

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET  
HELD ON 26 MAY 2020 AT 2.00 PM  
AT REMOTE.**

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

Members:

|                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| *Mr Tim Oliver (Chairman)      | *Mrs Natalie Bramhall     |
| *Mr Colin Kemp (Vice-Chairman) | *Mrs Mary Lewis           |
| *Dr Zully Grant-Duff           | *Mrs Julie Iles           |
| *Mrs Sinead Mooney             | *Mr Matt Furniss          |
| *Mr Mel Few                    | *Ms Denise Turner-Stewart |

Deputy Cabinet Members:

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| *Mrs Becky Rush | *Miss Alison Griffiths |
| *Mr Mark Nuti   | *Miss Marisa Heath     |

\* = Present

Members in attendance:

Mr Chris Botten (Caterham Hill)

**PART ONE**  
**IN PUBLIC**

**68/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]**

There were none.

The Leader announced that Mr Mike Goodman had stood down from the Cabinet after serving seven years. He thanked Mr Goodman for his enormous contribution and the work he had undertaken on the Environment Strategy and Tree Strategy. Mrs Natalie Bramhall was to take on the slightly amended portfolio and all portfolio details could be found on the Council's website.

He also introduced and welcomed two new deputy Members, Miss Marisa Heath and Mrs Becky Rush, to the Cabinet.

**69/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 28 APRIL 2020 [Item 2]**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2020 were approved as a correct record.

**70/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]**

There were none.

**71/20 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 4a]**

There were none.

**72/20 PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 4b]**

There were none.

**73/20 PETITIONS [Item 4c]**

There were none.

**74/20 REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED ON REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE [Item 4d]**

There were none.

**75/20 REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES , TASK GROUPS, LOCAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL [Item 5]**

There was one report from Children, Families, Lifelong Learning & Culture Select Committee in relation to Item 9 - PRU Capital Strategy. The report was considered with that item.

**76/20 LEADER / DEPUTY LEADER / CABINET MEMBER/ STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST CABINET MEETING [Item 6]**

There were none.

**77/20 CABINET MEMBER UPDATES [Item 7]**

The Leader of the Council explained that the Council was starting to move forward with unlocking restrictions and that some services were re-opening such as the community recycling centres; details of materials taken and opening times were available on the Council's website. He spoke of the work being undertaken with businesses and borough & district councils with regards to putting in extra lanes for cycles and walking. He went on to speak of the excellent response from Surrey Heartlands and Surrey Fire & Rescue in dealing with issues and for helping the most vulnerable residents. He explained that the pandemic was not over yet and urged all to follow Government guidelines.

The Leader explained that this monthly agenda item was to receive an update from a Cabinet Member to highlight some of the work undertaken under their portfolio.

The Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning presented a portfolio update that detailed some of the work that had been undertaken to support our children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families throughout the unprecedented circumstances of the pandemic. The update was published as a supplement to the agenda.

**RESOLVED:**

The Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning portfolio update was noted.

## **78/20 COVID-19 UPDATE [Item 8a]**

The Leader introduced a report that set out the latest Public Health information about COVID-19, an update on the strategic and sensitive issues arising from the extensive response work and initial recovery planning going on across Surrey as the national and local situation developed rapidly. He pointed out that there were some good infographics on the Council's website that showed the scale of the work undertaken. There had been good partnership working with borough and district councils as well as the voluntary, community and faith sector. He thanked businesses and residents that responded to the callout for personal protective equipment with 1,500 offers of help and over 100,000 pieces donated. He recognised the health implications to staff of the lockdown and encouraged them to take advantage of the support available online.

The Leader went on to say that Surrey was one of 11 authorities that were working together to submit a local outbreak control plan to Government by the end of June 2020. There would also be a public facing local outbreak engagement board set up to engage with residents and borough councils as a forum for communication.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the following were noted:

1. the latest public health situation with regard to COVID-19 and the latest information regarding the government's Test and Trace programme,
2. the support being provided to the council's most vulnerable residents and the plans to ensure that this continued into the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic,
3. the updated assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on Surrey County Council's short and medium-term financial position, and
4. the council's response as an employer to support staff and to ensure appropriate guidance was followed to ensure safety in the workplace.

### **Reason for decision:**

The county and council continue to face unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 crisis. In addition to response activity, attention is turning to the re-starting, restoration and recovery of services and day-to-day life, as lockdown measures are eased nationally.

The recommendations set out in this report ensure Cabinet are appraised of the work going on across the council to protect, sustain and support our residents and communities and the economy of Surrey.

## **79/20 COVID-19 DELEGATED DECISIONS [Item 8b]**

The Leader gave a brief precis of decisions taken by officers and highlighted the adult social care providers support in which different financial arrangements had been made in order to keep services going. He also stated

that an order had been placed for £1.5m of personal protective equipment and the council would seek reimbursement from Government.

**RESOLVED:**

That the 15 decisions taken by officers as set out in the annex to the submitted report be noted.

**Reason for decision:**

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

**80/20 PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT (PRU) CAPITAL STRATEGY [Item 9]**

The Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning introduced a report that reported how existing Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) provision within Surrey was made up of eight providers (across Primary and Secondary phase and including hospital-based provision) delivered across 14 different sites within Surrey. All providers are rated Good or Outstanding as at March 2020. PRU was an integral part of education. The PRU estate in Surrey was no longer fit for purpose and did not meet the Department for Education minimum standards or best practice guidance for alternative provision. The proposed capital strategy underpinned the development of a revised delivery model for the education provision for pupils attending PRUs, enabling the Local Authority to meet the current need and projected future demand of some of our most vulnerable learners.

She went on to explain that the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning & Culture Select Committee (CFLL&C SC) had concluded that this was a long overdue investment in the estate.

In response to a Member query about how primary and secondary age groups were to be separated in the new development the Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning stated that the CFLL&C SC had also raised this question. She went on to explain that whilst there was no agreed plan the spaces would be designed that each year group could work separately and would be risk assessed.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the approach set out in the submitted report to provide appropriate Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) provision that adhered to the statutory requirements and accommodation guidelines for alternative provision to support our ambition for children and young people be noted.
2. That £1m to support the relocation of the Pewley Hill PRU be approved.
3. That £1m to carry out a feasibility study for long term accommodation requirements and inform a business case to be considered at Cabinet in the Autumn 2020 be approved.

**Reason for decision:**

The existing PRU estate was not fit for purpose and did not meet the needs of our most vulnerable learners. The recommendations sought to ensure that the PRU settings met the minimum Department for Education space standards, were informed by national guidance on alternative provision and were suitably located within communities to appropriately meet the needs of our vulnerable learners.

The recommendations would ensure urgent relocation of the Pewley Hill provision in the short term, (mitigating the poor condition of the current estate on the site), inform a business case to ensure that there were appropriate educational facilities in the long term, and address the wide range of pupil needs and flexibility required to manage fluctuations in pupil numbers throughout the year - including early intervention programmes to reduce exclusions.

**81/20 2019/20 FINANCIAL OUTTURN REPORT [Item 10]**

The Cabinet Member for Resources highlighted various aspects of this report stating that it was the third consecutive year without the need for the use of reserves and there was a small surplus at year end. He reported that 88% of efficiency savings had been achieved over the year and a total of £200m over three years. It was explained that COVID-19 happened after the year end but that £47m had been received for incremental rise in costs which was ongoing and being monitored.

The Leader stated that it was no mean feat to achieve a balanced budget and that the council was in a good position with flexibility in choices going forward.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Council's revenue and capital financial positions for the year be noted:
  - £0.2m surplus against the original 2019/20 budget that will be added to the General Fund Reserve;
  - Contributions to reserves adding £2.8m to General Fund Reserve (inclusive of the £0.2m surplus), as set out in paragraphs 13-14;
  - Use of £13m capital receipts in-year to support transformation (paragraphs 11-12); and
  - £117.2m service capital expenditure against £126.7m budget.
2. That the Council's newly created reserves for Children, Families, Lifelong Learning & Culture Inspection and System renewals (£1.2m) and COVID-19 Emergency Funding (£24.3m) (paragraphs 15-16) be approved.

**Reason for decision:**

Note this report is to comply with the agreed policy of providing a monthly budget monitoring report to Cabinet for approval of any necessary actions.

Meeting closed at 2.53 pm

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**Chairman**