

CABINET

The following decisions were taken by the Cabinet on Tuesday, 5 February 2013 and will take effect on Monday 18 February 2013 unless the call-in procedure has been triggered. **CALL-IN DEADLINE: 15/2/13.**

The following represents a summary of the decisions taken by the Cabinet. It is not intended to represent the formal record of the meeting but to facilitate the call-in process. The formal minutes will be published in due course to replace this decision sheet.

County Members wishing to request a call-in on any of these matters, should contact the Senior Manager for Scrutiny or relevant Democratic Services Officer.

The Cabinet at its meeting on Tuesday, 5 February 2013 considered the following matters and resolved that:

- **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS** (Item 4a)

Three Member questions were received. Responses were tabled and are attached as **Appendix 1.**

- **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** (Item 4b)

One question was received from a member of the public. A response was tabled and is attached as **Appendix 2.**

- **REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES, LOCAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL** (Item 5)

- **Budget Monitoring 2012/13** (Item 5a)

- A response to the Children and Families Select Committee was agreed as attached as **Appendix 3.**

- **Extracting Value from Customer Feedback** (Item 5b)

- A response to the Communities Select Committee was agreed as attached as **Appendix 4.**

- **REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2013/14 TO 2017/18** (Item 6)

- 1. The following recommendations be made to the meeting of the County Council on 12 February 2013:

- **On the revenue and capital budget:**

- i. Note the Chief Finance Officer's statutory report on the robustness and sustainability of the estimates and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves (Annex 2).
 - ii. Note that dispensation has been sought for all county councillors to ensure their eligibility to vote on the recommendations in this report without any risk of non-compliance with the Localism Act 2011.
 - iii. Set the County Council precept for band D council tax at £1,172.52,

which represents a 1.99% increase.

- iv. Agree to maintain the Council Tax rate set above and delegate powers to the Leader and the Chief Finance Officer to finalise detailed budget proposals following receipt of the Final Financial Settlement.
- v. Approve the County Council budget for 2013/14.
- vi. Agree the capital programme proposals specifically to:
 - fund essential schemes over the five year period, schools and non-schools, to the value of £695m including ring-fenced grants;
 - seek to secure capital receipts over the five year period to 2017/18 of £50m; and
 - make adequate provision in the revenue budget to fund the capital programme.
- vii. Require Strategic Directors and Senior Officers to maintain robust budget monitoring procedures that enable Cabinet to monitor the achievement of efficiencies & service reductions through the monthly budget monitoring Cabinet reports, the quarterly Cabinet Member accountability meetings and the monthly scrutiny at the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- viii. Require an approved business case for all revenue invest to save proposals and capital schemes before committing expenditure.

On treasury management and borrowing:

- ix. Approve the Treasury Management Strategy for 2013/14 and approve that their provisions have immediate effect. This strategy includes:
 - a. the investment strategy for short term cash balances;
 - b. the prudential indicators (Annex 1, section B, Appendix B1);
 - c. the treasury management policy (Annex 1, section B, Appendix B8);
 - d. the minimum revenue provision policy (Annex 1, section B, Appendix B7).
2. The medium term financial plan (MTFP) for the financial years 2013-18 be approved, including the following:
- the total Schools Budget of £621.5m be approved(Annex 1, section A, paragraphs A32 to A34).
 - the revenue risk contingency be set at £13m to mitigate against the risk of non-delivery of service reductions & efficiencies.
 - earmarked reserves (as in Annex 1, section A, Appendix A7) be amended and £12m of general balances be applied to support the 2013/14 budget.
 - £11m of the approved carry forward revenue budget from 2012/13 be

applied to support the 2013/14 revenue budget.

3. The process of reviewing the revenue budget and capital programme set out in the MTFP (2013-18) begin immediately after the first quarter of 2013/14.
4. It be noted that the final detailed MTFP (2013-18) will be presented to Cabinet on 27 March 2013 for approval following scrutiny by Select Committees.
5. That the recommendations of the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted and the Chief Finance Officer be requested to provide a response to the points made, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, prior to the Budget Council meeting.

Reasons for Decisions

To advise the County Council how best to meet the challenges the Council faces when it meets on 12 February 2013 to agree the summary budget and set the council tax increase for 2013/14. The reasons underpinning the recommendations include:

- to ensure the Council maintains its financial resilience and protects its long term financial position;
- to enable the Council to meet the expectations of Surrey's residents as confirmed in their responses to the in depth consultation exercise;
- to provide adequate finances for key services such as school places, highways, adults social care and protecting vulnerable people.

[The decisions on this item, with the exception of resolution 1, can be called in by the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee]

• **SCHOOLS EXPANSION PROGRAMME FROM SEPTEMBER 2013** (Item 7)

The expansion of the following schools, as detailed in the report, be agreed in principle noting that the approval of the detailed financial information for each school would be considered as part of agenda item 17 in Part 2 of the meeting:

- (i) Burpham: Primary School (Increase by 220 places to 430)
- (ii) Cranmere: New Primary School (Increase by 360 places to 630 plus 26 pre-school places)
- (iii) Goldsworth: Primary School (Increase by 180 places to 630)
- (iv) West Ewell: Infant School (Increase by 90 places to 360)
- (v) Portesbery: New Special School (Increase by 35 places to 105)

Reason for decision

The schemes deliver a value for money expansion to the schools, which supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide additional school places for local children in Surrey. The individual projects and building works are in accordance with the planned timetables required for delivery of the new accommodation at each school.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Education Select Committee]

• **2012/13 QUARTER THREE BUSINESS REPORT** (Item 8)

1. The Quarter Three Business Report covering Residents Survey feedback, people performance, financial stewardship and individual Directorate

performance be noted.

2. The progress made in implementing the One County One Team People Strategy 2012/17 be noted.
3. The Leadership Risk Register as of January 2013 be agreed.

Reason for decision

To ensure effective business management of the County Council and delivery of improved outcomes and value for money for Surrey residents, the proper implementation of the Council's One County One Team People Strategy 2012/17 and proper consideration of Leadership Risks.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee]

• **BUDGET MONITORING FORECAST 2012/13 (PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 2012)** (Item 9)

1. The projected revenue budget underspend (Annex 1 – Section A of the report submitted) and the Capital programme direction(Annex 1 – Section B of the report submitted) be noted
2. That government grant changes be reflected in directorate budgets (Annex 1 – Section C of the report submitted)
3. Further quarter 3 financial information - treasury, debts reserves and balances (Annex 1 – Section D of the report submitted) and the Chief Financial Officer's delegated authority to write off £156,566 of debts this quarter (Annex 1 – Section D of the report submitted) be noted.

Reason for decision

Consideration of the monthly budget monitoring report and any associated actions represents part of the Cabinet's approved budget monitoring strategy.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee]

• **SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL STRATEGY AGAINST FRAUD AND CORRUPTION** (Item 10)

1. The updated Strategy against Fraud and Corruption be endorsed
2. The work of Internal Audit in raising awareness of the risk of fraud and corruption across the Council be endorsed.

Reason for decision

To shape the Council's existing practices to take account of best practice as set out in the Local Government Fraud Strategy "Fighting Fraud Locally" thereby continuing to protect the public purse through reducing the risk of fraud and corruption.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee]

• **EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT PLAN 2013-17** (Item 11)

1. The approach to raising education and achievement detailed in the plan be

agreed.

2. The publication of the Education Achievement Plan be agreed and the Strategic Director for Children, Schools and Families, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, be authorised to sign off any subsequent amendments to the plan before publication, provided there are no substantive changes.

Reason for decision

To agree the delivery of the plan for promoting the education and achievement of children and young people.

[The decision on this item can be called in by the Education Select Committee]

• **TACKLING TRAFFIC CONGESTION - INTRODUCTION OF A ROAD WORKS PERMIT SCHEME** (Item 12)

1. The report and recommendations of the Task Group on Utilities, including support for the introduction of a Permit Scheme, be noted and the response attached as **Appendix 5** be agreed.
2. A Permit Scheme be introduced as set out in the report submitted subject to a successful consultation outcome and a successful application to the Department for Transport (DfT).
3. Agreement of the details of the Permit Scheme be delegated to the Assistant Director Highways in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment.

Reason for decision

To increase the County Council's control over road works, enabling increased integration of utility works with those road works promoted by the Council and contribute towards minimising congestion across the whole of the road network in Surrey.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by Environment and Transport Select Committee]

• **SURREY LOCAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME** (Item 13)

1. A Local Assistance Scheme be established using the full allocation of funds from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) in order to deliver local assistance payments across Surrey.
2. The proposed delivery model to manage the Local Assistance Scheme be approved as set out in the report submitted.

Reason for decision

To ensure that the Council is able to continue providing vital support for some people with the highest needs in Surrey. In 2011/12, 7,340 awards for emergency cash and essential items were made to Surrey residents via the Crisis loan for living expenses and Community Care Grant elements of the Social Fund. The new scheme will deliver support through a more local and holistic approach which will seek to signpost applicants to more sustainable support wherever possible.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by Adult Social Care Select Committee]

- **DIRECT PAYMENT INFORMATION ADVICE AND SUPPORT SERVICE: APPROVAL TO AWARD A CONTRACT (Item 14)**
 1. The information relating to the procurement process, as set out in the report submitted, be noted
 2. The award of a contract to Surrey Independent Living Council be agreed on the basis set out under item 18 in Part 2 of the agenda.

Reason for decision

The existing contract will expire on 28 February 2013. A full tender process, in compliance with the requirement of EU Procurement Legislation and Procurement Standing Orders had been completed, demonstrated that best value for money for the Council will be delivered following a thorough evaluation process.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by Adult Social Care Select Committee]

- **LEADER / DEPUTY LEADER / CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST CABINET MEETING (Item 15)**

The decisions taken by the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members since the last meeting be noted as set out in Annex 1 of the report submitted.

Reason for decision

To note the decisions taken by Cabinet Members under delegated authority.

And in Part 2

- **EXPANSION OF BURPHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL TO 2 FORMS OF ENTRY FROM SEPTEMBER 2013 (Item 17a)**

1. The business case for the project to expand Burpham Primary School be approved at the cost set out in recommendation 1 of the report submitted
2. The arrangements by which a variation of up to 10% of the total value may be agreed by the Strategic Director for Change and Efficiency in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Assets and Regeneration Programmes be approved.

Reason for decision

The scheme delivers a value for money expansion to a school that supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide additional school places for local children in the wider Guildford Town area. Release of the funding allocation is required so that building works can commence as soon as possible in order to deliver the new accommodation by September 2013.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Education Select Committee]

- **CRANMERE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ESHER - TWO FORM OF ENTRY EXPANSION TO MEET BASIC NEED (Item 17b)**

1. The business case for the project to expand Cranmere Primary School be approved at the cost set out in recommendation 1 of the report submitted
2. The arrangements by which a variation of up to 10% of the total value may

be agreed by the Strategic Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Assets and Regeneration Programmes be approved.

Reason for decision

The project supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places to meet the needs of the population in the Elmbridge area.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Education Select Committee]

• **GOLDSWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL, WOKING - ONE FORM ENTRY EXPANSION TO MEET BASIC NEED** (Item 17c)

1. The business case for the project to expand and relocate Goldsworth Primary School be approved at the cost set out in recommendation 1 of the report submitted
2. The arrangements by which a variation of up to 10% of the total value may be agreed by the Strategic Director for Change and Efficiency in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Assets and Regeneration Programmes be approved.

Reason for decision

The project delivers and supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places to meet the needs of the population in the Woking area.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Education Select Committee]

• **PORTESBERY SCHOOL, CAMBERLEY - RELOCATION AND EXPANSION** (Item 17d)

1. The business case for the project to expand and relocate Portesbery SEN School be approved at the cost set out in recommendation 1 of the report submitted
2. The arrangements by which a variation of up to 10% of the total value may be agreed by the Strategic Director for Change and Efficiency in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Assets and Regeneration Programmes be approved.

Reason for decision

The current school site and building is below the recommended Department for Education (DfE) standard, so a new site and school was deemed to be required and fits with the Special Education Needs strategy.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Education Select Committee]

- **EXPANSION OF WEST EWELL INFANT SCHOOL TO 4 FORMS OF ENTRY FROM SEPTEMBER 2013** (Item 17e)
 1. The business case for the project to expand and relocate West Ewell Infants School be approved at the cost set out in recommendation 1 of the report submitted.
 2. The arrangements by which a variation of up to 10% of the total value may be agreed by the Strategic Director for Change and Efficiency in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Assets and Regeneration Programmes be approved.

Reason for decision

The scheme delivers a value for money expansion to a school that supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide additional school places for local children in Epsom and Ewell. Building works need to commence as soon as possible in order to deliver the new accommodation by September 2013.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Education Select Committee]

- **DIRECT PAYMENT INFORMATION ADVICE AND SUPPORT SERVICES: APPROVAL TO AWARD A CONTRACT** (Item 18)

A framework contract be awarded to Surrey Independent Living Council (SILC) for the value stated in the Part 2 report recommendation (for a 2 year + 2 year extension contract period) for the provision of Direct Payment Information Advice and Support to commence on 1 March 2013.

Reason for Decision

The existing contract will expire on 28 February 2013. A full tender process, in compliance with the requirement of EU Procurement Legislation and Procurement Standing Orders has been completed, and the recommendations demonstrate that best value for money for the Council will be delivered following a thorough evaluation process.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Adult Social Care Select Committee]

- **ACQUISITION OF AN OFFICE PROPERTY IN GUILDFORD** (Item 19a)

1. The acquisition of the freehold interest in the property be approved on the basis set out in paragraph 1(i) of the report submitted.
2. Surrey County Council acquire the balance of the lease of car parking spaces (included as part of the consideration for the above) as set out in paragraph 1(ii) of the report submitted.
3. Surrey County Council complete the agreed lease transactions to existing and proposed tenants, if any remain outstanding at the time of exchange, on the terms agreed.
4. Property Services consider the long term opportunity afforded by the ownership of the property in connection with the economic regeneration of this area of Guildford and the County's own future office accommodation strategy. Such a report and its recommendations to be considered at a future Cabinet when required.

Reason for decision

The property is a prime office building in a commercially active M25 town. The acquisition will provide the opportunity for the Council to participate in a wider town centre regeneration opportunity and in the meantime will produce income for the County Council.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee]

• **DISPOSAL OF 26 NIGHTINGALE ROAD, GUILDFORD** (Item 19b)

1. The disposal of 26 Nightingale Road, Guildford, as set out in paragraph 1 of the report submitted, be approved subject to exchange of papers taking place within 21 days, with completion taking place within a further 28 days.
2. Should completion not take place within the required timeframe, the Asset Strategy Partner, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Assets and Regeneration Programmes, be authorised to pursue completion with the other bidders on the basis of the same timeline as set out above.

Reason for decision

To expedite the sale of a property no longer required for service reasons, to reduce the cost of managing an empty property and to maximise potential receipts without additional risk.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee]

• **PURCHASE OF RETAIL AND OFFICE PREMISES IN THE HIGH STREET, EGHAM** (Item 19c)

1. The freehold interest of the property be acquired for the price set out in paragraph 1(i) of the report submitted upon conclusion of legal and property due diligence.
2. Surrey County Council, simultaneous to the purchase, grant a lease on the basis and terms set out in paragraph 1(ii) of the report submitted.
3. Property Services review the opportunity for the reuse of the property or redevelopment of the upper floor offices, and upon the formulation of a business case, report back to Cabinet on the options considered and make further recommendations.

Reason for decision

To purchase the property and explore the long term potential to relocate services into the property, thus releasing an asset held on a long lease with alternative use value.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee]

• **PUBLICITY FOR PART 2 ITEMS** (Item 20)

That non-exempt information relating to the items considered in Part 2 of the meeting, particularly the £32million investment in schools and the relocation and expansion of Portesbery School, may be made available to the press and public, as appropriate.

CABINET – 5 FEBRUARY 2013

ITEM 4 - PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Member Questions**Question (1) from Mrs Hazel Watson (Dorking Hills)**

Please list all trips outside of the UK taken by Members of Surrey County Council at the Council's expense since 1 January 2011 including:

- The name of the Member undertaking the trip.
- The start and end date of the trip.
- The destination.
- The purpose of the trip.
- The outcomes and findings of the trip.
- Details of any report back from the Member to any committee, sub-committee, working group etc on the findings of their trip.
- Travel costs, accommodation costs, subsistence and any other costs relating to the trip.

Reply:

The following information has been gathered about trips outside of the UK taken by Members at the Council's expense since 1 January 2011:

Lynne Hack visited Brussels on 25 January 2011 to attend the Board meeting of Peri-Urban Regions Platform Europe (PURPLE). The total costs were £85.06. The action points and minutes arising from the meeting are available at www.purple.eu

Lynne Hack visited Brussels on 21 March 2011 to attend the Board meeting of Peri-Urban Regions Platform Europe (PURPLE). The total costs were £91.44. The action points and minutes arising from the meeting are available at www.purple.eu

Lynne Hack visited Dublin from 23-24 May 2011 to attend the General Assembly of Peri-Urban Regions Platform Europe (PURPLE). The total costs were £293.20. The action points and minutes arising from the meeting are available at www.purple.eu

Lynne Hack visited Brussels on 7 July 2011 to attend the Board meeting of Peri-Urban Regions Platform Europe (PURPLE). The total costs were £183.24. The action points and minutes arising from the meeting are available at www.purple.eu

Ian Lake and Denise Saliagopoulos visited Zibo City from 21-23 August 2011 to meet the Zibo Ceramics Association. The total travel costs were £3100.

Lynne Hack visited Brussels from 29 – 30 November 2011 to attend the Board meeting of Peri-Urban Regions Platform Europe (PURPLE). The total costs were £173.88. The action points and minutes arising from the meeting are available at www.purple.eu

Lynne Hack visited Ireland in 2011 to obtain information on and visit a unique facility that creates vehicle fuel from waste plastics. The total costs for Lynne Hack and two senior officers from Waste Management were £524.09.

Helyn Clack visited Brussels on 14 July 2012 to attend a Board meeting of Southern England Local Partners. The total costs were £99. The outcomes of the meeting are included in the minutes, which can be found at www.hants.gov.uk

John Furey visited Bergamo on 28 September 2012 to visit a fluidised bed thermal treatment plant. The total travel costs for John Furey and three senior officers were £2220.60.

John Furey visited Sarpsborg from 8-9 October 2012 to visit an energos gasification plant. The total costs for John Furey and three senior officers were £1748.

This list may not be exhaustive, as the county council does not maintain centrally a list of all trips undertaken by Members. Similarly, the reasons for, and nature of, the visits suggest that the outcomes and findings are likely to contribute to policy development and, as such, there is no expectation that any specific reports on each visit is brought to formal meetings.

David Hodge
Leader of the Council
5 February 2013

Question (2) from Mrs Hazel Watson (Dorking Hills)

Given the public furore by Surrey residents against the two-day residential stay by 26 Conservative Cabinet members and senior officers at Farnham Castle on 5 and 6 November 2012, costing £4,158, and revelations that a similar event took place at Farnham Castle on 9 and 10 May 2012. Please can you state:

- How many overnight residential meetings have the Conservative Cabinet held at Council Taxpayers expense during the life of this Council (since May 2009)?
- What have been the dates and venues for these meetings?
- What has been the overall cost of these meetings?
- Will you be cancelling the booking of Farnham Castle for a similar event in June 2013 and confirm that in future Cabinet awaydays will all be held at County Council buildings or premises of neighbouring Councils free of charge to save Council Taxpayers' money and as recommended by the Secretary of State?

Reply:

The Cabinet have attended 3 overnight residential meetings since May 2009. These took place on the following dates: 20 and 21 February 2012, 9 and 10 May 2012 and 5 and 6 November 2012. All of these events were held at Farnham Castle at a negotiated rate and the total cost was £10,691.40 (inclusive of VAT). The Cabinet were joined by senior officers at the meetings held in May and November 2012.

David Hodge
Leader of the Council
5 February 2013

Question (3) from Mrs Hazel Watson (Dorking Hills)

The Smarter Working Policy Framework presented to the People, Performance and Development Committee on 23 January 2013 stated that the County Council's occupancy of office space averages only 47%:

- What actions are being taken to reduce the amount of unused space either by disposing of property or renting it out?
- Please supply the supporting data used to obtain the figure of 47%, including any breakdown by individual properties.

Reply:

An occupancy study was carried out in 2010 for our major offices which showed an average desk occupancy of 47%. Since this time, under the Making a Difference programme, we have rationalised office space and there have been a number of office closures including those in Leatherhead, Guildford, and Conquest House in Kingston. This has reduced desk ratios within existing SCC sites from 1:1 to 3 desks for every 5 people. In addition freehold offices have been purchased in Redhill to replace leasehold offices in Reigate. This and further actions will save the council £6.6M in property costs over the period of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

A programme of revised desk occupancy surveys are being carried out at present to measure the impact of these changes. We will provide the update information when we have completed the occupancy studies.

Mr Tony Samuels
Cabinet Member for Assets and Regeneration Programmes
5 February 2013

CABINET – 5 FEBRUARY 2013

ITEM 4 - PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Public Questions

Question (1) from Mr John Bosten

I raise concerns about the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta. Why do you celebrate the 800th celebration of Magna Carta when nobody suggested that we celebrate the 900th anniversary of our year 1066?

In these times of recession (which will continue for many years) why is £5,000,000 of public money to be spent on the 'Celebration of Magna Carta'? Do we also celebrate the 1914 commencement of war and in 1918 the end of the war?

In any event the Magna Carta, (The Great Charter, the declaration of Human Rights), has never been effective except for the 10 weeks between 15 June 1215 and 24 August 1215. Further, there were serious doubts if Magna Carta was ever sealed, and doubts existed if King John could even write; he only approved Magna Carta because he knew that Pope Innocent III would make it null and void, which he did 10 weeks later on 24 August 1215.

Further, Magna Carta was revised in November 1216, revised again in November 1217 and substantially revised in February 1235; only 3 of the original 65 clauses exist.

Hence the essential declaration of Human Rights was never effectively achieved in Britain until 20 October 1998, and we all know the difficulties we have suffered since 1998 so should we celebrate this?

Reply:

The Queen has established a Trust to plan celebrations across the country to celebrate this event and this is chaired by the Master of Rolls, Lord Dyson. As the Charter was sealed in Runnymede, Surrey County Council is completely committed to the Magna Carta celebrations in 2015 and recognises its importance as the cornerstone of modern democracy. We recognise also its importance in the heritage of Great Britain and our own county and are committed in our desires to commemorate the 800th anniversary of this great event. All other Charter areas will be joining in these celebrations and it would be a huge anomaly if we did not.

Surrey examined the plans and proposals for the visitor centre on the pleasure grounds site and reviewed how best the County Council could contribute to recognising this important site for future generations. In light of this research and recent government settlements, the County Council is of the view that there are other equally valid ways of supporting the Magna Carta which is both impactful and encourages visitors to the area thereby improving the local economy.

Surrey County Council remains committed to investing resources into the area and will explore alternative cost effective options with Runnymede Borough Council, the National Trust and the community over the next few weeks.

Mrs Helyn Clack
Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games
5 February 2013

CABINET RESPONSE TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE

BUDGET MONITORING 2012/13

SELECT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet note that the Children & Families Select Committee continues to be concerned about the potential for Children's Services to meet the savings targets outlined in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

RESPONSE

The Children & Families Select Committee recommendation for Cabinet to note their on-going concerns about the potential for Children's Services to meet the savings targets outlined in the Medium Term Financial Plan is acknowledged. Whilst I recognise and share your concerns around the future savings Children's Services are required to make, it is worth reiterating that Children's Services have already made almost £10.7m savings over the last 3 years.

Further savings will be a challenge, especially in the context of increasing numbers of child protection cases requiring services including special education needs, welfare reform and the restructuring of the Health Service. However, the Directorate have established a Public Value Programme to work collaboratively with partners around developing early help strategies to strengthen preventative solutions, disability services and support for families with complex needs. This programme of review and implementation of change will assist in achieving the future efficiency savings and cost reductions needed in the future.

Mrs Mary Angell
Cabinet Member for Children and Families
5 February 2013

CABINET RESPONSE TO COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE

EXTRACTING VALUE FROM CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

SELECT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That this report should be drawn to the attention of the Cabinet to consider the appropriate course of action to address the highlighted concerns.

The Cabinet may wish to consider:

- a) how the Council could be better shaped to ensure customer feedback is routinely used in policy design and service delivery;
- b) in line with the Leader's initiative "Think Councillor, Think Resident", what arrangements could be put in place to assure Members and residents that public concerns are being noted and used by the Council; and
- c) periodically examining customer complaints and feedback at Cabinet meetings.

RESPONSE

I would like to thank the Communities Select Committee for drawing the Cabinet's attention to this report, and I welcome their recommendation that it should be considered by Cabinet.

As described in this report Customer Services is currently working to embed the "Customer Service Excellence" standard as a practical tool for driving customer improvement across the Council. A key component of this will be improving the use of customer feedback and insight to inform policy design and service delivery. This will be done in line with the Leader's "Think Councillor, Think Resident" initiative. As part of this process, consideration will be given the points raised by Select Committee.

I am asking the Head of Customer Services to bring the report to Cabinet in September, supplemented by proposals that address these points.

Mrs Helyn Clack
Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games
5 February 2013

CABINET RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE AND UTILITIES TASK GROUP

PROPOSAL FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A PERMIT SCHEME UNDER THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 2004 AND TASK GROUP REPORT: IMPROVING THE CO-ORDINATION AND QUALITY OF WORK FROM THE UTILITIES COMPANIES

SELECT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the recommendations of the Improving the Co-ordination and Quality of Work of Utilities Companies in Surrey Task Group and the proposal for the introduction of a Permit Scheme under the Traffic Management Act 2004 (agenda item 12) be endorsed.

TASK GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of the Utilities Task Group are set out in Appendix 1 to agenda item 12.

RESPONSE

Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Utilities Task Group and the officers involved for their hard work in producing this detailed report.

I welcome the proposal for the introduction of a Permit Scheme, as recommended by the Task Group (**Recommendation 3**) and supported by the Environment and Transport Select Committee, and its approval is recommended to the Cabinet.

With regard to the other recommendations of the Task Group, my responses to each of the proposals are set out below.

Recommendation 1 – Development of a clear and accessible internal and external communications policy with regards to the publicising of street works

It is recognised that effective communication is an essential part of managing the impact of street works and so I welcome the range of proposals within this recommendation which will benefit all interested parties, both internal and external. Officers will develop an improved street works communications policy as recommended for introduction in April 2013.

Recommendation 2 – More cost effective and efficient processes for monitoring and reporting the quality of street works and greater incentive for utilities companies to complete their works on time and to a high standard

Quality of workmanship by utility companies can often be criticised and any monitoring needs to be effective. It is also recognised that there are limitations on the incentives for utilities companies to always adhere to the required quality standards. On this basis I welcome the recommendation for improvements in this area however it is acknowledged that the area of streetworks is heavily legislated and some of the proposals within the recommendation will be difficult to achieve. Officers will progress as recommended with immediate effect on the expectation that some of the proposals will remain as an exploratory exercise until proved that further work will be both achievable and beneficial to SCC.

Recommendation 4 – More effective and robust processes around the planning, monitoring and execution of street works, particularly including areas with special conditions such as Conservation Areas.

Proposals under the recommendation 4 to improve the planning, monitoring and execution of streetworks are also supported. This is of particular importance to Surrey given that a significant proportion of the roads in the County are designated as being in a conservation area and also the scale of the ongoing investment in our own road maintenance programmes, such as the proposed 5 year programme. Officers will develop an action plan for each of the proposals and implement accordingly over the next nine months to coincide with the preparation for the introduction of a permit scheme.

Mr John Furey
Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
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