



We're on Twitter:
[@SCCdemocracy](https://twitter.com/SCCdemocracy)



Supplementary Agenda

for the meeting of

THE COUNTY COUNCIL - INFORMAL

to be held on

18 JANUARY 2022

2 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

(Pages 7
- 36)

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.

4 ORIGINAL MOTIONS

Item 4 (i)

Amendment by Matt Furniss (Shalford) to the motion standing in the name of Lance Spencer

(additional words underlined in bold and deletions crossed through)

This Council notes that:

~~That communities are increasingly recognising the benefits of~~ **In the last few years there has been a sharp increase in walking and cycling in Surrey.** ~~Slower traffic~~ in residential and busy pedestrian streets **such as shopping areas** and outside schools **help encourage more active travel by walking and cycling.** These include improved road safety; calmer, steadier traffic flows leading to increased confidence amongst residents in being able to walk and cycle more safely; ~~the resulting reduction in traffic volumes that improves air quality. Ultimately 20 miles per hour (mph) zones lead to better physical and mental health outcomes for residents who live and travel in those areas.~~

~~That speeds of 20 mph are less likely to lead to death or serious injury and have support from disability groups.~~

~~That schemes for signed 20 mph zones are more affordable, quicker and easier to implement at pace and a growing number of authorities are implementing them across the country.~~

This Council further notes:

~~That Surrey County Council supports the implementation of 20 mph limits, but the current piecemeal approach and inadequate level of funding will not deliver on the step change required to affect residents' travel choices to the extent needed to meet the ambition of the draft Local Transport Plan~~

(iii)

~~and Greener Futures' delivery plan.~~

~~That as the highway authority Surrey County Council has the legal power to set speed limits in Surrey, however its current policy is unfit for purpose.~~

~~That 20 mph zones marked solely by signs accompanied by minimal enforcement have already been piloted elsewhere. This Council can decide to join the growing number of local authorities and regions who are already trialling this model or risk becoming an outlier in this space.~~

~~That over time, implementation of such schemes will likely lead to future cohorts of drivers coming to regard 20 mph as the new 30 mph.~~

Surrey County Council's "Setting Local Speed Limits" policy supports introducing signed only 20 mph speed limits where the existing speeds are 24 mph or less. There are likely to be lots of residential roads and busy shopping streets where it would be possible to introduce signed only 20 mph speed limits in Surrey. Members are allocated with local budgets for highway improvements that they can direct towards assessments and implementation of signed only 20 mph speed limits. Where the existing speeds are above 24 mph, then additional measures to reduce speeds should be considered to ensure the new lower speed limit is successful.

In addition to the local highway budget, Community Infrastructure Levy funding could be used to assess and implement lower 20 mph speed limits. Assessment and implementation of lower 20 mph schemes could also be considered as part of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) being developed in each of Surrey's Boroughs and Districts.

This Council resolves to:

Request the Leader and Cabinet to:

- I. ~~Agree in principle the implementation of~~ **Reaffirm that Surrey County Council supports** signage ~~of~~ **only 20 mph** zones in residential roads, outside schools and on high streets that currently have a 30 mph limit, **where the existing average mean speeds are 24 mph or less,** and where there is member and community support for the change.
- II. ~~Agree to an amendment of the current speed policy to allow for implementation of schemes in appropriate areas even where mean speeds exceed 24 mph.~~ **Reaffirm that additional supporting measures will be needed to ensure the new lower 20 mph speed limit is successful if the existing mean average speeds are above 24 mph.**

- ~~III. Agree to establish a dedicated funding pot to provide adequate resources for the scheme to be implemented equitably across the county.~~

Item 4 (iii)

Amendment by Matt Furniss (Shalford) to the motion standing in the name of Catherine Powell

(additional words underlined in bold and deletions crossed through)

This Council notes that:

Surrey County Council has increased its investment into Surrey's roads and pavements by £24m per annum over the past 3 years.

In addition, Surrey Highways devotes a great deal of time and resource working with utilities companies to identify unmarked assets requiring repair. **and making sure that they are kept temporarily safe until the utility makes a permanent repair to their asset.**

The ~~two-year~~ **six-month** grace period granted to utility companies to leave in place temporary repairs before making permanent repairs can often have an adverse and unreasonable impact on residents and businesses.

Therefore, this Council calls upon the Leader and Cabinet to resolve to requests the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure to:

- ~~I. Lobby the Government to introduce a statutory requirement for local authorities and private utility companies to work in partnership and to use technology such as RFID (radio-frequency identification) in order to record the location, service history and other data of an asset, and to record and share asset data going forward~~
- ~~II. Lobby the Government to reduce the two-year period for permanent repairs to less than a year, and for utility companies to maintain a register of all such temporary repairs to be shared regularly with the relevant highway authority~~

I. Lobby the Government to:

- a. Reduce the interim reinstatement period from 6 months to 1 month;**
b. Extend the 2-year guarantee period of utility

(v)

- repairs undertaken by utility companies to 5 years;
- c. Introduce a timescale for repairs for 'Section 81' (of NRSWA) for Defective Apparatus, so that utilities must complete repairs in a short time period once reported of no more than 3 months.

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**TUESDAY 18 JANUARY 2022 - INFORMAL****QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED UNDER THE PROVISIONS
OF STANDING ORDER 10.1****KEVIN DEANUS, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY PROTECTION****1. ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK:**

What are the most recent figures for the number of full time equivalent firefighters employed by the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)?

RESPONSE:

The Making Surrey Safer plan shows that the service needs as a minimum 16 fire appliances at night and 20 in the day. The service is at full establishment to crew these with 451.25 full time equivalent (FTE) firefighters (458 headcount) employed as at 17 December 2021. From 1 February 2022, when our newest recruits will have joined the service to begin their firefighter training, we will have a wholetime full time equivalent of 466.75 (474 headcount) taking us over establishment. This will enable the service to 'get ahead' of the leaver/retiree profile and in turn help provide a continuous level of fire engine availability. The service will also be able to mitigate the impact of future staff turn-over and end the historic issue of going under firefighter establishment whilst new recruits underwent training. This is a new approach that the service intends to continue with.

In the past ten years the landscape in which fire and rescue services operate has transformed. There has been a considerable reduction in the number of fires across the country (fire incidents have reduced by 45% nationally and 30% in Surrey over the past decade). There is also much greater emphasis on prevention and protection activities. The significant technological advances in the past decade have also enabled:

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

All of the above factors, as well as changes in culture and practice, allow for much more sophisticated workforce planning.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

2. JOHN O'REILLY (HERSHAM) TO ASK:

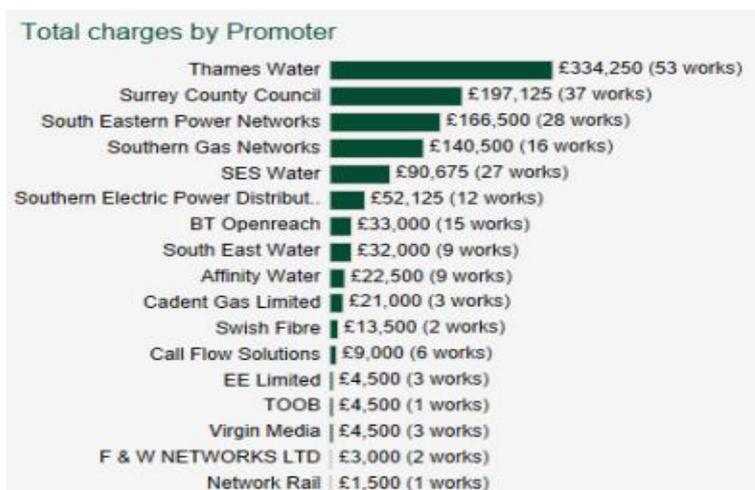
Will the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure provide an update on Surrey County Council's Lane Rental policy relating to income received and enforcement?

RESPONSE:

From a policy perspective, we are governed by legislation and Department for Transport (DfT) guidance documents. Costs incurred by the local authority in operating and evaluating (but not developing) a lane rental scheme may be met by the authority from the charge revenues they receive. The Regulations require that the surplus revenues, after deduction of running costs and costs of carrying out scheme evaluation, are applied by the local authority for purposes '*intended to reduce the disruption or other adverse effects arising as a result of street works*'. Surplus funds can be used for either capital or revenue projects.

Following DfT guidance the Council is developing a governance board made up of both Surrey officers and representatives of the different Statutory Undertaker Sectors; Gas, Water, Electricity and Telecommunications. This governance board will review project submissions for use of any surplus funds and decide whether the submission should be granted the surplus funds, and then monitor the delivery and success of the project. Surrey's inaugural Governance Board will take place in early February to agree the partnership working principles with the Statutory Undertaker Sector Representatives, with the first successful allocation of surplus funds going to bids at the next governance board meeting. To ensure transparency, the Regulations require authorities to keep and publish accounts of the revenues generated and how they have been spent. The Council will produce a detailed annual report on all aspects of the Lane Rental Scheme.

Thus far we have invoiced a total of £1,097,000 in Lane Rental charges. (see chart below for breakdown of charges by works promoter and volume of works). Costs of scheme operation and evaluation will be deducted from this figure before year end, but the scheme already has a year-end surplus to fund successful initial bids.



From an enforcement perspective, the Council's Streetworks Team will ensure that all Lane Rental charges will be levied correctly where applicable. In the first instance however, the team will always engage with works promoters with a view to establishing how Lane Rental charges might be avoided where possible, meaning the works create less disruption on Surrey's busiest roads at the busiest times. Streetworks officers will inspect works on site to ensure that dates, times and conditions of works granted a permit on lane rental streets are adhered to and appropriate enforcement action, or an increase in Lane Rental charges applied will be actioned if these inspections highlight any works not following the agreed dates/times/conditions of the permit for the works. Thus far additional charges have been applied to 33 sets of works, following a site inspection from a Surrey officer.

MARISA HEATH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

3. JONATHAN HULLEY (FOXHILLS, THORPE & VIRGINIA WATER) TO ASK:

Would the Cabinet Member for Environment agree that providing carbon reduction literacy training for County Council officers, Councillors and Community Groups across Surrey, would further help raise awareness of and support for the County's Net Zero target by 2030? If so, what steps have already been taken and what future plans are in place in this regard?

RESPONSE:

Carbon Literacy Training is a useful tool to raise awareness and support for the Council's 2030 Net Zero target. Currently, an online training module is available to all Council officers and Members on Olive to provide a foundation level understanding of climate change in Surrey. Since that was launched in 2021, over 900 people have completed it. The Council also supported district and borough councils by making this module available to their officers and Members via Surrey Learning Pool.

The Climate Change team have been exploring options for further training which is interactive to empower staff and support embedding the Climate Change Delivery Plan in all decision-making processes, and this includes Carbon Literacy Training. Officers from the Climate Change team have spoken to the Carbon Literacy Trust, received the free toolkits for local authorities for Members, management and officers and are developing plans to pilot Carbon Literacy Training across the Council as part of the internal 'Green Champions Network'. The Carbon Literacy Trust is also currently developing a free toolkit for community leaders, which we will explore when it is available.

MARK NUTI, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES

4. TREFOR HOGG (CAMBERLEY EAST) TO ASK:

Community Hubs in Surrey make it easier for local residents to access health, wellbeing, educational and other resources they need in one place.

Will the Cabinet Member for Communities also consider making available information at these Community Hubs about how small and medium-sized local

businesses in Surrey are able to access the support they need to better harness renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions?

RESPONSE:

The Council is committed to developing modern libraries that are bright, inviting, flexible spaces. Operating as community hubs, we want our libraries to provide access to a range of valuable information and resources and to act as a gateway to events, activities and other public services through co-location and digital access.

The Council is using the Carnegie model that defines a modern library service as having four interconnected offers: Libraries as Social Hubs, Cultural Centres, Learning Hubs and Economic Enablers. This is illustrated in the diagram below:



As Economic Enablers and Learning Hubs, Libraries already provide information and support to support Surrey businesses on a range of topics. This includes free access to business information through specialist databases like COBRA database that contains all the information you need on researching markets and turning your idea into a business as well as free online learning and events to help you develop your business. Libraries also provide a range of general information and resources on climate change that can be utilised by all residents.

However, we recognise that there is more that can be done and, as anchors in the community, we will ensure that libraries play a key role in supporting the work to tackle climate change and reduce carbon emissions across the county.

Colleagues in the Library Service are starting to work closely with colleagues in Economic Development and the Greener Futures teams to support the Surrey

County Council Greener Futures Programme and Climate Change Delivery Plan. That will further strengthen the offer to businesses. This includes exploring how further information and resources can be made available through libraries and online as well as promoting key initiatives such as LoCase¹ and The Solar Accelerator grant² which are designed to help businesses reduce their emissions in the future:

- As part of the Council's support for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) located in Surrey, [LoCASE](#) grants of up to £10,000 are available, along with an environmental training scheme and events. The funding is available for businesses to implement energy efficiency measures, or business development for companies providing green services. The programme will run until April 2023.
- Also available to Surrey SMEs within the Coast to Capital LEP area of Surrey is a Community Solar Accelerator grant. Businesses can apply for up to £25,000 towards Solar PV arrays and electric vehicle charging points, this programme runs through to June 2023.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Robust enforcement of planning rules by the Council's planning enforcement team not only forces rogue developers to play by the planning rules, but effective enforcement also helps to protect Surrey's green open spaces and promotes our green agenda.

Can the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure update us on the recruiting of additional staff to the Council's planning enforcement team and other measures to enhance planning enforcement activity across the county?

RESPONSE:

The effective planning enforcement against unauthorised waste activities and the monitoring of developments that have been granted planning permission are both important for the protection of our environment and our residents. The number of unauthorised sites that the Planning Enforcement Team are investigating has increased significantly in 2020 and 2021. The pressure that this placed on the team has been recognised and, following an approved business case, the team has been recently restructured and expanded. The Council has successfully recruited a Senior Enforcement Officer and a Planning Development Monitoring Officer, both of whom have started with the Council in early January 2022. The additional staff resources will go some way to reducing the pressure on the team and to allow a more proactive approach. This will be kept under review and further resources allocated should this prove necessary, particularly in respect of Planning Appeals and Legal support.

Enforcement is carried out in accordance with the Council's Enforcement Protocol. This is currently being reviewed to make it clearer to residents and Members what the Council's approach is and what action is likely to be taken and when. Notwithstanding this, it is considered that fundamental changes to Planning and

Waste regulation are required at a national level, and this has been raised with Ministers by the Council previously.

CLARE CURRAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

6. JEREMY WEBSTER (CATERHAM HILL) TO ASK:

In light of recent press reports about the shocking and tragic deaths of young children at the hands of their parents and carers, there has been a good deal of focus on the importance of homes being visited and children being seen by social workers.

Can the Cabinet Member for Children and Families assure Members that it is the practice of Surrey's social workers to visit children regularly?

RESPONSE:

Children are seen regularly by social workers from the point of being referred into Children Social Care (CSC).

The document 'Children Services Practice Standards November 2021' clearly outlines the practice expectations for visiting children. These practice standards reflect the statutory requirements set out in the national guidance: Working Together 2018 and Surrey's own policies and procedures.

Children who are supported via a Child in Need Plan (CiN Plan) will be seen by their allocated social worker at least once every four weeks (or more frequently if there is a greater need).

Children who are supported via a Child Protection Plan (CPP) will be seen by their allocated social worker at least every ten working days.

All staff working with children and families are governed by our practice standards that highlight the importance of seeing children in person, alone where appropriate, and gaining their perception on life at home. Performance is reviewed regularly by senior leaders and operational managers and any issues around children being visited within expected timeframes are addressed promptly.

NATALIE BRAMHALL, CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY AND WASTE

7. WILL FORSTER (WOKING SOUTH) TO ASK:

- a) Please can the Council confirm how much it paid to purchase the Malvern Retail Park in 2017?
 - What is the latest valuation of this retail park?
 - Is it generating as much income as originally expected?

- b) Please can the Council also confirm how much it paid for the Debenhams site in Winchester?
 - What is the latest valuation of this asset?

- Is it generating as much income as originally expected?

RESPONSE:

- a) Halsey Garton Property Investments Ltd (HGPI) purchased Malvern Retail Park for £75m in 2017. The valuation undertaken in March 2021 valued the property at £35m, as recorded in the latest published accounts for HGPI. The current income is below the previous passing rent at purchase in 2017, which will not be disclosed due to commercial sensitivity. The rent has been reduced due to national weakening of the retail market, the effects of Covid-19 on tenants and the government moratorium on evictions for non-payment of rent. The park continues to have no voids and forecasts show the asset will continue to provide a net income to the Council, which is the primary function of the asset. We have no plans to sell the Retail Park to release capital gains or increase the book value.
- b) HGPI purchased the Debenhams in Winchester for £15.8m in 2017. The valuation as at March 2021 valued the property at £6.25m. The existing tenant Debenhams is in administration and therefore no income is currently being received. The cost to the Council is £nil as HGPI are continuing to service the debt liability in spite of £nil income from the tenancy agreement. Alternative options for the asset are advanced and will continue to be progressed once HGPI obtain possession. Revenue costs of holding the property will be incurred in the initial stages of possession prior to capital investment, however these are built into the budget of the company.

The HGPI portfolio is due to make a net contribution of £8.45m to the Council's revenue budget in 2021/22. The portfolio has made a further net contribution of £27.54m since the acquisition of the first asset in 2015/16.

MARISA HEATH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

8. LANCE SPENCER (GOLDSWORTH EAST AND HORSELL VILLAGE) TO ASK:

A healthy river system is one with a rich diversity of species and habitats all coexisting in clean water. As well as being somewhere we like to spend time, a healthy river can provide us with clean drinking water, flood retention and many more services important in our day-to-day lives.

Recently there have been stories of sewage overflow – in Surrey raw sewage flowed into Surrey's rivers for more than 19,800 hours last year. There were almost 1,900 reported raw sewage overflow spills from treatment plants in the county during 2020, prompting campaigners to call for change and improvements to the sewage network. The River Wey running through Guildford and Waverley is particularly bad and is listed in the top 23% of worst rivers in England.

Last week a further story emerged of tap water in parts of Kent and Surrey potentially being contaminated with E-coli after the bacteria was found at one of its treatment works. We know too that water companies have recently been authorised

to reduce the amount of chemicals in wastewater as a result of the ongoing HGV driver shortages. The right to sanitation is an element of "the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family" (Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights or ICESCR).

The UK considers that a right to sanitation entails achieving the outcome of providing a system for the treatment and disposal or re-use of human sewage and associated hygiene.

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment assure residents and Members that the responsible officers within Public Health and the Environment Agency have undertaken an assessment of the treatment works and water plants that supply Surrey to ensure that:

- a) E-coli is not detected in the local treatment works or in our rivers and that the testing regime has been reviewed to ensure this is robust.
- b) That there are sufficient chemicals in stock, or a plan has been developed to procure sufficient chemicals to ensure adequate purification of drinking water and sewage effluent.
- c) That any raw sewage overspill into rivers is being monitored and agreed in advance, and no unauthorised overspill is contaminating the local rivers.
- d) That the discharge permits from sewage treatment works are measuring effluent discharge in line with the Water Framework Directive classification system.

RESPONSE:

The responsibilities for this important question raised lie outside the remit of the Council, and as such the Cabinet Member for Environment has no readily available information on this matter. However, the below provides more information about the organisations with relevant responsibilities.

The Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) is the independent regulator of drinking water in England and Wales, ensuring that water companies supply safe drinking water that is acceptable to consumers and meets the standards set down in law. More information on the DWI including the standards for water testing is available here: www.dwi.gov.uk/.

The Environment Agency (EA) carries out water quality assessments of the main rivers and regulates discharge licenses. It works closely with water companies to ensure that they are closely monitoring and reporting back on their discharge activity. Water quality measurements are regularly carried out within the EA sampling regime and the data published, with chemical or biological results above the thresholds of the discharge permits investigated. Sampling data is available here: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/water-quality/view/landing> .

Individual Water Companies would each have their own business continuity arrangements to ensure that supplies of required chemicals are adequate to meet the requirements of the legislation and agreed limits from both the DWI and the EA.

A simple tool to help residents find the water companies for each area is available here: www.dwi.gov.uk/consumers/find-your-local-water-company/ .

Private household supplies - usually a well, borehole or spring - are monitored by the District or Borough Councils' environmental health departments.

The following website: www.discoverwater.co.uk/ has good interactive data provision on the issues raised in this question.

BECKY RUSH, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES

9. PAUL FOLLOWS (GODALMING SOUTH, MILFORD & WITLEY) TO ASK:

The changes to NI payments from April 2022, are likely to cost Surrey County Council approximately £2.5 million per year.

Will central Government be refunding this amount to the Council, or does this additional cost have to come from increased Council Tax charges.

RESPONSE:

The increase to employers' National Insurance contributions will cost the Council c.£2.5m per year for directly employed staff, with a further indirect impact through supplier cost increases. The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement released on 16 December 2021 did not include specific, identifiable funding for the National Insurance increase, however £18.8m of additional Government funding was announced for the Council, including a £7.9m "services grant" to cover cost pressures across all local government services.

The National Insurance increase is ultimately intended to fund the cost of Government proposals to reform Adult Social Care. The delivery of these proposals, which include the introduction of a cap in the cost of care for individuals, a potentially significant impact on the cost of local authority care packages and a resource requirement to implement the changes, is a much more concerning issue in the medium term. It is currently far from clear that the funding for these changes will match the increased cost and this represents one of the main sources of uncertainty in our medium-term planning. The Government announced £2.8m of funding for 2022/23 to cover the early work to implement reform. This has been ringfenced to fund the changes required, rather than included as general funding in the budget.

MARK NUTI, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES

10. JONATHAN ESSEX (REDHILL EAST) TO ASK:

Please can you provide a breakdown of the number of applications accepted, currently being processed and rejected by Your Fund Surrey up until the end of 2021 by financial value and topic area, and provide a summary of the reasons why those applications that have been rejected were considered outside of the Fund's criteria.

RESPONSE:

The Your Fund Surrey team pro-actively monitors and reports against applications which are made to the fund. A Your Fund Surrey (YFS) Monthly Update Report is published on the Members Portal.

This report covers all applications received detailing the applicant organisation, project information, funding amount requested and total project cost, alongside where in the process they are. There is a function on the spreadsheet which allows the users to filter the information according to Division, County Councillor and District and Borough. Also included in the report is a map of applications and key headline figures about how the fund is operating.

The reports have been shared monthly since June 2021, following the opening of the fund to applications in March 2021. The most recent report was published on 11 January 2022 detailing applications up until the end of December 2021.

Breakdown of Your Fund Surrey applications up to end of December 2021

	No. of applications	Estimated total cost of project	Value of funding requested
Total no. of applications to end Dec21 (Includes 9 duplicates)	218	£112,357,630	£86,979,422
No. of applications awarded funding	4	£819,548	£627,354*
No. of applications currently being processed	150	£124,527,115	94,854,857
No. of applications declined	64	£32,024,569	£23,519,900

*This figure includes contingency to be held by SCC, for release only upon an evidenced request.

Topic area

As part of the application process, applicants are asked to identify which of the Surrey's Community Vision 2030 aims the project lines-up with. The table below shows the number of applications aligning to each of the aims. When studying this information, it is important to note, that some projects select multiple aims.

Aims of Surrey's Community Vision 2030	Number of applications
Children and young people feel safe and confident	171
Everyone benefits from education, skills, and employment opportunities	98
Everyone lives healthy, active, and fulfilling lives	168
Everyone gets the health and social care support they need	66

Communities are welcoming and supportive	163
Residents live in clean, safe, and green communities	84
Journeys across the county are easier and safer	17
Everyone has a place they can call home	45
Businesses in Surrey thrive	48
Communities are well connected and grow sustainably	134

Summary of rejected applications

Applications are unsuccessful on the grounds of not being eligible to apply or not meeting the published criteria.

The majority of unsuccessful applications occur where the project does not make a positive difference to people's lives in the wider community, or when an application is not eligible due to requesting revenue funding, or funding less than £10,000.

Detailed guidance is published online to support applicants in meeting the requirements of the fund and unsuccessful applicants are provided with alternative funding streams to assist them in pursuing their project. To note, 8 of the 64 unsuccessful applications were withdrawn by the applicant.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

11. ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK: (2nd Question)

Cars and other obstructions on pavements are both dangerous and a huge inconvenience particularly for disabled people, parents with prams and elderly residents.

What measures can Surrey, working with the eleven boroughs and districts take to address this menace?

RESPONSE:

Surrey Highways and our parking enforcement partners at the district and borough councils recognise the problems caused by pavement parking, and we try to tackle the problem either through enforcement or the use of parking restrictions as part of our parking review process.

At present, the legal situation outside of London is that only the police can enforce pavement parking if it causes an obstruction. However, the district and borough parking enforcement teams can, and do, enforce pavement parking where there are already waiting restrictions (yellow lines) because these apply to the pavement as well as the road; however, in many cases they are not present.

Councils can make Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) to ban pavement parking over a small or large area which we could then enforce ourselves, but under current

legislation we would need to put up signs at regular intervals to indicate this restriction.

A blanket ban on pavement parking could also cause significant displacement problems in some residential areas as drivers would park wholly on the road leaving less space for emergency, public service and delivery vehicles to get through.

We think that changes are needed at a national level, and in 2019/20 the Government carried out a consultation concerning new laws that could reduce the problems caused by pavement parking. At the time, we responded positively to their consultation and fully support an option to introduce a new parking offence called 'unnecessary pavement obstruction' which could be enforced by our own enforcement officers without the need for a TRO. This would help us to manage this problem more effectively across the varied communities in Surrey in combination with our policies to help promote more sustainable modes of transport.

The outcome of the consultation and way forward has not yet been published by the DfT but we are hopeful that it maybe this year.

In the meantime, there is more information about reporting parking problems and requesting new parking restrictions, as well as how we carry out parking reviews to reduce obstructive parking by following this link: [The parking review process - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/transport/parking-reviews)

Other obstructions on the pavement can be reported to either the police if it is dangerous, or to Surrey Highways via our web page below, and we will aim to investigate and deal with the problem as soon as possible:

[Report it online - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/transport/parking-reports)

CLARE CURRAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

12. WILL FORSTER (WOKING SOUTH) TO ASK: (2nd Question)

Please can the Council confirm what percentage of child protection cases in the last two years have received statutory visits?

In those cases where no visit took place, what alternative appropriate support was put in place?

RESPONSE:

Statutory visit timeframes require that when a child is supported via a Child Protection Plan (CPP) they are seen at least every ten working days by the allocated social worker. Where concerns are heightened frequency of visits may increase.

Other partners within the professional network who are part of the 'core group' may also visit within this period. There are occasions when families are not at home when visited, particularly when the visit is unannounced. In these circumstances the visit may fall outside the required timeframe. If this occurs it is our practice for the social

worker to then make urgent contact with the family to rearrange the child protection visit at the earliest opportunity. There are no circumstances where an alternative to seeing children subject to child protection processes is acceptable and it is the expectation that if this occurs our escalation process is used to involve managers and where necessary our legal services.

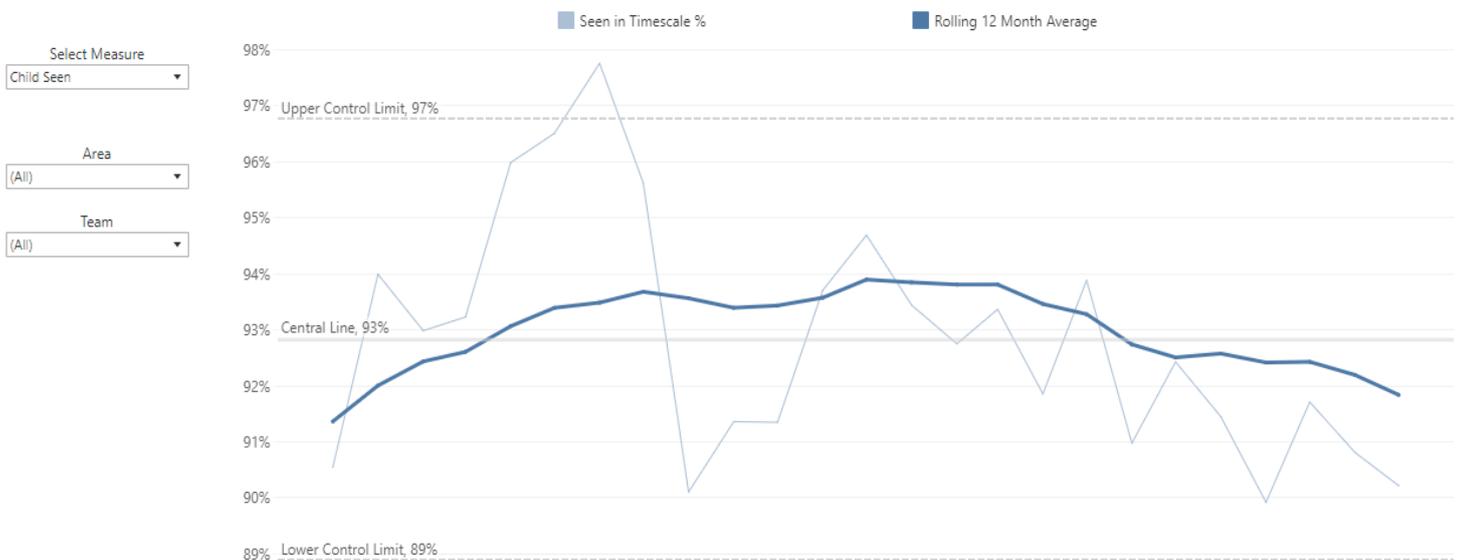
The table below provides the proportion of children subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP) on the last day of each month who are up to date with their statutory visits.

This shows that at any point in time at least 90% are up to date with their visits.



Children Subject of a Child Protection Plan - Statutory Visits

A statistical process control chart showing the proportion of children who were the subject of a child protection plan seen within the last 10 working days.



	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21
Number of Children Subject of CPP	634	648	669	693	696	714	711	728	757	763	785	793	827	837	854	903	932	914	974	989	1,028	1,001	1,000	1,000	1,021
Seen in Timescale	574	609	622	646	668	689	695	696	682	697	717	743	783	782	792	843	856	858	886	914	940	900	917	908	921
Seen in Timescale %	91%	94%	93%	93%	96%	96%	98%	96%	90%	91%	91%	94%	95%	93%	93%	93%	92%	94%	91%	92%	91%	90%	92%	91%	90%
Rolling 12 Month Average	91%	92%	92%	93%	93%	93%	93%	94%	94%	93%	93%	94%	94%	94%	94%	94%	93%	93%	93%	92%	93%	92%	92%	92%	92%

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

13. JONATHAN ESSEX (REDHILL EAST) TO ASK: (2nd Question)

Please can you indicate the total number of schemes listed on the Integrated Transport Scheme (ITS) lists for all of the boroughs and districts of Surrey and provide a brief analysis of how these requests breakdown in terms of different types of scheme.

RESPONSE:

In 2021/22 the Local and Joint Committee have been allocated £7m of capital, £0.608m revenue, access to developer contributions and parking surplus

funds. These budgets are used for a range of works, not just ITS. Each of the eleven committees reports how they allocate their funding at their meetings, the details of which are available on the Council's website. In addition to ITS works commissioned by the Local and Joint Committees, there are further works promoted by the Active Travel programme, road safety team, major projects and those which complement new developments.

For 2021/22 the design & build programme for the Local and Joint Committees has the following total number of ITS schemes. These vary from speed limit changes to pedestrian crossings. Further details are in the publicly accessible Committee reports.

Elmbridge 12
Epsom & Ewell 5
Guildford 20
Mole Valley 4
Reigate & Banstead 9
Runnymede 7
Spelthorne 6
Surrey Heath 7
Tandridge 3
Waverley 8
Woking 5

Each Committee has agreed a number of schemes over the years and this was in part why the Cabinet increased capital funding by £4m to £7m from 2020/21, to help Local / Joint Committees prioritise their most important schemes. Not all schemes on historic Committee ITS lists are still their priority, for a variety of reasons.

To undertake the analysis as requested in the question is complex. To ensure the Member for Redhill East gets the information in the manner he requires, Highway Officers would be happy to meet and explain the information that is available.

DENISE TURNER-STEWART, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND LEARNING

14. WILL FORSTER (WOKING SOUTH) TO ASK: (3rd Question)

Does the Council have an accurate figure, or at least an estimate, of the number of 'ghost children' in Surrey who no longer attend school due to the Covid pandemic?

Does the Council support the suggestion by Chief Inspector of Ofsted, Amanda Spielman, that a register should be set up of children not attending school?

RESPONSE:

The importance of children attending school, for their learning and development and as a protective safeguarding factor, is well understood. I am pleased with the way

that this Council, working with school leaders, health colleagues and the wider Surrey parent community, has supported children - and particularly vulnerable children - to attend school throughout the pandemic. If you have not read it already, I would commend to you an excellent update to the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee in October 2021 on the impacts of Covid-19 on education and how we have responded.

The Council has up to date and accurate information regarding children who are missing education or are being educated otherwise than at school, including electively home educated (EHE) children. Generally, Surrey has a very low number of children who are missing education entirely (those who are not a school roll and are not receiving any education provision); this may be for medical reasons or awaiting a placement in school through Admissions. This figure is usually less than 50 children, which is less than 0.05 % of the school population of 155,000. We have not seen increases in these numbers during the pandemic.

We currently have 1,535 young people who are EHE, this cohort increased during the pandemic although the rate of increase is now slowing. Our team of Inclusion Officers are proactive at working with schools to follow up cases where parents have indicated they wish to EHE and deregister their child from school. Before a child is removed from the school roll, the school and the Inclusion Officer will discuss with parents why they want to take this step and to explain to them their responsibilities as a parent who EHE. We offer parents a comprehensive welcome pack with information and guidance, and follow up with regular monitoring visits at home.

The Council takes seriously its responsibility to ensure young people regularly attend school and we are very aware of the anxiety of parents in relation to Covid-19. The Council has in place a strategy group chaired by the Director of Quality and Performance, which is attended by a wide range of partners including school leaders, parent representative groups, the voluntary sector and public health, which has encouraged attendance and monitored absence. The group commissioned a leaflet to encourage parents to send their children to school during the pandemic. They provided on-line information for parents and young people who were anxious about Covid and school attendance. As a result, school attendance in Surrey during the lockdowns was above the national average.

The Council's response to the Department for Education (DfE) consultation on EHE made it very clear that we support a requirement for children who are electively home educated to be registered with their local authority due to our safeguarding responsibilities. To this end, the Chair of the Surrey Safeguarding Children's Partnership wrote to the Minister for Children and Families to call for the strengthening of checks to ensure parents were accountable for EHE and the requirement for parents to work with the Council.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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

- a) Please can you provide details of the standard for pavement surfacing required as part of the new Highway Contract.
- b) Please can you confirm how individual pavement defects and longer stretches of pavement that are not up to standard are prioritised to ensure safe use of pavements by pedestrians and those on a mobility scooter.

RESPONSE:

- a) All road and pavement surfacing is carried out to national technical specifications, codes of practice and methodology; to confirm, this will be no different in the new Highway Contract. With regards to checking the quality of the work undertaken by the contractor to ensure that those specifications are met, we carry out technical testing by our Materials Laboratory, and will have a robust contractual governance process. This will include “Key Performance Indicators” to measure quality and performance.
- b) Our strategy for managing defect hazards is based on asset management best practice, and we adopt a risk-based approach to all activities as recommended in CIHT's UKRLG [*Well-managed Highways Infrastructure: A Code of Practice \(Oct 2016\)*](#).

Individual pavement defects such as potholes and trip hazards are repaired throughout the year as they come to our attention and meet our [safety standards](#). Highway Safety Inspections are carried out at frequencies based on pavement hierarchy taking account of criteria in terms of their usage being in proximity of schools, care homes and other local amenities. Residents can report pavement defects to us either on the '[report it](#)' tab on our website or by telephoning our contact centre. These reported defects are also checked and prioritised in accordance with the [Safety Defect Matrix](#) and those that meet the intervention criteria are fixed in accordance with response times.

Longer stretches of pavement are recorded and assessed by the Asset Programme team with proposed schemes being prioritised for inclusion on our highway maintenance investment programme known as [Horizon](#). Proposed schemes are identified from nationally recognised condition surveys which assess functionality and serviceability. All pavements on the planned maintenance programme are prioritised in accordance with our [cabinet approved process](#). This process takes account of criteria including condition; network priority; risk; value for money and network management.

Councillors may also use their local allocation budgets to promote maintenance works to address issues on pavements.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**16. WILL FORSTER (WOKING SOUTH) TO ASK:
(4th Question)**

Follow up on Schools streets pilot

In October 2020 the Council passed a motion proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group, in which the Council agreed to implement an initial Schools Streets pilot in Bullers Road, Farnham. (Will Forster)

- a) What progress has been made on implementing this pilot scheme?
- b) How many schools in Surrey have now achieved Eco Schools accreditation as part of the Schools Air Quality Programme?
- c) At the time of the motion 104 Surrey schools were registered on Modeshift STARS portal and 41 had an accredited travel plan. What are the current numbers one year on?

RESPONSE:

- a) Members will recall that while the Council has the power to introduce School Streets, outside of London councils do not yet have the power to enforce them. In recent months, the Department for Transport (DfT) have opened an application process for local authorities to apply for the powers to enforce moving traffic offences for the first time - which would include being able to enforce point closures and school streets. Officers are working on Surrey's application for these powers using the process set out by the Department for Transport, and it is expected that this will be submitted this Spring. It is unclear as to how long the DfT will take in approving applications. If successful, the Council will then need to set up a back office to administer the processing of fines.
- b) Currently, there are 58 schools in Surrey with the highest "Green Flag" Eco School award. This means that the Council is in the top 10 local authorities for the number of schools with an award in the UK. In this current academic year, we are working with an additional 10 schools on achieving a Green Flag Status through a dedicated Eco School Engagement officer to assist schools with this process. The Council will also be hosting a schools Eco Summit on 16 and 23 March where teachers can attend presentations and workshops on topics such as transport, waste and energy to help with their Eco Schools awards.

The Air Quality Programme was initially funded by a DEFRA grant in 2018 which helped the council to develop air quality resources for 60 schools. This consisted of an air quality theatre production, classroom workshops and

classroom materials. In 2019/20 the county council collaborated with six Districts and Boroughs who provided further funding to reach an additional 30 schools.

- c) It is hoped that by the end of March 2022, the Council's Safer Travel team will have achieved a total of 75 schools with accredited [Modeshift STARS](#) travel plans. This will include one with a gold award and five with silver awards. There has been an increase in the resources and training that is being offered to our schools, including online training support and enhanced webpages to support them through the travel plan process. The team are planning to develop short "how to" videos and publish case studies in collaboration with key schools who have demonstrated a reduction in car use, so that they are able to share this with other schools. The team will also be introducing a new pedestrian training course that will work similarly to our Bikeability training offer in the coming months. Members can email: schooltravelplans@surreycc.gov.uk to find out about their local schools.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Becky Rush

PORTFOLIO: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

2021/22 Budget Update: At Month 7, the Council forecast a deficit of £17m against Directorate revenue budgets. Contingencies built into the budget exceed the deficit, and so a balanced outturn is expected. As contingencies are applied, the projected Directorate overspend will reduce. Cabinet Members will continue to work with Directorates and Finance to manage the budget position and minimise the use of contingencies. The Capital Programme forecast at M7 is £191.7m, against a budget of £202m. The reduction results from an in-depth review of the phasing of expected spend.

2022/23 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2026/27: The Draft Budget and MTFs was presented to Cabinet on 30 November 2021. Select Committees met in the week commencing 13 December to consider the budget. Resident and stakeholder engagement launched on the 30 November and continued until the 7 January. The Final Budget will be considered by Cabinet on 25 January and Council on 8 February 2022. The Draft Budget set out a provisional gap for 2022/23 of £19.5m, driven by the need to maintain the delivery of priority services and meet the costs of capital investment. The extent to which an Adult Social Care precept is required to close the gap will be set out in the Cabinet budget papers ahead of their recommendation to Council.

Internal Audit: The current Internal Audit plan for 2021/22 has 97 assignments within it, of which 43 had been finalised by the end of quarter 2. Of this body of completed work, only 2 audits received a Partial Assurance opinion (both in relation to pension fund administration for SFRS and LGPS, issued in quarter 1) and none have received Minimal Assurance. The remainder of assignments completed have been of Reasonable or Substantial Assurance (or grants certified without qualification). There are 32 assignments in progress, leaving only 22 (23% of the plan) yet to begin. The position to the end of Q3 is currently being drafted for reporting to Audit and Governance Committee.

HR & OD: We are progressing with the Workforce of the Future strategy. From the start of 2022 we will be undertaking a three-year programme of reward reform to simplify and modernise the reward approach across the council and to fit with our talent attraction and retention initiatives, ensuring we have a strong Employee Value Proposition. This links to ongoing initiatives to create more resilience, engagement, and diversity in our workforce. Following new legislation, we have introduced a vaccination policy to ensure that all employees, in settings where vaccination is mandated, are compliant.

IT & Digital: Aligning to the Digital Operating Model, the digital teams are working across SCC to deliver Discovery Projects with Adults, Surrey Fire and Rescue, Schools Appeals, and a Customer Relationship Management system. In design projects include: Bidding process, Joiners, Movers and Leavers (JML), Adults front door.

This year has seen award winning recognition for the IT&D team's talent, innovation, and hard work. Programmes have driven forward critical and inspiring changes in the way we respond and interact with our residents; we have worked in new ways, tried new technologies and approaches, collaborating with our residents and partners, and worked closely with our services to achieve the best outcomes. Awards include: *Women in Tech Excellence* (Jo Blount, Digital Leader and Innovator of the year, Morag Dowds, Transformation Leader), *Local Government Chronical Awards* (Covid-19 Response), *APM Awards* (Surrey Family Help Hub and School Admissions Chatbot), *UK IT Industry* (School Admission Chatbot & Agile Capabilities Programme), *Connected Britain Digital programme* (Digital Council of the Year category), *Real IT* (finalists and winner, School Admissions Chatbot - Best Use of New Technologies category as well as overall winner).

Household Support Grant: SCC has taken a partnership approach to develop proposals for spending its allocation of the recently announced Household Support Grant (£5.3m). The grant runs to 31 March 2022 and is provided to enable the Council to support vulnerable households with the cost of food, energy, water, and other essentials. The grant has been allocated to enable: continued support for those eligible for free school meals during the upcoming school holidays, provide support for food and bills to care leavers over the Christmas period, ensure the Crisis Fund is equipped to meet demand, provide funding to specialist countywide VCF organisations reach households in need of support, provide additional funding to foodbanks/community fridges, and distribute the majority (£2.8m) to District and Borough Councils to utilise their existing schemes, local knowledge and networks to target specific local need in their respective areas.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Rebecca Paul

PORTFOLIO: Levelling Up

Levelling Up: In Surrey we have been working towards levelling up by helping those who need us most and enabling everybody in Surrey to reach their full potential. We are doing this through delivering the Community Vision 2030 ambitions and the goals outlined in our organisation strategy: growing a sustainable economy from which everyone can benefit, a greener future, empowered and thriving communities, and tackling health inequalities; guided by our principle of 'no one left behind'.

A Government White Paper on levelling up is expected in early 2022, setting out further details on the Government's ambitions. In the meantime, we have been working with the 'This is Purpose' coalition to identify how we are doing against 14 levelling up goals, with a Surrey impact report due to be published in the spring. Much of the Council's ongoing work is central to the levelling up agenda, guided by our principle of 'no one left behind', including our investment in social and community infrastructure such as libraries, our work to tackle child poverty, and improving the county's transport and digital infrastructure.

We cannot deliver the levelling up agenda alone, and are continuing to work closely with partners in the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) to deliver on the county's priorities; working alongside businesses, universities, Local Enterprise Partnerships and local government on the One Surrey Growth Board and the business-led Surrey Business Leadership Forum, and with health partners, District and Borough Councils and businesses on the Mental Health Partnership Board; and also with District and Borough Council's on Surrey's 2050 Place Ambition – to name a few examples.

To bring partners even closer together to coordinate work to level up and ensure no one is left behind, we have recently established the Surrey Forum which brings together a range of leaders from the public sector, private sector, and VCFS to strengthen collaboration between partners, and embed new ways of working to empower communities. We are currently exploring priorities and investment propositions in preparation for future funding opportunities, such as through the next round of Levelling Up Funding and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Emerging priorities have been identified through the Surrey Infrastructure Plan prioritisation work, as well as initiatives which stem from the place-based work in priority places in Surrey and interventions identified through the One Surrey Growth Board.

Family Hubs: The Government has committed to championing 'Family Hubs', which are a way of joining up services at local level and bringing existing family help services together to improve access to services, and connections between families, professionals, services, and providers, and putting relationships at the heart of family help. Family Hubs aim to bring together services for families with children of all ages (0-19) or up to 25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), with a great Start for Life offer at their core. The Family Hub can include hub buildings and virtual offers, however, how services are delivered varies from place to place, but the following principles are key to the model:

- More accessible – through clearly branded and communicated hub buildings, virtual offers, and outreach.
- Better connected – driving progress on joining up professionals, services, and providers (state, private, voluntary) through co-location, data sharing, shared outcomes, and governance. Moving from services organised for under-fives, to families with children of all ages, reduces fragmentation (even though an emphasis on early years and the 'Start for Life' offer will remain).
- Relationship-centred – practice in a Family Hub builds on family strengths and looks to improve family relationships to address underlying issues.

We have submitted a bid to the DfE for some transformation funding for Surrey which will allow us to explore the ideas as laid out above and if we are successful then by March 2024, we will develop four Family Hubs in Surrey, one in each of our Children Services geographical quadrants. The location of each of the hubs will be based on the triangulation of multi-agency data that highlights the areas of greatest inequalities. Surrey's pockets of inequalities (e.g. health, financial etc.) have widened because of the pandemic and therefore significantly impacting on families outcomes. We will utilise learning from the pandemic, work collaboratively with our families and our clinical leadership to develop high quality services. We will embed a Public Health approach by providing early intervention to prevent escalation of needs and by doing so are supporting a key principle in Surrey's [Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) that 'no one gets left behind' and supporting the [Corporate Parenting Strategy](#) by helping vulnerable children remain safely with their families and prevent the need for children to come into care.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Sinead Mooney

PORTFOLIO: Adults and Health

Consultation on Future of In-House Older People's Homes: The consultation into the future of the eight residential care homes for older people run by Surrey County Council (SCC) closed on 5 January 2022. There were just over 300 responses to the online survey. Staff briefing meetings were held in each of the care homes and virtual meetings were held for friends and relatives of the residents, with additional face to face meetings being held for those unable to participate online. These meetings allowed questions and concerns to be raised with the Service Delivery Team and resulted in an extensive set of [Frequently Asked Questions](#). It is planned that a report will be made available to the Cabinet, based on the consultation responses, for them to make the decision on the homes in February 2022.

Budget Update: Adult Social Care is forecasting to spend £383.9m against the £380.7m budget set for 2021/22 representing a forecast overspend of £3.2m (0.8%). This is due to an increase in care package expenditure largely as a result of factors caused by the pandemic since the budget was set. The scale of care package pressures is being mitigated in 2021/22 by a number of one-off or likely temporary measures. The full year impact of the increased care package commitments was factored into the 2022/23 Draft Budget proposals that were published in November. These proposals will be updated in the Final Budget proposals for 2022/23 that will be published by the Council's Cabinet in January and considered by Council in early February.

The latest forecast for the Public Service Reform and Public Health (PSR&PH) 2021/22 budget is for it to be balanced. The Public Health service continues to manage a range of Covid grant funded programmes to manage and mitigate against the impacts of the pandemic. The 2022/23 draft budget proposes that PSR&PH retain the same financial envelope for 2021/22 with the directorate protected from efficiencies towards the Council's corporate funding challenge. This will require PSR&PH to mitigate their own service pressures. Some of the Covid grant programmes will need to continue in 2022/23 and will be funded either by further Covid grant funding or the Council's Covid reserves.

Technology Enabled Care: Phase 1 of the technology-enabled care programme began in January 2021 in Mole Valley and phase 2 started in September 2021 with the roll out of the service to people supported by Adult Social Care in the Reigate and Banstead and Tandridge areas. It has focussed on testing the remote monitoring solutions on a wider scale. Planning for phase 3 of the programme is underway with the development of a self-funder model, as well as a mobile response service and is likely to go live in February 2022, subject to recruitment to the responder service. Discussions are taking place with other Districts and Boroughs to explore how remote monitoring could be rolled out county-wide with the existing infrastructure.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy Refresh: The Health and Wellbeing Board has approved the revised outcomes, target population groups, community principles, and system capabilities for the refreshed health and wellbeing strategy. These draw on the overall enhanced focus on reducing health inequalities, which includes addressing the longer-term disproportionate impact of the pandemic on the more vulnerable in Surrey. As part of taking forward this new approach, the board also agreed the following two actions:

- Endorses enhanced collaborative effort to work creatively with those communities in geographic areas of deprivation with the poorest health outcomes – with the Executive Director Customer & Communities (SCC) asked, on behalf of the system, to coordinate with colleagues and produce a fuller proposition for the next Board meeting.
- Supports the exploration of the adoption of a Health in all Policies approach across the Surrey system, with a report on its potential roll-out across the Surrey system to be brought to the next Board meeting.

The first action highlights the strong alignment with the empowering communities work that is being developed, recognising the need for a community-led approach is essential in reducing health inequalities. Quarterly highlight reports are now available on [healthy surrey](#).

Government's Adult Social Care Reform White Paper: People at the Heart of Care, the government's Adult Social Care Reform White Paper published on 1 December 2021, sets out a 10-year vision for Adult Social Care. It outlines a range of policies that the government will implement over the next three years, working together with the sector and those who draw on care and support. These proposals are backed by the new Health and Social Care Levy announced in September, of which £5.4bn is being invested into Adult Social Care over the next three years.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Clare Curran

PORTFOLIO: Children and Families

Essex Fostering Peer Review: As part of our continued improvement journey, our Partner in Practice, Essex County Council (ECC), carried out a peer review of our Fostering services in November. During the review, ECC met with colleagues across Children's services and spoke directly with some of our foster carers. The review provided us with a valuable learning opportunity and covered all of our Fostering services but focused particularly on the follow key areas: effectiveness of leadership, management, workforce development, availability of quality placements to meet need, engagement with foster carers and children, effectiveness of support systems, and compliance with regulations and quality standards. The Peer Review identified current strengths across the Fostering service, areas for development, where further improvement is needed, and a series of recommendations. We now have a project plan to address all areas for improvement and recommendations.

Celebration Fund: The capacity of the Celebration Fund (CF) has been increased resulting in more awards being made to children and young people in our care. Additional funding from the private sector (ICG Medical) and Active Surrey has increased the ability of the CF to make more awards, specifically for leisure activities and sports equipment. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Members for their contributions to the CF from your Member Community Allocations. I appeal to you as County Councillors who all have Corporate Parenting responsibilities to utilise your networks and local business associates, to help create opportunities for leisure and cultural experiences for children and young people in our care – ideally at no or a discounted cost.

If local businesses want to demonstrate meaningful social value in Surrey, they can contribute financially to the CF and/or pledge their support to improve local offers and support for Surrey's children and young people. The Fund continues to offer important awards that help the County Council as a Corporate Parent to celebrate and recognise achievements of those children and young people in our care. In 2020/21 we received a total of 116 applications, in 2021/22 136 applications were received and we are yet to count applications for the March 2022 Panel.

Pathways to Employment: Those in our care and care leavers progress into employment through a variety of pathways. Surrey has a well-established apprenticeship programme, with currently 31 young people engaged in apprenticeships across the Council and 13 apprenticeship posts being ringfenced for those with care experience. Direct work is undertaken with local Job Centres and the Kickstart scheme (a government initiative offering 6-month work placements for young people at risk of long-term unemployment). The team also work with private companies such as the Gatwick Diamond Group and voluntary organisations like The Refugee Council and Princes Trust Charity. I am proud also to share that Surrey currently has 60 care experienced young people in higher education. The Surrey Virtual School (SVS) has introduced a scheme in which our graduate entrants mentor those looked after children who aspire to go to university. This links with schemes such as 'Aim Higher' and Grandmentors to further promote mentoring and outreach opportunities.

We also work closely with the National Network for the Education of Care Leavers and the Universities of Surrey and Sussex. SVS is registered as an examination centre for functional skills and can enter young people in Years 10 and 11 remotely for the English and Maths qualification. Children's homes supported by the Fostering Service can offer ASDAN and AQA practical skills qualifications for residents. We have a range of targeted strategies including early intervention and identification of those at risk of not being in education, training, or employment and to try to address any barriers to participation. Currently 69% of care leavers are in employment, education, or training – this is a good level, but I would like it to be higher. The service also works intensively with the commissioning services to increase the use of training providers and third sector organisations to provide support.

Virtual School extended services: Following the recommendations put forward in the Department for Education Children in Need Review 2019, a new extended duty has been introduced to the role of Virtual School Heads as strategic leaders within the Local Authority who champion the education of children with a social worker; driving the work around improving progress and outcomes, especially for disadvantaged groups. Part of this work will be linking with key teams within Children's Services as well as school and education settings to ensure children with a social worker are also supported to transition smoothly to post education employment and training.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Denise Turner-Stewart

PORTFOLIO: Education and Learning

As we begin the new year, I would like to welcome our children and young people back to their school, college, and early years settings. I also want to thank all our education and early years staff for the tremendous work that they are doing to enable children's learning and development to thrive this term. Our collective commitment and ambition for Surrey children is a real strength of our partnership working.

Supporting children early: We have launched an innovative pilot of a 'Team around the school' approach to provide early help to children in our mainstream schools. Based in the northeast of the county, the project brings together a multi-disciplinary team of professionals to provide early support to children and young people before they reach crisis point. By working alongside the class teacher and the school special educational needs co-ordinator, the child's needs can be supported with extra help without the need to go through the lengthy process of statutory assessment. The team are already seeing signs of success with children thriving in their local mainstream school, closer to home with their siblings and peers, and without the need for intensive specialist provision. Following evaluation of the pilot later this year, it will be rolled out across Surrey in September 2022, ensuring the entire county is able to benefit from this innovation.

Success for the future: As well as supporting children to thrive locally, we are working with our young people with a range of complex physical, and mental health needs, and learning disabilities to build the foundations for their success in adulthood. Young people with additional needs are capable of sustained, paid employment with the right support. Our annual Preparation for Adulthood event, in partnership with Family Voice Surrey and East Surrey College, in November 2021 and the promotion of the Local Offer [[Preparing for Adulthood | Surrey Local Offer](#)], is putting young people and their families in touch with the wide range of opportunities available – including supported internships, college placements, and apprenticeships. The Council is doing its part too - we have created seven new apprenticeships for young people with additional needs and are promoting the scheme to our partner organisations, who are responding enthusiastically. I would encourage all County Councillors to promote the scheme to their local organisations so that we create as many training and employment opportunities in Surrey for our children with additional needs as possible.

More local provision for children with additional needs: I am delighted at the progress we are seeing in the expansion of the capacity of our local provision for children with additional needs. We are reaching out to our mainstream schools to help us create more specialist provision so that children are able to learn locally. There has been a very positive response and a real 'heartbeat' of inclusivity in our mainstream schools. We are also achieving some impressive turnaround times in our capital programme with the sixth form expansion of Philip Southcote special school completed in record time for September 2021. A big thank you to our Land and Property Officers for their sterling support.

Joined-up decision-making for children: When children have multiple, and complex needs it is vital that agencies work in tandem to ensure the provision to support their needs is holistic and joined up. Increasingly, we are putting in place the multi-agency decision-making processes and commissioning arrangements for some of our most vulnerable children in Surrey. Our new Joint Commissioning Panel, with senior representatives from health, education and social care, take a collaborative approach to bring diverse services together to meet an individual child's needs. We will be building upon this in 2022 to strengthen our joint commissioning based on a shared understanding of need in Surrey.

Improving speech and language practice: Our Speech and Language Therapists have launched a new communications champions network across Surrey schools to share good practice and develop staff skills to support students with delayed communication development. The network has generated over 500 followers on Twitter. Our therapists are also changing their approach in response to schools' feedback, working more directly in the classroom with children and teachers, and giving immediate suggestions for effective communication approaches. The response has been very positive with a staff member at Manor Mead School commenting: "I really like the way we work with the speech therapists now. I think it is also a good way to see the strategies we use in action and to help us improve our practice."

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Maureen Attewell

PORTFOLIO: Children and Lifelong Learning

Family Resilience Network (FRN): Our Family Resilience Network held a countywide meeting on the 30th November 2021, in order to reflect on progress and the way forward. The FRN acts as the Partnership Network for the Helping Families Early Strategy and brings together all agencies delivering early help together, in order to ensure services to children and families are coordinated in a multi-agency framework. The meeting focused on:

- The Partnership, which included the community and voluntary sector;
- Work with families being identified earlier and supported locally;
- Better co-ordinated support by professionals;
- How the early help service could be improved.

Whilst this meeting was positive and focused on what had been achieved in the first year of the Helping Families Early Strategy and the quadrant- based FRN meetings, the Partnership acknowledged that there was still some way to go and that any new priorities needed to 'evidence' the journey and shape the direction of the delivery going forward.

Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC): The Workforce Development Grant (WDG) is part of a wider RPC Conflict programme designed to promote better outcomes for children. The programme is currently running between April 2021 to March 2022. A total of £3.87 million WDG funding was made available to Local Authorities in England. Surrey County Council were successful in securing a grant of £45,000. This funding enabled us to procure relevant training for staff and partner agencies. In the recent Government Spending Review, it was announced that the Workforce Development Grant will be extended from April 2022 for a further 3 years. The Department for Work and Pensions has yet to announce the amount that each local authority can apply for or the criteria for potential funding applications.

Supporting Families Programme (Troubled Families): In October 2021, the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities carried out an assurance visit in Surrey. The Department confirmed that after auditing sample cases and speaking with partners, all Payment by Results claims were valid and that there had been an improved approach to embedding early help and whole family working across the partnership.

For 2021/22 Surrey can claim for 646 eligible families where we can demonstrate that we have worked with the whole family and they have sustained progress for at least 6 months after the family support intervention has ended. Due to Covid and the challenges families have faced in sustaining change during the pandemic, we are predicting to be able to make a Payment by Result claims for 90% of our 646-target number by March 2023. The recent Spending Review confirmed a further 3-year investment in the Supporting Families Programme with a proposed uplift of 40%.

Youth Justice: The Youth Offending Service (YOS) element of Surrey's Integrated Model recently had their HMIP Inspection from the 22-26 November 2021. Whilst the outcome has not been released yet, internally the YOS is of the view that it was able to demonstrate a much better picture and outcome from their last inspection in 2019. Details of the judgement will be announced in February 2022.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Mark Nuti
PORTFOLIO: Communities

Active Surrey: I am delighted to confirm that the Government's investment in the Holiday Activity and Food programme will continue for the next three years and continue to advocate for the importance of children being active throughout the school and have invited Members to contact wendy.newton@surreycc.gov.uk to arrange a visit to their local schools to encourage and celebrate their participation in the Active School Movement.

Arts Service: During October half term we delivered Music Residential, funded by Youth Music, which culminated in a recording session at the Academy of Contemporary Music. We were selected to present at the annual national Music Mark conference in December. With Surrey Hills ANOB, Surrey Hills Arts delivered the Surrey Hills Symposium at the University at Surrey. The event explored the theme "Our Climate and Biodiversity Emergency and looking at how artists are tackling this". We're also delighted to announce that we have recruited a new Kickstart apprentice to work in the Wardrobe from late January/ February 2022.

Heritage – Pride in Surrey & Black History Month: It was a riot of colour for the second Pride event on 25 September which Surrey Heritage attended with a stand as part of the Surrey County Council services presence. Surrey Heritage was very active throughout Black History Month with various events and activities to celebrate black history. Highlights included articles and information on the Exploring Surrey's Past and online talks including 'The Changing Face of Nursing: Black Nurses in Surrey Hospitals'.

Libraries: The Surrey Nature Explorer Passport was an interactive initiative over the summer for children to learn about our countryside and libraries. Over 1600 participants signed up to take part. Surrey Libraries are improving their service by increasing access to resources for Surrey residents, by almost 8 million items, through joining a library consortium which allows members to enjoy the benefits of libraries in 21 other local authorities and other services such as free internet across the 380 branches.

Registration & Nationality Service: The Registration Service began a joint working initiative with the Early Years Educational Effectiveness team to provide new parents with BookTrust baby packs and distributes 1,125 packs per month; making them the largest distributor in Surrey. Demand for registration services has remained high with 319 ceremonies, 1,468 birth registrations, 981 death registrations, 417 notice of marriage/civil partnership appointments, and 309 citizenship ceremonies taking place in October. The Service are recruiting and training additional staff to cope with winter pressures.

Customer Services: The team was shortlisted as finalists for two prestigious industry awards run by the Institute of Customer Service (ICS) and the Local Government Chronicle (LGC); the 'Best Customer Experience' category and the 'Team of the Year' category respectively. Although we didn't win, these nominations recognise the outstanding hard work and dedication of the team over the last eighteen months.

Your Fund Surrey: To confirm £30,000 has been awarded to Weybridge Men's Shed, for the internal fit out and underground water treatment system. £35,000 has been awarded to Claygate Recreation Ground Trust, to help build the Family Garden and pedestrian path to the pavilion. Normandy Community Shop and Café has been awarded £518k for construction costs, so residents will benefit from being able to shop and meet locally. £44,000 has been awarded for a Limpsfield Way walk and Family cycle route that provides an inclusive way to enjoy the local countryside and amenities.

VCFS: In October, the Government allocated £5.3m in Household Support Funding to help families primarily with food and fuel. Through collaborating with partners, it was agreed to distribute this funding to ensure vulnerable households are supported as quickly as possible. In November, we also built on our partnership with the Community Foundation Surrey, giving them a grant of £200,000 to support projects and initiatives that aim to mitigate and address poverty, particularly the root causes. This will be fully matched through public donations, maximising our collective resource to support Surrey's communities at a time when it is needed the most.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Kevin Deanus

PORTFOLIO: Community Protection

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service: In November 2021, Joint Fire Control went live with Surrey Fire and Rescue Service now taking emergency calls and mobilising for East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, along with West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. This tri-service approach will benefit all three services and residents, giving increased resilience and better interoperability.

December saw the publication of the long-awaited inspection report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS). When inspecting fire and rescue services in England HMICFRS score against three 'pillars' – effectiveness, efficiency and people. The report says that SFRS is moving in a positive direction in delivering its service to the public and also highlighted some areas for improvement. Importantly the causes of concern from the previous report have been closed and no new causes of concern were raised.

Out of the 11 subcategories within the pillars, 6 have seen improvement, which includes a previous grading of inadequate within the efficiency pillar. The additional five subcategories are now all graded as good. An Inspection Improvement Plan is being developed which will be provided to HMICFRS and will be monitored on a regular basis through the Fire Authority scrutiny process. Further updates will be provided to members in due course.

Coroners: We now have a full complement of permanent staff within the Coroners Service supporting the courts work and managing body storage processes across Surrey. All three Coroner's courts are now used 5 days per week and there are plans underway to utilise other space in the building to set-up two further (administrative) courts as and when required and to deal with the backlog of cases, built up due to Covid. Due to the number of deaths in Surrey the body storage facility at Headley Court is now in operation. The facility is being run by the Coroners Service and supported by the Fire Service.

Emergency Planning: The Emergency Planning Team (EMT) have been able to take a step back from administrating the Surrey Local Resilience Forum which has enabled the team to focus on SCC-centric improvement issues which had been delayed due to the pandemic. An external ISO audit across all County Council Services began in November with the aim of assuring the Council's Business Continuity plans and embedding resilience into our everyday thinking and practice across the organisation. EMT have been working with Democratic Services and the Estates Teams to enhance the security of our buildings. They have also been providing advice for staff and Councillors on their personal safety following the terrorist attacks in the autumn that led to an increase in the UK Threat Level to Severe, meaning an attack is highly likely. Beyond this they remain available 24/7 to deal with incidents.

Flooding: Surrey experienced flooding as a result of localised storms throughout 2021. The most severe flooding was in July 2021 where 580 properties were flooded, including approx. 90 internally flooded properties. The main areas impacted were Worcester Park in Epsom and Ewell, and Nork and Tattenhams in Reigate and Banstead. The flooding in both of these areas has been investigated and formal Section 19 reports are being finalised, to be published shortly. Other areas of note for the July flooding include Tadworth in Reigate and Banstead, Walton on Thames in Elmbridge, and Farnham in Waverley.

Since July, there have been a number of smaller storm events which have caused localised flooding. These storms occurred in August and October, with 33 properties currently being recorded as flooded, 6 of which were flooded internally. The areas of note for these storms were Beare Green in Mole Valley, Caterham and Whyteleafe in Tandridge, and Addlestone in Runnymede. Due to the more localised nature of the flooding and lower numbers of flooded properties, these investigations are being undertaken as business as usual.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Matt Furniss

PORTFOLIO: Transport and Infrastructure

Bus Back Better: Our Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) was submitted to Government at the end of October seeking £122m of Government funding to improve bus service frequencies on key routes, deliver new highway infrastructure to enhance bus reliability, improve passenger facilities, and provide better information, including more real time information. The bid sits alongside the Council's own investment in the introduction of more zero emission buses and community transport vehicles. A Government funding announcement is imminent. In preparation, we continue to work with bus operators to agree our investment priorities and to establish an Enhanced Partnership scheme. This will be the formal delivery mechanism for the BSIP and will be in place by 1 April 2022.

Preparing for Winter: The weather in November, December, and the beginning of January was colder than usual for the time of year and therefore up to 10 January we have undertaken more gritting runs than average - 28 full salting runs and 7 runs only on the high routes. We have ordered more salt from our supplier to top up each of our salt barns and this season we are ordering salt more frequently than usual to mitigate the risk of haulage driver shortages and any impacts from the pandemic. The grit bin programme has been completed, fills and repairs have been undertaken based on information received through web site enquiries and from our inspection programme over the summer. The Winter Service policy and information about salting and gritting is available on the website [here](#).

Road and Pavement Programme Update: To date, we have completed 58 miles of carriageway resurfacing works. We have treated 19 miles of pavements. We still have over 6 miles of treatments to carry out on roads before end of the financial year, along with another 5 miles of pavement treatments. Mobilisation with our new Term Maintenance Contractor, Ringway, who officially start at the end of April 2022 has begun. We are working through 10 different Mobilisation Working Groups with Ringway and Surrey colleagues to provide a seamless and collaborative service through the end of the current contract and start of the new one.

Number of trees planted on highway: The County Council remains committed to planting on the public highway having so far planted 73 new trees this year, 340 in 2020 and 250 in 2021. This season we are planning to plant at least a further 150 in residential verges and 10,000 smaller whips.

Infrastructure: The Surrey Infrastructure Plan Phase 1 schemes were approved by Cabinet in October and are progressing towards implementation. A further batch of schemes is being assembled based on funding opportunities being identified, priorities from D&Bs and progress across a range of infrastructure areas and these will be taken to Cabinet in the Spring. These form part of the expanded infrastructure programme including the River Thames Scheme, EVs, A320, and Farnham, and collectively lead to reducing carbon, empowering our communities, improving resilience, and supporting our businesses and local economy. Phase 2 of the revised Healthy Streets street design guidance is underway with a final version expected Spring 2022.

Surrey Minerals and Waste Local Plan: The first public consultation stage in the development of the new Minerals and Waste Local Plan is live, having launched in November and will run for 16 weeks, closing in March. The consultation package is wide ranging in content and material and, subject to Covid restrictions, the Minerals and Waste Planning Policy Team will also host several public engagement events in the community across Surrey and several online focus groups. The focus groups will be made up of 'identified low user groups' such as the BAME community and young adults from 16-24. Prior to consultation launch, the Minerals and Waste Policy Team consulted with our planning colleagues at our Districts and Boroughs, and SCC Member Engagement Sessions to keep all interested parties updated on the Plan.

LTP4 Consultation Response: Statutory Consultation ended 31 October 2021. Although we completed extensive engagement with key partners and residents, including social media campaigns, the number of respondents was limited. Positively, those who did respond were generally supportive. The report to December Cabinet has been slightly delayed enabling further targeted engagement. This second phase of engagement has now commenced, firstly, to secure more demographically balanced and statistically robust views from a wider cross-section of the community using a mixture of online, postal, and potentially face to face engagement with key groups such as younger people, women, businesses and disabled people and secondly, students from the University of Creative Arts have been commissioned to consider how climate change might impact on how they will be living and travelling in 2032 to help raise awareness and stimulate further debate. The outcomes of both phases of the engagement of the LTP4 will report to Cabinet in April or May 2022.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Natalie Bramhall

PORTFOLIO: Property and Waste

Capital Projects: Following a busy 2021 capital projects continue at pace. Construction has started on two Children's Homes and a Family Contact Centre. SEND Phases 1-3 continues, design feasibility work for SEND Phase 4 (a further 800 places) commenced this month, as well as several new school expansion projects. Remedial works at the Downs GRT site have commenced and the Pendell GRT transit site planning application has been submitted. Works providing new salt barns at Godstone and Merrow are due to commence in Spring 2022. Provision of the temporary replacement mortuary at Bagshot is underway and design work continues for the Permanent Mortuary; Cabinet will see this in March 2022. Feasibility studies are in progress for several Library refurbishments and co-location opportunities are being explored. Three independent living projects have been progressed to a RIBA Stage 2 design and will also be presented to Cabinet in March.

In December, Cabinet approved an Agile Office Estate strategy to rationalise and modernise Surrey County Council's workplace across the county. As we move into 2022 the programme team will be expanded, and targeted staff engagement, commercial negotiations and refurbishment works will begin to deliver this transformation and the associated benefits.

The Resources and Performance Select Committee considered an update to the Surplus Assets and Disposal workstream on 17 December 2021. The review process is ongoing to identify and declare assets as surplus; a number of properties are currently being marketed.

Land & Property (L&P) continue to work closely with the Greener Futures team and are in the process of establishing a more focussed partnering operating model between the two services. Delivery of projects funded by external grants totalling around £2.3m to date is on track for completion by the end of March 2022. Bids for further funding totalling £7.6m to decarbonise 31 sites have been submitted. Heat Decarbonisation Plans are being drawn up for 39 buildings and a programme of site surveys is underway.

The Commercial Team continues to work proactively with our tenants against the backdrop of the Covid pandemic. In the last quarter c.£1m of arrears was collected. The team has successfully secured additional lettings for Brightwells, Farnham, and we are anticipating over 80% of floorspace will be let on practical completion, Summer 2022. Prior to Christmas we exchanged on the sale of Pixham Lane, Dorking. Completing in early 2023 this will provide a substantial capital receipt to the Council.

Planon: The new property system, Planon, is on track to be fully delivered by 31/3/22. Planon is a 'one stop' property system providing Management Information, performance dashboards, 'live' data, auto workflows between teams and visibility across projects on all properties. The existing system, PAMs, will close in Q1 2022 although access will be available for a further 12 months to safeguard data. Further property data modules are planned to support SCC priorities e.g. Economic Growth, Agile, and Greener Futures. SCC property data layers can now be added to existing SCC mapping technology with developments to add Land Registry title, D&B and Central Government ownership to support strategic planning across Surrey. L&P continues to support D&B requests for property mapping data.

Waste Contract Dispute: The Independent Certifier has certified that the food waste treatment plant has been accepted. SCC remains in dispute with Suez, and this is now subject to a private arbitration process. The Environment Agency continues to monitor the site and deal with complaints. Emissions performance has improved in recent months.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Marisa Heath

PORTFOLIO: Environment

Climate Change: Since the Greener Futures Climate Change Delivery Plan was endorsed, officers have been focusing on a delivery approach, prioritising initiatives, and producing a Greener Futures Engagement approach, which is being shared with the GF Member Reference Group. The Initial Greener Futures Finance Strategy is currently being reviewed by officers in Finance, Land and Property, and other relevant services, with further work commissioned to develop the Strategy and a Greener Futures Data and an Economics Manager being recruited to lead on this work.

In November the Greener Futures Board discussed green finance opportunities and made a commitment to progress this work through a series of future workshops to maximise opportunities for public, private, and community investment. We are developing an approach to strengthen work with Surrey's Universities, including University of Surrey, Royal Holloway, and University of Creative Arts to help progress the Greener Futures work. An area of particular importance will be about green skills and training and creating opportunities for students to engage and take ownership of Surrey's net zero carbon targets.

In regard to current climate change projects, the Council has submitted a bid to the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund (PSDF3), seeking £8m to decarbonise approximately 30 buildings in the Council's corporate estate and we should find out whether we've been successful this month. Officers are feeding into the Total FM Solutions outsourcing programme to ensure net zero carbon is embedded, and we are working with consultants to deliver the schemes included in the PSDF1 scheme, for which the Council was awarded £1.6m. Since the launch of the LoCASE project 95 Surrey businesses have signed up for a grant which far exceeds the uptake in other partner authority areas.

On 1 December the Council launched a Community Energy Pathways scheme, which provides support to community groups wishing to establish their own community energy projects, helping them to access the necessary funding to do so. Finally, the COP26 Regional Roadshow event in Farnham on 10 November was a success promoting numerous partnership initiatives to decarbonise transport in a rural county. Those involved in the event included Ben Spencer MP, Jonathan Lord MP, and Paralympian Sam Ruddock. The social media posts reached 1.7 million people and the event was picked up by five media outlets including BBC London news, BBC South East and Greatest Hits radio.

Countryside - Newlands Corner: The Discovery Centre and toilets at Newlands Corner are almost complete. All information has now been provided to Guildford Borough Council and planning permission is expected to be granted early this year for the final works to the Discovery Centre and toilets. Commons consent for the play equipment is expected by the Spring of 2022. A small Christmas market was trialled at Newlands Corner on the weekend of 11 and 12 December selling gifts from local producers and this was really successful. A second market is being planned for later in the Spring/Summer. Natural play equipment is due to be installed at Newlands Corner once common's consent has been received.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Steve Bax

PORTFOLIO: Environment

Norbury Park: Natural play equipment is due to be installed at Young Street in Norbury Park before the spring. The Norbury Park Community Forum has reconvened with the second meeting launching the Council's consultation on the Vision for Norbury Park. The Vision supports the Council's aims to enhance nature and enjoyment at the site and so far feedback has been really encouraging with over 400 responses. A paper to Cabinet is anticipated in the Spring and will include plans to support woodland activities and visitor services at the old sawmill site.

Trees: Officers are working with contractors and partners to plant over 45,000 trees in the next three months, bringing the total planted to just under 300,000. We are running the scheme with Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) again to promote donations with all our partners including Squires Garden Centres and Hans Christmas Andersen, which will go towards the county's tree planting programme. More broadly we are working on a clear plan on tree planting in all areas particularly the more urban parts of our county and private land so that we can move faster and move blocks where possible on greening our community. We intend to hold an online tree summit in March for Surrey residents and groups.

Communications & Branding: Our Winter mailer was delivered to all Surrey residents with advice on mental health and winter support available. Our social media posts on the COP26 Green Zone event reached over a million people and media coverage was widespread. Over 2,100 children took part in Soon Surrey, a new organic channel using peer to peer to engage with young people in a meaningful way, and since April it has reached almost 400,000 Instagram users.