

Cabinet- Supplementary Agenda

**Date & time**

Tuesday, 29
November 2022 at
2.00 pm

Place

Surrey County Council,
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, David Lewis, Sinead Mooney, Mark Nuti, Tim Oliver and Denise Turner-Stewart

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

4 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

a Members' Questions

(Pages 1
- 4)

There are two member questions. 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, 28 November 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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Anyone is permitted to film, record or take photographs at council meetings. Please liaise with the council officer listed in the agenda prior to the start of the meeting so that those attending the meeting can be made aware of any filming taking place.

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

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

Thank you for your co-operation

CABINET – 29 NOVEMBER 2022**PROCEDURAL MATTERS****Members Questions****Question (1) Catherine Baart – Earlswood and Reigate South**

Please explain how maximum social value will be delivered as part of the proposed contract to supply charge points for electric vehicles in Surrey.

Reply:

The procurement process has enabled social value to be delivered both directly and indirectly. The indirect social value includes extending the reach of charge point infrastructure to locations of lower initial anticipated demand, where residents are on average less affluent and/or living in areas of lower population density. This will be delivered through the development of the location network plan, through which the overseeing management board will insist on this balanced portfolio approach. Further, there are several specific commitments to employing local businesses and individuals which are included in the Social Value Charter completed by the recommended winning bidder:

- Through the recommended winning bidder's local installation partner, the bidder has committed to subcontracting a substantial proportion of their work in Surrey to other locally based micro businesses/SME's/social enterprises throughout the duration of the contract.
- Through the recommended winning bidder's local installation partner, the bidder has committed to employing 10 full time equivalent (FTE) of local individuals on contract, throughout the duration of the contract. In addition, through their local operations and maintenance partner, they have committed to employing 38 FTE local people on contract, throughout the duration of the contract.
- Through the recommended winning bidder's local employment partner, the bidder has committed to providing 80 hours for each year of the contract (equalling 1,600 hours across the duration of the contract) of staff time to volunteer locally.
- Through the recommended winning bidder's local operations and maintenance partner, they have committed resource to the sustainability of local green areas, in the shape of one environmental advisor for each year of the contract who will work with Surrey County Council.

In addition to these employment benefits, there are educational and volunteering benefits promised with sponsorship of Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) qualification training in the EV installation field through Brooklands College. There is also a commitment to staff volunteering with vulnerable young person's charity, Eikon.

The total of the promised direct social value within the bid cannot be publicly released until the end of the mandatory standstill period after contract award.

The council will expect regular reporting of these commitments which will form part of the contract between the council and the recommended winning bidder.

Matt Furniss

Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth

29 November 2022

Question (2) Catherine Baart – Earlswood and Reigate South

The County Council owns 17 farms. There are many options for land use – renewable energy production, enhancing biodiversity, tree planting, food production, flood management, public access for mental and physical wellbeing, waste management, and of course development for houses and businesses. Please explain how competing demands on the Council's land are being managed strategically.

Reply:

The Council owns 17 farms covering over 2,350 acres. The average farm size is 140 acres. Typically for Surrey, they are located on grade 3 and 4 soils and are mostly farmed for livestock or dairy. Five of the farms have lifetime tenancies in place secured by the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 which restricts any change of use within three generations. The remaining 12 farms have farm business tenancies with fixed terms, usually around 10 years in duration.

Alongside food production, the farms present an ideal opportunity to support the Council's ambitions set out in the Grow Back Greener pillar of the Council's Climate Change Delivery Plan and the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy as well as the County's One Surrey Growth Strategy for investment in Surrey's growth areas.

The Environment Division and Land and Property will be working with the Council's tenant farmers to provide them with information for an evidence-based approach to decision making across many different opportunities. Consideration of farm assets such as the built, operational and natural capital assets will be reviewed to support any business cases for change. Whilst there are potentially many different demands on the land which could be deemed as competing, the suitability of the farm holding for specific purposes will determine its best use or uses. The following will all be considered as part of any review of farm assets:

- Carbon sequestration including hedge rows, woodland regeneration and planting
- Nature recovery and enhanced biodiversity
- Natural flood management techniques such as restoring balancing ponds, improved ditch management and wetland creation
- The potential for solar and generation of other renewable energy
- The potential for anaerobic digestion or local food waste processing
- Regenerative farming practices including agroforestry techniques and plant-based protein which support soil health
- Development of farm buildings for visitor services and improved access
- Development of farm buildings for local business use, localised food hubs and educational centres of excellence on successful farming on grade 3 farmland

The Council will aim to maximise outcomes and benefits to Surrey residents. Decisions will be made based on a balanced approach which takes account of suitability, viability and business case.

Marisa Heath
Cabinet Member for Environment
29 November 2022

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CABINET – 29 NOVEMBER 2022

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

4b

Public Questions**Question (1): Paul Kennedy**

On Monday 21 November, Surrey's Police and Crime Panel considered Surrey Police's "Call it Out" survey of over 5,000 women's perception of safety across Surrey, which highlighted women's concerns about the lack of street lighting late at night in town centres, where just 17% of women feel safe. A number of Panel members expressed their frustration at the bureaucratic hurdles, and confusion over the apparent requirement for police support, before they can apply to reverse Surrey County Council's decision to switch off street lighting in their areas.

Surrey's Police and Crime Commissioner said she shared Panel members' frustration, and emphasised that decisions to reinstate street lighting to address residents' concerns lie with Surrey County Council not Surrey Police, and Surrey County Council should not impose a requirement for police support as an extra layer of bureaucracy to hide behind. She called on all Panel members to raise their and her concerns about the lack of clarity on this with the Leader and Cabinet of Surrey County Council.

As Mole Valley's representative on the Police and Crime Panel, I would like to ask the Leader and Cabinet, will you please review Surrey County Council's approach to street lighting in the light of the "Call It Out" survey, and remove the existing bureaucratic and discriminatory restrictions, including the purported requirement for police support, which prevent street lighting from being reinstated where women and other vulnerable residents feel unsafe?

Reply:

The County Council always takes resident safety seriously, and much work was undertaken prior to the introduction of the part-night lighting, in order to ensure it was introduced in a manner consistent with this need to maintain the safety of our communities. Part-night lighting is not universal across the county and only applies to a limited number of roads from 1am. All town centres are excluded from the scheme, as are busy roads.

When the changes were first introduced, there were several requests for lights to be switched back on, and as a result of this feedback, some minor policy changes were made – such as ensuring all lights near and around railway stations stay on until local rail services finish. The process for considering further requests was agreed with Surrey Police and helped to ensure a consistent approach is applied across the County.

The benefits of part night lighting are not limited to saving the Surrey taxpayer money in energy costs; in fact, it plays a role in contributing to our wider Greener Futures

ambitions. In 2021/22, the scheme saved 268 tonnes of carbon dioxide, the equivalent emissions estimated from over 370 average homes. The County Council will always look at developments in the industry and where they will benefit our residents, embrace these. For example, we are nearing completion of our LED conversion, upgrading approximately 90,000 streetlights to the latest and most efficient technology.

Your comments attributed to the Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner are noted, and I will ask that Officers engage with her direct to better understand any frustrations.

Kevin Deanus
Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience
29 November 2022

Question (2): Julia Dickinson

Would Surrey County Council be prepared to follow councils like Cambridge in protecting our chalk springs and streams and if so, within whose portfolio would it fall please?

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/chalk-streams>

Reply:

Thank you for this opportunity to highlight the importance of Surrey's river network and the very special characteristics of chalk streams and the pressures they face. This work falls within the Environment Portfolio.

In Surrey, chalk streams are found in the North Downs, or flow in from neighbouring Hampshire and include parts of the River Mole, the Tilling Bourne west of Guildford and the River Wey through Farnham. Chalk streams are incredibly rare aquatic habitats, and the south of England is home to 85% of the world's total. In healthy condition, they have crystal clear waters and support high biodiversity and their aquifers supply water to thousands of Surrey residents, when extracted at sustainable rates.

However, chalk streams are being adversely affected by several factors. These include unsustainable abstraction levels from aquifers meaning reduced flow volumes, pollution from agricultural runoff and nutrient enriched water from sewage works (even after currently required levels of treatment occur) and the legacy of physical channel modifications. Added to this, they are increasingly under pressure from climate change resulting in drier summer periods.

Following new legislation in the Environment Act, the Council will be producing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Surrey in conjunction with a wide variety of partners across Surrey. Through this, the Council will identify the measures necessary to support healthy rivers and will certainly draw on the great work undertaken in Cambridge concerning chalk streams. This also links to our climate change adaptation and mitigation planning, where the protection, improvement and increased use of green and blue infrastructure is a key part of action on climate change.

Current work Surrey County Council are already involved in includes:

- the river Catchment Partnerships working across Surrey to identify and tackle catchment related issues, such as those mentioned above, in particular on the Mole and the Wey. The Partnerships include Environment Agency, Surrey Wildlife Trust, the County Council, borough and district councils, private land owners and water companies
- co-ordinating conservation volunteering work to manage habitats for biodiversity and water sustainability, for example the Downlands Partnership and Lower Mole Partnership restore and manage chalk downland habitats and are reviving the Rye brook in Ashted.
- checking that new major developments adequately treat polluted runoff and control runoff rates by using Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). This also includes regulating works on smaller 'ordinary watercourses' preventing the loss of open watercourses, which provide greater biodiversity, amenity and water quality benefits over piped systems.
- working with the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which is engaging farmers and other landowners in environmentally sensitive farming and nature- based solutions such as slowing down water flows to tackle both flooding and drought.

The council welcomes the recently launched call to land owners and river enthusiasts to help identify all chalk streams via the South East Rivers Trust mapping initiative and will consider its own land holdings in relation to this. [Help us identify all South East chalk streams - South East Rivers Trust \(https://www.southeastriverstrust.org/help-us-identify-all-south-east-chalk-streams/\)](https://www.southeastriverstrust.org/help-us-identify-all-south-east-chalk-streams/)

And finally, returning to water abstraction, let's remember that as residents and businesses, we can all do our bit for the health of our rivers and streams by reducing our water use. This is most obviously important in summer, but by continuing water saving habits into winter, this helps reduce demand on aquifers and reservoirs, aiding recovery ahead of next summer.

Marisa Heath
Cabinet Member for Environment
29 November 2022

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