Bespoke remote training has been delivered to 130 Social Workers, 30 Independent Reviewing Officers, and Child Protection Conference Chairs. The team has been expanded to meet the significant and ongoing challenges. Work is ongoing with District and Borough Legal Teams and Public Health to support local Environmental Protection teams in the advice, support and enforcement of the increasingly complex Covid-19 regulatory regime and provide a single source of legal support to all districts and boroughs.

The Community Impact Assessment: This was published this month as a suite of intelligence products that explore the health, social and economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on communities across Surrey, also what support communities need and their priorities for recovery. Residents, people working in frontline services and partners took part in the research and had opportunity to suggest recommendations. The aim is for partners to use the intelligence to provide targeted support to impacted communities. The Data Insights transformation programme is supporting data-led design in the Libraries and Communities transformation programmes, work aligned to our organisation priority to empower local communities.

New corporate performance dashboards: These show key performance indicators have been developed utilising Tableau, an interactive data visualisation tool. Business intelligence teams across services have collaborated with the IT & Digital team in the production, with work in progress to fully automate the data collection and report preparation process. In the next phase we will focus the provision of business intelligence on performance reporting aligned against our four organisation priorities.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Mel Few

PORTFOLIO: Resources

Finance: Work continues with balancing the outturn for the current financial year, currently standing at the end of Period 6 (September) at a deficit of £3.5m. Pressures continue with the high needs block (SEND) due to higher placements since the reopening of schools. Pressures are also beginning to be felt with waste where higher volumes and lower recycling values are causing a budget gap to appear.

The favourable outlook for Adult Social Care, reflecting a saving against budget of £1.8m at this point in the financial year, is commendable. Work is ongoing to close the gap by period 12 which will enable the Council, for the second year, to end the financial year with a balanced budget without the need to use any of its reserves.

The Empty Homes proposal was passed by Cabinet on the 24 November to encourage a change by Districts and Boroughs to reduce vacant properties within authorities. At its meeting on the 24 November the Cabinet was also presented with a draft revenue budget, still to be balanced with a small gap of £18.3m. Since the Draft Budget was presented, the Government has announced:

- Funding for the next financial year, with the basic council tax of up to 1.99% and a precept for Adult Social Care of 3% for authorities like Surrey who have responsibility for looking after vulnerable adults.
- A new national £300m social care grant – no details on distribution at this time
- Additional COVID related funding to cover:
 - Grant for additional expenditure pressure,
 - Fund to support irrecoverable loss of council tax and business rates revenues in 2020-21, and
 - Sales, fees and charges (SFC) compensation scheme will be extended into the first 3 months of 2021-22.

Property: I was delighted with the appointment of Cllr Hawkins as Associate Cabinet Member for Property who, since his appointment, has actively engaged with the property team and is rapidly gaining an understanding of the various property projects currently being progressed.

The sale of County Hall continues with preliminary bids received on 23 November. The process of negotiating with each bidder to understand their respective bids will commence shortly. It is hoped that a successful sale can be completed before the end of January 2021. Work on readying Woodhatch for use by the Council should enable County Hall to be officially closed by the end of December - subject to COVID measures which might delay the closing.

During the period 23 residential properties were transferred to the County's residential company with a further 70 to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Becky Rush

PORTFOLIO: Resources

The focus for finance in the past 2 months has been the finalisation of the draft budget for Cabinet and the important scrutiny stage the week commencing 14 December (See Cllr Few's update for this detail).

Procurement: The Annual Procurement Forward Plan for 21/22 will be presented to Cabinet in December. This document is produced through collaboration with directorates to provide pre-approval (within parameters) for Business as Usual procurement for the coming financial year.

Internal Audit: The revised Internal Audit plan for 20/21 was approved by the Audit and Governance Committee in November. In the first lockdown Internal Audit was suspended due to necessary redeployment of staff to Covid front line services and deployment into services to work alongside in the redesign of procedures to enable services to continue to operate whilst adjusting to online operations. The knock-on effect is a compressed Internal Audit programme for the remainder of the financial year. The revised programme prioritises high risk areas and new processes arising as a result of Covid-19 and is designed to enable the legal statutory assurance required to be given.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Edward Hawkins

PORTFOLIO: Property

Following my appointment in October, I have been working with Members and Officers to obtain a greater understanding of the competing needs and wishes of the services and how these can be accommodated within the framework of a leaner and efficient property estate.

Visits and meetings: To help achieve delivery, I have visited a number of sites and locations; established a regular series of meetings and protocol with officers and agreed an initial list of priorities. These priorities are regularly reviewed to help achieve outcomes.

Next steps: Going forward, I would like to reinforce the existing cross services Property Team which will help ensure speedy delivery and eliminate potential blockages. I would like to ensure that our property estate adequately reflects the needs of the county and residents, contributing to our objective of empowering communities and prioritising the issues that matter to them.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Alison Griffiths

PORTFOLIO: Place

Suicide Prevention: I am pleased to be able to update you with the work I have been doing to increase focus on mental health, supporting our priority objective of tackling health inequality. The national suicide bereavement report was launched on Wednesday 18 November 2020. Over 7,000 people bereaved or affected by suicide participated in the survey, making it the largest suicide bereavement survey internationally. I am pleased that the survey will draw focus to addressing mental health issues, a key priority for SCC. Please click on the following link to download a copy <https://suicidebereavementuk.com/>

Carers Confident: With 1 in 7 people now juggling work with caring for someone who is older, ill or disabled, and our population ageing, carers are a growing reality in our workforce. Without the right support, 1 in 6 carers give up work or reduce working hours to care. But many will be our most skilled and experienced staff, the 45-64 year olds at the peak of their careers. Building a supportive workplace for all staff, including the growing numbers who are, or will become, carers is both good employment practice and good business sense. The Carer Confident benchmarking scheme, which is managed by Carers UK, assists employers across the UK to build a supportive and inclusive workplace for staff who are, or will become, carers and to make the most of the talents that carers bring to the workplace.

Carer Confident also seeks to recognise employers who achieve this, and to inspire others to follow suit. The certificate of achievement is presented to employers with a UK presence who have demonstrated that they have built an inclusive workplace where carers are recognised, respected and supported. Carer Confident employers recognise the importance of retaining valued members of staff, reducing absence and unnecessary recruitment costs, and increasing staff resilience, engagement and productivity. As part of our Carer Workforce task and finish group an application was constructed for the award and I am extremely pleased to announce that Surrey County Council has now been awarded the Carer Confident Kite Mark for three years. As our work continues with the carer workforce work stream we hope as a system we will be ready to submit a further application in 2022 for level 2 of the award.

HSJ Shortlisting: For 40 years, the HSJ Awards have been the most esteemed accolade of service excellence in the UK. Although mainly aimed at health care, as health and social care move closer together, these awards have more relevance to across system working. This year the team submitted an entry on our integrated and innovative approach to delivery of carer services. I am extremely pleased to announce that the Heartlands system has been shortlisted for the 2020 awards in the System Led Support for Carers Award category. Additionally, the team has been awarded the Armed Forces Champion award, which illustrates that our carers services are well respected as a benchmark for such services. However, we have more to do and I know the carers team continue to strive to develop services for carers such as carer contingency planning and carer passports, to improve health outcomes for residents.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Mark Nuti

PORTFOLIO: Support for the Leader - Libraries and Heritage/ Capital Budget/ Capital Project Fund

I am pleased to update you with the progress made across my portfolio to deliver on our priority objective of empowering communities.

Libraries: Whilst libraries have had to pause browsing throughout the four-week lockdown that commenced on 5 November 2020, I am pleased that we have been able to keep libraries open for click and collect, and essential PC use alongside our very popular digital services.

The pandemic has highlighted how important the library service is to our residents, both in providing information, and combatting the social isolation that lockdown can bring. We have had many positive comments from residents using the service: *“Loving how you’re going the extra mile to provide services at the moment. I felt proud to have a Surrey library card when I received your email yesterday!”*.

I am pleased to report that Surrey Arts has continued to provide activities throughout both lockdowns and utilised digital technology to ensure they were able to deliver services. The service developed a rich, diverse and inclusive offer for vulnerable children and young people during the pandemic and delivered programmes to approximately 200 young people.

Your Fund Surrey: Following Cabinet’s approval of the development of Your Fund Surrey (formerly known as the Community Projects Fund or CPF), the team have been busy finalising arrangements for the funds launch on the week commencing 16 November. We have been building our team and have already recruited a new member of staff to help manage the fund.

Since the launch of the fund, we have been asking communities to start thinking about ideas in order to take the first applications for funding in early 2021. We want to make it easier for everyone to play an active role in the decisions that will shape Surrey’s future. Since being launched there has already been activity taking place on CommonPlace and a number of enquiries to the Your Fund Surrey inbox showing the great amount of interest there is out there to start developing projects.

Our campaign is designed to grab attention, inspire people to think outside the box and stretch their imagination. We want it to be a campaign that will empower communities, enabling residents and community groups to own it and play an active role.

Capital Budget: Despite Covid-19 we continue to see strong delivery of the ambitious capital programme for 2020/21. Whilst some slippage has occurred within the original programme, due to the impact on of Covid on the practicalities of delivering schemes, this was identified early enough to bring other less affected works forward. Forecast delivery remains consistent with budget.

Progress towards developing a Programme Management Office and a pipeline of future schemes continues and November’s Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy sets out an ambition to invest at least £1.7bn in Surrey’s infrastructure over the next 5 years.