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Agenda and Reports
for the meeting of
THE COUNTY COUNCIL
to be held on
16 MARCH 2021

(ii)

Woodhatch Place
Reigate
Surrey

Monday, 8 March 2021

TO THE MEMBERS OF SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO MEETING

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the Council to be held remotely via Microsoft Teams, on Tuesday, 16 March 2021, beginning at 10.00 am, for the purpose of transacting the business specified in the Agenda set out overleaf.

JOANNA KILLIAN
Chief Executive

Please note that due to the COVID-19 situation this meeting will take place remotely.

Please be aware that a link to view a live recording of the meeting will be available on the Council page on the Surrey County Council website.

This page can be accessed by following the link below:

<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=121&Year=0>

If you have any queries relating to accessing this agenda please email

amelia.christopher@surreycc.gov.uk

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman to report apologies for absence.

2 MINUTES

(Pages
11 - 44)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9 February 2021.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members present are required to declare, at this point in the meeting or as soon as possible thereafter

- (i) Any disclosable pecuniary interests and / or
- (ii) Other interests arising under the Code of Conduct in respect of any item(s) of business being considered at this meeting

NOTES:

- Members are reminded that they must not participate in any item where they have a disclosable pecuniary interest
- As well as an interest of the Member, this includes any interest, of which the Member is aware, that relates to the Member's spouse or civil partner (or any person with whom the Member is living as a spouse or civil partner)
- Members with a significant personal interest may participate in the discussion and vote on that matter unless that interest could be reasonably regarded as prejudicial.

4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome everyone to today's Council Meeting - I hope you and your loved ones are all safe and well.

Farewell and Thank You

Today is our final meeting of this Council Year 2020/21 as the next meeting will be our AGM in May, following the local elections, at which we will see many new faces.

A number of you have decided against standing for re-election so I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge and heartfelt 'thank you' for your tremendous service over the years. What a difference to Surrey and our residents you have made – perhaps none more so than during this last, extraordinary year.

I hope you all look back at your time with Surrey County Council with happiness and pride at all that you have achieved.

We would love you to keep in touch with us; please do pass your new contact details on to my office so that we can keep you informed of civic events and updates: chairmans.office@surreycc.gov.uk.

Thank you for your service and dedication - you will be much missed.

Brighter times ahead – we hope

After a rather difficult start to the year, things are certainly looking up and, as a country, we seem to be heading in the right direction. Our vaccination programme is running at pace and the number of cases in every district and borough is dropping.

Of course, we must not get complacent and take our foot off the pedal; it is vital that everyone continues to follow the rules. We know from the end of last year just how quickly things can turn.

We are nearly there - please stay strong to keep everyone safe.

5 LEADER'S STATEMENT

The Leader to make a statement.

There will be an opportunity for Members to ask questions and/or make comments.

6 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

1. The Leader of the Council or the appropriate Member of the Cabinet or the Chairman of a Committee to answer any questions on any matter relating to the powers and duties of the County Council, or which affects the county.

(Note: Notice of questions in respect of the above item on the agenda must be given in writing, preferably by e-mail, to Democratic Services by 12 noon on 10 March 2021).

2. Cabinet Member Briefings on their portfolios.

These will be circulated by email to all Members prior to the County Council meeting, together with the Members' questions and responses.

There will be an opportunity for Members to ask questions.

7 STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Any Member may make a statement at the meeting on a local issue of current or future concern.

(Note: Notice of statements must be given in writing, preferably by e-mail, to Democratic Services by 12 noon on Monday 15 March 2021).

8 ORIGINAL MOTIONS

Item 8 (i)

Dr Andrew Povey (Cranleigh & Ewhurst) to move under standing order 11 as follows:

This Council notes that:

Given the number of residents volunteering during the current pandemic, Surrey County Council will build on this and the previous Government's

work on the Big Society.

It further recognises the importance of encouraging the ongoing volunteering by residents in a range of activities of benefit to our communities.

The Council resolves to:

- I. Work with other public sector bodies to promote volunteering and its benefits.
- II. Work with the voluntary, community and faith organisations and employers as an element of our 'no-one left behind strategy' to encourage volunteering.
- III. Publicise the benefits of volunteering to the individual, society and our local communities.

Item 8 (ii)

Mr Robert Evans (Stanwell and Stanwell Moor) to move under standing order 11 as follows:

This Council notes that:

It formally places on record its sincere thanks to all those workers, directly and indirectly employed by Surrey for their extraordinary efforts during the current COVID-19 crisis.

From the Council's own dedicated employees to the hard-working teachers and other staff in schools, Surrey recognises that many people have worked very long hours, not just to continue their existing role but to diversify and innovate.

Health service staff are at the forefront of saving lives, but care home workers, the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and countless other people, including many community volunteers, are displaying remarkable courage in the face of great adversity and unforeseen challenges.

The Council resolves that:

- I. It hereby applauds and thanks each one for their remarkable contribution in this year of crisis.

Item 8 (iii)

Mr Matt Furniss (Shalford) to move under standing order 11 as follows:

This Council notes that:

Following the last Council meeting, I wrote to the Mayor of London on behalf of this Council to express our strong feelings against the proposed new Greater London Boundary Charge that would penalise Surrey and other counties' residents bordering London.

London is not an island and must take into consideration the impact on its neighbours. Surrey County Council and the Mayor of London need to work together to tackle congestion, to move toward net zero carbon and to enhance the prosperity of the region by working together.

However, it is clear from the response that Transport for London (TfL) is initially looking at a £3.50 daily charge, with a possible higher charge (£5.50) for the most polluting vehicles.

This charge would impact between 57,000 and 61,000 residents on a typical working day based on 2011 and 2019 data. Whilst this levy, as the Mayor's Office says, could be earmarked to support sustainable travel in boundary borough, there is no mention that this money would be invested in cross-border improvements.

Surrey residents and taxpayers have already bailed out London's TfL for the second time through the Government's generous settlements in 2020. Surrey and other bordering counties' residents should not have to bear extra financial penalties for the London Mayor's mismanagement of TfL's finances.

The Council resolves to:

- I. Oppose any Greater London Boundary Charge or charge on entering London to work that targets non-London residents.

Item 8 (iv)

Mr Will Forster (Woking South) to move under standing order 11 as follows:

This Council notes that:

The shift to Microsoft Teams meetings has enabled Council business to continue during the pandemic and that Members and staff have adapted admirably to this change in practice.

There are some definite advantages to holding remote meetings such as increased participation from the public and members and reduced road congestion and carbon emissions. It also saves the council money and enables those with caring responsibilities to attend when travelling a distance would have been an obstacle. It would therefore be beneficial to have the choice to continue to hold these remote meetings where appropriate, after the current temporary measures have lapsed.

Some Members may prefer meeting in person whilst acknowledging that remote meetings do have their place.

It is essential for Members to understand their obligations with regard to meeting attendance be it in person or online.

The Council resolves to:

- I. Write to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) urging that the temporary change to the

meeting rules set out in the Local Government Act 1972 be made permanent so that after May we have the flexibility to hold meetings remotely or in person or by using a combination of the two.

- II. Write to Surrey's Members of Parliament, as well as Surrey's Borough, District, Town and Parish Councils asking for support for this flexible approach to council meetings.
- III. Request that the members of the Audit and Governance Committee assess the pros and cons of holding remote/hybrid/in person meetings and make recommendations as appropriate to which Council/committee meetings must be held in person and which could continue to be held remotely.
- IV. Once our request is successful, to explore the use of technology to develop remote meetings in order to attract an even wider audience.

Item 8 (v)

Mr Chris Botten (Caterham Hill) to move under standing order 11 as follows:

This Council notes that:

The economy of Surrey relies significantly on workers from the European Union (EU) in the care and health sectors, in construction and hospitality and other areas vital to our communities.

EU nationals from the 27 EU member states are part of our shared communities alongside United Kingdom (UK) citizens. They are our husbands, wives, partners, parents, friends, neighbours and colleagues.

This Council further notes that:

Since 2016 EU nationals have been promised again and again that "there will be no change for EU citizens already lawfully resident in the UK and [they...] will be treated no less favourably than they are at present".

Home Office figures (as of Dec 2020) reveal that 4,800 people in Surrey are still waiting for a decision on their Settled Status application.

27,320 people in Surrey have only been granted temporary 'Pre-Settled Status'. That means a total of 32,120 applicants in Surrey have still not been given the permanent right to stay.

The Council resolves to:

- I. Recognise the valuable contribution EU citizens make to Surrey, acknowledging that they are an integral part of our community and without them the Council would struggle to deliver its services.
- II. Write to the Home Office and Surrey's Members of Parliament urging them to grant EU citizens living locally the automatic right to stay in the UK.

- 9 REVIEW OF SELECT COMMITTEE TASK GROUP LEAD ROLE -
REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL** (Pages
45 - 56)
- Council is invited to consider the Independent Remuneration Panel's report on the review of the Select Committee Task Group Role and the Panel's resulting recommendations.
- 10 ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL - MEMBER DEVELOPMENT** (Pages
57 - 62)
- This report provides an annual overview of the Council's approach to Member development, so that Members can be assured that the current approach is sufficient, equitable and effective.
- 11 CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES - REMOTE MEETINGS** (Pages
63 - 70)
- A report to consider arrangements for Council decision making post 7 May 2021 if regulations to hold remote meetings are not extended by that date or if new legislation is not in force.
- 12 REVISED COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT - AUDIT AND
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: REPORT OF THE MEMBER CODE OF
CONDUCT TASK GROUP** (Pages
71 - 88)
- That Council approves the Audit and Governance Committee's report of the Member Code of Conduct Task Group following revisions made since the report was last taken to Council on 9 February 2021.
- 13 REPORT OF THE CABINET** (Pages
89 - 92)
- To receive the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 23 February 2021.
- 14 MINUTES OF CABINET MEETINGS** (Pages
93 - 112)
- Any matters within the minutes of the Cabinet's meetings, and not otherwise brought to the Council's attention in the Cabinet's report, may be the subject of questions and statements by Members upon notice being given to Democratic Services by 12 noon on Monday 15 March 2021.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY
ON MICROSOFT TEAMS ON 9 FEBRUARY 2021 COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM,
THE COUNCIL BEING CONSTITUTED AS FOLLOWS:**

Tony Samuels (Chairman)
Helyn Clack (Vice-Chairman)

Mary Angell	Naz Islam
Ayesha Azad	Colin Kemp
Nikki Barton	Eber Kington
John Beckett	Graham Knight
Mike Bennison	Rachael I Lake
Amanda Boote	Yvonna Lay
Chris Botten	* David Lee
Liz Bowes	Mary Lewis
Natalie Bramhall	Andy MacLeod
Mark Brett-Warburton	Ernest Mallett MBE
Ben Carasco	David Mansfield
* Bill Chapman	Peter Martin
Stephen Cooksey	Jan Mason
Clare Curran	Cameron McIntosh
Nick Darby	Sinead Mooney
Paul Deach	Charlotte Morley
Jonathan Essex	Marsha Moseley
Robert Evans	Tina Mountain
Tim Evans	Bernie Muir
Mel Few	Mark Nuti
Will Forster	John O'Reilly
John Furey	Tim Oliver
Matt Furniss	Andrew Povey
Bob Gardner	Wyatt Ramsdale
Mike Goodman	Penny Rivers
Angela Goodwin	Becky Rush
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
David Harmer	Chris Townsend
Jeffrey Harris	Denise Turner-Stewart
Nick Harrison	Richard Walsh
Edward Hawkins	Hazel Watson
Marisa Heath	Fiona White
Saj Hussain	Keith Witham
Julie Iles OBE	Victoria Young

*absent

1/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [ITEM 1]

Apologies were received from Dr Chapman and Mr Lee.

2/21 MINUTES [ITEM 2]

The minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 8 December 2020 were submitted and confirmed.

3/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [ITEM 3]

Dr Andrew Povey declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was a trustee for the Surrey Hills Society.

Rachael I Lake declared a non-pecuniary interest noting that her son was an employee of Surrey County Council.

Mrs Clare Curran declared a personal interest in item 5 (2021/22 Final Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2025/26) as a director of Surrey Choices.

Mr Nick Darby declared a non-pecuniary interest noting that his daughter was an employee of Surrey County Council.

Mr Jeff Harris declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was an elected Member director of one of the Council's own Local Authority Trading Companies called Hendeca.

Mr Keith Witham declared a non-pecuniary interest as his step-daughter was an employee of Surrey County Council in the Finance department.

4/21 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS [ITEM 4]

The Chairman:

- Highlighted to Members that the Chairman's Announcements were located in the agenda front sheet, including the Queen's Surrey New Year Honours 2021 list.

5/21 2021/22 FINAL BUDGET AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY TO 2025/26 [ITEM 5]

The Leader presented the 2021/22 Final Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2025/26 and made a statement in support of the proposed budget. A copy of the Leader's statement is attached as Appendix A.

Each of the Minority Group Leaders (Mr Darby and Mr Botten) were invited to speak on the budget proposals.

Key points made by Mr Darby were that:

- Noted the background of the budget including the fact that the Government's Spending Review 2020 was for one year only, there was no Fairer Funding Review, there were mixed messages about Covid-19 funding and its adequacy for local authorities, Adult Social Care (ASC)

funding proposals were still missing, there was an acknowledgement that mental health issues were increasing - spend per head in Surrey was among the lowest in the country - there was press speculation about the changes to Council Tax and Stamp Duty Land Tax and that there was no evidence of dealing with extra funding by adding more top tier Council Tax bands to ensure greater fairness which he had recommended.

- That for the first time the funding for the Council's 2021/22 final budget totalled over £1,003.6 million, with over £1 million daily for ASC and £500,000 daily for Children's Services; noting the 2.49% increase in Council Tax but anticipated the possibility of a 4.49% increase next year above inflation.
- Welcomed that the budget balanced without the use of reserves, which had been achieved despite the pressures of pay increases, inflation and increased demand particularly in ASC and Children's Services; but noted the use of efficiencies or cuts in recent years such as to youth centres and Sure Start Children's Centres.
- Noted that the need to make efficiency savings highlighted the Council's past inefficiencies as demonstrated in the Council's failed value for money test in its previous annual audit.
- In reference to the Council's continued focus on a strength-based approach, noted misgivings as how that was applied to care packages and that the market management of care home places implied significant cost reductions despite a time of increased demand.
- Highlighted failed inspections concerning Children's Services and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Youth Offending Services, Surrey Fire and Rescue Services (SFRS), the ambulance service and the need to take the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) contract back in-house.
- That it was difficult to tell residents that the Council was making necessary organisational savings as more senior officers earning £100,000 a year were added to the payroll, raising the total from nine to twenty-six.
- That reputation was equally important as the Council's finances, questioned the Council's reputation for providing decent services, being prudent with residents' money and being a can-do organisation.
- Noted major concern over the Council's commercial property investments, noting that the costly property review undertaken two years ago achieved little and the property joint venture with Places for People had achieved nothing.
- That the Council had spent £50 million on Woodhatch Place - with a further £90,000 for the Woodhatch travel plan to fund the necessary green arrangements - and £17 million for the Dakota building in Brooklands, the receipts on the sale of County Hall would not meet those costs and so borrowing costs would increase and there was no guarantee of the planned £3 million in annual savings as a result of the move.
- Noted the wasted costs for the past intended office purchase in Woking and the wasted cost for the Council's intended bid for unitary authority status - together reaching more than £500,000, hoped that there was not a contingency in the budget for a renewed attempt at the latter.
- Welcomed the spending on extra care homes with the promise for a better quality of life at a reduced cost, as well as the spending for Looked After Children and SFRS, the planned spending on flood defences, buses to assist the Council's climate change ambition, to address the

highway maintenance backlog and building repair - although the latter was a belated attempt to redress years of neglect.

- That for any overall increase in spend on highways, the preference was for an increase in Member allocations for their division; the £1.1 million intended increase in borrowing from the total of £35 million a year in 2020/21 would rise to £74 million a year in five years, placing pressure on other services.
- That there remained confusion on whether the Council was facilitating the planting of 1.2 million trees by 2030 or was paying and planting those itself.
- That the revenue loss for keeping libraries closed may need to come from contingency sums or from the Government as a legitimate Covid-19 cost.
- That over the next four years there was a planned further £178 million reduction needed in the Council's finances or £290 million including identified efficiencies, implying a huge rise in future Council Tax.
- Thanked officers for their work and the Council's work to stabilise the finances, welcoming some proposals but noted that there were too many issues, past failures and likely future issues so could not recommend the budget.
- Thanked Council staff and colleagues in other organisations for their continued immense work to keep Surrey safe throughout the pandemic.

Key points made by Mr Botten were that:

- Despite the difficult times during the pandemic, he welcomed the Leader's comments made about partnership working as well as the inspiring work undertaken by officers and the Communications team.
- Praised the leadership of the Council's Public Health team which had been outstanding.
- Commended the huge progression that the Council had made to get the budget back on track from the troubling position four years ago, thanking the work of talented officers, although noted the previous CIPFA report and that the Council should never have been in that negative position in the first place.
- Noted that challenging times lay ahead with the upcoming 2021 United Kingdom local elections and that it would be difficult to engage with residents fairly in the run up to it.
- Stressed the importance of the Council understanding the relationship and gap between the strategic impression that the budget would create and the impact on the frontline to households - such as flood prevention work.
- That all budgets were about making political choices, noting that a major section of previous budgets had been the delivery of extra care housing and the resolution of the Council's property portfolio.
- Noted disappointment over recurring delays in Council's property portfolio such as the empty properties across the county, with wasted resources in the Places for People property joint venture as work on fifteen sites that began in 2019 had been undelivered.
- Welcomed the Leader's relocation of the Council's civic heart to Woodhatch Place, noting that the Council could deliver property transformation when it put its mind to it and that skill and momentum needed to be transferred into its broader property portfolio.

- Noted the successes in the Transformation Programme but that it was also a way of generating efficiencies such as through the imaginative use of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block in SEND to offset the need to use reserves, despite the future impact on families and schools.
- Noted concern over possible future hidden charges, noting point 31 in the Equality Impact Assessment of 'An efficiency proposal for on street parking charges' and point 34 'We are also considering options for introducing charging for some of our processes within Children's Services'.
- Noted concerns that the budget for the Family Resilience delivered £0.2 million in savings despite the significant impact of Covid-19 on children's mental health, that Corporate Parenting received no apparent uplift despite the increasing number of care placements required, that SFRS was required to make £500,000 in efficiencies despite the investment in infrastructure; and that ASC needed to deliver £12 million in efficiencies despite the crisis in independent care homes and the fragile care market.
- Noted that the Council's phasing of the ASC precept was wise and shared the Leader's concern that the Government needed to ensure long-term and sustainable ASC funding.
- That the budget was silent on preparations for further bids for unitary authority status, noting the £250,000 in wasted costs for the previous intended bid and the damage to its relationship with the district and borough councils, as joint working had been and would be essential post pandemic.
- Welcomed the focus on public sector reform through the work on the integration of health and social care.
- Recognised progress made on the budget but did not yet recognise victory.

Mr Chris Botten moved an amendment, presenting an alternative budget proposal (included in the supplementary agenda) with amended budget recommendations, which was formally seconded by Mr Will Forster. This was:

(amended wording in bold and underlined)

2. That it is the view of the Executive Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer), that the level of reserves is adequate to meet the Council's needs for 2021/22. These reserves include the following amounts, (totalling ~~£91.9m~~ **£91.5m**) set aside specifically to provide financial resilience:
 - a General Fund Balance of £24.2m;
 - a budget contingency of ~~£20.4m~~ **£20.0m** with an estimated £33.4m brought forward;
 - a specific contingency for the impact of Covid-19 of £4.9m; and
 - a provision of £9m to meet risks in delivering the Dedicated Schools Grant – High Needs Block cost containment plan.
14. The total ~~£1.905~~ **£1.931** billion proposed five-year Capital Programme (comprising ~~£1,026.2m~~ **£1,052.3m** of budget and £879.2m pipeline) and approves the ~~£484.9~~ **£187.8** million capital budget in 2021/22 (Annex C).

In support of his amendment, Mr Botten made the following points:

- That the Council needed to spend more money on road safety.
- Noted the negative experiences had on the Local Committee which was a constant fight for highways schemes and subsequent rebuttals which was the fault of the system and its 'say no' culture.
- That alternative ways of funding had to be sought such as going to the parish council for a speed sign or a feasibility study for further road safety schemes.
- That the amendment should help address those problems concerning the funding of road safety schemes, there needed to be a serious culture change in Local Committees towards a positive approach addressing residents' petitions on road safety as one example.

As seconder to the amendment, Mr Foster made the following points:

- That the budget as unamended was unacceptable as it makes far too few road safety and transport improvements.
- That Local and Joint Committees received requests and petitions for road safety improvements yet the Council was unable and unwilling to take those on.
- That the Council's Your Fund Surrey allocation was meant to be for residents to lodge requests for community projects but instead it had requests for the Council to invest in statutory services like transport improvements such as cycle facilities and zebra crossings, as the Council was not providing those.
- Recognised that the Cabinet had made a modification to the budget which took on board some of the amendment's criticism concerning the lack of highways investment, which the Leader noted in his statement for the Council to commit to more spending on local transport projects.
- Urged Members to support the amendment so the Council could deliver further road safety measures that residents requested.

Twelve Members spoke on the amendment, making the following points:

- Noted disappointment in the last-minute amendment, drawing Members' attention to the email sent last Friday as Cabinet Member for Highways which set out the significant additional money already provided to Local and Joint Committees.
- Noted that increases in the capital programme within the budget would pick up a lot of local schemes and the Surrey Infrastructure Programme and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) would deliver road safety in a holistic way rather than the amendment's narrow focus.
- That over the last few years the Council had allocated an annual capital budget of £200,000 for road safety improvements and in a typical year around twenty road safety highways improvements were implemented.
- That current highways monitoring had shown an average reduction of 30-40% in the number of injury road collisions at the treated site and there were over six hundred vehicle activated signs in Surrey noting warnings to drivers including hazards and speed limits, that amount was more than any other county.
- That in addition to the central pot of money for road safety improvement, the Local Committees were allocated additional money - totalling £13

million over the next three years - for highways improvements in which Members could use them as they wished in conjunction with the scoring matrix.

- That extra officers and the job creation element outlined in the amendment were not needed as there was sufficient capacity within Surrey Highways to deliver the highways priorities.
- That in addition to the highways safety improvement, the Council worked closely with Surrey Police on a comprehensive speed management strategy which ensured that speeding hot spots were carefully investigated and there were over ten average speed camera systems in Surrey - which was more than any other local authority in South East England - recent schemes included the A320 St Peter's way in Chertsey and the A31 near Hog's Back in Guildford.
- That some Local and Joint Committees were in need of a culture change, the Council did have a can-do attitude and was committed to keeping residents safe; noting that cycle training was provided to schools to around 16,000 young people in a typical year as well as pedestrian training, there were fifty school crossings near primary schools and around 12,000 young people annually took part in the Safe Drive Stay Alive Programme and there were thirty road safety outside school assessments.
- Noted that vehicle activated signs were funded through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), using local money for local solutions and working with officers, residents and Local and Joint Committee chairmen was the best way.
- Agreed with the direction of travel of the amendment regarding highways safety, however noted that work was already underway as highlighted by the Cabinet Member for Highways and he noted a recent meeting with Surrey Police concerning the Drive SMART programme.
- That Members set the budget and its outcomes, whilst officers put in place what was needed to deliver those.
- That the select committee system provided a constructive arena to scrutinise amendments in detail as opposed to the last-minute amendment to Council.
- Noted the additional funding that was already in the proposed budget which would enable Local Committees to advance locally identified schemes through leveraging CIL funding and so more officers were not needed.
- That at the recent informal Tandridge Local Committee the proposed budget was discussed including that as part of the budget setting process Local Committees across Surrey were being reviewed and extra funding provided.
- Commented on the financial structure of proposal noting that the amendment proposed an expansion of the capital programme and use of the contingency reserves to fund the revenue element.
- That the amendment's proposed increased capital borrowing of £26 million amounted to a total cost of £40.7 million over the forty years assuming a lifetime interest rate of 1.5% to the Council.
- That the contingency reserves was key to sustainable financial resilience to mitigate future risk and deal with unexpected pressures as local authorities in accordance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, were required to have an adequate level of reserves and so it was not prudent to erode that reserve level.
- Could not support the amendment which relied on contingency reserves and had not gone through the select committee scrutiny process as the

proposed budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) had gone through countless challenge and scrutiny to ensure that it was affordable and financially resilient.

- Noted that although Cabinet had approved the report formally closing down the Council's successful finance improvement programme last June, the Council must not deter from the need to continually grow its financial resilience and sustainability.
- That the amendment was a backwards step, it was not innovative and that it was not time for superfluous spending on building a new team when the Council had made progress towards a balanced and efficient budget through its Transformation Programme to face upcoming challenges.
- That at times Local Committees could be frustrating especially for residents, the amendment would not change that but looking at policies and procedures would.
- Thanked the Cabinet Member for Highways for the additional money that Local and Joint Committees would receive for next year's highways funding, the budget needed to be balanced and the amendment posed a problem for the finances of other services.
- That extra money for road safety if available was welcomed and how it was spent was vital such as addressing insufficient funding for feasibility studies and delays to CIL boards which were problems faced by Local Committees.
- Provided a local example of why the amendment should be passed as that extra money should be available for road safety schemes so that in one case a school could stop paying for a crossing attendant if a road crossing was upgraded.
- That Local Committees had a shared budget and each Member had an allocated amount for highways to be spent how they chose noting an example of funding for dropped pavements for disabled people.
- That it was a concern when a local borough council had not been supportive of when its Local Committee put in bids for CIL funding.
- Praised the work of a local borough council highways team and thanked the Cabinet Member for Highways for his local visits and assistance with making improvements to traffic flows and highways with support also from the Local Committee.
- That all Members could provide examples of local initiatives where money could be spent on road safety improvements and highlighted that it was a question of priorities and balancing existing funding, Local Committees had more funding available to them than ever before.

The Leader of the Council spoke on the amendment, making the following points:

- Noted disappointment that the amendment was not raised through the select committee system in order to give it proper consideration and scrutiny.
- The Council was investing in road safety putting more money into highways than it had done before and the budget had to balance with competing demands.

The Chairman asked Mr Botten, as proposer of the amendment to conclude the debate:

- Refuted the disingenuous statements made against the amendment, pointing out that trying to change the budget through the select committee system was difficult and would welcome a discussion with the Leader on the practicalities of having a genuine debate and facilitating cross-party support.
- That the amendment was not last-minute, noting that it was not a coincidence when that in response to it being submitted, the Cabinet Member for Highways sent out an email noting what extra investment the Council was making on roads.
- That it was well-constructed through officer advice who recommended the purchase of officer time.
- That the amendment was not an attempt at political grandstanding as it had been a continuous issue of concern, it was a genuine attempt to try to force change of policy to make it easier for Members to influence local decisions around road safety and other matters, it was an attempt to improve matters for Surrey residents.

The amendment was put to the vote with 13 Members voting For, 59 voting Against and 6 Abstentions.

Therefore the amendment was lost.

Returning to the to the original budget proposal and recommendations as published in the agenda:

Mr Jonathan Essex moved an amendment, presenting an alternative budget proposal (included in the supplementary agenda) with amended budget recommendations, which was formally seconded by Mr Robert Evans. This was:

(amended wording in bold and underlined)

2. That it is the view of the Executive Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer), that the level of reserves is adequate to meet the Council's needs for 2021/22. These reserves include the following amounts, (totalling ~~£91.9m~~ **£91.3m**) set aside specifically to provide financial resilience:
 - a General Fund Balance of £24.2m;
 - a budget contingency of ~~£20.4m~~ **£19.8m** with an estimated £33.4m brought forward;
 - a specific contingency for the impact of Covid-19 of £4.9m; and
 - a provision of £9m to meet risks in delivering the Dedicated Schools Grant – High Needs Block cost containment plan.
14. The total ~~£1.905~~ **£1.917** billion proposed five-year Capital Programme (comprising ~~£1,026.2m~~ **£1,026.8m** of budget and ~~£879.2m~~ **£890.5m** pipeline) and approves the ~~£184.9~~ **£185.0** million capital budget in 2021/22 (Annex C).

In support of his amendment, Mr Essex made the following points:

- Thanked officers for their help with the finances of the amendment.
- Noted that it called on the Council to match its scale of ambition in property investment with scaling up its efforts to further decarbonise Surrey through the proposed Surrey Decarbonisation Fund linking in the rest of the public sector including schools, NHS Trusts and its businesses as well as residents to inspire them to join the Council in tackling the biggest challenge of our lifetime.
- That it contained three modest transport proposals concerning the full electrification of the Council's vehicle fleet, the employment of dedicated cycle route planners and for more road safety and school travel officers to ensure safe routes to schools and support for twenty miles per hour low speed and traffic neighbourhoods across Surrey.
- That the building proposals included the need for the Council to escalate its ambition to retrofit all of its own buildings quickly through a four-fold increase in the revolving fund budget; and called for an energy retrofit and renewable energy in all of Surrey's approximately four hundred schools to line up the contracts and procurement needed within thirty months.
- That there were many other areas of funding that could be changed in the budget but that none of those should overshadow the opportunity for the Council and county to rapidly reduce its environmental impact and do so in ways that leaves no one behind, acting as a beacon for transformation in climate change.

The amendment was formally seconded by Mr Robert Evans, who reserved the right to speak.

Mr John O'Reilly moved a proposal, which was formally seconded by Mr Saj Hussain. The proposal was as follows:

That Mr Essex's alternative budget proposal with amended budget recommendations be referred to the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee for consideration.

In speaking to his proposal Mr John O'Reilly:

- Commended the proposer of the amendment as a dynamic member of the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee.
- Agreed with previous speakers that analysing budget proposals via the select committee system needed to be improved, although it provided a better opportunity to dedicate time and scrutinise proposals in more detail than was possible at the Council meeting.
- That £105 million of capital pipeline funding as discussed by the Cabinet was not fully itemised, money was available to be allocated.

Nine Members made the following points on Mr O'Reilly's proposal:

- Supported the proposal and elaborated on the £105 million of capital pipeline funding which was available for the Greener Future Programme, noting that it sat within the larger pipeline of £779 million.
- That the £105 million was for placeholders or indicative amounts for projects that had not yet been fully worked up and for viable projects to

come forward, including £12 million for LCWIPs, £5 million for the Council's renewable energy installation, £2.5 million for the revolving zero carbon investment fund.

- Questioned the mechanism for the carbon reduction in schools, where the investment would be going in and the schools would receive the benefit of that.
- That it was not prudent to use contingent reserve for the budget proposals.
- Agreed that schools could be a beacon for our communities concerning energy savings, however as the savings would fall within schools' own delegated budgets the Council would need to look at reaching an agreement with each school which could not be considered today and so favoured the referral to the Select Committee.
- That in approving the Mr Essex's amendment it would then automatically have to be as a modification to the budget proposal and so would have to be referred back to the Cabinet and so instead supported the amendment to refer it directly to the Select Committee.
- Supported the proposal to refer the issues within the amendment to the Select Committee as it was important that it was looked at alongside the Council's current schemes and funding in a holistic way with an extra £500,000 added to the cycle training programme for young people, £50 million for electric and hydrogen buses, the LCWIPs programme in Reigate and Banstead would be extended to Elmbridge, Runnymede and Spelthorne, the Government's Active Travel Fund and an extra one hundred schemes that Council planned on funding through the increased highways budget.
- That there was nothing wrong with the amendment which had been backed up by officers and so it should be supported, it was unnecessary and problematic that the debates on motions and amendments at Council followed political party lines.
- Was supportive of both the amendment and the proposal to refer it to the Select Committee which would consider the matter in detail noting its leading role on climate change through the Surrey's Greener Future Task Group, so long as it was not an attempt to kick the can down the road.
- Noted that it was a shame that the proposer of the amendment did not engage with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change or followed due process to take the budget proposals to the Select Committee for consideration.
- The amendment as it was presented was confusing such as in relation to figures on electric vehicles. The Select Committee would be able to fully explore and challenge the issues raised in more detail and so supported its referral.
- That the amendment was complex and so supported the referral to the Select Committee as question could be asked and discussed in conjunction with officers and Cabinet Members.

As seconder to Mr Essex's amendment, Mr R Evans made the following points:

- Hoped that the proposal to refer the issues within the amendment to the Select Committee was not about taking the budget proposals apart but would ensure serious consideration and give it the credit it deserved.
- Echoed that Leader's statement where he referred to doing what was most important for residents and the budget amendment was in line with

residents' concerns and priorities such as safer roads and cycle routes and parents wanted safer and less congested school routes.

- That the amendment was well planned and properly costed with positive officer input.
- That the amendment puts Surrey at the forefront on decarbonisation which would be a Government priority in the months and years ahead.

The Leader of the Council spoke on Mr Essex's amendment, making the following points:

- Agreed with a previous comment on the Council's debates going down party political lines and that was exactly why such proposals should be debated at the cross-party Select Committee in more detail.
- Reminded Members that over ten percent of the Council's budget or £105 million capital pipeline funding was allocated for the Greener Future Programme which provided an opportunity for such proposals once fully discussed through the select committee route with recommendations to Cabinet.

The Chairman asked Mr Essex, as proposer of the amendment to conclude the debate:

- Thanked all for the positive responses and anticipated that the budget proposals would be referred to the Select Committee for due consideration.
- Noted that going forward the planned discussion on the climate action plan and £105 million capital pipeline would provide a timely opportunity to consider the budget proposals going forward.
- Clarified that the price on the figures concerning electric vehicles came directly the Council's Highways department, noting that figures were less good as discounts were available for personal purchase of a car.
- That non-maintained schools typically operated by academies or the diocese were no longer recognised on the Council's balance due to long-lease arrangements, so did not have an incentive to invest in renewable energy despite eligibility to go to the Government for the Salix fund low interest loans.

The Chairman then requested that the amendment be put to a vote and that Members were to vote either for the amendment or against the amendment but on the understanding that the issues would be referred to the relevant select committee to consider.

The amendment was put to the vote with 15 Members voting For, 62 voting Against and 1 Abstention.

Therefore the amendment was lost and would be referred to the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee.

Returning to the original budget proposal and recommendations as published in the agenda, Fourteen Members spoke on it:

- Thanked the leader for his clear position on what the budget set out to achieve, praising the progress of the Council's Transformation

Programme and delivery of £75 million a year in efficiencies creating better and more accessible services for residents.

- Refuted the notion that there was not enough money for the Family Resilience and Corporate Parenting transformation programmes. The Council had in the past been a high spender on children's social care with poor outcomes. The capital budget sought to reverse that by supporting families through greater early intervention and providing more social care places to children including SEND children which would help keep children safe within their family.
- Refuted the alleged secret section of the budget with hidden charges in point 34 in the Equality Impact Assessment as there were key lines of enquiry for 2021/22 opportunities for finding a range of different options of where the Council would meet its efficiency targets and less than 2.5% of the Council's total efficiencies target was about charging - the Council sought to reduce the number of Section 20 agreements of the Children Act 1989, noting the small possibility of charging for bed and board.
- That coronavirus provided a large uncertainty to the budget, that although the Government had provided immediate help, the knock-on effects to residents and society from the financial strain would be long felt.
- Positively noted the balanced budget including contingency funding and reserves that had been built up over the last two years.
- That it was the quality of the £41 million budget reductions and whether they were deliverable that mattered as in relation to the Red-Amber-Green (RAG) ratings only £2 million were rated green and £12mn were rated red; the majority of reductions was not from the transformation programmes as £26 million was from policy approaches or operational savings.
- Noted that ASC was an area of concern, although the Council had been successful in making savings through strength based commissioning, it was doubtful that a further £4.4 million could be made in relation to care packages and care home charges and was worrying that there were cuts in mental health.
- Noted that Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture was an area of concern as of the £21 million of savings identified over half were rated as red. The £7.6 million of pressures due to the expected impact of Covid-19 on Looked After Children would be offset through savings using work spreading and an increased staff vacancy factor which was unacceptable.
- Noted that the £3 million in savings in SEND transport was a concern as well as the £9 million in reserve for cost containment within SEND which was a challenge for the future.
- That last year's budget and the 2021/22 budget combined were increasing Council Tax by 6.5% or three times the rate of inflation which the Council should bear in mind when it considered its residents.
- That it was challenging to deliver SEND services within the DSG High Needs Block as it was a demand led service and the Council had a statutory obligation to deliver those services so had to contributed money to an offsetting reserve - with financial pressure to be reduced via the transformation programme.
- As opposed to the use of reserves and earmarked savings, early intervention was key so that problems could be addressed before they affected statutory Education, Health and Care Plan; noting the Council's

Early Intervention Funding which had provided over two hundred and fifty mainstream schools and settings with funding for early support for over six hundred children.

- That a Learners Single Point of Access (L-SPA) had been set up in which parents and school professionals could ring five days a week to get access to early intervention and since July 2020 there had been four thousand callers.
- That all education settings had access to the graduated response team as well as access to professional expertise through the special needs coordinators at schools alongside early years advisers.
- Noting the early intervention initiatives above, refuted the suggestion of failed inspections of SEND services as the opposite was true. In the 2016 inspection there were five areas to improve, a revisit by Department for Education and NHS colleagues in May 2019 left one area of focus and that was about improving the rates of absence and the exclusion of children with SEND in our mainstream schools. The Department for Education and the NHS signed off on progress against the Accelerated Programme Plan in their December visit and so there was no longer a need to continue formal monitoring on that six-monthly progress review.
- Agreed that a longer term and more sustainable solution was needed for the funding of ASC, noting that the implementation of the ASC transformation programme had already delivered many financial benefits and improved outcomes for residents.
- That ASC's ambitious program to deliver over seven hundred units of extra care and supported living units was underway demonstrating the Council's commitment to improving services for its most vulnerable residents.
- That the Council's relationship with its providers was better than ever, that integration plans between health and adult social care were well underway and ASC had a clear and strong commitment to improve mental health services alongside partner organisations.
- That ASC had clear plans to make further improvements and bring about further benefits for residents, ensuring that nobody was left behind.
- Thanked the Leader, Cabinet and officers that had put the budget together including the focus on supporting the countryside with £4 million set aside over the next four years to be invested in public rights of way and additional sums to be invested in access to the countryside which during the pandemic was important for wellbeing.
- Welcomed the Accommodation with Care and Support programme and development of new care settings in the community to enable a shift away from residential care however noted past history in which six Surrey owned residential care homes were closed in 2017, noting the wasted resource of empty sites.
- That despite those six sites being subsequently repurposed to fulfil extra care housing and inclusion in the Council's joint venture programme with Places for People, no building had taken place or contractors finalised noting a local example of Pond Meadow in Guildford. The Council should apologise to residents for the delays and wasted money as in that time they could have been providing homes for people who needed them.
- That ASC and the Adults and Health Select Committee were discussing the provision of residential care homes and extra care, the budget was driven forward through the transformation programmes to improve

outcomes with regards to strength-based strategies towards independent living.

- That prevention and early intervention concerning mental health were key in ASC and Children's Services and the Adults and Health Select Committee was in the process of trying to lobby the Government for more money for mental health and the new GP Integrated Mental Health Service (GPimhs) solution was being rolled out in conjunction with Surry Heartlands Health and Care Partnership.
- Noted that efficiencies across the public sector were only a result of budgets being planned to be greater than were actually needed.
- Regarding elderly services, welcomed the extra care houses and other disabled houses that were planned and reminded the Council that over a fifteen year period he and another Member persuaded the Council to build those seven units and hoped that building on the planned houses commenced quickly.
- That on school building efficiency, schools had £40 million in funding which they would store and use throughout the year on their buildings and their pupils, they did not need further money as noted in the second amendment.
- Congratulated the Leader on the £20 million a year for Your Fund Surrey as well as the allocation of £500,000 to the Community Foundation for Surrey - although noted difficulty in their approval for funding.
- Noted that the £5,000 figure for the Members' Community Allocation funding for 2020/21 which had dropped significantly from previous years, was low and should be at a different level so that Members could use it to achieve more in their communities.
- Responded to a previous Member's comment on the RAG ratings concerning efficiencies, adding that the vast majority of those were red and that was a considerable concern particularly with regards to SEND and the DSG High Needs Block.
- That efficiencies were in fact cuts or savings and the planned £100 million in efficiencies in the next three or four years was a worry, noting the scale of past inefficiencies.
- That the cuts to Youth Services made last year by Council was a serious mistake with knock-on effects locally and such services were vital particularly during the pandemic in relation to mental health support.
- Raised concerns about the about the issue in the budget of the mental health for young people as it appeared to be business as usual in budget concerning mental health whereas it was a crisis exacerbated by the pandemic, noting that over one thousand young people on the Guildford CAMHS waiting list and queried the new provider that would take over from April.
- Highlighted the sheer scale of investment in SFRS within the budget, noting that a complete needs assessment had been carried out led by SFRS and supported by the Finance and Property teams; noting the ambitious program for the re-provision of training facilities, the vehicle replacement program, fire station improvements, the series of equipment replacement programs to support teams in their community work to generate better outcomes for residents, improvements to staffs' wellbeing as well as thermal imaging cameras and gas detection equipment.
- Thanked the Leader, Cabinet Members and officers for their hard work in transforming the Council over the last few years and most recently despite Covid-19. Transformation and efficiencies were not cuts but

ensured the best value for money for services such as through joint health integration commissioning and in ASC, the progress of the Council's transformation programmes was continually evidenced in Cabinet reports

- Contrary to a previous Member comment on the Community Foundation for Surrey, he welcomed the Council's extra funding to it as it had carried out an incredible amount of work over the last year within Surrey's communities by helping out with the Covid-19 Community Relief Programme. The Community Foundation for Surrey had committed to try to fund match the Council's £500,000, it was going to help with Your Fund Surrey and hopefully find revenue and provide charitable donations to groups as the Council could only provide capital. Partnerships were incredibly important and the Council's further funding demonstrated its commitment to that.

The Leader of the Council made the following comments in response:

- Agreed with previous comments that he would like to see long-term funding from the Government to local authorities including ASC and that the Council continued to lobby for.
- Disagreed with the references to the litany of historical issues as it was distracting to the debate and work that was currently underway by Council and that it planned to undertake in the next year.
- That the Council took its responsibilities seriously, it was vital that Members dealt with the facts and encouraged Members to read committee reports as well as external reports such as the Ofsted reports and the HMICFRS reports on SFRS that clearly demonstrated the significant improvements made by the Council through the implementation of the Transformation Programme.
- Acknowledged that the Council could always improve, there would never be a moment where the Council could be self-satisfied due to the ever-changing complex needs of residents.
- That it was right that the Council recruited the best possible staff it could and paid a good salary adding that the number of FTE equivalent personnel employed by the Council had decreased by around 500 in the last four years.
- That there were some challenges around the Council's commercial property investments as there were in most other councils and decisions were transparent.
- That the Council needed to invest in its staffs' working environments, noting the roll out of the Agile Organisation Programme and hubs for staff.
- Agreed that there had been excellent partnership working through the pandemic and was confident that it would continue.
- That the Council did have a can-do culture and attitude.
- That the unitary authority status initiative was government led and at the Government's request the Council was no longer pursuing that discussion. The initial exploration of the initiative highlighted the need for greater efficiency in local government as noted in the KPMG report and particularly in borough and district councils.
- That there were no hidden charges in the budget, all policy changes proposed within the Council went through the select committee process first - praising the detailed scrutiny process - before it went to Cabinet.

- Recognised the frustrations expressed in relation to the management of the Council's commercial property portfolio including the delays, noting that within the next four to six weeks a complete list of the Council's vacant and surplus properties and a plan to address those would be drawn up. The Council was moving forward with the rationalisation of its property estate, noting the sale of County Hall and exit.
- Agreed with the importance of the transformation programmes and the progress made.
- Agreed that mental health was an area that needed further investment, noting the £400,000 net increase in the budget for mental health services. Mental health was a responsibility not just for the Council to deliver but also through the health system and that a Mental Health Partnership Board composed of key organisations would help drive forward the issue for both children and adolescents.
- Noted the need for further funding to improve and increase the rollout of prevention and early intervention.
- That the CAMHS waiting list would be cleared by April, so that the new alliance led by the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust would not inherit a backlog.
- Welcomed the comments in support of funding for the countryside.
- Regarding extra care housing, noted that the Council had written to Guildford Borough Council requesting the release of a restrictive covenant that it had over the Pond Meadow site at no cost to residents, which would be followed up through their Cabinet.
- That the Council had committed to build 700 extra care and supported living units to encourage people to live independently and have less reliance upon care packages. Sites had been identified and approved by Cabinet.
- Regarding the RAG ratings that it was no surprise that some of the efficiency or transformation programmes had been delayed and so were rated red, work was underway and would continue at speed in the future following the pandemic.
- That the Council had committed funding to continue with the specialist Youth Services and was looking to other partners to help with the provision of a good quality universal service.
- That it was right that the budget was a political choice reflecting the political majority whose role it was to invest in the county's residents and communities, to support vulnerable residents and to look at ways to invest in improving services to ensure the financial stability of the Council in conjunction with its partners.
- Reassured residents that the Council was there to look after their interests and the budget did that, so asked all Members to support the recommendations.

After the debate the Chairman called the recommendations, which included the council tax precept proposals, and a recorded vote was taken.

The following Members voted for it:

Mrs Angell, Ms Azad, Mr Bennison, Mrs Bowes, Mrs Bramhall, Mr Brett-Warburton, Mr Carasco, Mrs Clack, Mrs Curran, Mr Deach, Mr Tim Evans, Mr Few, Mr Furey, Mr Furniss, Mr Gardner, Mr Goodman, Miss Griffiths, Dr Grant-Duff, Mr Gulati, Mr Hall, Mrs Hammond, Mr Harmer, Mr Harris, Mr Hawkins, Miss Heath, Mr Hussain, Mrs Iles, Mr Islam, Mr Kemp, Mr Knight, Rachael I

Lake, Mrs Lay, Mrs Lewis, Mr McIntosh, Mr Mallett, Mr Mansfield, Mr Martin, Mrs Mooney, Ms Morley, Mrs Moseley, Mrs Mountain, Mrs Muir, Mr Nuti, Mr Oliver, Mr O'Reilly, Dr Povey, Mr Ramsdale, Mrs Rush, Mr Samuels, Mrs Steeds, Dr Szanto, Mr Taylor, Ms Thomson, Mrs Thorn, Ms Turner-Stewart, Mr Walsh, Mr Witham, Mrs Young.

The following Members voted against it:

Mr Beckett, Mr Botten, Mr Cooksey, Mr Essex, Mr Robert Evans, Mr Forster, Mr Goodwin, Mrs Goodwin, Mr Harrison, Mr Kington, Mr MacLeod, Mrs Mason, Mrs Rivers, Mr Spence, Mr Townsend, Mrs Watson, Mrs White.

The following Members abstained:

Mrs Barton, Miss Boote, Mr Darby.

Therefore, it was:

RESOLVED:

That Council noted the following important features of the revenue and capital budget, and in line with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003:

1. The Executive Director of Resources' (Section 151 Officer) conclusion that estimates included in the Final Budget Report and Medium-Term Financial Strategy are sufficiently robust in setting the budget for 2021/22; and
2. That it is the view of the Executive Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer), that the level of reserves is adequate to meet the Council's needs for 2021/22. These reserves include the following amounts, (totalling £91.9m) set aside specifically to provide financial resilience:
 - a General Fund Balance of £24.2m;
 - a budget contingency of £20.4m with an estimated £33.4m brought forward;
 - a specific contingency for the impact of Covid-19 of £4.9m; and
 - a provision of £9m to meet risks in delivering the Dedicated Schools Grant – High Needs Block cost containment plan.

Proposed budget: That the following Revenue and Capital budget decisions be approved:

3. The net revenue budget requirement be set at **£1,003.6 million** (net cost of services after service specific government grants) for 2021/22 (Annex B), subject to confirmation of the Final Local Government Financial Settlement;
4. The total Council Tax funding requirement be set at **£777.6 million** for 2021/22. This is an increase of 2.49%, made up of an increase in the level of core Council Tax of 1.99% to cover core Council services and an increase of 0.5% in the precept proposed by Central Government to cover the growing cost of Adult Social Care (Annex E);

5. Noted that for the purpose of section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council formally determines that the increase in core Council Tax is not such as to trigger a referendum (i.e. not greater than 2%);
6. Set the Surrey County Council precept for Band D Council Tax at £1,549.08, which represents a 2.49% uplift. This is a rise of £0.72 a week from the 2020/21 precept of £1,511.46. This includes £139.01 for the Adult Social Care precept, which has increased by £7.55.
7. Agreed to maintain the Council Tax rate set after the Final Local Government Finance Settlement;
8. The Council Tax for each category of dwelling as set out in the table below:

Valuation band	Core precept	ASC precept	Overall precept
A	£940.05	£92.67	£1,032.72
B	£1,096.72	£108.12	£1,204.84
C	£1,253.40	£123.56	£1,376.96
D	£1,410.07	£139.01	£1,549.08
E	£1,723.42	£169.90	£1,893.32
F	£2,036.77	£200.79	£2,237.56
G	£2,350.12	£231.68	£2,581.80
H	£2,820.14	£278.02	£3,098.16

9. The payment for each billing authority, including any balances on the Collection Fund, as set out in Annex E;
10. Delegated powers to the Leader and Executive Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) to finalise budget proposals and recommendations to County Council, updated to take into account new information in the Final Local Government Finance Settlement;
11. The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy for 2021/22 to meet the statutory guidelines for the use of such receipts to fund transformation and the move back into the County (Annex F);
12. The Total Schools Budget of £537.3 million to meet the Council's statutory requirement on schools funding;
13. The overall indicative Budget Envelopes for Executive Directorates and individual services for the 2021/22 budget (Annex B); and
14. The total £1.905 billion proposed five-year Capital Programme (comprising £1,026.2m of budget and £879.2m pipeline) and approves the £184.9 million capital budget in 2021/22 (Annex C).

Capital and Investment Strategies: That the following be approved:

15. The Capital and Investment Strategy (Annex G), which provides an overview of how risks associated with capital expenditure, financing, treasury and commercial investments will be managed as well as how they contribute towards the delivery of services; and
16. The policy for making a prudent level of revenue provision for the repayment of debt (the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy) (Annex I).

The meeting was adjourned for a short comfort break at 12.58pm

The meeting recommenced at 13.11pm

6/21 CHANGES TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S CABINET PORTFOLIOS [ITEM 6]

The Leader of the Council presented the report noting that Mr Mel Few and Dr Zully Grant-Duff had both stepped down and had been replaced by Mrs Becky Rush, Cabinet Member for Resources and Corporate Support. Mr Mark Nuti had filled the new Cabinet Member for Communities portfolio.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families highlighted that the Council had a strong focus on equality, diversity and inclusion, and that each Cabinet Member sponsored one of the Council's inclusion networks. She noted that the Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning was the main sponsor for the Women's Network who noted at a recent meeting of the Network that there were few women cabinet members across councils and even fewer women cabinet members taking portfolios such as finance, environment and highways. She acknowledged the Leader's appointments to Cabinet Member portfolios of which more than half were women, including the portfolio holders for Environment and Climate Change as well as Resources and Corporate Support. That greater women representation was needed across the Council's political groups and recognised that on other diversity matters the Council were not doing well in terms of Member representation, she hoped that the upcoming local elections would provide an opportunity for all political groups to field a more diverse range of candidates so that Member representation could better reflect the county.

RESOLVED:

That Council noted the updated Cabinet portfolios.

7/21 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME [ITEM 7]

Questions:

Notice of twelve questions had been received. The questions and replies were published in a supplementary agenda on 8 February 2021.

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

(Q1) Mrs Hazel Watson had no supplementary question.

Mr Stephen Cooksey asked whether the Leader of the Council had been sent the same KPMG report that the Leaders of Surrey's borough and district councils had authorised and if he had could he point to the sections of the report that reflected the Leader's response where he noted that it "recognised that the current system of local government was not sustainable" and "proposed the creation of unitary councils in Surrey"; as he and others had checked the report and found no such text. He explained that the report was sent to the Leader as a courtesy and regarded the Leader's misrepresentation of its content discourteous.

In response, the Leader of the Council noted that the report had been sent from the Surrey Chief Executives who have had considerable discussions around it. He noted that all councils across the country had financial challenges noting twelve that had declared financial difficulties and the report concentrated on the ways in which Surrey's borough and district councils could share back office resources and find greater savings as well as looking at the creation of two or three unitary authorities in Surrey. He noted that he was happy to have a more detailed conversation with the Member.

(Q2) Mr Robert Evans noted that the Cabinet Member for Community Protection had consistently told Council that all was well in Surrey and questioned whether she had listened to the recent parliamentary debate and was surprised to learn that there were twenty-two buildings in Surrey that had been identified as dangerous with unsafe cladding, and asked whether she was aware that the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) Chief Fire Officer had told BBC Surrey that there were no such buildings.

He asked whether the Cabinet Member would advise Council on how many and what percentage of buildings in Surrey had been properly inspected and how many were outstanding, had she or SFRS considered the dangers of wooden balconies on properties and their potential risks posed in a fire, what assurances could she give residents about their safety especially those who were living in buildings with Waking Watches.

In response, the Cabinet Member for Community Protection explained that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the Building Research Establishment notify Fire and Rescue Services of changes in risk as new information became available. SFRS was ahead nationally in reviewing buildings of less than eighteen metres in height, it had proactively adopted the recommendations of the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety (Hackitt Review) post-Grenfell, maintaining work relating to buildings with cladding and as a result Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) noted SFRS' continued engagement with those responsible for fire safety in its recent Covid-19 inspection.

The Cabinet Member for Community Protection further explained that in quarter two of 2021, SFRS was in the top quartile nationally for outcomes relating to protection in its role as an enforcing authority, which was an iterative process in relation to cladding made from aluminium composite material, high pressure laminate and expanded polystyrene systems. In response to the question on wooden balconies, such matters were being looked at as well as any other risks identified in an advisory note by the National Fire Chiefs Council and the Building Research Establishment. She emphasised that SFRS had been accurately providing information consistently, noting the constantly changing environment in which it reacted to risks as they were identified particularly in relation to the underregulated building environment which in response to recent tragic incidents was being thoroughly scrutinised and such risks were managed those accordingly. She commented that HMICFRS had commented that the work of SFRS' recent building inspections was timely and effective, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. She implored the Member to attend the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee to refer his concerns which could be more fully discussed as well as gaining a more detailed insight into the work of SFRS.

(Q3) Mr Nick Darby asked whether the Cabinet Member for Highways was aware that the latest proposal in relation to congestion charges into London appeared to be a £5.50 boundary charge as opposed to the current proposal by the Mayor of London of a £3.50 boundary charge. He noted the reasonable suggestion by the police that they should be reimbursed that charge and asked whether the Cabinet Member could comment on the worrying increased proposed charge.

In response, the Cabinet Member for Highways noted that in recent news reports the Secretary of State for Transport quashed any ideas of a further congestion charge expansion. However he informed the Member that he recognised that the matter was a distress to residents particularly during the pandemic and that he was writing to both the Secretary of State for Transport and the Mayor of London to clarify their positions going forward on any future changes.

(Q4) Mr Wyatt Ramsdale noted that he looked forward to seeing the thirty-one programmes in action within the transformation change portfolio in 2021/22 especially on those concerning climate change. He asked whether the Cabinet Member for Resources and Corporate Support would join him in thanking all those involved in finding those £250 million of year-on-year efficiencies over the last three years, highlighting the outgoing Cabinet Member for Resources and the current Executive Director of Resources and his team.

(Q5) Mrs Clare Curran asked the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Domestic Abuse whether Members could be confident that the additional investment in mental health and ASC services was going to give sufficient capacity in those two areas to meet the additional demand that was anticipated to arise from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mrs Bernie Muir asked the Cabinet Member whether the intention was to roll out the Enabling You With Technology pilot across ASC and asked what she anticipated the major benefits to be.

In response, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Domestic Abuse reiterated the Leader's commitment to provide the best services in the most efficient way. In order to continue to fund good services in ASC, ongoing assessments were vital to make sure that those services could be provided which met residents' needs for care and support in a way that enabled them to live a full and independent life. She highlighted that ASC was providing preventative services through early intervention to support people ensuring where possible that their needs do not grow, unpaid carers and their support needs were also assessed including the provision of reliable and good quality respite care; and she highlighted the development of the draft Surrey Carers Strategy 2021-24, undertaken by the Deputy Cabinet Member for Health. She noted that ASC also looked at its internal staffing group to ensure their proper remuneration as well as the improved conditions of employment for care workers through training, qualifications and opportunities for career development – such measures would stabilise the workforce and encourage its growth. She noted that ASC worked closely with care providers in order to support them where possible to meet their costs, invest in their assets and expand their offer which in turn would ensure the stability of the care market. She commented that improved collaborative working between health and social care professionals through various initiatives, enabled residents to hold and share their own medical and social records across the system. She noted the

importance of housing in supporting health, wellbeing and independence. Through consistently undertaking the ongoing assessments noted and reviewing those, the Cabinet Member emphasised that ASC and the Council could supply a good service against the increasing pressures of demand.

The Cabinet Member explained that the Enabling You With Technology pilot launched on 25 January 2021 in Mole Valley was going well. Its objectives were to expedite patient discharge from hospital, to empower residents to live independently and well in their own homes for longer using our technological solutions, to relieve pressure on stretched hospital, locality and reablement teams; and to inform residents' ongoing support needs and plans. She explained that the aim was to roll out the pilot across Adult Social Care and the county and was looking to start a small innovation group that would pick up on key measures, areas to investigate and outcomes so that the further roll out take on board improvements.

(Q7) Mr Ken Gulati noted that one worrying aspect in relation to children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) was the extent of their travel within Surrey to school. He asked whether the Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning could indicate whether the expansion of four hundred additional specialist places would include new establishments or whether it was primarily an expansion of existing ones.

In response, the Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning explained that there was a mix of that provision, noting that there was a specification of needs in the different sectors across SEND such as communication and interaction needs or speech and language needs. She explained that out of the 1600 additional specialist places, 400 had been brought forward and that in relation to the last sector of funding for those places across twenty different settings with £500,000 in funding for each, expressions of interest had been invited from the county's education settings. The Education Place Planning team were working with those settings to establish the use of the buildings already at those settings so it was a repurposing of the capital investment.

Regarding reducing travel to school the Cabinet Member noted the importance of educating children close to their communities so that they were an integral part of them, investment in the Council's own place planning significantly reduced the cost per pupil from an independent setting for example which tended to be more expensive and did not necessarily deliver a better outcome for that child or young person.

(Q9) Mr Jonathan Essex asked whether the Cabinet Member for Resources and Corporate Support would agree with him that the Government needed to finally provide a sustainable funding solution and plan for social care instead of repeatedly relying on councils adding a social care levy on top of the basic council tax level. He asked whether she would write on behalf of the Council to request that the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care would create such a social care plan.

In response, the Cabinet Member for Resources and Corporate Support noted that she was lobbying Government and hoped for a long-term solution to ASC funding, adding that she expected to see such an update from Government by the end of the year. She responded that she was happy to take the Member's suggestion away and would work with officers and ASC to write to the Government.

(Q10) Mr Robert Evans commented that the Leader of the Council in his response noted that some aspects of Fairtrade in Surrey were continuing without required investment and later noted where it represented value for money to Surrey taxpayers. He asked whether the Leader would accept the spirit of Fairtrade in that sometimes a small additional expense was necessary to be fair to and to support some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world. He welcomed the points on Woodhatch Place, Starbucks, Selecta and other developments and whether the Leader would consider the Council's support for the upcoming Fairtrade Fortnight 2021 beginning on 22 February - at least by promoting it amongst employees and publicising it across the county via social media and the Council website.

Mr Jonathan Essex noted that in light of the Council having relocated its civic heart to Woodhatch Place in Reigate and Reigate having been awarded Fairtrade Town Status in October 2020; he asked the Leader whether the Council would commit to an employee representative playing an active role in the Reigate Fairtrade Steering Group.

In response, the Leader of the Council emphasised that the Council was supporting Fairtrade, he apologised that there had not been an annual update as promised in 2017 on the Council's status as a Fairtrade council. He noted that he was not aware that Surrey had lost its Fairtrade county status and would take away the suggestions noted above with officers.

(Q12) Mr Robert Evans noted that in her response the Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning recognised that good quality and sustained employment was vital for a good standard of living, noting the active planning and delivery of training to prepare the future Surrey workforce. He asked what measures had been made for the provision of computers and laptops for remote learning for the most vulnerable in the county. He queried where in Spelthorne and Surrey Heath might face to face courses take place as both Spelthorne College and Brooklands College - Ashford Campus had gone.

In response, the Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning noted that through the widened scope of the community hubs work and the co-design work around libraries provision, which would be drawn together along with the economic needs of communities across the different settings. She explained that the intention was to address some of the skills gaps where relevant through face to face learning and particularly concerning vocational qualifications. Regarding laptop provision to the most vulnerable in schools, that had been addressed throughout the lockdown, the Department for Education had provided direct access to those. The Council continued to provide free courses for digital skills through its partners such as the Henrietta Parker Trust. She noted that she was happy to look into the specifics around that as the co-design work was completed, noting that it was in tandem with community planning and the community hubs work as well as the *Surrey Employment and Skills Board*.

8/21 STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS [ITEM 8]

There were none.

9/21 AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - REVISED COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT [ITEM 9]

The Chairman introduced the report noting that he understood that since publishing its Model Councillor Code of Conduct on 3 December 2020, the Local Government Association (LGA) had made an amendment to the section on the registration of interests in third party organisations such as charities and community organisations. The recommendation was for Council to adopt the Code, noting the possibility of a further short report on the matter once it had been fully considered by the Governance Review Task Group.

The Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee presented the report, highlighting that the changes made following the LGA's published Model Councillor Code of Conduct primarily related to the Council's appointment of two Independent Persons. He noted that the LGA was considering a further rewrite of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct in light of the amendment and as a result Council may receive a further report noting the changes.

RESOLVED:

Council approved:

1. The revised Councillor Code of Conduct.
2. The amendments to the Arrangements for Dealing with Allegations of Breaches of the Councillor Code of Conduct.
3. That in addition to compliance with the Councillor Code of Conduct, Members are expected to comply with the following codes:
 - a. Member/Officer Protocol.
 - b. Planning Code of Best Practice.
4. That the revised Councillor Code of Conduct comes into force at the next Council Annual General Meeting following a Council election.

10/21 AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - COUNCIL EXECUTION OF CONTRACTS - PROCUREMENT RULES [ITEM 10]

The Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee presented the report, he noted that the process of sealing documents when executing contracts over £500,000 was expensive and time-consuming. He explained that one reason for sealing documents was where the Council sought to enforce a contract as a deed which doubled the limitation period. He urged Council to agree the amendment to the procurement rules as it would save legal time and resource for the Council.

RESOLVED:

Council agreed that paragraph 2.7.a of the Council's procurement rules be amended at column 1 (contracts over £500k and over £1 million) from "Over £500k: Sealed as a deed via Legal Services" to "Over £500k: executed by authorised signatory in legal services or by seal as determined by Legal Services".

11/21 REPORT OF THE CABINET [ITEM 11]

The Leader presented the report of the Cabinet meetings held on 15 December 2020 and 26 January 2021.

Recommendations on Policy Framework Documents:

26 January 2021:

- A. 2021/22 Final Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2025/26 [Agenda Item 5 on the agenda]
- B. Admission Arrangements for Surrey's Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools and the Coordinated Schemes that will Apply to all Schools for September 2022 and Surrey's Relevant Area

Reports for Information/Discussion:

15 December 2020:

- C. Surrey's Economic Future: Our 2030 Strategy Statement and Invitation to Engage
- D. Surrey Local Resilience Forum Update on the End of the EU Exit Transition Period
- E. Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Report Regarding Concerns About the Delivery of Home to School Transport

26 January 2021:

- F. Your Fund Surrey Update
- G. Disposal of County Hall Campus, Penrhyn Road, Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames
- H. Agile Office Estate Strategy
- I. Quarterly Report on Decisions Taken Under Special Urgency Arrangements: 09 December 2020 - 09 February 2021

RESOLVED:

1. That in addition to the approved recommendations under item 5 - 2021/22 Final Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2025/26, Council noted the Audit & Governance Committee's approval of the: Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators which set a framework for the Council's treasury function to manage risks, source borrowing and invest surplus cash.
2. That Council approved the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and coordinated schemes for September 2022 (as set out in the Cabinet paper from 26 January 2021).
3. That Council noted that there had been one urgent decision in the last two months.
4. That the reports of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 15 December 2020 and 26 January 2021 be adopted.

12/21 MINUTES OF CABINET MEETINGS [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: 13.45 pm]

Chairman

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Leader's Statement – County Council (Budget Meeting), 9 February 2021

Mr Chairman, we are here today to focus primarily on the council's budget for the forthcoming year, and I'm looking forward to outlining those plans to Members and our residents this morning.

The context for this budget is challenging but also encouraging against the background of:

- a global pandemic
- a locally led response to keep residents safe and save lives
- partners in Surrey working closer together than ever before
- an uncertain financial future for the country – and the world
- and a plan for helping our communities recover from the past year that is fundamental to the future prosperity of our county.

I am justifiably proud of what this council, and its staff, has achieved over the last 12 months.

Not only in the response to COVID, which has been nothing short of incredible and something that is continuing day in day out – the national focus for our surge testing operation in Woking and Egham being the latest in a long line of challenges overcome.

But also, the way we have, as an organisation, continued in our mission to deliver our essential services and a better, brighter future for Surrey.

Better services, better support, better value for money, better resilience, better security, and fundamentally delivering an even better place for people to live and work.

To make further substantial progress in that mission, alongside responding to the biggest challenge in a generation, is testament to our staff and the clarity of our vision.

This budget encapsulates that progress and delivers the platform for recovery as we come through this pandemic.

Mr Chairman, it is important to note that it is the hard work and dedication of Surrey County Council over the last three years to get our finances in order, that means we have been able to cope with the challenges that have come this year and are well placed going into an uncertain future.

The transformation of the council during that time has put us in a strong financial position – enabling us to provide financial security and certainty in guiding Surrey and our Local Resilience Forum partners through the past 12 months.

This financial security has enabled us to meet the cost of PPE delivered to the frontline, give financial support to the care and voluntary sectors, help vulnerable residents, and provide staffing resource to help the county through the pandemic.

Alongside all of that, we have continued to deliver our vital services and protect and support the most vulnerable residents of Surrey in these most difficult of times.

It has to be said – and I'm sure many members will agree – that a few years ago, a major unforeseen issue such as COVID could have pushed Surrey to the brink. But not now.

As I mentioned earlier Mr Chairman, not only has our financial planning helped us respond to COVID but it must also help us lead the recovery for Surrey.

I will talk shortly about our huge capital investment programme that will be the bedrock of this recovery, but first I want to address the impact for individual residents.

I know that COVID has affected all of our residents in different ways – many have been heartbroken by the loss of a loved one, many will be struggling with the mental health impacts of lockdown and the stress of home schooling, and many others may be really struggling financially having seen the impact on their business or been faced with redundancy.

We have a responsibility as a council to do everything in our power to help those people where we can.

We have taken the decision this year to limit the increase on Council Tax, despite the uncertain economic future for this country.

Our stable financial position means we can limit that increase to 2.49% - or 72p per week for a Band D property.

Although any increase is unwelcome, that is half the 4.99% permitted by government and half the amount that many neighbouring authorities will be levying.

As I have always made clear, if we can't reduce Council Tax, I am absolutely determined that residents at least get the very best value for money and that their money is well spent.

I am confident that this budget does that.

Mr Chairman, this year's budget sees a slight increase in revenue spending to just over £1bn – this is the money we spend on delivering vital services to residents.

This year-on-year spending is delivering better services as we continue to transform the way we work.

Over half of that day-to-day spending - £627m - is spent on our most vulnerable residents through Adult Social Care and Children's Services, working to improve quality of life and reduce inequality.

We spend over £1m every single day on looking after vulnerable adults, and over half a million pounds every day on looking after our young people.

The pressure and demand on those services are increasing and we continue our conversations with government about the need for long term, proper funding solutions especially for Adult Social Care and for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities.

But in the meantime, we work to deliver the best possible services for those who need that support most.

These are services that most residents don't see, but they are so important in helping to reduce inequality, making sure we don't leave anybody behind and that those people that really need us are looked after and given the best possible quality of life.

But I know, as every single member here will know as our inboxes fill up with e-mails about potholes and highways matters, that those services that impact on everybody deserve serious attention too.

We will spend £140m of our revenue budget this year on Environment, Transport and Infrastructure – that's maintaining roads, pavements and bridges, managing our wonderful countryside, delivering bus services and other public transport.

Over £30m will be spent on Public Health, ever more important in the current climate and ensuring our residents can live healthier lives.

£37m will fund our Community Protection Group (including Surrey Fire & Rescue Service) to keep our residents safe.

We spend around £65m on resources – without which our services simply could not function, things like the technology that has been essential in enabling us to continue working safely over this last 12 months.

£18m on our transformation and partnerships work, that will make not only this council more efficient in what we do but help us work more productively with partners and residents.

I must take a moment here to recognise our dedicated Transformation Programme, which has so far saved this council £74m each and every year, with a further £75m projected over the next few years, all while improving services for residents.

Our dedicated Transformation Support Unit will continue to support officers to transform our services, with the focus of ensuring every service is delivering the very best value for money for our residents.

The best service, in the most efficient way – something that local government, especially here in Surrey, is becoming better and better at delivering.

The remainder of our revenue budget includes some contingency, providing extra resilience in the face of future uncertainty, and also will enable us to deliver our ambitious capital investment.

The medium-term capital programme we set out in 2020 will continue, and even increase this year as we look to the future.

This is about investing now to protect and improve Surrey's future.

This money will make a real and lasting difference to people's lives and life chances and has become even more important in ensuring Surrey and its communities can thrive over the coming years of recovery from the impact of COVID.

The total capital spend in our 5-year investment plan has increased from almost £1.5bn announced last February, to almost £2bn.

This reflects our seriousness when we commit to building a county that is fit for the future.

We have already made great progress in delivering on this investment, with extra school places provided, investment in electric buses signed off, and infrastructure projects well underway.

Our capital programme includes;

The £100m Your Fund Surrey, which has launched with huge interest and involvement from residents. It will strengthen communities; it will deliver community projects and give people more power and influence in their local area.

A £33m investment into Surrey Fire & Rescue Service infrastructure – helping to deliver the Making Surrey Safer plan and modernising our fire service.

£116m will be invested in infrastructure aimed at boosting economic growth across the county – something that will have a widespread and long-lasting impact for our residents' life chances and prosperity.

£286m is earmarked for large scale infrastructure projects like in Farnham town centre and the A320 scheme, with both schemes already being developed with local residents' involvement.

We have set out an ambitious commitment to deliver a greener and more sustainable future for Surrey residents, helping us tackle the climate emergency, that includes £105m for projects including renewable energy, active travel and the move towards zero carbon; including the £48m investment in low emission buses.

Our £268m investment in schools and £74m in SEND provision will ensure our children can overcome this year's disruption and get the best possible start in life.

The £253m investment and leadership on Surrey flood alleviation schemes, including the River Thames, will protect tens of thousands of homes and businesses from further disaster and give future security and peace of mind – the current weather another reminder of why this is so important.

On top of our huge year on year increase in revenue spend on highways, a further £264m investment will boost active travel and with the impact of the imminent roll-out of the daily charge to utility companies working on our highway will make getting around the county smoother.

And £170m will be spent on accommodation for Looked After Children, Extra Care and independent living – ensuring that those residents most in need can live safely and independently and have a good quality of life.

We can and will deliver all of this, despite the impact of COVID, thanks to the good grip on our finances.

I want to thank Leigh Whitehouse and his excellent team, who have used their expertise to stabilise and transform this council's financial position.

And of course also pay tribute to Mel Few, our departing Cabinet Member for Resources, who has been instrumental in this work – delivering balanced budgets, keeping a watchful eye over every penny spent and leaving behind a solid platform that will see our residents – and this county - benefit long into the future. Thank you Mel.

Mr Chairman we have come a long way these past four years. When I had the privilege to be elected Leader of this council in 2018 I closed my acceptance speech by saying that we must have humility, an ability to learn from our mistakes, that there was 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 could and would succeed.

I had no idea then that we would test all of those principles with a global pandemic, but as we enter our next phase of the council, from here in Reigate, I know that we will continue to guide and support the county through these most challenging times.

That is the commitment I make to the residents of Surrey on your behalf, as we head through these next weeks and months to a brighter future.

Thank you.

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OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

REVIEW OF SELECT COMMITTEE TASK GROUP LEAD ROLE – REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

Council is invited to consider the Independent Remuneration Panel's report on the review of the Select Committee Task Group Role and the Panel's resulting recommendations.

BACKGROUND:

1. At its meeting on 13 October 2020, the Council approved the Select Committee Task Group Lead role profile. The Council also approved the Independent Remuneration Panel (the Panel) recommendation that the role should attract a new Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) of £1,530. In approving these items, the Council asked that the Panel review the operation of the Select Committee Task Group Lead, and the associated SRA, in six months' time. The Panel was asked to review:
 - Whether the role was operating as set out in the approved role profile; and
 - Whether the SRA was set at an appropriate level.
2. This report has been prepared for the Council in line with its request and is attached as **Annex A**.
3. The Panel's conclusions are as follows:
 - That the purpose, key duties and responsibilities as set out in the role profile are being discharged as set out in that profile;
 - That the role has clearly been part of a wider process that has seen enhanced scrutiny which adds value to the work of the Council and benefits the Surrey taxpayer;
 - That the role should continue to attract an SRA at its current level (see table below); and
 - That opportunities exist to embed and formalise how the arrangements for Task Groups are working, and the Panel provides its observations in the main body of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL:

The IRP recommends that:

The SRA for the Task Group Lead is retained at its current level and subject to annual inflationary adjustment in line with other Members' Allowances.

Lead/Contact Officers:

Rachel Basham, Member Services Manager, Democratic Services
rachel.basham@surreycc.gov.uk / 07875 088 851

Sources/background papers:

None

Annexes:

Annex A - Report of the IRP into the Special Responsibility Allowance for Select Committee Task Group Leads - March 2021

Surrey County Council

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel into the Special Responsibility Allowance for Select Committee Task Group Leads

March 2021

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. At its meeting on 13 October 2020, the Council approved the Select Committee Task Group Lead role profile. The Council also approved the Independent Remuneration Panel (the Panel) recommendation that the role should attract a new Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) of £1,530. In approving these items, the Council asked that the Panel review the operation of the Select Committee Task Group Lead, and the associated SRA, in six months' time. The Panel was asked to review:
 - Whether the role was operating as set out in the approved role profile; and
 - Whether the SRA was set at an appropriate level.
2. This report has been prepared for the Council in line with its request. The main body of this report details the Panel's work in forming its conclusions and recommendations. The approved role profile as agreed by the Council is at Appendix A, and the terms of reference for this work is at Appendix B.
3. The Panel's conclusions and recommendations are as follows:
 - **That the purpose, key duties and responsibilities as set out in the role profile are being discharged as set out in that profile;**
 - **That the role has clearly been part of a wider process that has seen enhanced scrutiny which adds value to the work of the Council and benefits the Surrey taxpayer;**
 - **That the role should continue to attract an SRA at its current level (see table below); and**
 - **That opportunities exist to embed and formalise how the arrangements for Task Groups are working, and the Panel provides its observations in the main body of this report.**

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION		
ROLE	2020-21 ALLOWANCE	RECOMMENDATION FROM 1 April 2021
Select Committee Task Group Leads (8)	£1,530	£1,538*
<i>*representing no change apart from the application of CPI as at September 2020 of 0.5 per cent, in line with the Council decision made on 13 October 2020</i>		

4. The Independent Remuneration Panel consists of three members; Bryan Ingleby (Chair), Paul Eaves and Steve Banks-Smith. Panel members all live in Surrey, and are all independent of Surrey County Council and of any political party. In approaching this work, the Panel has met with Select Committee Chairmen and Task Group leads, observed Select Committee and Task Group meetings where possible, and reviewed documentation relevant to the work.
5. This work has been performed and this report prepared in line with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003.
6. The panel is grateful for the support provided by Democratic Services for their assistance with this work, most notably Rachel Basham, Member Services Manager. We are also grateful to Members who assisted us with our work.

MAIN REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. In July 2020, the Independent Remuneration Panel (the Panel) published its Review of Members Allowances 2020. All of the Panel's recommendations were approved, including the removal of the Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for the Select Committee Vice-Chairman role. An SRA was introduced to reflect a new role, the Select Committee Task Group Lead, and the Council was asked to produce a role profile to outline its responsibilities.
2. At its meeting on 13 October 2020, the Council approved the Select Committee Task Group Lead role profile. When approving the role profile, the Council asked that the Panel review the operation of the Select Committee Task Group Lead, and the associated SRA, in six months' time. The Panel was asked to review:
 - Whether the role was operating as set out in the approved role profile; and
 - Whether the SRA was set at an appropriate level.
3. This report has been prepared for the Council in line with its request. The main body of this report details the Panel's work in forming its conclusions and recommendations. The approved role profile as agreed by the Council is at Appendix A, and the terms of reference for this work is at Appendix B.

WORK DONE BY THE PANEL

4. The Panel conducted a range of enquiries in performing this work. The main activities were:
 - Review of Select Committee papers, task group scoping documents and task group reports;
 - Observation of Select Committees and Task Groups, where possible;
 - Discussions with Select Committee Chairmen and Select Committee Task Group Leads;
 - A drop in session where all Members sitting on Select Committees had the opportunity to give their thoughts to the Panel; and
 - Review of the role profile
5. The Panel is grateful for the assistance of Democratic Services in making the arrangements above, and for the time of Members in assisting the Panel with its enquiries.

FINDINGS – THE ROLE OF THE TASK GROUP LEAD AND ITS IMPACT

6. Task Groups have evolved as part of the enhancement of scrutiny within the Council. Select Committees meeting six times per year have limited opportunity to examine fully more than a few topics. Task Groups allow detailed scrutiny to take place, allowing a more thorough and considered view of the evidence and leading to better outcomes.
7. The role of Task Group Lead is a significant one. It goes considerably beyond the traditional Vice-Chairman role of deputising for the Chairman, which would include helping to plan agendas and working on the management of meetings with the Chairman.

8. From the role profile, Task Group Leads are required to lead Select Committee Task Groups, ensuring groups complete their tasks and report their findings back into the main Committee - and to do so in a way that includes robust evidence gathering work. The Panel is assured that Task Groups are being set up with the Select Committee Vice-Chairmen appointed as lead, that evidence gathering takes place and that the findings are reported back. Task Group Leads, as Committee Vice-Chairmen, also engage in a variety of ways beyond a traditional Vice-Chairman role, typically through representation on external groups. It is clear that this role attracts a spectrum of activity beyond normal main Committee business.
9. The Panel has reviewed a number of such pieces of work and considers that they represent a considerable improvement on the quality of scrutiny within the Council. Some work has an ongoing nature, such as detailed budget monitoring work which the main Committee agenda would not have capacity for. Other work is situational such as the County Hall move, and other pieces of work are substantial and are likely to lead to positive changes in public services, such as the mental health work. Whilst we have named a small number of tasks, all Committees have had a number of Task Groups, and we consider that scrutiny has been improved as a result.
10. The Panel is asked to conclude whether the role is being conducted in accordance with the role profile.

Conclusion 1: The purpose, key duties and responsibilities as set out in the role profile are being discharged as set out in that profile

11. We have not been specifically asked to review the impact of the new arrangements. However, it is clear that the additional work has enhanced both the quantity and quality of scrutiny. It appears to us as observers that scrutiny has a higher profile and influence, and the involvement of opposition groups has been a step forward. All Committees and Task Groups cited officer support as a key part of their success. We have made observations on how Task Groups are being operated and thoughts on how this could be developed further at paragraph 19.

Conclusion 2: That the role has clearly been part of a wider process that has seen enhanced scrutiny which adds value to the work of the Council and the Surrey taxpayer

FINDINGS – THE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE

12. Based on the findings at paragraphs 6 to 11 above the Panel considers that the role of Task Group Lead meets the criteria for a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA). The current SRA is £1,530 and the Panel has considered whether changes should be made to this.
13. The SRA is extremely modest when one considers that an individual will be leading one or more Task Groups through the year in addition to traditional Committee duties and wider engagement. It is a recognition that this is a role that brings value, rather than full compensation for time given. Like all Members' Allowances, it exists to ease the burden of being in the role rather than remuneration for that role.
14. The Panel notes that the role is good for succession planning and also good for Members to obtain skills and knowledge that will serve them well as they progress to Committee Chairman

and other roles during their career as a Councillor. This is particularly relevant when there is a new Council and new Members are considering a career of a minimum of four years.

15. The Panel considered three options:

- i. That the current SRA is modest but appropriate at £1,530
- ii. That there is a significant difference between the Chairman's SRA of £10,200 and the Task Group Lead's SRA of £1,530 which may not reflect fully the increased responsibility and workload assumed by Task Group Leads. Accordingly, the Panel considered a modest increase to the Task Group Lead SRA.
- iii. As per option 2 but acknowledging that there is little justification in the current climate for increased allowances. The Panel considered whether the role represents a redistribution of responsibility within a Committee and therefore whether a modest increase to the Task Group Lead SRA would be appropriate - offset by a reduction in the Chairman's SRA such that there is no overall change in total SRA.

16. The Panel believes that increasing Members' Allowances in the current financial context is not justified, beyond the small annual inflation increase as previously agreed. We do not therefore recommend option 2.

17. In considering option 3, the Panel considered whether the Chairman's responsibility and workload had been diluted through delegation to Task Group Leads. We conclude that this has not happened. Task Groups are doing work that is in addition to what would be achieved by main Committee alone. What is being delegated is the more intensive work that can only be done in a Task Group setting. The output from each Committee has been significantly increased through the existence of Task Groups. The Committee Chairman has overall responsibility and accountability for everything that their Committee produces. We do not therefore recommend option 3.

18. The Panel therefore recommends that the SRA remains at its current level, subject to the annual inflationary increases as previously agreed.

Recommendation 1: That the SRA for the Task Group Lead is retained at its current level and subject to annual inflationary adjustment in line with other Members' Allowances.

FINDINGS – DEVELOPING THE ROLE

19. Although we have been commissioned to make a recommendation on the SRA and its value, our enquiries have led us to a number of observations which we make here to assist the Council in taking this role forwards. These do not have the status of recommendations but the Panel hopes that they are helpful.

20. In general, the role is a fairly new one and working practices across the Committees and their Task Groups vary. This is to be expected given the diverse nature of the work. We have, however, through our observations and conversations with Members, identified current good practice which could be more widely implemented - as well as some opportunities to develop further the approach to Task Groups.

21. Specific points are in the table below.

Table 1: Developing the role

Formalisation of role and expectations. The current expectation is that Committees have two task groups running concurrently at any one time, that Members participate fully in task groups, and that at least one Task Group Lead is from an opposition group. These are desirable characteristics and there is an opportunity to build them into requirements more formally so that they are enduring. For example, adding to the Select Committee Chairman role profile the requirement that a pipeline of work is chosen and allocated to Task Groups.

How work is chosen and allocated. We saw good practice where Select Committees have a potential pipeline of Task Group work included within their forward work plan and that this is reviewed at every meeting.

Interaction with main committee. Good practice is where a Select Committee has a standing item on its agenda regarding Task Group progress, and each Task Group provides a written update on its progress between Select Committee meetings. Select Committees should agree how implementation of recommendations from Task Group reports are to be monitored i.e. whether at Task Group level or at main Committee level.

Expectations of Members. The role profile for a Member includes the requirement to participate in any Committees they are a part of. Securing good Member involvement in Task Groups is key and there is an opportunity to clarify expectations of Members in this regard.

Supporting Members. The Council may wish to review whether Members receive the right level of development and training to support their participation in Task Groups. Such groups tend to look at specialist subjects and Members may not feel sufficiently informed to volunteer or participate. When deciding that a Task Group is the right vehicle for scrutiny, there is an opportunity to identify training needs for Members and whether secondment of third party specialists might be required.

Officer support. The officer support was universally recognised as positive and extremely valuable. Given the ambition of increasing Task Group usage to two per Committee running concurrently, it would be beneficial to ensure that Democratic Services has the capacity to offer full support to what may be up to eight Task Groups running at the same time as Committees.

APPENDIX A: ROLE PROFILE (prepared and agreed by Council)

Select Committee Task Group Lead (Vice-Chairman)

(This role profile identifies responsibilities for Select Committee Task Group Leads that are in addition to those of a county councillor)

Purpose:

To lead Select Committee task group work and act as a spokesperson

To ensure task groups complete their task and report their findings

To encourage broad participation from Select Committee Members

To lead robust evidence gathering work using appropriate methods to produce recommendations

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

a) To support the Chairmen and Committee in the identification and prioritisation of relevant scrutiny topics

b) To uphold principles of good scrutiny: critical friend challenge, independence, service improvement and amplifying local voice

c) To lead the development of task group scoping, project plans and key lines of enquiry

d) To ensure task groups employ a robust methodology for gathering evidence

e) To act as spokesperson for the task group in reporting to the Select Committee and Cabinet where appropriate

f) To take responsibility for the delivery of the task group's work including a final report and SMART recommendations

g) To promote the role and impact of scrutiny at the council and beyond

Key Personal Attributes, Skills and knowledge:

A clear understanding of the role of scrutiny and what 'good scrutiny' looks like

Effective leadership skills

The ability to chair meetings and facilitate open discussion

The ability to analyse and grasp complex issues

Political knowledge and awareness

A clear understanding of the operation of the Council and its partner organisations

The ability to work effectively with Council officers, the public, the media and outside organisations

The flexibility and capacity to drive and lead task group work – this is estimated to be the equivalent of at least one day per week

APPENDIX B: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Review Topic: Select Committee Task Group Lead - Role Profile Review
<p>Relevant background:</p> <p>In July 2020, the Independent Remuneration Panel published its Review of Members Allowances 2020. A number of recommendations were approved, including the removal of the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Select Committee Vice-Chairman role. A new Special Responsibility Allowance was introduced to reflect a new role, the Select Committee Task Group Lead, and the council was asked to produce a role profile to outline its responsibilities.</p>
<p>Why this role profile being reviewed:</p> <p>At its meeting on 13 October 2020, the council approved the Select Committee Task Group Lead Role Profile.</p> <p>When approving the role profile, the council asked that the IRP review the operation of the Select Committee Task Group Lead, and its associated Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA), in six months' time.*</p> <p>*In order to report ahead of County Council elections, the review has been brought forward to report in March 2021.</p>
<p>What questions are the group aiming to answer?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Is the new Select Committee Task Group Lead Role operating as set out in the role profile?2. Does the SRA accurately reflect the responsibility of this new role?
<p>Scope (within / out of)</p> <p>In scope:</p> <p>The operation of the Select Committee Task Group Lead role</p> <p>Its associated SRA and whether this is in line with the responsibilities of the role</p> <p>Out of scope:</p> <p>The performance of individuals undertaking the Select Committee Task Group Lead role</p>

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OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL – MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

Members play an essential role in setting, and maintaining, the strategic direction of the Council. They also act as community leaders and provide an essential interface between the Council and Surrey residents.

It is therefore important that the Council invests in the development of its Members, to enable them to perform their roles as effectively as possible.

This report provides an annual overview of the Council's approach to Member development, so that Members can be assured that the current approach is sufficient, equitable and effective.

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP:

1. All Member development activity is monitored by the Member Development Steering Group (MDSG). The MDSG is cross-political and the current membership is Colin Kemp (Chairman), Chris Botten, Helyn Clack, Nick Darby, Robert Evans, John O'Reilly, Chris Townsend and Hazel Watson. Helyn Clack has taken on the role of Chairman whilst Colin Kemp has been temporarily away from some councillor duties.
2. The group meets informally, six times a year, to oversee the delivery of the Member Development Programme and other councillor support issues.

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

3. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Member Development Programme moved online in May 2020. This has allowed regular development opportunities to continue throughout the last year and there has been high attendance across these sessions. For example, it is now commonplace to see over 50% of Members at a seminar – a much higher rate of attendance than when sessions were held in person.

4. In September 2020, Democratic Services published the results of its Member Agile Working Survey. Through the survey, Members fed back that the majority of Member development sessions should continue virtually beyond the pandemic, thus reducing the travel and time associated with attending training events.

MICROSOFT TEAMS TRAINING

5. In order to facilitate remote meetings and move development sessions online, there was a need to provide all Members with MS Teams Training in April 2020. A user guide, video and online classroom training course was created, to enable Members of different ability levels to choose the support most suitable for them. All Members received a phone call from Democratic Services to ensure they had the right IT set up to work remotely. The training materials were well-received, with the classroom course rated 'good' or 'very good' by 100% of attendees.
6. Since April 2020, a number of MS Teams drop-in sessions have been offered to Members. Teams training will be an integral part of the new councillor induction, with sessions open to returning Members who want to refresh their skills.

MEMBER PORTAL

7. In September 2020, Democratic Services refreshed the online Member Portal. Feedback suggested that the previous Member Portal was difficult to access and clunky to navigate. By transferring the Portal to Teams, Democratic Services have resolved these issues whilst also reducing the amount of officer time it takes to update the portal. Since September 2020, 'hits' on the Member Portal have been double what they were on the old site and increasing each month. We look forward to continuing to develop the Portal so that it becomes a one-stop shop for training videos, resources and support for Members.

EVALUATION AND MEMBER SURVEY

8. Although the evaluation we receive for Member development is generally positive, it is often difficult to get representative samples of feedback from development sessions and training courses. We are working on making the online evaluation forms shorter and simpler for the new municipal year so that we can gather higher levels of feedback from sessions and ensure that the development programme is meeting Members' needs.
9. In March 2021, Democratic Services will launch an end-of-term Member survey. This survey will gather Members feedback on a variety of topics, including Member development, and will be used to shape how Democratic Services supports councillors going forward.

NEW CIVIC HEART

10. The MDSG has played a key role in overseeing the development of the Member and democratic spaces at the new Civic Heart at Woodhatch Place. In November 2020, the group set up a Member Panel to review over 100 civic artefacts at County Hall and make recommendations regarding their future location. The recommendations, which have been agreed by the Leader, will see a number of items move to the Lodge at Woodhatch Place, whilst other items will be housed at the Surrey History Centre or loaned to local Surrey museums or galleries – enabling them to be viewed by the public.

ELECTIONS AND INDUCTION PROJECT

11. Throughout 2021, the MDSG has been overseeing the delivering of the Council's Election and Induction 2021 project. This includes feeding into the plans for the induction and ensuring that the process is truly Member led.
12. On Thursday 25 February, the Council held a virtual Prospective Councillors event, to provide candidates with information about Surrey and what to expect if they are elected. The event was well attended with over eighty attending across the Teams meeting and viewing the webcast.
13. A key objective of the Elections/Induction project is to offer induction reviews to all councillors. This will enable Democratic Services to review how the induction is being received and what further support Members need. The MDSG will monitor the response to these reviews and any key themes arising from them.

CHARTER PLUS ACCREDITATION

14. The Local Government Association (LGA) assesses the support and development that councils offer their Members through what is known as the 'Charter' scheme. In order to achieve Charter accreditation, councils have to prove that their Member development and support offer meets a required standard. Surrey County Council first became a Charter Council in 2011. In 2018, the Council was assessed as meeting the Charter Plus standard for Member development and support. Surrey is one of only a handful of councils in the country that has met this higher level of accreditation. Surrey's Charter Plus accreditation is due to be reviewed in 2021.

SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES FOR 2021/22

15. The MDSG has set out a number of suggested priorities for 2021/22 – to be agreed by the group post-election. These include:

- **Delivery of the Elections/Induction 2021 Project Objectives.** This includes offering Member 1-1s to all councillors and aiming for a completion rate of at least 60%.
- **Increase usage of the Member Portal as a self-service tool for Members.** Feedback suggests that Members are finding the new Member Portal easier to access and navigate. However, there is still work to do in increasing its usage as a key self-service tool.
- **Review of the Member Development Strategy.** The Member Development Strategy is reviewed on a biennial basis, with the next review due by the end of 2021. There is an opportunity to use the feedback from the Member Survey and the initial induction 1-1s to develop a revised strategy that supports councillors to be agile, effective and confident in their roles – thus benefitting the Council and its residents.
- **Continuing to achieve Charter Plus accreditation.** The Council's Member development and support offer is due to be peer reviewed in 2021. Achieving Charter Plus accreditation is a great way to receive feedback on our offer and assure Members and partners that the support they receive from Surrey is of a high standard.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council endorses the current approach to Member development and agrees that it is sufficient, equitable and effective.

Lead/Contact Officer:

Rachel Basham, Member Services Manager, Democratic Services
rachel.basham@surreycc.gov.uk / 07875 088 851

Sources/background papers:

None

Annexes:

None

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OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES - REMOTE MEETINGS

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

A report to consider arrangements for Council decision making post 7 May 2021 if regulations to hold remote meetings are not extended by that date or if new legislation is not in force.

Council will be aware of that regulations to allow remote attendance for councillors and the public were implemented in spring 2020 and Council meetings have operated successfully under these arrangements. The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 are due to expire on 6 May 2021 and at this time it is not certain that they will be extended. Whilst it is hoped that new regulations are made to extend remote attendance for Council meetings this report recommends that Council resolves to agree the below arrangements so Council decision making can continue as far as possible throughout any period when remote meetings may not constitute *formal* meetings of Councillors.

The recommendations provide that on the coming into force of any remote meeting regulations, the delegations and definitions agreed in this report automatically cease as formal member meetings will then be available.

CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS:

The Council's Constitution sets out the rules and procedures for both executive (Cabinet) and non-executive (Council) decision making. In light of the continuing national pandemic and in the absence of Government extending the Remote Meeting Regulations beyond 7 May 2021 which would allow council committee business to continue to operate virtually, Council is asked to authorise the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to make the necessary amendments as set out in this report, to the Constitution.

Members will still be accountable and responsible for decision making and it is proposed that this continues so far as possible. Where it is not possible to hold a *formal* Cabinet or committee meeting remotely, any notice will still be published, any reports will still be provided and members will attend an *informal* remote meeting and be fully involved in contributing to consideration of the issues. If a formal decision is required, this will be made through a

delegation to an individual Cabinet member or officer and where appropriate call in procedures will apply.

DECISION MAKING:

Executive (Cabinet) decision making and Scrutiny

The Leader has authority to make any executive decision and may delegate to Cabinet, individual Cabinet Members or officers as the Leader considers necessary for the proper management of council business.

While the Leader is able to amend the delegations with the Leader's Scheme of Delegation, the Council's Financial Regulations and Procurement Standing Orders set out the thresholds for decision making and provide that some decisions need to be made collectively by Cabinet.

To provide for ongoing decision making in areas such as procurement, property and budget virements it is proposed that Council agrees to amend the Financial Regulations and other rules so that any reference to Cabinet requires either a formal Cabinet meeting or the Leader or nominated Cabinet Member individually making a decision in consultation with two other Cabinet Members (a quorum of Cabinet).

Any individual decision will be made as a formal decision of a Cabinet Member with full public notice and the right to scrutinise. All key executive decision (unless under special urgency) will be subject to call in procedures.

Any executive decision making or where an item is called, in will be considered in a virtual manner by committee members in accordance with the Surrey County Council Remote Meetings protocol as agreed by the Audit & Governance Committee (**Annex A**).

Non-executive decision making

Council has responsibility for non-executive decision making and has delegated some functions to committees and officers e.g. Planning and Regulatory Committee and Audit and Governance Committee.

It is proposed that all non-executive decision making is delegated to officers (as far as the law allows). These delegations will only be used on a case by case basis and following agreement of the chairman or nominated member of the relevant regulatory committee and in line with the Surrey County Council Remote Meetings protocol (**Annex A**).

Urgent decisions

The Council already has arrangements in place for decisions that need to be made in cases of special urgency. Standing orders enable the Chief Executive to act on behalf of the organisation in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer and Cabinet Members as appropriate.

Monitoring of the delegations and use of the Remote Meeting Protocol

It is proposed that any use of the delegations outlined in this report and the Remote Meetings Protocol will be monitored by the Audit & Governance Committee and they will make recommendations on any required amendments to the Protocol. The delegations and definitions will automatically cease on the coming into force of regulations which provide for remote attendance at Council meetings.

Council AGM and Appointment of chairmen and committees

The Council must have an Annual General Meeting following local elections to appoint a Chairman, a Leader of the Council and to make appointments to committees. If no remote meeting regulations are in force, arrangements will need to be agreed dependent on the circumstances in late May and subject to public health advice at the time to hold a Council meeting and make these appointments in a Covid safe environment. This may include agreement from members and groups to have, for example, attendance limited to a quorum of members to reduce any health risk and be limited to essential business only.

Non-attendance at council meetings

Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that all councillors must attend a committee meeting of the council within a six month period unless the failure was due to a reason approved by the local authority.

Council is asked to resolve that special dispensation is granted to all members for any non-attendance at meetings of the Council until 31 October 2021.

This dispensation will be automatically removed on the coming into force of regulations which permit remote attendance at Council meetings.

Continuation of the Remote Meeting Regulations

The Council is aware that the Government has stated that it would require primary legislation to continue to allow formal committee meetings to take place virtually and should the Remote Meeting Regulations be extended post 7 May 2021 then the Council will communicate this to members and revert to normal committee business in line with this legislation.

<u>RECOMMENDATIONS:</u>

That, in the absence of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 being extended beyond 7 May 2021, or other regulations being in force, Council agrees:

1. To amend the definition within the Council's Constitution (as far as the law allows) to define Cabinet as a formal meeting of Cabinet **or**

the Leader or nominated Cabinet Member making a decision in consultation with at least two other Cabinet Members.

2. To delegate all non-executive decisions (as far as the law allows) to the relevant proper officer in consultation with the relevant chairman or member nominated by the chairman.
3. To agree that all members unable to attend a council meeting for a period greater than six months receives a dispensation further to section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to 31 October 2021.
4. To resolve that, in the absence of legislation to allow remote meetings to take place, that all decision making will take place in line with the Surrey County Council Remote Meetings Protocol (**Annex A**).
5. To agree that the Audit and Governance Committee will monitor the use of the delegations in line with the Remote Meetings Protocol (**Annex A**) and as required, make recommendations on any required amendments to the protocol to ensure that Members remain informed in relation to council decision making.
6. To authorise the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman of the Council and group leaders to incorporate any legislative changes issued by Government into council business processes.
7. To agree that all the above measures will automatically terminate on the coming into force of any regulations which permit remote attendance at Council meetings.
8. To review these measures (if still in force) by 31 July 2021 or as soon as practicable thereafter as determined by the Audit and Governance Committee.

Lead/Contact Officers:

Paul Evans, Director of Law and Governance

Email: paul.evans@surreycc.gov.uk tel: 02082132584

Sources/background papers:

Constitution of the Council

Annexes:

Annex A - Surrey County Council Remote Meetings Protocol

REMOTE MEETINGS PROTOCOL

This protocol sets out how Surrey County Council will operate executive and non-executive decision making in light of the coronavirus situation in line with the proposed delegations at the 16 March 2021 Council meeting should the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 not be extended beyond 7th May 2021 or further legislation into force.

It covers procedures for the following areas:

- Public representation
- Cabinet
- Select Committee meetings and call in
- Local and Joint committees
- Regulatory Committee meetings

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

Public representations such as petitions and questions (member and public) will be received and responded to in writing in line with the Councils Standing Orders. Members of the public will be invited to participate in remote meetings where appropriate and wording on agenda front sheets and on the public website to make it clear to the public how their representations will be dealt with and how they can observe proceedings.

OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

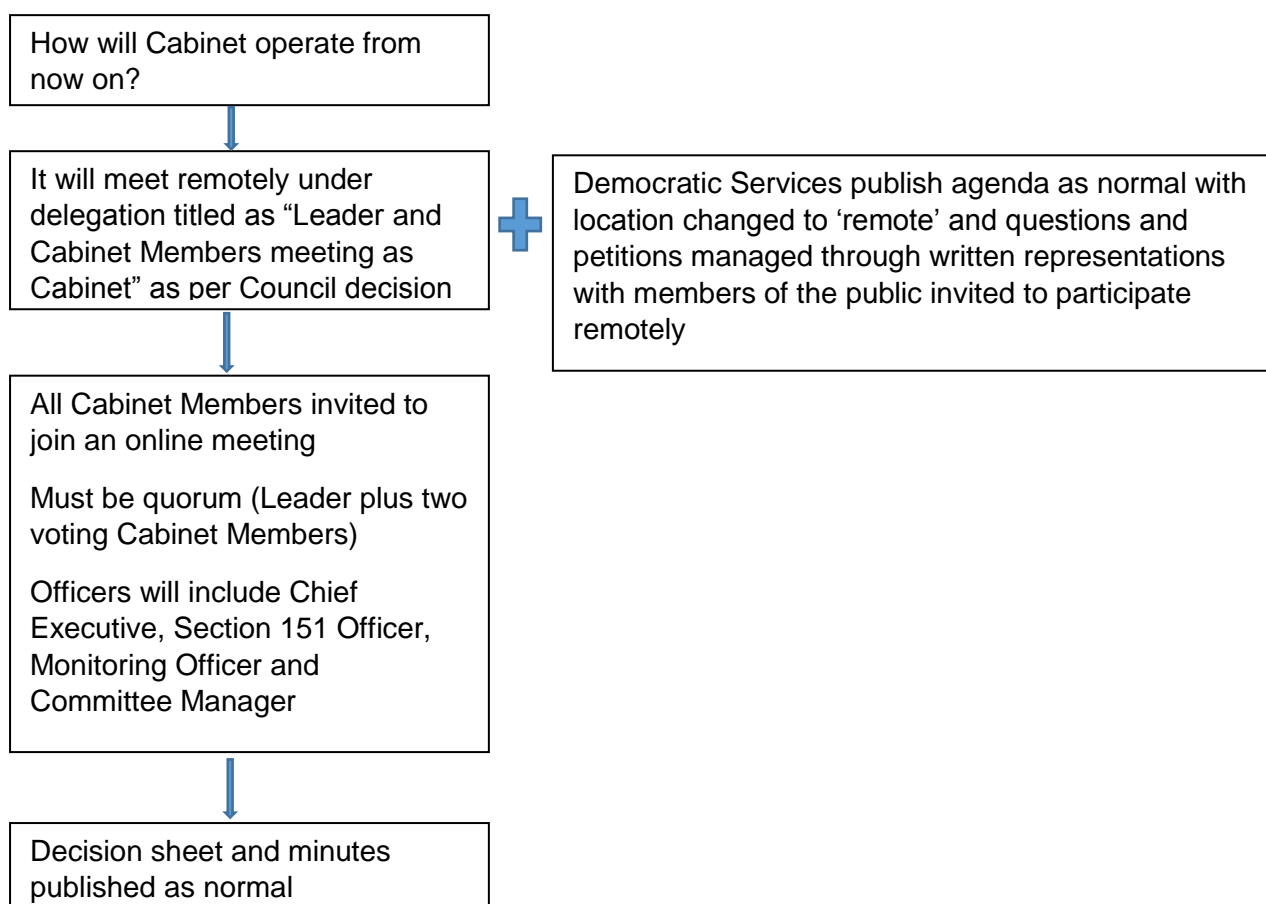
All remote meetings will be recorded and streamed live by the supporting Democratic Services officer using MS Teams on the and these recordings will be made available to all members and the public where appropriate.

CABINET (LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS SITTING AS CABINET)

The delegation agreed by Council allows the Cabinet to sit as a collective or as the Leader or nominated Cabinet Member making a decision in consultation with at least two other Cabinet Members (a quorum of Cabinet).

- Notice of decisions will be published 28 days in advance through the Cabinet Forward Plan.
- All agendas and reports will be published on the Council's website at least five working days before the decision is due to be made.
- Meetings will take place remotely using MS Teams with the whole Cabinet invited (plus the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer and Democratic Services Support) to participate at the advertised time that Cabinet would usually take place.
- A decision sheet and minutes will be produced and published on the Council's website after the meeting.
- Decisions can lawfully be made with a minimum of three Cabinet Members participating.

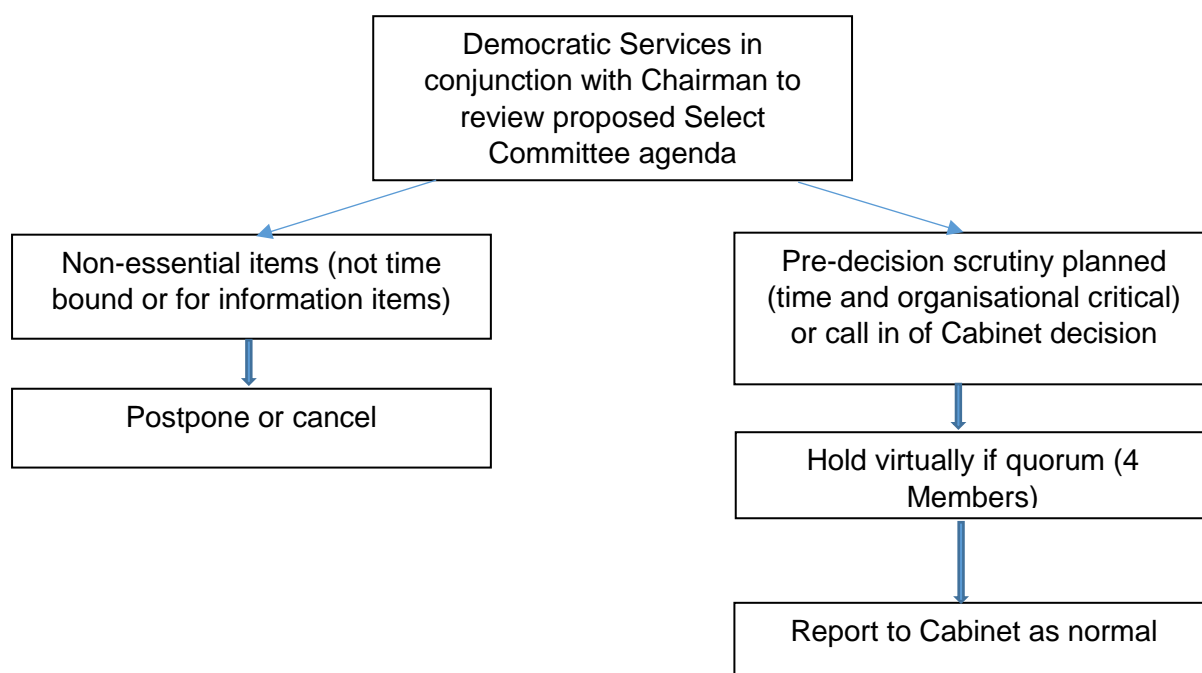
CABINET PROCEDURE



SCRUTINY PROCEDURES

Scrutiny and call-in procedures will still operate to hold executive decision making to account.

- Committee forward work programmes will be reviewed by Democratic Services (in conjunction with the respective Select Committee Chairman) removing non-essential items to enable officers to focus on delivering business critical activities.
- Meetings will take place remotely via MS Teams supported by Democratic Services with relevant officers in attendance.
- Robust pre-decision scrutiny will continue and call-in arrangements remain in place.



TASK GROUPS

Task group work to take place remotely and task groups will report into the relevant select committee to provide updates on their work.

NON-EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING

Council agreed to delegate all non-executive decisions (as far as the law allows) to the relevant proper officer in consultation with the relevant chairman or member nominated by the chairman.

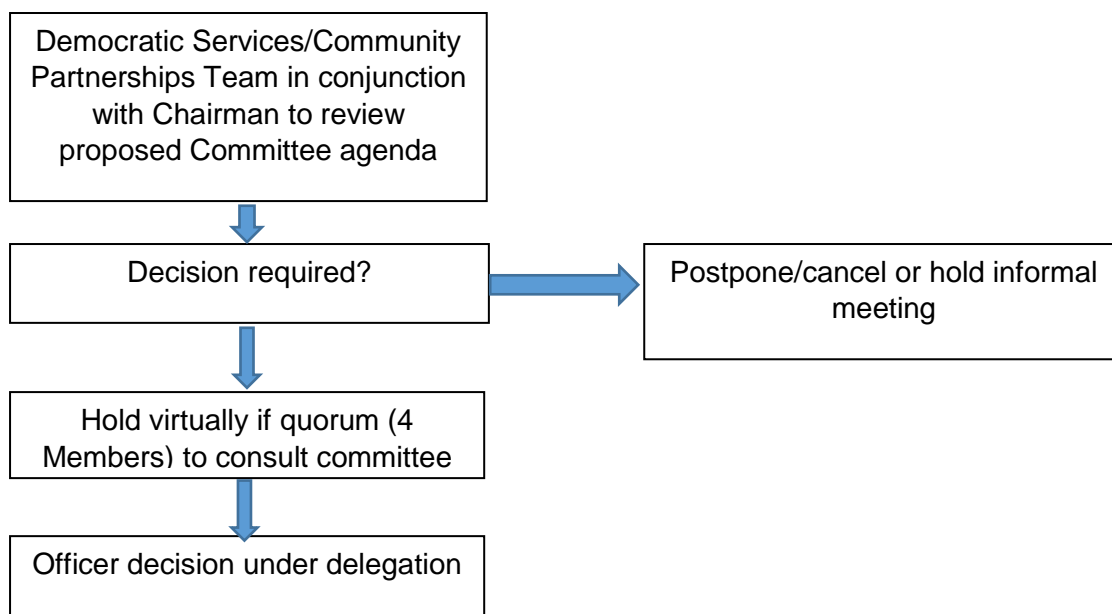
LOCAL/JOINT COMMITTEES

- Local and Joint Committees will have the option of convening as virtual, informal meetings in advance of a proper officer taking a decision on a Surrey County Council function supported by relevant officers.

- Where Joint Committees are taking decisions on functions that relate to a District or Borough Council function, the Community Partnerships team will advise on what local arrangements are in place in that particular area.

OTHER REGULATORY COMMITTEES

- Regulatory Committees will have the option of convening as virtual, informal meetings whereby Members views can be sought in advance of a proper officer taking a decision (where the law allows).
- Meetings will be supported by Democratic Services via MS Teams with relevant officers in attendance.
- All agendas and reports will be published on the Council's website at least five working days before the decision is due to be made.
- Minutes will be produced and published on the Council's website after the meeting.



Council Meeting – 16 March 2021

REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Mr David Harmer (Chairman)
Mr Keith Witham (Vice Chairman)
Dr Peter Szanto
Mrs Victoria Young
Mr Stephen Cooksey
Mr Stephen Spence

REPORT OF THE MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT TASK GROUP

1. At its meeting on 9 February 2021 the Council considered a report of the Audit and Governance Committee recommending the adoption of a new Code of Conduct for Councillors following the publication of the Local Governance Association's (LGA) new model code in December 2020.
2. The Council agreed:
 - To adopt a revised Councillor Code of Conduct to be effective from the Council's AGM on 25 May 2021.
 - The Arrangements for Dealing with Allegations of Breaches of the Councillor Code of Conduct.
 - And confirmed in addition to compliance with the Councillor Code of Conduct, Members are expected to comply with the following codes: (a) Member/Officer Protocol (b) Planning Code of Best Practice.
3. At the Council meeting of 9 February, Council was informed that the LGA had made some small amendments to the wording of the model LGA code issued on 23 December. The Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee said these would be considered by the Audit and Governance Committee Task Group which would report any recommended amendments to the next available Council meeting.
4. The Task Group met on the 26 February 2021 and the following amendments are recommended (set out as track changes in Appendix A).
5. "Application of the Code of Conduct" – the new version condensed four bullet points into two by rephrasing the key detail.
6. "I register and disclose my interest" – the new version included amended wording and reference to the Localism Act 2011.
7. The key changes considered by the Task Group were the wording in relation to the treatment of interests and obligations on councillors to register them.

The general wording amendments were agreed to be an improvement and adoption is recommended.

8. Further, the new draft sought to clarify the requirement to declare “Other registrable interests” by Members. Within the code previously considered by the Council, Table 2 read ‘any Body of which a councillor is a member or in general control or management and to which they are appointed or nominated by the council’. The new draft LGA code has altered this and is not as clear as it could be in defining when councillors declare any roles in external organisations, as between “membership” or position of “control or management”. After considering options the Task Group agreed to recommend the principles contained in the model LGA code set out as follows:

“You have a registrable personal interest in

- a. any body within Surrey of which you are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by Surrey County Council.
- b. any body within Surrey of which you are in a position of general control or management which exercises functions of a public nature and / or is directed to charitable purposes
- c. Any body whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you hold a membership.”

Recommendations:

That Council **approves:**

The revised Councillor Code of Conduct (Appendix A).

Mr David Harmer
Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee
5 March 2021

PART 6 (1)- SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT AND RELATED PROVISIONS
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Introduction

The Surrey County Council Councillor Code of Conduct is based on the model Councillor Code of Conduct developed by the Local Government Association (LGA) in association with key partners and after extensive consultation within the sector. The LGA will undertake an annual review of this code to ensure it continues to be fit-for-purpose, incorporating advances in technology, social media and changes in legislation.

All Councils are required to have a Councillor Code of Conduct and the role of a Councillor in Surrey County Council is a vital part of the Council's system of democracy. It is important that Councillors can be held accountable and adopt the behaviours and responsibilities associated with their role. The conduct of an individual Councillor affects the reputation of all Councillors and the role of Councillor should be one that people aspire to.

Councillors represent local residents; work to develop better services; and deliver local change. The public have high expectations of Councillors and entrust them to represent their local area; taking decisions fairly, openly, and transparently. Councillors have both an individual and collective responsibility to meet these expectations by maintaining high standards and demonstrating good conduct, and by challenging behaviour which falls below expectations.

Importantly, Councillors should be able to undertake their role as a Councillor without being intimidated, abused, bullied or threatened by anyone, including the general public.

The code has been designed to protect Councillor's democratic role; encourage good conduct; and safeguard the public's trust in the Council.

Definitions

For the purposes of the Councillor Code of Conduct, a "Councillor" means a member or co-opted member of the Council. A "co-opted member" is defined in the Localism Act 2011, Section 27(4), as "a person who is not a member of the authority but who:

- (a) is a member of any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or;
- (b) is a member of, and represents the authority on, any joint committee or joint sub-committee of the authority; and
- (c) who is entitled to vote on any question that falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or sub-committee".

Purpose of the Councillor Code of Conduct

The purpose of this code is to assist Councillors, in modelling the behaviour that is expected of them; provide a personal check and balance; and to set out the type of conduct that could

lead to action being taken against a Councillor. It is also to protect Councillors, the public, fellow Councillors, officers and the reputation of local government. It sets out general principles of conduct expected of all Councillors and specific obligations in relation to standards of conduct. The use of support, training and mediation prior to action being taken using the code is encouraged. The fundamental aim of the code is to create and maintain public confidence in the role of councillor and local government.

General principles of Councillor conduct

Everyone in public office at all levels; all who serve the public or deliver public services, including ministers, civil servants, Councillors and local authority officers; should uphold the Seven Principles of Public Life, also known as the Nolan Principles.

Building on these principles, the following general principles have been developed specifically for the role of Councillor.

In accordance with the public trust placed in me, on all occasions:

- I act with integrity and honesty
- I act lawfully
- I treat all persons fairly and with respect; and
- I lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of Councillor.

In undertaking my role:

- I impartially exercise my responsibilities in the interests of the local community
- I do not improperly seek to confer an advantage, or disadvantage, on any person
- I avoid conflicts of interest
- I exercise reasonable care and diligence; and
- I ensure that public resources are used prudently in accordance with my local authority's requirements and in the public interest.

Application of the Councillor Code of Conduct

This code applies to all Councillors as soon as they sign their declaration of acceptance of the office of Councillor or attend their first meeting as a co-opted member and continues to apply to them until they cease to be a Councillor.

This Code of Conduct applies to you when you are acting in your capacity as a councillor which may include when:

- you misuse your position as a councillor
- Your actions would give the impression to a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of all the facts that you are acting as a councillor;

~~This code applies to a Councillor when:~~

- ~~• they are acting in their capacity as a Councillor and/or as a representative of the Council~~
- ~~• a Councillor claims to act as a Councillor and/or as a representative of the Council~~

- ~~• a Councillor gives the impression that they are acting as a Councillor and/or as a representative of the Council~~
- ~~• a Councillor refers publicly to their role as a Councillor or use knowledge they could only obtain in their role as a Councillor.~~

The code applies to all forms of communication and interaction, including:

- at face-to-face meetings
- at online or telephone meetings
- in written communication
- in verbal communication
- in non-verbal communication
- in electronic and social media communication, posts, statements and comments.

Councillors are also expected to uphold high standards of conduct and show leadership at all times.

The Monitoring Officer has statutory responsibility for the implementation of the Councillor Code of Conduct, and Councillors are encouraged to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer on any matters that may relate to the Councillor Code of Conduct.

Standards of Councillor conduct

This section sets out a Councillor's obligations, which are the minimum standards of conduct required of a Councillor. Should a Councillor's conduct fall short of these standards, a complaint may be made against them, which may result in action being taken.

Guidance is included to help explain the reasons for the obligations and how they should be followed.

General Conduct

1. Respect

As a Councillor:

- 1.1 I treat other Councillors and members of the public with respect.
- 1.2 I treat Council employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the Council with respect and respect the role they play.

Respect means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word. Debate and having different views are all part of a healthy democracy. As a Councillor, you can express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views, ideas, opinions and policies in a robust but civil manner. Councillors should not, however, subject individuals, groups of people or organisations to personal attack.

In their contact with the public, Councillors should treat them politely and courteously. Rude and offensive behaviour lowers the public's expectations and confidence in Councillors.

In return, Councillors have a right to expect respectful behaviour from the public. If members of the public are being abusive, intimidatory or threatening Councillors are entitled to stop

any conversation or interaction in person or online and report them to the Council, the relevant social media provider or the police. This also applies to fellow Councillors, where action could then be taken under the Councillor Code of Conduct, and Council employees, where concerns should be raised in line with the Council's Councillor-Officer Protocol.

2. Bullying, harassment and discrimination

As a Councillor:

- 2.1 I do not bully any person.
- 2.2 I do not harass any person.
- 2.3 I promote equalities and do not discriminate unlawfully against any person.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) characterises bullying as offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour, an abuse or misuse of power through means that undermine, humiliate, denigrate or injure the recipient. Bullying might be a regular pattern of behaviour or a one-off incident, happen face-to-face, on social media, in emails or phone calls, happen in the workplace or at work social events and may not always be obvious or noticed by others.

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 defines harassment as conduct that causes alarm or distress or puts people in fear of violence and must involve such conduct on at least two occasions. It can include repeated attempts to impose unwanted communications and contact upon a person in a manner that could be expected to cause distress or fear in any reasonable person.

Unlawful discrimination is where someone is treated unfairly because of a protected characteristic. Protected characteristics are specific aspects of a person's identity defined by the Equality Act 2010. They are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The Equality Act 2010 places specific duties on local authorities. Councillors have a central role to play in ensuring that equality issues are integral to the local authority's performance and strategic aims, and that there is a strong vision and public commitment to equality across public services.

3. Impartiality of officers of the Council

As a Councillor:

- 3.1 I do not compromise, or attempt to compromise, the impartiality of anyone who works for, or on behalf of, the Council.

Officers work for the Council as a whole and must be politically neutral (unless they are political assistants). They should not be coerced or persuaded to act in a way that would undermine their neutrality. A Councillor can question officers in order to understand, for example, their reasons for proposing to act in a particular way, or the content of a report that they have written. However, a Councillor must not try and force them to act differently, change their advice, or alter the content of that report, if doing so would prejudice their professional integrity.

4. Confidentiality and access to information

As a Councillor:

- 4.1 I do not disclose information:
 - a. given to me in confidence by anyone
 - b. acquired by me which I believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, unless
 - i. I have received the consent of a person authorised to give it;
 - ii. I am required by law to do so;
 - iii. the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional legal advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or
 - iv. the disclosure is:
 - 1. reasonable and in the public interest; and
 - 2. made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the Council; and
 - 3. I have consulted the Monitoring Officer prior to its release.
- 4.2 I do not improperly use knowledge gained solely as a result of my role as a Councillor for the advancement of myself, my friends, my family members, my employer or my business interests.
- 4.3 I do not prevent anyone from getting information that they are entitled to by law.

The Council works openly and transparently, and its proceedings and printed materials are open to the public, except in certain legally defined circumstances. Councillors should work on this basis, but there will be times when it is required by law that discussions, documents and other information relating to or held by the Council must be treated in a confidential manner. Examples include personal data relating to individuals or information relating to ongoing negotiations.

5. Disrepute

As a Councillor:

- 5.1 I do not bring my role or the Council into disrepute.

Councillors are trusted to make decisions on behalf of their community and their actions and behaviour are subject to greater scrutiny than that of ordinary members of the public. Councillors should be aware that their actions might have an adverse impact on them, other Councillors and/or the Council and may lower the public's confidence in their or the Council's ability to discharge their/it's functions. For example, behaviour that is considered dishonest and/or deceitful can bring the Council into disrepute.

Councillors can hold the Council and fellow Councillors to account and are able to constructively challenge and express concern about decisions and processes undertaken by the Council whilst continuing to adhere to other aspects of this code.

6. Use of position

As a Councillor:

- 6.1 I do not use, or attempt to use, my position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of myself or anyone else.

A Councillor's position as a member of the Council provides them with certain opportunities, responsibilities and privileges, and they make choices all the time that will impact others. However, they should not take advantage of these opportunities to further their own or others' private interests or to disadvantage anyone unfairly.

7. Use of local authority resources and facilities

As a Councillor:

- 7.1 I do not misuse Council resources.
- 7.2 I will, when using the resources of the Council or authorising their use by others:
- a. act in accordance with the local authority's requirements; and
 - b. ensure that such resources are not used for political purposes unless that use could reasonably be regarded as likely to facilitate, or be conducive to, the discharge of the functions of the local Council or of the office to which I have been elected or appointed.

Councillors may be provided with resources and facilities by the Council to assist them in carrying out their duties as a Councillor.

Examples include:

- office support
- stationery
- equipment such as phones and computers
- transport
- access and use of Council buildings and rooms.

These are given to Councillors to help them carry out their role as a Councillor more effectively and are not to be used for business or personal gain. They should be used in accordance with the purpose for which they have been provided and the Council's own policies regarding their use.

8. Complying with the Code of Conduct

As a Councillor:

- 8.1 I undertake Code of Conduct training provided by the Council.

- 8.2 I cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and/or determination.
- 8.3 I do not intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is likely to be involved with the administration of any investigation or proceedings.
- 8.4 I comply with any sanction imposed on me following a finding that I have breached the Code of Conduct.

It is extremely important for a Councillor to demonstrate high standards, for them to have their actions open to scrutiny and for them not to undermine public trust in the Council or its governance. If a Councillor does not understand or is concerned about the Council's processes in handling a complaint, they should raise this with the Monitoring Officer.

Protecting your reputation and the reputation of the Council

9. Interests

As a Councillor:

- 9.1 I register and declare my interests.

Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Monitoring Officer to establish and maintain a register of interests of members of the authority.

Councillors need to register their interests so that the public, Council employees and fellow Councillors know which of their interests might give rise to a conflict of interest. The register is a public document that can be consulted when (or before) an issue arises. The register also protects a Councillor by allowing them to demonstrate openness and a willingness to be held accountable.

A Councillor is personally responsible for deciding whether or not they should declare an interest in a meeting, but it can be helpful for them to know early on if others think that a potential conflict might arise. It is also important that the public know about any interest that might have to be declared by a Councillor or other Councillors when making or taking part in decisions, so that decision making is seen by the public as open and honest. This helps to ensure that public confidence in the integrity of the Council is maintained.

You should note that failure to register or disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest as set out in **Table 1**, is a criminal offence under the Localism Act 2011.

~~Councillors should note that failure to register or declare a disclosable pecuniary (i.e. financial) interest is a criminal offence under the Localism Act 2011.~~

Appendix B sets out the detailed provisions on registering and declaring interests. If in doubt, a Councillor should always seek advice from the Monitoring Officer.

10. Gifts and hospitality

As a Councillor:

- 10.1 I do not accept gifts or hospitality, irrespective of estimated value, which could give rise to real or substantive personal gain or a reasonable suspicion of influence on my part to show favour from persons seeking to acquire, develop or do business with the Council or from persons who may apply to the local Council for any permission, licence or other significant advantage.
- 10.2 I register with the Monitoring Officer any gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50 within 28 days of its receipt.
- 10.3 I register with the Monitoring Officer any significant gift or hospitality that I have been offered, but have refused to accept.

In order to protect their position and the reputation of the Council, a Councillor should exercise caution in accepting any gifts or hospitality which are (or which they reasonably believe to be) offered to them because they are a Councillor. The presumption should always be not to accept significant gifts or hospitality. However, there may be times when such a refusal may be difficult if it is seen as rudeness in which case a Councillor could accept it, but must ensure it is publicly registered.

However, a Councillor does not need to register gifts and hospitality which are not related to their role as a Councillor, such as Christmas gifts from their friends and family. It is also important to note that it is appropriate to accept normal expenses and hospitality associated with their duties as a Councillor. In case of any uncertainty, the Monitoring Officer should be contacted for guidance.

Appendices

Appendix A – The Seven Principles of Public Life

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Appendix B Registering interests

Within 28 days of becoming a Member or your re-election or re-appointment to office you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) which are as described in “The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012”. You should also register details of your other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in Table 2 (Other Registerable Interests).

“Disclosable Pecuniary Interest” means an interest of yourself, or of your partner if you are aware of your partner’s interest, within the descriptions set out in Table 1 below.

“Partner” means a spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

1. You must ensure that your register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.
2. A ‘sensitive interest’ is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the councillor, or a person connected with the councillor, being subject to violence or intimidation.
3. Where you have a ‘sensitive interest’ you must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why you believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees they will withhold the interest from the public register.

Non participation in case of disclosable pecuniary interest

4. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in Table 1, you must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a ‘sensitive interest’, you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.
5. Where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which *directly relates* to one of your Other Registerable Interests (as set out in Table 2), you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a ‘sensitive interest’, you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Disclosure of Non-Registerable Interests

7. Where a matter arises at a meeting which *directly relates* to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in Table 1) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

8. Where a matter arises at a meeting which *affects* –

- a. your own financial interest or well-being;
- b. a financial interest or well-being of a relative, close associate; or
- c. a body included in those you need to disclose under Other Registrable Interests as set out in Table 2

you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied

9. Where a matter *affects* your financial interest or well-being:

- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

10. Where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority and you have made an executive decision in relation to that business, you must make sure that any written statement of that decision records the existence and nature of your interest.

Appendix B

Registering interests

~~1. Within 28 days of the Councillor Code of Conduct being adopted by the Council or a Councillor being elected or appointed to office (where that is later), a Councillor must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) and Table 2 (Other Registrable Interests). Disclosable Pecuniary Interests means issues relating to money and finances.~~

~~2. A Councillor must ensure that their register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.~~

~~3. A 'sensitive interest' is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to a Councillor or co-opted member, or a person connected with the member or co-opted member, being subject to violence or intimidation.~~

~~4. Where a Councillor has a 'sensitive interest', they must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why they believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees, they will withhold the interest from the public register.~~

~~Declaring interests~~

~~5. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of their Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, a Councillor must declare the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation. If the meeting takes place remotely, a Councillor should leave the meeting and remain off-line while the item is being discussed. If it is a 'sensitive interest', a Councillor does not have to declare the nature of the interest, just that they have an interest.~~

~~6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of their Other Registerable Interests, a Councillor must declare the interest. A Councillor may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting, but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If the meeting takes place remotely, a Councillor should leave the meeting and remain off-line while the item is being discussed. If it is a 'sensitive interest', again a Councillor does not have to declare the nature of the interest.~~

~~7. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to a Councillor's financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, a Councillor must declare the interest. A Councillor may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation. If the meeting takes place remotely, a Councillor should leave the meeting and remain off-line while the item is being discussed. If it is a 'sensitive interest', a Councillor does not have to declare the nature of the interest.~~

~~8. Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects—~~

~~a. a Councillor's own financial interest or well-being;~~

~~b. a financial interest or well-being of a friend, relative, close associate; or~~

~~c. a body included in those a Councillor needs to declare under Disclosable Pecuniary Interests~~

~~they must disclose the interest.~~

~~9. Where the matter affects the financial interest or well-being:~~

~~a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the division affected by the decision and;~~

~~b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect a Councillor's view of the wider public interest,~~

~~they must declare the interest. A Councillor may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting, but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation. If the meeting takes place remotely, a Councillor should leave the meeting and remain off-line while the item is being discussed. If it is a 'sensitive interest', a Councillor does not have to declare the nature of the interest.~~

Table 1: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

This table sets out the explanation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain. [Any unpaid directorship.]
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to a Councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a Councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between a Councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom a Councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the Council —

	<p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land and Property	<p>Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the Council.</p> <p>'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give a Councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.</p>
Licenses	<p>Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.</p>
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to the Councillor's knowledge)—</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the Council; and</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body that the Councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the Councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the Councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the Councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

	<p>* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.</p> <p>* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.</p>
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Table 2: Other Registerable Interests

You have a registrable personal interest in

<u>a. any body within Surrey of which you are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by Surrey County Council.</u>
<u>b. any body within Surrey of which you are in a position of general control or management which exercises functions of a public nature and / or is directed to charitable purposes</u>
<u>c. Any body whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you hold a membership.</u>

~~Any Body of which a Councillor is a member or in a position of general control or management and to which they are appointed or nominated by the Council~~

Any Body –	(a) exercising functions of a public nature;
	(b) directed to charitable purposes; or
	(c) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union).

~~of which a Councillor is a member or in a position of general control or management.~~

County Council Meeting – 16 March 2021

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 23 February 2021.

In accordance with the Constitution, Members can ask questions of the appropriate Cabinet Member, seek clarification or make a statement on any of these issues without giving notice.

The minutes containing the individual decisions for the meetings above have been included within the original agenda at Item 14. Any Cabinet responses to Committee reports are included in or appended to the minutes. If any Member wishes to raise a question or make a statement on any of the matters in the minutes, notice must be given to Democratic Services by 12 noon on the last working day before the County Council meeting (Monday 15 March 2021).

For members of the public all non-confidential reports are available on the web site (www.surreycc.gov.uk) or on request from Democratic Services.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS

A. SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN

The School Organisation Plan sets out the policies and principles underpinning both mainstream and specialist school organisation in Surrey. It highlights the likely demand for school places projected over a 10-year period and sets out any potential changes in school organisation that may be required in order to meet the council's statutory duty to provide sufficient places.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. The Cabinet recommends that the County Council approves the School Organisation Plan 2020-2030.

Reason for Decision:

The School Organisation Plan is a key document used by schools and education stakeholders in considering medium and long term plans. It is necessary to review the plan to ensure that the best and most up to date information is published for use in this process to encourage collaborative and collegiate planning.

Link to School Organisation Plan 2020-2030:

<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/documents/s76033/School%20Organisation%20Plan%202020-30%20090221.pdf>

B. STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/20

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 Strategic Investment 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.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That Cabinet recommends that Council endorse the Annual Report of the Strategic Investment Board.

Reason for Decision:

To inform the Council about the activities of the Strategic Investment Board.

The Strategic Investment 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.

Link to Annual Report of the Strategic Investment Board 2019/20:

<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/documents/s76072/Annex%20A%20Annual%20Strategic%20Investment%20Board%20Report.pdf>

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

At its meeting on 23 February 2021 Cabinet considered:

C. SETTING A RADICAL AGENDA FOR EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN SURREY AND SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

This report asks to endorse a new Action Plan to embed equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) into everything we do at the council. It sets out a new vision for EDI and takes a radical approach that will change the systems, processes and behaviours affecting the experiences of all Surrey residents and staff who work for the council. The plan is a living document that will continue to evolve as we make progress and as our strategic context changes.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the Surrey County Council EDI Action Plan 2021-22 be endorsed and the new EDI Policy Statement be agreed.

Reasons for decision:

The EDI Action Plan is key to delivering the equality objectives in the Organisation Strategy 2021-26 and plays a pivotal role in supporting the council's wider aim to tackle inequality to ensure no-one is left behind. Moving to a fairer, more compassionate and inclusive culture will inform how we develop policy, take decisions and serve residents so everyone who lives, works and studies in Surrey is supported to thrive.

The updated EDI Policy Statement will provide a clear, definitive commitment to staff and communities against which the council's actions can be held to account in its effort to become a fairer and more inclusive organisation. It responds to feedback from staff that they want EDI to be integral to how we work and for Members and

senior officers to show greater leadership on this agenda. It also recognises how EDI needs to underpin all we do to tackle inequalities facing residents.

D. IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES, EXPERIENCES AND SERVICES IN SURREY

This report sets out the pressures and challenges being faced by the mental health system in Surrey, the issues and concerns arising and the multi-agency approach and activity underway aimed at addressing them, to ensure improved mental health outcomes, experiences and services for Surrey residents.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the significant demands, issues, concerns and performance associated with the mental health system in Surrey, particularly arising from the additional pressures created by Covid-19, and the impact this is having on Surrey residents be noted.
2. That the range of multi-agency work going on and being initiated to address the situation, including through the Surrey Heartlands Mental Health Partnership and Improvement Board and Health and Wellbeing Board be approved and supported.
3. That Cabinet receive a further report on the issue of mental health outcomes, experiences and services in Surrey in July 2021.

Reasons for decisions:

Tackling health inequality is one of the Council's four strategic priorities. Poor mental health is a key factor in a range of conditions and personal situations, such as substance abuse, unemployment, poor physical health, that create and/or worsen health inequality. The mental health system in Surrey is under great stress and struggling to manage the demands made upon it. This report and its recommendations, the work to date and the work proposed are intended to support the mental health system deal with the immediate demands and pressures as well as building an effective and sustainable improvement programme.

E. SURREY INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITISATION

Surrey County Council is working with partners in the development of a Surrey Infrastructure Plan, which builds on the Surrey Infrastructure Study, which was originally undertaken in 2016, refreshed in 2017, which identified the infrastructure required to support planned growth to 2031 and the funding required to fund that infrastructure. As the 2017 study identified a funding gap of £2.47bn, the development of an Infrastructure Plan will enable the Council and partners to better prioritise and pursue funding to deliver the infrastructure the county needs. The Infrastructure Plan will prioritise projects in the county over the short, medium and long term to support "good growth," as defined in Surrey's 2050 Place Ambition, with a commitment to environmental, place and health and wellbeing outcomes.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the Surrey Infrastructure Prioritisation Framework be approved.

2. That further engagement with key stakeholders, including the Districts and Boroughs to review the assessed schemes to develop a prioritised list of projects be approved.
3. It be agreed that individual schemes are submitted to Cabinet seeking approval for implementation when the Outline Business Case has been developed and funding identified as necessary.

Reasons for decisions:

The recommendations will enable the development and delivery of an Infrastructure Plan that includes schemes that meet a wide range of outcomes as well as demonstrate deliverability and affordability. The long list of schemes that have already been identified following discussions with officers from Surrey's district and borough councils since late 2019 will be assessed using the Prioritisation Framework and will lead to the creation of a prioritised shortlist of schemes. Further feasibility work undertaken can then be undertaken to produce an Outline Business Case (OBC) for each scheme. Subject to a positive OBC and the identification of funding schemes will then be reported back on an individual basis to Cabinet seeking approval to implement as necessary.

The process is intended to remain ongoing with new schemes added to the long list as they are identified, and a continuous programme of schemes developed taking them from concept through to delivery.

F. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 10 February 2021- 16 March 2021

The Cabinet is required under the Constitution to report to Council on a quarterly basis the details of decisions taken by the Cabinet and Cabinet Members under the special urgency arrangements set out in Standing Order 57 of the Constitution. This occurs where a decision is required on a matter that is not contained within the Leader's Forward Plan (Notice of Decisions), nor available 5 clear days before the meeting. Where a decision on such matters could not reasonably be delayed, the agreement of the Chairman of the appropriate Select Committee, or in his/her absence the Chairman of the Council, must be sought to enable the decision to be made.

The Cabinet RECOMMENDS that the County Council notes that there has been NO urgent decision in the last month.

**Mr Tim Oliver, Leader of the Council
16 March 2021**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET
HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 2.00 PM
VIA REMOTE MEETING, MS TEAMS.**

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
*Mr Mark Nuti	*Mrs Julie Iles
*Mrs Sinead Mooney	*Mr Matt Furniss
*Mrs Becky Rush	*Ms Denise Turner-Stewart

Deputy Cabinet Members:

*Mr Edward Hawkins	*Miss Alison Griffiths
*Miss Marisa Heath	

* = Present

Members in attendance:

Mr Nick Harrison, Chairman of the Resources and Performance Select Committee
Mrs Clare Curran, Local Member for Bookham and Fetcham West
Mrs Hazel Watson, Local Member for Dorking Hills
Mr Jonathan Essex, Local Member for Redhill East

**PART ONE
IN PUBLIC**

27/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Colin Kemp.

28/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 26 JANUARY 2021 [Item 2]

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 26 January 2021 were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

29/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

Mr Edward Hawkins stated that he had previously been a Director of Halsey Garton Property Investments.

30/21 PROCEDURAL MATTERS [Item 4]

The Leader made a short announcement before the start of the formal meeting agenda. The following key points were made:

- The Leader explained that the Prime Minister had made an announcement regarding the roadmap to lifting covid-19 restrictions. It

was important that residents continue with washing hands, covering their face and maintaining social distance.

- The vaccination programme in Surrey was progressing well and positive feedback had been received from residents. The Leader encouraged all residents to take the vaccine.
- The council budget for 2021/22 was approved by Full Council on 09 February and would support the four key priority areas of the refreshed organisation strategy.
- The council would ensure that organisations and residents impacted by the pandemic would be supported through the recovery phase.
- The council tax increase for the year was also contained due to the council's strong financial position.

30/211 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 4a]

There were three member questions. The questions and responses were published as a supplement to the agenda.

There was a supplementary question from Mrs Watson. Mrs Watson queried how fundamental errors had been made in the scoring process for the two schemes listed and if officers would provide a corrective prioritisation schedule for the Mole Valley Local Committee. The Cabinet Member for Highways stated that he had been advised that the schemes in question had not been prioritised by the Local Committee. The officer prioritisation was a guide that is recommended for use by all members. The Cabinet Member advised Mrs Watson to meet with officers to go through the scoring prioritisation for the schemes in question.

There was a supplementary question from Mr Essex whom queried if the measures highlighted in the Leaders response would be implemented before the shift from home working back to the office and if there was a budget to support this. The Leader stated that active conversations were taking place with bus operators and measures would not be in place until September. The timings of people coming back to the office had not been worked out as of yet but the Leader was conscious that strong public transport links to Woodhatch was extremely important.

31/21 PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 4b]

There were no public questions.

32/21 PETITIONS [Item 4c]

There were none.

33/21 REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED ON REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE [Item 4d]

There were none

34/21 REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES , TASK GROUPS, LOCAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL [Item 5]

The Chairman of the Resources and Performance task group thanked the Cabinet Member for Communities for the response to the task groups recommendations. Due to the pandemic, the task group had changed its approach to reporting and was not able to visit other local authorities as planned. The task group had visited the contact centre a number of times and hoped the Cabinet would pick up comments around consultations especially in relation to budget setting. Furthermore, it was great to see that the contact centre would be involved in council inductions in May. The Cabinet Member for Communities thanked the task group for the work undertaken and agreed to take the recommendations forward.

RESOLVED:

That the customer experience task group report be noted and recommendations agreed.

35/21 LEADER / DEPUTY LEADER / CABINET MEMBER/ STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST CABINET MEETING [Item 6]

Three decisions had been taken since the last Cabinet meeting.

There was a petition regarding SEN Funding whereby Cabinet were asked to withdraw proposals relating to a small discretionary element of funding for pupils with special education needs. The petitioner was not able to present his petition because of technical issues but a full response was provided to the petitioner.

The third decision was regarding a compulsory purchase order as required by the Housing Infrastructure Fund. This decision would enable the bid to progress and therefore regenerate Woking at pace.

RESOLVED:

That the delegated decisions taken since the last meeting of the Cabinet be noted.

Reason for decision:

To inform the Cabinet of decisions taken by Cabinet Members, Strategic Investment Board and the Committee in Common subcommittee under delegated authority.

36/21 COVID- 19 DELEGATED AND URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN [Item 7]

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Domestic Abuse briefly explained the delegated decisions that had been taken. The first was regarding the disbursement of the adult social care rapid testing fund and the second about the disbursement of the adult social care workforce capacity fund.

RESOLVED:

That the two decisions taken by officers since the last meeting be noted.

Reason for decision:

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

[This decision is subject to call-in by the relevant Select Committee Chairman dependent on the recommendation]

37/21 COVID-19: SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE [Item 8]

The report was introduced by the Leader who explained that the Government had published a road map to ease covid-19 restrictions. The council would be studying how the easing of restrictions would impact council services. Surge testing for the South African variant of covid-19 had been completed in both Woking and Egham with the first round of surge testing producing response rates of over 90%. The Leader thanked residents for their compliance with the testing and the Surrey Local Resilience Forum (SLRF) for organising the surge testing. The vaccination programme was well under way and had been progressing well. Residents were reminded that they would be contacted by their GP for the vaccine. Special thanks was given to the SLRF, NHS, Surrey Heartlands and Frimley ICS for all their hard work which was a great testament of strong partnership working. The local test and trace service was in touch with around 86% of residents who had been in contact with someone who had the virus. The Leader reiterated the importance of residents self-isolating if they had been exposed to the virus. This would be the only way to stop the spread of the virus. Further information about the reopening of services would be publicised in due course.

RESOLVED:

1. The latest public health situation with regard to Covid-19, nationally and in Surrey be noted.
2. That the actions being delivered through Surrey's Local Outbreak Control Plan, including the vaccination roll out, and the ongoing support to vulnerable residents, including through the council's Community Helpline and the Covid Winter Support Grant scheme be noted and endorsed.
3. That the enacting and success of surge testing in two Surrey localities, with the support and co-operation of local residents be noted.
4. That the latest impacts on Adult Social Care and Children's, Families, Lifelong learning services be noted.
5. That the continued lobbying for prioritisation of key workers, including teachers, to have access to the vaccination programme as soon as possible be noted and endorsed.
6. That the ongoing preparation for the local elections in May 2021 and associated risks be noted and endorsed.

7. That the work and planning going on in respect of the transition into recovery from the pandemic be noted and endorsed.
8. That the use of the council's Holiday Activities and Food Programme allocations in 2020/21 and 2021/22 be noted and endorsed.

Reason for Decision:

The county and council continue to face unprecedented challenges due to the Covid-19 crisis. We are simultaneously managing response activity and work with our partners to enable recovery within the county, looking ahead to a return to day-to-day life for communities following the end of national lockdown.

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

[Where necessary a waiver for call-in will be sought from the relevant Select Committee Chairman]

38/21 SETTING A RADICAL AGENDA FOR EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN SURREY AND SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL [Item 9]

The item was introduced by the Leader whom explained that the report addressed equality, diversity and inclusion in the council. This work was spearheaded by the late Dave Hill and is now being led by Executive Director, Katie Stewart. As an organisation, the council wanted to have a compassionate and inclusive culture which valued diversity. The attached action plan would be rolled out over the next year. The Cabinet members and senior officers would be paired with a staff network across the council and would support them where possible. Members have had workshops to progress the councils policy statement around bullying and harassment. The Leader explained that regular conversations would take place between the networks and senior leaders which would then be fed back up through the organisation.

The Cabinet Member for Community Protection stated that this work was founded in a very grounded evidence base that was gathered in 2019 with the diversity tours led by Dave Hill. Over 250 colleagues had taken part in the tours. The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families explained that a number of celebrations had taken place to celebrate diversity including book clubs for Black History Month and LGBTQ history month which enables a more cohesive workforce. It was recognised that in the past, the council had not always been as welcoming as it should have been. The action plan and policy statement were supported by the Cabinet and the Leader gave special thanks to Katie Stewart for leading this work and raising the issue across the organisation.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Surrey County Council EDI Action Plan 2021-22 be endorsed and the new EDI Policy Statement be agreed.

Reason for Decision:

The EDI Action Plan is key to delivering the equality objectives in the Organisation Strategy 2021-26 and plays a pivotal role in supporting the council's wider aim to tackle inequality to ensure no-one is left behind. Moving to a fairer, more compassionate and inclusive culture will inform how we develop policy, take decisions and serve residents so everyone who lives, works and studies in Surrey is supported to thrive.

The updated EDI Policy Statement will provide a clear, definitive commitment to staff and communities against which the council's actions can be held to account in its effort to become a fairer and more inclusive organisation. It responds to feedback from staff that they want EDI to be integral to how we work and for Members and senior officers to show greater leadership on this agenda. It also recognises how EDI needs to underpin all we do to tackle inequalities facing residents.

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

39/21 CABINET MEMBER STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA UPDATE: TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES [Item 10]

Both Item 10 and 11 were considered together. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Domestic Abuse presented members with an update on the tackling health inequalities strategic priority area. Alan Downey, Chairman of the Surrey Mental Health Partnership and Improvement Board was welcomed to the meeting. He stated that to date the board had met once on 27 January and officers and members were making good progress with the project. The first meeting of the board demonstrated that there was strong commitment to make progress in improving mental health outcomes and tackling the obstacles that prevented progress from being made in the past. It was apparent from the first meeting that there was a desire to see a more preventative approach to mental health, building on community assets and importantly listening to those who experience mental health illnesses. The project team had developed draft key lines of enquiry with workshops being organised in March focusing on solutions. A set of proposed actions would be developed in March and April and then implemented from May onwards. The success of the project would depend on the ability of organisations to work across boundaries.

Members commented that the actions taken by the board would help find practical solutions to support prevention and early intervention. The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families updated members on the new Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) contract explaining that young people's mental and emotional wellbeing had been badly affected by lockdown and the pandemic. The new CAMHS contract would focus on community based interventions that young people supported. Extra funding had been put in alongside CCG's to support this work. The Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning echoed the concerns of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families explaining that the service had seen an increase in referrals up by 60% from last year and was forecasting a surge as lockdown eased. It was highlighted that the service had successfully bid for funding for three mental health support teams in

schools which would provide support for young people with mild to moderate mental health needs.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Domestic Abuse briefly updated members on the work being undertaken by Adult Social Care in the mental health arena. Recommendations from the mental health task group were being considered in detail and were being actioned within the commissioning service. Technology would be used by the service to help tackle loneliness and isolation.

Mr Downey was thanked for the work he and his board were doing and Cabinet looked forward to an update report in due course.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member update be noted.

40/21 IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES, EXPERIENCES AND SERVICES IN SURREY [Item 11]

See Minute 39/21.

RESOLVED:

1. That the significant demands, issues, concerns and performance associated with the mental health system in Surrey, particularly arising from the additional pressures created by Covid-19, and the impact this is having on Surrey residents be noted.
2. That the range of multi-agency work going on and being initiated to address the situation, including through the Surrey Heartlands Mental Health Partnership and Improvement Board and Health and Wellbeing Board be approved and supported.
3. That Cabinet receive a further report on the issue of mental health outcomes, experiences and services in Surrey in July 2021.

Reason for Decision:

Tackling health inequality is one of the Council's four strategic priorities. Poor mental health is a key factor in a range of conditions and personal situations, such as substance abuse, unemployment, poor physical health, that create and/or worsen health inequality. The mental health system in Surrey is under great stress and struggling to manage the demands made upon it. This report and its recommendations, the work to date and the work proposed are intended to support the mental health system deal with the immediate demands and pressures as well as building an effective and sustainable improvement programme.

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

41/21 WOODHATCH MASTERPLAN [Item 12]

The Leader explained that the doors to County Hall in Kingston upon Thames had closed at the end of 2020 with all county council services now moving back into Surrey. The Woodhatch masterplan presented an opportunity to create a flagship sustainable development supporting the Greener Futures agenda by delivering a programme of improvement projects, all within a site that is visually and ecologically rich and which will be enhanced both on and off site to support the wellbeing of the wider community that it serves. The masterplan provided an opportunity to relocate Reigate Priory Junior school, provide affordable extra care provision and deliver key worker housing which was subject to planning consent.

The Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning stated that the current Reigate Priory Junior school building presented a number of issues because of public rights of way and a heavy burden due to building maintenance costs. It was commented that intergenerational learning would be a benefit between the adults living in the extra care facilities and the children attending the junior school.

Members were advised that the community protection group including the fire service and trading standards would be located at the Woodhatch site. Previously teams had been based in various parts of the county. Members were supportive of the additional extra care housing which had been identified and the co- location of services and teams on one site.

RESOLVED:

1. That £2.025m of capital funding from existing pipeline allocations to complete the Woodhatch masterplan feasibility study and develop the scheme up to submission of the planning application be approved.
2. That £500,000 of capital funding from existing pipeline allocations for preconstruction services from a preferred contractor to provide cost, buildability, logistics and programming advice for the development as a whole and to inform the feasibility study be approved.
3. That £300,000 from the Feasibility Fund be approved to progress feasibility work for key worker housing and explore opportunities for further services provision.
4. That requests to release further pipeline capital funding to enable critical early works orders are approved and proposed through the monthly budget monitoring reports to Cabinet. Further approval(s) will be required for subsequent stages of the design and main contract works. This will require additional capital programme funds and will be brought to Cabinet for approval.
5. That approval be given to procure the appropriate supply chain partners to enable delivery of all services and works associated with the above recommendations, in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Standing Orders.

6. With regard to procurement of supply chain partners, it be agreed that, within the +/-5% budgetary tolerance level, the Executive Director Resources and Director of Land & Property are authorised to award such contracts in consultation with the Leader.

Reason for Decision:

By approving this recommendation Surrey County Council will:

- Reduce its future maintenance liability and replace the existing Reigate Priory School site, which is no longer fit for purpose, with a brand new 600-place junior school.
- Make an essential contribution towards the Council's strategic objective to expand affordable Extra Care Housing provision by 2030.
- Support the 2020-2025 Reigate and Banstead Housing Delivery Strategy to secure the delivery of homes that can be afforded by local people and which provide a wider choice of tenure, type and size of housing.

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

42/21 EXTRA CARE HOUSING - CAPITAL DELIVERY [Item 13]

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Domestic Abuse explained that the report focused on future sites which would provide the opportunity to deliver a further 415 units of affordable Extra Care Housing across several locations in Surrey. The report sought in-principle approval to prioritise these sites for the development Extra Care Housing and to take forward the necessary feasibility work allowing these sites, subject to final cabinet approval, to progress to construction and delivery stage as swiftly as possible.

There was support from members on the delivery of the extra care units and the opportunity that would be given for people to live independently in their local communities. The Cabinet Member and the team were congratulated on the progress of the project.

RESOLVED:

1. That Capital funding of £3m (Excl. VAT) for associated activities across eight sites to develop the 415 units of Extra Care Housing to the point of achieving planning approval while enabling market delivery engagement to be determined in preparation for full capital Cabinet approval at the next stage be approved.
2. That the sites listed in the Part 2 report, to be used for Extra Care Housing accommodation be approved in principle. Business cases will be presented to Cabinet to confirm final approval for the development of these sites for Extra Care Housing.

3. That approval be given to procure the appropriate supply chain partners to enable delivery of all services and works associated with the above recommendations, in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Standing Orders.
4. With regard to procurement of supply chain partners, it be agreed that, within the +/-5% budgetary tolerance level, the Executive Director Resources and Director of Land & Property are authorised to award such contracts in consultation with the Leader.

Reason for Decision:

In addition to the eight sites identified, the development of Extra Care Housing set out in this paper along with the five previously approved sites will realise the Council's strategic objective to expand affordable Extra Care Housing provision by 2030.

Capital funding of £3m is requested to undertake all preliminary design and associated surveys and investigations to demonstrate the viability of the new growth Extra Care Housing sites, seek pre-Application planning advice and undertake detailed cost planning, procure contractors and secure planning approval. Contractors will be engaged in early works to design out risk and ensure buildability and deliverability and once appointed to complete the detailed designs.

Following feasibility work further cabinet approval will be sought for the delivery of these sites and capital investment needed as set out the business cases for each site.

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

43/21 DELIVERY OF CARE LEAVER ACCOMMODATION AND CHILDREN'S HOMES [Item 14]

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families introduced the report explaining that the report sought Cabinet approval to progress the delivery of a new children's home and to support a programme for the delivery of new care leaver accommodation. A new site had been identified in Dorking and would provide a children's residential home, temporary accommodation for teenagers and some care leavers accommodation. The Cabinet Member briefly explained the recommendations in the report.

Alongside the previous item, members commented that the report shows a commitment from the council to support residents of all ages. It was added that it was positive to see a passion and commitment from the Cabinet Member and officers to support care leavers by increasing in-county care leavers accommodation.

RESOLVED:

1. That £2.2m is allocated (excluding VAT) for the delivery of a children's home on part of the Former Adult Learning Centre (ALC) site in

Dorking from the designated capital pipeline budget for Care Leaver Accommodation and Children's Homes.

2. That £30m is allocated (excluding VAT) from the designated Care Leaver Accommodation and Children's Home pipeline budget for the delivery of a programme of 150 beds for care leaver accommodation at a target cost of approximately £200k per bed (development cost). This provision will be across a number of sites, the locations of which are to be approved by the Service and under consultation with the local Member with delegated authority for individual schemes within overall budget constraints being given to the Executive Director for Children, Young People and Families, in consultation with the Executive Director for Resources, Cabinet Member for Resources and Corporate Support, Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families.
3. That approval be given to procure the appropriate supply chain partners to enable delivery of all services and works associated with the above recommendations, in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Standing Orders.
4. With regard to procurement of supply chain partners, it be agreed that, within the +/-5% budgetary tolerance level, the Executive Director Resources and Director of Land & Property are authorised to award such contracts in consultation with the Leader.

Reason for Decision:

- The proposal will provide a third new family sized children's home in an area of identified need.
- The proposed delivery method for care leaver accommodation offers an opportunity to maximise the development of existing Surrey County Council (SCC) freehold assets and potentially release assets for repurposing.
- The delivery model will reduce the Council's overall revenue expenditure for care leaver accommodation.
- The delivery of care leaver accommodation will make a positive difference to the lives of young adults in care and provide access to local facilities.

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

44/21 SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN [Item 15]

The Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning explained that the organisation plan covered the academic period from September 2020-2030. The council had created over 10,000 additional places over the last five years in mainstream schools and other in specialist provision. The School Organisation Plan sets out the policies and principles underpinning both mainstream and specialist school organisation in Surrey and was used by schools and education stakeholders for medium and long term planning. It highlights the likely demand for school places projected over a 10-year period

and sets out any potential changes in school organisation that may be required in order to meet the council's statutory duty to provide sufficient places. Cabinet had approved a capital investment of nearly £80m to deliver 1600 special educational needs and disability school places to meet the projected demand. The Cabinet Member briefed members on the sections of the plan explaining that the period covered in the plan was one of unique uncertainty and probable volatility due to the possible impacts of covid-19. As the National Funding Formula is brought in there is less flexibility to allocate monies to smaller schools so they would need to ensure their sustainability and establish models that support provision overall.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet make the following recommendations to the Council on 16 March 2021.

1. The Cabinet recommends that the County Council approves the School Organisation Plan 2020-2030.

Reason for Decision:

The School Organisation Plan is a key document used by schools and education stakeholders in considering medium and long term plans. It is necessary to review the plan to ensure that the best and most up to date information is published for use in this process to encourage collaborative and collegiate planning.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning & Culture Select Committee]

45/21 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME UPDATE [Item 16]

The Cabinet Member for All- Age Learning introduced the report explaining that the SEND Transformation Programme was established as a means to achieve the strategic aims outlined in Surrey's SEND Partnership Strategy 2019-2022. The SEND Strategy is ambitious about improving outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and the whole system approach to achieve the step change needed. This report outlined what the SEND Transformation Programme has achieved so far and the proposed focus for 2021 to embed and accelerate change.

A member queried why the service and Cabinet Member received challenges from opposition members around SEND services when the report states that the council had demonstrated clear and sustained progress on SEND services with monitoring visits on the action plan no longer being required. The Cabinet Member for All- Age Learning explained that a revisit from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission took place in May 2019 and left one area of focus around rates of exclusion and absence for young people in mainstream settings. The accelerated programme plan was reviewed in December 2020 with the DfE and the NHS confirming that the council had demonstrated clear and sustained progress and therefore as a result formal monitoring was no longer required.

There was a short discussion around the capital investment into the service and how this would support children and young people with SEND.

RESOLVED:

1. That the progress of the SEND Transformation programme and its impact for children and young people with SEND and their families be noted.
2. That the focus and priorities for the programme for 2021-22 to embed and accelerate change be agreed.

Reason for Decision:

The Council has invested significant resources into the SEND Transformation programme, and it is important that the return on this investment makes a demonstrable difference and is targeted for maximum benefit. The programme has made great progress already in introducing the foundations of early help and targeted support for children in mainstream settings and committed a further £79m capital investment to increase specialist provision in Surrey.

Despite the continued challenges of the pandemic and new lockdown arrangements, work continues to ensure that the vital projects and pathways introduced by the programme are delivering the benefits anticipated, including additional places for children with SEND closer to home and early support without the requirement for a statutory Education, Health and Care plan. In December 2020, following a meeting to monitor work to improve the attendance of children with SEND, the Department for Education and NHS England concluded that the Council and its partners have demonstrated clear and sustained progress on SEND and that six monthly monitoring of the action plan is no longer required.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning & Culture Select Committee]

46/21 SURREY INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITISATION [Item 17]

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Highways on behalf of the Deputy Leader. The infrastructure plan aimed to prioritise projects in the County over the short, medium and long term to support good growth within the county. The process would be ongoing with new schemes being added as they were identified. Investment in infrastructure was essential for sustainable economic growth and to cater for the changing needs of Surrey's businesses and communities. It supports the sustainable delivery of housing and economic growth, and it can improve and enhance the environment. There were 11 plan objectives which had been developed and shared with partners through the Surrey Futures Board. Annex A provided details of initial schemes being considered.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Surrey Infrastructure Prioritisation Framework be approved.

2. That further engagement with key stakeholders, including the Districts and Boroughs to review the assessed schemes to develop a prioritised list of projects be approved.
3. It be agreed that individual schemes are submitted to cabinet seeking approval for implementation when the Outline Business Case has been developed and funding identified as necessary.

Reason for Decision:

The recommendations will enable the development and delivery of an Infrastructure Plan that includes schemes that meet a wide range of outcomes as well as demonstrate deliverability and affordability. The long list of schemes that have already been identified following discussions with officers from Surrey's district and borough councils since late 2019 will be assessed using the Prioritisation Framework and will lead to the creation of a prioritised shortlist of schemes. Further feasibility work undertaken can then be undertaken to produce an Outline Business Case (OBC) for each scheme. Subject to a positive OBC and the identification of funding schemes will then be reported back on an individual basis to Cabinet seeking approval to implement as necessary.

The process is intended to remain ongoing with new schemes added to the long list as they are identified, and a continuous programme of schemes developed taking them from concept through to delivery.

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

47/21 STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/20 [Item 18]

The report was introduced by the Leader who explained that the council had a number of property portfolio investments and companies that trade and provide services back to the council and other third parties. The Strategic Investment Board approves and oversees council investments and was a combination of the previous Shareholder Board and Investment Board. The council had been cautious in its investment strategy. There had been some stresses in the retail sector but the council was not hugely exposed to this in comparison to other local authorities and had paused on investments, especially those outside the county.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet make the following recommendations to the Council on 16 March 2021.

1. That Cabinet recommends that Council endorse the Annual Report of the Strategic Investment Board.

Reason for Decision:

To inform the Council about the activities of the Strategic Investment Board.

The Strategic Investment 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.

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

48/21 REPROVISION OF BOOKHAM YOUTH CENTRE AND ASSOCIATED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT [Item 19]

The report was introduced by the Leader. The paper sets out the council's proposal for a replacement of the Youth and Community Centre within Great Bookham in Mole Valley and to provide housing on the existing site. The existing site was well used by the community. The re-provision of Bookham Youth Centre will provide an improved multi-purpose community building, invest in a Council owned asset for much needed housing and support the 2030 Community Vision for Surrey. There were two sites in question with Site 2 being the preferred option for the council although this was subject to planning consent which it was hoped would be approved by Mole Valley planning committee at their forthcoming meeting.

The local member, Ms Clare Curran spoke on the item thanking officers, the Leader and Mr Mel Few for bringing this project forward over many years. Although Site 2 is the preferred option for the council it was also the preferred option for the community. The alternative Site 1 was also viable. The local member explained that many community stakeholders supported the project and read statements from the Bookham Residents Association, Bookham Youth and Community Association and the Leatherhead Youth Project all whom supported the project for a new youth and community centre.

It was explained that from 08 March, Surrey Clubs for young people would take over the management of 10 out of the 11 youth centres in Surrey. The council would retain the ownership of the properties and maintain the properties.

RESOLVED:

1. That £2.5m (excl. VAT) of capital funding from the pipeline allocation be agreed for the Corporate Asset Capital Programme Spend for:
 - Feasibility fees up to detailed planning applications for both developments, and
 - The remaining activities relating to delivery/development of the replacement Bookham Youth and Community Centre.
2. It be noted that the Strategic Investment Board will make any future decisions required in respect to the residential development on Site 1.
3. That approval be given to procure the appropriate supply chain partners to enable delivery of all services and works associated with the above recommendations, in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Standing Orders.
4. With regard to procurement of supply chain partners, it be agreed that, within the +/-5% budgetary tolerance level, the Executive Director

Resources and Director of Land & Property are authorised to award such contracts in consultation with the Leader.

Reason for Decision:

- The proposals will provide a modern, flexible, and accessible multi-use space to meet local community requirements, including Early Years provision and also accommodation designed for the provision of youth work by an external provider
- The space will enable the use by other external operators providing and promoting active and healthy lifestyles
- Releasing an existing asset for other uses and delivers the Asset and Place Strategy
- Delivers the Greener Future agenda through efficient construction
- Capital receipt from residential sales providing capital investment into Council-owned asset
- Reduces reactive maintenance costs by providing a new modern and compliant facility
- The scheme will deliver much needed residential accommodation
- The proposal will improve the quality of resident's lives and community provisions within Bookham

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

49/21 2020/21 MONTH 9 (DECEMBER) FINANCIAL REPORT [Item 20]

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Resources and Corporate Support whom gave an update on the County Council's 2020/21 financial position as at Month 9 (M9) 31 December 2020 for revenue and capital budgets. As at December 2020, the Council was forecasting a full-year £0.2m deficit, an improvement of £3.2m from the previous month. Progress towards delivering the capital programme remained strong. The impact of COVID-19 would be monitored but the council's finances are expected to remain resilient and would deliver a balanced budget.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council's forecast revenue and capital budget positions for the year be noted.

Reason for Decision:

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

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

50/21 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC [Item 21]

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.

51/21 WOODHATCH MASTERPLAN [Item 22]

RESOLVED:

See Minute 41/21

Reason for Decision:

See Minute 41/21

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

52/21 EXTRA CARE HOUSING - CAPITAL DELIVERY [Item 23]

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Domestic Abuse introduced a Part 2 report that contained information which was 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).

RESOLVED:

1. That approval for the sites listed in Annex 1 to be used for Extra Care Housing accommodation is given in principle. Business cases will be presented to Cabinet to confirm final approval for the development of these sites for Extra Care Housing.
2. That approval is given in principle to the programme on the basis that approval is subject to satisfying all surveys, site investigations, planning, environmental and legal reports.

Reason for Decision:

The proposal delivers and supports the Adult Social Care's (ASC) Accommodation with Care and Support Strategy to deliver accommodation with care and support by 2030 that will enable people to access the right health and social care at the right time in the right place, with appropriate housing for residents that helps them to remain independent, achieve their potential and ensures nobody is left behind.

The design and nature of extra care settings means that in the vast majority of cases people should be able to live there throughout their elderly life and will not need to go into residential and nursing care homes when their care needs increase.

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

53/21 DELIVERY OF CARE LEAVER ACCOMMODATION AND CHILDREN'S HOMES [Item 24]

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families introduced a Part 2 report that contained information which was 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).

RESOLVED:

See Minute 43/21

Reason for Decision:

See Minute 43/21

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

54/21 STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/20 [Item 25]

The Leader introduced a Part 2 report that contained information which was 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).

RESOLVED:

See Minute 47/21

Reason for Decision:

See Minute 47/21

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

55/21 ACQUISITION OF APERDELE ROAD SITE FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES [Item 26]

The Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning introduced a Part 2 report that contained information which was 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).

RESOLVED:

That both Option 1 and 2 be approved to enable Land & Property flexibility to acquire the Aperdele Rd (former Leatherhead Trinity Children's Centre) site on either a Freehold or Leasehold basis, and capital funding to reorganise the buildings to support the provision of 60 SEND places.

OPTION 1 Freehold Acquisition of the Site

1. Cabinet delegate approval to the Leader of the Council in consultation with the Cabinet Member for All Age Learning, the Executive Director of Resources and the Director of Land & Property of up to [E-4-21] capital funding for the acquisition of the Aperdele Road site in Leatherhead. This includes all acquisition, fees, and reorganisation costs of [E-4-21] to support the provision of 60 SEND places.

OPTION 2- Lease of Aperdele Rd Site

2. Cabinet delegate approval to the Leader of the Council in consultation with the Cabinet Member for All Age Learning, the Executive Director of Resources and the Director of Land & Property to enter into a 10-year lease at a maximum of [E-4-21] of the Aperdele Road site in Leatherhead, with the possibility to acquire the freehold during the lease term subject to the maximum capital figure in recommendation 1. In addition, delegates approval to agree capital funding of [E-4-21] of reorganisation costs to support the provision of 60 SEND places.

Reason for Decision:

SCC spends up to £70m/pa for SEND places in the non-maintained independent sector. A strategy has been established to reduce the number of pupils in these placements by increasing the number of placements within SCC's control. This will reduce the revenue spend on non-maintained independent sector SEND places.

A target has been set to reduce this number by 200 places in September 2021.

Acquiring the Aperdele Rd site (former Leatherhead Trinity Children's Centre) will enable the creation of 60 SEND places for September 2021.

56/21 PUBLICITY FOR PART 2 ITEMS [Item 27]

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

Meeting closed at 16:24

Chairman

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