

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, KINGSTON UPON THAMES, KT1 2DN ON
11 DECEMBER 2018 COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM, THE COUNCIL BEING
CONSTITUTED AS FOLLOWS:**

Tony Samuels (Vice-Chairman)

Mary Angell	Julie Iles
Ayesha Azad	Naz Islam
John Beckett	Colin Kemp
Mike Bennison	Eber Kington
Chris Botten	Graham Knight
Liz Bowes	Rachael I Lake
Natalie Bramhall	Yvonna Lay
Mark Brett-Warburton	*
Ben Carasco	David Lee
Bill Chapman	Mary Lewis
Helyn Clack	Andy MacLeod
Stephen Cooksey	Ernest Mallett MBE
Clare Curran	David Mansfield
Nick Darby	Peter Martin
Paul Deach	Jan Mason
Graham Ellwood	Cameron McIntosh
*	Sinead Mooney
Jonathan Essex	Charlotte Morley
Robert Evans	Marsha Moseley
Tim Evans	Tina Mountain
Mel Few	Bernie Muir
Will Forster	Mark Nuti
John Furey	John O'Reilly
Matt Furniss	Tim Oliver
Bob Gardner	Andrew Povey
Mike Goodman	Wyatt Ramsdale
Angela Goodwin	Mrs Penny Rivers
David Goodwin	Stephen Spence
Zully Grant-Duff	Lesley Steeds
Alison Griffiths	Peter Szanto
Ken Gulati	Keith Taylor
Tim Hall	Barbara Thomson
Kay Hammond	Rose Thorn
*	Chris Townsend
Richard Hampson	Denise Turner-Stewart
David Harmer	Richard Walsh
Jeffrey Harris	Hazel Watson
Nick Harrison	Fiona White
Edward Hawkins	Keith Witham
Marisa Heath	Victoria Young
David Hodge CBE	
Saj Hussain	

*absent

90/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies for absence were received from Ben Carasco and Jonathan Essex.

91/18 MINUTES [Item 2]

The minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 13 November 2018 were submitted, confirmed and signed.

In reference to Minute 83/18 (Question 6), a Member of the Council highlighted that details of the 14 sites could not be found in any Cabinet papers.

92/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were none.

93/18 ELECTION OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR [Item 4]

The Chief Executive formally reported that Mrs Amanda Jayne Boote was duly elected as the new County Councillor for the Byfleets division following the by-election held on 6 December 2018.

94/18 REVIEW OF POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY [Item 4a]

A review of the Scheme of Political Proportionality 2018/19 was circulated to Members in the supplementary agenda on 10 December 2018.

RESOLVED (with no Member voting against):

That the committee sizes and scheme of proportionality, as set out in Annex 1 of the submitted report, be adopted for the remainder of the Council year 2018/19.

95/18 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS [Item 5]

The Chairman:

- Thanked Members who had nominated a volunteer who they felt had made an outstanding contribution to their area. It was asked that any further nominations be submitted before the Christmas break.
- Highlighted the Chairman's announcements which could be found in the agenda front sheet.

96/18 ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL [Item 6]

Mr O'Reilly, as proposer of the motion for the election of the Leader of the Council, spoke in support of the nomination of Mr Oliver. This nomination was seconded by Mrs Lewis, who also said a few words.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Oliver be elected Leader of the Council for a four year term, expiring on the day of the post-election annual meeting in 2021.

97/18 NEW LEADER'S STATEMENT [Item 7]

The Leader made a detailed statement. A copy of the statement is attached as Appendix A.

Members raised the following topics:

- That residents were disenchanted with politics.
- The Council needed to sustain the confidence of residents.
- It was important to maintain transparency.
- That services needed to address the needs of all residents.
- There was an essential need for mental health provision.
- That the opposition parties needed access and involvement in decisions.
- That the council's property portfolio was key to changing services.
- Noted that the Leader would retain the health portfolio.
- Many residents could not differentiate between the two tier authorities in Surrey.
- Stated that various services required rapid improvement.

98/18 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME [Item 8]

Notice of 14 questions had been received. The questions and replies are attached as Appendix B.

A number of supplementary questions were asked and a summary of the main points is set out below:

(Q2) Mr Robert Evans asked the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Fire & Resilience if she felt it would be positive for members of the Surrey Police and Crime Panel to attend the Police and Crime Panel national conference. The Cabinet Member stated that the matter should be directed at the Police and Crime Panel for response.

(Q3) Graham Ellwood asked the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families to confirm what arrangements would be made to allow residents transport to the remaining children's centre sites. The Cabinet Member showed support for the family resilience model within Children's Services and explained that details would be provided following the review of the responses to the consultation.

(Q7) Stephen Cooksey felt that his question had not been responded to and asked the Cabinet Member to confirm who was responsible for the final decision to close the canteens, what consultations had taken place with staff, and why Member consultation was not taken into account. The Cabinet Member stated that the decision was taken by the Cabinet and had been included in the Cabinet papers for the meeting on 25 September 2018. She further stressed that the decision showed the seriousness of the council's financial situation. It was noted that alternative catering arrangements had been made and would be reviewed following implementation.

Cabinet Member Briefings: these were also published with the supplementary agenda on 10 December 2018.

Members made the following points:

Deputy Leader: on the need to maintain and clean highway signs in Surrey. The Cabinet Member confirmed that all statutory signs were maintained and cleaned for safety reasons. He further informed Members that some parish councils were beginning to declutter non-statutory signs in their areas as some felt there were too many signs on the counties highways.

Members also queried what powers and responsibilities the county would be seeking for the 'Transport for the South East' sub-national transport body. The former Deputy Leader informed Members that the decision still needed to be made on this but that the council would be looking at the legislative body 'Transport for the North East' as a guideline while adding in the context of the south east.

In his previous capacity as Cabinet Member for Highways, the Deputy Leader agreed to provide a response to a Member outside the meeting to explain the reasoning for road works taking place on a recently re-laid road.

Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste: on the need for a better railway service for residents as well as an improved delay repay scheme. Members also raised concerns with the Government's plans to earmark funds from the business rates retention scheme to fund the extra costs of Crossrail 1, rather than Crossrail 2. The Cabinet Member agreed that there was a need for a better rail service in Surrey and stated that he would be meeting with the Chief Executive to discuss these concerns. In regards to Crossrail 1, the Cabinet Member agreed to provide a written response to the Member outside the meeting.

Members also discussed concerns of possible flooding and progress on the Surrey Relief Scheme. The Cabinet Member explained that work was ongoing to mitigate issues and that he hoped to give Members assurances in the coming months.

Members also raised concerns around the closure of Community Recycling Centres and emphasised the importance of considering consultation responses before making a final decision.

Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families: on the Corporate Parenting Promise, which Members were asked to sign prior to the meeting. The Cabinet Member explained that the pledge was a Member promise to listen to the priorities for looked after children when building the corporate parenting strategy. It was noted that information and further updates on work following the pledge would be reported back to the Corporate Parenting Board.

Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Fire & Resilience: on the significant transformation of the Surrey Fire Service.

Cabinet Member for Finance: was thanked for his work in his previous role as Cabinet Member for Adults. Members highlighted the importance of the ongoing Care and Support Project and stressed that there was a need for this work to continue.

99/18 STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS [Item 9]

Dr Andrew Povey made a statement in regards to concerns around the proposed closure of Cranleigh Community Recycling Centre.

100/18 ORIGINAL MOTIONS [Item 10]

None received.

101/18 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHARMEN AND VICE-CHARMEN [Item 11]**RESOLVED:**

That the Members listed in italics in the published report are duly elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the specified Committees as shown for the remainder of the Council year 2018/19.

102/18 ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SUSSEX AND EAST SURREY SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION PLAN [Item 12]

The Leader of the Council introduced the report and provided Members with a brief summary. It was highlighted that, as Leader of the Council, he would continue to chair the Health and Wellbeing Board. It was further highlighted that Cllr Botten, Cllr Chapman and Cllr Grant-Duff would be appointed to the Joint Committee.

Members highlighted that the power to refer onto the Secretary of State would remain with the Health, Integration and Commissioning Select Committee.

RESOLVED:

That Surrey County Council:

- I. agreed to the establishment of a Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee with Brighton and Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council for the purposes of scrutinising substantial variations in service delivery arising from the development of Sussex and East Surrey Sustainability and Transformation Plan;
- II. approved the Terms of Reference for Sussex and East Surrey STP Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee attached as Annex A to this report;
- III. agreed to appoint Mr Chris Botten, Dr Bill Chapman and Dr Zully Grant-Duff as Surrey County Council's representative on the Sussex and East Surrey STP Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and
- IV. delegated responsibility for appointing a non-voting co-opted representative to the JHOSC to the Health Integration and Commissioning Select Committee.

103/18 APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER [Item 13]

RESOLVED:

That the County Council appoint Rachel Crossley to act as interim Monitoring Officer for Surrey County Council with effect from 21 December 2018.

104/18 REPORT OF THE PEOPLE, PERFORMANCE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE [Item 14]

The Leader of the Council introduced the report and noted that the terms of reference had been discussed at length during the People, Performance and Development Committee meeting in November 2018.

Members made the following comments:

- Raised concern as the updated terms of reference prevented the Committee from taking a strategic role monitoring the costs of permanent and interim appointments.
- That the overall senior management costs should be monitored and scrutinised.
- That Members should not be involved with the recruitment of staff, as this was the responsibility of the Chief Executive as Head of Paid Service.

RESOLVED:

To include the People, Performance and Development Committee Terms of Reference in the Constitution.

105/18 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS [Item 15]

The Leader of the Council introduced the report.

Mr David Harmer proposed that the final sentence of paragraph 9 be amended to read 'Appropriate training will be provided for all Members of the Audit and Governance Committee and the Corporate Overview Select Committee', which was agreed.

RESOLVED:

- a. That the new Financial Regulations attached in Annex A of the report be approved.
- b. That the delegation of approval of the annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement to the Audit and Governance Committee be approved.
- c. That the necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution be approved, to allow the Audit and Governance Committee to "review and approve" the annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

106/18 REVIEW OF THE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE FOR DEPUTY CABINET MEMBERS - REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL [Item 16]

The Leader of the Council highlighted that Deputy Cabinet Members now had been allocated to specific Cabinet portfolios and from now on will be asked to provide an update to each County Council meeting.

Members made the following points:

- That Cabinet Members should be able to conduct the full work within a portfolio, rather than have a deputy.
- That, in theory, there could be up to 10 new Deputy Cabinet Members.
- That in October 2018, the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) stated that Deputy Cabinet Member roles were not necessary.
- That 18 of 26 County Councils in the country had Deputy Cabinet Members.

52 Members voted for, 14 Against and 4 Abstentions

Therefore it was resolved:

That the Special Responsibility Allowance for Deputy Cabinet Members is set at £10,000.

107/18 SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18 [Item 17]

The Leader of the Council introduced the report and stated that the report summarised the work of select committees in 2017/18 and outlined the key priorities going forward. It was highlighted that there would be a review of all select committees.

Members made the following points:

- Highlighted that two thirds of select committee meetings did not make a recommendation.
- Felt that select committees should play a more important role in the governance of the Council.
- That consistency from previous arrangements was needed when reviewing select committees.
- That there was a need for more resource to conduct good scrutiny.

108/18 REPORT OF THE CABINET [Item 18]

The Leader presented the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 27 November 2018.

Reports for Information/ Discussion

- A. Revised Financial Regulations

RESOLVED:

That the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 November 2018 be adopted.

109/18 MINUTES OF CABINET MEETINGS [Item 19]

No notification had been received by the deadline from Members wishing to raise a question or make a statement on any matters in the minutes.

[Meeting ended at: 11.45 am]

Chairman

Mr Chairman and Members,

I would like to thank those who have nominated me and those who have elected me today to lead this county council on behalf of the people of Surrey. It is a great honour, and with it comes a tremendous responsibility to serve this wonderful county and its many communities.

First, can I pay tribute to the fantastic achievements of David Hodge. He has been a passionate advocate for Surrey and its residents throughout his time as a councillor and as Leader. We should all recognise the outstanding contribution he has made to us as members, to the residents of Surrey and to the wider local government sector. David, thank you.

It is now my task to implement the core strategies members agreed in October, and I am determined that we will deliver on these. This Conservative administration has a clear mandate from this council and we are united in wanting to realise our Vision for 2030.

My commitment to the principles that underpin these strategies is unwavering:

- No one should be left behind
- We will take a fresh approach to working in partnership
- We will help people to help themselves and others
- We will involve and engage our residents more fully in the development of services

We are embarking on a journey of change, renewal and innovation, supported by our officer team, led by our excellent Chief Executive Joanna Killian. Joanna has ably started the work of transformation, but it's now time for elected members to play their part.

Our first objective must be to make Surrey financially sustainable once again. We need to reshape our services around the changing needs of our communities making them fit for purpose both now and in the years to come. To do this we will need to be creative and embrace new ideas to meet the aspirations of those we serve.

My commitment to you and to the people of Surrey that I will get the finances of this county in order can be clearly demonstrated from my decision to create a post of Cabinet Member for Finance, ensuring that sustainable budgets are central to our thinking. I am delighted that Mel Few has agreed to take on this new and important role.

Equally, to support me in delivering our plans, I am pleased to announce further changes to the Cabinet. Some of the roles have been revised, others refocused and new dedicated roles for Finance and Property have been introduced.

I have asked Colin Kemp to serve as my Deputy Leader. As shown by the last two holders of this post, it is an essential role and I am delighted Colin has agreed to take it on and work alongside me.

I would like to welcome Julie Iles, Sinead Mooney, Matt Furniss, Natalie Bramhall and Wyatt Ramsdale to the Cabinet. Can I also thank John Furey and Clare Curran both of whom have served this council with distinction for many years and who are stepping down from the Cabinet. Jeff Harris leaves to take on the Chairmanship of the Adult Social Care Select Committee.

Making this council fit for purpose again is not going to be easy. The officers have already been looking at how we can meet the needs and aspirations of our residents and the changes that will be required are an uncomfortable prospect for all of us. But it is now time for us in this chamber to take the responsibility bestowed upon us by our electorate and start to make the hard decisions that must be taken.

I wish there were an easy solution; We know that in an uncertain world Surrey residents look to us for certainty and continuity but budget pressures and changing expectations mean we cannot go on as before. Change is difficult for we walk a tightrope between respecting the past and adapting to the future where resources are even tighter.

Despite the pressures we face we must make our children's services outstanding. My administration will be looking at all measures available to achieve this under the direction of Mary Lewis, supported by our Director for Children's Services Dave Hill and his team, ensuring that we achieve the best possible outcomes for every child and family in Surrey.

We must provide early support to our ageing population to help them have a better quality of life for as long as possible. We must work to become a high performing council once again with the welfare of our residents at the very heart of this organisation.

We are committed to playing our part, but we cannot secure a successful future for our county on our own. We must continue to develop more effective relationships and partnerships that are open, proactive and productive. Perhaps in the past we have been too internally focussed – for all the right reasons- but this might have led

us to missing the outward view, scanning the horizon and anticipating the future on our resident's behalf.

We will be needing all the help our partners in the voluntary, charitable and faith sectors can give us and in turn we will look at how we can be better partners to them.

We need to ensure that alongside every essential decision we have to make, we are all satisfied that we have made every possible efficiency within our services, looked at every opportunity to generate money from our own assets or created new homes and investigated every possible avenue of winning new funding or using new ways of providing services with partners

Our residents as we well know often do not distinguish between Boroughs and Districts or us. We are all "Surrey" to our residents and we must work seamlessly together as we all look to fund our front-line services.

- They don't care who empties the bins as long as someone does.
- They don't care who repairs the roads as long as someone does.
- And they don't care who provides their loved ones with care as long as someone does.

When people need our help, they are often faced with being passed from pillar to post. That must end. We need to have people on our side but as long as such isolation and disjointed service delivery continues, they will not be. It is vital we have our residents' backing because it is them, we are here to serve and upon whom our future success relies.

We will forge a new working relationship with Central Government in which we work together. Whilst we must work to unlock funding and secure policy reforms that help us adapt to changing needs and pressures in our communities, I also want us to offer our support and assistance to them to find solutions to problems felt across society. We will work with them to bring national agencies together with us to help solve the issues we face around Health, Skills, Employment and Infrastructure needs in Surrey that we alone cannot solve, yet if achieved will enable us to do more for ourselves.

We will work closely with all the business across the county, large and small to support them in providing jobs, to make them an integral part of our communities and to make Surrey the place to do business.

We have disenchanted our residents and partners for far too long and understandably many have switched off. Without their involvement, policy decisions risk moving further away from the public's needs and wishes, and I will be dedicated to increasing positive engagement and involvement to prevent this. We need also to empower the public and give them a genuine role in the development of our communities. It is not right that any organisation should assume it is better placed than the public to decide the future shape of individual communities.

Mr Chairman, Surrey County Council needs to return to Surrey. For too long the emotional connection to a community has been taken for granted. For 50 years we have not been close enough to the residents we serve, and we all represent. I have therefore asked the officers to start the detailed planning for the relocation of the people in this building back in to the County of Surrey.

Natalie Bramhall will take the lead role in locating a suitable new home for us. I have asked her to make recommendations to this council within the next few months with an expectation that we will have vacated County Hall by the end of 2020. Our workforce deserves the best possible working environment to undertake their duties and that is simply not possible here at County Hall.

Indeed, it is important to recognise that despite the current challenges we face, SCC staff always distinguish themselves in their dedication to public service. More importantly they are committed to Surrey public service and, but for their dedication, we would face many more challenges today. It would be understandable if the changes they have experienced over recent years had left them demoralised. I want to say that under my leadership we will redouble our efforts to recognise their skills, develop their careers and ensure that they are part of our future success.

We are all rightfully proud of living in Surrey. Surrey is blessed with tremendous natural assets. We have thriving villages and towns. Booming businesses and a strong economy. An abundance of diversity and a rich culture. Glorious countryside with the Surrey Hills, a history of innovation and design from Brooklands in Weybridge to the University of Surrey.

We have so much to be proud of. It is essential that we protect the heritage and character of the County as well as creating more trust in SCC to lead our community. Each one of us is a guardian of this county for as long as our residents allow us to serve them. We have many challenges ahead, but we are not alone. Others are following a similar path and I am confident that we can learn from our peers in local government, draw on their experience and take our rightful place as one of the leading counties.

To the opposition I ask you to work with us as well as to challenge us and to this end we will begin an immediate review of the role of scrutiny as well as democratic governance. You need to be involved at an earlier stage of policy formation as all our residents' views are equally as important. But in return you must fully engage and not sit on the sidelines for you have a key role to play. We need to work together for a Surrey that we, and all our residents, can be proud of.

The bottom line is that we have a difficult task ahead of us, but we know what we have to do. It is now time for us to roll up our sleeves, stick to the job in hand and make sure we see it through. The current challenges are not all for SCC. They are challenges faced by our communities and, as such, the solutions must be designed together, with businesses, residents, staff, Members, other councils, voluntary, community and faith sectors. We are stronger together and we will secure a bright future for Surrey together.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we must have humility, an ability to look backwards and learn from our previous mistakes so we can adapt and ensure the future is brighter, that the future provides our residents with the services they need, and work together to ensure the services we deliver are of the highest possible quality.

We have a steep hill to climb but with a commitment by us, all of us, to shape services for the future, with the commitment of our partners to combine our collective strength and with the commitment of our residents to play their part we can, and will, succeed.

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