

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, KINGSTON UPON THAMES, KT1 2DN ON 13 NOVEMBER 2018 COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM, THE COUNCIL BEING CONSTITUTED AS FOLLOWS:

Tony Samuels (Chairman)
Helyn Clack (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		David Lee
	Ben Carasco		Mary Lewis
*	Bill Chapman		Andy MacLeod
	Stephen Cooksey		Ernest Mallett MBE
	Clare Curran		David Mansfield
	Nick Darby		Peter Martin
	Paul Deach		Jan Mason
	Graham Ellwood		Cameron McIntosh
	Jonathan Essex		Sinead Mooney
	Robert Evans		Charlotte Morley
	Tim Evans		Marsha Moseley
	Mel Few		Tina Mountain
	Will Forster		Bernie Muir
	John Furey		Mark Nuti
*	Matt Furniss		John O'Reilly
	Bob Gardner		Tim Oliver
	Mike Goodman		Andrew Povey
	Angela Goodwin		Wyatt Ramsdale
	David Goodwin		Mrs Penny Rivers
	Zully Grant-Duff		Stephen Spence
	Alison Griffiths		Lesley Steeds
	Ken Gulati		Peter Szanto
	Tim Hall		Keith Taylor
	Kay Hammond		Barbara Thomson
*	Richard Hampson		Rose Thorn
	David Harmer		Chris Townsend
	Jeffrey Harris		Denise Turner-Stewart
	Nick Harrison		Richard Walsh
*	Edward Hawkins		Hazel Watson
	Marisa Heath		Fiona White
	David Hodge CBE		Keith Witham
	Saj Hussain		Victoria Young

*absent

78/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies for absence were received from Bill Chapman, Matt Furniss, Richard Hampson, Edward Hawkins, Julie Iles and Rachael I Lake.

79/18 MINUTES [Item 2]

The minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 9 October 2018 were submitted, confirmed and signed.

80/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

The Chairman advised that he did not require Members to declare any significant personal interests that already appeared on their Registers of Interest. There were no declarations.

81/18 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS [Item 4]

The Chairman:

- Thanked the Members for attending Richard Wilson's funeral on 6 November 2018.
- Thanked those who attended the Act of Remembrance service on 9 November 2018.
- Informed Members that they would be receiving an invitation to submit a nomination for a volunteer who had made an outstanding contribution to their local area. Members were asked to nominate at least one individual each.

82/18 LEADER'S STATEMENT [Item 5]

The Leader made a detailed statement. A copy of the statement is attached as Appendix 1.

Members raised the following topics:

- Thanked the Leader for his leadership and service to the Council during his time as Leader of the Council.
- Highlighted that the next Leader would bring the opportunity for a new era and new ways of working.
- That they felt positive about the future.
- That it takes bravery and commitment to be the Leader of the Council.
- Wished the Leader a happy retirement.
- That the Leader's successor faced an extreme challenge and that the Council would require strong leadership.
- That the Leader received a CBE in 2017 for services to local government and charity.
- Highlighted the importance of flood prevention in the County.

83/18 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME [Item 6]

Notice of seven questions had been received. The questions and replies were published in a supplementary agenda on 12 November 2018.

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

(Q1) Mr Robert Evans highlighted that Central Government had announced that an additional £42m would be allocated to repair potholes in the country and asked the Leader of the Council to confirm how much of this would be used in Surrey.

Cllr Essex asked for details of the Council's contact with parliament to request fairer funding on Surrey's roads.

The Leader confirmed that the Council would be receiving an additional £7.4m to repair potholes on Surrey's roads. He further highlighted that he had written to Central Government numerous times to make Surrey's case for fairer funding.

(Q2) Mr Will Forster asked the Cabinet Member for Children if she would write to borough and district councils who had not yet taken action to take young care leavers out of council tax to promote and support the scheme. The Cabinet Member noted the schemes benefits to those transitioning to adulthood and confirmed that she was happy to take the request forward. The Cabinet Member went on to ask Members of the Council who also had responsibilities with borough and district councils to support the scheme in their council meetings.

(Q3) Mrs Hazel Watson asked the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport if he was aware of the wider issues relating to parking displacement due to the car parking changes implemented in the countryside estate. The Cabinet Member noted these concerns and highlighted that there was a process to follow for any concern of parking displacement. He asked that Members contact him direct to outline issues relating to car parking as they can be passed on the appropriate officer.

(Q4) Mrs Barbara Thomson asked the Cabinet Lead Member for People what role local and joint committees had to support the efforts outlined in the response. The Cabinet Member highlighted the key roles of local and joint committees as well as other partners, which included the Community Safety Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board. It was further noted that Surrey Police would be providing seminars for front line workers to highlight ongoing work to prevent serious and organised crime.

(Q6) Mrs Hazel Watson asked the Cabinet Lead Member for Place to confirm the location of the 14 sites outlined in the question response. The Cabinet Member informed the Member that details of the 14 sites could be found in the relevant Cabinet papers.

(Q7) Mr Robert Evans asked the Cabinet Member for Corporate Support if awarding contracts based on their value for money was in line with the Council's ethos and principles relating to Fairtrade. He further asked for confirmation on whether the products provided by Commercial Services were Fairtrade. The Cabinet Member noted the Members comments relating to value for money contracts and agreed to provide a response to the query relating to the use of Fairtrade produce by Commercial Services outside the meeting.

Cabinet Member Briefings: these were also published with the supplementary agenda on 12 November 2018.

Members made the following comments:

Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Prosperity: on the opportunity to fund tourism in the county to further develop the industry and increase its benefits for residents. The Cabinet Member highlighted that the University of Surrey had the third highest rated hospitality department in the world and informed Members that work was ongoing with the university to produce a mutual agreement for joint working. He further stated that discussions were ongoing with other progressive authorities to better understand the opportunities available.

Cabinet Lead Member for Place: on the Council's considerations to relocate its headquarters from Kingston upon Thames to a more central location in Surrey. The Cabinet Member stated that there were currently no formal plans and that work was ongoing to better understand the possible benefits of certain locations.

Members also raised concerns relating to the contracts available to mitigate flash flooding and its effects in the county.

Cabinet Member for Children: on the ongoing consultation relating to Children's Centres and the opportunity to schedule further drop-in sessions to increase consultations to better reflect the views of residents. The Cabinet Member agreed to speak to officers to discuss the opportunities available to increase engagement. It was further highlighted that the drop-in sessions also related to the consultations for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Library proposals.

Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning: on the transfer of £3.1m from a total £650m schools budget to support the £15m overspend on the High Needs SEND budget. The Cabinet Member highlighted that only schools entitled to additional funding would be affected by the decision and asked Members and School Governors to understand the rationale on why this was needed.

Cabinet Member for Adults: confirmed that the budget envelope for Adults had been red/amber/green rated in the financial strategy and stated that it would be shared with Members.

Cabinet Member for Community Services: on Trading Standards and the opportunities to broaden the ongoing work to prevent the scamming of residents.

84/18 STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS [Item 7]

There were none.

85/18 ORIGINAL MOTIONS [Item 8]

Item 8(i)

Under Standing Order 12.3 the Council agreed to debate this motion.
Under Standing Order 12.1 Mr David Hodge moved the motion, which was:

The Surrey Youth Cabinet forms an important voice, representing the interests of young people across Surrey.

SCC's Cabinet met recently, and we agreed a number of areas where we will work in greater partnership going forward, which I believe will add real benefit to this Council and how we will provide services to young people in future.

I seek the Council's endorsement that we should invite the Surrey Youth Cabinet to hold formal elections to elect a young person as the Youth Mayor for Surrey for a 12 month period.

Mr Hodge made the following points:

- Highlighted the need for more representatives of young people on the Council.
- That this was an opportunity for the Council to engage further with young people and show that it wants young people to be more involved with politics and the civil service.
- Recognised that details of funding and the agreed process would need to be assessed by officers and the appropriate select committee.
- That he expects the first elections to be held in May 2019.

The motion was formally seconded by Mr McIntosh who made the following points:

- That he fully supported the motion and felt it was a fantastic idea.
- The London Borough of Croydon had great success in the area.
- That it would bring more opportunities for young people.
- That the motion would be a force for good in the Council and that more young people were needed in local politics.

Mr Botten withdrew an amendment to the original motion in his name which was previously circulated in the supplementary agenda.

Nine Members made the following points:

- Showed support for more young people in local politics.
- Informed Members that the Surrey Youth Cabinet supported the motion.
- That many young people felt the biggest issues were around mental health and knife crime.
- That this motion would encourage Members to better identify with young people.
- Hoped that the motion would provide wider political engagement with young people.
- That all Council decisions should consider their impact on young people.
- That they were very impressed with the Youth Parliament.
- Young people can be very open and honest when consulted.

The Chairman asked Mr Hodge, as proposer of the original motion, to conclude the debate. He stated:

- That this was a unique opportunity to work with the Youth Cabinet.

- Young people faced new and different problems which needed to be represented.
- Members needed to be confident that they could work with the Youth Cabinet.

The motion was put to a vote and received unanimous support.

Therefore it was **RESOLVED** that:

The Council should invite the Surrey Youth Cabinet to hold formal elections to elect a young person as the Youth Mayor for Surrey for a 12 month period.

86/18 ORGANISATION STRATEGY, PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL STRATEGY, TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME, AND 'OUR PEOPLE' STRATEGY [Item 9]

The Leader of the Council introduced the report and provided Members with a brief summary of each strategy. He stated that the County Council faced huge financial challenge and that, although support had been received from residents, there were still cuts to funding. The strategies set out the transformation that was required to meet new challenges as well as showing how the Council would work with residents. It was noted that each strategy had been approved by Cabinet on 30 October 2018.

Members made the following comments:

- The strategies added depth to the Vision for Surrey.
- Changes needed to be made to continue providing services to residents.
- Felt that, in order to support the transformation, all parties should be represented on the Cabinet.
- Highlighted that the consultation with residents and partners was not yet over.
- Highlighted that there were no drop-in sessions in Farnham and that residents had to travel long distances to give their views.
- Asked that evidence be provided to reassure Members on the benefits of the changes outlined in the strategies.
- That the Council was dominated by cuts and a better partnership was needed with Central Government.
- Members needed to be better involved with the scrutiny of the transformation.
- Raised concern that the detail would not match the Council's actions.
- Felt that the strategies were premature and that Members required more detail to make a decision.
- Plans were in place for the Corporate Overview Select Committee Budget Sub-Group to scrutinise the budget in November 2018.
- Raised concern with the budget reductions in the Children's Service.
- The Council needed to put previous issues behind it to face new challenges.
- That Members had the opportunity to request further detail when attending Member seminars.
- A culture change was needed in the Council.
- Highlighted that only 4% of the organisation's workforce were under the age of 25.
- That a firm political opposition had a role to play in decision making.

- Partner organisations had limited resource to support the Council.
- Highlighted the benefit of further robust scrutiny.
- Thanked residents for completing the consultations.
- The Council needed to look at how to deliver services differently.
- It was hopeful that Members were looking at the budget earlier than usual.
- That the consultations would be taken forward in an open and transparent way.
- That more Members should sign up to receive training on scrutiny.

Recommendation A

55 Members voted for, 11 against and 2 abstentions.

Recommendation B

48 Members voted for, 17 against and 3 abstentions.

Recommendation C

49 Members voted for, 14 against and 6 abstentions.

Recommendation D

53 Members voted for, 12 against and 4 abstentions.

Recommendation E

Unanimous.

Recommendation F

Unanimous.

Therefore it was RESOLVED:

The Council:

- a) Approved the Surrey County Council Organisation Strategy 2019 – 2023 (Annex 1), which sets out how the council will work with residents and partners to contribute to the achievement of the Community Vision for Surrey in 2030. It sets out priority areas the Council will focus on over the next four years.
- b) Approved the Preliminary Financial Strategy (PFS) 2019 – 2024 (Annex 2 and Appendix 1), which sets out a draft balanced budget for 2019/20, without the use of reserves, subject to the outcome of consultation, engagement and equality impact assessments.
- c) Approved the Transformation Programme (Full Business Case, Annex 3) subject to the outcome of consultation, engagement and equality impact assessments. The programme will be delivered through six delivery themes: Service Transformation, Partnership and Integration,

New Ways of Working, Commissioning, Investment & Income and Technology and Digital Innovation.

- d) Approved the 'Our People 2021' strategy (Annex 4), which is the Council's plan for the current and future workforce and sets out how we will develop our capacity and capability to contribute to the Community Vision for Surrey in 2030, achieve our priority strategic outcomes for residents, ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the council, drive wholesale transformational change over the next few years and create a high performance culture.
- e) Noted the planned engagement and consultation activity (referenced in paragraphs 27 and 28) related to the savings proposals contained within the PFS and Transformation Programme. These have been initiated under the formerly agreed delegated authority of senior officers.
- f) Noted that the outcomes of the engagement and consultation activity will be brought back to Cabinet on 29 January 2019, where Cabinet will be asked to make recommendations to the Council meeting in February 2019 on the revenue and capital budget and the council tax precept for 2019/20.

87/18 REPORT FROM THE PLANNING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE ON REFERRED MOTION [Item 10]

Members noted the report.

88/18 REPORT OF THE CABINET [Item 11]

The Leader presented the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 30 October 2018.

Reports for Information/ Discussion

- A. Surrey Asset And Place Strategy

RESOLVED:

- a. That a programme budget of up to £500,000 be approved to enable the development of the strategy and the financial validation, as transformation expenditure to be funded from capital receipts flexibility. This figure includes a previous decision by Council to allocate £275k.
- b. That the report of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 30 October 2018 be adopted.

89/18 MINUTES OF CABINET MEETING [Item 12]

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: 1.02 pm]

Chairman

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Council Speech 13 November 2018

Mr Chairman and members,

Last week I advised my Conservative Colleagues that I will stand down as Leader of this County Council on 11 December 2018 and pass the baton on to someone new.

Over the last decade, Local Government has gone through some of the most extraordinary and challenging times. We have achieved a great deal over the past ten years despite these difficulties and I feel – with the county firmly fixed on an exciting new vision for the future – now is the right time for me to stand aside.

Mr Chairman, I want to reflect this morning on the many benefits we have delivered for Surrey.

When I became Deputy Leader in 2009 the country had just experienced the crash of financial markets across the World and the consequences of that crash quickly hit local government.

Since then, a staggering 16 billion pounds has been cut from local government funding nationally, with over two hundred and thirty million pounds of that funding taken from services for Surrey's residents.

On top of that, this Surrey Conservative administration has reduced costs by over £540m over the last 8 years and we are on target to save a further £106m this year. This is an extraordinary achievement.

But we kept going – thanks to the tough decisions we have made. Always having residents at the centre of our thinking.

It was clear to me back then that we needed to transform our services and reduce our costs. I launched a Public Value Review of every single department and service with terrific support from officers across the council. We found £287m of savings by doing things differently.

The lesson of the last ten years in local government is that while we have been focused on improving efficiency – preserving services, despite the increasing demands – our task has been made continuously more difficult for us by circumstances beyond our control.

In 2011 the Government decreed that the NHS should hand over responsibilities for severe learning disability services to local government. Surrey County Council received over 860 individual cases and NHS passed over the £65m of annual funding with promises of inflation funding to follow.

It is extremely disappointing that Government has not only failed to do that but has also completely eroded that funding so we no longer receive a single penny. It means the Surrey council tax payers have now been left to fund this vital service.

Similarly, the Government in 2013 decided to hand responsibility for public health back to councils, but the annual funding was immediately cut by more than fourteen million pounds.

It is difficult for anyone involved in local government to accept that despite:-

- Continually finding efficiencies and savings,
- Continually weathering cuts in funding,
- And continually facing increasing demands for children and adult services

That Councils are expected to carry on regardless while the health service is handed more and more funding.

In many ways we have been a victim of our own success!

Nonetheless, we have worked hard with the health service to bring health and social care closer together. We have seen the emergence of Surrey Heartlands, as a devolution partnership, but I remain concerned at the level of work and time commitment required to make a reality of a truly integrated system. I still have reservations about the tangible outcomes and whether this initiative really does support or reduce costs for Surrey Adult Social Care.

I totally support the principal of the Government's ten year funding plan for the NHS but there needs to be a concurrent ten year plan for Adult Social Care. Without it, the Health and Social Care system will be brought to a standstill.

The challenges we have faced since 2009 have not always been financial.

During December 2013 and January 2014 we witnessed some of the heaviest rainfall in Surrey which resulted in the flooding of many homes in the county. The devastation caused to homes in Surrey was the highest recorded in UK.

I must pay tribute to our previous Chief Executive David McNulty for his professionalism in handling this crisis and since then we have worked tirelessly with the Environment Agency to draw up a plan for much improved flood protection along the Thames. We now know that the scheme is nearly ready for sign off by HM Treasury but there is still a funding gap of £257m to resolve.

Despite these challenges there have been moments of great celebration.

In 2010, I was delighted to put Surrey forward as the site for the 2012 London Olympic Cycling events. They were a remarkable success thanks to all the hard work and commitment of so many at the county council. That Olympic legacy continues today with the annual London Surrey Cycling events which have raised considerable funds for national and local charities.

On 22 July 2013 the new Walton Bridge was opened between Walton and Shepperton. I must pay tribute to our previous Leader Nick Skellett, who was hugely instrumental in its delivery.

And then, Mr Chairman, there was the event in 2015 to commemorate the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta. Once again the county delivered an outstanding event in partnership with Runnymede Borough Council. The world's eyes were on Surrey that day and our Officers along with Surrey Police and Royal Holloway University delivered events we could all be rightly proud of. The Jurors Chairs will be a lasting legacy of this historic event.

In addition we will see the Eco Park open in the new year - providing the next generation of waste treatment facilities for Surrey households.

And we have rebuilt fire stations in Guildford, Woking, Salfords and a new one will soon open in Fordbridge.

Woking Fire Station was re-built with 31 flats above, I believe this is the future for all of our fire stations.

These flats can provide much-needed accommodation to key public servants and young people in order for them to have a place they can call home.

Over the last 10 years I have worked with Leaders and Chief Executives of our 11 Boroughs and District. I am grateful for their personal support. As we develop our Vision for Surrey 2030 I strongly believe they will play an important role in changing local government services for all our residents.

In addition, we have supported the work of two Local Enterprises Partnerships, Enterprise M3 and Coast to Capital. This work has seen investment of over £50m for the benefit of Surrey residents, including significant improvements to the Runnymede Roundabout, Meadows Gyratory and A22 network resilience scheme.

And meanwhile, our work to improve roads for our residents has continued. We launched Operation Horizon and today we can see the improvement it has made to many Surrey roads.

We have also lobbied hard for fairer funding of Surrey roads. This work will continue but I am pleased the Government has begun to listen to us and that the Chancellor announced extra money in the Budget for roads. We must continue to push for Surrey to get its fair share of Vehicle Excise Duty raised in Surrey to be spent on our county roads. That's what I call fairness.

To meet the financial challenges we have had to be resourceful and courageous. In 2012 this council made a brave and historic decision in not accepting the Government's offer of a Council Tax Freeze Grant – we went against the majority view in National and local government at that time – but that decision has led to an extra £250m since 2012 for us to support public services for Surrey's residents.

Mr Chairman, I have long felt that the solution to our financial pressures will **not** be found with government.

Yes, fair funding by government ministers can help us.

Yes, proper retention of business rates will make a difference.

But, at the end of the day, we must determine our own future.

That was the reason why in 2013, I launched the long-term investment strategy to create an income stream of up to £10m per year by 2020. And the Asset and Property Strategy agreed by Cabinet last month has the potential to raise an extra £25m a year by 2030.

These initiatives are vital when we have to resolve the financial implications of the huge rise in the number of children with special educational needs.

We, as Corporate Parents, cannot fail these “children in need” so we have set up plans to reform the services we offer to them and their families. We will be working with schools and the health service to deal with issues earlier on and closer to home. And Mr Chairman I look to all members of this council to be Champions for our “Children in need”.

But there is of course still more to do.

It was with deep regret that Surrey failed its Children Services Ofsted inspection in 2015. I can honestly say that I am now confident that with the appointment of Dave Hill, Surrey is now in the hands of a Children Services specialist and the changes he is making will bring better services for Surrey children.

But we will only be successful if we members and officers work more effectively with our partners and they with us. We cannot change the world on our own. Change will not happen overnight and we are still perhaps 2 to 3 years away from being where we should be.

Outside of Surrey, I was privileged to be elected to the chairmanship of the County Councils Network and then Leadership of the Conservative Group at the LGA. In those roles I was able to stand up and fight for change. Change which has benefitted people in Surrey and nationally.

I was able to persuade the government to:

- Implement the fair funding process before enacting the Business Rates reform, and
- Allow local authorities to raise the precept locally for Adult Social Care.

But first and foremost it has been my role at Surrey that has been my priority.

I am deeply thankful to everyone who has contributed and taken a role in my Cabinet over the years. We have faced difficult times and have made difficult decisions, but it has been a hugely enjoyable and satisfying role, working to make Surrey a better place.

In particular I am very grateful to my deputies. Peter Martin who was always ready with a quiet piece of advice and support, often we would debate issues before we aired them. He was a loyal and hardworking Deputy, and under his stewardship as military champion the County Council is one of the national leaders in its support and commitment to the military. In the last 18 months John has stepped into the role of Deputy Leader. I am grateful to you both.

I have no doubt that the new leader and their Cabinet will go from strength to strength with the support of a great senior management team and professional officers across Surrey. And I thank them all Officers for the support they have given me over the years.

Mr Chairman, I have been privileged to serve with so many hard working Conservative members of our Group since 2009 and win three elections. I thank them for their loyalty and dedication.

And of course thanks to the opposition leaders and members I have traded exchanges with over the years. The very cornerstone of democracy is the importance of different voices and challenge but in a respectful manner. Our political views may differ but the one thing that unites us all is our desire to do the very best for our residents.

And when a member assumes the role of Leader it is critical never to lose sight of your own division. I would like to say a genuine and sincere thank you to my District Councillors in the Warlingham Division for their loyal support over the years. And I am also indebted to the Parish Councillors and Parish Clerks who together do so much to improve the lives of local residents.

I must thank those we have worked in partnership with to bring services to our residents, particularly the wonderful voluntary, community and faith sector who have been integral during my time as Leader and are key to this council's future.

Ultimately it has been an honour to serve the residents of Surrey as Leader of the Council and I cannot think of any role that has brought me so much satisfaction – despite the hard work and challenges.

I firmly believe we have achieved great things in the face of adversity and I am delighted that we have secured the best possible senior management team led by a truly outstanding Chief Executive – Joanna Killian.

Together we have put the county on course to a brighter vision in 2030 and a transformation plan that will bring lasting benefit for our residents.

There is of course a positive side to standing down as Leader. I will genuinely be able to spend more time with my wife Anne – although she may not see this as positive!

Anne has been a real inspiration to me in this role. I have no doubt that without her support, her voice of wisdom, her reasoning and understanding this job would have been far more difficult. She is my rock and has always been there no matter what the issues or challenges.

As we move into the next chapter in the history of the County Council, I wanted to leave you with a simple proverb, which I believe is relevant to us all.

If you want to go fast, go alone... if you want to go far, go together.

I would like members, officers, and partners, all of us, to hold that proverb dear as we work towards a vision for Surrey in 2030.

Finally Mr Chairman and members, thank you for allowing me the privilege and honour of serving as Leader of Surrey County Council.

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