

Cabinet- Supplementary Agenda 1

**Date & time**

Tuesday, 26
October 2021 at
2.00 pm

Place

Council Chamber
Woodhatch Place
11 Cockshot Hill
Reigate, Surrey
RH2 8EF

Contact

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Chief Executive

Joanna Killian



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Cabinet Members: Natalie Bramhall, Clare Curran, Matt Furniss, Marisa Heath, Sinead Mooney, Mark Nuti, Tim Oliver, Becky Rush and Denise Turner-Stewart

Deputy Cabinet Members: Maureen Attewell, Steve Bax and Kevin Deanus

4 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

a Members' Questions

(Pages 1
- 2)

There is one member question from Will Forster. A response from Cabinet is attached.

b Public Questions

(Pages 3
- 4)

There is one public question. A response from Cabinet is attached.

5 REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES , TASK GROUPS, LOCAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

(Pages 5
- 8)

Cabinet to consider the following:

C. Buses Back Better Recommendations (Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee).

A response from Cabinet is attached.

Joanna Killian
Chief Executive
Monday, 25 October 2021

QUESTIONS, PETITIONS AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The Cabinet will consider questions submitted by Members of the Council, members of the public who are electors of the Surrey County Council area and petitions containing 100 or more signatures relating to a matter within its terms of reference, in line with the procedures set out in Surrey County Council's Constitution.

Please note:

1. Members of the public can submit one written question to the meeting. Questions should relate to general policy and not to detail. Questions are asked and answered in public and so cannot relate to "confidential" or "exempt" matters (for example, personal or financial details of an individual – for further advice please contact the committee manager listed on the front page of this agenda).
2. The number of public questions which can be asked at a meeting may not exceed six. Questions which are received after the first six will be held over to the following meeting or dealt with in writing at the Chairman's discretion.
3. Questions will be taken in the order in which they are received.
4. Questions will be asked and answered without discussion. The Chairman or Cabinet Members may decline to answer a question, provide a written reply or nominate another Member to answer the question.
5. Following the initial reply, one supplementary question may be asked by the questioner. The Chairman or Cabinet Members may decline to answer a supplementary question.

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY AND FILMING – ACCEPTABLE USE

Those attending for the purpose of reporting on the meeting may use social media or mobile devices in silent mode to send electronic messages about the progress of the public parts of the meeting. To support this, Surrey County Council has wifi available for visitors – please ask at reception for details.

Anyone is permitted to film, record or take photographs at council meetings. Please liaise with the council officer listed in the agenda prior to the start of the meeting so that those attending the meeting can be made aware of any filming taking place.

Use of mobile devices, including for the purpose of recording or filming a meeting, is subject to no interruptions, distractions or interference being caused to the PA or Induction Loop systems, or any general disturbance to proceedings. The Chairman may ask for mobile devices to be switched off in these circumstances.

It is requested that if you are not using your mobile device for any of the activities outlined above, it be switched off or placed in silent mode during the meeting to prevent interruptions and interference with PA and Induction Loop systems.

Thank you for your co-operation

CABINET – 26 OCTOBER 2021**PROCEDURAL MATTERS****Members Questions****Question (1) Will Forster (Woking South):**

1. a) With many Surrey residents on low incomes already struggling with price rises in food and energy costs and with the upcoming increase in NI from April next year, what long term plan does the county council have for supporting residents who are living in poverty and for levelling up those communities already experiencing a widening gap in living standards.

b) Will the Council consider introducing a funding scheme similar to the previous 'small areas disadvantaged fund' to specifically target assistance to those communities in need?

Reply:

Surrey's long-term plan for supporting residents facing financial hardship includes a suite of measures focused on mitigating the impacts of poverty as well as its causes. Core to this work is the understanding that there is a need to level up within the county to address disparities across not just living standards, but also health inequalities, social mobility, and rural isolation. As such, we continue our long-term strategies for a fairer and more sustainable economy, tackling health inequalities, empowering our communities, and enabling a greener future.

Our more immediate assistance to residents covers tailored support through family centres, community partnership projects to provide specific interventions on food, fuel and housing poverty, changing our integrated approach with the NHS to better aid those with multiple disadvantages, and of course, various hardship funds and grants. Among these financial schemes are the Surrey Crisis Fund for immediate household financial hardship, more than £5.4m (allocated since Nov 2020) of the Local Support Grant targeting those on free-school meals, homeless, or accessing food banks, and recent decisions to allocate money from the Household Support Grant and Community Outbreak Management Fund to further assist communities on issues such as food and utility bills during the winter months as well as advice and training for getting back into work.

Tim Oliver
Leader of the Council
26 October 2021

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CABINET – 26 OCTOBER 2021**PROCEDURAL MATTERS****Public Questions****Question (1): John Oliver**

The Greener Futures paper, to be considered at the Cabinet meeting, states, at paragraph 16, “Progress against Surrey’s Climate Change Strategy will be reported on an annual basis which ensures that the Delivery Plan supports the level of change needed to achieve the 2030 and 2050 net-zero carbon targets”. Although the strategy is setting targets for 2030 and 2050, current thinking is that we only have 7-8 years to turn the tide in order to prevent global warming of 1.5 degrees centigrade. Given the extreme urgency of the situation, is the Cabinet satisfied that annual reporting is sufficient or should a shorter timescale, say 6 months, be required to ensure that projects are getting off the ground and being implemented to best effect?

Reply:

Whilst there is a pressing need to make rapid progress against our targets, it is not appropriate to monitor greenhouse gas emissions on a more regular basis. Progress against the 2050 target is tracked through peer-reviewed national data-sets. These data sets are updated on an annual basis and are not suitable to track more frequently. Annual emissions reporting for Local Authorities also takes place on an annual basis, which shows progress against 2030 targets. The Council will be monitoring progress against individual actions in the Delivery Plan on an ongoing basis. The frequency of reporting against these internally will vary depending upon the nature and the scale of the project, and progress against Delivery will be reported to the Greener Futures Board on a quarterly basis.

Marisa Heath
Cabinet Member for Environment
26 October 2021

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REPORT OF THE COUNCIL'S SELECT COMMITTEES

SCRUTINY OF:

- National Bus Strategy for England (Bus Back Better)

Date Considered: 16 September 2021

Select Committee: Communities, Environment and Highways

BUSES BACK BETTER

Community, Environment and Highways Select Committee scrutinised, as part of its pre-decision scrutiny process, the Government's new National Bus Strategy for England (Bus Back Better). This report provides the Select Committee's recommendations for the Cabinet.

Recommendations:

Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee support the County Council's intention to produce a Bus Service Improvement Plan and the creation of an Enhanced Partnership Scheme, both of which are a National Bus Strategy requirement and commends the extensive range of ambitious initiatives contained in the Report, while also recommending that:

- i. Serious consideration be given to reducing bus fares (at least on some routes to begin with) as stipulated in the Government's Policy document and in order to make bus travel for Surrey residents a more viable and better value option compared to driving a car.
- ii. Family discount and other concessions (U18s, U16s, etc.) bus fares be considered as part of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).
- iii. Any app for passengers includes information on the location of the expected service and the next available bus on the map.
- iv. The scope, terms of reference etc. for the Partnership Governance Board and the Stakeholder Reference Group are rigorously defined and delineated to help ensure the credibility and effectiveness of the Enhanced Partnership.
- v. Actively pursue the process, wherever possible, to make all Surrey buses to run on non-fossil fuel.
- vi. Better communication, awareness and publicity campaign as part of the wider Greener Future piece.

John O'Reilly
Chairman of the Community, Environment & Highways Select
Committee
Surrey County Council

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CABINET RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE COMMUNITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS SELECT COMMITTEE

BUSES BACK BETTER

Recommendations:

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- iii. Any app for passengers includes information on the location of the expected service and the next available bus on the map.
- iv. The scope, terms of reference etc. for the Partnership Governance Board and the Stakeholder Reference Group are rigorously defined and delineated to help ensure the credibility and effectiveness of the Enhanced Partnership.
- v. Actively pursue the process, wherever possible, to make all Surrey buses to run on non-fossil fuel.
- vi. Better communication, awareness and publicity campaign as part of the wider Greener Future piece.

John O'Reilly

Chairman of the Communities, Environment & Highways Select Committee

Cabinet Response:

I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee for scrutinising our work to produce a Bus Service Improvement Plan as presented to Cabinet.

We are at a point where we have an exciting opportunity to work with our bus operators, bus users, partners and Government to improve public transport and get more people using buses in Surrey.

Buses provide residents with access to a wide range of key service, including employment, education, health care and essential shopping, with our contracted services supporting those provided commercially. Putting buses at the heart of our new and emerging Surrey Transport Plan, the delivery of which is key to our Greener Futures Programme, is key to providing a realistic and attractive alternative to the private car. This will help us reduce the 46% of carbon emissions that come from the transport sector in the county, forming part of our pathway to net zero carbon.

The issues raised by the Select Committee are extremely pertinent and accord with our own thinking. Our Bus Service Improvement Plan and the associated funding ask from Government includes proposals for:

- Simpler fare structures
- Reduced fares for young people
- Multi-journey, multi-operator ticket schemes
- Better information, including journey planning websites, apps, roadside and printed information
- More real time passenger information
- The introduction of more ultra-low and zero emission buses.

There is much more detail in the Bus Service Improvement Plan itself. The Cabinet report also highlights the clear linkages of this work with key County Council strategies, including:

- Surrey's Greener Future
- Our new Surrey Transport Plan, which contains a proposed hierarchy of modes and an ambition to shift journeys from the private car to other more sustainable modes, including buses
- Our 2030 Community Vision
- Our ambition for a carbon neutral county by 2050.

In respect to the proposed governance structure for our Enhanced Partnership, we will ensure the Board, Delivery Group and Stakeholder Reference Group all have clear terms of reference and defined roles. This will ensure efficient and effective ways of working and delivery, the details of which will be developed and agreed as the Enhanced Partnership is established.

Overall, this council is responding strongly, positively, and proactively to the challenge set by the Government in Bus Back Better and we are passionate about improving bus services for our residents and businesses.

Matt Furniss
Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure
26 October 2021