

Cabinet- Supplementary Agenda

**Date & time**

Tuesday, 26 July
2022 at 2.00 pm

Place

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

Contact

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Chief Executive

Joanna Killian



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

Deputy Cabinet Members: Maureen Attewell, Steve Bax, Jordan Beech and Rebecca Paul

4 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

a Members' Questions

(Pages 1
- 4)

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

b Public Questions

(Pages 5
- 8)

There are two public questions. A response from Cabinet is attached.

Joanna Killian
Chief Executive
Monday, 25 July 2022

QUESTIONS, PETITIONS AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

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

Please note:

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

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

Thank you for your co-operation

CABINET – 26 JULY 2022**PROCEDURAL MATTERS****Members Questions****Question (1) Lance Spencer (Goldsworth East and Horsell Village)**

According to a new report backed by some of the UK's biggest children's charities it was noted that cuts in funding for early support for children have created a "vicious cycle", with thousands more young people going into care and needing crisis help.

As Sure Start centres, youth clubs and family support services for substance abuse have shut down, children and teenagers told the report's authors they felt they had to "get hurt or harm someone " before they could get help.

With a succession of Conservative-led governments slashing central funding to local authorities in England by around 40 per cent over the past 12 years, many councils have responded by cutting services which they are not required by law to deliver, such as early intervention support for children.

As one of the authorities that closed its children's centres and introduced 'Family Centres' as part of a new strategy would the Cabinet Member,

- a. Confirm whether all the proposed family centres are now fully operational.
- b. Provide data to show that the Council's targeted approach is succeeding in preventing vulnerable children and their families from slipping through the net compared to the last three years that children's centres were operational.

Reply:

- a. The Family Centre offer is part of a wider offer of early help for children and families delivered by multi-agency partners across the whole of the children's system. They are all now fully operational delivering targeted support to families with children 0 – 11 years with multiple family support needs. They work alongside the Family Support Programme delivered in partnership with the District/Borough Councils and Targeted Youth Support teams so that collectively children and young people aged 0 – 18yrs and their families are supported to get the help they need at the earliest opportunity.

Practitioners across all the children's system including schools, voluntary organisations, health, and police can request this help through the Children's Single Point of Access (CSPA) once they have identified the needs of children/young people and their families and sought their agreement to take up the offer of help.

There were 6,200 referrals to Early Help from March 2021 – to the end of June 2022, it is worth noting that Family Centres and the Family Support programme only started recording on the Early Help Module data base in August 2021, so the actual referrals are likely to be higher.

Alongside the offer of targeted help, family centres offer activities/groups for families who need some extra help and offer their buildings for use by other organisations to deliver services for children and families. Practitioners can signpost to these groups as part of their offer of early help for the families they work with.

The Surrey Partnership Helping Families Early Strategy (2020 – 2023) encompasses this partnership approach whereby families are supported through a range of multi-agency services/activities. The aim is that together we can identify families and deliver services based on a multi-agency operating model in a more co-ordinated way and avoid children/young people falling through the net.

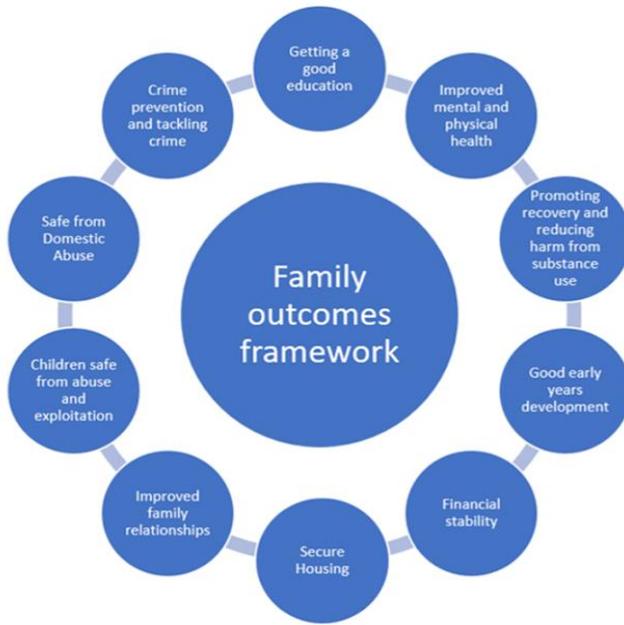
Other initiatives and investment in supporting our most vulnerable children, young people and their families as a multi-agency partnership include:

- Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Supporting Families programme extended for a further 3 years with 40% uplift in funding to identify and support more children and families with multiple issues.
- DfE funding for Reducing Parental Conflict extended for further 3 years and uplift in funding.
- Department of Health published the 10-year Drug Strategy in May 2022, following the Independent Review of Substance Misuse Services by Dame Carol Black and have invested a further £3million over the next 3 years. This is a total investment of £900 million for local authorities over the spending review period.
- 10% uplift in Youth Justice funding to support prevention activities
- Building Belonging pilot project to provide additional support for the most vulnerable children and young people with complex needs across multiple domains between the ages 0 – 18 yrs.
- Youth offer including mental health therapeutic support programme being delivered.
- Police – Child First approach and early help initiative based on a core framework putting in place a trauma /Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) approach that identifies levels of need and the right intervention.

To ensure that we continue to improve our approach to identifying and supporting our most vulnerable children, we have commissioned a research partner to engage and listen to families using services, those currently not engaging and practitioners within the early help system to understand what matters to them, how they are managing day to day and who they are turning to for support and guidance. This will build a full picture of what is working well and how we can build on it as we develop our future offer.

- b. Supporting Families targets set by DLUHC have been fully achieved for the last 2 years, where families have achieved successful and sustained outcomes when they have been supported through the Family Centre and Family Support programme.

Targets are set by DLUHC, and the programme has been expanded from 2022- 2025 recognising the impact that the pandemic has had on families.



Surrey Targets

2020-2021	680 families - fully achieved
2021-2022	680 families – fully achieved
2022- 2023	680 families
2023- 2024	1,101 families
2024-2025	1,361 families

There are many more families who access support in their communities through the private, community and voluntary sector and through faith organisations. The Family Information Service is a web-based service provide through CFLL, so parents and professionals can find support in their districts and boroughs. Surrey County Council also employs Community Connectors who are based in localities and are a physical presence to support families finding support at the earliest opportunity.

Clare Curran
Cabinet Member for Children and Families
26 July 2022

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CABINET – 26 JULY 2022**PROCEDURAL MATTERS****Public Questions****Question (1): Malcolm Robertson**

The Charlton Lane incinerator is said to have restarted on the 25th June 2021. Since that time it has operated sporadically, although it is said to have completed 60 days continuous operation pre Christmas 2021. I believe the incinerator has now completed a further 90 day operation.

I am very grateful for the Cabinet Member for Property and Waste's response to me in May in which she told me that Suez would be measuring fuel use as part of its performance testing at 4000 and 8000 hours. As the 4000 hour performance target must now have passed, may I ask you to provide details of the gasoil used during that period, together with the amount of waste incinerated during that same time?

Reply:

Based on the information provided by Suez, the gasifier processed 13,447 tonnes of refuse-derived fuel during the period 1 January 2022 to 31 May 2022. During the same period 83,733 gallons of gasoil were used by the plant and 4,134 MWh of electricity was exported to the local grid, which is enough to power 2659 homes during the period 1 January 2022 to 31 May 2022.

As the plant is now operational, SUEZ is working to optimise the performance of the gasification facility and reduce the use of support fuel. Support fuel is primarily used in the gasification process in order to maintain temperature during start up, ensuring that the temperature is stable and at the correct level to safely introduce waste as the primary fuel. Support fuel is also used on shut down, again to control the temperature and ensure emissions are kept well within permitted levels. SUEZ have identified a number of changes that will reduce fuel oil usage and which will be implemented for the next gasifier run planned to commence at the beginning of August.

Natalie Bramhall
Cabinet Member for Property and Waste
26 July 2022

Question (2): Jenny Desoutter

In response to the twin crises of Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss that threaten both humanity and our planet, Surrey County Council has adopted a comprehensive strategy to address Climate Change, but there is a perception that little so far is being done to address Surrey's dramatic loss of Biodiversity, despite the shocking fact that in Surrey one third of all species are either lost or in decline. Ironically, public enthusiasm for nature is adding to the urgency, creating increasing pressure on habitats so that Biodiversity loss is happening incrementally and unnoticed day and

night by a thousand tiny, casual, unintentional cuts. There is no time to lose. But fortunately, having recently taken back control of the Countryside Estate, SCC have a massive opportunity in their hands to take action and make a difference. I understand that following recruitment of a team to implement the Climate Change Delivery Plan, and subsequent to the retirement earlier this year of the County Ecologist, SCC are currently in process of recruiting a post of Natural Environment Strategic Lead. Given the urgency of the need, and in light of SCC's responsibilities as a 28G authority, can SCC please state:

If and when the Council will give equal priority, supported by equivalent resources in terms of both funding and crucially by an adequate team of personnel with appropriate ecological expertise to support the new Lead, to setting out and implementing a clear, up to date 'Biodiversity Action Plan for Surrey' to complement the Climate Change Delivery Plan; and in particular so as to ensure that the two plans are closely linked, and that, for example, the impacts of initiatives such as the planting of trees in this most wooded County are considered also in context of impacts on Biodiversity, and that no unnecessary actions (whether or not legally requiring an EIA) are taken which might cause further accidental loss of fragile Biodiversity in its Countryside Estate?

Reply:

We know a high-quality natural environment is vital to us all in Surrey. From our back gardens and streets to our rivers and protected heathlands and ancient woodlands – a stable and functioning natural environment is fundamental to our health and economy, and well as delivery of our climate change targets. To deliver this outcome, we must be joined up in addressing two key and equally important challenges of climate change, as well as the loss of habitats and species.

In addition to compliance with our statutory duties for biodiversity, our Climate Change Delivery Plan, approved in 2021, integrates biodiversity and climate change under the 'Grow Back Greener' programme. This includes the Council working with communities and boroughs and districts to develop a Land Management Framework and a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Surrey, to embed a climate resilient, low carbon and high biodiversity approach across our estate and major infrastructure programmes and delivery of target initiatives, such as tree planting.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy, a partnership strategy, is being developed with Surrey local authorities, landowners, local groups and the Surrey Nature Partnership will involve the production of a clear spatial framework with a statutory basis under the Environment Act, to inform land use decisions and channel investment into local priorities for nature recovery. By consolidating and communicating our shared priorities, the strategy will help restore links between fragmented habitats and support landowners and developers to design, build and operate, for nature. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy builds on the firm foundations of Biodiversity Opportunity Areas developed by the Surrey Nature Partnership in the past decade, and the preceding Biodiversity Action Plan for Surrey. With new delivery mechanisms by way of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain in the planning system and new agri-environment financial incentives, there will be clear routes for implementation of the strategy.

In support of the Nature Recovery Strategy, the Council is developing a new Land Management Policy for its own land and is currently identifying areas across all its land

holdings for further habitat creation and enhancement. For example, this year it has stopped mowing to create six hectares of new meadow at operational sites and is working with its farming tenants to look at managing farmland for nature. The Council is also recruiting an Ecologist to ensure all works on the Countryside Estate and public rights of way minimise any disruption to nature and liaise directly with local conservation groups to deliver opportunities for biodiversity enhancement.

The Council, with the AONB, is also facilitating the distribution of the 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' fund which supports farmers to deliver positive biodiversity and climate outcomes in the Surrey Hills AONB.

On major infrastructure, we are working closely with the Environment Agency on River Thames Scheme to ensure that infrastructure for flood protection also not only protects existing biodiversity, but also creates new habitats and connections across the landscape. For nature conservation and public access in the countryside, the Council co-ordinates volunteers to restore and maintain sites through three Countryside Management Partnerships. Alongside this, the Council has recently supported the purchase of Tice's Meadow near Farnham, where a former quarry has been restored to provide a lake and reedbeds for migratory birds. The purchase will ensure the site is protected for nature conservation purposes

Tree planting in Surrey is also supporting delivery of our biodiversity priorities. For example, by planting native hedgerows and planting more street trees, both of which can provide connectivity between wildlife habitats and have valuable benefits to communities. Also, the Council sources trees for planting solely from UK nurseries, ensuring high bio-security standards. The council takes a "right tree in the right place" approach meaning that areas such as chalk grassland sites or heathland areas, are not subject to tree planting initiatives.

To support this work, the Council has already recruited an additional post to focus on land use management and is currently recruiting for a Natural Environment Strategic Lead. The Council is also developing additional ecological expertise within our Natural Capital and Countryside Estate site management teams, this includes woodland management, an estate ecologist, as well as increasing training for existing staff in ecology and conservation to mainstream nature recovery. The Council is working with the Surrey Nature Partnership including the Wildlife Trust, to draw on the extensive local knowledge and experience across the public and third sector and ensure that ecology and biodiversity are embedded into all relevant Council decisions.

There is still much to do, but significant steps have been made to lay the foundations for meaningful nature recovery in Surrey.

Marisa Heath
Cabinet Member for Environment
26 July 2022

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