



Supplementary Agenda

Item 8

for the meeting of

THE COUNTY COUNCIL

to be held on

12 DECEMBER 2023

(i)

8 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

(Pages 5
- 48)

1. The Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader 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 and Deputy Cabinet Member Briefings on their portfolios.

There will be an opportunity for Members to ask questions.

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MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL**TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2023****QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED UNDER THE PROVISIONS
OF STANDING ORDER 10.1****NATALIE BRAMHALL, CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY, WASTE AND
INFRASTRUCTURE****1. ROBERT EVANS OBE (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK:**

How many Council buildings in Surrey are now believed to be affected by RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) and what are the plans for them?

RESPONSE:

Following 139 surveys undertaken to date we have identified a total of six Surrey County Council buildings which are affected by RAAC.

The six properties identified are made up of one managed school and five properties from the corporate property portfolio, of which three are leasehold properties and two are freehold properties:

Shawfield Primary School: RAAC was identified in the school roof. Mitigating remedial works have been completed and following verification by independent structural engineers, the school's main hall has been declared safe to use and the school is open as normal. The feasibility study will be completed by the end of the current school term, and roof replacement works will take place during the 2024 summer holiday period.

Leatherhead Fire Station and Walton-on-Thames Fire Station (freehold properties): both fire stations remain operational with a management plan developed for each site. The management plan details the requirement to monitor the buildings to ensure that there is no visual deterioration to the RAAC present.

Staines Library (freehold property): the library remains operational and has a management plan in place (as above) to monitor the building to ensure that there is no visual deterioration to the RAAC present.

Following structural risk assessments the remaining two properties, which are both leaseholds, **The Bridge Youth Centre and Redhill Library**, have been temporarily closed, until a more intrusive structural survey is undertaken at each building. The results of these surveys will determine the timeframe for re-opening these properties and the work that needs to be completed to ensure both buildings are operationally safe for staff and users.

DAVID LEWIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES

2. EBER KINGTON (EWELL COURT, AURIOL & CUDDINGTON) TO ASK:

I note that the public consultation on the draft Budget 2024/2025 went live in November. Will the Cabinet Member:

- a) Provide the data on the number of responses to the website public consultation on the draft Budgets in 2021 and 2022.
- b) State what he considers to be the number of responses required to the draft Budget consultation this year to make the outcome statistically valid and meaningful.

RESPONSE:

In 2021, we received 98 responses and in 2022, we received 358 responses. It is important to note that residents who respond to these exercises tend to be self-selecting, and so are not necessarily representative of the views of Surrey's wider population.

This is why we occasionally commission research organisations to carry out statistically representative surveys to complement the open exercises. These tend to use the views of at least 1,000 residents as a meaningful sample.

However, because the research is designed and targets certain demographics in the population, this does not give all residents the opportunity to respond, so it is best practice for us to consult residents on the budget each year. What we have found in previous years is that resident priorities across the representative and open exercises tend to align, for example, protecting spending on services for the most vulnerable has been a consistent theme in recent years.

To give assurance to Members on this year's exercise, I am pleased to say we have made a strong start. At time of writing this response, since we launched the draft budget consultation for 2024/25, 948 residents have responded to date – the largest response rate in recent memory. The closing date for this year's exercise is 5 January 2024, so we anticipate having the views on our draft budget from at least 1,000 residents to inform decision-making for the final budget.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

3. JOANNE SEXTON (ASHFORD) TO ASK:

Please can the Cabinet Member advise what data is gathered on Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) for hotspots and at District and Borough level; for example how many daily visits to Spelthorne hotspots (Resident permit zones, Clarence Street, Church Street-Staines, Fairfield Avenue-Staines, Elmsleigh Road-Staines, High

Street-Staines, Church Road-Ashford, Woodthorpe Road-Ashford, The Avenue-Sunbury, High Street-Shepperton, Clare Road-Stanwell) are recorded?

RESPONSE:

The tables below show the enforcement visits and PCNs issued at the locations mentioned above:

LOCATION VISITS/PCNS								
LOCATION	SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		3 MONTH TOTAL	
	VISITS	PCNS	VISITS	PCNS	VISITS	PCNS	VISITS	PCNS
Clarence Street	21	2	13	1	31	22	65	25
Church Street	100	46	24	12	83	41	207	99
Fairfield Avenue	71	36	20	16	62	33	153	85
High Street (Staines)	6	2	3	1	23	15	32	18
Church Road	8	1	3	0	17	3	28	4
Woodthorpe Road	22	30	9	13	53	32	84	75
The Avenue	6	1	1	0	2	0	9	1
High Street (Shepperton)	1	0	4	1	1	0	6	1
Clare Road	14	2	12	0	29	1	55	3

RESIDENTS PARKING ZONE	SEPT-NOV	
	VISITS	PCNS
C (Waters Rd area)	154	63
E (Church Street area)	212	99
H (Victoria Rd area)	76	8

We will be distributing district and borough specific parking enforcement data each month along with the weekly Highways Bulletin, usually the second or third Friday of the month. These will be in the format most Members will be familiar with from their recent Stakeholder team update.

Members can find out more about on street parking enforcement via our web pages www.surreycc.gov.uk/parking or contact parking@surreycc.gov.uk to report or request information about parking enforcement.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

4. CATHERINE POWELL (FARNHAM NORTH) TO ASK:

This Council is investing heavily in hydrogen buses.

As of today, green hydrogen infrastructure in the UK is pretty much zero. The Government issued the latest Hydrogen Strategy update to the Market in August 2023 ([Hydrogen Strategy: Update to the market, August 2023 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118422/hydrogen-strategy-update-to-the-market-august-2023.pdf))

This strategy document acknowledges that hydrogen transport and storage will be critical enablers for the growth in the hydrogen economy and leverage the estimated £11 billion of private investment required in production, distribution and storage by 2023.

There is a promise of new business models by 2025 and there are proposals for offshore hydrogen pipelines and storage, but as of today there is nothing in place onshore. The report acknowledges the challenges that have been raised by industry:

“We will continue to work closely with industry and regulatory bodies to consider the issues raised and the suggestions put forward on the suitability of existing regulatory frameworks for hydrogen, with a view to introducing timely amendments where they are needed”.

Transporting hydrogen via pipeline is technically very challenging and there are no applicable hydrogen pipeline design specifications in existence in the UK today.

Transport of hydrogen by road is significantly more expensive (~ £1.23/kg vs £0.17/kg by pipeline), also very problematic as there are 9 road tunnels in the UK where it is prohibited ([Hydrogen transport and storage infrastructure: government response \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118422/hydrogen-transport-and-storage-infrastructure-government-response.pdf)). The Government's response to this issue:

“We are sympathetic to the added journey length that these restrictions cause for transport operations. However, given that there are sufficient alternative routes, we judge that tunnel codes for hydrogen are necessary to save lives and protect important road network infrastructure.”

In the South East these tunnels include the Dartford Tunnel, Blackwall Tunnel, Limehouse Tunnel, East India Dock tunnel and Rotherhide Tunnel. Depending on where the green hydrogen is shipped into from Rotherdam or according to the Cabinet Member's response to my earlier question Saudi Arabia they could be avoided.

However, concerns regarding hydrogen have lead the large European truck manufacturer – MAN to refocused on electric trucks rather than Hydrogen (['Far too expensive' | Europe's second-largest truck maker says hydrogen will not be a major road freight fuel | Hydrogen news and intelligence \(hydrogeninsight.com\)](https://www.hydrogeninsight.com/news/europe-second-largest-truck-maker-says-hydrogen-will-not-be-a-major-road-freight-fuel))

So where are we now and how does this impact on Surrey and the Council's plans:

- There is currently extremely limited green hydrogen manufacture in the UK. There are plans for future development, but they are still some way from delivery. Hydrogen manufactured in any other way will have a higher overall carbon footprint than burning fossil fuels directly.

- There is no potential for pipelines to be installed in Surrey by 2024 / 2025 when the buses are delivered so all green hydrogen will need to be imported (as previously advised by the Cabinet Member) and transported by road.
- How do we avoid what has happened in Liverpool where the buses were out of action due to problems with global hydrogen supply ([Flagship Liverpool hydrogen buses out of action due to 'problems with global H2 supply' | Hydrogen news and intelligence \(hydrogeninsight.com\)](#)).

Can the Cabinet Member please confirm that he is confident that:

- a) Metrobus will be able to run these buses on only green hydrogen that has been transported only using renewable energy.
- b) Storage and transportation arrangement for the green hydrogen have been planned across the county and will be delivered and operational prior to the delivery of the first bus.
- c) The hydrogen buses that have been ordered will be able to operate consistently on green hydrogen to the same timetable as the buses they will replace.
- d) Can the Cabinet Member also please advise if he will reconsider the potential introduction of break clauses with each batch of buses to be delivered to ensure that there is a risk mitigation strategy in place to manage the current uncertainties associated with Green Hydrogen generation, distribution and storage?

RESPONSE:

I met with Metrobus as recently as 5 December to discuss progress on our groundbreaking partnership scheme that will replace 54 diesel buses with new hydrogen powered buses, 34 of which are funded by this Council.

Air Products is the provider of hydrogen to Metrobus. They are the only company in the United Kingdom whose product has been independently audited and approved as renewable “from well to wheel”. This certification ensures the hydrogen is renewable and is overseen by a government approved auditor, with certification to be applied to every source used for the Metrobus bus depot in Crawley. This is a contractual obligation in the hydrogen supply agreement between Air Products and Metrobus’s parent company Go-Ahead.

Storage and transportation arrangement for the green hydrogen have been planned across the county. It is planned that the hydrogen will be delivered and will be operational prior to the delivery of the first hydrogen powered bus. I would add, that Metrobus are currently operating hydrogen buses from their Crawley bus depot, so hydrogen storage and transport arrangements are already operational at a low level. Clearly as the need for more hydrogen and associated fuelling facilities grows as more business transfer to hydrogen, the commercial market and potentially central government will respond by providing an increased level of investment, supply and storage.

I can also confirm that the 54 hydrogen buses on order will be able to operate consistently on green hydrogen, and to the same operating timetable as the diesel buses that they will replace. This would not be possible with battery electric buses, as they have a lower mileage range compared to hydrogen powered buses. This higher range is needed for longer distance cross boundary bus routes.

In terms of potential break clauses for batches of buses to mitigate any green hydrogen generation, distribution or storage issues, I believe this concern relates to a hydrogen project in Liverpool. Issues experienced there related to the lack of gaseous tankers in the UK rather than the actual supply of hydrogen. Air Products are not experiencing such issues and have two more high pressure tankers going live in February 2024. The legal agreement with Metrobus and the bus manufacturer has been signed and approved and it is not believed that alterations are required. To support the successful introduction of new buses into service, the 34 hydrogen powered buses that the council has ordered will be arriving on a phased basis between February and December 2024. This phased introduction will help to limit any unforeseen delivery and supply issues and enable us to effectively manage the transition.

The average carbon emissions from the existing Metrobus diesel buses, which will be replaced by hydrogen buses, amounts to 1.61kg per mile. Once in service, the scheduled route mileage for the 34 hydrogen fuel cell buses that this council is buying is 1,867,008 miles per annum. Applying the average of 1.61kg per mile, the Council's investment will deliver a carbon saving of 3,005,883kg per annum.

Our work to 'green' Surrey's bus fleet does not stop here. We are working with West Sussex County Council and Metrobus on a bid to the Department for Transport's zero emission bus scheme known as ZEBRA 2. This bid is for even more hydrogen powered buses. We are also working on a second bid with two Surrey bus operators that aims to introduce more electric buses into the county. I hope to be able to announce the outcome of these two bids in March next year.

All of this demonstrates our work to deliver a greener future for our residents.

NATALIE BRAMHALL, CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY, WASTE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Please explain how Greener Futures/sustainable procurement principles have been reflected in the recent new facilities contract for Woodhatch Place, particularly in provision of catering and waste. Will this be extended to all County Council offices?

RESPONSE:

After an extensive procurement programme Macro Ltd has been appointed to deliver our facilities management services across the corporate and schools' estate. This partnership commenced on 20 November 2023.

Macro has committed to putting the Council's 'Net Zero' targets at the heart of their delivery and will implement our sustainability objectives. Macro will deliver over £10m of Social Value in support of the Council's 'No One Left Behind' ambition and support Surrey residents and the local economy by using a range of local sub-contractors based in the county.

Macro is focussing on the initiatives outlined below which will apply to all properties across the estate, including Woodhatch Place.

- Significantly improving the recycling of waste materials, whilst continuing to avoid any materials going to landfill.
- Through a thorough analysis of utilities consumption, reducing CO2 emissions and cost.
- Continuing to implement the replacement of heating systems with renewable technology in the form of air-source heat pumps, where practicable.
- Reduction in water usage.
- Reduction in single-use plastics.
- Implementation of a new biodiversity regime.
- Use of supplier electric vehicles.
- Focus on procurement on more sustainable consumables, e.g. washing up products, paper, printer toner.

In relation to catering, Macro is preparing a paper looking at a new catering provision for Woodhatch Place. The paper will be reviewed by the Council's Client Board in Q4 FY2023/24.

A review and audit of the waste and recycling services is currently under way in order to implement a significant material change to the way that waste is handled across all Surrey County Council offices.

All of these are part of our overall ambition for cost effective, customer-focused facilities management service across the Council's estate.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

6. JONATHAN ESSEX (REDHILL EAST) TO ASK:

Please can you provide an update on discussions with Transport for London (TfL) and the Department for Transport (DfT) about Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) scrappage schemes and expanding travelcard zones into Surrey?

RESPONSE:

Prior to the expansion of ULEZ, I met with TfL to set out our mitigation priorities. These are:

- A car scrappage scheme for Surrey residents.
- Extending the Zone 6 Oyster Card scheme.

- Additional and extended active travel schemes across the London-Surrey border into neighbouring boroughs and districts.
- Additional local bus services across the London-Surrey border into neighbouring boroughs and districts.

As Members will be aware, our asks fell on deaf ears. The Mayor chose to focus his support only on London residents.

The consequences of the Mayor's ULEZ expansion for those living outside of London who, for a variety of reasons, have to drive into the capital have been significant. This has been the case for more than three months since ULEZ was expanded.

I recently wrote to TfL asking for more granular and geographic data on those paying the ULEZ charge, along with those subject to a penalty charge notice who live in Surrey. TfL has not published this data. Seeing it will help us to better understand the impact of ULEZ by area and what we may be able to do to support residents.

I have also asked what funding remains in the vehicle scrappage scheme and if meaningful mitigation can be provided for those living outside of London, noting our stated priorities.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

In relation to Planning Application 21/0185, approved by the Planning and Regulatory Committee in July 2022, can the Cabinet Member confirm that the Applicant will fully comply with all planning conditions imposed by the Committee, including conditions 6 and 7, designed to ensure the safe and appropriate construction of the M25 Junction 10 roundabout and compliance with British Standard 5837-2012 i.e. that all retained trees and hedgerows within the scheme are suitably protected from all construction activities?

RESPONSE:

Planning permission was issued on 27 January 2023 following lengthy consideration of whether the application should be 'called in' or not for determination by the Secretary of State. There were 21 planning conditions listed on the decision notice. As with all applications, irrespective of the applicant, the County Planning Authority would expect the developer to comply with those conditions in the implementation of their planning permission.

NATALIE BRAMHALL, CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY, WASTE AND INFRASTRUCTURE and CLARE CURRAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING

8. GEORGE POTTER (GUILDFORD EAST) TO ASK:

The County Council publishes a Developer Contribution Guide which outlines the infrastructure requirements expected from property developers to meet the needs of the expected 4,357 new homes a year which are expected to be built across the county. The guide notes that the price tag of providing the necessary supporting infrastructure for housing growth by 2031 is estimated as being £5.5 billion. The document includes yield factors which are used to estimate the number of additional early years, primary and secondary school places required as a result of development. These yields assume a requirement of an additional 7 early years places, 25 primary school places and 18 secondary school places for every 100 new homes.

Please could the Cabinet Member(s) explain how these yields have been calculated and why the need for secondary school places is estimated as being 28% lower than the need for primary school places?

RESPONSE:

The yields are based on a methodology which used census data on housing characteristics of the population. These gave yields for a local authority area as a whole. The reasons secondary yields are lower than primary yields is mainly because there are fewer year groups at secondary compared with primary 5 versus 7, and also a result of outward migration of older children as well as movement at secondary age outside the local authority area or into the independent sector. We are reviewing the methodology following recent Department for Education guidance on developer contributions. A report will be prepared for Members on the changes to the education information contained in the Developer Contribution Guidance.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9. HAZEL WATSON (DORKING HILLS) TO ASK:

The Signage Team at Highways have generally done an excellent job in maintaining the road signs across the county and have delivered replacement signs within what I understand are their Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for this service, a replacement sign ordered in one calendar quarter and then installed in the next calendar quarter.

However, in recent months the responses that I have received in relation to sign maintenance and replacement have been concerning with delivery times slipping.

Responses have been stating:

“Firstly, I would like to express my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to your report. Our team has been facing staffing constraints, which regrettably impacted our ability to provide a swift response. Please be assured that we are actively addressing this issue and working towards improving our response times.”

“I want to assure you that the reported highway issue has recently undergone inspection and consequently, a job has been initiated for the replacement of the sign. I would like to inform you that, despite raising the request, neither I nor my immediate management team have any influence over the prioritization of works which are submitted to the Signs and Lines delivery team. Therefore, regrettably, I am unable to provide you with a specific completion date at this time.”

and

“I regret to inform you that at this time, I am unable to provide a specific time-frame for the completion of these works. It is important to note that highway enquirers are prioritized on a case-by-case basis throughout the County, which may cause some variability in the timelines.”

and

“I receive a large number of requests for sign maintenance countywide so these have to be prioritised, with the repair of regulatory signs (speed limits, banned turns etc) being the highest priority. The team has been significantly under-resourced which has led to delays, which I appreciate will cause frustration.”

There are road signs within the Dorking Hills division, including important directional signs and chevrons on the A24, that have been reported and have still not been replaced more than a year after the replacement signs have been requested and apparently have been ordered.

Can the Cabinet Member confirm that:

- a) the KPI for replacing road signs remains the case that a replacement sign is ordered in one calendar quarter and then installed in the next calendar quarter or confirm that a new KPI that applies to this service;
- b) the Principal Engineer responsible for street signage will be given the resources necessary to provide the service and meet this KPI and from which date these resources will be made available; and
- c) the backlog in road sign reinstatement and repair will be eliminated by 30 June 2024, that all outstanding work will be completed by this date, and that the KPIs for sign replacement and repair will be met from this date?

RESPONSE:

The correct road signs play an important role within the highway network to aid users. Signs that serve a direct safety purpose (such as STOP signs) are prioritised over those that are advisory.

The overall Ringway contract has a suite of challenging KPIs, but it is incorrect to state that a road sign ordered in one quarter must be delivered in the following. The installation of road signs is paid via a daywork rate, where the cost of labour for a day is fixed. Therefore, if there is the need to have a sign installed promptly, installation can occur as soon as the sign is fabricated (subject to road space). In most circumstances it is more cost efficient to batch signs in a local area to maximise the gang's output and gain the best financial value for council taxpayers.

It is accepted there have been unfortunate delays to replacing some road signs, and we are sorry this has been the case recently. These delays are due to a combination of reasons, including staff resourcing levels and new processes that have been adopted. I am pleased to advise that extra resource has been employed to support the lead officer, and that a review is currently being undertaken to ensure that officers can work in the most effective manner to deliver maintenance requests such as these. It is anticipated that with these changes there will be an improvement in delivery.

We expect the current known backlog of signs to be completed in the next few months. In terms of future sign requests, we will continue to progress this as batched work to maximise on the efficiency from this approach, as described above. While committing to deliver in the most efficient manner, with revised processes and the additional officer support, it is expected most signs will be installed within three to four months of being identified as a priority for replacement (subject to road space).

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

10. WILL FORSTER (WOKING SOUTH) TO ASK:

- a) Has the final legal bill with regard to the ULEZ challenge been settled and what was the County Council's total contribution to this action?
- b) Is the Cabinet Member re-considering his decision not to allow the erection of ULEZ signs on Surrey highways?
- c) Does the Cabinet Member have any indication of the numbers of Surrey motorists who have had to pay the new charge?

RESPONSE:

The legal bill has been settled with a total contribution from the County Council of £139,528.20. This was made up of £39,528.20 contribution to the costs of the five Council's taking the judicial challenge, and £100,000 contribution to the costs of Transport for London.

In answer to the second question, no, I am not re-considering the decision to stop the erection of the Mayor's ULEZ signs on Surrey's highway. Surrey is not alone in taking this stance. In fact, all county council's bordering London hold the same view. It is not for us to collectively bend to the Mayor's will. It is for the Mayor and Transport for London to come back to the negotiating table with meaningful mitigation for residents outside of London impacted by this tax on the motorist. This

includes mitigation for Surrey residents, which must include a vehicle scrappage scheme funded by ULEZ.

Turning to the third and final question, data on where motorists live who have been subject to this hastily introduced new tax is held by Transport for London. The first Transport for London report published following the expansion of ULEZ included a lot of data. However, it did not include a geographic breakdown of motorists paying the ULEZ charge so, at the current time, I am unable to provide an indication of the numbers of Surrey motorists that have had to pay the new charge.

I have written to Transport for London asking for more granular data and to encourage them once again to reengage on the issue of meaningful mitigation for Surrey residents.

For those Members interested, Transport for London's initial ULEZ expansion report can be accessed via the London Assembly's web site using the following web address:

[London-wide Ultra Low Emission Zone First Month Report | London City Hall](#)

**CLARE CURRAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES,
LIFELONG LEARNING**

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

How many children in Surrey still do not have placements at school? How many of these are at primary school and how many at secondary school? How many have special education needs?

RESPONSE:

All mainstream children without an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), who applied to start school or transfer to junior or secondary school in September 2023, were offered a place by the end of August 2023, with the exception of one junior and four secondary applicants who had applied very late. These five were all resolved in September. Applications for in year admissions outside the normal intake to a school are currently being processed within the statutory timeframe of 15 school days. Where a place cannot be secured through the normal in year process, applicants are referred for placement within 20 school days through Surrey's Fair Access Protocol. Under the mainstream application process, local authorities are not permitted to ask about a child's special educational needs and so it is not possible to report on how many children applying through the mainstream admissions process have special educational needs.

As of February 2023, there were 1,795 pupils with EHCPs going through the annual School Age Key Stage Transfer process, of which, 94% of pupils had a named setting in Section I of their EHCP, and 6% (116 pupils) with a type of setting named. The SEND Code of Practice sets out the statutory duty that by 15 February, the Local Authority must name either a setting or type of setting. 100% of EHCPs were

sent to families for this deadline. 408 additional EHCPs were agreed for pupils in those Key Stage Transfer Year Groups between 15 February 2023 and 22 July 2023. In total, 2,203 pupils went through the statutory process and as of 22 July 2023 there were 58 pupils still requiring confirmation of placement. Whilst placement searches continued, alternative arrangements were being explored with these pupils for September 2023. As of September 2023, 15 pupils still required a specialist placement confirmed, which has reduced further to five pupils as of 7 December 2023.

In addition to the above there are overall 110 children without a school place. The table below shows the breakdown of the cohort by gender and phase.

Children Missing Education				Total
EHCP	53 (48.1%)	57 (51.9)		110
Gender	32 (f)	76 (m)	2 (not stated)	110
School phase	35 primary	75 secondary		110

The number of children who are missing education is a small number and have no provision for a number of reasons. The reasons vary on a case-by-case basis, such as they have moved into the county, they are awaiting placement, or they have been removed from the Elective Home Educated list as it has been assessed that they are not receiving a suitable education or they may be receiving palliative care and are not fit enough to be in education.

In addition to the children who are missing education (CME) there are young people not in school as they are Elective Home Educated at this moment that figure is **2060**. There are several young people (**278**) who are not in school due to a range of reasons such as medical needs, anxiety or because they are waiting for a place in a specialist provision. They receive access to alternative provision and are described as educated otherwise than at school (EOTAS).

DENISE TURNER-STEWART, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITIES

12. JOHN BECKETT (EWELL) TO ASK:

On 14 November, funding of £175,658 - £135,933 of which is capital funding - was approved for the Puttenham Community Transport Hub. Puttenham Parish Council (PPC) have contributed just £5,000 towards the scheme, 95% of which will be covered by Your Fund Surrey (YFS).

When the advisory panel met on 20 September 2023, concerns were raised around the percentage being contributed by Surrey County Council and the value for money of the scheme. The report states that: "There are concerns around the materially high value of YFS funding (at 95%) and that the minimal wider funding secured could demonstrate a lack of wider support. Whilst some public benefit can be envisaged

there are concerns about value for money." The project also did not score as highly as other Your Fund Surrey projects in terms of delivering wider community benefit.

This 'hub', which is essentially a car park, will mainly benefit private car users. It is therefore placed at number six out of the seven priorities of the fourth Local Transport Plan (LTP4), as schemes to support walking, cycling and public transport are all more important. Puttenham also has a score of seven in the index of multiple deprivation and is not located in one of the 21 Key Neighbourhoods.

Can the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member therefore confirm why this scheme has been approved?

RESPONSE:

The aim of Your Fund Surrey (YFS) is to support community-led projects which lead to wide, and long-lasting, community benefit, which it has done to good effect since it was launched three years ago. It has been, and continues to be, hugely popular with local communities.

Puttenham is a very rural village, and this specific project aims to develop neglected wasteland to enable and encourage residents and visitors to enjoy the existing open spaces, community facilities and village amenities which are currently underutilised. It will also provide much-needed disabled access to various events happening in the village.

The project received significant support from the local community and the majority of the YFS Advisory Panel supported the application. The project fully meets the wider aims and published criteria of the fund.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

**13. ROBERT EVANS OBE (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK:
(2nd Question)**

The drains in many, if not most, of the roads in Stanwell and Stanwell Moor are blocked and have been for ages. This means that the soakaways barely work when it rains, resulting in avoidable flooding.

Does the Council have a plan to address this situation?

RESPONSE:

All the gullies in Stanwell and Stanwell Moor, and across the entire county, are included on the optimised cyclical drain cleaning programme so should be cleaned at the correct frequency to keep them functioning. When we are aware of defects impacting the performance of our road gullies, they will be prioritised for repair. There is also a programme of soakaway cleaning. However, if the local water table level is high, as can happen in some locations during winter months, it is unfortunately the case that the soakaways will struggle to function.

Much of Stanwell Moor and Stanwell is due to benefit from the cyclical clean in the early part of the new year, although some specific gullies along Horton Road in Stanwell Moor were cleaned last month, following a resident meeting where the issues were highlighted to the divisional Member, Cabinet Member and Member of Parliament. It was noted some of the weir gullies had sunk, and Officers will be looking to undertake repairs in the new year.

Ditches play an important role in drainage, and it was apparent some in Stanwell Moor would benefit from being cleaned. Ditches are subject to riparian owner responsibility and if not explicitly registered within the title of a land ownership, generally fall to the adjoining landowner. In this location investigations have identified that some are registered to adjoining properties and some remain unregistered. However, they all form part of the main river network which the Environment Agency has enforcement powers and obligations for, and they will be made aware of the issue.

There are approximately 160,000 road gullies recorded on the public highway within Surrey. All of these gullies will be dependent on connecting pipes and an outfall for them to function correctly. If a gully is not working, addressing the situation may not be as straight forward as just undertaking a clean. The County Council has invested additional sums over recent years to tackle defects and following a review by the Cabinet's Task & Finish Group earlier in the summer, I am pleased to confirm that an additional level of investment for repairs has been included in the draft budget for 24/25 and an allocation within this current financial year. This is in addition to the existing budget for routine cleaning and repair of defects, which is a significant investment targeted to directly improve highway drainage. This additional funding will be used across the County, including for the planned repairs in Stanwell Moor.

If you notice a specific problem with highway drainage, please do report this either via our website, or using the dedicated councillor email address. The Highways Maintenance team are happy to investigate any concerns raised.

**CLARE CURRAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES,
LIFELONG LEARNING**

**14. EBER KINGTON (EWELL COURT, AURIOL & CUDDINGTON) TO ASK:
(2nd Question)**

Will the Cabinet Member please set out the specific additional new early intervention and prevention services and short breaks that will be funded within the 2024/2025 Children, Families and Lifelong Learning (CFL) service budget, so as to address the findings of the Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Inspection Review.

RESPONSE:

We appreciate all feedback relating to Surrey County Council's short breaks provision, including that received through the SEND inspection and from families

through engagement work, including the Family Voice Surrey survey that we supported over the summer.

In terms of our plans for Short Breaks in 2024/25, Surrey County Council is continuing to maintain its core £2.5 million funding for a range of short breaks services into 2024/25, that fulfils our statutory duties, at a time of real pressure on budgets within children's services, acknowledging their importance to local children and families. This budget is being supplemented by an additional £0.9 million of Short Breaks Innovation Funding from the Department for Education (DfE), which is enabling us to provide a range of additional services for families, including: increased capacity for children and young people who require 1-to-1 support to access their short break; additional overnight respite provision for children with complex needs; and whole-family activity breaks for children with complex needs and their families. We are confident that this funding will continue into 2024/25, including a small increase on the proportion of level of funding that is allocated to additional play and youth places for children with 1-to-1 support needs.

In addition, to support the right children and young people to access services we have recently been engaging with families and providers to explore whether we should introduce eligibility criteria for community-based play and youth schemes, with a view to ensuring the provision available is prioritised for families in most need. As part of this we have also been benchmarking our offer against a number of comparable authorities, which suggests our offer compares well. As well as developing proposals around eligibility, we are also planning a co-production process with families and providers, to begin in spring 2024, to look at a range of areas for service improvement around short breaks, including how waiting lists are managed and how children and families supported to "wait well" ahead of accessing a service they have requested.

The Early Help offer in Surrey is dependent on the contributions of all agencies, partners, and communities. In Surrey we have a mixed economy of in-house and commissioned provision. The outcome of the recent recommissioning process for Family Centres and Family Resilience Services will be shared with bidders mid-December. Service delivery will focus on one-to-one whole family working that is underpinned by the Department for Education (DfE) 10 Supporting Families Outcomes which include specific outcomes relating to children getting a good education, good early years development and improved mental and physical health. Which will help to address the findings of the Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Inspection Review.

Services will still run an outreach offer for families so that support can be provided within the home. There will also be a physical presence in communities so that children, young people, and families can access face to face support in Family Centres and other appropriate locations such as libraries. Provision will be based on local needs and support could be offered through mentoring services, group sessions or other types of evidence-based interventions that will help improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

Additionally, there are a range of early intervention initiatives which aim to support schools including the team around the school initiative and Specialist Teacher for

Inclusive Practice (STIPs) advice. These are funded through the Children, Families and Lifelong Learning (CFLL) service budget and feedback from 208 schools indicates that around 90% of schools reported improved outcomes for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) following support from the STIPs team. Other initiatives in development include the Enhanced Language and Communication Offer for children in Reception and the Education Inclusion and Intervention Funding (EIIIF) pilot which aims to provide financial support to enhance the school offer at SEN support.

**CLARE CURRAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES,
LIFELONG LEARNING**

**15. CATHERINE POWELL (FARNHAM NORTH) TO ASK:
(2nd Question)**

On 28 November the Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning approved the use of the approved Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Funding to uplift project budgets for Epsom Downs Primary School and Dovers Green Primary School's committed Phase 4 Capital projects. I understand that uplift to be around 60% in just eight months since the previous modelling of the projects.

- a) Is the Cabinet Member confident that the full set of 27 projects can be delivered with the draft capital budget and on time to maximise the positive impact to Surrey Children with SEND and their families / carers?
- b) What lessons have been learned from the increases in costs already identified in these two projects that will minimise the potential for further cost increases in the next tranche, and which will ensure that the delivery of the overall programme within the agreed budget is not placed at risk?

RESPONSE:

Surrey's Cabinet approved the Medium-Term Financial Strategy for the SEND Capital budget of £180.4m for 2023/24 to 2027/28 in February 2023. On 28 March Cabinet agreed the use of £100.2m of the total approved SEND Capital budget for 20 projects in to 2023/24 tranche with confirmed viable schemes, locations, and costs. Epsom Downs primary School's new SEN Unit and Dovers Green School's existing SEN Unit expansion were two of the 20 projects.

Progress against the 20 projects since the Cabinet approval in March is as follows:

- Five projects have been delivered to time and budget and new accommodation is in use.
- Five projects are in contract and work is in progress on school sites. These are on track to be completed to time and budget.
- Six projects are now in pre-contract, with contract commencement due in the next 4-8 weeks. Temporary accommodation solutions (achieved either through utilising existing capacity on school sites or modular units) are being delivered across all sites to facilitate the necessary school decant of pupils and teaching accommodation to meet safeguarding and health and safety requirements, and

the planned growth of new pupil places to meet local need. This will enable the phasing of building works while the schools are in operation.

- Four of the projects were impacted severely by planning and procurement delays. These are now resolved. Two of the projects are Epsom Downs Primary School and Dovers Green School. Their original budgets plans were affected by:
 - The need to improve the overall fabric and condition of the building as well as the additional reprovision requirements needed to address technical viability and site planning constraints.
 - Poor original technical consultant advice resulting in the schemes' original budgets being under costed and leading to a change in main provider.
 - Costs for school decants and modular classrooms for temporary accommodation from manufacturers increasing within the period.
 - Modular classrooms being required for a longer period due to delays in planning consent and procuring a suitable contractor for the project.

Member approvals on 28 November confirmed the delivery to timescales and within the revised budget.

- Four projects are in development and have been subject to scope change, either at the request of schools, or to achieve technical viability. Temporary accommodation solutions have been delivered or is already planned to facilitate agreed growth of pupil numbers.

The creation of additional specialist school places has been carried out through the successful delivery of 41 of a total of 83 construction projects in schools across Surrey to date. The building projects included the expansion of existing specialist schools and existing Special Educational Needs (SEN) Units in mainstream schools, the construction of new specialist free schools, and the creation of new SEN Units in mainstream schools.

In terms of lessons learned, the 41 schemes delivered in the first four years of the programme have inevitably been the more technically and financially straightforward projects (the 'low hanging fruit'). 2023/24- 2026/27 tranches' committed projects are significantly more complex with higher risk profiles; all require full planning approval and have longer programmes to reflect major and medium new build project scope. As such, these schemes are more exposed to:

- Ongoing fluctuating construction market pressures and inflation.
- Limited market interest from tier 2-4 contractors for smaller to medium sized schemes (typically SEN Units in mainstream schools).
- Additional cost pressures associated with planning approvals, Net Zero Carbon Strategy scope and new Biodiversity Net Gain requirements against approved funding.
- Requirements to re-provide existing specialist accommodation necessary to facilitate technically viable expansion schemes.
- Planning and procurement delays.

SCC's Land and Property department has already invested additional resource in Surrey's Reg 3 team, Procurement and Property Legal teams to mitigate timeliness issues and this continues to be closely monitored and managed with partners.

The Council remains committed to delivering the target number of places in the SEND Capital Programme within the approved budget available. Given the increasing level of risks associated with delivery of the next 37 SEND schemes we have commissioned SCC's newly appointed lead technical consultants AtkinsRéalisis to undertake an in-depth review of up-to-date costs and viability options across the 2024/25-2026/27 tranches. This is due to conclude early in the new year and the output will be reported through Governance to support any necessary reprofile of capital spend and the Service's sufficiency prioritisation planning in the Spring.

DENISE TURNER-STEWART, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITIES

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

What is the approximate value of Your Fund Surrey (YFS) projects in the pipeline and, given the proposed reduction to £40 million for the fund, please advise how long Members should continue to promote YFS in their divisions?

RESPONSE:

The current estimated value of YFS Projects in the pipeline is just over £40 million. We have so far agreed £16 million to support 34 Large Fund projects and a further £1 million to support over 100 Small Fund projects.

The fund was introduced to support communities throughout Surrey, which it has done to good effect. It has been, and continues to be, hugely popular and is already delivering fantastic community benefits. We have supported projects that build community connection, reduce isolation, improve mental wellbeing and support our prevention agenda. We have delivered community hubs where local residents can connect and support each other, provided walking and cycling trails and inclusive sports facilities, and local park facilities for children of all ages to enjoy.

We remain fully committed to supporting our communities through YFS and are proposing to set the overall budget for Your Fund Surrey at a level that reflects affordability for the council.

Engagement with divisional members regarding the YFS scheme will continue as normal.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

- a) What was the average occupancy rate for the first Digital Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT) delivered by Surrey County Council in Mole Valley in terms of the km and % of distance travelled:
- i) with driver only;
 - ii) with one passenger only;
 - iii) with 2-5 passengers;
 - iv) with more than 5 passengers?
- b) i) What was the cost per passenger mile and carbon footprint/mile for running this service and what levels of these would be considered a success in terms of a cost-effective and low carbon service?
- ii) What are the measures of success for the subsequent DDRTs being rolled out?

RESPONSE:

Mole Valley Connect DDRT service has an average vehicle occupancy of 2.17 passengers. This is quite high compared to other demand responsive services operating in the UK.

Toward the beginning of the Mole Valley Connect DDRT service, 30% of trips were shared. However, this percentage has grown as patronage has increased. When looking at 2023 data, 50% of trips were shared. Our plan is for this to increase even further.

In considering the highest number of individual bookings at any one time all on one service, since the service launched, we have had a total of 11 people onboard all at once. 11 is in fact the maximum passenger capacity, so the vehicle was full. This has happened several times, which is encouraging in terms of service growth and vehicle utilisation.

In total, since Mole Valley Connect DDRT was launched on 13 June 2022, there have been 26,360 passenger trips completed, which is increasing every day, and we have also covered around 153,000 miles with this service.

In terms of vehicle occupancy for the 26,360 Mole Valley Connect DDRT passenger trips:

- 46% of journeys have been made with one passenger.
- 53% of journeys have been made with 2-5 passengers.
- 1% of journeys have been made with more than 5 passengers.

In considering the time that DDRT vehicles are unoccupied, that is with only the driver onboard, our data shows this happening only 16% of the time since the service launched. Again, as patronage grows this figure will reduce.

Using data from October 2023 for Mole Valley Connect:

- The DDRT service carried an average of 553 passenger each week.
- The contract cost to run the four electric DDRT minibuses (after accounting for on-bus and App bus fares) averaged at approximately £7,480 each week.
- The total mileage completed with passengers on board averaged 1,540 miles each week.
- The average vehicle occupancy is 2.17 passengers.

Therefore, during October 2023, the cost of each operating mile with a passenger on board cost an average of £2.24 for each passenger carried.

By way of further information, the trip distance completed by passenger averaged at just under three miles.

Currently, the Mole Valley Connect DDRT service operates using four electric minibuses. Each electric minibus delivers a CO₂ saving of 12.7 tonnes each year compared to a diesel equivalent. This equates to a saving of 50.8 tonnes of CO₂ every year across the four-minibus fleet.

In terms of measures of success for subsequent DDRT schemes being rolled out, I would highlight that the main driver has been to deliver on the council's commitment to 'no one left behind'. Our vision for the future is for new DDRT services to be introduced where they can complement the local bus and rail network. This will support residents to make more journeys by more sustainable means. Surrey connect DDRT services are vital in supporting residents to access essential services, such as employment, education and training, health care and essential food shopping, whilst helping the economy of Surrey to thrive.

Our growing network of Surrey Connect DDRT service contribute to our Greener Future ambitions and the Climate Change Delivery Plan, as all Surrey Connect vehicles will be electric, supported by charging points across Surrey. This will help residents to travel more sustainably, helping to reduce carbon emissions. From a carbon emissions perspective the ambition to deliver all Surrey Connect DDRT services with zero emission minibuses is absolutely clear.

From a value for money perspective, patronage across the Surrey Connect DDRT network continues to grow. We will continue to promote the DDRT services, and I encourage all Members to do the same.

DDRT is still relatively new to Surrey. We continue to learn with the existing schemes and as we develop and introduce new services for residents. This learning will help us to determine future success factors for new DDRT services.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

**18. JONATHAN HULLEY (FOXHILLS, THORPE & VIRGINIA WATER) TO ASK:
(2nd Question)**

In relation to Planning Application 21/0185, approved by the Planning and Regulatory Committee in July 2022, can the Cabinet Member confirm that the Applicant will fully comply with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Paragraph 180C and the Runnymede Borough Council Local Plan, as appropriate, and specifically when determining established tree categories methodology?

RESPONSE:

The National Planning Policy Framework and the Runnymede 2030 Local Plan were both taken into account in respect of a whole range of matters when the planning application was considered by the Planning and Regulatory Committee. That is the correct point in the process to determine compliance with the development plan and national planning policy. The development itself is expected to be undertaken in accordance with the conditions attached to the planning permission.

CLARE CURRAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING

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

- a) Please would the Cabinet Member explain the significance of the increase in school notional Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) funding set out in the report to November Cabinet?
- b) What impact has the County Council's historically lower than average level of notional funding had on a school's SEND services?
- c) Why is it necessary to implement the increase described as neither 'a target nor a constraint', in two stages?

RESPONSE:

- a) The notional SEN budget is an identified amount within a schools' budget share that is intended as a guide for a school's spending decisions for its pupils with SEN. DfE are considering linking notional SEN budgets to the proposed national SEND standards, to be developed under the national SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) improvement plan. Surrey identifies a significantly lower proportion of formula funding as notional SEN funding than other similar Local Authorities. An increase will address this and avoid a future budgeting impact of schools through a tapered increase as agreed over two years.
- b) A lower-than-average level of notional funding may lead a minority of schools to spend less on SEN than might be expected of similar schools in comparable Local Authorities, or to consider that they are inadequately funded for SEN. However,

we have been proactive in developing resources and innovative ways of working which ensure that all schools are fully aware of what should be ordinarily available within the current notional funding. The Ordinarily Available Provision offer was co-produced with Surrey schools and is an accurate reflection of what schools should deliver through high quality teaching, their duties under the SEND Code of Practice 2015 and prompts them to consider when they should access the wide range of services and resources available from Surrey Education Services and our partners. Additionally, we have developed innovative approaches to early inclusion and prevention such as the Team Around the School approach and the L-SPA request for support pathways which have no cost to schools but provide valuable help and support.

- c) During September 2023 all Surrey primary and secondary schools (including academies) were consulted on the proposal to bring notional SEND funding into line with the national average. Schools had been asked to support either a one step change to national average or a two-year transition. A majority of schools supported a two-year transition. In October the results of the consultation were shared with Surrey Schools Forum. The Forum supported a two-year transition of notional SEND funding to national average.

**CLARE CURRAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES,
LIFELONG LEARNING**

**20. LANCE SPENCER (GOLDSWORTH EAST AND HORSELL VILLAGE) TO
ASK:
(2nd Question)**

This time last year, there was a significant backlog of Home to School Transport Appeals. Has the backlog now been cleared, and how many children are currently waiting for an appeal to be heard?

RESPONSE:

There are currently no appeal backlogs reported in Home to School Travel Service. There are currently 9 new Stage 1 Appeals and all within timescale. There are currently 9 Stage 2 Appeals and are booked onto panels within the 40-day Service Level Agreement.

**CLARE CURRAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES,
LIFELONG LEARNING**

**21. ROBERT EVANS OBE (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK:
(3rd Question)**

Many residents complain about increasing anti-social behaviour in my electoral division.

What impact does the Council feel the closure of most of the youth service has had on this situation?

Are there any plans to address or improve things?

RESPONSE:

Youth services have not closed, we still have an in-house youth service. Since 2021 open access youth work sessions have been delivered by third sector providers within our Youth Centres in place of Surrey County Council led open access youth work sessions. Historically we have always adopted a blended approach to delivery of youth services from our in-house youth services with our third sector providers including delivery of open access youth work sessions, tackling behaviours, educational/skills learning, sports and physical activities, detached and targeted youth work etc. This practice remains in place as collaboration and joined up actions from a range of partners such as police, third sector and other stakeholders gives us the best option of responding to a range of challenges including anti-social behaviours.

The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) established that with more people at home during Covid and since, rises in reporting anti-social behaviour are being 'seen'. Some of this was noted to result from targeted work around awareness of what anti-social behaviour was or could be and encouragement to report; evidencing that this work has been successful and the encouragement/ pathway for reporting is being well established.

During 2023 the County's Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) & Community Harm Reduction Partnership which includes SCC, Police, Third Sector, Housing, Health partners have come together to understand what the landscape of ASB looks like in Surrey. In March 2023, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey (PCC) Lisa Townsend launched a public survey around anti-social behaviour. This was followed by a workshop held in June 2023 by ASB Help to capture experiences for the Partnership to develop into plans.

In the background during 2023 as part of those developing plans SCC youth services have been and continue to work with the police and third sector providers at developing targeted detached services using intelligence gathered, for a range of support including detached services, 1:2:1 support, open access youth work and a range of other activities. We are working with Surrey Police for their youth engagement officers to work with our youth services/worker and community youth services/workers in a multi-agency, co-located approach sitting within the community where possible. We are working with borough councils in receipt of PCC's Safer Street Funding from the £42 million core Safer Street Fund launched in 2020. Where the funding tranche offered this year has been allocated by PCC for Councils to decide to spend in any of the three areas: tackling neighbourhood crime, violence against women and children and anti-social behaviours, for some of that funding to be decided by them for allocating to support additional targeted work around anti-social behaviours. If decisions are made by our borough councils to allocate any portion of the Safer Streets Funding into anti-social behaviours, we will work on combined localised approach bringing all partners/stakeholders together for additional targeted approaches.

DENISE TURNER-STEWART, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITIES

22. CATHERINE POWELL (FARNHAM NORTH) TO ASK: (3rd Question)

In June 2021 I raised concerns that Your Fund Surrey (YFS) would not be accessible to more deprived areas. I asked for:

- A map showing applications on Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs).
- The Index of Multiple Deprivation for the area of the application to be added.

I did get maps they showed no applications in areas of deprivation in Surrey, National Index of Multiple Deprivation 2s and 3s.

Then Surrey deciles for multiple deprivation were introduced, the top three Surrey deciles are all 10 the highest, the lowest Surrey decile lumped all the areas that are national decile 2, 3 and 4 together along with a number that are decile 5, as a new Surrey decile 1.

All schemes are valuable in their own right, but comparing the benefits of one scheme in one area against another scheme in another area or multiple smaller schemes across the County is always going to be challenging and difficult to ensure parity particularly against no one left behind.

Last year the Residents' Association and Independent Group called for a stop in new large YFS applications, as it was clear it was not going to be affordable going forward and the projects were not delivering benefits for the 21 Key Neighbourhoods and the costs of borrowing were increasing.

The overall YFS budget (excluding running costs) was reduced to £60 million in this year's budget approved in February 2023 and £50,000 given to every divisional member to spend on local projects. There was no differentiation between divisions based on deprivation or isolation or even areas which had already had one or more schemes funded. There has been on-going encouragement to promote the Your Fund Surrey and for organisations to invest time and money in submitting bids for funding.

The draft budget papers ([Draft Budget Cabinet Cover Report.pdf \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://surreycc.gov.uk)) state:

“The Council remains committed to Your Fund Surrey (YFS), however in light of the need to prioritise capital investment and based on historic applications, the overall amount made available has been reduced. Significant investment of £40m for the 2023/24 – 2025/26 period remains available to bring community-led place-making or place-improving projects to life at a scale to make a significant impact and deliver a real legacy in communities. This investment includes the Small Community Project Fund which allocates each Councillor £50k to support capital community projects”.

The need to prioritise capital investment and borrowing on new SEND school places, new children's homes, additional extra care accommodation and our highways is clear. Assuming that £40 million on YFS is affordable what will the budget of £40 million cover:

- Schemes already improved in 2023, including:
 - Two schemes for nearly £3 million each approved by Cabinet
 - A number of schemes between £100 and £500,000 approved by the Cabinet Member and
 - A number of others approved by officers
- Approx. £4 million on small Your Fund Surrey projects in each of the 81 divisions based on (£50,000 per division) by April 2025.
- The schemes already in the pipeline some of which a significant number are for over £1 million.
- Any new schemes submitted going forward.

Your Fund Surrey Governance states “no direct competition between applicants” however, when the available YFS funding is reduced, decisions will need to be made between different bids small and large.

Please can the Cabinet Member advise:

- a) When the large Your Fund Surrey scheme will need to be closed to new submissions based on the new budget and the number of submissions in the pipeline, and how this will be communicated both to applicants in the system and the wider community who may be considering making bids?
- b) Whether there will be any change in funding priorities to deliver schemes in all 21 Key Neighbourhoods over and above the current committed £50,000 small Your Fund Surrey?
- c) Whether there will be any change in the evaluation criteria to ensure balance across the Districts and Boroughs based on their population?

RESPONSE:

Your Fund Surrey (YFS) was always set out as an open, universal fund to support all of our communities in Surrey, recognising that communities define themselves and that people often travel to use community facilities, such as hubs, sports facilities and to access the countryside; YFS projects can, therefore, have benefit to much wider communities.

The fund has so far supported over 150 projects that build community connection, reduce isolation, improve mental wellbeing, and support our prevention agenda, as well as our green and inclusion agendas.

It was recognised that communities in the most deprived areas of the County would potentially need more support with their applications, which is addressed through Community Link Officers (CLOs), and the voluntary sector working with community groups in our key neighbourhoods.

We remain fully committed to supporting our communities through YFS, hence the continuing budget of £40 million through to 2025/26, at a level that reflects affordability for the council.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

In my division there is a small residential area where two residents successfully applied for disabled spaces outside their homes when they developed long-term debilitating medical conditions. Unfortunately, the spaces were not also made enforceable and able-bodied residents are able to, and do, park in the spaces with impunity. The applications to make the disabled spaces enforceable have been made but are part of the Parking Review process, so there will be a delay of many months before the spaces can be enforceable.

- a) Will Highways agree to automatically make all future disabled spaces requested by residents outside their homes enforceable?
- b) Further, will Highways agree to make all existing disabled spaces, which have been requested by residents outside their homes, enforceable?

RESPONSE:

In order to make bays enforceable, we would have to make an amendment to the relevant traffic regulation order in the same way as we have to for any other parking restriction, which we do by way of the parking review process. If we wanted to make all future disabled parking bays enforceable, people applying for them would have to wait until the next parking review in their area, which could delay the installation of the bay by a considerable length of time. By installing a bay that is just an advisory one, we can install them much more quickly. In the vast majority of cases, our experience is that people without blue badges are respectful of the bays and do not park in them, so although advisory, they serve their purpose. Another factor to consider is how enforceable the bays might be. In most cases, these bays are situated in locations where there are no other parking restrictions in the near vicinity, which means that it would be costly and time consuming to carry out even occasional enforcement. Bearing in mind the practicalities of enforcement and the fact that in most cases they are self-enforcing and can be installed more quickly under the current approach, we would not be in agreement with the suggestion to automatically make all future disabled bays enforceable.

For very much the same reasons as mentioned above, we would also not be in agreement to make all existing advisory disabled parking bays enforceable. There are hundreds of these bays all over the county, most of which do not need to be made enforceable and some of which have been in place since before our current records began. It would be a very time-consuming and costly exercise to make them all enforceable, and an approach that we believe is not necessary and would create unreasonable expectations regarding enforcement. Removing disabled bays when

circumstances change would also be more complex and costly if they were all designated with a traffic regulation order.

**CLARE CURRAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES,
LIFELONG LEARNING**

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

This time last year, there were 988 active Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) requests; of these, 284 requests were known to be over the 20-week period.

- a) How many children are currently waiting to have their EHCP produced?
- b) How many have exceeded the 20 weeks limit?

RESPONSE:

- a) At the end of November there were 1571 children with an active request for an EHCP. Around 240 of these are awaiting the initial decision on whether they require an assessment for an EHCP.
- b) In total, 1038 requests have exceeded the 20-week limit at the end of November. Of these, 510 children have received their Educational Psychology (EP) advice and are with the SEND teams to make a decision on whether a plan is required and to issue the EHCP if so. The remaining children are currently awaiting their EP advice to finalise their assessment.

There is a recovery plan in place which aims to reduce waiting times for education Health and Needs assessments. To date this has been successful in halving the numbers of children awaiting an educational psychology assessment and the majority of children who have been waiting since January and February this year have now had the assessments undertaken or these assessments are close to completion. The aim is to reach good levels of timeliness in May 2024 and our recovery plan was endorsed in the recent Ofsted Care Quality Commission (CQC) SEND inspection.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Denise Turner-Stewart

PORTFOLIO: Deputy Leader, Customer and Communities

Your Fund Surrey (YFS): Since launching in November 2020, over £16m of projects have been funded from the large fund, supporting 34 community-led projects in every Surrey district and borough. Some of the funded projects include: Claygate Community Pool in Elmbridge, The Hortons Garden Project in Epsom & Ewell, The Yvonne Arnaud theatre in Guildford, Leatherhead and Dorking Gymnastics Club in Mole Valley, Salfords Cricket Club in Reigate & Banstead, Thorpe Green Community Fitness Project in Runnymede, 8th Ashford Scouts' new community building in Spelthorne, Camberley Men's Shed project in Surrey Heath, Master Park Pavilion in Tandridge, Park Mead Primary School's new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) in Waverley, and the Old Woking Community Centre in Woking. Funded projects in November include £220k for Reigate Rugby Club, £224k for Warlingham Sports Club, to modernise their clubhouse and improve accessibility, and £112k for the Horton Gardens Project to transform the green space around the centre. In addition, Members have to date supported over 100 small community projects in all divisions through the YFS Small Community Fund. Approximately £1m has so far been allocated by Members, who have until 31 March 2025 to identify which local projects they would like to support.

Libraries: Super Access (formerly Open Access) has been installed at Horley Library for official launch on 31 January 2024, followed by further installations at Camberley, Dittons, Dorking, Egham, Farnham, Godalming and Oxted. Planning permission has been granted for the Sunbury Hub and refurbishments at Ashted and Leatherhead libraries, and mini refurbishment at Chertsey, Hersham and Molesey have been approved. Installation of flexible shelving, using Arts Council Funding at Dittons, Egham, Godalming, Haslemere, Oxted and Reigate, means libraries can be reconfigured to create a range of spaces for events and activities. Oxted recently held a sell-out author event for 50 people, which raised £350, made possible by the flexible shelving. In Oct 2023 there were a record 1022 events attended by 20,671 people, up 59% from Oct 2022. Highlights included: Digital Welfare events for Get Online Week, Diwali Craft Sessions, Green Libraries Week, and the launch of Eco Library cards. 79% of attendees said the event made a positive impact on their health and wellbeing, 51% said that it was the first time they attended a library event, 16% were not library members and 96% felt the session improved their digital skills. Work has started on a relaunch of our Domestic Abuse offer including refresher training for library staff, as part of Safe Space initiative. Following a successful meeting with Runnymede and Spelthorne Citizens advice Chief Executive, the service is working on a plan to deliver 'Advice First Aid' training to staff at Staines Library. This pilot would provide library staff with the skills to triage for advice, deliver initial guidance and refer to Citizens Advice when needed.

Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS): With the support of specialist charities and foodbanks, over the last six months £5.3m in Household Support Fund has helped 76,000 people with food and fuel. The Council granted each Citizen Advice (CA) charity approximately £50k to enable them to help with debt advice and welfare support, preventing people spiralling into bigger, complex problems, which resulted in an additional 1600 people benefiting from £800k of welfare support that they were entitled to but otherwise would not have known about or claimed.

Surrey Arts & Culture: The music team had a busy year with over 4983 young people accessing music lessons, including 420 young people given financial support. This is a 5.4% increase on 2022. The team are now working in partnership with 87% of schools in Surrey across the year. The Culture Box programme 'Better Lives Through Culture' two year programme which has just finished engaged with over 5000 young people and 228 teachers from 41 schools, with 4500 young people gaining an Arts Award.

Towns and Villages: The towns and villages partnership approach continues to progress specific opportunities in each of the current five focus towns: Leatherhead, Sunbury, Ashford, Addlestone, and Chertsey. This follows work completed in Farnham, Horley, Caterham, Weybridge, and Staines. Pace of progress can be challenged by time taken to establish trusting local partner relationships, but positive conversations are underway with local NHS partners to ensure a stronger joint focus on improved health, care, and wellbeing. Local Area Coordinator roles, providing support to people who may be struggling, have been recruited in Stanwell and Upper Hale, following matched funding from the local NHS. To support this work, we have increased our community engagement through 6208 in-person conversations, where residents told us what they want to see happen where they live. Community Link Officers have been actively working with residents, Members, and partners to tackle poor housing, improve youth activities, provide employment support, and help reinvigorate shopping areas, strengthening our communities.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Jordan Beech

PORTFOLIO: Customer and Communities

Registration and Nationality Service: It has been another busy year for the Registration and Nationality Service with 2,662 civil ceremonies officiated and 8,703 births and 6,189 deaths registered between 1 April and 31 October 2023; making it one of the busiest Registration services in the country. The Registrar General of England and Wales also identified the Surrey Registration Service as having a high level of assurance in its annual performance review. Improvements to the digital offer for customers continue to be made, with our online booking system now expanded to include citizenship ceremonies. The service is also on target to make £4m in income for 23/24; its highest amount to date which is reflective of continued efforts to evolve the service offer to provide choice for people wanting to celebrate key life moments.

New arrivals to Surrey: In 2023, Surrey's immigration services have responded well in managing significant programs like Homes for Ukraine, Hong Kong BNO (British National Overseas), and the Afghan Cohort. Surrey welcomed the highest number of Ukrainian guests in England, with 3,975 arrivals and over 1,260 moving into private rentals. Surrey has led the region in ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes with 385 learners and saw 33 learners complete adult education courses by July 2023 for our Hong Kong new arrivals; with the county also enriching library resources for this community. Support has been provided to several Afghan families, facilitating their transition to permanent housing.

Customer Services: Customer Services have had a busy year, with a significant increase in enquiries relating to highways and children and young people with disabilities and additional learning needs. Overall, in the first three quarters of 2023 we received 189,708 calls, 84,349 emails, 11,543 live chats and had 2,905,533 visits to the public website.

We collaborated closely with H2ST (Home to School Transport) and education colleagues to increase resource, train additional staff and establish mitigating plans and processes ahead of our September peak, leading to a 24.3% reduction in calls to our education line compared to the same period in 2022. Our training team has been instrumental in the design and delivery of training to support the refreshed Customer Promise, initially to the new Customer Champion Network, with plans to roll this out more widely to the organisation in the coming months.

Active Surrey: With a focus on the role of physical activity in supporting stronger, healthier communities, 300+ health care professionals have been trained this year to value and have conversations about physical activity, and in November a Conference was hosted for 120 teachers on physical literacy in schools. Conversations are progressing with Sport England on getting more people active locally, through their Place Investment scheme. Exciting plans are also advancing to pilot bike loans from two libraries, using re-furbished bikes from Surrey's recycling centres.

Community Prevention: Activities and successes this year include evaluating Green Social Prescribing in partnership with NHSE and Natural England; there was a 10.5% increase in the number of people participating in physical activity following a 'green' prescription. A Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) grant will provide £6m in funding to help Surrey residents into work; 51 peer health and wellbeing champions from key neighbourhoods and priority populations trained and supporting residents with social care needs to access support from over 1300 community-based organisations.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Paul Deach

PORTFOLIO: Deputy Cabinet Member to Leader of the Council

Surrey Matters improvements: Earlier in the year, Surrey Matters, the Council's flagship e-newsletter, moved to a new provider which was the start of a number of improvements. The communications team have been working with services from across the Council to move their newsletters to the same platform, bringing consistency and opportunities for cross promotion. Alongside this, the Council website has seen improvements to bring all news stories together making it easier for residents to be informed.

Now this work has been done the team are working on ways to increase the number of residents who sign up for our newsletters. Surrey Matters currently has around **200,000 subscribers, a sixth of the total population, and has an open rate much higher than the national average.** But we want to do more, and various services have been looking at ways we can increase our sign ups. This includes:

- A pop up on the website so users are prompted to sign up.
- Encouraging residents to sign up when they get in touch with us through the contact centre.
- In libraries, there will be information in different places, such as the kiosks encouraging sign ups. They are also building it in to their digital buddy scheme which helps people get online. They're also looking at ways the news stories Surrey Matters promotes can be made more widely available to residents who are digitally excluded.
- Signing up all SCC staff using their work email.
- Alongside this, the communications team are increasing their promotion of Surrey Matters, from digital ads to popups in libraries and posters at bus stops.

The focus and hard work are already paying off, with Surrey Matters nominated for a prestigious national award for best use of email.

Highways Surrey Matters Special: In between the monthly Surrey Matters newsletter, the team has been trialling mid-month specials which are proving popular with residents. The latest version focussed on the highways service. Content included how we're preparing for winter, explaining the difference between council and utility run works, and preparing for flooding. This issue generated the **most feedback received on any issue.**

New targeted email updates: To ensure residents are well-informed about council services in their areas, I have been working with the team to launch new email updates on services that matter to them the most, starting in January with the launch of 'Your Highways Update'.

Residents can sign up for information about works in their area, to keep them informed and help to minimise frustration and disruption. So far over **1,160 residents have signed up** and we'll be rolling out social media posts over the coming months to increase this further.

Other services are set to follow including Libraries who are working on a newsletter tailored to the users of each library.

Increase in engagement on social media: Engagement on our social media channels continues to grow at pace. A recent example was last week when **five posts** alone (highlighting our work on road safety and the highways gritting service) were seen by over **87,000 people.**

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: David Lewis

PORTFOLIO: Finance and Resources

Budget: At Month 7, the Council was forecasting an overspend of £1.9m for 2023/24. The forecast position is made up of a Directorate overspend of £21.9m, offset by the utilisation of the corporate risk contingency budget of £20m (as approved by Cabinet in October). At Month 7, capital expenditure was anticipated to be £0.2m more than the re-set budget.

Draft 2024/25 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2028/29: Considered by Cabinet on 28 November. Good progress has been made in developing the budget, although at this stage there remains a residual gap of £13.5m. Work continues to identify further efficiencies and consideration of the need for further council tax rises. The extent to which this will be necessary will depend in part on the Local Government Finance Settlement due later in December.

Payroll: November Payroll has begun to see some improvements on previous two months. Payroll processing went largely to plan, but there are some ongoing issues with schools which we are addressing through Schools Clinics. A plan for December payroll is in place and is on track to meet the earlier payroll date of 20 December 2023. The MATs and Academies' offboarding project is on track and will release further capacity in the team to support on the main payrolls from December.

My Surrey: The Digital Business and Insights (DB&I) Programme will close-down from 15 December, provided a number of agreed exit criteria are agreed by the Programme Board.

Statement of Accounts: The 2021/22 Statement of Accounts for the Council, Pension Fund and Council Group Accounts were signed off by the external auditor, Grant Thornton, at the end of October. The external audit of the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts is making good progress and is aiming to be finalised and reported to the Audit & Governance Committee in January 2024.

Internal Audit: Audit and Governance Committee received the Q2 progress report from Orbis IA on 22 November 2023. Only one audit was reported with a lower level of assurance (Health & Safety Governance Arrangements – Partial Assurance) for which management have agreed actions for improvement.

Procurement: The Annual Procurement Forward Plan (APFP) FY2024/25 has now been reviewed and approved by Service Directorates, CLT and individual portfolio holders. Once approved by Cabinet, the procurement activities listed in the APFP may proceed without the requirement for further Cabinet approval, provided the tender outcome is within +5% of the budget indicated in the Procurement Report.

IT & Digital: Generative AI is recognised as a potential emergent technology with the potential to enable a step change in productivity and service delivery to residents. A strategic framework for Artificial Intelligence is currently being developed by officers.

Legal and Democratic Services: The Legal team has undergone a three-day external inspection to achieve the Law Society "Lexcel" quality standard. The inspection report commented "This assessment has proved to be a very impressive demonstration of Lexcel v6.1 compliance. The Assessor acknowledges the plentiful evidence of ongoing compliance encountered including managerial and supervisory proficiency, client care, maintenance and monitoring of records, and internal reporting, and elevates exemplary compliance to Areas of Good Practice. The Practice is to be commended as no non-compliances were identified during the assessment."

Agile Organisation Programme: Having recently completed SCC staff moves from Elmbridge Borough Council to Dakota (£323k annual revenue saving), the Programme has now completed 7 out of 14 Agile Office Move projects and remains on target to deliver circa £2.2m revenue savings by 2025/26. Negotiations are underway on a potential purchase of a central site in Woking as a successor to Quadrant Court (subject to contract negotiations and Cabinet approvals). At Woodhatch, additional Disabled Staff parking has now been allocated behind Council Chambers. A total of 24 spaces have been allocated (approximately 6% of all spaces) which brings Woodhatch in line with the Inclusive Mobility guidelines published by DfT).

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Natalie Bramhall

PORTFOLIO: Property, Waste and Infrastructure

Property - Capital Projects – Delivery:

- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND):** Hopescourt School, a new 200-place Net Zero Carbon flagship school for autistic pupils aged 4-19 in Walton-on-Thames has been granted planning permission. The 7 remaining projects for 23/24 programme remain on track to deliver on time.
- **Corporate Parenting:** Children's Care Home Cobham (Faircroft); planning application submitted. Children's Care Home Dorking; works have commenced onsite.
- **Hubs: Sunbury:** Planning application granted. **Weybridge:** Planning determination anticipated 14 Dec. **Staines:** Submitted for planning.
- **Adult Social Care (ASC) - Supported Independent Living:** Full planning applications have been approved for former Coveham Hostel, former Horley Library and former Manor School. Conditions on target to be discharged December 2023.
- **ASC - Short Breaks:** Full planning application approved for the Lakers site, Woking. The Squirrels site is on track to achieve full planning approval by 8 December 2023.

Acquisitions- Disposals – Surplus Declarations / Core Disposals:

- **Coxbridge Farm, Farnham:** We are now close to finalising the exchange of contracts with the final headline receipt at net £30.5m.
- **Consort House, Redhill:** Ongoing impact of poor market demand for secondary offices reflected in lack of bids. Now re-assessing occupancy options to support short term lettings and mitigate void building costs such as business rates.
- **Quadrant Court Woking:** Framework consultants to provide a report and appraisal on disposal options.
- **Dormers in Caterham:** Approval to support the sale of Dormers at below best consideration to Tandridge DC. Final transaction will be subject to Cabinet decision.
- **Karibu Epsom:** Pushing to exchange contracts before end of 2023.
- **Former Hillside/Portesbery Camberley:** Agents now marketing the site and close of bids in Q4 FY2023/24.
- **Lovell Road Ham:** Contracts now exchanged, and completion scheduled for mid-December 2023.
- **The Edge Leisure Centre, Haslemere:** Still awaiting Waverly BC executive decision to take on a 12-month lease to enable them to oversee use of school hours by Weydon Multi Academy Trust and out of hours community use by Woolmer Hill Sports Association on the basis of SCC sharing/contributions to core costs.
- **Deepcut:** Terms agreed and revised timelines to allow SCC to secure planning for external works now required to original building to support SEN project.
- **Care Leavers:** Two houses now formally acquired to support the programme and a further two houses remain under offer, subject to due diligence.
- **Childrens Homes:** Awaiting on formal approval of the business case to proceed, as well as budgets to appoint agents to secure a wide range of larger housing with the potential for planning risk and challenges where changes of use may be required.

Halsey Garton Property Investments: The commercial property investment portfolio consists of 16 assets with an annual passing rent of £16.12m. Whilst similar property portfolios have an average running yield of 5.35%, as a result of our successful implementation of strategy to maximise revenue, our portfolio is returning 6.85%.

Halsey Garton Residential: The residential portfolio comprises of 80 properties held on long-term leases, the majority of which are located inside Surrey County boundaries. The Company is implementing the approved strategy, being; where it supports SCC Policy, to renew existing occupational tenancy agreements when they come to expiry for 12 months, ideally with six-month break options; divest assets that do not deliver SCC Policy; retain and repurpose existing assets forecast to deliver SCC policy.

Property Strategy and Planning – Agile Programme: The Business Case for the new Corporate Office Hub in North-West Surrey is due to be presented to December Cabinet. The Agile programme has completed 7 out of 14 Agile Office Move projects (exits, consolidations and relocations). Whilst there is an overall movement from 14 properties to just 11, the programme remains on track to reduce the overall footprint of

the estate from c50,000m2 in 2021 to c18,000m2 by 2025/26. Leasing costs have now reduced from three freehold and 11 leasehold to eight and three respectively. The programme continues to be self-funding through the efficiencies and savings it generates and will deliver a surplus of c.£2.2m revenue savings by 2025/26.

Services based at Elmbridge BC have moved to Dakota (£323k Revenue Savings). Redesign of the Dakota Ground Floor signed off ahead of construction to allow services currently based at Ashley Park House to move to Dakota in April 2024. Fit out of the Brickfields Centre in Fairmount to provide a new bespoke facility.

Extra Care - Design, Build, Finance & Operate (DBFO):

- **Phase 1a (59 units) Pond Meadow:** Planning approval has been granted by Guildford Borough Council and the S106 agreement has been finalised. Anticipated on site start date of March 2024.
- **Phase 1b (5 sites c.306 units):** Bentley and Pinehurst have secured outline planning approval. Salisbury and Brockhurst are anticipated to be determined early in 2024. Lakeside remains under review before it can be taken further through the planning process. The agreement for the lease process has commenced on the two sites that have secured outline planning, with the others to follow.
- **Phase 2 (3 sites c.219 units):** Cabinet approved (July 2023) the procurement of a DBFO strategic partner for Colebrook in Redhill, Orchard Court in Lingfield and Birchlands in Egham. RIBA Stage 2 design is underway and pre-application planning engagement has concluded on all 3 sites. Community engagement has been concluded and the applications for outline planning approval to be submitted by end of 2023.
- **Phase 3 (c 150 units):** Unfortunately, the Council does not currently have any surplus assets suitable for ECH. The team is reviewing alternative assets to identify suitable properties and land for ECH use; we remain on programme for Phase 3.

Workplace and Facilities:

- **Macro Ltd:** The new integrated facilities management contract went live on 20 November 2023. Macro will manage the FM Help Desk, cover maintenance activities for plant, equipment and building fabric, cleaning, security, waste and recycling, and grounds maintenance across SCC's property portfolio.
- **Minor Capital Works:** The 2023/24 programme is progressing well with 50 projects completed YTD. A further 48 projects are currently either in mobilisation or construction phases and on target for completion by year end. The remaining 35 projects (including several emerging projects) are currently in the design and procurement stages and will be delivered in 2024. The actual expenditure at the end October 2023 was in line with the budget forecast at £9.2m.
- **RAAC:** Visual site inspections of all maintained schools are complete (DfE will cover some costs of surveys); of the 110 school buildings inspected, 34 buildings require further intrusive surveys for definitive findings. The corporate estate will undergo the same process, inspections scheduled to be complete by end February 2024.

Waste: A formal settlement has now been reached with Defra on the Waste Infrastructure Grant. This follows the successful negotiation of a contract variation with SUEZ to end the dispute over delivery of the Eco Park.

Procurement of merchant energy from waste capacity to deal with approximately 150,000 tonnes per year of residual waste not dealt with at the Eco Park has concluded and bidders notified. New contracts will commence on 1 October 2024 and will deliver a significant cost saving for SCC as well as an exciting package of social value benefits. Work continues on development of new waste infrastructure in the county including new waste transfer stations and an additional recyclable materials processing facility to reduce the impact of hauling recyclable material over large distances. Reuse and recycling remain a priority. Sales at our reuse shops are up and we continue to pursue further opportunities for reuse, for example, working with colleagues to supply refurbished bikes for refugees. On 27 November 2023, a member of the public brought suspected ordnance into our Epsom community recycling centre, resulting in an emergency closure and evacuation of the site. The Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal team was called and confirmed that the items were a WW2 mortar shell and anti-tank grenade which had been deactivated for use as training devices.

Infrastructure: In June, Cabinet approved the fourth phase of projects to be progressed as part of Surrey's Infrastructure Plan (SIP). Projects included the A25 Dorking to Reigate Safer Roads Fund Project, Farnham Town Centre Improvements, Water Lane Pedestrian Crossing in Farnham, Pedestrianisation of the Square in Shere as well as the first tranche of local street improvements in Sunbury and Egham. Cabinet also approved funding for both the Ash Road Bridge Project and A320 HIF Scheme North of Woking, both of which will support housing development. The estimated cost of projects within this fourth phase is approximately £28.42m, made up of £22.62m from SCC capital which in turn leverages in approximately £5.80m from external partners or from Section 106 planning contributions / CIL. A320 North of Woking Improvements: Pre-construction planning workshops with the construction partner have commenced. This will extend over the winter to ensure construction commences in spring 2024.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Matthew Furniss

PORTFOLIO: Highways, Transport and Economic Growth

Economic Growth: Following the Government's announcement about the integration of Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) functions, significant progress continues to be made to plan for integration via engagement with Enterprise M3, Coast to Capital, and other relevant upper tier local authorities. A Cabinet report on LEP integration is planned for February, when we expect to be able to share more specific details on funding, assets, and staffing.

The Council successfully held the inaugural Festival of Skills on 23 November 2023, jointly with the Association of Learning Providers in Surrey and other partners. 80 exhibitors showcased their opportunities to around 1500 students from Surrey schools. Surrey Careers Hub is now fully operational and was formally launched at the Festival of Skills. The Careers Hub puts the Council in an important position to support schools with careers strategies and programmes, as well as facilitate and coordinate collaborative working across education and business through a lens of future skills demand.

Partnership working remains a priority, with ongoing conversations taking place with D&Bs and local partners to implement (economic) town partnerships in Leatherhead, and Chertsey. The E&G team continues to seek funding opportunities to attract investment into Surrey targeted at supporting our key sectoral clusters. For example, Cabinet recently approved £3m capital investment to part fund a new CoSTAR satellite studio and incubator space on RHUL's campus. There has been a successful bid for £1.5m GAIN funding (with University of Surrey and UCA) to establish a Games Innovation Hub on the University of Surrey campus. Finally, we are waiting to hear back from the Department for Education for the Council's bid for £2.3m for Skills Bootcamp funding, which is focused on digital, green, engineering, and health and social care sectors. If successful, delivery starts in April 2024.

Transport: A new Surrey RoadSafe Partnership Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy has been drafted in collaboration with Surrey Police, Police and Crime Commissioner, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, and National Highways. The aim of this new strategy is to help us collectively reduce death and injury on our roads. It has been drafted following a best practice Vision Zero and Safe Systems approach, with a target to reduce collisions where someone has been killed or seriously injured by 50% by 2035 and 100% by 2050. The strategy includes a new policy for a more flexible approach to implementing 20 mph speed limits. Cabinet will consider this on 19 December, with a public and stakeholder consultation planned from January to mid-March. The results, along with any proposed changes to the strategy and 20 mph speed limit policy, are set to be brought back to Cabinet in Spring 2024 for final approval.

On 28 November 2023, I approved the application of £7.8m of Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus (BSIP+) funding that will deliver a range of local bus improvements focussed on our agreed BSIP priorities. This includes:

- Enhancing specific bus services through improved frequency or greater hours/days of operation, including new or better evening and weekend services;
- Supporting the further expansion of Digital Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT) services across Surrey;
- Supporting the roll out of the Surrey LINK Card, which offers reduced price bus travel to all residents aged 20 and under; and
- Supporting some bus services to help them to continue to build back to pre-pandemic patronage levels, noting that the DfT's Covid Recovery funding has ended.

The bus services identified for enhancements are those where the Council and our bus operators believe there is the best scope for passenger growth and where such enhancements have a real chance to become permanent through commercial viability.

The Surrey LINK Card continues to be a success, offering half adult fares on single and return journeys to all residents aged 20 and under. The card remains free, with 5,580 young people already signed up (1,616 LINK Cards held by under 16s and 3,964 held by those aged 16 to 20). An email to promote the new £1 LINK fare on routes where the £2 national fare cap is available was sent to all LINK cardholders (or their parents) plus Surrey schools on 28 November 2023. This generated an increase in applications that will lead to increased usage. During September and October, c.25,000 journeys were made by LINK Card holders. This will increase during November, with the £1 fare now available, supporting young people as they transition from school and college into work.

Five new Surrey Connect DDRT services started on 4 September 2023, with more planned for 2024. DDRT was also promoted at the Festival of Skills. Over 32,000 trips have been made across the Surrey Connect DDRT network since May 2022. Also, 2,100 new digital users have registered since September this year when the new services started, with a total of 6,300 Surrey Connect digital subscribers across all the Surrey Connect schemes. We continue to increase the number of electric minibuses in Surrey as part of our Greener Future work. As of December, 12 are operating on DDRT services, with another 16 arriving by the summer. An additional 12 electric minibuses are delivering community transport services, with 12 more to arrive in 2024.

Horizon update: Our teams are making good progress on the Road and Pavement Horizon programmes with around 70% of this year's programmes now complete. Our other planned programmes of works on highway assets such as bridges, traffic signals and safety barriers are also progressing well. The teams have started carrying out site visits for schemes on the provisional 2024/25 programmes so they can be designed, planned, and programmed in advance of the new financial year. When we include the other road and pavement programmes, such as those determined in-year, we will be delivering between 800 and 1000 road and pavement schemes this year and the same volume next year. This is a significant increase compared to the number of schemes carried out in previous years and both our staff and contractors have been working very hard to deliver this significant volume of works.

We have trialled several new materials and systems this year including the [Pothole Pro](#) and [Roadmender](#) and are currently evaluating the outputs to determine their ongoing use on the Surrey network. We have also been evaluating more resilient and low carbon materials for infrastructure such as lining and street furniture.

Planning: Officers have been co-ordinating and drafting the County Council's responses in respect of the Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Development Consent Order application and a consultation from Rushmoor Borough Council in respect of Farnborough Airport to amend some of the operational constraints on their planning permission, including an increase in the maximum number of annual flights from 50,000 to 70,000.

I approved the County Council's Relevant Representation regarding the Gatwick application, and it was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 29 October 2023. The key issues raised included the need for the development and control mechanisms; noise; traffic and transport; carbon and climate change; public health; and the environment. I have recently set up a Member Reference Group for Local Members in the Tandridge, Reigate and Banstead, and Mole Valley areas, whose divisions will be impacted by the expansion; with the aim of ensuring that local issues are included in the Local Impact Report to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. The first meeting is due to be held on 12 December prior to Council. The Gatwick proposal is currently in the pre-examination phase. The examination timetable has yet to be confirmed and there has been some slippage, but officers are currently expecting it to begin in late February/ early March, following which there will be an intense 6-month period of hearings and scrutiny of the proposals.

There is significant local concern about the potential impact of the Farnborough Airport proposal. Officers notified affected local members to seek their views when we were formally consulted by Rushmoor. The original closing date for comments was 4 December but this has now been extended and our representation has to be submitted by 17 December 2023. Officers are drafting the representation for my approval.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Steve Bax

PORTFOLIO: Highways

Highway Verge maintenance: Following a detailed review by the Task & Finish Group in the summer, the intention is to increase the number of urban grass cuts from four to six next year, with two remaining the standard for rural areas. The first cut will be from March 2024. This increase in will be matched by further emphasis on the blue heart and conservation verges – giving residents opportunity to promote the right sites, in the right locations for less cutting. Explanatory signs have been installed at blue heart locations this autumn across the county. A challenge with grass cutting this year was the inconsistency in verge mapping data. Work has been undertaken to ensure we now have accurate records of verges that we should maintain. A draft online map has been created for the whole county – which is no small task. A link to this online map will be sent to Members in the new year so they can check the records for their areas. If you notice areas missing, officers will check to confirm it is highway, and assuming it is they will be added to the official records.

Road markings: In addition, I continue to support Members with progressing highways matters in their divisions. One recent avenue of enquiry has been white lines. Our road marking budget for 2023/24 was increased to £921k but around £500k of work remains outstanding. This was due to capacity issues with Ringway earlier this year and the weather currently, since dry and warm weather is the ideal time to lay markings and we cannot lay them if the temperature is below 4 degrees Celsius. A plan is being put in place to deliver the bulk of outstanding work from April to Sep next year and an additional sub-contractor (Wilson Scott) has been brought in to aid delivery. The general road marking budget for 24/25 will be £1.7m.

Highways Integrated Transport Scheme Programme: This autumn, the countywide Highways Integrated Transport Programme was agreed. For 2024/25 the budget has been maintained and £3m will be available. I am grateful that there was a total of 78 schemes put forward by Members – each one was carefully assessed against the agreed prioritisation process. The process adopted is one consistent with the objectives of the Surrey Transport Plan and was reviewed by a cross party Member reference group earlier this year, building on that used last year. This budget has enabled sixteen schemes to be promoted. Officers will now work with the relevant divisional Members over the next year to deliver these for their local communities.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Kevin Deanus

PORTFOLIO: Fire and Rescue, and Resilience

Fire & Rescue: Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) have carried out a thorough review of the findings and Cause of Concern raised by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services' (HMICFRS) in their 2023 Inspection Report. A comprehensive Action Plan has been created in response to the two recommendations:

- **Recommendation 1:** The service should review its risk-based inspection programme to make sure it identifies its highest-risk premises and meets its own targets.
- **Recommendation 2:** The service should make sure all its staff are aware of the expectations on them in the management of the risk-based inspection programme.

A webpage detailing the actions that have been or are to be undertaken as a result of the Cause of Concern has been published on the Surrey County Council website. For the remaining Areas for Improvement, an Inspection Improvement Plan (IIP) has been developed in response to the report's findings and recommendations. The service's HMICFRS Service Liaison Lead has reviewed the IIP and fed back that it is comprehensive and will address issues highlighted in the report. HMICFRS will continue to monitor SFRS's progress against the recommendations and Areas for Improvement.

Community Safety: Prevent (Counter Terrorism) - Prevent Duty Guidance: On the 7 September 2023 the Prevent Duty Guidance was substantively updated for the first time since 2015. This followed the Home Office's commitment to enact all 34 recommendations in the Independent Review of Prevent, published earlier in 2023, focused on ensuring that Prevent's first objective remains on tackling the ideological causes of terrorism.

The updated guidance placed no new legal requirements on Local Authorities but included direction such as updating language to reflect current best practice and official terminology, and ensuring consistent and proportionate threshold are applied to Prevent activity across all extremist ideologies and radicalisation concerns. To support with this the Home Office will be delivering face to face training on the ideological foundations of extremism and terrorism which will be rolled out during 2024.

Israel-Hamas conflict: The work of Prevent is especially important considering the current conflict in the Middle East and the potential implications it could have for radicalisation here in the UK. Events could be used as an excuse to stir up hatred against communities. Communications have been shared widely, including to Districts and Boroughs and among education settings, to raise awareness around reporting any increase in community tension, hate crime, and that where behaviour extends into antisemitism or other discriminatory bullying that it is responded to with all due seriousness.

Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) review and anti-social behaviour (ASB) powers - Government response: The Home Office will seek to improve and clarify the ways in which CSPs and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) work together by taking forward the following proposals, either through legislation, updated guidance, or best practice documents:

- Create a requirement for the CSP to include in their strategic assessments how it has had due regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the police and crime plan.
- Create a requirement for the CSP to send a copy of its strategic assessment to the PCC or equivalent.
- Create a requirement for the CSP to publish the executive summary of their strategic assessment.
- Clarify how PCCs can best fulfil their duty to have regard to the priorities of the responsible authorities making up the CSPs in the police force area.
- Create a power for PCCs to make recommendations on the activity of CSPs to support the delivery of the objectives set out in the police and crime plan.
- Create a duty on CSPs to take those recommendations into account. A CSP will not be mandated to implement the recommendation but should demonstrate consideration.

CSP and PCC relationship in tackling anti-social behaviour and changes to ASB powers: The Home Office will explore, either through legislation, updated statutory guidance or best practice documents, how to take forward the following proposals:

- Create a duty for PCCs to promote awareness of ASB Case Reviews (Community Trigger).
- Create a duty for PCCs to provide a route for victims to query the outcome made by the relevant agency following the ASB Case Review.
- Create a duty for relevant bodies to report, at the end of a reporting period, the following to PCCs:
 - the number of complaints about anti-social behaviour made to the relevant bodies in the period
 - the types of incident to which those complaints related
 - the locations in which those incidents occurred, including whether any parts of the local government area appear to the relevant bodies to have a high prevalence of such incidents
 - the number of ASB case reviews carried out by those bodies in the period
 - the outcome of those ASB case reviews.
- Extend the power to implement dispersal orders to local authorities.
- Extend the timeframe for a dispersal order from 48 hours to 72 hours, with a mandatory review at 48 hours.
- Extend the power to implement a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to the police.
- Lower the age of a Community Protection Notice (CPN) from 16 to 10.
- Increase the upper limit for a Fixed Penalty Notice for breaches of a PSPO and a CPN from £100 to £500.
- Extend the timeframe that relevant agencies can apply for a Closure Order from 48 hours after service of a Closure Notice through the courts to 72 hours.
- Extend the Closure Power to registered housing providers.
- Extend the power of arrest to all breaches of a Civil Injunction.
- Extend the powers available under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) to allow CSAS officers to enforce breaches of Community Protection Notices and PSPOs.
- Extend Drug Testing on Arrest powers to outside of the custody suite.

Surrey Community Safety Partnerships will be supported to implement the above changes through the Surrey Community Harm & ASB Reduction Group, a Surrey-wide multi-agency meeting, chaired by the Head of ASB Partnerships & Youth Engagement at Surrey Police, and supported by Surrey County Council's Community Safety Team. Once revised legislation and guidance is introduced by the Home Office, work will commence to update agreed Surrey frameworks for the operation of community safety problem solving groups and implementation of ASB tools and powers, with consideration given to any training requirements.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Marisa Heath

PORTFOLIO: Environment

Greener Futures: In November, Cabinet approved the SCC's Climate Change Delivery Plan whole programme assessment, which highlighted that the Council is currently on track to achieve the 2030 net zero carbon target for its own estate and operations. 27,000 tonnes of carbon have been saved, £2.5m energy bill savings have been achieved by the Council, and £8m by residents and businesses, and £68m grant funding has been leveraged. Work to decarbonise the SCC's estate / schools continues, e.g. a solar canopy is currently being installed in the car park at Woodhatch Place. The assessment also set out that whilst the 2050 net zero target for the county is currently on track, there is a strong likelihood this will go off track next year, unless more Government investment is made and further partnership initiatives to encourage behaviour change.

The Council is delivering a number of grant funded programmes to support residents, community groups and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and their energy and/or fuel bills. This includes grants of up to £38k for energy saving and solar measures for low-income households in off gas areas, a scheme offering solar and battery storage at subsidised cost, grants of up to £10k for EV vans for businesses that frequently travel on the A3 in Guildford and grants for small businesses in Waverley, Tandridge and Guildford to support Surrey's rural economy. We continue to find opportunities to work with communities, for example in the last three months, three schools have been given the opportunity to purchase solar from the council at a competitive rate through a power purchase agreement contract. Officers are currently developing a business plan to roll out this pilot more widely.

The Council has also developed a carbon reduction toolkit for Parish/ Town Councils, which is currently being piloted. Finally, a number of community groups have been supported in accessing Your Fund Surrey funding for environmental measures including solar and insulation measures at the Head2Head Theatre and a new electric canal boat for the Basingstoke canal.

Flooding and Climate Resilience: Surrey Adapt, the Surrey Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Strategy, was approved by Cabinet and we are now working to assess the expected severe weather risks faced by SCC, its partners and the communities across Surrey, and to propose coordinated actions to reduce the impacts. A launch event for the strategy is planned for early January. We are shortly due to complete work to improve the resilience of properties to flooding in Caterham on the Hill, and Tandridge, which suffered severe surface water flooding in June 2016, with 83 properties being flooded internally and 63 externally. Using funding from the Environment Agency and the SCC Flood Alleviation Programme, we have installed Property Flood Resilience measures in 161 properties in the catchment, e.g. flood resistant doors, self-closing airbrick covers and drainage non-return valves.

Natural Capital: We are working with Land and Property to finalise the Council's Land Management Policy. Alongside a GIS library and decision-making tool, this forms an important Land Management Framework which will be used to determine optimum land use and benefits from Council owned land-based assets. The policy will be considered by Cabinet in early 2024.

The Council began implementing its annual programme of tree management activities in October with the tree giveaway at SCC libraries. For opportunities to get involved in tree planting, please see: [Tree planting opportunities this winter - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk). Ash Die back works have also been taking place at Sheepleas, Norbury Park, and Newlands Corner on the Council's Countryside Estate. Three cows have arrived at Tice Meadow to provide conservation grazing on the meadow and grasslands. A team of local volunteer stock checkers will be helping to monitor their welfare and progress. Three further calves, being reared at the Dowlands Partnership's farm, will join the others in the spring.

The Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee met last month to consider a proposal to focus the Canal Authority's efforts on statutory duties. This was the result of a comprehensive review of operational needs, governance, and sources of sustainable funding for the canal. Whilst other elements of the proposed solution are for SCC to take on the management of the Visitor Centre at Mytchett Centre and a change in governance structures, partnership funds to cover maintenance and day to day management of the canal remain under budget from the original riparian partner authorities. The Council will be working with partners to establish funds for the next three years during this period. The consultation ends on 30 January 2024.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Mark Nuti

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing, and Public Health

Mental Health Investment Fund (MHIF) - To date, Surrey-Wide Commissioning Committees in Common has distributed the Fund as follows:

Allocation	Amount	Date Allocated
MHIF Manager	£100,000	September 2022
Community Foundation for Surrey	£1,000,000	September 2022
Round 1 (Including £1,200,000 Schools Based Needs Award to Surrey Wellbeing Partnership)	£1,729,069	March 2023 & June 2023*
Integrated Commissioning	£2,000,000	June 2023
Round 2	£3,657,451	October 2023

Successful bids in Round 2 include, suicide prevention, support during pregnancy and immediately after birth, school and workplace-based interventions, interventions to reduce smoking, alcohol, drug use and improve physical health conditions, and a focus on priority populations including people experiencing homelessness, and the Gypsy Roma traveller community.

Public Health - The next [Health and Wellbeing Strategy Highlight Report](#) will be available in December and will include a spotlight for each of the three priorities:

- Work to progress the sustainability of the approach and support to those experiencing multiple disadvantage that has been resourced through the national 'Changing Futures' grant.
- The Children and Young people's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy, which brings together partners from across Surrey including health, education, social care, the third sector and Mindworks, to assess our strengths and what is needed to improve support to children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health.
- Work being progressed as part of the No One Left Behind Skills and Employment Network, supporting people who are farthest from employment to get into employment.

It outlines how our Surrey Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) chapters are progressing and the new chapters being published with the relevant communications and messaging over the past quarter. The September Highlight report pointed to the consultation on our local stop smoking strategy and we are asking partners to actively promote the national consultation on the proposed national smoking ban announced earlier in the year.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): We are developing the evidence base and agreeing next steps to create a shared vision and plan for collective action for tackling inequality and discrimination and promoting EDI across Surrey, following the results of the Local Government Association peer review process. Three workforce reviews focusing on the experiences of our disabled staff, LGBTQ+ staff and staff from diverse ethnic backgrounds are nearing completion. The insight will inform the EDI workforce focused action plan for 2024/25, as well as our longer-term strategic approach.

The Accessibility Forum is addressing issues faced by disabled colleagues particularly in relation to our core office sites. The Forum is attended by colleagues from Disabled Employees Network in Surrey (DENIS), trade unions, Land and Property and Facilities Management. Two new Inclusive Staff Networks have been established this year – an Interfaith Network and a Parents' Network. A particular success has been the introduction of additional paid leave for Carers.

Following a government audit in 2022 we have improved digital accessibility of our website, achieving compliance with all the audit requirements. A new Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) hub has been set up with improved guidance for staff, an EIA Champions Group has been set up to upskill staff and e-learning and in-depth classroom training is being developed for EIA champions and decision makers, including Members.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Sinead Mooney

PORTFOLIO: Adult Social Care

New Interim Executive Director: Helen Coombes joined the Council as interim Executive Director for Adults, Wellbeing and Health Partnerships on 23 October 2023. Her post is a new role which brings together a new directorate improving our collaborative working across adult social care, public health, and our health partnerships. Helen's priorities for the directorate include – reshaping our 3-5 year transformation agenda, delivering good quality adult social care; including preparing for CQC (Care Quality Commission) assurance, supporting the adult social care workforce and making the best use of our available resources including efficiency delivery. There will also be a focus on recognising unpaid carers and supporting them to live well and achieve what matters to them.

Preparation for CQC Assurance: Care Quality Commission (CQC) is now responsible for regulating local authorities' delivery of its Care Act duties. This is the first-time local authorities have been assessed on these duties since the introduction of the Care Act in 2014. The CQC has piloted their approach in five authorities with four rated as Good and one Requires Improvement. The framework and approach for regulation has evolved during these pilots and further information about the final approach is expected over the next few weeks. The CQC has committed to complete assessments on all local authorities in the next two years, and the next 20 authorities to undergo an assessment visit will be communicated during December 2023, with on-site visits expected in February/March 2024. The CQC will focus on four key areas - Working with People; Providing Support; Ensuring Safety; Leadership. To support our preparations, we have completed a self-assessment which sets out our strengths and areas for improvement. This will be aligned with the national data CQC will have access to, the views of our workforce, feedback from people who use our services, our key partners and demonstrates our compliance with the Care Act. In addition, we are focusing on:

- Performance improvement in some key areas such as safeguarding, timeliness to assessment and have in place plans where we can demonstrate further improvement.
- Reviewing practice and listening to people who use services, their carers and our workforce to understand the experience of people using adult social care.
- Communication and engagement plans to make sure everyone internally and externally understands the CQC framework and what it means for local government and our Care Act duties.
- We will have in place all of the housekeeping arrangements so that when we are notified of a CQC inspection, we have rooms, and a schedule in place to be activated.

Affordable Extra Care Housing: We reached a very significant milestone on 9 October when Guildford Borough Council [granted full planning approval](#) to deliver affordable Extra Care Housing (ECH) at Pond Meadow, Guildford. The appointed strategic delivery partner (Pond Meadow Limited) is mobilising their team to complete detailed designs and are working towards starting construction onsite towards the beginning of 2024. We have secured Outline Planning approval to deliver affordable ECH at the former Bentley Day Centre in Banstead and Pinehurst in Camberley. The Outline Planning applications were approved at the SCC Planning and Regulatory Committee (Regulation 3) on 27 September 2023 and 25 October 2023, respectively. The 'Reserved Matters' planning applications will be submitted to the Planning and Regulatory Committee (Regulation 3) at a later date. We have completed local community engagement on the delivery of three further affordable ECH sites at Colebrook in Redhill, Birchlands in Englefield Green, and Orchard Court in Lingfield.

Supported Independent Living and Short Breaks: The building of the new Supported Independent Living at three sites in Surrey will start in February 2024. We have been granted full planning approval to deliver new Short Breaks accommodation at the Lakers site in Woking. We anticipate beginning the construction of this new accommodation in March 2024.

Budget: Adult Social Care has a budget in 2023/24 of £438.9m. At month 7 an overspend of £1.1m (0.3%) was forecast. There is significant pressure on ASC's care package budget due to demand and market pressures and the forecast impact of assessed fees and charges debt across the year. An overspend of £6.2m is forecast for ASC's care package budget, which is being partially mitigated by additional grant funding and some underspends against other budgets. In the Draft 2024/25 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2028/29 that was considered by Cabinet on 28 November 2023, ASC's budget requirement in 2024/25 increases to £462.6m, £22.7m (5.2%) higher than the current 2023/24 budget. There are budgeted pressures of £46.2m related primarily to care package inflation and demand, and efficiencies planned of £23.5m related to demand management, mitigating inflation, changing care models, in-house provided care services and workforce redesign.

CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Clare Curran

PORTFOLIO: Children and Families, Lifelong Learning

Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities [SEND] inspection outcome: In September, Surrey's local area partnership arrangements for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities were inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). These services are coordinated by the Surrey Additional Needs and Disabilities Partnership, jointly led by Surrey County Council and Frimley and Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). The outcome was published in November. [The inspection report](#) highlights that progress is being made and important actions have been put in place by the Partnership, but also notes inconsistencies in experiences and outcomes, with the Partnership given the middle rating of three possible outcomes by Inspectors. This was an independent review of the provision for children and families across the whole of the Surrey Local Area, and we view the findings to be a fair reflection of areas for focus and further improvement, as well as of good practice as all partners acknowledge that some children with additional needs and their families are not yet getting the services and support that they need.

Based on areas for improvement already acknowledged by the partnership in its [self-evaluation](#), and those highlighted during the inspection, the Surrey IAN strategy, owned by the AND Partnership, will be updated to reflect the Inspection findings and identified areas for improvement. Details of the update will be published within 35 working days from receipt of the final report as required by the Ofsted framework. Alongside delivering better services for children at a local level in Surrey, the Partnership - along with other Local Areas – will continue to work with the Government in relation to policy reform and funding to ultimately achieve better outcomes for children across the SEND system.

New Contact Centre opens in Woking: In October I was delighted to attend the opening of the new Shaw Centre in Woking. This supervised contact centre is the first purpose-built supervised service building of its type in Surrey. The building has been constructed with highly energy efficient materials. It also has sustainable energy systems helping to reduce energy consumption and save on running costs. In addition, a living sedum roof covers the rear ground floor roof, providing additional thermal properties as well as ecological benefits. The Centre's design provides a welcoming, safe, and accessible space for looked after children to spend time with their families and friends, supporting those key relationships. Each day the centre provides a variety of family time rooms and green spaces for up to 90 visitors, and family time is supported by a dedicated team of 20 staff based at the site. For foster carers, there is a comfortable separate, safe space, with access to refreshments, they can use while the children in their care are spending time with family. We are extremely proud of this project; it is an excellent example of collaboration across multiple teams within the organisation and our partners.



Intensive Family Support Service: In May 2023 a proposal to develop an inhouse Intensive Family Support Service (IFSS) was presented. Unlike many other local authorities Surrey County Council does not have an IFSS which would build capacity in the Early Help System and bridge the gap between statutory social care teams and the Family Support Programme (FSP). The financial model developed captures the investment requirements to mobilise four IFSS teams. The investment provides an in-year return in 2025/26 and pays back on investment in 2026/27 with a 5.4% return on investment. Cabinet has agreed that this will cost £1.2m for this year with an ongoing cost of £2.5m from 2024/25.

Surrey Children's Homes Update: In the past six months five SCC run homes have received Ofsted inspection outcomes. I am pleased to report that four of these homes received 'good' outcome with only one home receiving a 'Requires Improvement to be Good'. A plan is in place to address the issues identified in this case. Members can access more information on the inspection results via the member portal.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Maureen Attewell

PORTFOLIO: Children and Families, Lifelong Learning

Adolescent Safeguarding – An integrated Pathway: Adolescents are the largest growing age group in child protection and care. They often have more complex needs and are at particular risk from a range of harms outside of the home including trafficking and exploitation. The Department for Education 2023 'Children's Social Care: Stable Homes, Built on Love' consultation details, *"We want a tailored approach to harm outside the home that acknowledges how protecting children in these circumstances can be different to responding to harm that occurs within the family, while recognising and responding to children who experience both types of harm. This includes effective multi-agency child protection work between children's social care, the police, youth justice teams, health, and other partners"*.

As part of their overall consultation for Children's Social Care, the DfE set out an integrated model that placed 'help' at the centre, rather than 'transfer' at points of increased need, the system is designed to bring on board additional expertise to assist. It is designed to deliver a single intensive service that provides hands-on intensive support to children and families to meet their needs in a simplified way. It was suggested that the development of adolescent safeguarding and support in Surrey aligns itself with these principles.

In June 2023, the Director for Family Resilience & Family Safeguarding commissioned an external review of adolescent services in Surrey County Council and how safeguarding partners; police, health and education jointly respond to the specific vulnerabilities faced by adolescents to, for example, child exploitation, gangs and county lines, mental health, neurodiversity, missing children, and school exclusions. The aim of the review was to:

- Scope resources, data sets, and the number of children and families impacted across services.
- Recognise active work, understand gaps, and identify what is required to thread together a coherent, comprehensive offer.
- Identify how extra-familial risks, harms and abuse are responded to operationally and strategically.

Consultations and interviews were conducted with frontline practitioners, service managers, leadership, and with our key safeguarding partners. The review concluded in October 2023 and findings have been presented to the Safeguarding Adolescents sub-group of the Surrey Safeguarding Children's Partnership and the Children, Families & Lifelong Learning leadership team. It found that although there was significant resource and capacity across Surrey, with excellent examples of practitioner commitment and skill in meeting the needs of vulnerable young people in Surrey, as well as a multi-agency risk management process, it was noted that there is not a unified 'Surrey' approach, or model and the offer is unclear as well as the following issues:

- The system is overly complex, comprising areas of duplication and omission with too much local variation.
- Missing and Exploitation policing capacity, Return Home Interviews and Youth Homelessness are significant areas of vulnerability.
- Risk and Vulnerability Management processes both internally & external are not joined up.
- Growing demand and the national picture.

Highlights:

- Significant resource and capacity across Surrey.
- Excellent examples of practitioner commitment and skill meeting the needs of vulnerable young people in Surrey.
- There are many services that offer outstanding provision for young people.
- Examples of Innovation.

The vision is to develop an integrated pathway for vulnerable adolescents, with a whole partnership commitment to a 'Surrey' approach. Work will be underpinned by developing a consistent practice framework developing practice tools which can be used across the system with a clear understanding of a trauma informed approach.

Next Steps:

- Gain partnership agreement and commitment.
- Building on what good practice & areas of innovation.
- Establish workstreams and assign leads for activity.
- Design a Communication Strategy.
- Develop training and launch on the 1 April 2024.