

Supplementary Agenda

Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee



Date and Time

Thursday, 12
September 2024
10.00 am

Place

Woodhatch Place, 11
Cockshot Hill,
Reigate, RH2 8EF

Contact

Julie Armstrong,
Scrutiny Officer
julie.armstrong@surreycc.gov.
uk

Web:

[Council and
democracy
Surreycc.gov.uk](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/council-and-democracy)

Twitter:

@SCCdemocracy



Committee/Board Members:

Fiona Davidson (Guildford South-East) (Chair), Jonathan Essex (Redhill East), Bob Hughes (Shere), Rebecca Jennings-Evans (Lightwater, West End and Bisley), Rachael Lake BEM (Walton), Bernie Muir (Epsom West), John O'Reilly (Hersham), Mark Sugden (Hinchley Wood, Claygate and Oxshott), Ashley Tilling (Walton South & Oatlands), Liz Townsend (Cranleigh & Ewhurst), Chris Townsend (Ashted) (Vice-Chairman), Jeremy Webster (Caterham Hill) (Vice-Chairman) and Fiona White (Guildford West)

Independent Representatives:

Mrs Julie Oldroyd (Diocesan Representative for the Catholic Church) and Mr Alex Tear (Diocesan Representative for the Anglican Church, Diocese of Guildford)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee is responsible for the following areas:

- Children's Services (including safeguarding)
- Early Help
- Corporate Parenting
- Education
- Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities
- Adult Learning
- Apprenticeships
- Libraries, Arts and Heritage
- Voluntary Sector

If you would like a copy of this supplementary agenda or the attached papers in another format, e.g. large print or braille, or another language, please email Julie Armstrong, Scrutiny Officer on julie.armstrong@surreycc.gov.uk.

This meeting will be held in public at the venue mentioned above and may be webcast live. Generally the public seating areas are not filmed. However, by entering the meeting room and using the public seating area or attending online, you are consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. If webcast, a recording will be available on the Council's website post-meeting. The live webcast and recording can be accessed via the Council's website:

<https://surreycc.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

If you would like to attend and you have any special requirements, please email Julie Armstrong, Scrutiny Officer on julie.armstrong@surreycc.gov.uk. Please note that public seating is limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

AGENDA

4 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

(Pages
5 - 6)

To receive any questions or petitions.

Notes:

1. The deadline for Member's questions is 12.00pm four working days before the meeting (*6 September 2024*).
2. The deadline for public questions is seven days before the meeting (*5 September 2024*).
3. The deadline for petitions was 14 days before the meeting, and no petitions have been received.

The public retain their right to submit questions for written response, with such answers recorded in the minutes of the meeting; questioners may participate in meetings to ask a supplementary question. Petitioners may address the Committee on their petition for up to three minutes. Guidance will be made available to any member of the public wishing to speak at a meeting.

Terence Herbert
Chief Executive

Published: Wednesday, 4 September 2024

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY AND FILMING – ACCEPTABLE USE

Members of the public and the press may use social media or mobile devices in silent mode during meetings. Public Wi-Fi is available; please ask the committee manager for details.

Anyone is permitted to film, record or take photographs at Council meetings. Please liaise with the committee manager prior to the start of the meeting so that the meeting can be made aware of any filming taking place.

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

Thank you for your co-operation.

QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

Cabinet and most committees will consider questions by elected Surrey County Council Members and questions and petitions from members of the public who are electors in the Surrey County Council area.

Please note the following regarding questions from the public:

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

CFLLC Select Committee Short Breaks questions, June 2024

Question from Fiona Davidson:

The Select Committee unanimously agreed that we would request Cabinet to allocate funding in FY 24/25 to restore the like-for-like provision of open access “All Additional Needs and Disabilities” play in 2022/23. The additional cost, which was estimated at £370,000, was agreed by Cabinet. However, we subsequently discovered – as the result of a follow-up question – that the estimate was not sufficient to restore like-for-like provision, and had underestimated the cost by an astonishing 70%.

Can the Cabinet Member please advise why the initial estimate provided was so unrealistic? Can the Cabinet Member also advise if Cabinet will allocate the additional £260,000 for FY24/25 – to provide total funding of £630,000 in FY24/25 - as I requested when I spoke to Cabinet in July 2024?

Response:

This question from Councillor Davidson makes clear that the Select Committee’s intention was to request reinstatement of funding for like-for-like “All Additional Needs and Disabilities” provision in 2024/25. This is one of the specific types of community-based play and youth provision commissioned by Surrey County Council. This is, however, different to the wording of the recommendation put to Cabinet following the June 2023 meeting of the Select Committee, which referenced “community-based play and youth schemes”. Surrey County Council commissions several different types of similar community-based play and leisure short breaks that are differentiated to better support children with particular needs. Officers modelled the figure of £370k on the basis of the restoring capacity to “community-based play and youth schemes” overall, which was then added to the budget for 2024/25, rather than exclusively the specific “All Additional Needs and Disabilities” provision type referenced in Councillor Davidson’s most recent question.

For clarity, the original recommendation made by the Select Committee was as follows:

“The Cabinet Member for Children and Families prioritises the restoration of funding for community-based play and youth schemes for children with disabilities to enable the FY 2022/23 capacity to be restored in FY 2024/25, given the widespread feedback that this change has been detrimental to the mental health of parents, carers, children and young people, as well as adversely impacting the Council’s prevention strategy.”

As a result of this additional funding being allocated and better than anticipated unit cost proposals returned by providers, there are now 97,778 hours of community-based play and youth short breaks provision being commissioned for children with disabilities in 2024/25. This is 5.7% more than the 92,484 hours of capacity that were available in 2022/23, exceeding the Select Committee’s original recommendation.

The difference highlighted by Councillor Davidson relates to the fact that 18,328 hours of community-based play and leisure provision are currently being funded through £430k secured via the Department for Education’s (DfE) Short Breaks Innovation Fund. This provides additional 1-to-1 spaces in community-based play and leisure provision for children with more complex needs. It is currently uncertain whether central government will continue funding this scheme after 31 March 2025, something that we would strongly advocate for.

Should the DfE-funded provision come to an end in March 2025 and SCC were to specifically fund an additional 13,034 hours of “All Additional Needs and Disabilities” short breaks provision (thereby matching the 2022/23 total capacity of 92,484 hours of “community-based play and youth schemes”) this would have an estimated cost of £263k. In considering this figure, it is important to keep in mind that this is calculated using the current unit cost to SCC of this provision and multiple different factors can mean this cost changes over time.

Given that the service is now commissioning more hours of community-based play and youth capacity than in 2022/23, exceeding the previous recommendation made by the Select Committee, there are no current plans to allocate a further additional £260k to play and leisure in the 2024/25 financial year – with plans for 2025/26 remaining under-review. This will be informed by engagement with key partners, such as Family Voice Surrey.