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## **Supplementary Agenda**

for the meeting of

**THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

to be held on

**16 MARCH 2021**

(i)

## 6 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

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- 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.

These will be circulated by email to all Members prior to the County Council meeting, together with the Members' questions and responses.

There will be an opportunity for Members to ask questions.

## 10 ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL - MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

### Item 10

**Amendment by Mrs Mary Lewis (Cobham) to the recommendations**

**(additional words underlined and deletions crossed through)**

That Council endorses notes: ~~the current approach to Member development and agrees that it is sufficient, equitable and effective.~~

- I. the Annual Report on Member Development;
- II. the Decision of the Audit and Governance Committee Member Code of Conduct Task Group not to make Corporate Parenting Training Mandatory in the Code of Conduct; it is listed as 'Essential' training as part of member induction;
- III. the 'Corporate Parenting Principles' introduced in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the 'Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities on Applying Corporate Parenting Principles to Looked After Children and Care Leavers' 2018.

That Council resolves: to work with Officers through the Member Development Steering Group to develop an enhanced Corporate Parenting training offer which is included in ALL Member training, including training sessions of all Scrutiny and Regulatory and Local/Joint Committees of the Council, so that they are assured that Statutory Corporate Parenting principles are being embedded in all aspects of the Council's and Members' work.

That Council agrees: to reconsider the Member Training offer on Corporate Parenting after six months of the new Council, to monitor uptake of the 'Essential' induction training and the introduction of 'Applying Corporate Parenting Principles' training in every part of Members' work as Councillors.

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**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****TUESDAY 16 MARCH 2021****QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED UNDER THE PROVISIONS  
OF STANDING ORDER 10.1****JULIE ILES OBE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ALL AGE LEARNING****1. MR CHRIS BOTTEN (CATERHAM HILL) TO ASK:**

With the recent advertisement for three project managers ([Surrey County Council - Job details \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk)) to lead the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) transformation, have the Council's transformation projects been held back by lack of capacity, and if so, what is the reason for this? How can such capacity gaps not have been recognised before?

**RESPONSE:**

I would like to thank the County Councillor for Caterham Hill for his question as it draws attention to the significant long-term investment Surrey County Council has made in our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) transformation programme. As I set out in my report to Cabinet last month, and in my update to Council today, we have invested significantly to meet the needs of children with SEND earlier and closer to home: nearly £80million in 1,600 additional specialist places, a new Graduated Response service and Learners' Single Point of Access as well as the expansion of programmes to support young adults into apprenticeships and internships.

We have also made sustained progress in delivering our SEND improvement plan, which was formally recognised by the Department for Education's sign-off at the end of last year. I was particularly pleased that the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee also recognised the achievements the programme has delivered and that it had met each of the recommendations made by the SEND Task Group chaired by the County Councillor for Caterham Hill.

While these developments are already having a positive impact for children and families, there is more work to do. Our SEND transformation programme is ambitious about delivering sustained improvements for children with SEND. As the SEND transformation programme expands and evolves, it is understandable that programme resource requirements will change. All programmes are dynamic, and we regularly review the resources required. The three specific posts mentioned in this question are one year fixed term project posts to support the embedding of the Autism Strategy, the new approaches to meeting the needs of children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs and the development of a 'Team around the School' model to support children with SEND to remain in mainstream schools where this is appropriate for them.

We will continue to ensure that we have the right leadership, capability and capacity to deliver this complex transformation programme of improvements in SEND, all the while maintaining our focus on the experience and outcomes for children and families.

## **JULIE ILES OBE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ALL AGE LEARNING**

### **2. MR TIM HALL (LEATHERHEAD AND FETCHAM EAST) TO ASK:**

Contrary to the false and disappointing claims from the Liberal Democrats that this Council is failing in its Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services, it is even more encouraging to see that this Council continues to invest in its SEND provision, so that we can deliver improved outcomes for our young people.

This administration has responded to the increasing demand placed upon SEND provision, by creating up to 1,600 new specialist places and investing £79 million for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities to learn closer to home.

Could the Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning therefore please set the record straight on the support this Council continues to provide our young people and families with SEND?

### **RESPONSE:**

I would like to thank the County Councillor for Leatherhead and Fetcham East for the important points he has made in his question about the significant investment that Surrey County Council has made in support of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

It is disappointing when any child, much less a vulnerable one, is used in politicised and inaccurate claims. Damaging misinformation undermines the trust of children and families in the new and improved services that we are providing for children with SEND. It means that the Council has to work that much harder to engage them with the support that is now there for them.

We are very fortunate to have a vibrant parent carer forum in Surrey – Family Voice – who we work with closely to ensure that parents and carers receive the correct information about our SEND local offer – including the significant number of new specialist places closer to home, our expanded apprenticeship programmes for young people with SEND, the Learners’ Single Point of Access and our Graduated response service. Despite the challenges of the pandemic and lockdown, our new admission arrangements for children with SEN have resulted in over 90% receiving confirmation of their September 2021 school place by the key date of 15 February. The others have received confirmation of their placement type and we are working closely with those remaining families to secure an appropriate school for their child over the next few weeks.

All of this investment is making tangible improvements in the experiences and outcomes for children with SEND and their families and it is most definitely not a failing service. Nor is it true, as also claimed, that we fail to listen to residents about special needs packages and school places.

## **BECKY RUSH, CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND CORPORATE SUPPORT**

### **3. MR PAUL DEACH (FRIMLEY GREEN AND MYTCHETT) TO ASK:**

This Council welcomed £2m as part of the Government’s generous £170m COVID Winter Support Grant, to ensure support is available for Surrey’s most vulnerable families.

The additional £739,000 which has just been granted as an extension of the Winter Support Grant is also very good news. Therefore, could the Cabinet Member for Resources and

Corporate Support outline how this extra funding has been spent to help the families and individuals hardest hit by the pandemic?

**RESPONSE:**

The Council has played a lead role in ensuring funds provided by Central Government have reached the most vulnerable. The Winter Support Grant funding totally £2.1m has enabled the provision of food vouchers to those entitled to Free School Meals over the Christmas and Easter holidays and February half term. This has supported in excess of 20,000 children in schools and Early Years settings. In addition, this funding has been distributed to Food Banks, Care Leavers, supported the homeless Winter Cabins and been used to support the Council's existing Crisis Fund. The Crisis Fund has utilised this additional funding to increase our offer to over 2500 residents at their most vulnerable, to provide essential funds as well as support with the provision of white goods and furniture where needed.

The Government announced an extension to the Winter Grant Scheme in February and this resulted in an additional allocation of £739,000 being awarded to the Council. This funding has to be spent by 16 April, making it important that existing mechanisms to get this funding to those most in need is utilised. It is proposed that this additional funding is used to increase the level of food vouchers provided to children entitled to free school meals over the Easter holidays - to support the provision of additional meals (for example a healthy breakfast or a hot evening meal) in addition to the lunchtime support already committed to from the initial funding announced. Additionally, it is proposed that this additional funding is used to increase support to Care leavers over Easter.

In addition, other areas of further support are being assessed to ensure compliance with the grant terms; including supporting the provision of food to children from low income household attending holiday activities during the Easter holidays and further support to eligible Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) organisations.

At the time of writing the response for Council the exact breakdown of spend of the additional £739,000 is not finalised.

**TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**4. MS AYESHA AZAD (WOKING SOUTH-WEST) TO ASK:**

I am pleased to see the support that International Women's Day received on 8 March. It is vital that we all play our part in calling out bias and it is reassuring that tackling inequalities to ensure no-one is left behind is a core focus of Surrey County Council. This year's theme was #choosetochallenge. So, can the Leader confirm what the Council is doing to challenge gender and inequality, and inequalities more generally across Surrey?

**RESPONSE:**

I thank the County Councillor for Woking South-West for her question and echo her support for International Women's Day. She is right in that everyone associated with the Council is responsible for challenging their own biases as well as those of others.

We know gender parity is still yet to be achieved for women, and we need to do more at this Council to work towards this for our residents and staff. We know, for example, the majority of domestic abuse victims in Surrey are women, and lockdown has led to abuse of those victims becoming more severe. We are working with our partners to think about what we

need to do together to support women to improve their health and economic circumstances as the county recovers from the pandemic.

There is also more we need to do to support our female members of staff. For example, although nearly three-quarters of our workforce are women, the Council reported a 16.8% gender pay gap in 2019. That is why in February, the Cabinet endorsed a new equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) action plan and policy statement, both to reaffirm our commitment to EDI but also to tackle the barriers that get in the way of our female colleagues fulfilling their potential and giving their best for Surrey residents.

To mark International Women's Day, we have been celebrating the contribution women make, as well as raising awareness with all our staff to be allies to the women they work with. For example, we held events for staff during the week of 8 March, one of which the County Councillor for Woking South-West took part in, to raise awareness of the achievements of women and to raise awareness of women's equality. We also have a thriving Women's Network for staff that holds us to account for improving the experiences of women working for the Council and, importantly, provides a wider support network with others to help their wellbeing.

So we are making progress, and this Council needs to continue maintaining an unerring focus on tackling inequality to make sure no-one is left behind.

## **MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS**

### **5. MR DAVID HARMER (WAVERLEY WESTERN VILLAGES) TO ASK:**

I am delighted that Surrey's new Lane Rental Scheme has been given the go-ahead to start in April by the Secretary of State for Transport. This Council recognises the disruption that roadworks can cause Surrey residents, that is why it has pushed this scheme which will really help to ease congestion on Surrey's busiest roads and minimise disruption. Could the Cabinet Member for Highways clarify how the revenue from any charges will be put to best use to ensure we keep Surrey moving?

### **RESPONSE:**

In accordance with regulations, revenue from the Lane Rental Scheme will firstly be used to cover the costs of operating the scheme. Any surplus revenue, after costs have been accounted for, are intended to be used to reduce the disruption or other adverse effects arising as a result of street works. Guidance in the document [Lane Rental Schemes: Guidance for English Local Highway Authorities](#) July 2019, issued by the Department for Transport advises that the types of projects that can be funded using Lane Rental Surplus include:

- investment in innovation and developing new products or disruption-saving techniques;
- trials of new techniques and products;
- installing "pipe subways" or ducting that enable apparatus to be accessed more easily and without causing disruption to traffic;
- measures to improve the quality or accessibility of records about the location of underground pipes, wires and other apparatus;
- measures to help abate noise, pollution or safety hazards arising as a result of works;

- repairing potholes caused by utility street works; and / or
- implementing extraordinary measures to mitigate congestion caused by works, especially major works projects.

A governance process detailing how surplus funds can be applied for, how applications are assessed and how funded projects are implemented and evaluated, will be introduced from the start of the scheme and will be available on the Council's website.

The Highways service are currently carrying out a number of trials aimed at providing better and faster intelligence about the road network using AI and machine learning and are trialling a number of different materials and processes to provide longer lasting lower carbon solutions or solutions that are quicker to deliver thus providing less disruption the network. In the future these types of trials could form applications for funding from Lane Rental Surplus.

## **MARK NUTI, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES**

### **6. MR WYATT RAMSDALE (FARNHAM SOUTH) TO ASK:**

I welcome Surrey County Council's ambitious Your Fund Surrey Project, which gives local communities a generous £100m over the next five years, to enable residents to initiate community-led projects and improve their local areas.

This Council has continued to show its commitment to revitalising its relationship with Surrey residents and giving communities considerably more influence and power over issues affecting their lives. Could the Cabinet Member for Communities provide an update on the progress of Your Fund Surrey and engagement with residents?

### **RESPONSE:**

Thank you, County Councillor for Farnham South, for your question regarding the progress of Your Fund Surrey (YFS) and how we are engaging with residents. As you have outlined, the Fund is part of the wider work the Council is doing to empower communities, by enabling them to propose and develop projects that will leave a real legacy for the areas in which they live.

Since launching YFS in November we have seen over 1,000 ideas put forward, and over 74,000 people visit the Commonplace website where people can see what projects are being proposed in their areas. That is the equivalent of 6% of Surrey's population, and a great reflection of how the Fund is starting to engage with communities.

We are starting to see positive relationships form between residents and Surrey County Council as a direct result of Your Fund Surrey and the emphasis the Fund has on prioritising what is important to their communities. From the outset the Council has taken an open and transparent approach to the development of the Fund. The application process was designed with input from residents to ensure it is accessible to all ensuring no-one is left behind.

Since launching YFS officers have hosted regular question and answer sessions. These have been well received with over 300 people signing up to find out more about the Fund and talk through their ideas. These sessions have been invaluable in helping us understand the current challenges people are facing and provide us with feedback to continually adapt and improve the management of the Fund.

On 1 March, we opened the first stage of the online application process and have already received 42 applications. In fact, within hours of the portal being open, we had three applications submitted. This really reflects the positive engagement we have had with residents. We will continue to be proactive and creative in the way we engage with residents across the county to encourage more innovative project ideas to come forward.

We will continue to adapt our approach using the data and experiences of our direct and non-direct engagement. Close monitoring of the type of YFS queries we receive will help us in developing clear guidance. Assessment of the community projects submitted will help us identify geographical areas and specific communities that might be underrepresented, enabling us to offer added support and guidance as required.

The team have begun to review the first stage applications received to date and will continue to reach out and support people in making applications. The next step will be reviewing first stage applications to invite to full application. The really exciting part of the process is still to come, and it is our intention that the first awards will be made in the summer when we can start to see a range of great projects become a reality.

**SINEAD MOONEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND DOMESTIC ABUSE**

**7. MR RICHARD WALSH (LALEHAM AND SHEPPERTON) TO ASK:**

I am assured that this administration at Surrey County Council is taking mental health very seriously and is rightly tackling health inequality as a key priority.

Surrey has made a considerable effort to support its residents with mental health needs, especially throughout the pandemic, such as through launching Surrey's Virtual Wellbeing Hub to support mental well-being and establishing a new service to improve outcomes and independence for people with mental health needs.

This Council further welcomes the new child and adolescent mental health services planned – with talking therapies and more mental health support workers, to ensure our school children receive the support they deserve.

Could the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Domestic Abuse confirm that this Council will maintain its local partnerships, especially those strengthened during the pandemic, so that Surrey residents can access the best mental health provision possible?

**RESPONSE:**

The mental health and wellbeing of residents, including children and young people, is one of our key priorities, as is tackling health inequalities, as set out in [the Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#).

The Council-organised Mental Health Summit in November 2020, was a powerful partnership event, prompted by the clear impact Covid-19 and the associated control and containment measures were having on the mental health and well-being of residents of all ages. As you have highlighted, throughout the pandemic we have continued to work closely with our NHS, Voluntary Community Sector organisation partners and District and Borough Councils, to ensure the need of the local population is served effectively. We are continuing to work closely with our partners in the response phase and as we go into recovery we are already:

- Building on and enhancing our close partnership working through an improved governance and accountability structure.
- Regularly reviewing data and gathering insight as well as user experience to ensure population needs are identified and responded to accordingly.
- Engaging with existing service users to co-design services to enhance access, appropriateness and quality of service provision.

We are aware that mental wellbeing is also closely linked with physical, social, environmental and economic factors. The recently established independently chaired Mental Health Partnership Board, administered by the Council, is using the strong partnership relationships developed during the pandemic to undertake a thorough review of mental health outcomes, experiences and services in Surrey with a view to making significant improvements.

As well as continuing to work to improve the provision of mental health services, the Council is giving priority to prevention, early help and support for those experiencing well-being and mental health challenges, so that Surrey residents can access and benefit from the best mental health services, experiences and outcomes possible.

**TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**8. DR PETER SZANTO (EAST MOLESEY AND ESHER) TO ASK:**

I am delighted with Surrey County Council's £116m investment in infrastructure to boost economic growth across the county.

This shows that this Conservative administration recognises the importance of keeping our economy strong, so that businesses and communities can thrive, as we recover from the pandemic.

Could the Leader therefore please explain how this Council will prioritise and deliver essential infrastructure that will reduce carbon emissions, improve connectivity, support innovation, while creating jobs for Surrey residents?

**RESPONSE:**

The Cabinet approved the Surrey Infrastructure Prioritisation Plan at its meeting of 23 February. This sets out a framework for which infrastructure projects across a wide range of themes, including place, environment, social and economic, can be assessed against their intended outcomes and their deliverability. This links to the carbon reduction metrics work that is being led by the Greener Futures team and will ensure that the carbon reduction potential of infrastructure projects is captured and fed into decision making processes. The intention is that the framework assists the decision-making process in terms of prioritisation of infrastructure projects and forms the basis for wider engagement with partners such as the Districts and Boroughs. Alongside this, the Council has approved a £5million project feasibility fund which can be used to develop the business cases for those projects that are widely supported, considered deliverable and score highly against relevant outcomes. Those business cases will then be used to secure and attract funding to deliver those projects, whether that be using Surrey County Council funds, external grants or investment from the public and private sector, and/or Community Infrastructure Levy or a combination of them.

Cabinet will be regularly informed of progress and how schemes that are prioritised help to achieve economic growth, reduce carbon emissions and improved connectivity as well as biodiversity and natural environment improvements.

In terms of delivery, the Council has through its reorganisation of the Environment, Transport and Infrastructure department created a dedicated group that will be responsible for co-ordinating and delivering infrastructure schemes. This Group has now been recruited to and is formed of experienced technical staff and project managers who will be using best practice project management approaches to deliver quality schemes at scale and pace.

**NATALIE BRAMHALL, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**9. MR JOHN O' REILLY (HERSHAM) TO ASK:**

Surrey County Council is making great strides in transitioning Surrey to a greener future, through investing £105m for Greener Future projects such as renewable energy, active travel and low emission transport. Could the Cabinet member for Environment and Climate Change confirm how this welcome investment will help ensure the Council meets its ambitious net-zero carbon emissions target by 2050?

**RESPONSE:**

Surrey is making huge strides in reducing carbon emissions by committing substantial amounts of capital and revenue finance and this demonstrates the Council's commitment to our carbon reduction targets. Despite this, analysis carried out by Leeds University has highlighted that over £13 billion needs to be invested in the county by 2030 for Surrey to stay within its carbon budget and to meet our net zero by 2050 target. Clearly it would be impossible for the Council to shoulder this level of investment alone and there is a real need for public and private sector partnerships and National Government action, such as further grid decarbonisation and changes to national policy. There is also a need for increased and sustainable green finance and significant behaviour shift amongst residents and businesses in the county.

We are, however, in a strong position to use our capital investment to draw in additional funding as we did with the Government's Green Homes Local Authority Delivery programme (GH LAD) programme, where Surrey's financial contribution of £750,000 drew in funding of over £6m to invest in decarbonisation measures for Surrey's lowest income households. The role of the Council as catalyst in creating and coordinating packages of low/zero carbon projects (such as retrofit decarbonisation measures in housing/buildings, renewable energy generation, EV infrastructure, natural capital etc) to draw in investment from different sources (including private sector investment and community finance) is currently being developed by officers in partnership with Leeds University. This catalyst approach will be included within the Climate Change Delivery Plan which is due to be published in June.

As part of officers' work on the delivery plan, they are also developing a suite of carbon reduction metrics that will be applied to all of our programmes. These will help us to understand the carbon reduction impact of our activities as we work towards our net zero carbon targets.

## **BECKY RUSH, CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND CORPORATE SUPPORT**

### **10. MR WILL FORSTER (WOKING SOUTH) TO ASK:**

Please can the Council confirm:

- (a) the cost of Members' travel expenses in 2020/21; and
- (b) the cost of staff travel expenses over the same time period?

So far this financial year, what has been the cost to the Council of staff and Members' travel expense claims?

### **RESPONSE:**

- a) The cost of members' travel expenses from April 2020 to February 2021 was £4668.90. This is a significant saving against last year's costs of just over £50,000 and demonstrates the financial benefits of continuing to adopt agile working practices beyond the pandemic.
- b) The cost of officers' travel expenses over the same period amount to £2.1m, this is less than half the equivalent spend for last year.

## **DENISE TURNER STEWART, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY PROTECTION**

### **11. MRS FIONA WHITE (GUILDFORD WEST) TO ASK:**

In relation to the Surrey Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS), the Cabinet Member's updates have referred to average response times which are well below the target. However, they are average times. Please would she tell us how many times the 10 minute target was exceeded and by how much? The information must be available because she has informed me that SFRS always takes such occasions seriously and carries out a management investigation to learn from the incident.

If the Cabinet Member believes that she should not provide a reply because it is an operational matter, please would she explain how she believes the Service's operations would be hampered or impeded by giving the information requested.

### **RESPONSE:**

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service follow a similar performance measure for responding to incidents as is used by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services by which it measures the average response times across the county. This allows for benchmarking on average response times with other fire and rescue services. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services have already said in the State of Fire report: *'There are no nationally established response standards based on the risk of an incident or the likelihood of surviving it. This is even the case for the most common incident types such as a two-vehicle road traffic collision or a house fire. Most Services have given public commitments to a response standard, namely that the first engine will get to the scene in so many minutes. But some services don't even do this and give no time commitment.'* [sic]

The average response time, over a 24-hour period, since Surrey Fire and Rescue Service introduced the first Phase of the Making Surrey Safer Plan, on the 1 April 2020, is 7 minutes and 10 seconds, this is well within the performance target of a first frontline appliance to critical incidents within 10 minutes. This response time standard did not change with the implementation of the Making Surrey Safer Plan and has remained the same for 10 years.

Each month the Service reviews critical incidents that have not met the response time and these are then subject to further local management investigation as required. These can be due to any number of operational reasons, for example because of road conditions, weather, poor crew performance, delayed turn out, interrupted calls, wrong addresses, breakdowns, redirections, collisions etc. Any learning from these sessions is then shared to inform improvements as necessary. Due to the sensitive operational nature of this information, potential impact on staff and data protection we would not as a matter of course make this information public.

Since the full implementation of the Making Surrey Safer Plan, January this year, there have been 294 critical incidents. Of these 251 incidents were responded to within the 10 minute time standard and 43 incidents exceeded 10 minutes.

The detail regarding the length of time over the 10 minute response time standard for both this year and for the same period of time last year is set out in the table below:

**Number of responses over 10 the minute response time standard (prior to implementation of the Making Surrey Safer Plan) 05-01-20 to 28-02-20**

Number within 12 minutes	Number > 12 but within 15 minutes	Number > 15 minutes	Average Time
77	68	51	13 min 56 secs

**Number of responses over 10 the minute response time standard (post full implementation of the Making Surrey Safer Plan) 05-01-21 to 28-02-21**

Number within 12 minutes	Number > 12 but within 15 minutes	Number > 15 minutes	Average Time
18	14	11	13 min 39secs

The Service established its performance measures last year following the commitment in the Making Surrey Safer Plan to carry out a review. These reflect the national measures, so that benchmarking can take place. As a result of the Making Surrey Safer Plan the Service has invested in new resources focused on engagement activities which includes new public focus groups. The information that residents would like to have reported to them forms part of this activity. Feedback from engagement will be used to make changes or add to the data that the Service already provide (along with how it is provided) to meet public and partner expectations and the Service’s accountability to the public.

**DENISE TURNER STEWART, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY PROTECTION**

**12. MRS PENNY RIVERS (GODALMING NORTH) TO ASK:**

Is it true that Surrey is failing to pay pensions to its Retained Firefighters?  
This affects several residents of Godalming.

And, if it is true what is the plan to correct this blazing oversight and precisely when will it be implemented?

**RESPONSE:**

All members of On-Call staff are entitled to join the pension scheme, they are automatically opted in on appointment, but of course can opt out if they want to.

Anyone who had retired from Godalming after 2006 (when they were first eligible to join the pension scheme) and who was in the pension scheme would be receiving a pension, providing they met the minimum criteria for the pension.

**DENISE TURNER STEWART, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY PROTECTION****13. MR ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK:**

In December the Cabinet Member responded to my question with the information that since 2011, the number of full-time equivalent fire fighters employed in Surrey has been reduced from 641 to 448 by November 2020. The population of Surrey is 1.2 million which gives a ratio of 1:2679.

How does this figure compare with the London Fire Brigade and our statistical neighbours?

**RESPONSE:**

There is a legal requirement upon each Fire Authority to provide a publicly facing Integrated Risk Management Plan. This document sets out how the Fire Authority will meet the needs of the local community. It must include how resources are balanced between prevention, protection and response activities. In Surrey this is the Making Surrey Safer plan.

Services must sustain maximum effectiveness and efficiency whilst maintaining the highest standards with performance measures that are quantified locally. Nationally this has led to many differing risk management plans that define the way in which Fire and Rescue Services determine local risk, allocate resources and set response standards. National benchmarking for Fire and Rescue Services is provided by the Home Office and is available on their website.

The Making Surrey Safer Plan is based on a thorough analysis of national and local risks and how to respond to them according to the demand and demographics across the county. This has meant formulating clear proposals for new ways of working and a new model of delivery in Surrey.

Population data cannot be used in isolation to determine the resources that the Service needs, including the number of fire fighters, to meet the risks in Surrey. In accordance with national guidelines the Making Surrey Safer Plan considered the following risks:

- population characteristics, such as age, living alone and mobility issues
- the built environment
- the transport infrastructure
- rivers and lakes
- green environment and climate change
- national and regional risks

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service have used this information to determine the balance between prevention, protection and response activities.

The Making Surrey Safer plan has been scrutinised and assured by the National Fire Chiefs Council Advisory Group, reviewed by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service, externally verified and independently given full assurance by Brunel University, London.

**TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**14. MR STEPHEN COOKSEY (DORKING SOUTH AND THE HOLMWOODS) TO ASK:**

The Leaders of Surrey Boroughs and Districts have collectively requested, on more than one occasion, that the Leader of the Council provide copies for them of the PWC report that this Council commissioned on the subject of establishing a single unitary Council in Surrey.

In expectation that the administration would share this report, the District and Borough Leaders provided the administration with the report that they had commissioned KPMG to carry out on behalf of the Districts and Boroughs.

Would the Leader please clarify the reasons behind his refusal to make this report available to the Leaders of the Surrey Boroughs and Districts?

**RESPONSE:**

I assume this question is asked more in the capacity as the Liberal Democrat Leader of Mole Valley District Council rather than as a Member of this Council.

The County Councillor for Dorking South and the Holmwoods asserts that there has been a formal request for me to disclose the PWC report, but I have no record of any such request. I have written to him separately requesting a copy of the letter.

Irrespective of that, as I have said previously and consistently, what is most important to me, beyond any structural change or governance, is our residents, their priorities and giving them more influence over their own communities. I want Surrey to be a uniquely special place where we address health inequalities and grow a sustainable economy from which everyone can benefit; that has a greener future and empowered communities and where no one is left behind.

We will continue to pursue these ambitions, as we move from tackling the pandemic to focusing on economic recovery and building back better. The residents of Surrey want local government to deliver the best services they can and to keep council tax as low as possible.

The PWC report was prepared last summer, in anticipation of a Government White Paper on Devolution and Recovery in the Autumn of 2020 and an invitation from Government to submit a business case for reform of local government, which would enable the achievement of our ambition and aims for Surrey. As the Government did not invite Surrey County Council to submit a business case for becoming a unitary council, we stopped all work in October 2020 on this.

The impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic has been seismic and felt no less acutely across Surrey. As a consequence, and understandably, the PWC report of 2019 no longer fully or properly captures all the relevant issues and priorities we as local government in Surrey must now address going forwards.

If and when we, collectively, are given the opportunity to work with our residents on preparing proposals that will deliver an improved and more cost effective model of local

government for Surrey, I am sure we will all be prepared to share any supporting documents commissioned and/or created as part of that work.

In the meantime, can I suggest the County Councillor for Dorking South and the Holmwoods in his capacity as the Leader of the Liberal Democrat led Mole Valley District Council focuses on delivering some of the cost saving and efficiency recommendations in the report they commissioned from KPMG, which I am sure residents would want them to do.

Of course, Surrey County Council continues to stand ready to work with District and Borough Councils, to explore further collaboration as proposed in the December 2020 KPMG report and to collectively pursue improved services at lower costs, should they decide to engage with us.

**NATALIE BRAMHALL, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE / COLIN KEMP, CABINET MEMBER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE**

**15. MR JONATHAN ESSEX (REDHILL EAST) TO ASK:**

At its last meeting Cabinet considered a report setting out plans for the development of Woodhatch Place, which stated the intention that this would be in line with the Reigate and Banstead Local Plan by including the provision of key worker housing. The Reigate and Banstead Borough Council (RBBC) approved Development Management Plan has plan policies for the protection of urban open land and its Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) requires new social housing to be at 'social' rather than 'affordable' rents. Please can you confirm therefore the masterplan will comply with RBBC local plan and its Affordable Housing SPG?

**RESPONSE:**

Any development proposals for the site will take into consideration local planning policy and guidance.

**ALISON GRIFFITHS, DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH**

**16. MR WYATT RAMSDALE (FARNHAM SOUTH) TO ASK:  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Question)**

Our carers do a fantastic job and this Council appreciates how extra challenging the pandemic has been for many. Could the Deputy Cabinet Member for Health provide an update on the work that Surrey County Council is doing to support Surrey carers in their caring role and ensure that no-one is left behind?

**RESPONSE:**

There are an estimated 115,000 carers who live within Surrey, 10% of the population. Based on the Valuing Carers 2015 research, these carers save the public purse an estimated £1.8 billion a year in Surrey.

Carers are from all sections of the population: a sizable number balance caring for someone with working full or part time and/or are parent carers. There are also a significant number of young carers, aged under 18 years who juggle their caring responsibilities with their education.

One of the overriding messages that Carers convey is the need for social care and health care to work hand in hand, similarly with the voluntary sector. In Surrey we have a strong

track record of partnership working, led by our joint Carers Team and the Carers Partnership Board.

Early intervention is key to sustaining the wellbeing of the carer, the person they provide care for and the wider family. Surrey County Council, in partnership with the Clinical Commissioning Groups for Surrey residents, invest in the region of £6million in carers early intention services, which are in the main commissioned from the voluntary sector. This support includes:

- Information and advice: contract Action for Carers Surrey;
- Financial advice: contract with Surrey Welfare Right Unit;
- Opportunities for peer support: contract with Action for Carers Surrey;
- Replacement care to enables carers to take a break: these might be over night or during a period in the day, they might be over a series of nights, they might be home based or offer alternative accommodation, depending on need. The contract is with Crossroads Care Surrey;
- Online support for mental health carers: contract with Space2beyou which adopts a whole-family approach in supporting families when caring for someone with a diagnosis of a mental illness;
- Support Carers' Voice: contract Action for Carers Surrey to ensure Carers have the opportunity to feed into strategy development, feedback any concerns about services and/or broader issues.

We are currently re-procuring the support for carers for new contracts to be in effect from April 2022. This re-procurement is based on refreshed specifications informed by carers and other stakeholders.

Other initiatives include:

Surrey Carers Prescription: an electronic form widely used by health and social care and some voluntary sector services. The prescription is a quick way to refer carers into a multiple number of services quickly and efficiently and there is resource attached where the support required has a cost attached.

End of Life website: this has just been published and underpins our support to carers in the very difficult process of caring for their loved one at the final stages of life. The site ([www.caringtotheend.org](http://www.caringtotheend.org)) contains information for carers and families about the issues faced and the processes when caring for someone at end of life in a sensitive manner.

Carer Confident Accreditation: both Surrey Heartlands and Surrey County Council has secured Carers UK Carer Confident Accreditation, recognising the initiatives that have been put on pace to support effectively members of staff who having caring responsibilities.

Supporting Carers during the pandemic: As people have either not been able or were reluctant to use external care support for fear of Covid19 transmission, many carers have been providing a greater amount of support and care than they would normally expect and are now in need of a break. We have invested an additional £120,000 in the Carers' Breaks contract with Crossroads outlined above to address this need.

#### Covid-19 Vaccinations for carers

Under cohort 6, eligible carers are now able to access vaccinations via three routes:

1. If carers are registered with their GP surgery (red flag) they will be contacted by the surgery and invited to come forward.
2. If carers are not registered by their GP but meet the eligibility criteria as defined below they will be contacted by the national booking system. Councils have worked with local organisations to send through details of carers known to them. This data collection and submission is protected by section 259 of the Health and Care Act 2012

3. For those carers who have not been contacted by the above two routes, those who are eligible can self-identify and book their vaccine via the national booking system

Eligibility for carers vaccine is defined by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation as follows:

**Those who are eligible for a carer's allowance, or those who are the sole or primary carer of an elderly or disabled person who is at increased risk of COVID-19 mortality and therefore clinically vulnerable.**

It is also important to note that young carers (aged 16 to 18) who meet the eligibility criteria will only be able to access the Pfizer BioNtech vaccine as this is the only one authorised for use for under 18-year olds. They will therefore be contacted by their GP surgery if eligible.

#### PPE for carers

Free PPE is now available for carers who live outside of the household of the person they are caring for. This can be accessed by contacting Action for Carers Surrey or their local Surrey County Council Social Care Team.

Finally, there has been much activity during the last 12 months to develop our Surrey wide Carers Strategy, joint between health and social care. This reflects comments from a wide range of carers and other key stakeholders and will be published in July. An important element of this strategy is the commitment to ensure that all carers, regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity, location or sexuality or that of the person they care for, have ready access to the support they need, the commitment to ensuring that no-one is left behind.

### **MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS**

#### **17. MR ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK: (2<sup>nd</sup> Question)**

The recent snow and rain has had a serious effect on many of our roads. Has the Council had a chance to assess the additional number of potholes and the escalating backlog of repairs? Is the Government giving any indication of additional money to address the situation in Surrey?

#### **RESPONSE:**

We are receiving higher volumes of defects as can be expected for this time of year and as a direct result of the recent cold snap. On average we received 225 new defects per day throughout January, 378 per day throughout February and 396 per day in March (up to 10 March). So far, the peak number in terms of new defects received within a single day was 586.

We have increased the number of gangs dealing with safety defects to 22 gangs which compares with a business as usual number of around 10-15 gangs. We have the potential to increase this number further if necessary, as part of our service resilience plan.

Despite the increased volumes of defects, we have no back log of defects that we are unable to fix within our business as usual response times and we are currently fixing all reported priority 2 and 3 defects in an average of 3.6 working days.

In addition to fixing defects we have a number of other programmes of work to help us address deterioration of roads and keep pothole numbers as low as possible which include

our major maintenance programme to address significant lengths of deteriorated roads and our preventative maintenance programmes which help us to lengthen the useful life of roads that are yet to show significant signs of deterioration.

Government is not giving any indication that there will be any funding in addition to [funding already announced](#) to fix potholes.

**TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**18. MR STEPHEN COOKSEY (DORKING SOUTH AND THE HOLMWOODS) TO ASK:  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Question)**

At the meeting of the Council on 9 February 2021 the Leader of the Council stated:

'I am aware that the Leaders of the Districts and Boroughs in Surrey commissioned a report from KPMG which recognised that the current system of local government was not sustainable.'

I understand that it is your intention to repeat that statement in response to a petition opposing your proposal for a single unitary Council in Surrey when you consider that petition on 18 March.

Would you please indicate precisely where in the KPMG report this statement is made?

**RESPONSE:**

The December 2020 KPMG report, commissioned apparently at a cost of some hundreds of thousands of pounds by District and Borough Council Leaders, contains the following (my emphases):

"The District and Borough Councils of Surrey jointly identified the **need** to explore potential options for Local Government Reorganisation within the County, whilst assessing future opportunities for collaboration within existing structures".

"Councils have **ongoing challenges** with the 'levelling up' agenda, health and social care integration, ongoing financial pressures and the need to deliver greater digitisation.

"Surrey are also facing a number of **cross-cutting challenges**, including an aging population, areas of economic decline, congestion, affordable housing, health inequalities **and increasing demand for services**".

"Councils must **deliver quality service improvements** for their local communities".

"There remain **ongoing challenges of financial sustainability** and a desire to further improve outcomes for residents, the District and Borough Councils feel that collaboration will support them to address these challenges".

Taken together with the commissioning of a piece of work based on an identified need to explore potential options for Local Government Reorganisation within the county, this very strongly suggests that the Leaders that commissioned the report and KPMG, recognise that the current system of local government in Surrey is not sustainable.

It would be very helpful if the District and Boroughs explained to residents what steps they are taking to implement the very clear recommendations on how to reduce cost and deliver efficiencies that are contained in the report.

**TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**19. MR JONATHAN ESSEX (REDHILL EAST) TO ASK:  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Question)**

Surrey County Council (SCC) has had and is planning large contracts and programmes of capital development works in the areas of property development on council owned sites, highways and waste management. The Council still has in place a joint venture with Places for People and a significant pipeline of property developments. Similarly, the current highways contract will soon end, and the council is tendering for a new, potentially 21 year highway contract worth around £2.5bn contract and the council's waste management PFI contract runs for 25 years from 1999 so new future arrangements will need to be put in place.

Please provide details of independent value for money or effectiveness audits which have been carried out by SCC in the areas of property, highways and waste management and what is planned before new contracts and/or major financial commitments are put in place?

**RESPONSE:**

Land and Property are changing the approach to procurement to maximise efficiency of services through key suppliers, build in opportunities for standardisation and optimisation, improve buying power through volume purchasing and reduce the risk of costly and lengthy piecemeal delivery. Suppliers will be procured competitively, returns benchmarked and be subject to ongoing market validation. Future tender prices for work and purchasing will be validated by independent consultants who will make recommendations against value for money and anticipated market pricing level criteria. Benefits through confidence in SCC as a client will be realised by support from independent professional consultants on technical matters and through informed engagement with the market.

In terms of Highways we have employed various mechanisms across the different contracts to assess value for money and effectiveness, these include benchmarking, improvement programmes and utilising the procurement process. We have also carried out a number of internal audits on our contracts over the years and in relation to our Term Maintenance contract have also carried out independent assessments by the Local Partnerships organisation, and more recently by Proving Services which assessed the contract as providing value for money and assisted us with the development of a further improvement programme across a number of activities. The new Highway Contract is currently being procured and as part of the submission process we have asked bidders to specifically include details of how they will ensure value for money for the duration of the contract, in addition to us competitively testing value through the pricing returns. These submissions will form part of the contract enabling us to hold the successful supplier to account once the new contract starts.

With regards to the waste disposal contracts, we have put in place a programme team to deliver the Rethinking Waste Programme which includes re-procuring waste disposal contracts for Surrey. The new arrangements will be in place from September 2024. The process for re-procurement has already started and we are in the analyse phase within which we are looking at past performance as well as future need and challenges. This will include an assessment of effectiveness of the contract and value for money. A recent

Members meeting in February outlined the process and other Members briefings will be provided at appropriate times within the procurement process.

**MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS**

**20. MR JONATHAN ESSEX (REDHILL EAST) TO ASK:  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Question)**

What incentives are being proposed to encourage staff to use public transport and car share for those commuting significant distances to Woodhatch Place?

**RESPONSE:**

To support the move of approximately 1,300 staff plus Members of the Council from County Hall, Wray Park, and Consort House to our new headquarters at Woodhatch Place we are completing a comprehensive Green Travel Plan. This work is almost complete, comprising four key elements, namely:

- A site review to understand the conditions and characteristics of the local area, including a review of accessibility and the existing facilities at Woodhatch Place;
- A review of staff data, including that from the staff travel survey completed in December 2020;
- An analysis of staff home postcode data, accompanied by work to identify feasible travel options so that we may better understand opportunities to change future travel patterns and behaviours; and
- The identification of issues, interventions and recommendations.

A range of recommendations and improvements that will support staff getting to and from Woodhatch Place by active travel modes and by public transport are set out in the Green Travel Plan. These are all being worked through. Examples include:

- Increasing secure bicycle parking and increasing the number of lockers for staff so they may easily store bicycle and motorcycle equipment, with some lockers big enough to accommodate folding cycles for those staff using both train and bicycle;
- Increasing the number of showers to support active travel;
- Consideration of a new local bus service to provide direct, fast and frequent links to Redhill Station; and
- Increasing the number of electric-vehicle charging points.

These are just some examples of the initiatives being considered. Once the Green Travel Plan is complete, all the improvements and initiatives to be taken forward will be shared widely with both staff and Members. This will support a change of work base for staff, our agile work programme and move us toward achieving a net zero carbon Council by 2030.

## CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Colin Kemp

**PORTFOLIO:** Infrastructure

**Infrastructure Projects & Surrey Infrastructure Plan:** I am pleased to be able to update you with the great progress we have made on our infrastructure projects. Investment in infrastructure is essential for sustainable economic growth and to cater for the changing needs of Surrey's businesses and communities.

We have been working with partners in the development of the Surrey Infrastructure Plan which builds on the Surrey Infrastructure Study, refreshed in 2017. The study identified the infrastructure required to support planned growth to 2031 and the funding required to fund that infrastructure. The development of the plan enables us to better prioritise and pursue funding to deliver the infrastructure the county needs, However, this list is not fixed and further engagement with local communities and local Members, along with changing local priorities, will mean that this list is ever evolving.

The Infrastructure Plan will prioritise projects in the county over the short, medium, and long term to support 'good growth' as defined in Surrey's 2050 Place Ambition, with a commitment to environmental, place and health and wellbeing outcomes. We have identified a list of schemes in discussion with Districts and Boroughs since late 2019 and these will be assessed using the Prioritisation Framework and will lead to the creation of a prioritised shortlist of schemes. Further feasibility work will be then undertaken to produce an Outline Business Case for each scheme. The prioritisation framework was passed by Cabinet in February.

We have already been able to invest £286 million in large scale infrastructure projects such as Farnham town centre and the A320 scheme, and £253m has been invested in flood alleviation to protect thousands of homes and businesses. To drive this work forward, I am pleased that we have been able to recruit and build a project management team. Increasing staff levels will mean we have the capacity to engage locally on these infrastructure projects and identify the infrastructure projects that are needed within our communities. This team will also allow us to start to build these schemes and have the outline business cases on the shelf which will allow us to react to funding streams faster.

**Superfast Broadband:** In April we will be bringing an update to Cabinet to update on the progress being made in driving Surrey's Gigabit capable digital infrastructure. Currently we have 98% superfast broadband coverage in Surrey, making it one of the leading areas for Superfast provision. Surrey is also a leader in Ultrafast provision. However, full fibre speed provision needs to be expanded, and an ongoing consultation by BDUK will allow us to identify gaps across Surrey where we can support improved coverage.

## CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Mark Nuti

**PORTFOLIO:** Communities

**Arts Service:** The service has won national recognition for its Covid-19 response and been shortlisted for two education awards. Surrey Arts Online Learning has facilitated the delivery of activities to support learning and safeguard income. As well as students, 400 teachers have benefitted from training delivered. Visits to the YouTube channel have increased by 900% from pre-Covid. Over 230 pupils attended an online holiday programme. Surrey Open Artist Studio programme had 8500 visitors and £303,500 of artwork sold. We hope to hold this hugely successful event again in 2021.

**Heritage:** During lockdown the archaeological unit created popular guided audio walks for the public. Downloads of images of records published on Ancestry have risen by 31%, and parish registers published on Find my Past in early 2020 have now been viewed 73,223 times, generating additional income for the service.

**Libraries:** During lockdown, libraries have provided a click and collect service, and launched the popular 'Ready Reads' service for residents. Libraries continue to provide essential PC use with 19,578 hours of use logged since July 2020. We have a popular range of digital events which have been engaged with over one million times on YouTube and Facebook, with over 4500 hours of combined viewing. Overall e-Audio demand has increased by 152% with e-book demand increasing by 201%. Libraries are planning to fully re-open on 12 April.

**Registration & Nationality Service:** Death registrations have sadly significantly increased during the pandemic, but the service has been able to continue to offer registration appointments within 2 working days. The team are planning for the reintroduction of marriages and civil partnerships, with ceremonies resuming from 29 March.

**Customer Services:** The whole of the county is now covered by our Covid-19 tracing service. It operates seven days a week, making contact with Covid-positive residents that the NHS Test & Trace have been unable to reach. On 3 March we are piloting an approach in 3 areas where our team will contact all positive cases as soon as their results are registered on the national system. We have taken over 14,500 calls since our Community Helpline went live. Our programme continues to improve the journey for customers that need access to our services.

**Your Fund Surrey:** I am thrilled that the second phase went live on 1 March 2021 with the official opening of the online application portal. Ideas can now be submitted in more detail with successful projects being invited to progress to the full application phase. Currently there are almost 1000 ideas pinned and over 71,000 people have visited the commonplace map.

**Community Engagement:** We are focusing on two start-up areas, Horley and Caterham, joining up with GPs who are planning to engage on health in the community. We are developing a cohesive approach to community engagement, including work with health and police colleagues and other engagement platforms. We have trialled engagement activities through Local and Joint Committees using virtual events which have reached over 40,000 residents.

**VCFS:** During this lockdown we have used pre-established support structures to continue to offer services to help members of the community that need it, such as Covid Mutual Aid groups and the wider VCFS organisations. We will be giving £500,000 to the Community Foundation for Surrey which will be fully matched through public donations, bringing £1m of benefit to Surrey's communities. The VCFS sector's work in ensuring the vaccine rollout is successful has been vital. Faith leaders have played a pivotal role, acting as trusted ambassadors, and leading by example.

## CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Matt Furniss

**PORTFOLIO:** Highways

**General Highways Update:** In the past four years, we have resurfaced over 400 miles of road. Over the past year, the increased budget for Highways Maintenance has enabled us to resurface an additional 36 miles of roads and to carry out preventative surface dressing on 78 miles of roads on top of what has already been carried out. With the budgets for the next five years agreed by Cabinet and Council, we will be able to carry out a further 130 miles of road resurfacing, some of which will be using innovative methods such as recycling and thermal patching, as well as carrying out 225 miles of preventative maintenance on our roads. We will also be carrying out 60 miles of pavement surface renewal and 120 miles of preventative maintenance on pavements over the next 5 years.

**Winter Service Update and Actions:** I thought it important to highlight the excellent work that took place during the snowy and icy weather in February. The Highways teams in conjunction with Kier, farmers and other partners worked day and night in advance of, and during, the snowy weather to keep the highway network operational. Over 12 treatments were completed and over 850 tonnes of salt were used over 3 days. In addition to the road network treatments, we had resources helping grit vaccination and testing centre footways and car parks with hand gritting resource along with adding roads to our 33 'Priority 1' routes.

**AI Cameras and Innovation:** We are currently trialling the use of video cameras which use Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning in three separate areas: to identify potholes, to carry out condition surveys on our highway network, to gather data on traffic movements and flows to assist with the design of schemes, and to monitor the outcome of schemes once completed. The aspiration is to determine if these technologies can be used to give us data more quickly and with better degrees of accuracy from which to make decisions about our highway network. We are also trialling the use of sensors to measure the temperature of our road network in order to provide better intelligence for us to make decisions about winter gritting.

**Stop the Abuse Campaign:** Road worker abuse is a growing concern on both the local and strategic road networks in the UK and affects the physical and mental health and wellbeing of workers on a regular basis. In Surrey, we are seeing an increase in motorists ignoring instructions and driving through road closures and traffic management, putting both themselves and our workforce at risk. Roadworks are a place of work and the people working there deserve the same respect as anyone else in their place of work. I am pleased to announce that we will be supporting the national Stamp It Out campaign and taking practical steps to help eliminate abuse of all kinds from our road network.

**HGV Enforcement:** HGVs are necessary to the economy of Surrey and the Country as a whole but can cause disturbance to residents. I am pleased to advise that later this month, Cabinet will be considering a report which is recommending the introduction of "Surrey HGV watch". Working with residents, this will help to increase compliance of restrictions. The government has signalled their intent to permit authorities outside of London to enforce moving traffic violations, including HGV restrictions. The County Council is considering appropriate enforcement tools that could be used once we are legally permitted to do so.

**Lower speed limits in rural areas across the south of Surrey:** As part of our commitment to setting sensible and effective speed limits, an investment of £100,000 is being made by Surrey Police through the Drive SMART Surrey Safer Roads Partnership to implement lower speed limits in rural areas across the south of Surrey. Supporting this, we have been awarded £39,840 from The Road Safety Trust to evaluate the project. This new project will evaluate the impact of the speed limit reductions already in place and evaluate the new reductions on a proactive strategic area-wide basis to the west of the A24 across the Surrey Hills towards Guildford. Successful speed management will support the Council's goals of improving road safety, supporting active travel and reducing air and noise pollution on our rural roads.

## CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Natalie Bramhall

**PORTFOLIO:** Environment & Climate Change

**Climate Change:** Officers are developing SCC's climate change delivery plan (2021-25), to be launched in June. The plan will detail the carbon reduction projects that have been developed since the Climate Change Strategy was endorsed, as well as outlining future activities and investment that the Council will undertake to reduce carbon emissions in Surrey. The plan includes quantified carbon emission reduction per year and over the lifetime of schemes, as well as details on the timescales for delivery, cost per tonne of carbon saved and any additional co-benefits. Officers are also in the process of producing an evidence base for the Land Management Framework, including data on natural capital values of all land in Surrey (as well as specific areas of our own estate), updating our habitat inventory and a landscape assessment of all SCC-owned land. We were awarded £1.6m from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund to install decarbonisation measures on our seven most carbon intensive buildings. We were also awarded £25,000 to produce decarbonisation feasibility studies for 25 of our biggest carbon emitting schools. In the 20/21 tree planting season SCC planted 20,651 trees and 1.2km hedgerow. We are producing an online map to show the locations of these along with those planted by partners, including Districts and Boroughs (D&Bs).

**Rethinking Waste:** Baseline data gathering including waste flow modelling (to determine what waste material is collected by D&Bs now and in future) and Infrastructure need assessment (to determine current and future infrastructure need and provision) will be completed by April, when market engagement will commence. A stakeholder workshop on collaboration with D&Bs has been held, co-chaired by Surrey County Council and Surrey Environment Partnership (SEP) and further engagement with Chief Executive's and Portfolio Holders is being planned. A member seminar was held on 1 February, covering the current arrangements for managing waste disposal in Surrey, an overview of the rethinking waste programme and potential options for collaboration. Work continues on reducing contamination of dry mixed recycling which will boost recycling rates and offer minor financial benefits. The initial business case for the programme has been drafted setting out the approach to delivering the programme including the re-procurement of waste treatment and management services from 2024, identifying risks, dependencies and constraints, stakeholder analysis, strategic aims and priorities. Benefits and outcomes have been mapped to individual projects to ensure the programme outcomes are achieved.

**Eco Park Update:** After exhausting other options available, we have now entered legal proceedings with Suez to resolve our issues. We hope to bring this to a swift conclusion to allow us to move forward with the Eco park and resolve the matter.

**Countryside Improvement Programme: Norbury Park Sawmill:** The sawmill will be closing on 31 March 2021. This process will be managed by SWT and the site passed back to SCC. SWT announced to staff on 15 February and a press statement was issued by SCC on 17 February. Two Senior Officers attended the Mole Valley Local Committee on 24 February to provide additional information to local Councillors. A petition against the closure will be discussed by Cabinet in May. Email queries have been answered and officers are following up on enquiries from potential tenants for the site. An options appraisal for the site is due for completion at the end of March, after which proposals for the site's future will be shared. Planning, access, and investment costs will steer recommendations for the site. The Council is optimistic there is sufficient demand in the marketplace for the site to continue to be used for woodland and rural craft activities combined with visitor services, with the current level of employment maintained.

**Newlands Corner:** New threshold signs have been installed at all countryside sites with the new countryside branding. Newlands Corner will be the first site to have new information boards installed this month. Work has started on refurbishing toilets, the Visitor Centre refurbishment will start once permission has been granted, to create a modern digital experience. Commons consent has been applied for to install natural play equipment to replace the play unit recently removed for safety reasons.

**Flooding:** Following heavy rainfall at the end of January flooding occurred in areas close to the River Thames with Spelthorne seeing prolonged problems. SCC Highways and other partners supported the EA deployment of temporary flood defences in Elmbridge in response to rising levels on the River Thames. We worked with colleagues in Spelthorne Borough Council and Thames Water to assist residents to alleviate the flooding. Although no properties were reported to have flooded internally, we will be carrying out an investigation into the circumstances of flooding and what role the relevant authorities have in it. We will also revisit previous investigations carried out in the area.

## CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Julie Iles

**PORTFOLIO:** All Age Learning

**Back to School arrangements and Testing:** I was pleased to write directly to parents, carers, and young people this month about the return to classroom learning from 8 March. The perseverance and commitment that families have made to remote learning, often in difficult and challenging circumstances, deserves our appreciation. Equally, our schools and colleges worked incredibly hard to set up remote learning in January and then the arrangements for the safe return of all students from 8 March. While teachers have been undertaking symptom free testing since January, the introduction of twice weekly testing of secondary and colleges students is a new development to support the other infection control measures that are well in place. Once again, our schools and colleges have stepped up in order to set up their testing programmes to enable students to return to their classrooms and we are very thankful for their hard work and dedication.

However advanced remote learning from schools and colleges has been, it cannot fully replace the full experience and richness of face-to-face learning. For parents or children worried about the return to school, we are providing a range of support tools to enable them to adjust to going back.

**Winter Grant Funding and Free School Meals:** We know that many families have struggled financially due to Covid, and that can be particularly acute in the school holidays. That is why the Council committed to providing food vouchers to over 20,000 children eligible for free school meals over the Christmas, February half term and Easter holidays. We are also using government funding to set up a new Holiday Activity and Food programme to provide free healthy meals and enriching activities during the school holidays.

**Transitions for children with SEN and secondary school offers for September 2021:** I was pleased that the new admission arrangements for children with SEN has resulted in over 90% receiving confirmation of their school place by 15 February. All other children received confirmation of the placement type, and we are now working closely with those families to secure an appropriate school for their child over the next few weeks. In addition, despite the number of secondary applications increasing by 2.3% this year (to 12,311), 94.9% of students were offered a place at one of their preferred schools. This is an excellent outcome, giving students a great start to secondary school in September. We have made sure that the small number of students who did not get into their preferred school have an alternative place and are able to get on a waiting list.

**Response to the consultation on the DfE SEND Review:** We have put forward a robust case to the Department for Education's review of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system following government reforms in 2014. While demand for SEND services has grown exponentially in that time, funding has simply not kept pace. In order to meet the growing demand, the Council has invested significantly to meet the needs of children with SEND earlier and closer to home: nearly £80M in 1,600 additional specialist places, a new Graduated Response service and Learners' Single Point of Access, the expansion of programmes to support young adults into apprenticeships and internships. We have also made sustained progress in delivering our SEND improvement plan, which was formally recognised by DfE sign-off at the end of last year. I briefed Surrey MPs last month on the situation regarding SEND in Surrey, and they were very supportive of our case for sustainable government investment in these services.

**Update on Surrey Adult Learning contribution to economic recovery:** Even prior to the pandemic, Surrey Adult Learning (SAL) has been aligning its curriculum offer to skills gaps, employer requirements and the progression of learners towards a wider range of outcomes. As we begin to recover economically, this strategic shift becomes even more important. Working closely with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and Surrey's two Local Enterprise Partnerships, SAL is ensuring it supports learners, particularly those with low qualifications and on low pay, to either re-skill or upskill with digital skills being a focus. Supporting learners with routes into apprenticeships and progression into sustainable jobs are a key outcome for the service.

## CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Mary Lewis

**PORTFOLIO:** Children, Young People and Families

**Ofsted Focused Visit:** Last week, we received notification from Ofsted of a Focused Visit to Surrey, week beginning 22 March 2021. The visit will focus on frontline practice, which will be used to form a holistic view of Children's Services and will involve interviews, desktop exercises that have already started and two days of (virtual) inspection. We had long anticipated a visit from Ofsted and as such, our team is well prepared and already hard at work to submit all the relevant details on time and in good order. While this visit is not a judgement inspection, meaning that no grading will be given afterwards, it will report back our strengths and areas of improvement – which we will use to fine tune our practice, as we continue on our journey to 'good'.

An example of a recent Focused Visit report from another authority can be found [here](#).

**Poverty:** Following the Council's December motion on Child Poverty, work has begun to better understand the complex picture of poverty in Surrey. Using recent data analyses from local and national sources, one thing is strikingly clear - children are in poverty because adults are in poverty. The data tells us that:

- The percentage of children living in relative low-income families (8.3%) has steadily increased in Surrey over the past four years to 2019 in all Districts and Boroughs. Given survey data through the pandemic, our expectation is that this number has grown even further in 2020, but firm data is not yet available.
- Using internal modelling, we estimate the level of need for free school meals has increased by 20% since Jan 2020, due to the economic conditions caused by the pandemic, on top of steady increases over the two previous years.
- In 2019, an estimated 5,130 households (with more than one child) could be considered 'low income' (less than £20,000 per annum) and were largely concentrated in more urban areas.

Historically, this county has been perceived as 'affluent' with 'pockets' of lower income individuals and families. However, it is clear from our study of the data that this too often causes us to overlook the impact of Surrey's higher cost of living on a significant number of residents. Anecdotal and survey data have already demonstrated that the pandemic has exacerbated existing financial difficulties, causing more families to fall into financial distress and reinforcing the need for a more joined-up approach to poverty reduction. Over the next few months, we will continue in deepening our understanding of poverty in Surrey with a focus on the causes and the opportunities across the system, with a view to alleviate and prevent poverty in future years. This will inevitably involve working closely with partners to support people into both work and better paid employment. A report outlining the findings will come to Full Council in July 2021.

There is support in place for families from the Council and our system of third sector partners (Homestart, the YMCA and Eikon), for example the Surrey Crisis Fund, Family Centres, and the Family Support Programme. I would encourage Councillors to direct residents to these services, should they find themselves in need.

**Corporate Parenting:** As corporate parents, we have a shared responsibility to ensure children and young people looked after by the Council receive the best possible care and safeguarding. Over the last few months of lockdown restrictions, we have been working alongside foster carers to mitigate some of the impacts that this has had on those in our care and to ensure that contact with birth families is maintained. I am pleased that, wherever possible, social workers, youth support workers and Personal Advisors are engaging with children in care and care leavers face to face. In the last few months, Corporate Parenting Board Members have also made virtual pastoral visits to residential care homes and had online meetings with Care Experienced young people to discuss issues of concern to them.

## CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Sinead Mooney

**PORTFOLIO:** Adult Social Care, Public Health & Domestic Abuse

**COVID-19 Response:** In meeting the challenges of the pandemic, we have continued to quickly mobilise resources to deliver measures that reassure, protect, and support our communities. With regards to vaccinations, I am pleased that across the South East, we rank first for our vaccine rollout and sixth nationally – demonstrating the efficacy of our approach to get Surrey moving again. Most recently, with the support of NHS and Public Health England colleagues, we conducted surge testing in Woking and Egham, which has now successfully concluded. Preliminary findings indicate that the variant of concern demonstrated low infectivity levels in both areas, leaving us with a firm hand on the future health of the county.

**Domestic Abuse:** Over the last three months, we have also been pushing hard to increase the awareness and operational effectiveness of our domestic abuse work, which has culminated in a change in my portfolio title – to better reflect the renewed attention and parity that I want this work to have alongside Adult Social Care (ASC) and Public Health (PH). The Domestic Abuse Transformation Programme has continued unabated by the pandemic, ensuring that both survivors of domestic abuse, and outreach providers, have been well assisted at this time.

**Accommodation with Care and Support:** In the coming months, our Accommodation with Care and Support Programme will focus on developing the Surrey-wide Care Commissioning Strategy for Extra Care Housing. In February, Cabinet agreed to the use of additional Surrey County Council owned sites for Extra Care Housing development. I am pleased that we have now identified sites across the county, to support us in delivering 725 affordable units of Extra Care Housing. As a result of this, the programme will also look to develop our business cases, with a view to deliver swiftly. In doing this, I want to assure councillors of my desire to work closely with District and Borough Housing Authorities, to develop nomination agreements and allocation policies for all schemes.

**Mental Health Partnership Board:** Last month, we launched an independently chaired Mental Health Partnership Board, which will look to bring a range of partner organisations together, in order to drive improvements in mental health outcomes for children and adults in Surrey; ensuring better equality of access and health outcomes. The Board has hit the ground running and is already working diligently, as it looks to oversee the delivery of a shared action plan for the rapid overhaul of our systems.

**ASC/PH Budget:** As of the end of December 2020, ASC was forecasting an underspend of £4.7m against ASC's BAU budget. However, we are predicated to spend more than £56m, in addition to the BAU ASC budget on ASC activity related to the pandemic. In Public Health, Surrey's core PH grant has increased by £2.4m, which Cabinet allocated to support the need for increased investment in PH services, at a time when the service continues to play a leading role in our response to the pandemic.

**Technology Enabled Care:** In my last update, I spoke about a technology enabled care pilot, which would best support those coming out of hospital into the reablement pathway. I can report that the innovative nature of this pilot has been received positively and has demonstrated a real effect in alleviating the burden borne by carers. One family member commented to staff *"this has made life so much easier. I used to go down every single day, [but] I can now check and see if carers have been in"*. Following a review of the data, the team will move forward with a considered rollout of this technology, helping potentially thousands across our county.

## DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Alison Griffiths

**PORTFOLIO:** Deputy Cabinet Member for Health

**Parents and Carers Network:** This network held its virtual launch event on 23 February 2021 and was attended by over sixty parents and carers. The event was introduced by Executive Director for Communities and Transformation, Marie Snelling as well as Councillor Becky Rush and I in our capacity as Cabinet sponsors. The network will build upon the great progress already made in supporting carers working at Surrey County Council, to establish a workplace where parents and carers can forge fulfilling careers alongside their parenting and caring responsibilities, without compromise. The forum confirmed the network priorities as: sharing support, advice and tips for parents and carers, and challenging and developing our policies and practice.

**Children and Young People's Suicide Prevention:** Over the last six months, we have made significant progress to support priority four of our Surrey Suicide Prevention Strategy 2019-2022, which seeks to "reduce attempted suicide and self-harm especially amongst children and young people". I am pleased that we have secured national funding from NHS England, which will support us in reviewing the self-harm pathway against best practice, as well as funding better responses to individuals who present with self-harm at A&E. We have additionally commissioned Mental Health First Aid courses. This will enable 320 frontline staff to be trained in basic mental health awareness and 64 frontline staff to become Mental Health First Aiders. This training is currently being delivered and I'm thrilled that we have received so much demand for this. A working group has also been set up which will be responsible for the delivery of actions derived from the Suicide Prevention Strategy and recommendations from the SSCP Thematic review of Adolescent Suicides.

**End of Life Care:** '[Caring to the End](#)' is a guide to end of life care and practicalities, to be used by unpaid carers, when caring for unwell individuals in Surrey. It has been produced by a multi-agency group of professional practitioners from the health and social care sectors, hospices, and voluntary sector providers. The group worked with carers and former carers who had experience of end of life care and they were instrumental in the scope design and content of the website. The aim of the website is to provide a single point of access resource for practical, legal and financial information for carers who are caring or who have just lost a loved one, as well as advice on coping with grief and where to go for support after caring.

The website directs carers quickly to the issues that are most helpful and relevant to their caring situation at different points during their end of life caring journey and provides links to different pages within the website and to other local or national websites. The website has had really good feedback from carers, which is very encouraging. One carer who has viewed the new site commented: *"I think the website looks great, creating a lovely calm and reassuring atmosphere. There's a huge amount of information contained within it, but I guess that was always the aim - and it is well broken down into chunks, so as not to be too overwhelming."*

The website can be found at <https://www.caringtotheend.org/>

## CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Becky Rush

**PORTFOLIO AREA:** Resources and Corporate Support

**Capital and Revenue:** The latest revenue budget forecast for 2020/21 shows a small overall deficit of £0.2m, against the £1,022.5m budget. This is likely to improve to a small surplus at outturn. The forecast position demonstrates the stability of our finances and reflects hard work across the Council to respond to Covid-19 whilst continuing to deliver business as usual services, within the approved budget. Progress towards delivering the Capital Programme for 2020/21 remains strong, with £238m of spend on track to be delivered this year. £5.7m of planned spend will be re-phased into 2021/22; representing 2% of the total £244m budget.

Transformation initiatives have been impacted by the pandemic and not all ambitions planned at the start of the year will be achieved, but there have still been significant achievements, for example the Adults with Learning Disabilities and Autism programme has seen consistent improved performance across the service; the Domestic Abuse programme has mobilised the Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors in Surrey's A&E settings; and our Greener Futures programme has received a £1.6m grant from Salix for decarbonising the corporate estate. Additionally, our Agile Organisation Programme has seen the successful exit from County Hall with the Woodhatch HQ site now fully operational; Cabinet has approved in principal four sites to be developed for supported Independent Living; and the 'Getting to Good' delivery is progressing well. Overall, the programme is on track to deliver £18.5m in efficiency savings by year end along with significant levels of cost containment.

We remain confident in delivering the resilient budget for 2021/22 approved by Council on 9 February. Ongoing liaison with District and Borough Councils show a continued improvement in the collection of Council tax and business rates.

**Covid-19 Financial Update, Month 9:** The latest projections show SCC will have spent a gross total of £131.7m on CV-19 related costs, offset by specific grants of £75.8m, with the remainder of £56.1m to be charged against the Covid Emergency funding received from Government. A balance of £9.9m is currently held in reserve for CV-19. The situation remains fluid and will continue to be closely monitored. Covid-19 emergency funding and specific Government grants have been essential in managing the Council's response to Covid-19. Funding includes:

- £67m to Adult Social Care including Government Infection Control, Rapid Testing and Workforce Capacity Funds, hospital discharge funding and support payments to providers from SCC early in the pandemic;
- £16.6m relating to increased referrals and costs for supporting Looked After Children, and supplier support in SEND;
- £5.8m for bus operator support, school transport and active travel;
- £7.7m relating to increased waste volumes;
- Funding to tackle Covid-19 related scams, support for the clinically extremely vulnerable, increased refuge places, hardship funding, PPE etc.

The Council has played a lead role in ensuring funds provided by Central Government have reached the most vulnerable. Both the DEFRA Food & Essential Supplies Grant and the Covid Winter Support Grant have been distributed in accordance with grant conditions and have resulted in c£3m being distributed to support vulnerable residents. The bulk of this funding has enabled the provision of food vouchers to those entitled to Free School Meals during the holidays, supporting more than 20,000 children in schools and Early Years settings. In addition, this funding has been distributed to Food Banks, Districts & Boroughs, Care Leavers, homeless Winter Cabins and been used to support the Council's existing Crisis Fund. The Crisis Fund has utilised this additional funding to increase our offer to over 2500 residents at their most vulnerable point to provide essential funds as well as support with the provision of white goods and furniture where needed. This funding detailed above is part of gross expenditure across Surrey of £464.1m on Covid-19 through the Local Resilience Forum including £175.5m for Health, £3.5m for Surrey Police, £5.6m for LRF Cells including death management and PPE, and £153.8 to District & Borough Councils.

## CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Denise Turner Stewart

**PORTFOLIO AREA:** Community Protection

**Trading Standards:** They have been very busy during 2020/21 responding to the changing advice to businesses and enforcing legislation relating to Covid-19, in addition to their business as usual activities. The team stopped approximately 700,000 dangerous products entering the marketplace, including counterfeit PPE. A new trading approval scheme, Traders4U was launched in the Summer and in February a reporting tool for residents was launched, enabling people to raise concerns about breaches to the Covid-19 rules. So far over 100 reports have been received, often highlighting multiple concerns, from businesses remaining open during lockdown to a lack of face coverings or social distancing measures. We are pleased that as a result of successful prosecutions throughout the year we saw two significant custodial sentences imposed for fraud against a vulnerable person and that thousands of pounds have been paid back to the victims of fraud and unfair trading practices.

**Community Safety:** With regards to Serious Youth Violence, we have just endorsed a new partnership strategy with Health, Police and District and Borough colleagues, which will support us in tackling some of the wider causal factors of serious youth violence. This includes links to exclusion, social deprivation, and class A drug dealing and county lines. Following the Manchester Arena enquiry, there will be a new Protect Duty to improve the security at public venues and spaces. This duty is currently out for consultation, but it is likely to compel certain owners and operators of publicly accessible locations to consider the risk of terrorism and take reasonable steps to improve protection and mitigate the impacts of an attack.

**Armed Forces Covenant:** The Armed Forces team have continued to support veterans and ex-services personnel through the on-line Veteran's Hub with the second session being held last month. Once restrictions are lifted, visits to the network of Veteran Hubs and drop-ins across the county will be relaunched. The annual Surrey Armed Forces Covenant Conference is being held online on 18 March with the theme 'The Power of Partnerships'. This well attended event will see a range of speakers from both military and partner organisations. One of this year's guest speakers is a SCC Reservist who will discuss working with the military through the Local Resilience Forum on the response to Covid-19. Within the conference, the Forces Connect app will be relaunched with new partners. The app currently has over nine thousand users throughout the UK and the team are looking to expand this to support more ex and current armed forces personnel and their families.

The Ministry of Defence has been working with local authorities to develop recommendations and guidance ahead of the Armed Forces Covenant being enshrined in law, in a new Armed Forces Bill. As part of its journey through Parliament, Canon Peter Bruinvels, SCC Civilian-Military Liaison Adviser, was invited to be one of the first expert witnesses at a Select Committee evidence session on the bill at the House of Commons. MPs thanked him for his very positive input, recognising his extensive experience of working with the Armed Forces Covenant and the great work he does on behalf of Surrey with regards to regional and national veterans' issues.

**Coroner's Service:** The Service is seeing a downward trend in the number of Covid-19 deaths which is also reflected in the number of referrals to the service. This is a positive sign for Surrey and for the service, which has been under significant pressure during the pandemic. We are pleased that the Coroner's Service restructure is now moving ahead at pace. Once in place, and with the number of referrals falling, the service will be less reliant on Business Continuity arrangements. Longer term plans are to look at working to bolster pathology capacity to prevent potential delays in post-mortems, and at how the Coroner's Service will operate a body storage facility. Lessons learned from the response to Covid-19 have been, and will continue to be, important to the future planning for the service.

## DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Marisa Heath

**PORTFOLIO:** Deputy Cabinet Member for Organisation & People

**IT&D update:** A key focus for the Council is to make our services easy to access and our information clear and simple to locate. There is no doubt that the Covid-19 pandemic has led to more people using computers to access services. To help with this, a new on-line tool has been introduced called the [Surrey's Family Help Hub](#), to improve the way we provide information to our residents. It has been really positively received, and we are currently reviewing and deciding upon the next stage of developments to this resource. Working closely with Customer Services, work is also underway to exploit our chatbots and digital forms capabilities that have recently been made available on the Council website; this will enable the Council to interact, through digital services, with our residents at a time that is suitable to them. This is not about removing the ability to speak to a real person, it is about offering a range of ways to communicate and providing answers as fast as possible.

Behind the scenes we are also seeking to apply digital approaches to our internal processes. The Agile Capability Programme has moved to the next stage of delivery with the initiation of a project to deliver a Personalised Intranet. This project is working closely with key stakeholders in the Communications team and across the organisation and has undertaken research to assist in defining how this technology can support an agile workforce. Alongside this, the Joiners, Movers and Leavers project is delivering rapid, tangible improvements and assisting the recruitment team to streamline and enhance the recruitment and on-boarding processes.

**Preparation for Adulthood:** The programme has been through a period of refresh to ensure that we are rightly focused on the experience of young people and are able to provide the collective leadership across education, social care and health to drive the system change required to support young people with complex physical health, mental health and learning disabilities as they prepare for adulthood. A Preparation for Adulthood Transformation Programme Board has been established to ensure that the programme delivers at pace and scale. This also provides an opportunity for us to take a truly joint approach to working between health, social care, and education. We will codesign proposals for integration and joint working across the system and with families and young people.

Our programme of activity is driven by a deep commitment to meeting the following outcomes:

- Children and young people are helped to become resilient and independent so that they can lead independent and fulfilling lives in their own communities
- The majority of young people transitioning into adulthood will be supported in their families and communities and access universal services rather than rely on statutory intervention
- The whole system will consider the young person's needs across their whole life course and plan accordingly
- Provision will be financially sustainable for the whole system and meet needs within the funding available

We know that the majority of young people with an education, health and care plan will go on to employment pathways. We are hearing positive feedback and success stories from young people that have been on supported and pre-supported internship programmes for the past academic year, with an increase of 13% in take up. Building on this success, we are expanding the offer of vocational provision for September 2021. As part of this, I am pleased to announce that Surrey County Council will begin recruitment for its own apprenticeship scheme for young people with additional needs in May. This is an important step and signifies the commitment and value that the County Council must keep developing a diverse workforce, fit for the future.

A pilot is being established for the Children with Disabilities and the Adult Social Care Transitions Team to jointly work with young people and their families to plan for adulthood with a clear ambition for these children to achieve their potential to lead fulfilling lives as adults. We know that when we plan collaboratively with young people and their families as they near adulthood this is more likely to be a positive experience for this young person and their family and they are more likely to achieve greater resilience and independence. I look forward to reporting the findings of the pilots back to Council over the summer.

## DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Edward Hawkins

**PORTFOLIO AREA:** Deputy Cabinet Member for Land and Property

**Capital Programme:** The Capital Delivery Team has prepared a strategy which sets out immediate priorities of the Capital Programme with an emphasis on 58 projects which are targeted to start on site over the next 18 months.

Sites which have been identified for service need have had a programme of site preparation and demolition to improve the pace of delivery. A procurement exercise is under way with Invitations to Tender issued for professional consultants (Project Managers, Quantity Surveyors, Architect Services) to deliver the programme. Tenders for Engineering services will follow. Several planning applications have been submitted for sites due to commence in early FY2021/22 and tenders for the main contractor. In addition to the Schools programme, works commenced on site for Longmead, Henley Fort Phase 1 and Sunbury Hub. Investigations and due diligence surveys for a further 14 sites are in progress.

**Assets for Disposal or Redevelopment:** The Commercial Team continue to work on identifying and bringing forward assets for disposal or redevelopment potential. At the end of February, the current number of surplus assets was 63. Of these, 38 assets have been identified for disposal, of which 14 are under active market negotiations. The team has generated over £12m of Capital receipts and are targeting a further £30m of receipts by the end of March 2021.

**Agile Organisational Programme:** The Corporate Landlord team are progressing with the Agile Organisational programme. Cabinet approved the outline Agile Office Estate Strategy in January which adopts a strategically led approach to transform the Council's office estate, so that it provides better overall value including improved condition and location of the estate and aligns with our Greener Future ambitions. The full programme business case will be finalised in FY2021/22, Q2. The programme will link into live projects such as Woodhatch Place and the Dakota building.

Office works at Woodhatch Place are on track to be complete by Friday 19 March. Office works in the Lodge are also on track and will be complete by early May to be ready for the first induction day for new councillors scheduled for Monday 10 May (subject to Covid restrictions). One part of Woodhatch Place is currently operating as a vaccination centre and this is expected to continue until May.