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Agenda and Reports
for the meeting of
THE COUNTY COUNCIL
to be held on
22 MARCH 2022

Woodhatch Place
Reigate
Surrey

Monday, 14 March 2022

TO THE MEMBERS OF SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO MEETING

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the Council to be held at Woodhatch Place, 11 Cockshot Hill, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 8EF, on Tuesday, 22 March 2022, beginning at 10.00 am, for the purpose of transacting the business specified in the Agenda set out overleaf.

JOANNA KILLIAN
Chief Executive

Note 1: *This meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site - at the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed. The images and sound recording may be used for training purposes within the Council.*

Generally the public seating areas are not filmed. However by entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the representative of Legal and Democratic Services at the meeting.

If you would like a copy of this agenda or the attached papers in another format, e.g. large print or braille, or another language please either call Democratic Services on 020 8541 9122, or write to Democratic Services, Surrey County Council at Woodhatch Place, 11 Cockshot Hill, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 8EF, Minicom 020 8541 9698, fax 020 8541 9009, or email amelia.christopher@surreycc.gov.uk

This meeting will be held in public, however numbers will be limited in order to adhere to Covid-19 social distancing requirements. If you would like to attend, please contact Amelia Christopher on 07929 725663 or via the email address above in advance of the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair to report apologies for absence.

2 MINUTES

(Pages
11 - 48)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8 February 2022.

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 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome

Welcome everyone to today's Council meeting. I would just like to address the technical issues we had in February's Council. I think we can all agree it was a very turbulent meeting and I wanted to assure you all that since February, our wonderful Democratic Services Team have had technical engineers in, and have run tests to ensure the technology does not let us down again. So, fingers crossed that technology is on our side today.

Ukraine

I do not think we can proceed without acknowledging the devastation we are currently witnessing in Ukraine. It is almost impossible to believe that in this day and age we are witnessing such atrocities which since the end of World War II, we thought we would never see on European shores again. It really is hard to express the horror, anger, despair, and heartbreak that we feel right now. You may have seen when you arrived this morning that we have raised the flag of Ukraine in solidarity with Ukrainian people. We stand shoulder to shoulder with our friends in Ukraine and pledge to do all we can to support them and indeed the democracy and freedom that we too often take for granted.

So, I ask you all to join me this morning for a **one-minute silence** for those not only in Ukraine but their friends and families around the world.

We stand with you. (After silence) Thank you!

International Women's Day

It is wonderful to see International Women's Day becoming a more prominent, worldwide recognised event. This year's theme is 'Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow'. Standing here today I am a big advocate of women being effective, powerful leaders and change-makers for climate adaptation, mitigation and response to build a more sustainable future for all. This month I was lucky enough to join the High Sheriff, Dr Julie Llewelyn at Royal Holloway and come together with a host of remarkable women. We crossed our arms in the #BreakTheBiaspose to show solidarity. My online post, accompanied with our photo can be found on SCC Daily.

Surrey Police – Pass Out Parade and Ceremony

It was a joy to attend the Surrey Police Pass Out Parade and Ceremony at Loseley Park. It is always a great honour to mark the end of months of hard work and training for the new recruits and welcome them into force. I am pleased to see so many joining Surrey Police and I wish them all the very best in their future policing careers.

Queens Award for Voluntary Service

Congratulations to all Surrey residents who have been nominated to receive a Queens Awards for Voluntary Service. HM Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, Mr Michael More-Molyneux held a 'thank you' reception where I had the pleasure of meeting Surrey's nominees. Our volunteers dedicate their valuable time and experience to help individuals and communities across the county. This award is the equivalent of an MBE and is the highest honour given to UK volunteers. Exceptional voluntary work has been carried out across a wide range of sectors in the county that has really made an incredible difference to so many peoples' lives. So, from all of us, thank you!

Thank You

Finally, I would like to offer my continued thanks to the fantastic people of this Council as they continue to do their utmost to serve and protect the residents of our county. A sincere 'thank you' to all our staff for the immeasurable difference you are making to so many lives. Please do keep it up!

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 16 March 2022).

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 21 March 2022).

8 ORIGINAL MOTIONS

Item 8 (i)

Catherine Powell (Farnham North) to move under standing order 11 as follows:

This Council notes that:

Surrey Highways devotes a great deal of time and resource working with utility companies to identify unmarked assets requiring repair. Surrey Highways is committed to making sure that assets are kept temporarily safe until the utility company makes a permanent repair to their asset.

Currently, Surrey Highways has access to a limited number of asset maps for utility companies which are very useful and allow rapid identification of asset owners. However, Surrey Highways have no information at all for the majority of utility companies which makes identifying unmarked assets time consuming, resulting in adverse impacts on the travelling public for longer periods than necessary.

The six month grace period granted to utility companies to leave in place temporary repairs before making permanent repairs can often have an adverse and unreasonable impact on residents and businesses.

Therefore, this Council requests the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure to lobby Government to:

- i. Introduce a statutory requirement on utility companies to share any electronic asset maps with Local Authorities, updated at least

- annually, to support the Local Authorities in identifying the ownership of unmarked assets for repair work.
- II. Introduce a statutory requirement for utility companies to work with Local Authorities using technology such as passive RFID (radio-frequency identification) tags to support easy identification of assets owners starting with areas of:
 - a. Significant number of assets owned by different organisations in close proximity (for instance junction areas) where maps are less effective;
 - b. Regular damage to assets by vehicles or vandalism.
 - III. Reduce the interim reinstatement period from 6 months to 1 month.
 - IV. Extend the 2-year guarantee period of utility repairs undertaken by utility companies to 5 years.
 - V. Introduce a timescale for repairs for 'Section 81' (of NRSWA) for Defective Apparatus, so that utilities must complete repairs in a short time period once reported of no more than 3 months.

Item 8 (ii)

Jeremy Webster (Caterham Hill) to move under standing order 11 as follows:

This Council notes:

- The Ofsted inspection report on children's services in Surrey published on 9 March 2022.
- That the overall effectiveness of our services is judged to have improved since the last inspection in 2018, and acknowledges that Surrey's leaders have achieved significant change in that time and that they are implementing a clear and comprehensive improvement programme.

This Council further notes:

- That this improvement is described as "...a strong foundation to strive for excellence."; but that this programme of improvement needs to continue in order for our services to be seen as good. The findings of the inspectors are entirely consistent with the self-assessment audits and the inspection team confirmed they had confidence that the current improvement plan was not only the right one but that it was being appropriately implemented.
- In particular that:

"Children and their families benefit from effective early help services."

"The children's single point of access service responds effectively to most contacts and referrals," and "Most assessments are thorough..."

"The implementation of the local authority's practice model has significantly strengthened work to tackle domestic and substance abuse..."

“Many children are successfully diverted from care, as social workers work effectively with parents and risks to children are reduced” and “When children go missing from home, they receive timely return home interviews which lead to insightful assessments of vulnerability...”

“Senior managers have expanded the capacity of the inclusion team to respond to the increased number of children who are missing education or moving to elective home education. These children and young people are supported appropriately and according to their individual circumstances.”

In light of the positive progress made as outlined above, this Council resolves to:

- I. Re-affirm its commitment to implementing the further improvements recommended in the report as our highest priority, and that the Children’s Services improvement journey will continue until Surrey has achieved a level of provision that can be seen as being outstanding in every area of children’s services.
- II. Extend its thanks to the children’s services workforce, who carry out their roles with pride, and seek to do their best for children and families in Surrey, particularly over the difficult period of the pandemic; and asks members of the Council to reflect upon their own role in future improvement work through scrutiny and challenge and by developing our community leadership of the wider children’s system in Surrey.

Item 8 (iii)

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

This Council notes:

- That the Government are scrapping free coronavirus tests for most people as part of the ‘Living with Covid’ plan.
- Concern that stopping providing free tests for all will make it harder to fight coronavirus. Charging for essential tests would hit those who can least afford it hardest, at a time when families are already being clobbered by soaring energy bills.

This Council resolves to:

- I. Call on the Government to continue with free PCR and lateral flow tests for those residents in critical groups, such as front-line workers and those who are eligible for free prescriptions.
- II. Agree to explore the option of providing free asymptomatic testing for staff working in health and social care, vulnerable residents in care homes and other similar groups for up to one year.

Item 8 (iv)

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

This Council notes:

That it has regularly expressed regrets about the huge pressures on local government finances in Surrey, believing that the county does not get its fair share from Whitehall.

That the percentage of revenue now raised in Surrey from council tax is 80% of the total £1.2 Billion budget.

That it believes that council tax is no longer fit for purpose as a suitable method for raising local government revenue, as it invariably penalises less well-off households whilst benefiting those who are much richer.

That it asserts that no 'levelling-up' agenda will ultimately be successful without a revival of local government, with better funding alongside increased powers, restoring Surrey to the proud role and level of achievement it once enjoyed.

This Council resolves to:

- I. Call on the County's eleven MPs to acknowledge that council tax is an out-of-date and regressive form of taxation.
- II. Agree, along with the MPs, to lobby the Government for wholesale reform with a better and fairer alternative to council tax as an aim
- III. Urge the Government to immediately close the loophole that allows second home owners to evade both council tax and rates by pretending to be holiday let businesses, Airbnb etc even when the property is not let at all.
- IV. In the short term, suggest the government introduce additional council tax bands for high value properties and develop a scheme for redistribution of wealth to areas of deprivation.
- V. Urge the Government to immediately increase the grant to shire counties to improve the spending power of councils and ensure this year's council tax increases are reduced, whilst putting local government finance on a longer-term and more stable footing.

9 SELECT COMMITTEES' REPORT TO COUNCIL

(Pages
49 - 52)

For Members to note the headline activity of the Council's overview and scrutiny function in the period January to March 2022 asking questions of Scrutiny Chairs as necessary.

10 REPORT OF THE CABINET

(Pages
53 - 58)

To receive the report of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 22 February 2022 and 7 March 2022.

11 MINUTES OF CABINET MEETINGS

(Pages
59 - 76)

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 21 March 2022.

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY AND FILMING – ACCEPTABLE USE

Those attending for the purpose of reporting on the meeting may use social media or mobile devices in silent mode to send electronic messages about the progress of the public parts of the meeting. To support this, Woodhatch Place has wifi available for visitors – please ask at reception for details.

Anyone is permitted to film, record or take photographs at council meetings. Please liaise with the council officer listed in the agenda prior to the start of the meeting so that those attending the meeting can be made aware of any filming taking place.

Use of mobile devices, including for the purpose of recording or filming a meeting, is subject to no interruptions, distractions or interference being caused to the PA or Induction Loop systems, or any general disturbance to proceedings. The Chair may ask for mobile devices to be switched off in these circumstances.

It is requested that if you are not using your mobile device for any of the activities outlined above, it be switched off or placed in silent mode during the meeting to prevent interruptions and interference with PA and Induction Loop systems.

Thank you for your co-operation