

CABINET

The following decisions were taken by the Cabinet on Tuesday, 25 June 2013 and will take effect on Thursday 4 July 2013 unless the call-in procedure has been triggered.
CALL-IN DEADLINE: 3/7/13.

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, 25 June 2013 considered the following matters and resolved:

Members' Questions (Item 4a)

Five questions had been received from Members. The questions and responses were tabled and are attached as Appendix 1.

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

Six questions had been received from members of the public. The questions and responses were tabled and are attached as Appendix 2.

- **CONFIDENT IN OUR FUTURE: CORPORATE STRATEGY 2013 -18 AND SUPPORTING STRATEGIES (Item 5)**

1. That '*Confident in our future*, Corporate Strategy 2013-2018' be endorsed and that it be recommended for approval to the County Council meeting on 16 July 2013.
2. That the Directorate Strategies 2013–2018, as amended, and the Communications and Engagement Strategy which will support delivery of the Corporate Strategy be approved.

Reason for Decisions

The Council reviews and refreshes its Corporate Strategy each year. By confirming a long term vision for the county and setting priorities for the next year the Corporate Strategy provides a clear sense of direction for Council staff and signposts the Council's approach for residents, businesses and partner organisations. As part of the Council's Policy Framework (as set out in the Council's Constitution) the Corporate Strategy must be approved by the County Council.

The Directorate Strategies and the Communications and Engagement Strategy will support delivery of the priorities set out in the Corporate Strategy, ensuring the Council delivers great value to Surrey residents.

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

- **BUDGET MONITORING FORECAST 2013/14 (PERIOD ENDING MAY 2013]**
(Item 6)

1. That the forecast revenue budget underspend for 2013/14, as set out in Annex 1, page 2 of the submitted report be noted.
2. That the forecast ongoing efficiencies and service reductions achieved by year end, as set out in Annex 1, page 12 of the submitted report be noted.
3. That the forecast capital budget position for 2013/14, as set out in Annex 1, page 13 of the submitted report be noted.
4. That management actions to mitigate overspends, as set out throughout Annex 1 of the submitted report be noted.
5. That the in year virement of £757,661 from the Central HR Training Budget to most services that have service specific training budget allocations for 2013/14 as set out in Annex 1, page 3 of the submitted report be approved.
6. That the re-profiling of -£2.5m capital budget carry forwards to 2013/14 as set out in Annex 1, page 13 of the submitted report be confirmed.
7. That the use of Fire Capital Grant to fund vehicle and equipment replacement as set out in Annex 1, page 13 of the submitted report be approved.

Reason for Decisions

To comply with the agreed strategy of providing a monthly budget monitoring report to cabinet for approval and action as necessary.

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

- **LEGAL FEES FOR ARRANGING ADULT SOCIAL CARE DEFERRED PAYMENT AGREEMENTS AND THE DISCHARGE OF LEGAL CHARGES**
(Item 7)

1. That the Council charges £250 for any Deferred Payment Agreement, whether or not the matter proceeds to completion, plus the costs of any Land Registry fees it incurs on each transaction.
2. That the Council recovers legal fees of £125 whenever it discharges a Legal Charge.
3. That the level of these charges be reviewed annually and adjusted appropriately in line with general financial planning and budget setting.

Reason for Decisions

To ensure that the increased cost of servicing the continuing and growing demand for Deferred Payment Agreements is primarily met by those taking advantage of the scheme.

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

- **AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR THE DELIVERY OF POST 16 FURTHER EDUCATION SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) (Item 8)**

- (1) That the Council enter into contracts for 2 years from 1 September 2013 with 63 providers as named in item 12, the confidential annex to this report, all of which are existing Independent Specialist College providers providing post-16 further educational services to young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, on terms to be agreed with Legal Services for both existing and new placements with these providers.
- (2) That the estimated value of these contracts over a two year period will not exceed £18.1m.

Reasons for Decisions

The recommendation ensures continuity of provision for young people already in placements that will continue into the academic year 2013-14 and provides a contractual basis for new placements starting in September 2013.

The new contracts will ensure 2 academic years are contracted with providers and this encompasses the variations in provider college holiday periods. No service will be required from the providers in the period from 31 July 2013 to 30 August 2013.

The current value of these contracts is £9,048,947 for a full academic year.

[The decisions on this item may be called in by the Children and Education Select Committee]

- **AMENDMENT TO WASTE CONTRACT BETWEEN SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL AND SITA SURREY (Item 9)**

1. Having received an update on technology and been notified of the proposed contractors, that the technology changes be approved.
2. Officers continue to progress work to vary the Waste Contract between Surrey County Council and SITA Surrey to reflect the changes necessary to deliver the proposed waste solutions. A further detailed report for final approval (including value for money, affordability considerations and evidence of DEFRA's approval) be presented to the Cabinet meeting on 23 July 2013.
3. That the release of a Voluntary Transparency Notice announcing the Council's intention to enter into a contract variation be approved.

Reasons for Decisions

The recommendations are necessary to provide proper authority to:

- (1) Deliver the Eco Park which represents a corporate priority for the Council.
- (2) Provide assurance to contractual and funding partners to the Council.
- (3) Demonstrate commitment to use of best available, most appropriate technologies in terms of efficiency and environmental impact.

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

- **LEADER / DEPUTY LEADER / CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE LAST CABINET MEETING (Item 10)**

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

Reasons for Decisions

To inform the Cabinet of decisions taken by Members under delegated authority.

- **SALFORDS FIRE STATION AND SECONDARY CONTROL FACILITY (Item 13)**

1. That the freehold acquisition of units 14/15 iO Centre, Salfords, Surrey be approved, at a cost set out in the submitted report.
2. That the premises will require a fit out in relation to the fire station be noted and once these costs have been confirmed, a further report will be presented in accordance with recommendation (4).
3. That the premises will require a fit out in relation to the secondary control facility be noted and once these costs have been confirmed, a further report will be presented in accordance with recommendation (4).
4. That the approval of the fit out costs of the units in relation to their use as a Fire Station and Secondary Control Room be delegated to the Strategic Director of Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Leader, the Cabinet Member for Assets and Regeneration Programmes and the Cabinet Member for Community Services.
5. That the Service will seek to develop plans for alternative savings (£0.9m) which are then reflected in the review of the Medium Term Financial Plan (2013-18) taking place in quarter 1 2013/14.

Reason for Decisions

To allow Surrey Fire & Rescue Service to provide fire cover in the area and improve efficiency and operational response of cover.

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

Members' Questions

Question (1) from Mr Tim Evans (Lower Sunbury and Halliford) to ask:

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways and Environment will be aware of the strength of feeling of many residents of Shepperton, Halliford and Sunbury regarding the location and safety of the proposed Eco Park on the Waste transfer site in Charlton Lane, which lies in my division of Lower Sunbury and Halliford. Since the preparation of the papers for this meeting he has attended two meetings with residents at which their concerns were very forcibly expressed.

The Member for Laleham and Shepperton has also laid questions which relate particularly to the location of the site and the safety concerns related to the technology. Whilst strongly sharing those concerns I shall not repeat them here.

Noting also that I am the Cabinet Member for Finance on the Spelthorne Borough Council I wish instead to turn to a different concern, namely that this project is being forced through purely for financial reasons without due regard for the safety of neighbouring residents.

In particular, I would ask the Cabinet to clarify the nature of the Value for Money test that the Council must undertake to justify its investment in the new plant. How is this test undertaken by whom and how independent is it of the Council's desire to press ahead with the project. Moreover, some residents are aware of the Central Government PFI grant available to the Council for waste disposal and are suspicious that the possible loss of this grant if the project does not go ahead is being taken into account as part of the Value for Money calculations. I seek both explanation and reassurance from the Cabinet on this point.

Reply:

The development of the Eco Park is an essential component of the Council's Waste Strategy to increase recycling and divert all waste from environmentally damaging landfill using modern technology to deal with waste that cannot be recycled. The project is not proceeding purely for financial reasons or without due regard for the safety of neighbouring residents.

My first consideration is the safety of residents, which I have addressed in my answer to the question from Councillor Walsh.

Regarding value for money, the assessment will consider the cost to the UK Taxpayer and be subject to rigorous external scrutiny. This means that the value of the Waste Infrastructure Grant (formerly known as PFI grant) cannot be taken into account when making this assessment and all options will be considered on the same basis i.e. without the effect of the grant.

The value for money assessment will be undertaken by the council's Chief Finance Officer advised by external advisors (Deloitte) with involvement from the council's finance officers and waste officers. The value for money assessment will be subject to rigorous scrutiny including by the Council's external auditor. In addition, the business case relating to the development of the Eco Park will be subject to scrutiny and approval by Defra. All assessments will be required to comply with HM Treasury best practice guidance.

Landfill costs the council £1 million per month in tax alone and the cost of landfill is likely to rise further as a result of tighter regulation and the scarcity of available sites. It is therefore imperative that we find alternatives to landfilling waste that cannot be recycled.

John Furey

Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways and Environment

25 June 2013

Question (2) from Mr Alan Young (Cranleigh and Ewhurst) to ask:

The county council's Pay Policy Statement 2013-14 states that "The Chief Executive is on a contract which is like Chief Officers i.e. he is on an all-inclusive single status Surrey Pay contract and there is no variable pay or bonuses made."

Would the Leader agree that any decision to award the chief executive any additional future payment over his all-inclusive single status Surrey Pay contract would be a departure from the council's Pay Policy Statement?

Does the Leader further agree that, notwithstanding the role of the PPD Committee, any significant departure from the Council's agreed pay policy in respect of senior officers should be subject to ratification by the Council?

Reply:

What Mr Young is asking is already encapsulated in law within the Localism Act of 2011.

The County Council's Pay Policy is agreed annually by the Council for all County Council employees, including the Chief Executive. Any variations regarding the pay terms and conditions of the Chief Executive would be reflected in the annual pay policy statement in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. Council agreed its 2013/14 Pay Policy Statement at its meeting on 19 March 2013.

David Hodge
Leader of the Council
25 June 2013

Question (3) from Mrs Hazel Watson (Dorking Hills) to ask:

There have been a number of failures of webcasts and recordings of webcasts of Surrey County Council meetings. For example:

The last meeting of Cabinet in May was live webcast without audio, and there was also no recording made which included audio of the meeting.

There is no recording of the February meeting of Planning and Regulatory Committee.

To ensure openness and transparency, will the Leader undertake:

1. To examine the webcast provision to ensure that future failures are reduced?
2. To examine the possibility of local recording of webcasts at County Hall to be made so that if there are future failures by the service provider downstream of County Hall a recording of meetings can still be provided on the Surrey County Council website? Webcasts prior to January 2013 are no longer available on the Surrey County Council website. Will the Leader undertake to ensure that a complete archive of webcasts is maintained permanently in the future?

Reply:

It is extremely regrettable that there was no audio record of the Cabinet meeting in May. The lack of sound in the Ashcombe suite for web streaming the Cabinet meeting was due to a technical problem resulting from the re-fit of the audio equipment. Tests that had taken place before the meeting had not identified an audio problem. Since that meeting, diagnostic checks have been carried out and the system is up and running, with contingency arrangements in

place. Two meetings have been webcast from the Ashcombe since the May Cabinet meeting and no further problems have been experienced.

The morning session of the February Planning and Regulatory Committee is available as a webcast. The meeting unexpectedly continued into the afternoon and had to move to another committee room for that session, where webcasting equipment was not available.

In order that we can swiftly solve any problems that may arise in future, the audio engineers are arranging with the Facilities Manager for a maintenance contract to be put in place as soon as possible. The IMT service is also liaising with the webcast provider, Public-i, to ensure the suitability of our equipment. In relation to local recording, whilst we do have the option of “backing up” the live stream of a webcast onto a DVD using our webcasting equipment, in this instance, because of the break in the chain which supplies the power and handles the audio feed from the microphones, we would still have had a situation where we had a visual recording of the meeting, but with no audio captured. However, we will look into the possibility of other ways of locally recording webcasts with our provider.

Webcasts are normally archived and uploaded by our webcast provider within one to two days of the meeting date and are available to watch for six months from the live date, in line with the terms of our contract. This is standard practice for all Public-i clients. The provider retains a complete archive of our webcasts, and these are accessible at a cost, in line with the provisions of the contract. Currently any backed up copies of the webcast are deleted unless needed to resolve technical issues arising in a live stream but it would be possible to look at retaining the back-up copies for a longer period if there was an identified need.

David Hodge
Leader of the Council
25 June 2013

Question (4) from Mr Richard Walsh (Laleham and Shepperton) to ask:
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After the public meeting in Spelthorne regarding the Eco-Park at Charlton Lane the residents within the surrounding villages of Charlton Village, Shepperton, Halliford & Sunbury have strong concerns regarding the following items.

1. Residents are concerned about emissions and the proximity of homes to the Eco-Park. They feel that insufficient information has been provided and they seek assurances that due diligence has been done to ensure that every possible safety measure has been taken to minimize any risks to the quality of their lives.
2. The lack of a similar gasifier, processing similar product in the world, is of further concern to residents as it is co-located on site with other waste processing plants, administration offices, and educational facilities for children and although technology risks can be mitigated and then regulated by the Environment Agency what assurance can residents be given that due consideration has been done to ensure that the risk to both workers and visitors is minute and that Charlton Lane is an appropriate site for this type of technology surrounded by residual properties and people.

Reply:

1. Both the anaerobic digestion plant and the gasification plant will have to meet stringent emission standards set by the Environmental Permit, required by the Environment Agency. The emissions standards are designed to ensure that there is no risk to human health or the environment from the operation of the plant and will take into account the location of the plant in terms of its proximity to homes.

The council's technical adviser has confirmed that they are confident that the plant will meet the requirements of the Waste Incineration Directive, which sets the relevant emissions standard.

The plant will be designed to ensure that levels of emissions are minimised. This will be achieved primarily by ensuring well managed combustion and by maintaining optimal combustion conditions; with further removal of pollutants by a gas-cleaning system. All thermal waste-treatment plants have to be operated in accordance with a permit from the Environment Agency and this will only be granted if the operator can show that they are using the Best Available Techniques (BAT) to control emissions. The permit would require the cleaned exhaust gases to be monitored continuously for a wide range of compounds (typically CO, NO_x, PM, HCl, SO₂, total VOCs), and this provides a continuous indication of the combustion conditions (and potential for dioxins formation), which are to be maintained below stringent emissions limits. Further monitoring is carried out periodically (usually several times per year) for pollutants including those such as dioxins that are present at too small a concentration to be able to be monitored continuously. The cleaned process exhaust is then released to air from a chimney stack of a height designed to ensure appropriate dispersion. The results of the continuous emissions monitoring have to be submitted to the Environment Agency; and, additionally, the Environment Agency sends in its own monitoring teams to make periodic unannounced spot checks on emissions.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) is the government body responsible for protection of public health.

The HPA's position is that well run and regulated modern municipal waste incinerators are not a significant risk to public health. This view is based on detailed assessments of the effects of air pollutants on health and on the fact that modern and well managed municipal waste incinerators make only a very small contribution to local concentrations of air pollutants.

2. Waste gasification is a relatively new technology in the UK and therefore SITA have conducted a robust due diligence assessment to ensure that the gasification process technology proposed by Outotec is appropriate for the Eco Park. The county council has also commissioned its technical consultants to undertake a review of the technology and of SITA's proposal.

The fluidised bed technology proposed by Outotec is proven, although its use to date has largely been in combustion rather than gasification, as proposed for Charlton Lane. Outotec has supplied over 100 plants that use a variety of fuels, however only a small number of these operate in gasification configuration with the majority being combustion plants. Whilst there are a number of Outotec combustion plants that process refuse derived fuel, there are currently no gasification plants that have been built to use this fuel. The three Outotec gasification facilities similar to that proposed for Charlton Lane, are in operation in the USA and Canada although operating on different types of fuel.

The chemistry of the gasification of refuse derived fuel and combustion of the subsequent synthesis gas (syngas) is well understood. The gas clean up systems, that are proposed for the Eco Park are robust and proven on many thermal treatment plants throughout the UK and overseas.

In the answer to your first question, I highlighted the fact that emissions from the Eco Park would be controlled through the Environmental Permit to ensure that there is no harm to the environment or to human health, this would include the impact on users of the community recycling centre and workers on site.

In addition, general hazards associated with the operation of the site will be managed through health and safety legislation and will be informed by a hazard and operability (HAZOP) study, which will be completed at the detailed design stage.

Both SITA and the council's technical advisors consider that Outotec has a good level of understanding of the complexity of waste gasification and the requirements of the UK regulatory system, and has the ability to design a plant to operate using residual waste from Surrey households for fuel.

John Furey
Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways and Environment
25 June 2013

Question (5) from Mrs Hazel Watson (Dorking Hills) to ask:

In an answer to a written question from me to the Cabinet meeting of 5 February 2013, the Cabinet Member for Assets and Regeneration Programmes stated: "An occupancy study was carried out in 2010 for our major offices which showed an average desk occupancy of 47%". He went on to state: "A programme of revised desk occupancy surveys are of being carried [sic] at present to measure the impact of these changes. We will provide the update information when we have completed the occupancy studies."

Please could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the desktop occupancy surveys, and an explanation of why it is taking so long to count the number of staff and number of desks?

Reply:

Update on occupancy studies

Desktop occupancy studies have been carried out at the following buildings since the completion of the Making a Difference Programme, County Hall, Fairmount House, Consort House. Esher Local Office and we are currently at Quadrant Court and Runnymede.

The peak utilisation in these buildings is as follows.

County Hall 62.5%
Fairmount House 76%
Consort House 62.5%
Esher Local Office 68.5%

Which is an average of 67.3% compared to 47% previously, a movement of 20.3% and an increase of 30%.

Results for Quadrant Court and Runnymede will be back by the end of July, further studies are being undertaken at our Borough and District locations and will be completed before the school summer holidays.

Method

The programme of utilisation studies is undertaken on a phased basis. Each building is carried out at independent times with slots selected to avoid school holidays, we also allow time for the buildings to settle down following the recent moves. The reason this is done is to get a true picture of how the portfolio is being utilised so informed decisions can be made.

Future

Once the other results are returned, we will then develop an action plan to further enhance the flexible working principles that Making a Difference implemented and look at further opportunities to identify efficiencies that could become income generation opportunities.

Tony Samuels

Cabinet Member for Assets and Regeneration Programmes

25 June 2013

Public Questions

Question (1) from Mr David Beaman, Independent Member for Upper Hale, Farnham Town Council

Given the known problems of air quality in Central Farnham will Surrey County Council be making any bid for funding from the recently announced Clean Bus Technology Fund to fit equipment to older diesel engine buses?

Reply:

As a general rule, the county council will try to bid for external funds, provided that the cost of bidding is justified by the likelihood of winning funds. The Department for Transport recently issued guidance to local authorities on the Clean Bus Technology Fund (CBTF) pilot programme. The Government has made £5 million available to support local authorities with the costs of upgrading buses with appropriate technologies to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) from older buses operated in congested urban areas. This is an initial bidding phase which will inform the DfT on whether a national programme could be developed. To be successful, a bid to the CBT Fund would need to be agreed between the county council and one or more bus operators. Officers are currently in discussion with a number of bus operators, together with colleagues in the boroughs and districts, to assess whether there is scope for a successful bid. This initial scoping work includes assessing opportunities for Farnham. The deadline for bids is 19 July.

John Furey
Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways and Environment
25 June 2013

Question (2) from Mr Malcolm Robertson, Charlton Lane Community Liaison Group Member

I wish to ask a question about the County Council's Waste Strategy, and your waste contractor's proposals for a gasifier/incinerator at Charlton Lane, Shepperton.

Taking into account the fact that the gasifier/incinerator will be a prototype situated in a densely populated area, do you consider that you have been provided with sufficient information to both authorise further expenditure on this project, and guarantee the safety of the surrounding community?

Reply:

The previous supplier of gasification technology, Ascot Environmental went into administration for reasons that are unknown to Surrey County Council and SITA UK, but we remain confident that with SITA UK's and SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT's financial and technical support, this technology would have worked at Charlton Lane. However, as this batch oxidation system gasification technology is no longer available SITA has chosen an alternative in order to move forward with the Eco Park.

Outotec and its technology have been rigorously scrutinised by technical and commercial experts in SITA UK and its parent company, SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT. This included visiting operational plants, detailed technical discussions and financial evaluations. The technology has also been assessed by Surrey County Council's own technical advisors.

Surrey County Council and SITA UK are satisfied that Outotec is the most suitable company to provide the gasification process at Charlton Lane.

The fluidised bed technology proposed by Outotec is proven, although its use to date has largely been in combustion rather than gasification plant, as proposed for Charlton Lane. Outotec has supplied over 100 plants that use a variety of fuels, however only a small number of these operate in gasification configuration with the majority being combustion plants. Whilst there are a number of Outotec combustion plants that process refuse derived fuel, there are currently no gasification plants built to use this fuel. The three Outotec gasification facilities similar to that proposed for Charlton Lane, are in operation in the USA and Canada although operating on different types of fuel.

Both SITA and the council's technical advisors consider that Outotec has a good level of understanding of the complexity of waste gasification and the requirements of the UK regulatory system, and has the ability to design a plant to operate using residual waste from Surrey households for fuel.

The chemistry of the gasification of refuse derived fuel and combustion of the subsequent synthesis gas (syngas) is well understood. The gas clean up systems, that are proposed for the Eco Park are robust and proven on many thermal treatment plants throughout the UK and overseas.

Waste gasification is a relatively new technology in the UK and therefore the number of plants that are operational is limited, however a number of gasification plants using a range of technologies have planning consent and a plant using both pyrolysis and gasification technology has recently opened and is in operation at Avonmouth.

Both the anaerobic digestion plant and the gasification plant will have to meet stringent emission standards set by the Environmental Permit, required by the Environment Agency. The emissions standards are designed to ensure that there is no risk to human health or the environment from the operation of the plant and will take into account the location of the plant in terms of its proximity to homes.

The council's technical adviser has confirmed that they are confident that the plant will meet the requirements of the Waste Incineration Directive, which sets the relevant emissions standard.

Levels of emissions will be minimised primarily by well managed combustion, achieved by the plant design and by maintaining optimal combustion conditions; with further removal of pollutants by a gas-cleaning system. All thermal waste-treatment plants have to be operated in accordance with an Environmental Permit and this will only be granted by the Environment Agency if the operator can show that they are using the Best Available Techniques (BAT) to control emissions. The permit would require the cleaned exhaust gases to be monitored continuously for a wide range of compounds (typically CO, NO_x, PM, HCl, SO₂, total VOCs), and this provides a continuous indication of the combustion conditions (and potential for dioxin formation), which are to be maintained below stringent emissions limits. Further monitoring is carried out periodically (usually several times per year) for pollutants including those such as dioxins that are present at too small a concentration to be able to be monitored continuously. The cleaned process exhaust is then released to air from a chimney stack of a height designed to ensure appropriate dispersion. The results of the continuous emissions monitoring have to be submitted to the Environment Agency; and, additionally, the Environment Agency sends in its own monitoring teams to make periodic unannounced spot checks on emissions.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) is the government body responsible for protection of public health.

The HPA's position is that well run and regulated modern municipal waste incinerators are not a significant risk to public health. This view is based on detailed assessments of the effects of air pollutants on health and on the fact that modern and well managed municipal waste incinerators make only a very small contribution to local concentrations of air pollutants.

In conclusion I am satisfied that I have received the necessary assurances from both SITA and our own technical advisors that the that the proposed plant will not pose a risk to the health or safety of site staff, users of the site or residents who live in the surrounding area.

John Furey
Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways and Environment
25 June 2013

Question (3) from Mr Andrew Telford, Chairman CPRE Surrey Runnymede District

Whereas:

1. Surrey County Council (SCC) unanimously resolved on 19/3/13 "To use its power to protect Surrey's Green Belt".
2. CPRE Surrey wholly endorses this resolution.
3. Runnymede Borough Council's draft Local Plan is inconsistent with the resolved position of SCC as it does not protect Surrey's Green Belt, removing, as it does, several hundred acres from the Green Belt at the DERA site to facilitate development.
4. There is strong popular support for SCC's landmark resolution as demonstrated by CPRE Surrey's e-petition regarding this matter, administered by MySociety through the RBC website, which has comfortably passed the threshold number of signatures required to ensure a debate in Full Council at RBC regarding removing any of the DERA site from the Green Belt.

What action does SCC propose taking in prosecuting its resolved policy of using its power to protect this part of Surrey's Green Belt, and will this include making a timely representation to Runnymede Borough Council raising a 'strong objection' to removing the land at the DERA site from the Green Belt?

Reply:

At its meeting on 19 March 2013, the County Council unanimously resolved to use its power to protect Surrey's Green Belt, support the National Planning Policy Framework (section 9 – paragraphs 79 to 92) and the Government's policy of protecting the Green Belt, to make Surrey's MPs and the County's Districts and Boroughs aware of this resolution and for any Green Belt development in the County to be in line with the needs and wishes of Surrey residents.

Under the National Planning Policy Framework, it is for the Districts and Boroughs to set Green Belt boundaries in their Local Plans with local consultation and independent examination of any proposed changes.

Runnymede Borough Council is currently preparing its new Local Plan and recently consulted on a draft Pre-Submission version of its Core Strategy. Balancing the need for housing and employment growth and the need to protect the Green Belt is a matter to be decided at the local level through the Runnymede Local Plan.

John Furey
Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways and Environment
25 June 2013

Question (4) from Mr Nigel Eastment, Chobham Society Fairoaks Representative

The Fairoaks Operation Ltd 'Consultation and Notice of Development' is not a planning application, but a required step under the General Permitted Development Order. Our question is about protecting the Green Belt not a planning application.

1. Surrey County Council unanimously resolved on 19/3/13 "To use its power to protect Surrey's Green Belt", and their stated position in limb 4 of the resolution is that any Green Belt development in the County should be "in line with the needs and wishes of Surrey residents".
2. Fairoaks Operations Ltd has a proposal for a hangar at Fairoaks Airport, which encroaches on the Green Belt.

What action does Surrey County Council propose taking in applying its resolved policy of using its power to protect this part of Surrey's Green Belt and ensuring that any Green Belt development in the County is in line with the needs and wishes of Surrey residents, and will this include making a timely representation to Surrey Heath Borough Council raising an objection to this proposal?

Reply:

At its meeting on 19 March 2013, the County Council unanimously resolved to use its power to protect Surrey's Green Belt, support the National Planning Policy Framework (section 9 – paragraphs 79 to 92) and the Government's policy of protecting the Green Belt, to make Surrey's MPs and the County's Districts and Boroughs aware of this resolution and for any Green Belt development in the County to be in line with the needs and wishes of Surrey residents.

The current proposals on Fairoaks Airport, a major developed site in the Green Belt, fall to be considered under Part 18 A.2 of the General Permitted Development Order. This allows a relevant airport operator to carry out development in connection with the provision of services and facilities on operational land, subject to the operator consulting the local planning authority before carrying out any development. The airport operator, Fairoaks Operation Ltd, has consulted Surrey Heath Borough Council in order to confirm that the proposal is permitted development. There is no requirement for the Borough Council to consult third parties, although a meeting with Chobham Parish Council has been arranged.

John Furey
Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways and Environment
25 June 2013

Question (5) from Ms Jenny Desoutter

Cycle Race Road Closures

My question refers to the closures of 4 August 2013.

The right of way over public roads and highways, together with freedom of movement, is one of the most inalienable and fundamental civil human rights. Indeed it is essential to daily living, and the network of public roads in rural Surrey is used seven days a week, 365 days in a year, in order that residents can fulfil the obligations and meet the needs of daily life.

Many of these uses are essential, for example:

- Getting to and from work
- Keeping in touch with friends and family
- Visiting those in hospital
- Delivering care and support to less able or dependant family members and others

- Being able to access emergency treatment centres without involving emergency services
- Being able to access shops including pharmacies in case of unexpected incidents
- In August, school holidays, many families may need to travel to begin, or to return home from holidays
- Attending to welfare of livestock in pastures and premises not adjacent to domicile
- Emergency services to wild life such as Wildlife Aid
- Accessing veterinary care in case of need
- Pursuing voluntary activities as part of community life
- Accessing recreational, sporting and leisure facilities for training and fitness

Apart from the fact that these journeys are an integral and essential part of life, many people have commitments which limit flexibility, and many are already under pressure from busy schedules. Freedom of choice enables people to manage their own lives and priorities effectively, and enables society to function through complex interactions which are not simple to adjust.

Surrey County Council is the elected body responsible for the highways, and it has chosen to close a large number of roads to the public for a whole day on 4 August, in order that the roads may be used exclusively as a race track by a select group of fit, able-bodied people enjoying a leisure activity of their choice. Because of this decision, a large proportion of Surrey residents will be unable to pursue their normal, chosen, or essential activities. Many, including myself, have so far not even been officially informed of this fact, in order that advance planning may be considered. At the date of submitting this question (18th June) the race organisers, Ride London, and SCC Highways are still unable to state exactly which roads surrounding the route they will decide to close.

I would ask the following:

- (1) Can the Council state how many residents will have their lives disrupted and their freedom of movement curtailed by the closure of highways for this non-essential leisure event, and by what process of consultation they have carried out an assessment of the impact of this event on residents' lives?
- (2) By what powers do Surrey County Council rescind the historic right of all people other than racing cyclists to use the highways for legitimate purposes on this day, and can SCC explain the principles which guided their decision to give priority on this day to the wish of a powerful special-interest group to use our communal roads as a private race track for pleasure, rather than safeguarding and protecting the individual freedom and civil liberties which are the pride of citizens of this country, and which enable millions of people to meet their own essential daily needs, and to live their lives independently and with dignity?

Reply:

- (1) This type of road closure is not unprecedented in Surrey, and the learning from the extremely successful Olympic cycling events is being applied to ensure that the public are aware and disruption is kept to an absolute minimum. The event organiser has completed an assessment of the community impacts which will form the basis of the ongoing consultation process. Tens of thousands of households and businesses on the route and within 100m of the route, are being provided with essential information to help them plan ahead. This includes the sharing of impacts through newsletters to homes on the route, drop-in sessions for residents and appointments with those on the route with specific concerns.

- (2) The Event is a joint venture between the Surrey County Council and the Mayor of London, and was approved by the Surrey County Council Cabinet in December 2011.

For the purpose of holding this sporting event on the highway, Surrey County Council as the Highway Authority, will allow road closures under a Special Events Order, as per section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, this allows for the sporting events to take place on the public highway.

We fully understand that there is an impact on residents and communities, which is why many have already received assistance. Anyone with specific travel needs is being encouraged to refer to **www.gosurrey.info** or to contact the event organiser on **0845 894 9773** or residents will be able to discuss and plan access on the 4th August 2013 at one of the following drop-in sessions,

- Dorking Halls, Dorking – 4 July, 15:00-19:00
- Heart Shopping Centre, Walton-on-Thames – 5 July, 11:00-15:00
- Box Hill Village Hall, Box Hill – 8 July, 16:00-20:00
- Forest Green Village Hall, Leith Hill – 9 July, 16:00-20:00
- Park House, Leatherhead – 10 July, 16:00-20:00

Surrey County Council feels strongly that a charity fun ride and an elite cycling race, that will attract thousands of spectators and millions of worldwide television viewers, is an important Olympic legacy, providing many benefits in the following ways:

- Fostering greater links and economic benefits through closer relations with London Partners,
- Promoting and inspiring healthy lifestyles and activities
- Promoting Surrey as a welcoming destination for tourism and a premier venue for sporting events,

Helyn Clack
Cabinet Member for Community Services
25 June 2013

Question (6) from Mr Brian Catt

I wish to question Councillor Furey's report on specifics regarding the claims made for the gasifier design and its appropriateness within the revised waste plan, as follows:

Given the very limited and universally unsatisfactory results of waste gasification experiences elsewhere, would it not now be more prudent on the grounds of value for money, fiscal risk and health and safety risk to the visiting and surrounding public, in a very populous area, to instead use Charlton Lane as an RDF plant, to feed the best possible EfW incineration in safer locations based on the lowest possible cost and maximum energy recovery, as this market develops in the face of over capacity and massive reductions in fuel through better recycling? Some European countries are already importing dry waste for this reason, including the Netherlands importing Surrey's.

Reply:

Long term markets for Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) supply to merchant plants are uncertain in the same way as long-term markets for supply of waste into conventional merchant energy from waste plants.

In addition there is a risk that the required quality specification for RDF will change over time, and that the RDF manufacturing plant would become outdated. That is why it is preferable to design an RDF plant to work with a specific combustion or gasification plant.

The value for money analysis will consider various alternatives to building the Eco Park within the SITA contract. One of these options will be to use merchant energy from waste facilities for Surrey's waste.

John Furey

Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways and Environment

25 June 2013

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