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Supplementary Agenda

Item 6 - Members' Question Time and Item 8 - Original
Motions - Alteration to 8 (i), Amendment to 8 (ii)

for the meeting of

THE COUNTY COUNCIL

to be held on

22 MARCH 2022

6 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

(Pages 7
- 42)

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.

8 ORIGINAL MOTIONS

Item 8 (i)

Catherine Powell (Farnham North) to propose to alter the motion standing in her own name under Standing Order 20.3(a) to read as follows:

(additional words underlined in bold and deletions crossed through)

This Council notes that:

Surrey Highways devotes a great deal of time and resource working with utility companies to identify unmarked assets requiring repair. Surrey Highways is committed to making sure that assets are kept temporarily safe until the utility company makes a permanent repair to their asset.

Currently, Surrey Highways has access to a limited number of asset maps for utility companies which are very useful and allow rapid identification of asset owners. However, Surrey Highways have no information at all for the majority of utility companies which makes identifying unmarked assets time consuming, resulting in adverse impacts on the travelling public for longer periods than necessary.

The 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 requests the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure to lobby Government to:

- I. Introduce a statutory requirement on utility companies to share any electronic asset maps with Local Authorities, updated at least annually, to support the Local Authorities in identifying the ownership of unmarked assets for repair work.
- II. Introduce a statutory requirement for utility companies **to introduce an easy identification system of assets to support work with Local Authorities in identifying third party assets** using technology **which is compatible with Local Authority systems** such as passive RFID (radio-frequency identification) tags ~~to~~

(iii)

~~support easy identification of assets owners~~ starting with areas of:

- a. Significant number of assets owned by different organisations where maps are less effective;
 - b. Regular damage to assets by vehicles or vandalism.
- III. Reduce the interim reinstatement period from 6 months to 1 month.
 - IV. Extend the 2-year guarantee period of utility repairs undertaken by utility companies to 5 years.
 - V. 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.

Informative

RFID is an acronym for "radio-frequency identification" and refers to a technology whereby digital data encoded in RFID tags or smart labels are captured by a reader via radio waves. The tag is composed of a protective material that holds the pieces together and shields them from various environmental conditions.

RFID is similar to barcoding in that data from a tag or label is captured by a device that stores the data in a database. RFID, however, has the advantage that with RFID the tag data can be read outside the line-of-sight, whereas barcodes must be aligned with an optical scanner. Passive RFID tags do not require a power source and are therefore usable over prolonged periods.

At a simple level, RFID systems consist of three components: an RFID tag or smart label (attached to an asset), an RFID reader, and an antenna. The reader then converts radio waves to a more usable form of data. Information collected from the tags is then transferred through a communications interface to a host computer system, where the data can be stored in a database and analysed at a later time.

Item 8 (ii)

Amendment by Jonathan Essex (Redhill East) to the motion standing in the name of Jeremy Webster

(additional words underlined in bold and deletions crossed through)

This Council notes:

- The Ofsted inspection report on children's services in Surrey published on 9 March 2022.
- That the overall effectiveness of our services is judged to have improved since the last inspection in 2018 and acknowledges that Surrey's leaders have achieved significant change in that time and that they are implementing a clear and comprehensive improvement programme.

This Council further notes:

- That this improvement is described as "...a strong foundation to strive for excellence."; but that this programme of improvement needs to continue in order for our services to be seen as good. The findings of the inspectors are entirely consistent with the self-assessment audits and the inspection team confirmed they had confidence that the current improvement plan was not only the right one but that it was being appropriately implemented.
- In particular that:

"Children and their families benefit from effective early help services."

"The children's single point of access service responds effectively to most contacts and referrals," and "Most assessments are thorough..."

"The implementation of the local authority's practice model has significantly strengthened work to tackle domestic and substance abuse..."

"Many children are successfully diverted from care, as social workers work effectively with parents and risks to children are reduced" and "When children go missing from home, they receive timely return home interviews which lead to insightful assessments of vulnerability..."

"Senior managers have expanded the capacity of the inclusion team to respond to the increased number of children who are missing education or moving to elective home education. These children and young people are supported appropriately and according to their individual circumstances."

In light of the positive progress made as outlined above, this Council resolves to:

- I. Re-affirm its commitment to implementing the further improvements recommended in the report as our highest priority, and that the Children's Services improvement journey ~~targets will continue until Surrey to~~ has achieved a level of provision that ~~is classed~~ can be seen as **Outstanding by Ofsted** outstanding in every area of children's services.
- II. Extend its thanks to the children's services workforce, who carry out their roles with pride, and seek to do their best for children and families in Surrey, particularly over the difficult period of the pandemic; and asks members of the Council to reflect upon their own role in future improvement work through scrutiny and challenge and by developing our community leadership of the wider children's system in Surrey.

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SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**TUESDAY 22 MARCH 2022****QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED UNDER THE PROVISIONS
OF STANDING ORDER 10.1****MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE****1. NICK DARBY (THE DITTONS) TO ASK:**

What is the intended response to the Mayor of London's latest proposals for cross border charging, and is any direct debate or discussion intended by Surrey with the Mayor?

RESPONSE:

To date Surrey officers have not had discussions with Transport for London (TfL) or the Mayor of London's Office over reported proposals of extending London's Ultra Low Emission Zone boundary to cover the whole of Greater London or introducing a cross boundary charge. Any such proposals would be subject to a full statutory public consultation held by TfL when the Council would formulate a response to the consultation.

Our new Surrey Transport Plan sets out the possibility of an eco-levy for Surrey to manage private and large goods vehicles demands to meet our Climate Change & Greener Future priorities. However, charging would be most effective if applied across all roads and would be most successful if applied as a national system. National charging has been raised recently, particularly in relation to the need to replace fuel duty as petrol and diesel sales reduce. Transport for the South East (TfSE) also raised the need for its consideration in their recent Transport Strategy. We will engage with adjacent authorities, TfSE and Central Government to understand and inform developments on this issue as and when appropriate.

**MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE****2. ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK:**

London's Ultra Low Emission Zone was recently expanded to the North and South Circular roads. In a bid to reduce pollution and congestion, Transport for London (TfL) is now considering extending the scheme's boundary to the whole of Greater London, seriously impacting many Surrey residents.

What discussions has Surrey had with TfL or the Mayor of London on this subject?

RESPONSE:

To date Surrey officers have not had discussions with TfL or the Mayor of London's Office over reported proposals of extending London's Ultra Low Emission Zone boundary to cover the whole of Greater London or introducing a cross boundary charge. Any such proposals would be subject to a full statutory public consultation held by TfL when the Council would formulate a response to the consultation.

DENISE TURNER-STEWART, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND LEARNING

3. WILL FORSTER (WOKING SOUTH) TO ASK:

The 2022/23 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy sets out £5.8m of efficiencies in Home to School transport through 'improved route planning and procurement' and the Council is currently consulting on proposed changes.

- a) What is the annual expenditure on Home to School transport in each of the last three years and to date in the current financial year?
- b) The Council is proposing to reduce the reliance on 'one child per vehicle' transport. How many children currently use 'one child per vehicle' transport to get to school?
- c) How many primary children have journeys of over 45 minutes and do any children currently have journeys of more than 75 minutes?
- d) What percentage of decisions are overturned on appeal?
- e) What is the reason behind the proposal for officers to sit on appeal panels?

RESPONSE:

- a) The annual expenditure on Home to School transport is set out below:

Year	Total spend £'m	Notes
2018/19	40.478	
2019/20	43.774	
2020/21	33.668	Significant reduction due to COVID lockdowns
2021/22	38.171	Periods 1-11

- b) At the end of January 2022 there were 698 'one child' per vehicle routes for home to school transport.
- c) These timescales are set out in national guidance, which does not consider the increased journey times arising from congestion in Surrey. We do not hold data on actual journey times, but we do not currently put children on transport routes

that are over 45 minutes or 75 minutes. However, traffic incidents and congestion can push them over that limit on some occasions.

- d) From Sept 21 to March 2022, 21% of Stage 2, Councillor Panel appeals were overturned.
- e) The alternative arrangement for appeals panels proposed, in the consultation, is in line with national guidance and makes the best use of resources and the time available from Councillors and Officers. We will evaluate the responses to the consultation before making any recommendations to change the process.

CLARE CURRAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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

A report by charity Action for Children shows that nationally between 2015/16 to 2019/20, there were at least 320,000 missed opportunities to provide early help to children who were then re-referred to social care within twelve months.

The charity is calling for ministers to bring in new legal duties for councils to give children early help, increase funding for early intervention and for data to be collected on early help provision and outcomes.

The Council closed the majority of Sure Start Centres, which provided a key point of intervention for children who had additional needs.

How many children have been referred to social care in the last twenty-four months, and how does that compare with the numbers being referred for the twenty-four months prior to the closure of the Sure Start Centres?

RESPONSE:

Prior to 2018/19 the Sure Start Children's Centres supported all families with children 0 – 5 years needing early help. After a public consultation in 2018/19, the new family centre model was mobilised in June 2019 and was completed with the final children's centre in Tandridge becoming a family centre in July 2020.

The new family centre model extended the age range to families with children 0 – 11 years as there was an identified gap in provision for families with primary school age children. Need is assessed across four levels (Universal 1, Early Help 2, Targeted Help 3 and Specialist 4) and Families are allocated to the centres via the Children's Single Point of Access (CPSA). The Centres now provide early help and targeted help for families assessed to have needs at level 3. This enables families most needing our help to receive the right help at the right time. They also offer group activities and courses for families needing early help at level 2.

Where children have been identified as needing specialist help at level 4, family centres participate in a multi-agency approach with social workers and others to ensure that families get the help they need.

Family Centres work with the whole family to provide safe and appropriate care for their children. They provide an outreach model of 1:1 family support in the home or local community venue, whichever best suits the needs of the family. They work together within their District or Borough with the Family Support Programme and Targeted Youth Service to ensure that families get the help they need, sharing expertise and knowledge to ensure the whole family is supported.

They use Surrey’s Family Resilience model of practice so that families build on their strengths and make sustainable change in the way they want to.

Family Centres aim to:

- Reduce inequalities for disadvantaged children and families to prevent the need for statutory services;
- Strengthen family relationships to enable families to stay together;
- Improve child and family health;
- Improve readiness for and outcomes at school.

The table below is taken from the Department for Education (DfE) ‘explore education statistics’ website and the compendium for the current reporting year (for which there is no comparable national or regional data).

Referrals to children's social care			
	Surrey	National	Regional
2017/18	13,626	655,630	106,590
2018/19	10,635	650,630	104,890
2019/20	8,519	642,980	114,440
2020/21	10,428	597,760	111,140
April 2021 to end of February 22	8,559	N/A	N/A

The above table shows the referral rate into Children’s social care since 2017/18. During this time, we saw a reduction in contacts and the number of children subject to a Child Protection (CP) plan significantly reduced. We then saw increases in contacts and referrals, leading to increased numbers of CP in 2020/21 which could be accounted for by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since July 2021 Family Centres have had access to the central case management system, Early Help Module (EHM) so we are now able to see the work carried out with families needing targeted help (level 3) that are allocated by the CSPA. Early Help Assessments (EHA) carried out by the family centres have contributed significantly to the increased number of EHAs completed and recorded on EHM.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

5. STEPHEN COOKSEY (DORKING SOUTH AND THE HOLMWOODS) TO ASK:

The Access for All scheme for Network Rail control period 7 is currently open for bids for access improvements to railway stations.

Would the appropriate Cabinet Member please indicate what discussions are currently taking place and with whom, which stations the Council is seeking to support, and whether Members will be consulted ahead of the submission date of 15 April?

RESPONSE:

The Department for Transport (DfT) has yet to open the Access for All (AfA) scheme for Control Period 7 (2024 – 2029) and guidance has not yet been issued. In anticipation of this scheme going live, the AfA team at Network Rail (NR) have been in contact with the Train Operating Companies (TOCs) to prepare nominations against the AfA funding, as the TOCs will make the submissions to Government. It is expected that the DfT and NR will review nominations using a range of criteria including:

- Station footfall/usage
- Available match funding
- Stakeholder support
- Nearest alternative step free station
- Project feasibility and deliverability

Early conversations have taken place between Surrey County Council and our three TOCs, namely South Western Railway, Great Western Railway and GoViaThameslink Railway, with the Council agreeing in principle to provide letters of support for AfA bids. At this early stage, Ash Vale, Esher, Horsley, Dorking Deepdene and Upper Warlingham Stations have been identified for consideration, taking into account the likely criteria, which is based on previous AfA schemes. However, it is the TOC that will make the final decision on which stations will be nominated.

In the AfA programme for Control Period 6 (2019 – 2024), schemes at Leatherhead Station and Stoneleigh Station were funded; however, these have still to be delivered.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

6. HAZEL WATSON (DORKING HILLS) TO ASK:

There is an increasing number of instances where residents are charging their electric vehicles when they are parked on the public highway with the electric charging cable being attached to their car from their house with the cable draped across the pavement between their house and the parked car.

The Council's website states:

We are often asked about trailing a charging cable from a property across a public footpath. Under the Highways Act 1980, Part IX Lawful and Unlawful Interference with Highways and Streets, it is illegal for any person to place or run a cable or wire along or across a public highway. Having the cable trail from a home, across the footway to a car may cause a safety hazard to pedestrians who are entitled to safely use the full width of the footway. Surrey County Council therefore does not allow this, although potential solutions will be kept under review.

Can the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure set out what action he is taking to publicise the County Council's position that such charging of electric vehicles contravenes the Highways Act 1980, Part IX Lawful and Unlawful Interference with Highways and Streets and to ensure that Surrey residents are aware that such charging of electric vehicles on the street is illegal, and can the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure also set out what enforcement action is being taken by which team within the Council to enforce this law when it is contravened?

RESPONSE:

We are aware that the issue of trailing EV charging cables across public footpaths is an area of some contention and uncertainty. The Council's legal advice was sought which concluded that this practice is considered illegal. In order to make the position of the Council clear, this advice was put on the Council's website.

There are many issues on the highway network which could be subject to enforcement action, from overgrown vegetation to illegal signage and any action needs to be balanced against the actual impact the issue is causing. If a cable is reported to the County Council and it is considered a hazard, appropriate enforcement action would be considered by the Highway Operations & Infrastructure Group. Reports can be submitted via our website.

**NATALIE BRAMHALL, CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY AND WASTE /
MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

7. CATHERINE BAART (EARLSWOOD AND REIGATE SOUTH) TO ASK:

The proposed Local Transport Plan 4 sets out a vision for twenty-minute neighbourhoods across Surrey. How will this impact on the proposed relocation of Priory School to Woodhatch Place in Reigate?

RESPONSE:

Twenty-minute or 'Liveable Neighbourhoods' incorporate Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and complementary improvements to the public realm, such as tree planting, pocket parks, seating areas and the like that collectively help to manage traffic volumes and speed to create a positive living environment for residents. The Council is working with partners to develop a programme of potential Liveable Neighbourhoods across Surrey, in line with our emerging Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4). As part of the LTP4 public consultation, over 50 places were identified by residents or stakeholders as potential places for Liveable Neighbourhoods. A process to select places that are most suitable for delivery alongside other supporting measures, such as Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, is being developed, linked to the approval process for LTP4 by Cabinet and then Council scheduled for later in the Spring.

If LTP4 is adopted and approved it would form a material consideration in the planning application process for the proposed relocation of the Priory School to Woodhatch Place in Reigate. The planning application is targeted to be submitted in May 2022.

CLARE CURRAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

8. JONATHAN ESSEX (REDHILL EAST) TO ASK:

The average placement distance of Surrey's Looked After Children from home is 31 miles, which is more than double that of our statistically most equivalent authority for Children's Services, North Yorkshire, and 50% higher than for all local authorities classed as Outstanding. Please provide the timescale for ensuring all new Looked After Children placements are placed within Surrey and what issues must be overcome to make this happen.

RESPONSE:

Children who become looked after by Surrey do so for a number of reasons and their needs are both individual and often complex. Referrals for placements, in the majority of cases, will request a home is identified which allows the child to remain close to their family home and school. Approximately 10% of children coming into care, are unaccompanied asylum seekers who have no roots in Surrey and whilst this is what we try to establish for them, they often have connections outside of

Surrey which they wish to maintain, and their wishes and feelings need to be considered if it is in their best interest. Other children will be placed outside of Surrey with family members, in a foster to adopt or other specialist placements required to meet their health or educational needs.

The benchmarking data required by the DfE is for children living outside of county and more than 20 miles from home. In Surrey as of 17/03/22 we had 27% of children in this category. Our target is 20% which would be better than the region at 22% and statistical neighbours at 27%. This is a challenging target to meet but we believe we should be aspirational for children.

In order to address the need for more homes in and close to Surrey which can meet the needs of our children we have a programme called Placements, Values and Outcomes which is one of our Transformation Programmes within CFLL. This includes strengthening our in-house fostering service and new framework agreements with Independent Fostering Providers, the development of Surrey's internal Children's homes, improved commissioning arrangements with private providers to both block book beds in children's homes in Surrey (where the quality and Ofsted grading supports this) and encouraging new providers into Surrey. The lead in time for registering new foster carers is on average six months whilst the lead in time for registering a new children's home is likely to be longer depending on the building requirements.

We anticipate it will take us up to three years to reach our target. This will of course depend on the needs of the children coming into care during that period which is very difficult to predict.

NATALIE BRAMHALL, CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY AND WASTE

9. NICK DARBY (THE DITTONS) TO ASK: (2nd Question)

- a) Is there any intention to refurbish the Woodhatch Place reception area, and if so, what is the estimated cost and budget?
- b) In the same context is there a defibrillator at Woodhatch Place, and what was the cost of the work/engraving to the stonework in the reception area to show Surrey County Council's acquisition?

RESPONSE:

- a) Works to the main reception area in Woodhatch Place will focus on improving security access measures for the safety of Council officers and members, rather than a total refurbishment of fixtures, fittings and decorations. Surveys commissioned in 2021 by the Council's Corporate Resilience Group from a Counter Terrorism Security Advisor and the Surrey Police Design Out Crime Office (DOCO) highlighted major concerns and particular areas of vulnerability (the current threat level for terrorism in the UK is "substantial", meaning that an attack is likely). As well as strengthening security access measures and

installing associated data requirements, improvements and upgrades will also be made to the reception desk, air-conditioning and power requirements in the main reception area. The estimated cost for the works is £127,000 (including 10% contingency; the costs are subject to a detailed site survey). The works are scheduled to start by July 2022, subject to design and the tender process. Access arrangements will be in place during the works.

Security reviews are also underway at all the Council's main offices (Fairmount House, Dakota, Consort House and Quadrant Court).

- b) There are four defibrillators in Woodhatch Place, one in the corridor currently being used by the NHS for the temporary vaccination centre (ground floor, West Wing), and one on each floor in the centre block by the kitchens. All the defibrillators are clearly visible. The cost of the stonework was £4,063.44 (inc. VAT), including the cost of the stone, engraving and installation.

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

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

Can the Council please detail all investments or financial commitments, direct or indirect, that Surrey has with Russia?

RESPONSE:

INVESTMENTS

The Council has no direct financial investments in Russia.

We invest in a number of AAA rated funds who themselves hold a diverse range of investments. Some of these secondary investments may have indirect exposure to Russia, though we believe that it is unlikely. We do not have access to their detailed portfolio however we would expect funds to have exit plans for Russian exposure and are continuing to liaise with our investment managers to clarify the position.

PENSIONS

Surrey Pension Fund Statement:-

“The Surrey Pension Fund is saddened by and strongly condemns the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Given the current circumstances we have immediately suspended making any further investments in Russia and Belarus and continue to review our existing investments with a view to exiting in due course as and when markets permit, as long as the current circumstances prevail. This is above and beyond the UK sanctions currently in place. Due to sanctions by the UK Government and reciprocal actions taken by the Russian Government, it is not currently possible to sell any listed Russian equities, or Russian Government Bonds.”

Surrey Pension Fund (administering authority Surrey County Council)

The Surrey Pension Fund has minor exposure to direct holdings in regions connected to the conflict (less than 0.25% of the Fund as of 24 February 2022 (c£12m based on a fund value of £5bn)) through its Multi-Asset Credit (MAC) fund with Border to Coast and indexed funds with LGIM.

a) Border to Coast MAC Fund:

- i- Russia: 1.2%, – sovereign bonds, VEB, Gazprom, Lukoil
- ii- Belarus: <0.1%, – sovereign bond
- iii- Ukraine: 0.4%.

Formal fair value pricing of the MAC Fund will only take place at the monthly trading date.

b) LGIM World Emerging Markets Equity Index Fund: Overall direct exposure of 1.67%:

c) Future World Index – Overall direct exposure of 0.112%:

In line with LGIM's fair value pricing policy the value of Russian assets has been pro-actively written down over the past few days. As of close on 2 March, the decision of the fair value pricing committee was to price Russian equity securities at zero. These assets will remain held but with a zero value.

The Fund has no exposure to direct holdings in regions connected to the conflict in its mandates with CBRE, Newton or in its private market portfolio.

We are in the process of examining our indirect exposure to Russia (e.g. BP and Shell) across our portfolios on an agreed. We are working with our managers towards having an update available as soon as possible.

PROCUREMENT

We are constantly reviewing the LGA's latest guidance in relation to contracting with Russian organisations in light of the Ukraine crisis. We are implementing this guidance across all services and will be issuing further internal guidance as becomes necessary within the relevant legal teams.

Specifically, we have reviewed all contracts with Russian companies that are currently listed on the London Stock Exchange (LSE). We did have a small expenditure with Gazprom in 20/21 but no expenditure in 21/22. The Council's main supplier of energy is through a Government Framework and they have confirmed that Gazprom do not supply energy to them.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

11. LANCE SPENCER (GOLDSWORTH EAST AND HORSELL VILLAGE) TO

**ASK:
(2nd Question)**

A number of bus services were transferred from Arriva to Stagecoach in December. Since then, the frequency of the services has been reduced, and now it has been announced that fares are set to increase.

In addition, the Council has put forward ambitious plans hoping to attract £120m of grant funding under the Bus Back better Scheme. The reality is likely to be nearer £18m over 3 years.

The Surrey Transport Plan and the Greener Futures Delivery Plan see local bus services as a key component to reducing the use of motorised travel in the coming years.

In the light of significant reductions in central government funding what specific plans does the Council have in the next twelve months to improve the bus services across Surrey and encourage increased usage in line with the Surrey Transport Plan?

RESPONSE:

When Arriva withdrew from operating buses in Surrey in December 2021, Stagecoach took a commercial decision to take over this primarily commercial network. The impact of covid (staff sickness) coupled with a national bus driver shortage resulted in Stagecoach reluctantly deciding to operate some services with reduced frequencies. This ensured the company had sufficient drivers to cover all their commitments; however, it did negatively impact some routes and users. Stagecoach driver recruitment is well underway, with the company aiming for a full return to 'normal frequencies' in May.

After a significantly challenging period for the bus industry, Stagecoach implemented a fare increase on 1 March 2022. Their previous review was January 2020. Linked to this, Stagecoach have improved the value of their offer to customers by modernising ticketing options to better meet changing travel patterns. Whilst fare increases are seldom welcome, there are some clear positives in the new range of ticketing options that will hopefully encourage more residents to get back on the bus.

In October 2021 the Council submitted an ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to the Department for Transport. Nationally, the BSIP funding pot available to Local Transport Authorities outside of the city regions has reduced from £3bn to £1.2bn. If shared equally that would equate to approximately £6m a year – which means significantly less funding may be available than we have bid for in our BSIP. However, the decision on BSIP funding is still awaited, which along with our investment plans, will be reported to Cabinet on 26 April.

Alongside the BSIP opportunity, Surrey County Council is already making a substantial investment of £47m to introduce more zero emission buses and more electric community transport minibuses. The new zero emission buses will be supported by more bus priority measures to make sure the bus turns up on time, coupled with an expansion of our electronic Real Time Passenger Information system to help residents make more informed travel decisions. This investment will improve bus reliability and make buses more attractive to residents. It will also improve air quality in areas where zero emission buses operate, helping us to deliver our Surrey Transport Plan ambitions, alongside our 2030 and 2050 net zero carbon goals.

MARK NUTI, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES

12. STEPHEN COOKSEY (DORKING SOUTH AND THE HOLMWOODS) TO ASK: (2nd Question)

It has already been agreed that the decisions on highways spend will be removed from the Local/Joint Committees.

In the presentation to members from November 2020 on Local Community Networks it was stated that “Decision making continues in Local & Joint Committees” until April 21 and then “Transfer decision making to LCNs through 2021/22 and 2022/23”.

- a) What are the current plans for setting up Local Community Networks, and how will Members be involved in the transfer of responsibilities from the current Local/Joint Committees to the Local Community networks?
- b) As the transfer of responsibilities seems to be running very late what role (if any) does the Council see for these committees going forward?

RESPONSE:

- a) A report was taken to Cabinet on 22 February 2022 which approved a change in the way that executive highway functions are taken, transferring them from Local and Joint Committees (LC/JCs), to enable officers to take such decisions in direct consultation with the relevant Members.

The transfer of LC/JC highway functions sits alongside the development of new engagement methods and tools throughout 2022 enabling Members and Officers to reach out more effectively to residents, be it on local highways schemes or any other issues or opportunities in the community. This range of new methods are being developed under the working title of a “local community network approach”, reflecting that the engagement methods we wish to utilise need to be very local, connected into the wide range of existing networks of organisations and groups in an area, and be inclusive of all in the community.

Examples of the types of engagement methods we wish to maximise include open discussions between Councillors and residents (e.g. a community

conversation, a Councillor hosting a Facebook Live “surgery” or poll to hear directly from their residents), public stakeholder engagement events and digital tools like Commonplace (e.g. surveys and interactive maps) to reach a greater number of people and gauge public opinion. The successful reach and impact of such methods has been seen in recent months and further seminars and training sessions will be set up from May onwards to ensure that all Councillors are supported and equipped to make the most of these opportunities.

- b) The changes that will take effect from April 2022 relate only to the current highway functions of the LC/JCs. The LC/JCs will continue to operate beyond April 2022 and will address Public Rights of Way (PROW), libraries decisions and advisory functions as set out in their terms of reference. The arrangements for these decisions and responsibilities will though also be reviewed with stakeholders given the Council’s commitment to develop improved engagement and decision-making approaches.

TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

**13. CATHERINE BAART (EARLSWOOD AND REIGATE SOUTH) TO ASK:
(2nd Question)**

Please provide details of what issues the Council has lobbied central Government about in the last twelve months, particularly in response to commitments in published Council’s strategies and to agreed answers to Members’ questions and motions. Please indicate where a record of lobbying is published on the Council’s website.

RESPONSE:

The Council engages with central government on a whole host of issues as a significant stakeholder and partner across most of the work that we do as a council. Members and officials from all parts of the council have regular, frequent meetings with counterparts in Whitehall to discuss our plans for the future of services, any issues that may need central government input and to provide advice and guidance on proposals that might impact our residents.

There are a number of issues that we have regular contact with central government regarding. These include, but are not limited to: Adult Social Care, including the recent reform proposals; wider issues around council freedoms, flexibilities, finances and funding from central government; the special educational needs of Surrey’s children and young people; funding for maintaining the roads and highways around the county; and our recently launched Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan that aims to see the council achieve net zero status by 2030 and the whole county by 2050.

Regular updates on meetings and engagement with ministers and officials are provided through reports to Council and Cabinet, which we believe is the most appropriate and transparent approach to updating members and the public. We also

share a weekly Public Affairs bulletin which captures key developments in Government and where any Surrey County Council position has been put forward. Members can also keep up-to-date with new Government announcements and how they will impact on Surrey's residents through the Council's webpages, including Surrey News and Surrey Matters, where the Leader and members of the Cabinet will provide comment.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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

In July 2019, the Council agreed a motion on wildlife friendly verges. The Council has implemented this in boroughs and districts where it directly procures the grass cutting. In other boroughs and districts this has been delayed until contracts are up for renewal later this year. Please confirm that the new grass cutting contracts delegated to boroughs and districts will be required to be stronger, such that they align with the agreed motion. Further, please confirm that guidance from the Council will inform stronger compliance across Surrey this growing season.

RESPONSE:

The Council is offering a one-year extension for the existing agency agreements with the Districts & Boroughs, whilst we look at options for best delivering the service. This will include a renewed focus on biodiversity. Several of the Districts & Boroughs have already been active in reducing cuts where appropriate. In addition to Mole Valley and Tandridge, this year the cutting of highway verges in Elmbridge will also be under the direct management of the County Council – the number of cuts will hence be reduced. The Council actively supports the "Blue campaign". This is a national campaign which includes promotion of not cutting verges, helping nature develop and encouraging biodiversity. Areas of verges are left uncut and can be marked by a blue plaque. Residents are encouraged to suggest areas where they think there is local support for not cutting and if feasible this is something we support and action. The Districts & Boroughs are able to support this initiative at the moment, and it will be formally required as part of any new agreements.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**15. LANCE SPENCER (GOLDSWORTH EAST AND HORSELL VILLAGE) TO ASK:
(3rd Question)**

Improving conditions for Active Travel is a key component of delivering the Surrey transport Plan, which is due for approval by Cabinet in April. In addition, improving the place we live in is also one of the key drivers for the Community Vision for Surrey in 2030.

It is recognised that some progress is being made through the Local/Joint Committees in implementing Rural Speed Limit areas, driven by safety considerations.

How many 20 mph Schemes, Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and Rural Speed Limit areas are currently being considered across Surrey and is there a publicly available list of them?

RESPONSE:

The Council's speed limit policy supports lower 20 mph speed limits in residential areas and busy shopping streets where the needs of pedestrians and cyclists are more important. This is reinforced by the draft Local Transport Plan 4, which highlights lower 20 mph speed limits as helping to support a hierarchy of road users with the most vulnerable (pedestrians and cyclists) requiring the greatest consideration.

The Council is delighted to work in partnership with Surrey Police, utilising funding from the Drive SMART Road Safety Partnership to introduce lower speed limits across a wide area of the rural southern central part of Surrey where the existing default national speed limit of 60mph is inappropriate. The process outlined in our speed limit policy is being applied to reduce the speed limit to 20mph on many roads that are "single track with passing places". On other two-lane rural roads, the existing 60mph speed limit is being reduced to 50mph, 40mph or 30mph depending on the existing mean average speeds. It is expected that the lower speed limits will result in reductions in speeds and, if successful, this will reduce the number and severity of road collisions, support active travel, improve air quality, reduce carbon emissions, and potentially help address concerns over excessive vehicle noise.

The rural speed limit proposals have recently been approved by Mole Valley Local Committee, Waverley Local Committee, and Guildford Joint Committee. More detail on the proposals can be found in the respective committee reports via the following links, with the intention that the project will continue across the south of Surrey in future phases:

[Agenda for Mole Valley Local Committee on Wednesday, 9 March 2022, 2.00 pm - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](#) (item 8)

[Agenda for Waverley Local Committee on Friday, 11 March 2022, 10.00 am - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](#) (item 32/21)

[Agenda for Guildford Joint Committee on Wednesday, 16 March 2022, 7.00 pm - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](#) (item 10)

In addition to the rural speed limit project described above, the County Council's speed limit policy has been applied to develop proposals for a 20mph speed limit across Farnham Town Centre. It is expected that this will be implemented in the coming months. More information can be found from the report presented to the Waverly Local Committee:

[Agenda for Waverley Local Committee on Friday, 3 September 2021, 10.00 am - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](#) (item 8/21)

There is not an available list of all other 20mph schemes. However, there are a number that are being commissioned or have funding allocated. For example, work is taking place to develop proposals for a 20mph speed limit across Weybridge town centre and Caterham town centres, along with adjoining roads. Various 20 mph schemes are also being progressed via the funding delegated to local members for highway improvements, including:

- Farleigh Road, Warlingham
- Claygate Lane, Chesterfield Drive, Cumberland Drive, Hinchley Way, Severn Drive, Hinchley Wood
- Stonny Croft, Ashted
- Taleworth Road, Ashted
- Winkworth Road access roads, Banstead
- Holmesdale Avenue and Canalside, Redhill
- Gibbet Lane, Camberley
- High Street, Chobham
- Oxshott Village Centre

Twenty-minute or 'Liveable Neighbourhoods' incorporate Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and complementary improvements to public realm, such as tree planting, pocket parks, seating areas and so on that collectively help to manage traffic volumes and speed to create a positive living environment for residents. The Council is developing a programme of potential Liveable Neighbourhoods across Surrey, in line with our emerging Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4). As part of the LTP4 public consultation over 50 places were identified by residents or stakeholders as potential places for Liveable Neighbourhoods. A process to select which places are most suitable for delivery alongside other supporting measures, such as Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, is being developed, linked to the approval process of LTP4 by Cabinet and then Council scheduled for later in the Spring.

In addition to the above, a Low Traffic Neighbourhood proposal for the Ashford Park housing estate (Ashford Park Crescent, Spelthorne) has been included within the County Council's Active Travel Tranche 3 bid to the Department for Transport, with a funding announcement awaited.

MARISA HEATH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

16. CATHERINE BAART (EARLSWOOD AND REIGATE SOUTH) TO ASK: (3rd Question)

Please describe what progress the Council has made in carbon literacy training for officers and members, noting some other councils have recently announced accreditation from the Carbon Literacy Trust, which provides free training materials to councils. What percentage of senior officers at the Council have undertaken accredited carbon training?

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 SCC 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.

In addition, the Council's 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 and received the free toolkits for Local Authorities for Councillors, Management and Officers. Officers in Climate Change are undertaking trainer training this spring to pilot Carbon Literacy Training across the Council as part of the internal 'Green Champions Network'.

MARISA HEATH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

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

Please list what the Council's planned retrofit activities are for the next six months to better insulate Surrey households from rising gas and electricity prices.

RESPONSE:

The Council has committed to facilitate the decarbonisation of Surrey's homes, through the installation of fabric insulation and energy efficiency measures, heat pumps and solar PV, in order to meet our net zero carbon targets. The other driver for this work, which is just as important in the current circumstances, is the need to protect residents, particularly residents on lower incomes who are more likely to be in fuel poverty, from rising energy bills.

The Greener Futures Climate Change Delivery Plan sets out our ambition to support the decarbonisation of 20% of Surrey's fuel poor homes by 2025.

Over the last eighteen months we have:

- Secured £16m of Government grant funding, which has led to 547 low income homes receiving 690 low carbon measures (heat pumps, solar, insulation) to date through the Green Jump Surrey Programme.
- The Council has also allocated £750,000 to act as a top up fund for Government funding to enable homes to receive more costly decarbonisation measures (including solar, heat pumps and solid wall insulation) as Government funding is capped at £10,000 per household.
- £13m of Sustainable Warmth funding has been secured from Government to continue to decarbonise fuel poor homes in the county.

- 7,000 residents registered with Surrey's Solar Together scheme, with over 1,400 residents so far accepting quotations provided for Solar Panels, with a further 125 residents installing retrofit battery storage. Installations are expected to be complete in July 2022.
- 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.
- We have lobbied Government on climate change funding and policy and will continue to work to be seen as a lead authority in this area.

Over the next six months we will be focussing on the following:

- Developing a research project with the University of Surrey's Living Lab to focus on home energy behaviours to understand the reasons and barriers that prevent people from decarbonising their homes and the engagement approaches that the Council and delivery partners should adopt to overcome these barriers.
- Building on the early findings from the research we will develop a targeted engagement campaign which will focus on energy behaviours and reducing the impact of rising energy bills. This campaign will include a focus on energy referral pathways as well as training front line staff at the Council (and partners) to enable us to provide better help and support to 'hard to reach' residents regarding home energy reduction and bills. This campaign will link to and support other Council priorities, such as promoting independence of older residents.
- Working with our delivery partners (Action Surrey) and Boroughs and District partners to complete the delivery of the GHLAD2 funding, which is targeted at decarbonising fuel poor homes by June 2022.
- Delivering a pilot in conjunction with Elmbridge Borough Council to identify private rented properties in breach of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) legislation and use enforcement powers to improve standards.
- Starting to develop a low interest loan scheme for decarbonisation measures which could be offered to private sector landlords
- Engaging with social landlords and finding opportunities to support them on the decarbonisation agenda.
- Preparing to deliver the next tranche of Sustainable Warmth funding (£13m allocated to Surrey's low income and low income off-gas homes).
- Continuing to lobby Government for the funding, policies and finance mechanisms needed to deliver decarbonisation of Surrey's housing at the scale required. This includes a call for Government to accelerate its commitment to shift or rebalance energy levies as promised in the Heat and Buildings Strategy, which would make running costs of technologies such as air and ground source heat pumps more affordable.

MARK NUTI, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES

18. LANCE SPENCER (GOLDSWORTH EAST AND HORSELL VILLAGE) TO

ASK:

(4th Question)

Your Fund Surrey was launched with a flurry of communications about eighteen months ago, just ahead of the County Council Elections. The promise was to spend up to £100m over five years with an anticipation of £20m per year being spent on about one hundred projects per year.

At the end of February 2022, four projects have been approved, with a total spend of £633,000.

At the recent Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee meeting there was considerable concern about the glacial progress on this programme.

Does the Cabinet Member now accept that the administrative overhead to ensure due diligence on the spend of public monies, means that the actual costs of publicising and managing this activity outweigh the benefits that are being delivered, and that in addition the nature of the process means that the most deprived communities are the least likely to benefit, as they do not have the resources to engage with the complex process to receive funding?

What action does the Cabinet Member intend to take to review the performance of the programme to ensure it delivers as first envisaged and ensure it does deliver to the neediest in our communities?

RESPONSE:

Your Fund Surrey (YFS) is a ground-breaking “first” for this authority and a crucial component of the Council’s commitment to Empower Communities, delivering a lasting investment for our residents.

The scheme was co-designed from the outset with residents, community groups, funding experts and with input from members from the appointed Select Committee Task Group to ensure all communities in Surrey can benefit. To date over 55,000 people have engaged with the Fund.

In direct response to feedback, Your Fund Surrey is open for applications from Surrey residents 24/7, with no set deadlines or targets which might hinder residents. As was explored at the recent Select Committee, the YFS team proactively monitor key data including IoMD* data toward identifying any areas where take up of the fund may be low. In such instances, active and targeted engagement will be undertaken working with local councillors to reach out and seek to provide the support required for these communities. Officers will continue to listen to feedback and make further refinements to the Fund over the lifespan of the Fund, whilst always ensuring appropriate oversight on the spend of public monies.

Significantly, in another first for this authority, the Fund was successfully launched and operated during several periods of national lockdown. It would be difficult to base any forward projections on the Fund's operation of the year to date. In the past month alone, a further three communities' projects have been approved with applications amounting to £813,500, with the fund now awarding a total of £1,446,363

I would call on all County Councillors to acknowledge the key role they play in relation to the Fund to go out and speak with, and encourage, your residents and groups to come forward with proposals, so that all our communities benefit from this amazing Fund.

*Indices of Multiple Deprivation

DENISE TURNER-STEWART, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND LEARNING

19. CATHERINE BAART (EARLSWOOD AND REIGATE SOUTH) TO ASK: (4th Question)

On 8 March 2022, the High Court ruled that every local council must keep to fixed legal time limits when reviewing the needs of children and young people with special educational needs. The court judgment confirms that the draft amended Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) must be issued within four weeks of the annual review and the final amended plan must be issued within twelve weeks of the annual review. This ruling therefore recognises the importance of not just timely establishment of EHCPs but ensuring they are updated in a timely way once they exist. Please confirm what percentage of EHCPs need amendment but currently have exceeded these time limits in Surrey. If these time limits are currently being exceeded, what is the Council's plan to operate within the legal time limits from now on?

RESPONSE:

The statutory guidance detailed in the current Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) code of practice: 0-25 sets out clearly the timeframes for reviewing EHCPs and this is the measure that the local authority uses to ensure that we are working towards full compliance with the statutory requirements. The recent High Court ruling has provided additional clarity to confirm the timescales relating to the annual review process, which may have been interpreted in different ways by local authorities and legal practitioners across the country.

As of 17 March 2022, our data confirms that we have 67% of annual reviews that are either up to date or due this month. There are some data recording quality issues that suggest this is an underestimate.

Where a child attends school, the local authority requires the school to hold an EHCP annual review in line with the Statutory Guidance. In light of the judgement the local authority is writing to all schools to remind them of the statutory timescales for convening and returning annual review paperwork, this compliance is crucial in supporting the local authority to meet the timescales specified within the High Court ruling. We are also updating our SEN operating procedures to ensure that decision making and any necessary amendments are consistently made within the statutory timescales. In addition, we are currently reviewing our data collection processes and will improve the processes where necessary to ensure that we can closely monitor performance in this area.

SINEAD MOONEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS AND HEALTH

20. JONATHAN ESSEX (REDHILL EAST) TO ASK: (4th Question)

In light of the recent Government announcement on strengthening the messaging to prevent the occurrence of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), please provide details of how this will increase work to prevent FAS in Surrey.

RESPONSE:

We recognise that reducing Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in Surrey is a shared responsibility between health and social care.

On 16 March 2022, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published new guidance on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, particularly in relation to supporting pregnant women to prevent FASD and diagnosing FASD in children and young people. In response to this, Surrey's Local Maternity and Neonatal System (LMNS) which oversees the provision of maternity and neonatal care, will work with providers to ensure that they are meeting the new guidance in their routine care of pregnant women and those giving birth. The focus will be on the prevention and early identification of FASD, as well as understanding the needs of families affected by FASD.

In addition, Surrey's Substance Misuse Treatment Service ([i-access](#)) works in partnership with the Safeguarding Midwives and Maternity Services, as well as Health Visitors and Social Workers. It is recognised that often, when women present to treatment services, they are already drinking dependently or problematically and although information is provided, the emphasis and advice needs to be provided earlier, before conception. Women are routinely asked about alcohol use in pregnancy, at assessment and a medical review will be offered, if appropriate, where FASD is discussed, risks explained, and a reduction/detoxification plan put in place.

There are already recommendations highlighted within Surrey's thematic review of Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI), that professionals working with women should make enquiries about their alcohol use, as it is recognised that social drinking can lead to FASD. i-access offer 'Parental Substance Misuse and the Impact on Children in Surrey' training on behalf of the Surrey Safeguarding Children's Partnership, which includes a section on FASD. Surrey's Substance Misuse

Strategy, currently under review and due to be launched within 2022/23, will include recommendations about the prevention and early identification of FASD through awareness campaigns, alcohol advice and wider Public Health-commissioned health and wellbeing services.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Becky Rush

PORTFOLIO: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources

2021/22 Budget Update: At Month 10, the Council is forecasting a small surplus of £0.6m against Directorate revenue budgets (less than 0.1%). Cabinet Members will continue to work with Directorates and Finance to manage the budget position for the remaining two months of the year. The Capital Programme forecast at Month 10 is £169.1m; £1.5m less than the reset budget of £170.6m. The net variance at Month 10 mainly relates to slippage and reprofiling of £1.2m and an underspend of £0.3m. Capital Programme delivery is a key priority and will be subject to continued concerted effort across the Council.

2022/23 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy: The Final Budget of £1,042m and MTF5 was approved by Council on 8 February 2022. The final budget included a 3% increase in precept to fund additional spend in adult and children's social care, a 1.00% increase to fund £8m additional investment in mental health and 0.99% to meet the increasing cost of providing services. Future opportunities to transform services and deliver a financially sustainable future, through the Twin Track programme, are being developed with a range of stakeholders including staff, Members partners and residents.

Internal Audit: Delivery of the remainder of the annual audit plan continues as year-end approaches. Advice and support is ongoing for the DB&I Programme. Three Partial Assurance opinions have been issued in respect of a follow-up review of Officer Code of Conduct, Public Accessibility, and a review of consultant use and contract management in Land & Property. Significant time has been spent in consultation with senior management and members of the Audit & Governance Committee to develop the 2022-23 Strategy and Annual Plan, due at Committee for approval on 28 March.

Procurement: The central policy team is developing material to ensure that third party spend goes beyond the core Council operations, ensuring the Authority procures in an ethical and responsible way. The draft Environmentally Responsible Procurement Policy and Modern Slavery Statements are due to be approved and launched in Q2 FY 2022/23. We now have a baseline of the Council's scope 3 emissions, from which we are exploring carbon accounting methodology and developing category specific approaches. We are on track to meet Modern Slavery Act changes requirements coming into force this year, are rolling out supply chain specific Modern Slavery Training, and are developing networks across Sussex and Surrey. The Social Value (SV) Policy is in place, and SV champions and tailored SV Charter is supporting the delivery of SV specific to the needs of Surrey residents, which will be enhanced by the SV Marketplace refresh currently underway. In reviewing tender materials in respect of policy risks and opportunities we are also seeking to enhance consideration of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion factors when procuring from third parties.

Risk: We are monitoring the Ukraine situation closely, liaising with both central government and local partners. Risk Management processes and up-to-date Business Continuity Plans take particular account of eventualities arising from cyber-attack or power outage. We are also reviewing the impact on the cost of living from price increases, particularly around fuel, and will respond to the unfolding situation on refugees.

Digital Programme: Focus has been on day-to-day delivery of the programme, collaborating with services to deliver capabilities and process optimisations to support their service delivery ambitions. This includes delivery of the new death registration chatbot, live Single View of Transition Data, and delivery of the 'discovery digithon' workshops for Adult Social Care, Your Fund Surrey, and Surrey Fire and Rescue Service to help frame opportunities and challenges using a digital lens which enables a cross-organisational approach to service and process re-design, with targeted technology. The Digital programme has also been focussed on the planning, engagement and pipeline for Digital 22/23. This includes work to support the CRM initiative to support delivery of the Data Strategy. All of the above is providing learning and insight that is informing the planning for the transition of Digital from a programme to a business-as-usual capability within the IT and Digital service.

HR & OD: We are progressing the Workforce of the Future strategy and undertaking a three-year programme of reward reform to simplify and modernise the reward approach across the Council to fit with our talent attraction and retention initiatives, ensuring we have a strong Employee Value Proposition and supporting ongoing initiatives to create more resilience, engagement and diversity in our workforce.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Rebecca Paul
PORTFOLIO: Levelling Up

Levelling Up: Our ultimate ambition here in Surrey is that no one is left behind. The role we play in the broader levelling up agenda is two-fold. At the national level, our contribution as a significant economic powerhouse is crucial; and at county level, our focus is on addressing existing inequalities and disparities in communities across Surrey. The Government's levelling up agenda is fundamentally a commitment to tackling inequalities and spreading opportunity and aligns well with our own objectives for making Surrey an even better place to live for all.

The recently published White Paper outlined twelve missions through which levelling up will be achieved and measured, with 'local leadership' being one. As part of our work to achieve no one left behind, we will be working to deliver against these missions. The 'local leadership' mission means that by 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal. Securing a devolution deal is a clear way through which we can 'level up' in Surrey and make progress towards no one left behind. Accordingly, we will be seeking to secure a County Deal at the earliest opportunity. In early March we held a Member development session on the Government's Levelling Up White Paper and what possibilities and opportunities it presents for Surrey. We will continue to engage and update Members as this work progresses.

As anticipated, the majority of the content of the White Paper was focused outside of London and the South East. However, there are still some key opportunities for Surrey, including influencing the health agenda via the upcoming Health Disparities White Paper and the health integration programme. The focus that Government is placing on health disparities is particularly important given that the most pronounced ways in which inequality exhibits itself within Surrey is across key healthy life expectancy indicators. Our ongoing work within the organisational priority objective to tackle health inequalities should align well to the Government's agenda in this area.

Data has been and will continue to be crucial both in identifying priority areas for action in Surrey and in measuring the progress of 'no one left behind' initiatives. The Health and Wellbeing Board has already identified five priority neighbourhoods for collaborative and creative action with communities based on a methodology that brings together the Index of Multiple Deprivation, child poverty data, and data on where education, training and/or skills are falling behind. This work will complement programmes of activity across all parts of the county which address inequalities that exist in other areas.

Looked After Children Leisure Offer: Following the agreed Council motion in [January 2022](#) we have been working alongside our district and borough (D&B) colleagues to develop a leisure offering for Children in Care, Care Leavers and Foster families across the whole of Surrey. Following a recent joint meeting it has been agreed to set up a Task and Finish group to look at operation of the scheme, involving Active Surrey, D&B colleagues and potentially leisure operator contacts. The target date for launch of the scheme is June 2022.

School Inclusion Summit: Permanent school exclusion has a negative impact on life outcomes for children and is disproportionately experienced by those on Free School Meals, with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and known to social care. The Council and the High Sherriff jointly commissioned Royal Holloway University of London to undertake research and analysis into the characteristics and reasons for permanent exclusions in Surrey. There was a Summit on 2 March 2022 to review this at which the Leader announced that the Council will fund the Surrey Alternative Learning Programme for the next financial year, which plays a key role in reducing permanent exclusions across Surrey. We are also looking into other ways we can better support high risk children and avoid permanent exclusion.

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. We have submitted a bid to the Department for Education for some transformation funding for Surrey and await a response to this bid, expected this month.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Natalie Bramhall

PORTFOLIO: Property and Waste

Property:

- Terms have been agreed to transfer a property back to the NHS as part of a contractual buy-back arrangement, providing the Council with a bonus return on its book cost.
- Marketing has concluded on the disposal of the former College site in Guildford, more than twelve bids received, terms have been agreed with a major social investment fund.
- A further tranche of housing assets has been transferred to Halsey Garton Residential Ltd bringing the portfolio under management to 77 units.
- Greener Future workstreams have been established to track property progress. A current key focus to support delivery of works 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.
- Implementing the Agile Office Estate programme continues. Staff located in Reigate and Banstead offices and Consort House will relocate to Woodhatch Place in July and December.
- The Temporary Body Storage facility at Bagshot is on track. Works are due to complete in May for operational readiness in the Autumn. A Permanent Mortuary business case is in development. Discussions are ongoing with the option to develop as a Joint Venture with the University of Surrey.
- Discussions are underway with the MOD for a potential joint Tower training facility with fire services on a MOD site.
- The lease and supporting documentation for Pond Meadow (Adult Extra Care) is in the process of being agreed; FAH had requested amendments to the documents and officers have responded. Officers continue to work closely with Procurement on the property aspects ahead of marketing the next four options.

The Council's properties compliance remains at 98% and the Minor Capital Works for FY21/22 continues at pace with an estimated spend of £15m, slightly above forecast. The minor works for FY22/23 are now listed totalling circa £20m; services have been extremely helpful supporting and developing the priorities list. Although there has been an increase of capex spend forecast from the previous year, officers remain confident of delivery as they are seeking additional temporary resources from external parties to support the internal team. The significant increase in energy prices over the last six months is putting additional pressure on forecast revenue expenditure for the 2022/23 budget year. Whilst the Council procures the majority of its energy through CCS in advance of the financial year, there is a small proportion that has yet to have been purchased and the utility costs have increased significantly in light of the recent events in the Ukraine. In February, officers, in conjunction with the Children's Service, gave a presentation to the Resources & Performance Select Committee on the maintenance works to be carried out at Children's Homes, which was well-received by the attending Members.

Approaching the end of FY21/22 the Capital Projects team have mobilised work on over 100 major projects with an estimated combined value of £500m. Approximately 50% of the projects are in the early RIBA Stages of Work for feasibility studies for outline business cases. The remaining 50% are working through the detailed design stages, planning process, procurement, and a number are in construction. Looking ahead to FY22/23 and beyond, a greater number of projects will be reaching the delivery stage and associated capital expenditure will increase to meet the five-year MTFS projections. Several projects in delivery to note include: the remediation project at Caterham Downs site, now nearing completion; two new Children's Homes and a Family Contact Centre; six projects for September 2022 SEND places; and Cranleigh Primary and Oakwood Secondary SBN provision. Projects to be submitted for Cabinet approval over the next six months include: Supported Independent Living accommodation (Manor, Horley and Cobham), Sunbury Hub, Bucklands Nursery, SBN Strategy Report, Reigate Priory Junior School, Public Mortuary, Extra Care Accommodation and Short Breaks, and the Highways Depot Strategy. The new property system, Planon, is on track to be fully delivered by the end of March.

Waste: The arbitration process with SUEZ has commenced. There are several stages, to culminate in a three-week hearing next July. At the time of writing the gasifier has not had an Acceptance Certificate from the Independent Certifier. Meanwhile SCC continue to engage with the Environment Agency to ensure SUEZ communicates with residents and the site is run in compliance with its Permit. The gasifier is operational though has experienced some technical difficulties in the last couple of months.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Marisa Heath

PORTFOLIO: Environment

Energy Projects: The Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (GHGLAD2) programme was launched on 21 February, offering fabric insulation and solar PV up to a value of £10k to fuel poor households across the county. The scheme is being delivered by Action Surrey, with the Council as the lead authority and will run until June 2022. It will be replaced with the Sustainable Warmth Programme, for which £13m has been allocated to the county to decarbonise fuel poor and off-gas grid homes. Surrey's Solar Together scheme, which offers subsidised solar PV to homeowners, has been a success with approximately 1,400 residents so far accepting quotations. Installations are expected to be completed by next month.

Decarbonising our own estate and schools: £2.65m has been allocated to SCC to install low carbon heat pumps and energy efficiency measures in 15 buildings through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund (PSDS3). Each of the buildings are being assessed for suitability for solar PV to offset the increase in energy prices resulting from switching from gas to electricity powered heat. Five buildings are schools and will be treated as pilots in our move to decarbonise Surrey's schools. Environment and Land and Property divisions are working together to put in place the programmes and policies required to meet our 2030 net zero carbon targets. We are also assessing our remaining building stock to prepare for the next tranche of the PSDS Programme (which has been confirmed). The business case to install a solar canopy and 16 EV chargers (with future capacity for a further 16 chargers) has been approved for Woodhatch Place. The installation is expected to start in April/May.

Finance: Surrey has been selected to partner in programme led by IBEX Earth and funded by the Greater South East Energy Hub to look at the opportunity to set up a Net Zero Vehicle to draw in private sector investment to fund decarbonisation schemes across the South East. SCC has been selected as the LA representative for the EM3 LEP area. The programme will seek to draw in funding from the Infrastructure Bank. The GF Data and Economics Manager post has now been recruited to develop this work. Officers will start to develop low/ zero interest loan schemes to fund decarbonisation measures for private rented housing in partnership with D&Bs.

Public Rights of Way: The maintenance capital programme for Public Rights of Way has been accelerated this year with over 30 bridges maintained. The team are currently recruiting to increase capacity, especially in enforcement activity and volunteering. The Council's Traffic Regulation Order will be reviewed this year with a paper presented to Cabinet at the end of the summer.

AONB: Work is underway with Natural England and its consultants on the proposed extension to the Surrey Hills. Community groups and the public have submitted over 2000 pieces of evidence that will help to identify the potential Candidate Areas. These areas will be subject to statutory consultation later in the year.

The new Farming in the Surrey Hills fund has supported 26 projects to help deliver nature recovery which includes planting over 7.5km of hedgerow, much of which has been undertaken by the Surrey Hills Society with volunteers and community groups. With the expected increase in visitors to the countryside this Spring, a new website has been commissioned to better promote the 180 Surrey Hills Enterprise's member businesses, the promotion of active travel with community rail partnerships, visitor information and the management of activities like mountain biking.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Steve Bax

PORTFOLIO: Environment

Norbury Park: Work has begun at Young Street car park, Norbury Park, to provide natural play equipment, a mobile café, additional seating by the river and improved landscaping. The Vision for Norbury Park consultation attracted over 500 responses, and these are being collated for presentation to the Community Forum in March and a final document in early April. Plans for two vacant properties (the Sawmill at Norbury Park and Lock Cottage on the Basingstoke Canal) are being drafted with Property colleagues alongside maintenance programme for the estates.

Tree Planting: A Tree Planting Summit was jointly hosted with the Forestry Commission at RHS Wisley on 10 March. Lord Deben Chairman of the Climate Change Committee attended, and the discussion was around the benefit of landowners planting trees and then SCC and the Forestry Commission set out the practical ways in which landowners could start planting. We are now following up with the attendees to assess the level of interest. The Environment team is also working on a clearer policy for tree planting across the county including on urban land so that members of the public will know what they can do and how to do it including where trees are not viable, planting of hedges, shrubs, and flower boxes.

Flood Risk Management: Part of the work of updating the local flood risk management strategy is exploiting the collective benefits of the partner's work. Priest Hill is one of those locations where designating a Local Nature Reserve and linking it to flood risk and tree strategy objective may provide a collective gain. Northey Fields and adjacent Priest Hill and Howell Hill nature reserves in Ewell have been identified for Local Nature Reserve designation. The area is at risk of surface water flooding and is upstream of known historic flooding events, initiated by Natural Environment Team, this project has been added to the Catchment Action Plan to be considered for flood risk contribution where another part of SCC is leading. It is a good example of where the collective benefits and collective funding can deliver our objectives through inclusion at the scoping stages.

Newlands Corner: The Discovery Centre and toilets at Newlands Corner are almost complete. The main part of the car park has been resurfaced and reorientated to maximise the view and support wider access. The parking machines have been sold and the information boards updated. All information has now been provided to Guildford Borough Council and planning permission is expected to be granted next month so the building work can be completed. Commons consent has now been granted for a natural play area and additional seating which will be installed in time for the end of spring.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Matt Furniss

PORTFOLIO: Transport & Infrastructure

Ringway update: Fortnightly mobilisation meetings and joint programme board meetings are now underway with the Council team and Ringway. A monthly meeting has also been put into place between Ringway and Kier facilitated by Surrey to aid transition.

Storm update: Colleagues from SCC, Kier and their supply chain worked incredibly hard to deal with Storms Eunice and Franklin. Between 18 and 28 February, over 1000 jobs were received with new calls being received on average every 8.2 minutes and incidents resolved every 11 minutes. It was amazing to see the dedication of everyone involved which led to a fantastic response keeping the residents of Surrey safe, along with allowing the road network to flow as smooth as it possibly could.

Infrastructure: Phase 1 schemes were approved by Cabinet in October. They form part of the expanded infrastructure programme including the River Thames Scheme, EVs, A320. The project management team are undertaking a programme review to challenge timescales for all projects and seek opportunities to bring forward construction activity where appropriate. A further batch of schemes (Phase 2) has been identified and feasibility design is underway to progress these to business case stage at the earliest opportunity. Several of these projects will be reported to Cabinet in May seeking approval for implementation.

Transport - Active Travel: Current next steps are to deliver 8 Tranche 2 schemes by end of 2022, await funding outcome from DfT for Tranche 3, commence preliminary design on tranche 3 schemes, deliver Tranche 3 schemes by March 2023, continue the development of LCWIPs across the county, awaiting announcement from DfT for invitation to bid for Tranche 4 active travel funding in Summer 2022 and finally, continue behaviour change project and PR campaign and work with communities to develop the bike loan scheme.

Bus Back Better: Consultation on the Enhanced Partnership Plan & Scheme with statutory consultees (Police, D&Bs, Traffic Commissioner, Passenger Focus, etc). DfT asked we do this after the BSIP funding announcement. Whilst not a requirement, we will separately consult with a wider set of stakeholders, including disability groups, to help set the initial and longer-term priorities for the partnership. A final EP was originally required by end March - now DfT require a draft EP by the end of April.

Planning & Waste and Minerals Plan: The Policy team has undertaken four public engagement events at libraries across Surrey (Farnham, Reigate, Addlestone and Guildford). Public engagement at these events was limited despite direct notification of local stakeholders and related advertising. However, the discussions at the events were largely positive, helpful, and informative for both interested parties and officers. Consultation responses continue to be received by officers directly by email and letter and through the digital consultation hub which closed on 7 March, however, officers will continue to accept written (letter or email) representations for a reasonable period of time after this date (for some two weeks).

Healthy Streets: The final version is expected in Spring 2022 with stakeholder engagement and consultation to follow. The project has been chosen by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities as a Design Code Pathfinder and the funding that this provides means that the digital version of the guidance can be much more ambitious than originally envisaged. A paper will be coming to Council in Autumn 2022 for adoption of the PDF Guidance with a launch of the interactive digital guide in 2023.

Enforcement: Launch of HGV watch scheme delayed due to difficulties recruiting a co-ordinator to manage it. It is important the postholder has civil enforcement experience because they will also be involved with our application and rollout of Moving Traffic Enforcement. The third recruitment attempt is underway with interviews planned for second half of March. Bus lane enforcement cameras are now installed at the Woking Road and Onslow Street bus lanes. The camera software is being integrated with Guildford Borough parking enforcement software to allow warnings and fines to be issued from April. Guildford Borough Council are going to provide a timetable for the 'go live' process.

LTP4: The additional consultation period, aimed at reaching a wider audience, is almost complete. UCA Students artwork to be displayed/ performed in late March. A full paper will be going to Cabinet in May, and Council in July for adoption of the plan.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Jordan Beech

PORTFOLIO: Highways

LED rollout: A three-year programme to introduce LED lighting within the county. Currently in year two and still ahead of schedule for completion, 59,255 out of 89,096 completed (66.5%). Our supply chain is being affected by the global shortage of electronic components. We are working with our contractor to monitor the situation and update our programmes accordingly. If we can maintain the supply, we are confident the project will be completed on schedule. We are also exploring opportunities for the expanded use of the street lighting central management system (CMS) to allow county wide connected devices and other capabilities. An update will be provided when the review is complete.

Winter Service Review: The Winter Service season 2021-22 was unusually cold from the start in but has been relatively warmer in recent months. We saw some wintery conditions and small amount of snow in November and treated the roads far more than usual from November to January, with 23 treatment runs in January alone. On average we undertake 52 treatment runs during the whole winter and we thought we were in for a record year, but the weather has turned warmer since January, and we are now looking at the forecast for the next 30 days showing steadily rising temperatures. We are hopeful this will remain the case and will continue monitoring forecasts to look for opportunities to stand the service down earlier in April if the risk is considered acceptable.

During this season we have moved from using Diesel in our gritter fleet to using HVO (Hydrotreated vegetable oil) Biofuel, this is expected to reduce their CO2 emissions by 90%. This trial is being closely monitored and there has been no impact on fleet effectiveness from doing this. During the second year of the pandemic, as during the first, we have been working closely with NHS colleagues to support safe access and operation of the test and vaccination centres during winter. Kier have also trialled two types of small electric vehicles for salt treatment. These have been employed treating footways at the test and vaccination centres.

Road and Pavement Programme Update: Our contractors have been working hard since the beginning of the financial year on our planned road and pavement programmes. To date we have completed 58 miles of carriageway resurfacing works which includes resurfacing 15 miles of road and carrying out preventative surface dressing on 39 miles, plus 4 miles of treatments that include some innovative solutions such as concrete fine milling which has a lower carbon footprint than traditional treatments and provides a longer lasting finish – we are particularly pleased with this process, as will prove to be excellent value for money and whole life costing.

We have also treated 19 miles of pavements. We still have over 6 miles of treatments to carry out on roads over the coming months along with another 5 miles of pavement treatments, which we are confident will be delivered before end of the financial year. We have now started the process of mobilisation with our new Term Maintenance Contractor, Ringway, who officially start at the end of April 2022. We are working through 10 different Mobilisation Working Groups with Ringway and Surrey colleagues, in preparation for next year, including IT systems and Operations. We are working hard to provide a seamless and collaborative service through the end of the current contract and start of the new one and are excited to embrace new challenges

Lane Rental: Lane Rental scheme is being operated efficiently as part of Streetworks Team BAU with income received broadly in line with estimated income levels set out in Cabinet Report. Officers are working with Consultants: Open Road Associates (ORA) to develop enhanced reporting functionality around success of scheme thus far regards mitigating network disruption. An annual report will be produced at the end of year one of operation. The Governance Board to allocate surplus funds to projects held its inaugural meeting in Feb 2022 and is developing the bidding and assessment process for potential projects and will meet again this June to allocate funds to initial tranche of project bids received.

Innovations in highways and materials: Innovation is a key part of our new Highways Contract and Officers have been working with the incoming contractor, Ringway to establish plans and processes to continue to build an innovative culture within all aspects of the Highways Service. An Innovation Hub will be established at the Merrow Highways Depot and Boards are being established to look at areas including Technology, Materials, Sustainability, and IT systems. In the meantime, work is ongoing to test products such as AI and machine learning for Highway Inspections and Condition Surveys and we are reviewing new materials products such as light reflecting aggregates for use in low light areas.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Kevin Deanus

PORTFOLIO: Community Protection

My last portfolio update highlighted the work being carried out in Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, Emergency Planning, Health and Safety and flooding. This update will focus on the other services within the Community Protection portfolio in order to focus on all areas of my portfolio during the year.

Prevent and Protect: An Independent Review of Prevent is currently being conducted by William Shawcross. This will gather and analyse a range of information to underpin robust, evidence-based findings and recommendations on the government's strategy for supporting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Although the Review has been delayed, it is hoped that it will be completed soon.

The ground-breaking Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) Early, counter radicalisation campaign is being taken direct to young people, with innovative new first-person videos. More children and young people than ever before are being drawn towards extremism, and sometimes even terrorism. The videos, which use first hand testimony of real-life stories from people who have been through a radicalisation process or lost loved ones, can be accessed on ACT's website under [Real Stories](#). The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) has also launched a video for businesses, highlighting practical steps to be taken in the event of having to lockdown during a terrorist (marauding) attack. The video can help businesses plan for such incidents and gives advice on building a plan applying the principles of RUN, HIDE, TELL. The video can be viewed on CPNI UK's YouTube channel and is entitled "[Café Lockdown Drama](#)." Please do share these films in your communities.

Trading Standards: The team have seen an increase in their work with Heathrow Airport on imported goods. They are currently preparing to launch a campaign aimed at preventing purchases of sub-standard carbon monoxide alarms from online retailers such as Amazon Market Place which are being imported via the airport. These products are not compliant with UK safety regulations and are either not alerting residents to the poison quick enough or alerting them when they shouldn't be.

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS), which is part of the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has indicated that they are looking into purchasing samples from a variety of online market places to understand the market picture better. Trading Standards will continue to feed further into OPSS regarding similar products found at the Ports for potential inclusion with the proposed market surveillance work.

The service is also working to promote and work with convenience stores on new legislation that is coming into force in October. The Government's new regulations will affect thousands of retailers. The intention of The Food (Promotion and Placement) (England) Regulations 2021 is to:

- reduce the availability of products high in fat, salt, and sugar (HFSS) bought through "volume promotions" like 'buy one get one free' offers, and
- to restrict the placement of HFSS product categories in high footfall areas of an affected store, like checkouts, end-of-aisle units, store entrances, and designated queueing areas.

Armed Forces: The annual Armed Forces Covenant Conference 2022 took place at the Army Training Centre, Pirbright on Tuesday 15 March. The event brought together all those supporting the Armed Forces Covenant in Surrey to share, celebrate and build on the partnership between Surrey's armed forces and civilian communities. The agenda included an update on current deployments and priorities, resettlement of Afghan citizens, supporting the wellbeing of our veterans and their families along with keynote speakers.

In July the Armed Forces Bill 2021 is expected to come into force. This Act prevents disadvantage faced by the Armed Forces Community due to the unique nature of their service in the Armed Forces. This new legislation is designed to increase awareness of, and in turn improve the delivery of, the Armed Forces Covenant in the three key areas that are fundamental to a good life - education, healthcare, housing and homelessness.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Mark Nuti
PORTFOLIO: Communities

Active Surrey: We have secured five years of investment of £2.7m into tackling inequality and inactivity in Surrey from Sport England. We continue to focus on building the financial resilience of services, supporting them to develop income generation concepts, construct strong bids and to identify saving opportunities in collaboration with the Becoming More Entrepreneurial programme.

Arts Service: Surrey Arts successfully delivered a new music programme with Afghan refugee communities and delivered the Dance21 programme across various Districts and Boroughs, promoting health and wellbeing, and engaging residents in activities out in the community. Engagement in whole-class ensemble primary school programme increased by 60% compared to pre-covid levels.

Libraries: 542 events took place in libraries in January and February with over 10,000 attendees. This includes key events celebrating World Book Day and the British Libraries Living Knowledge Network, alongside popular rhyme time and story time and school visits sessions.

Registration & Nationality Service: Surrey's registration service has successfully cleared a birth backlog, 4,803 historic birth certificates have been issued, 20,287 birth and death certificates have been issued for new events, 1,752 notices have been taken for marriages/ civil partnerships, 749 marriages and civil partnerships have been carried out in Surrey, and 907 new British citizens welcomed.

Customer Services: We have launched a new 'transaction bot' so customers can book, reschedule, or cancel death registration appointments online, providing an enhanced service for those who want to interact digitally. Following Government announcement to move to 'living with Covid', we have brought to a close the local test and trace operation within Customer Services, which successfully traced more positive cases than the national model. We have also secured funding to expand the Community Helpline and work with Citizen's Advice to deliver an enhanced welfare offer for Surrey residents who are in challenging situations and/ or struggling financially, due to launch April 2022. We have rolled out a collaboration pilot to five Libraries, so customers can be connected to advice, information and services in their local library setting, along with a digital support offer if needed.

Your Fund Surrey: Claygate Community Pool has been awarded £363,500 to redevelop an existing outdoor pool into an indoor facility that will enable the whole community to use the pool all year round. Pirbright Community Amateur Sports Pavilion has been awarded £300,000 for an environmentally sustainable, community amateur sports pavilion to help foster wider engagement in active lifestyles. South Park Community 3G Pitch has been awarded £150,000 for a floodlit Stadia/ Community 3G Artificial Grass Pitch providing an opportunity for teams to play and build their provision for women, girls and people living with disabilities.

VCFS: In line with the No One Left Behind key priority, the County Council gave £560,000 as one-off grant funding to the Citizen's Advice Charities across Surrey. This is to support those Surrey's communities that are struggling financially due to the impacts of Covid and the increased cost of living. A key aspect of this funding is to ensure more outreach points and Citizen Advice officers and volunteers going to community areas such as foodbanks and libraries to proactively support residents. The Volunteer training gives this funding an element of sustainability despite being one-off, and the added outreach capacity will act as a preventative measure, catching people who need support at the right time before they spiral further into difficulties.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Sinead Mooney

PORTFOLIO: Adults & Health

Consultation on Future of In-House Older People's Homes: There is an implementation plan in place that has been signed off by the Adult Leadership Team on 2 March 2022. It was agreed that:

- The number one priority is the need to find new residential homes safely, sensitively, and efficiently for the existing residents. We would like families and residents to be happy with the choice of new home.
- Once an individual has moved, they will remain open to the Supported Placement Group until they have had their six-week review or are settled in their new home.
- A staff consultation will start in April.
- The phasing will be such that there is one home in each area being closed at a time:
 - The homes in phase 1 that will start in April will be Birchlands in Englefield Green, Keswick in Great Bookham, Orchard Court in Lingfield.
 - The homes in phase 2 will be Heathside in Woking, Meadowside in Staines and Chalkmead in Merstham.
 - The homes in phase 3 will be Barnfield in Horley and Abbeywood in Ash.
- Service Delivery to move onto "the next home" in each area in order, once the last resident of the preceding home has been successfully moved, although there will be scope for doing some work "in parallel".
- The phasing should not give the impression that home x will be closed in a specific time period
- It will take about two years to close all the homes.
- Short term placements are acceptable, but we should not be making permanent placements in any of the homes.
- Barnfield and Abbeywood will continue with supporting the system though Discharge to Assess with bridging beds etc until their phase starts. In addition, for Abbeywood options will be explored regarding development of the site for alternative adult social care services or a joint development with NHS/ partners. The building may still need to close if large scale essential maintenance or development is required, and if no alternative developments are identified.

Budget Update – Adult Social Care and Public Health: With the 2021/22 financial year now nearly at an end, attention is turning to the delivery of the 2022/23 budget approved by Council in February. One of the key areas of focus is increased investment in services to support people's mental health and emotional wellbeing. The 2022/23 budget provides for £7.9m of increased investment in these services, £1.4m of which is increased spending on existing services, primarily in Adult Social Care, and £6.5m of transformation investment. The funding will be used for interventions that enhance or safeguard supporting and protecting factors that help people avoid becoming acutely or chronically unwell. The investment will maintain or improve wellbeing and reduce the need for formal or acute treatment. Interventions will be designed alongside stakeholders and partners and could include, for example, investing in improved supported housing options for people with mental health problems, use of technology, peer support and expanding the immediate support available for people in a crisis, to avoid the need for longer-term interventions.

As Surrey and the country as a whole start to move out of the height of the pandemic, investment in Public Health is also a key focus. A number of initiatives funded out of the Contain Management Outbreak Fund (COMF) grant will continue into 2022/23 to ensure the county continues to effectively manage the virus. Since the 2022/23 budget was published, DHSC has confirmed that Surrey's Public Health grant will increase by £1m in 2022/23 although it should be noted that this increase is needed to meet inflationary pressures. Despite this increase, Surrey continues to receive a very low allocation (the third lowest per head of population in the country), and so as well as continuing to lobby government about Surrey's low level of Public Health funding, SCC's Cabinet will be considering future investment in Public Health in this context and Surrey's wider prevention agenda.

Public Health Changing Futures: The successful Changing Futures (CF) Grant Award (£2.8m) was the result of a system – wide submission created in consultation and engagement with a wide range of partner organisations and individuals with lived experience. It builds on the local Surrey Adults Matter approach that has been established to fund local initiatives to support improved outcomes for individuals with multiple disadvantage, including relevant evaluation and monitoring as follows:

- Three organisations have been providing the Bridge the Gap Trauma Informed Outreach Service for one year in response to the pandemic and an external evaluation has been commissioned. A recruitment process of providers to join the alliance is underway and should bring in an additional four and be

operational by April 2022, utilising 50% of the CF grant with community-based organisations for outreach support.

- Thirty networks have been identified from the mapping of lived experience and peer mentoring. These will enable individuals to review and engage in co-production of services and systems under CF.
- Bedding in four new one-year Assistant Social Worker posts in Adult Social Care to inform system improvements in relation to accommodation. Funded through the COMF they are assisting with frontline co-ordination of health, wellbeing and accommodation/ homelessness during the pandemic and beyond.

COVID-19 Update – 8 March 2022: On 22 February, the Government published [COVID-19 Response: Living with COVID-19](#). The Government’s objective is to manage COVID-19 like other respiratory illnesses, while minimising mortality, and retaining the ability to respond if a new variant emerges or during periods of waning immunity, that could again threaten to place the NHS under unsustainable. As such, all domestic restrictions have been / are due to be removed, as outlined below:

From 21 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Guidance on twice weekly asymptomatic testing in most education settings was removed
From 24 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The legal requirement to self-isolate following positive test was removed and replaced with new guidance – COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts ○ Routine contact tracing ceased ○ Self-isolation support payments ended ○ The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 3) Regulations were revoked
From 1 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The use of the NHS COVID Pass will no longer be recommended in certain settings ○ Free universal testing for the general public in England will no longer be provided ○ ‘Working Safely’ guidance will be replaced with new public health guidance

Encouraging safer behaviours through public health advice; protecting the most vulnerable to COVID-19 through vaccination and targeted testing; and maintaining resilience through ongoing surveillance and contingency planning are the underpinning principles of the Living with COVID-19 plan.

Surrey’s [Local Outbreak Management Plan](#) (LOMP) has been updated to reflect the Living with COVID-19 plan. A full review of the LOMP will be undertaken when all guidance is published – expected to be by the end of March. Surrey’s COVID Management Group has been stood down and the Surrey Heartlands Resilience and Emergency Preparedness Resilience and Response Board resumed on 9th March for continued oversight of the pandemic response.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Clare Curran

PORTFOLIO: Children & Families

Ofsted Inspection of Surrey local authority Children's Services: The CFLL Directorate welcomed the [Ofsted report](#) on Children's Services, following the January inspection, which demonstrates the considerable progress made since the previous inspection in 2018. I am delighted that the inspectors recognised significant improvements in all areas and the evidence that Surrey children are now safer. Following a thorough and in-depth analysis of the service, the inspectors judged that overall, the service "requires improvement to be good", which I agree is a fair reflection of the point we are at in our improvement journey. Inspectors recognised that there is a strong foundation on which to improve services further. The service is no longer in statutory intervention so the oversight of the DfE and Ofsted has ceased.

I would like to say an enormous thank you to both the departmental leadership team and our dedicated and hardworking staff for all they have achieved for our children and young people, despite the extra demands placed on them during the last two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, and for providing the information and evidence requested during the inspection. I would also like to thank the children and families we work in partnership with for their helpful input into the changes we've made and for their engagement with the Ofsted inspectors.

I recognise that inconsistencies remain, and we need to keep building on the firm foundations we've already built to embed improvements and ensure excellent practice in all parts of the service so that no children and young people are left behind. We have focussed on early help and intervention, to prevent children needing more intensive support at a later stage and the inspectors were able to see that some children have benefited from helpful services at this stage, which have made a real difference to their lives. I am pleased that the inspectors found that most social workers listen carefully to children and make sure that children's views inform decision-making.

Our staff feel they have been well supported during the COVID-19 pandemic which, in turn, has enabled them to continue to support children and families. This comes at a time when the service is actively recruiting permanent staff and striving to retain the best people. Do, please, watch and share this lovely [video](#) which shows the sense of purpose that roles in social work bring.

We will be building on these strengths and others identified by Ofsted including:

- Thorough – and in some cases – excellent assessments of need
- Recent success in recruiting foster carers and developing an effective support model with them
- Thoughtful, sensitive, and person-centred direct work with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
- Strong multi-agency work, and interventions for children missing or at risk of exploitation/ significant harm
- Our highly effective Family Safeguarding Model addressing & reducing long-standing risks & needs

The inspectors identified the following priority areas for improvement:

- The quality and effectiveness of assessments and plans for all children, including disabled children, homeless 16- and 17-year-olds and privately fostered children
- Partnership work to secure support for children and young people's mental health and well-being
- The provision of essential information to carers about children and viability assessments to inform placements with friends or family
- The sufficiency of suitable accommodation for young people, including care leavers
- The quality and impact of supervision to ensure that decisions are timely and support the progression of children's plans
- The proportion of permanent staff, to reduce turnover

Task and Finish Groups are being established to tackle these areas and we expect to see tangible improvements within six months. In some cases, we already have established programmes, such as Recruitment, Retention and Culture of our workforce. Based on the evidence gathered, comprehensive plans to address all areas for improvement are being drawn up to address all the feedback from the inspection, not just the six priority areas identified in the final report. The service is determined to continue the trajectory of improvement.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Denise Turner-Stewart

PORTFOLIO: Education & Learning

Supporting Refugees in Surrey: Across the world, we have seen horrendous refugee crises afflicting countries like Afghanistan, Syria, Hong Kong, and now Ukraine. Surrey County Council has supported refugees for many years and responded to the needs of the refugee communities in the County. Our schools have always been very responsive to requests to admit Afghan children under the Government's Afghan resettlement scheme and welcomed them warmly into their school community. There are 170 children in Surrey schools across all year groups who are part of the Afghan resettlement scheme.

Surrey's Admissions team has also worked closely with West Sussex to ensure children accommodated close to the Surrey/ West Sussex border have been able to secure a school place and this has led to 58 children being placed in West Sussex schools. Surrey Adult Learning is currently offering eight bespoke English courses for British Nationals arriving from Hong Kong. Eighty-eight learners are enrolled, and we are putting on more courses this month for the 22 Hong Kong British Nationals on our waiting lists. They join other refugees from Syria and Afghanistan also accessing ESOL classes through Surrey Adult Learning.

Co-production in Surrey: Co-production is an approach we take to work closely with families to design, plan and deliver effective services and we recognise that this plays an important role in the way we work. We are continuing to build a strong relationship of networks via our partners in Education, Health, Social Care, and the voluntary sector, as well as with those families receiving services. One of our key projects is Surrey's All Age Autism Strategy 2021-2026, that aims to deliver improvements to the lives of the 12,300 autistic people living in Surrey. As the Strategy moves into the implementation phase, a workshop is being held on 15th March to build our co-production strategy and weave this into the fabric of the services that we offer.

Alongside this, we are working with partners to co-produce a self-evaluation of our 'SEND' system, including working with our colleagues and families to build case studies of what it is like living with 'SEND' in Surrey through ethnographic research, which will lead into the design of a large-scale survey for parents and carers to be launched in the summer term. We are also working closely with partners such as Family Voice and Surrey Youth Focus to build stronger partnership working between the Council and the families who access our services. All of this work will tie in to developing a new SEND partnership strategy for Surrey, to be in place by January 2023. This strategy will focus on further improving the way we identify needs, meet needs, and improve services and outcomes for children and young people with additional needs in Surrey and their families.

Inclusion Summit: The High Sheriff, Dr Julie Llewellyn hosted a ground-breaking summit which focused on the Inclusion of Young People by preventing permanent exclusions— What works to keep children and young people in education. The summit explored partnership working and collaboration to reduce and prevent exclusions and shared the research commissioned by Surrey County Council in 2019 which was undertaken by the Royal Holloway University of London. A comprehensive report was produced which brings together national research with the Surrey context. As a result, a Central Surrey Alternative Learning Programme (SALP) Board has been established to oversee the activity taking place across the County to reduce permanent exclusions.

Speakers heard from the Leader of the Council who highlighted the 2030 community vision that no one is left behind and the ambition of the council to support young people and their families. The Leader also confirmed the continuation of funding for the Surrey Alternative Learning Programme (SALP) for a further financial year. The summit recognised schools exclude reluctantly and as a last resort, but the challenge was 'we could do better'. Importantly the summit confirmed the view that schools, services, and the voluntary sector are well-placed to identify and respond to the vulnerability of young people who have experienced adverse experiences.

Access2 Education (A2E) Service: Our A2E service provides learning support for children who, for a range of reasons, may not be able to attend school for a time. It was pleasing to hear the positive feedback on the A2E service which was recently received from a parent whose daughter has autism and was having difficulty leaving the house and attending school during the pandemic. The mother said that the A2E service was 'amazing' in supporting her child back into school and extra-curricular activities. She saw remarkable progress for her child and reflected 'They are all caring dedicated professionals. The teachers and mentors are just really lovely and a credit to the service.' Post pandemic services such as this are crucial now more than ever and we are very proud of the staff who are delivering these.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Maureen Attewell

PORTFOLIO: Children & Lifelong Learning

Domestic Abuse (DA) and Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG): In Surrey our vision is for every adult and child experiencing DA to be seen, safe and heard, and free from the harm caused by perpetrator behaviour. As a partnership we focus on preventing DA and ensuring that all affected:

- Are empowered to live lives free from domestic violence or abuse
- Perpetrators are held to account and change their behaviour
- Gain the personal confidence to build healthy relationships for themselves and their dependants
- Can access the right information, services, and support, at the right time in the right place

2021 was a significant year with regards to DA legislation and has seen the introduction of the DA Act which aims to:

- Raise awareness and understanding about the devastating impact of DA on victims, children, and families
- Further improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims of DA and bringing perpetrators to justice
- Strengthen the support for victims of abuse by statutory agencies

SCC and our partners have made good progress with the implementation and delivery of the DA Act and achieved the following to date:

- Required Needs Assessment completed
- Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) Health Checks completed with all Districts and Boroughs and action plans developed
- Support in [Safe Accommodation Strategy](#) published
- Sanctuary Scheme review and redesign in progress
- Secured funding for dispersed units to provide safe accommodation to victim groups where existing refuge provision is not appropriate

This partnership work will continue into 2022 with the following next steps:

- The Surrey Against Domestic Abuse Partnership will ensure that we set outcomes against plans to tackle VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls)
- Develop VAWG Partnership Strategy
- DAHA health assessments – work with D&Bs to implement action plans to address Countywide and localised gaps and recommendations
- Dispersed accommodation with specialist support to be mobilised
- Work with key partners to explore options to develop and deliver move on accommodation to survivors and their families in Surrey
- Centralisation Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) coordination to provide consistency and Countywide learning which will vastly improve the way we carry out DHRs in Surrey
- Monitor, evaluate, and consider ongoing sustainability of the perpetrator's and YUVA (behaviour change intervention for young people who utilise abusive behaviours) programmes.
- Consult with residents, service users, survivors, and professionals to further develop our Strategy
- Utilise knowledge and expertise to understand barriers that prevent women and girls from accessing support
- Review Local and National Domestic Homicide Reviews to identify where coercive and controlling behaviour is a feature and what can be learned from this
- Review training offer to ensure a Countywide understanding around DA and VAWG

Youth Offending Inspection Outcome: I am delighted to announce that YOS has been recognised by HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) with a “good” grading following an inspection in November. Incredibly, the service has gone from “inadequate” to “good” in three short years since 2019 and, although the report was “good” overall, the service was graded as “outstanding” in three areas. You can find out more [here](#).