

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET
HELD ON 18 JULY 2017 AT 2.00 PM
AT ASHCOMBE SUITE, COUNTY HALL, KINGSTON UPON THAMES,
SURREY KT1 2DN.**

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Cabinet at its next meeting.

Members:

*Mr David Hodge (Chairman)	*Mr Mike Goodman
*Mr John Furey (Vice-Chairman)	*Mrs Mary Lewis
*Mrs Helyn Clack	*Mr Colin Kemp
Mrs Clare Curran	*Mr Tim Oliver
*Mr Mel Few	*Ms Denise Turner-Stewart

* = Present

Members in attendance:

Mr Chris Botten	Mr Jonathan Essex
Mrs Bernie Muir	Mr Bob Gardner
Mr Stephen Cooksey	Mrs Hazel Watson

PART ONE
IN PUBLIC

115/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Mrs Curran.

116/17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: [Item 2]

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

117/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

Mr Oliver declared an interest in relation to Items 6 and 17 and stated that he would leave the room during the discussion and voting on this item.

Mr Kemp also declared an interest in relation to Item 11 but stated his intention to participate in the voting and discussion in relation to the item.

118/17 PROCEDURAL MATTERS [Item 4]

1 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 4a]

Four questions were received. The questions and responses are attached as Appendix 1.

Supplementary Questions

Q1. In response to a request, from Mrs Watson, for the names of the unsafe care homes the Cabinet Member responded that he would need to check with the Legal Team and provide names after the meeting. He also went on to

state that a provider failure protocol was in place and that a safety team visits the care homes on a regular basis to ensure that problems highlighted by the Care Quality Commission were being corrected. New residents would not be moved into an unsafe care home and as a last resort current residents could be moved out.

Q3. In response to a supplementary question from Mr Essex the Leader confirmed that there was a forecast overspending of approximately £24m. He also stated that annex 2 of the agenda report was welcome and that there were very stiff savings targets for the next few years and onwards.

119/17 PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 4b]

There were four questions received from the public. The questions and responses are attached as Appendix 2.

Karin Barratt and Andrea Collings were invited to give their supplementary questions and they would be responded to together.

Karin Barratt made the following points:

- Budget options models for Beeches was drawn up with service users
- When comparing costs of 1b with model 5 this was not far off from the preferred option of parents.
- Was the £150k for spot purchasing on top of, or contained within, costs given?
- The Disability Team seemed to be unaware of what was available for spot purchasing and she was having difficulty finding the right person to speak to about this.

Andrea Collings made the following points:

- The number of hours was not judged on need but on number of hours accessed. There was a need to identify barriers to getting through the assessment process.
- Short breaks were not advertised through the Council and it was mainly through word of mouth that parents got to hear of it. She was concerned that Cabinet could not be confident of making a value for money decision.
- Travel costs to venues outside of the county would need to be added on.
- Many families would be happy to keep their children under children's services until the age of 19 years when they finished school, rather than they transfer to adult services at 18 which was an additional cost.

The Leader thanked Karin Barratt and Andrea Collings for the details statements and explained that the concerns raised would be picked up in the debate under item 6.

120/17 PETITIONS [Item 4c]

There were no petitions.

121/17 REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED ON REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE [Item 4d]

No representations were received.

122/17 REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES, TASK GROUPS, LOCAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL [Item 5]

Responses to reports from the Environment & Infrastructure Select Committee are attached as Appendices 3 and 4.

Mr Oliver declared a prejudicial interest and left the room at this point.

123/17 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARDS OF CONTRACTS AND GRANTS TO PROVIDE SHORT BREAKS IN SURREY [Item 6]

The Cabinet Member for Education gave a very detailed introduction to this report that described how high-quality, locally delivered short breaks made a huge difference to over 2,200 children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) in Surrey each year. Short breaks enabled children and young people to achieve better outcomes by having fun, seeing their friends and trying new activities, whilst also giving families a much needed break from caring. Alongside this, Surrey County Council (SCC) had a range of statutory duties and responsibilities that it needed to fulfil in relation to short breaks provision.

The report also set out proposed funding awards for a range of short breaks in Surrey, including overnight residential and play and leisure services, and specific grant-funded projects. Acknowledging the vital role played by short breaks, SCC has maintained the budget at £3.1 million, at a time of significant financial challenge.

Due to the commercial sensitivity involved in the contract award process, the names of the providers are listed in this report; however, all financial details and a summary of evaluation scores have been circulated in a Part 2 report as agenda item 17.

It was explained that Surrey County Council (SCC) had a legal duty to review its contracts with providers of short breaks every 3-5 years. This allowed new providers to have the opportunity to bid and which could lead to improved provision coming from new ideas and input.

The council were aware that changes in provision could cause uncertainty and it was recognised that this can be particularly difficult for families of children with special educational needs and disabilities. All parents have to have a high level of trust when they pass their children to the care of another person, but this was particularly so when the child or young person had special needs which may prevent them from speaking or acting for themselves.

Short breaks were closely linked to the SEND 2020 Development Plan through which the development of independence in children and young people was encouraged. Changes can be for the better and, after a settling in period, many families should feel the benefit of the recommissioning which has been done in line with their suggestions following a wide ranging consultation process

She explained what short breaks were and how many people used them and stressed the importance of the role played by short breaks in that the County Council had protected the budget of £3.1 million for short break services in Surrey when many other services are experiencing reduction.

Council officers had worked with families at each stage of the process of recommissioning in order to use the opportunity to respond more fully to their needs. They would also continue to work with families of users of The Beeches to ensure that children settle into new places. In response to a parent query she stated that if Beeches was to be leased at £0.6m this would need to come out of the £1.3m for the service. It was important to stick with the financial envelope in order not to detriment others. It was also stated that if enough of The Beeches users were to transfer to Applewood it would be possible to TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment) Beeches staff to Applewood.

Representatives of Family Voice had worked particularly closely on this project, and the Cabinet Member paid tribute to them for this. She went on to summarise the process that had been followed and stressed that parents had input at every stage and that the procurement process likewise included council professionals alongside Family Voice and parents of children with SEND.

She highlighted the key benefits of agreeing the recommendations as being:

- an overall increase of 4.5% in hours of play and leisure opportunities;
- fairer distribution of play and leisure short breaks across the county – aligning provision to need- so that these can be provided more locally for more families;
- prioritising of funding for residential short breaks with providers required to appropriately address a range of complex health and behaviour needs, and
- securing quantified commitments from providers to deliver added social value and social capital over and above the Council's funded offer. This was likely to total around £ 3 million.

It was recognised that there were a small minority of families who felt that the provision they had enjoyed up to now was going to be adversely affected by the proposed new contracts and grant awards. Some parents were anxious that a change of provider would mean the loss of familiar faces and activities at their child's play and leisure facility. Most of those parents had been users of The Beeches specialist residential provision in Reigate which had been operated by Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SBP). They and their children had been happy with the care provided by Beeches and many had enjoyed the close proximity of The Beeches to Brooklands School. It was recognised by several members of Cabinet that The Beeches had a particular ambiance that might be difficult to replicate.

However, SBP decided not to bid for funding from SCC to provide overnight specialist short breaks in future. This meant that 17 families would need access to overnight respite at other settings from 1st December this year. SBP have also confirmed that they are not looking to dispose of or to lease out the Beeches buildings. Those affected had been offered opportunities to discuss their future options with Social Workers, Commissioning Officers, herself and the Cabinet Member for children also went to meet them. Many had decided to take up short breaks at Applewood which is SCC run with good quality provision and was closest to The Beeches.

Social workers and officers continue to work with families that are still undecided and anxious about alternative provision. She explained plans to increase staffing capacity at Applewood and the provision of a Nurse Trainer to ensure staff had the ability to deal with most of the health needs of the children and young people who used to use The Beeches.

In a very small number of cases where the proposed providers at Cherry Trees and White Lodge, plus the SCC provision at Applewood and Ruth House, could not meet the very specific complex health needs of a few children, spot purchasing would be used, as it has been in the past, to source suitable provision.

Mr Chris Botten and Mrs Bernie Muir addressed the Cabinet and made the following points:

- That numbers needing this kind of service was suppressed.
- There was a history of suspicion regarding the modelling and in particular the NHS wanting to take funding from them to social services.
- That parents felt they had to fight every hour of every day to get the right service for their children.
- There were lessons to be learned and issues to be resolved.
- That spot placements was not a resilient solution to families with differing needs.
- That the main concern of residents with autistic children was the transition of moving from current to new services.

The Cabinet Member for Education responded with empathy and stated that an expected increase of 27% in Autistic Spectrum Disorder had been taken into account within the report and that new providers would be ready to take on the more complex users. She acknowledged that transition was not always easy but that children would not be excluded at the first hurdle and staff would work with them to assist in the transition.

The Cabinet Member for Health stated that she would take questions back to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the statements made by Mr Botten. She thanked the parents for coming to speak to Cabinet and stated how impressed she had been with the breadth of the consultation even though it didn't contain provision at The Beeches.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Prosperity reported that assurance would be needed over the life of the contract with good monitoring. He also reported that he and the Leader were to meet with Surrey MPs to discuss financial concerns.

The Cabinet Member for Education was sure that the service could be provided where needed dependent on funding. She also explained that a monitoring group was to be set up with Family Voice which would look at not only the contract details but how residents/families felt on the ground.

The resolution was unanimous.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed contract and grant awards for short breaks in Surrey be approved.

Reasons for Decisions:

- I. The new proposals will enable families of children with SEND to achieve better outcomes from their short breaks, because they have been co-designed with families (supported by Family Voice Surrey) in response to what they told us was most important.
- II. Current contracts for short breaks services are ending on 30 November 2017 and the Council has statutory duties to provide these services, so we have to secure future provision for families.
- III. As a result of the legally compliant short breaks tender there will be a 4.5% increase in hours of play and leisure short breaks and these services will be provided more locally.
- IV. Awarding block contracts and grants for a minimum of three years and four months will give families certainty about the short breaks offer, whilst also securing high-quality provision and value for money for the Council.

Mr Oliver returned to the meeting.

124/17 SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S CABINET ADOPTION OF THE REVISED SURREY APPROVED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION [Item 7]

The Cabinet Member for Education introduced the report that explained that the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (RE) must be reviewed by the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) at least every five years.

She explained how RE encourages understanding of different faiths and from understanding comes deeper tolerance and sensitivity. In the prevention of radicalisation, the idea that one's beliefs are understood and acknowledged has an important part to play. In this context the work of SACRE was very important. She thanked County Councillors Colin Kemp, Mike Goodman and Keith Taylor as well as Margaret Hicks (retired) who were on SACRE and worked on the syllabus.

The key changes to the syllabus were outlined on page 68 of the agenda which were all practical changes to ensure a flow through the education system giving coherence and logical flow being essential if children were to have a clear understanding of the beliefs of others and to succeed in the examination system.

The new syllabus must be adopted formally by the County Council before it is recommended to Surrey schools.

The resolution was unanimous.

RESOLVED:

That the 2017 revised Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Surrey be adopted.

Reason for Decision:

There had been a number of significant changes in curriculum delivery, content and in guidance from the Department of Education since the existing syllabus was adopted, rendering it no longer fit for purpose. There had been a complete review of the content by qualified teachers and the Advisor to the SACRE and the revised syllabus could now be recommended for adoption by schools in September 2017. The action being proposed will have benefits for the residents of Surrey in as much as teachers will be able to begin a new academic year by teaching a more relevant RE curriculum that complies with national guidance, prepares young people well for examination courses in RE, and more accurately reflects the values and beliefs of citizens in this country.

**125/17 SUNBURY MANOR SECONDARY SCHOOL, SUNBURY ON THAMES
[Item 8]**

The Cabinet Member for Education presented the report that detailed a forecast need for additional Secondary Places in Spelthorne by 2020. Many Primary Schools within the vicinity of Sunbury Manor Secondary School had had bulge classes and permanent expansions; consequently the need for additional Secondary School places was emerging.

This report provided the Business Case for the expansion of Sunbury Manor School, a standalone academy. The school currently operated as an eight Form of Entry (Published Admission number of 240 and a total school capacity of 1200 places) co-educational 11-16 school with a specialist centre for pupils with communication and interaction needs. The school was currently rated 'Good' by Ofsted.

The proposal was to expand the school by one 1 form of entry to 9 forms of entry per year from September 2020. A form of entry is normally 30 students. The school would change its Published Admission Number from 240 to 270 and grow incrementally over a five year period to total school capacity of 1350 places. This would provide, in total, an additional 150 secondary places in the Sunbury area of Spelthorne.

The expansion would enable Surrey County Council to meet the forecast demand for secondary school places in Spelthorne borough. Any existing surplus places at the school are in upper years, as the larger intake years (year 7 pupils) replace these smaller older year groups these vacant places will be reduced.

The resolution was unanimous.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information for the expansion as set out in Part 2 of this agenda as agenda item 18, the business case for the provision of an additional form of entry (30 places per year) providing, in total, 150 secondary places at Sunbury Manor School from September 2020 be approved.

Reason for Decision:

The proposal supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places to meet the needs of the population in Spelthorne Borough by providing Year 7 places when and where they are needed.

126/17 MONTHLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT [Item 9]

The Leader of the Council presented the budget monitoring report for the third month of the 2017/18 financial year, covering the period up to 30 June 2017.

He explained that in February the council had set its budget for 2017/18 in the face of significant rising demand pressures (particularly in social care); falling Government funding and continuing restraint on the ability to raise funds locally. To balance 2017/18's budget the council had to make plans to deliver unprecedented £104m savings. This challenge came on top of making over £494m savings since 2009.

He said that after three months of the new financial year, services have already achieved over £38m of savings with another £30m on track for delivery. While this early progress was good, £6m savings were considered at serious risk and £7m of savings were considered to be unachievable in 2017/18 (including nearly £3m each in Early Help and Waste Disposal, plus £1m due to delays in Fire & Rescue Service savings). Whilst £9m of savings had yet to be identified fully, Cabinet Team and Senior Management had held discussions which were progressing.

He also explained that in setting the 2017/18 budget, the council faced significant demand and cost pressures, mostly in social care. The first three months of this financial year had seen pressures intensify above what was expected even a short time ago. For example, in Children's Services, increasing demand was adding a further £9m pressure. In Public Health, retendering of a major contract was adding £2m pressure.

He said that whilst there were some offsetting forecast underspends, such as in Schools and SEND, at this early stage of the financial year and before the council has identified mitigating actions, the combined impact of the lower savings and rising demand was £24m forecast overspend for 2017/18.

He stated that the report showed there was some way to go before a sustainable medium term financial plan was achieved. There were many reasons for the need to restore the financial position and as pointed out by the Section 151 and Monitoring Officers, was the requirement of the Local Government Finance Act to ensure our spending does not exceed our resources. Given the gravity of this forecast position, it was vital that members and officers continue to identify and implement ways to mitigate the impact of savings shortfalls and service pressures. The council needed to

identify and implement alternative savings and cost reductions quickly to address the ongoing issues affecting the 2017/18 budget and the council's future financial sustainability.

Other Cabinet Members were invited to highlight the key points and issues from their portfolios, as set out in the annex to the report.

The resolution was unanimous.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted, including the following:

1. Early forecast revenue budget outturn for 2017/18, ahead of identifying mitigating actions, was £24m overspend, as detailed in Annex, paragraph 1 of the submitted report. This includes: £9m savings to be identified, £7m savings considered unachievable, and £11m service pressures.

2. Forecast savings for 2017/18 total were £88.5m against £104.0m target, as set out in the Annex, paragraph 28 of the submitted report.

3. The Section 151 Officer's commentary and the Monitoring Officer's Legal Implications commentary, as set out in paragraphs 15 to 18 of the submitted report.

4. That the following revenue budget virements, as detailed in the Annex, paragraph 27 of the submitted report be approved:
 - £6.9m from Central Income & Expenditure to Budget Equalisation Reserve;

 - and
 - £0.12m from Budget Equalisation Reserve for sums carried forward to support corporate apprenticeships.

5. That the following capital budget carry forward, funding adjustment and re-profile requests be approved:
 - £45.9m net movement on the Property service capital budget comprising £10.0m carried forward from 2016/17 and £55.9m rescheduled from 2017/18 to the remaining years of the capital programme, as set out in the Annex, paragraph 45) of the submitted report.

 - £1.0m net movement on the Information Technology and Digital capital

budget, comprising £0.9m carried forward from 2016/17 and £0.1m brought forward from the remaining years of the capital programme, as set out in the Annex, paragraph 46 of the submitted report.

Reasons for Decisions:

This report is presented to comply with the agreed policy of providing a monthly budget monitoring report to Cabinet for approval and action as necessary.

127/17 LEADERSHIP RISK REGISTER [Item 10]

The Cabinet Member for Business and Property Services introduced the Surrey County Council Leadership risk register as at 30 June 2017.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways stated that closer links with borough colleagues be included under L4 on the register.

In response to a query from the Cabinet Member for Health, regarding the retirement of the Chief Executive, the Leader explained that:

- *He had spoken with People, Performance and Development Committee and was to meet with them next week to look at the role of a new chief executive and following that meeting a job description would be drafted.*
- *Potential candidates would be sought for far and wide to ensure quality of candidate and to get the right person for the job.*
- *The process would be open, fair and transparent.*

RESOLVED:

That the content of the Surrey County Council Leadership risk register (Annex 1 to the report) was noted and the control actions put in place by the Statutory Responsibilities Network endorsed.

Reason for Decision:

To enable the Cabinet to keep Surrey County Council's strategic risks under review and to ensure that appropriate action is being taken to mitigate risks to a tolerable level in the most effective way.

128/17 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SHAREHOLDER BOARD [Item 11]

As part of its strategy to innovate in developing new models of delivery and to benefit from the freedoms introduced by the Localism Act, Surrey County Council had made investments and created trading companies to deliver income and efficiencies and in doing so has established a Shareholder Board, which reports annually to the Council. The purpose of the Board was to safeguard the council's interest as shareholder and to take decisions in matters that required the approval of the Council as owner of a company. The Leader of the Council requested Cabinet approval for the Annual Report of the Shareholder Board, which would be presented to full County Council at its meeting on 10 October 2017.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Report of the Shareholder Board, attached as Annex A to the submitted report, be endorsed and that the Cabinet present the report to Council at its meeting on 10 October 2017.

Reasons for Decision:

To inform the Council about the activities of the Shareholder Board.

The Shareholder Board has been established in accordance with best practice governance to ensure effective oversight and alignment with the strategic objectives and values of the Council.

129/17 INVESTMENT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT [Item 12]

The Investment Strategy agreed by Cabinet in July 2013 was developed in response to the requirement for the Council to enhance its financial resilience in the longer term. In facilitation of this strategy, Cabinet approved the business case for the creation of a property company and associated subsidiaries in May 2014 in order to achieve a balanced property portfolio (across sectors and geographies) to generate an income for the Council. The property company, Halsey Garton Property Ltd, and its subsidiaries are referred to in this report as “the Halsey Garton Property Group” (HGP).

The Investment Board was created in March 2017 to approve property investment acquisitions, property investment management expenditure, property investment disposals and the provision of finance to HGP for the purposes of the strategy. Prior to this an Investment Advisory Board was in place to make recommendations for Cabinet decision. The annual report details the investment property portfolio and forms part of the changed governance arrangements. A further report providing more detailed portfolio information was provided as a part 2 confidential annex (agenda item 19).

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Report of the Investment Board be endorsed.

Reason for Decision:

To inform the Cabinet about the activities of the Investment Board. The Investment Board are responsible for the delivery of the agreed Investment Strategy. The Investment Strategy was created by the council to deliver an ongoing and resilient source of income to provide financial support to the council's front line services. Investments undertaken as a result of the strategy agreed in 2013 are successfully delivering a net income stream to the council.

130/17 AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROPERTY INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES [Item 13]

The Cabinet Member for Property and Business Services introduced the report that explained how Cabinet had reviewed the Investment Strategy in

March 2017 and confirmed its ambitions to grow the investment portfolio further in order to secure an income stream in support of the council's services. It was recognised that the strategy requires the support of a property investment advisor to provide the necessary skills and level of support required to expand the investment portfolio.

This report sought approval to award a contract for Surrey County Council under the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) Framework Agreement for the provision of property investment advisory services to commence on 1 September 2017 as detailed in the recommendations. The role of the Investment Advisor was to provide resource and necessary skills to undertake strategic property investment advice (Portfolio Management), advice on the acquisition and disposal of assets (Investment Management) and ongoing Asset Management services to support Finance, Property and Legal Services in meeting the objectives set by Cabinet in connection with the revised Investment Strategy.

The Cabinet Member for Property and Business Services highlighted details of the procurement process, including the results of the evaluation process and, in conjunction with the Part 2 report, demonstrated why the recommended contract award delivers best value for money. He also explained that regular monitoring of performance would take place.

The Leader stated that he was pleased there had been the amount of interest shown in this contract with 13 showing initial interest which led to 8 bidders. He also stressed the need to increase the long term income stream for the council.

Due to the commercial sensitivity involved in the contract award process the financial details of the recommended supplier has been circulated as a Part 2 report (agenda item 20).

RESOLVED:

That a contract is awarded to CBRE under the Homes and Communities Agency framework for three years from 1 September 2017 with an option to extend for one year.

Reason For Decision:

In March 2017 Cabinet set out its ambitions for the further growth of the Investment Portfolio and the procurement of a property investment advisor to provide the necessary skills and level of support required. The proposed procurement will support the Council to grow its portfolio and increase the level of income received from investments thereby enhancing its financial resilience over the longer term.

131/17 WINTER SERVICE COST SAVINGS PROPOSALS [Item 14]

Mr Stephen Cooksey was given the opportunity to speak to this item as a Member previously involved with the task group under the previous council. He made the following statements:

- Policy change 2 was rejected by the task group as it was thought that one mini gritter was not enough for the whole county.

- If the grit bins were not surveyed how would it be known if they were being used or needed refilling.
- Policy change 4 should be reviewed after one year to see if it was working.
- That saving recommendation 3 should be removed unless local committees could change officer recommendations.

The Cabinet Member for Highways introduced the report and responded to Mr Cooksey's concerns as follows:

- That the overall season length will be reduced in line with other authorities, but that the ability to react to an early cold spell will be still available.
- The second mini gritter had not been widely used since it was added to the fleet and that routes have sufficient access for larger vehicles except in limited areas where a single mini gritter provides sufficient coverage and therefore felt comfortable having just the one mini gritter.
- Members and the public reported when grit bins were empty and were encouraged to do so. Grit bins reported as needing refilling would be refilled. To stop surveying would save money and wasted journeys.
- That policy changes 4 and 5 needed to be viewed together as each helped to deliver the other. An in-house solution for software to manage grit bins is expected to be in place by next year.
- A full list of routes that no longer meet the criteria as well as suggested changes for each area would be presented to every local/joint committee and not just chairmen, as it was recognised their local knowledge would be valuable in compiling the final gritting routes.
- The recommendations were supported by Environment and Infrastructure Select Committee with a few small amendments.

RESOLVED:

1. That the policy changes, policy amendment and savings recommendation summarised in paragraph 17 of the report be approved.
2. That Environment and Infrastructure Select Committee recommendations as detailed within paragraph 14 of the report be noted.

Reason for Decisions:

To enable savings of £340,000 from the Winter Service Budget identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan to be realised.

132/17 LEADER / DEPUTY LEADER / CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS/ INVESTMENT BOARD TAKEN SINCE THE LAST CABINET MEETING [Item 15]

This Annex set out the decisions taken by individual Cabinet Members/Investment Board since the last meeting of the Cabinet. Members were given the opportunity to comment on them.

RESOLVED:

To note the decisions taken by Cabinet Members / Investment Board since the last meeting as set out in Annex 1 to the report.

Reason for Decision:

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

133/17 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC [Item 16]

RESOLVED: That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

134/17 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARDS OF CONTRACTS AND GRANTS TO PROVIDE SHORT BREAKS IN SURREY [Item 17]

The Cabinet Member for Education highlighted the commentary from the S151 Officer.

The decision was unanimous.

RESOLVED:

That contracts and grants be awarded to the providers as detailed in the report for the provision of short breaks services to commence on 1 December 2017.

Reason for Decision:

See Minute 123/17.

Mr Oliver, having declared a prejudicial interest, left the room for this item.

135/17 SUNBURY MANOR SECONDARY SCHOOL, SUNBURY ON THAMES [Item 18]

This Part 2 report, in relation to item 6, contained information which is exempt from Access to Information requirements by virtue of paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including commercially sensitive information to the bidding companies). The information contained within may not be published or circulated and will remain sensitive until contract award in September 2017.

The decision was unanimous.

RESOLVED:

1. That the business case for the project to expand Sunbury Manor School by 150 additional places, at a total cost, as set out in the Part 2 report be

approved. The academy is providing a contribution, as detailed in paragraph 4 of the submitted report.

2. That the arrangements by which a variation of up to 10% of the total value may be agreed by the Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director for Children, Schools and Families, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Property and Business Services, the Cabinet Member for Education and the Leader of the Council be approved.

Reasons for Decisions:

The proposal delivers and supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places to meet the needs of the population in Spelthorne Borough.

136/17 INVESTMENT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT [Item 19]

Resolution and Reasons for Decisions – refer to the Part 1 report, item 12.

137/17 AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROPERTY INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES [Item 20]

The Cabinet Member for Property and Business Services commended this award of contract to Cabinet stating that it was self financing and fees were proportionate. Members were pleased that quality had been considered above cost during the process.

RESOLVED:

That the information within the Part 2 report be noted, in conjunction with the recommendations made in the Part 1 report (item 13).

Reasons for Decision:

Building on the existing property investment strategy approved in July 2013, in March 2017 Cabinet approved growth of the Investment portfolio and procurement of a property investment advisor to provide the necessary skills and level of support required to expand the portfolio.

138/17 INVESTMENT DISPOSAL [Item 21]

The Leader commended this disposal to Cabinet and it was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Surrey County Council sells its investment in the company, as outlined in paragraph 15 of the submitted report and authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to agree such terms for the sale in consultation with the Leader and in consideration of the advice of the Director of Finance.

Reasons for Decision:

The proposed sale of the Council's shares will deliver a capital receipt in support of its capital programme and provide it with an option to take

advantage of the financial flexibility in the use of the receipts for the funding of transformation expenditure should it choose to do so.

139/17 PUBLICITY FOR PART 2 ITEMS [Item 22]

It was agreed that non-exempt information may be made available to the press and public, where appropriate.

Meeting closed at 4.27 pm

Chairman

CABINET – 18 JULY 2017

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Members Questions

Question (1) Hazel Watson (Dorking Hills):

According to the Care Quality Commission, one in three nursing homes and a quarter of care homes are unsafe. How many care homes in Surrey are rated as unsafe and which of these have contracts with Surrey County Council?

Reply:

1. There are currently 6 care homes in Surrey that are rated as 'Inadequate' for the Key CQC Question 'Safe'.
2. Surrey has contracts with these homes.

Adult Social Care Business Intelligence receive weekly updates of all CQC inspections. Where a provider is rated as Requires Improvement, Business Intelligence write to the provider to request a copy of their CQC action plan. An Area Quality Assurance Manager assesses the action plan and considers what action is necessary to support the provider to improve, including for example monitoring visits or support from a CCG Care Home Quality Team.

Where a provider has a CQC action plan the quality assurance team will monitor the home's progress against this plan. In addition, when a Quality Assurance Manager carries out a monitoring visit to a care home, a report will be issued with the provider outlining any recommendations for improvement following the visit. This report once agreed is shared with the CQC. The QA team also expect providers to have their own improvement plan in place and this is also assessed at monitoring visits.

Mr Mel Few
Cabinet Member for Adults
18 July 2017

Question (2) Chris Botten (Caterham Hill):

Can the Cabinet member confirm that enough providers have been secured by the county council in order to fulfil the government pledge of 30 hours a week free childcare to working parents? Can the cabinet member guarantee that those parents meeting the criteria from September 1st will all receive an offer?

Reply:

The implementation of the new 30 hours childcare development is a national change that is a challenge for Local Authorities across the country. This change entitles parents of the majority of three and four year olds in the country to receive 30 hours of free childcare each week. This supports children's early development and parents/carers' ability to return to work. An update report on our progress in preparing for this change previously went to Education and Skills Board on 8 March 2017.

Preparation for the roll out of 30 hours in Surrey has included widespread consultation with childcare providers from the private, voluntary and maintained sector. We are pleased with the level of engagement and already have over 385 settings committing to the delivery of 30 hours funded Early Education from September 2017 and we expect this to increase further alongside the national campaign. We are working in partnership with providers to ensure that sufficient places are available, in line with demand, within each community. With this in mind we will continue to monitor the level of forecast demand and will respond with a targeted approach where required. We are confident, based on modelling of demand, that there will be sufficient places from September 1st to meet the need of parents who have registered to receive 30 hours, currently 2076, however we cannot guarantee that they will be able to access their funded hours in precisely the pattern or location of their choice. We are monitoring demand closely to address areas of shortfall and manage risks associated with this change, as we would for any large scale change.

We know that there are more settings planning to deliver 30 hours who are not yet registered, but equally there will be more parents registering in the coming months. The Department for Education has estimated that there are around 8,500 families in Surrey who may be eligible to take up 30 hours. Whilst we would not expect to reach this number from the outset, we are forecasting that numbers requiring provision will be increasing each term over the next two to three years as parents choose to take up provision. The rate of take-up is difficult to estimate, but we are confident in the ability of the early years market in Surrey to respond, with further market development by SCC to stimulate growth.

To develop the market, we have been working with providers to develop and issue information, guidance, resources and toolkits to help providers understand how this additional funding will work, to stimulate 30 hour places and support future sustainability of their businesses. The Early Years and Childcare Commissioning Team are available to work with providers needing extra support, advice and guidance and have worked across all sectors, including childminders and out of school providers to look at ways of offering partnerships where the 30 hours cannot be accessed from one provider.

Additionally, we have secured £600K capital from Department for Education for development of new places. At my Cabinet Member meeting on 4 July 2017, I agreed four projects from this capital allocation, with further projects to follow. These four projects will create 154 new 30 hour childcare places in areas of the county where there are identified childcare sufficiency issues and also higher proportions of families with lower incomes, including parts of Horley, Ash and Camberley. These projects are particularly important, recognising the current limits on availability of SCC capital funding, and we will continue to pursue opportunities to secure additional capital funding.

We are developing a new early years commissioning strategy for the Council, in partnership with the sector. This will set priorities in terms of needs, gaps in provision and demand for 30 hours places, as the picture of parental take-up becomes clearer. We plan to finalise the new commissioning strategy by the end of February 2018. We will also be developing new dynamic, sufficiency mapping tools, to ensure that we continue to grow provision of 30 hours childcare in line with parental demand during 2018.

Mrs Mary Lewis
Cabinet Member for Education
18 July 2017

Question (3) Jonathan Essex (Redhill East):

In the last Cabinet meeting it was confirmed that of the £94m savings already agreed in the MTFP for the 2017/18 financial year:

- £30m have been delivered
 - £36m are on-track
 - £9m of savings still require to be identified
 - £7m now considered to be undeliverable.
- i. Please can these be itemised against the Service savings schedule in the MTFP (p70-p75 of Cabinet papers for 28 March 2017).
- ii. Please can the Cabinet provide an update of how the additional savings not identified in the MTFP, as well as those found to be undeliverable, propose to be met.

Reply:

Thank you for your question. The answer to your concern is contained in the Budget Monitoring report.

David Hodge
Leader of the Council
18 July 2017

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CABINET – 18 JULY 2017

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Public Questions

Question (1) Emma Samuels-Lee:

Is there the possibility of selling off other unused sites in order to buy Beeches? This was discussed in our last meeting with you. The media has announced SCC are already over by £12m for children's disabilities so surely this is a better answer, to sell off unused sites!!

Please consider this as a suitable possibility. The families and children need Beeches to stay open. What they do for us is astounding. As a young family, the respite care is above and beyond, it is our second family.

There is nothing for this side of Surrey. Horley, Caterham, Reigate, Redhill....please understand with larger numbers being diagnosed year on year that we need to find a way for short breaks to reach this side. Surely Beeches would be the best option as the site is already available?? It saves money with majority of children being walked over from Brooklands school. Again helping with the funding for the council. There is no way I can drive further away to Cherry Trees, meltdowns in cars with our daughter have already caused accidents for us.

Our children need consistency, they are used to a smaller environment than the others on offer. The staff know them all so well, nursing is available but as already discussed it was not 24/7. We are already having to say goodbye to Challengers. There is a building already used for our wonderful children, please do not take it away from them.

Reply:

Thank you for taking the time to raise your questions with me and the suggestion you have set out in relation to Beeches. I recall that you shared this with us when Councillor Curran and I met with you and other families using Beeches on 9 June. Since then Council officers have been working to explore some of the options that families raised and the headlines from this work are summarised in the Cabinet report.

Whilst I cannot know what your family's individual experience has been like, we do appreciate that changes to any services can be unsettling for families and know how vital short breaks are. With that in mind, we are confident that we are commissioning sufficient overnight short breaks provision across the county to meet the current needs of children and young people, but we also know that we need to keep this under review, and I say more about this in response to the question I have received from Family Voice Surrey. We do know that the decision of Surrey and Borders NHS Foundation Trust (SABP) not to seek ongoing funding for short breaks at Beeches will be difficult for families. In particular, we know that some families will need to travel further to access alternative provision and that this change will have an impact on families, as recognised in our Equalities Impact Assessment. We are taking forward plans to increase the staffing capacity at Applewood in Tadworth (Reigate and Banstead) in response to this decision, to provide an option for a number of families, where this is appropriate to their needs. For others, there will be the possibility of accessing another commissioned or in-house provision or, in particular cases where these provisions cannot meet needs, then a specific spot-purchase of an alternative placement.

We know that families have particularly valued the Beeches, the consistent relationships between staff and children, young people and parents, and the level of confidence they have that the health needs of children and young people will be met. Whilst the proposals do inevitably mean that there will be change, we highlight in the Cabinet report that there may be potential for some current staff employed by SABP to transfer into SCC. Please note that this will be subject to the final decisions made by families about the future provision and the decisions made by affected staff themselves. In addition, as set out in the Service Development Action Plan attached to the Cabinet paper, we are developing proposals for a potential joint funded nurse trainer role to strengthen current provision and build parental confidence in the offer, in response to parental feedback. We hope this will particularly give greater confidence to families who are transitioning from Beeches to another residential setting about how their children's individual health needs will be met.

Surrey County Council currently has no identified capital budget to invest in purchasing additional buildings to provide short breaks services. The Council routinely reviews the portfolio of property that it has and is keen to make good use of this. I have asked Officers to continue to explore the possibilities for development of future short breaks respite provision, should future changes in need lead to demand for future provision as part of the ongoing work to monitor need for overnight short breaks, as set out in the Service Development Action Plan.

Mrs Mary Lewis
Cabinet Member for Education
18 July 2017

Question (2) Angela Kelly:

Where is the equality impact assessment that should have been carried out to ensure that services that may be commissioned will provide a like for like service? I would like a copy of this please

What guarantees can the council provide re provision of spaces and 121 spaces for vulnerable children.

What guarantees can be provided that no child will suffer or miss out on short breaks as a result of the potential changes.

What policy will be in place to ensure that no child will be turned away due to challenging behaviour that staff feel unable to deal with (this is something that is already in place and working)

How will these points be guaranteed and how will they be enforced because three years before a recommission is a lot of failed vulnerable children and their families.

Reply:

I really appreciate you taking the time to raise these questions about our short breaks services and we know how much families value the provision, so I hope that you find my responses helpful. Firstly, I can confirm that an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed and this has been published as an Annex to the main Cabinet paper. This was informed by a six-week period of formal engagement with families between 8 May 2017 and 17 June 2017.

In terms of provision of spaces, I am pleased that our new proposals include a 4.5% increase in the hours of play and leisure short breaks that will be available to families in Surrey. The new service specification requires providers to deliver at least 40% of these hours as 1-to-1 spaces for children and young people, which is the same as within previous contracts (although particular providers may choose to offer more than 40%). Within our play and leisure services, we have particularly commissioned an increased number of hours of provision specifically for children and young people with complex health needs, rising from 1,700 to 2,533, which will all be 1-to-1 hours. Finally we are also commissioning ASD specific services, with a minimum of 40% 1-to-1 hours. For overnight residential short breaks, we are confident that we will continue to have sufficient capacity in provision to meet need in Surrey, but we do acknowledge in our EIA that there may be reduced choice in when provision can be accessed for some families.

Surrey County Council is committed to providing short breaks that meet the needs of children and young people with SEND and their families. In doing so, every three to five years the Council is legally required to re-issue contracts for services provided by external organisations. Whenever this happens there is the possibility that services change, as all organisations have an equal chance to bid for the available funding. Our latest proposals do include a range of changes, as set out in the Cabinet report, and we do appreciate that this will be unsettling for some families. Taking account of this we have sought to co-design our new proposals with families throughout the re-commissioning project, focussing on the things that they have told us are most important. I have included some more detail on this process at the end of this response, but in headline terms this has meant involving families in analysing need and reviewing current services; agreeing the outcomes that we want to commission; developing options and ideas for future services; evaluating proposals from organisations who want to provide short breaks in the future; and engaging families to understand the impact of our final proposals. We are confident that, through this joint approach, we have delivered an offer that will meet the needs of families, as part of the wider system of support, but do acknowledge that the change will have an impact on families.

During our recent 6-week engagement period, we did hear from families who were concerned about the ability of different providers to meet the needs of their children, in particular those with complex health needs and behaviour that challenges. We are very clear that providers need to offer support to children and young people with a wide range of needs, whilst obviously ensuring that appropriate safeguarding and health and safety checks are in place. We will be talking to providers about this as they are setting up their new services and working with them to ensure that the training they have in place is adequate to meet the range of needs identified in the service specification. We will also want to see that children with challenging behaviour are not turned away from services and that providers offer a range of activities and outings, including small groups and individual, person-centred approaches.

We have clearly set out what our providers need to deliver in our new, co-designed service specifications, and we will work with them to ensure these are delivered. We will work with providers collaboratively, but will take a robust approach to setting up new services for 1 December 2017 and monitoring contracts on an ongoing basis to ensure these requirements are met. In response to feedback from families we are working in partnership with Family Voice Surrey to develop a new oversight group that will enable families and other partners to have a greater ongoing role in contract management.

Whilst there are many things that we will do, working with our partners, to manage the impact of the changes caused by our proposals, I cannot honestly give a guarantee that no families will be adversely impacted by the changes, as we know that each family's situation will be unique to them. A couple of examples of negative impacts that we have identified

through our Equality Impact Assessment include that some families will have to travel further to access provision and that there will be reduced flexibility about when short breaks can be taken for others. Whilst we acknowledge that we will not be able to fully mitigate these impacts, we are seeking to reduce any detrimental impact and are discussing concerns with families who are particularly affected on an individual basis. Looking overall, however, we are confident that our new proposals will provide a comprehensive offer of short breaks to families and represent good value for money for our residents, and we hope the mitigation we have set out will support families to make the most of the new offer.

Summary of co-design and engagement work undertaken with families

1) Understanding need and reviewing the current offer (January to May 2016)

- An online survey, which was completed by over 200 families.
- Drop-in events around the county, which were attended by over 90 families and professionals.
- Meetings with the Community Nursing teams in Surrey and Children with Disabilities Social Care teams and a range of other key stakeholders.
- Reviewing previous surveys and consultations relating to short breaks in Surrey.

2) Service design (June – mid November 2016)

- 8 x drop-in sessions for families and professionals at a number of special schools across Surrey including Clifton Hill, The Ridgeway, Pond Meadow & Brooklands – sharing the results of the review and focusing on the outcomes that families and children and young people want from short breaks
- 2 x workshops with providers, practitioners and parent carers across Surrey - co-designing the outcomes that short breaks should enable families to achieve and exploring where we should focus the design of our new commissions
- 7 x drop-in sessions for families and professionals at Play & Leisure provision across the summer holidays in August 2016 – reviewing and validating the co-designed outcomes, further information about where our design focus should be (using a mini questionnaire format)
- 3 x coffee mornings/focus groups with parent carers at White Lodge, The Beeches and Cherry Trees
- 5 x design workshops during September 2016 with parents, carers, providers and practitioners to review what people had told us our areas of focus and outcomes should be and co-designing the response
- Sense checking and validating the outcomes and options (6th Oct, 20th Oct, 25th Oct - with the service and Family Voice Surrey)
- Feedback from families of children and young people with complex health needs was sought by an additional survey, working with Family Voice Surrey that included specific health related questions. This was run with the Physical & Sensory Support Service
- Checking with children and young people what they would like to see from the Short Break's offer, including:

- Gypsy Roma Traveller community engagement - site visit to meet with 2 families with disabled children and young people (19 September 2016)
- Feedback from specialist residential settings – creative sessions at Beeches (30 October 2016) and Cherry Trees (3 November 2016)
- Sibling focus group in specialist residential setting (10 November 2016)
- Questionnaire sent to Young Carers for inclusion in their autumn newsletter. Questionnaire also sent to Woking High School Young Carers Group and through visits to Egham Youth Club & Woking Young Carers Groups (July & October 2016)

Since July 2016:

- 95 parent carers and 40 providers and professionals shared their views at the drop-in sessions.
- 28 providers and 16 parent carers attended the September design workshops.
- 196 families completed an on-line survey
- 62 children & young people have told us their views about short breaks

3) Tender for the service and evaluation of bids – January – March 2017

Involving children and young people

- A number of different creative approaches were used including 24 children and young people with different needs engaged to give feedback on some elements of the bids from providers. This contributed to bid scoring. Sessions held included:
 - 2 x sessions in a community venue with children and young people from a youth group for feedback on overnight and play and leisure bids
 - 2 x sessions in a specialist residential setting for feedback on overnight submissions
 - 1 x session in a voluntary youth club (shorter session so only video clips were shown)

Involving parent carers

- Parent carers who currently use short breaks were invited to participate in the evaluation via specialist residential setting routes and the Family Voice Surrey (FVS) network. Family Voice convened a panel of family evaluators to contribute to bid scoring and families had a specific question as part of the process that they were exclusively responsible for scoring.

As well as meetings that happened as part of this overall engagement process, specific meetings have been held with families who currently access Beeches, following Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SABP) confirming they were not going to bid to continue to provide overnight residential short breaks, including:

- 14 March 2017 – Joint meeting SABP, SCC and Family Voice Surrey with Beeches parents;
- 2 May 2017 – Meeting of senior SCC Officers and Family Voice Surrey with Beeches parents; and

- 9 June 2017 – Councillor Clare Curran and I met with Beeches families, to hear their concerns and views first hand.

Mrs Mary Lewis
Cabinet Member for Education
18 July 2017

Question (3) Karin Barritt:

The council states that '*Spot purchasing of individual places from alternative providers remains an option for children and young people whose needs cannot be met through these different services.*' (ie Applewood, Cherry trees etc) If this is the case how come no one senior, including Julie Castles-Greene and Clare Curran, knows what provision is available for spot purchasing? Also, how come no one is helping our family to identify what provision is available for spot purchasing for my son who cannot access existing/proposed short breaks when Beeches close?

A sum of approximately £ 150 000 has been allocated to pay for spot purchasing provision and to pay for increased transport costs etc. Perhaps the council realises this will not be sufficient if children and young people like my son need spot purchased provision. In the latest Beeches meeting there were at least three families who would rely on unidentified spot purchased provision as an alternative after 30th November. Could this money be better used put towards the recommendation made by Family Voice that the Council leases Beeches for six months to give them time to properly consider the service's and site's potential and possibilities?

As things stand I have been given a link of potential short breaks providers in Sussex to investigate myself, this is far off the council's promise to provide an alternative for all children and young people when Beeches closes.

The most important thing to consider is that the proposed closure of Beeches is not only going to have a devastating effect on the 22 children and young people accessing it but also directly on all of their families which brings the total of people affected to over 100. Indirectly the proposed closure may also impact on their educational setting as the children and young people will be going through a long period of being unsettled, stressed and anxious.

Please remember that the families in questions are vulnerable and closing down a setting that is a lifeline for them and their sons and daughters can trigger them going into crises. Someone pointed out in one of the Beeches meeting that it only takes two families not to be able to look after their disabled child, and the cost of full time residential care would be far more per year than the cost of running Beeches.

Reply:

Thank you for raising your concerns with me and sharing openly your personal experience of working with us so far. Whilst there are a range of possible options for spot purchasing of short breaks in Surrey and in neighbouring areas, the decision about where to seek a placement outside of the core block contracts and in-house services that we have is an individual one, in response to a family's particular needs and circumstances. Social workers

and their managers should be aware of the range of possible providers of short breaks options for spot purchasing of provision and should be using this knowledge to support the families affected by the closure of Beeches to explore the options that will best meet their needs.

I am sorry that you feel that the support offered to your family at this time has not been good enough in this regard. I understand the Children with Disabilities Team have been in contact with you about the changes, but I have asked them to ensure that they make contact with you again to work with you to find the best solution for your family and to ensure they bring with them knowledge of all the available options to explore. We have had a period of uncertainty, with proposals put forward for the future short breaks offer, but these still being subject to final decision by the Cabinet. Cabinet is now being asked to make a clear decision about a final set of short breaks proposals, which should give greater certainty when planning future options to families and social workers alike.

As set out in the Cabinet report and EIA, we do appreciate that Beeches is a valued service and that the provision has made a big difference to the lives of whole families, as well as simply the specific children and young people who access the services. Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SABP) has made the decision not to bid for ongoing funding from SCC to provide overnight short breaks and this means that the Council has not been able to consider the ongoing provision of the service they have been offering, as part of the legally required open and transparent procurement process. Whilst this is the case, Surrey County Council has explored alongside this a range of ideas from families, partners and SCC staff, as set out in the Cabinet report, for Cabinet to consider.

Surrey County has retained £147,000 within the budget identified for the package of short breaks services that have been considered as part of this process, to develop different flexible options for children and young people, which could include spot purchasing, improved training or additional staffing for particular in-house settings. This is in addition to funding already held within the Children with Disabilities Team for care packages.

Based on the cost modelling that has been done and as set out in the Cabinet report, the estimated cost of leasing and continuing to provide the current Beeches offer is likely to be around £0.6 million per annum, so this funding (assuming the necessary agreements could be secured) would only be sufficient for three months of provision. It would also mean that funding would need to be taken from some of the other play and leisure and grant funded services outlined in this Cabinet report, which are used by over 2,000 families each year. The Council has sought confirmation from SABP about their plans for Beeches and, so far, no indication has been given of imminent plans to dispose of Beeches, which could potentially mean future uses of the premises could continue to be explored.

We know that of the 22 families currently accessing Beeches, five will be moving to Adult Social Care due to their age and 17 will require ongoing Children's Services provision, so it will be a period of change for all families and they will be facing some difficult decisions. We are committed to working alongside them during this period of change to provide the support that they need to enable them to manage the many pressures they do face and help them to provide sustainable care to their children. We hope that this will prevent children and young people from requiring full-time care, as a result of the changes to provision that are proposed.

Mrs Mary Lewis
Cabinet Member for Education
18 July 2017

Question (4) Andrea Collings:

Will cabinet commit to publishing in detail the final costs of whichever actions they choose to recommend in mitigation of the impact of a reduced specialist residential short breaks service, as well as monitoring the impact on the quality of the support offered and capacity to meet growing demand for services?

As you know, Family Voice Surrey anticipate that the actual costs of spot purchasing provision to meet the needs of families currently using Beeches in addition to increased staffing costs for in-house services at Applewood, and the additional transport costs, are likely to be higher than those estimated in the options outlined in the cabinet report. We believe that any reduction in expenditure is more likely to come from developing a new offer, which could draw on external sources of funding, while retaining the advantages available at Beeches currently, with its staffing expertise in managing complex health conditions and its situation next to a school for children with profound and multiple learning difficulties.

We also believe that there is sufficient evidence to support building rather than reducing capacity:

- demand for specialist services will continue to grow with numbers of children with complex health conditions forecast to increase
- additional pressures from other parts of the local short breaks offer, such as the long-standing difficulty in recruiting and retaining paid carers to offer personal support in the home
- indicators that the current assessment process makes it unduly difficult for families to have their needs identified in a timely manner
- uncertainty about the match between the hours of assessed need and the hours of support commissioned

Reply:

I would like to begin by thanking Family Voice Surrey for their committed approach to working with us throughout the whole re-commissioning project. We have particularly valued their support to help us to engage with families and also the collaborative way in which they have challenged us to continue to improve the short breaks offer for families throughout the project.

In response to your first point, Surrey County Council is happy to share the final costs of alternative provision for families currently accessing the Beeches through the Short Breaks Steering Group, of which Family Voice Surrey are key members. We will not, however, know these costs until families have made final decisions about their future provision, in discussion with their social workers in the period leading up to 30 November 2017, following Cabinet's decision about the final offer. Our proposal is therefore that the Steering Group considers an assessment of the full costs, as part of the planned review of the short breaks re-commissioning project that will be undertaken between January and March 2018. This review will consider both the immediate short-term costs and likely longer-term costs.

Whilst we acknowledge the concerns about capacity for overnight short breaks raised by Family Voice Surrey, we have undertaken a robust, countywide needs analysis as part of this process to ensure that we have sufficient provision to meet current need. We also know, however, that this is an ongoing process and things can change, and therefore, as part of the Service Development Action Plan that accompanies this Cabinet report, we have committed to develop, by April 2018, a robust approach to routinely monitor need for short breaks services, against the capacity of commissioned in-house and contracted services.

We will need to work with Family Voice to plan our approach and this will form part of an ongoing service improvement project focussed on short breaks, resourced by County Council officers.

As part of this service improvement work, we have also set out how we will work in partnership with Family Voice Surrey to develop a more robust future role for families in the oversight of both when services are being set-up and ongoing contract management of the short breaks offer, including the quality of services provided, and that this will be in place by 31 October 2017. Again, we want to work with families to develop this approach in a way that works for them.

To summarise, the key next steps we will be taking that respond to this question are:

- Social workers to work with families affected by changes to Beeches to finalise and implement plans for alternative provision from 1 December 2017;
- Surrey County Council to work with Family Voice Surrey to develop and implement an approach to give parents an ongoing role in monitoring of short breaks services by 31 October 2017;
- Surrey County Council to work with Family Voice Surrey to undertake a review of the re-commissioning process, including an assessment of the actual costs of alternative provision for families who are currently accessing Beeches, to be completed by 31 March 2017; and
- Surrey County Council to work with Family Voice Surrey to develop and implement an approach to routinely monitor and assess changes in need for short breaks and capacity of services to meet this need by 30 April 2018, which we will maintain during the next 3 to 5 years of the proposed contracts.

Finally, I welcome Family Voice's ongoing feedback about the proposals and invite them to work with us on an ongoing basis, as we continue to develop the short breaks offer in response to families' feedback. Whilst we have made progress during this re-commissioning project, we know that there is still more to do to improve short breaks, which is why we have identified clear actions for further work in our Service Development Action Plan, and our wider offer to families with SEND, through the SEND Development Plan.

Mrs Mary Lewis
Cabinet Member for Education
18 July 2017

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CABINET RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SELECT COMMITTEE

Local Highway Funding 2017/18 [item 6]

(Considered by the Environment and Infrastructure Select Committee on 3 July 2017)

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Environment and Infrastructure Select Committee notes with concern the report and background to the reductions in the Highways and Transport budget and asks the Cabinet to review the highways funding of local committees.

RESPONSE:

As Members of the Select Committee are aware, the County Council is facing significant budget pressures. This includes Highways and Transport.

The service has a responsibility to ensure available resources are used to manage our statutory responsibilities and investments compliment the adopted asset management strategy. Unfortunately with the level of savings required, this necessitated reducing the discretionary allocations to Local Committees. Budgets will be reviewed on an annual basis in line with the MTFP.

It should be recognised that much maintenance and improvement work will still be invested in Surrey's roads this financial year. The approximate revenue budget is £44m and capital budget is £49m. Works range from fixing potholes to significant improvement schemes such as the Runnymede Roundabout, which is under construction.

As Cabinet Member I wish to work with Local Committees to see how they can both increase and best use the funding opportunities available to them. For example by ensuring our parking service is as efficient as possible and that we secure the maximum amount of developer contributions.

**Mr Colin Kemp
Cabinet Member for Highways
18 July 2017**

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CABINET RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SELECT COMMITTEE

**Proposed Winter Service Policy changes required to realise cost savings [item 5]
(Considered by the Environment and Infrastructure Select Committee on 3 July 2017)**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Environment & Infrastructure Select Committee endorse the report recommendations, subject to the following amendments to Policy Amendment 1 and Saving Recommendation 3,

- a. Policy Amendment 1 to be amended to read: 'Do not survey any non- member funded grit bins',
- b. Saving Recommendation 3 to be amended to read: 'Reassess lengths of network against the criteria in consultation with Local Committees'.

RESPONSE:

The Environment & Infrastructure Select Committee endorsement is welcomed and the amendments have been included in the cabinet report recommendations.

**Mr Colin Kemp
Cabinet Member for Highways
18 July 2017**

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