



Agenda and Reports
for the meeting of
THE COUNTY COUNCIL
to be held on
10 OCTOBER 2023

(i)

(ii)

Woodhatch Place
Reigate
Surrey

Monday, 2 October 2023

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, 10 October 2023, 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: *For those Members wishing to participate, Prayers will be said at 9.50am. The Reverend Dr Pieter J. Lalleman, Knaphill Baptist Church, Woking, has kindly consented to officiate. If any Members wish to take time for reflection, meditation, alternative worship or other such practice prior to the start of the meeting, alternative space can be arranged on request by contacting Democratic Services.*

There will be a very short interval between the conclusion of Prayers and the start of the meeting to enable those Members and Officers who do not wish to take part in Prayers to enter the Council Chamber and join the meeting.

Note 2: *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 email Amelia Christopher on amelia.christopher@surreycc.gov.uk

This meeting will be held in public. If you would like to attend and you have any special requirements, please contact Amelia Christopher on 07929 725663 or via the email address above.

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 11 July 2023.

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

David Goodwin, RIP

I am very sorry to report the very sad news of the passing last month of our former colleague and friend, David Goodwin.

Husband of our colleague Angela, David was a terrific Liberal Democrat County Councillor who worked tirelessly for his residents of Guildford South-West from 2005-2021. He was elected as a Guildford Borough Councillor in 1999, representing the former Friary & St Nicolas ward for 16 years and then the Onslow ward for eight years. David was appointed an Honorary Freeman in June for his long-standing contributions to the borough.

I am sure you all join me in sending condolences to Angela and family. David will be very much missed.

Hazel Watson, 30 Years' SCC Anniversary

Moving on to happier news, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Cllr Hazel Watson on her 30th anniversary of being a Surrey County Councillor. A magnificent achievement.

Hazel was voted the Liberal Democrat councillor for Dorking Hills in 1993 and has been supporting and campaigning for her residents ever

since. She has held various positions at SCC – as well as numerous positions in her division – including chairing the Adults and Community Care Select Committee and Vice Chairman of the Corporate Management Select Committee, as well of course, as leading SCC's Liberal Democrats for many years.

Hazel has been a tremendous asset to SCC and her residents and I look forward to the next 30 years of Hazel at SCC!

Members' Development Day

Friday 20 October sees the next in-person Member Development Day at Woodhatch Place. The day provides a key opportunity to network, both with each other and with senior officers, and there will be numerous workshops on a variety of issues and organisations that can help support you and your residents, such as social media and Your Fund Surrey.

It promises to be an excellent and very worthwhile day; please do come if you are able. Please complete the RSVP link that has been emailed to you. I hope to see as many of you there as possible. Thank you.

Volunteers' Reception – Call for Nominations

You will hopefully have seen from the email sent to you earlier in the summer that next year, I will be hosting a 'Thank You' Reception for Surrey's volunteers, to which you have been invited to nominate your local volunteers.

As you know, my theme is 'Celebrating Diverse Communities' so I am keen to hear about volunteers who have supported Surrey's diverse communities.

Diverse communities are those that are under-represented or have limited capacity for involvement, such as the ethnic minoritised; faith groups; those with disabilities and neurodiversity; older people; young people; those living in rural communities; the LGBTQI+ communities and those experiencing mental ill health and wellbeing.

My office will re-send the information and link to nominate to you all. Please do consider the volunteers and groups in your division and nominate those who contribute to these communities. If you are unsure as to whether the volunteers you have in mind meet the criteria, please do contact the Chair's Office team and they will be very happy to help you.

Act of Remembrance

Surrey County Council's Act of Remembrance will take place on Friday 10 November, 10.40am-11.15am in the Memorial Garden at Woodhatch Place. You have all be sent an invitation; I do hope as many of you as possible are able to attend and show your respect and grateful thanks to all those who fought for us and gave their lives in two World Wars in the service of this country.

We will also remember those who have died in the many other conflicts since, particularly those currently fighting in Ukraine, as they fight for their country and freedoms.

I look forward to seeing you there.

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 CHANGES TO CABINET PORTFOLIOS AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

(Pages
49 - 58)

Council is asked to note the Leader's changes to Cabinet Portfolios.

Council is asked to agree the appointment of Helyn Clack as a Select Committee Task Group Lead for the Adults and Health Select Committee, replacing Riasat Khan.

7 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

1. The Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader 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 Wednesday 4 October 2023).

2. Cabinet Member and Deputy 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.

8 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 9 October 2023).

9 ORIGINAL MOTIONS

Item 9 (i)

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

This Council notes:

- The proposed removal of Day Travelcards by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, for those travelling into and throughout London. This will result in Surrey residents having to buy separate rail and

London transport service tickets. Currently, Day Travelcards provide unlimited travel on Transport for London (TfL) services, including the London Underground, Bus, Tram, Docklands Light Railway, London Overground and Elizabeth line, and National Rail services in London. They can also be used to obtain a one third reduction in River Services fares. The proposals to remove Day Travelcards constitute an unfair, unacceptable and expensive levy on our residents who wish or need to travel to London.

- The proposals have deliberately targeted the removal of the Day Travelcard as a method to generate additional income for TfL. It is anticipated by the Mayor's own consultation that the withdrawal of Day Travelcards will result in rail operators ceasing to sell Zone 1-6 Travelcards. This will add barriers and travel friction to journeys to London – running counter to evidence that passenger journeys and the use of public transport are enhanced by improving integrated ticketing not reducing it. No regard is given in the proposals for the potential loss of revenue to the London economy that may be caused by the increase in travel costs as Surrey residents risk being priced out of the nation's capital. Employers, retail and leisure businesses, theatres and many others may see a reduction in revenue as residents reduce their time and/or expenditure in London. The Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth has written to TfL on this matter to express concern and a lack of support for these proposals.

This Council resolves to:

- I. Demand that London Mayor, Sadiq Khan, immediately withdraws his proposals for the removal of Day Travelcards.
- II. Request that the Leader of the Council writes to Sadiq Khan informing him of this resolution of Surrey County Council, the discriminatory nature of his proposal, the impact on Surrey residents, the negative impact on the economy of London and therefore the need to abandon plans to remove Day Travelcards.
- III. Ensure the Leader of the Council writes to the Secretary of State for Transport urging him to intervene in this matter.

Item 9 (ii)

Trefor Hogg (Camberley East) to move under standing order 11 as follows:

This Council notes:

- The very strong links between the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals for 2030;
- The United Kingdom's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- That **leave no one behind** is the central, transformative promise of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals; and
- Our own Community Vision for 2030 which states Our Ambitions for People and Place as **making Surrey a special place where no one is left behind.**

This Council further notes:

That the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals provides a balanced, well-researched and detailed model of how those goals are strongly linked and interact with each other. For Surrey they provide a guide that supports a coherent view of Our Ambitions for People and Place and how they are strongly linked and interact with each other.

This Council resolves:

- I. That where practicable this Council will make use of the UN Sustainable Development Goals as a guide to how we should address the interlinked nature of Our Ambitions for People and Place. Particularly in relation to our own policies for the environment to shape them so that they will support delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and will be a key part of our contribution to leaving future generations a place to live in that allows them to thrive.

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| 10 | APPROVAL OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR ABSENCE | (Pages
59 - 60) |
| | The purpose of this report is to request that the County Council considers whether to agree that County Councillor John Furey may continue to be absent from Council meetings by reason of ill health. | |
| 11 | SELECT COMMITTEES' REPORT TO COUNCIL | (Pages
61 - 64) |
| | For Members to note the headline activity of the Council's overview and scrutiny function in the period March 2023 to September 2023 asking questions of Scrutiny Chairs as necessary. | |
| 12 | SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL - ELECTORAL REVIEW: RESPONSE TO LGBCE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS | (Pages
65 - 84) |
| | To endorse Surrey County Council's (SCC) response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) divisional arrangements recommendations. | |
| 13 | AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION - REPORT OF THE PLANNING & REGULATORY COMMITTEE | (Pages
85 - 100) |
| | It is the Council's responsibility to approve changes to the Council's Constitution. | |
| | This report sets out proposed changes to the Surrey Code of Best Practice in Planning Procedures (Part 6(11)). Consequential changes to Standing Orders (Part 4) in relation to public speaking at Planning & Regulatory Committee are also required. These are brought to Council for formal approval in accordance with Article 4.04(b) and Article 13.01 of the Council's Constitution. | |
| 14 | REPORT OF THE CABINET | (Pages
101 -
104) |
| | To receive the report of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 25 July 2023 and 26 September 2023. | |

15 MINUTES OF CABINET MEETINGS

(Pages
105 -
128)

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 9 October 2023.

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY AND FILMING – ACCEPTABLE USE

Members of the public and the press may use social media or mobile devices in silent mode during meetings. Public Wi-Fi is available; please ask the committee manager for details.

Anyone is permitted to film, record or take photographs at Council meetings. Please liaise with the committee manager prior to the start of the meeting so that the meeting can be made aware of any filming taking place.

The 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 any Council equipment or any general disturbance to proceedings. The Chairman may ask for mobile devices to be switched off in these circumstances.

Thank you for your co-operation.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT
WOODHATCH PLACE, 11 COCKSHOT HILL, REIGATE, SURREY, RH2 8EF,
ON 11 JULY 2023 COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM, THE COUNCIL BEING
CONSTITUTED AS FOLLOWS:**

Saj Hussain (Chair)
Tim Hall (Vice-Chair)

Maureen Attewell	Eber Kington
Ayesha Azad	Rachael Lake
Catherine Baart	Victor Lewanski
r Steve Bax	David Lewis (Cobham)
John Beckett	David Lewis (Camberley West)
Jordan Beech	Scott Lewis
Luke Bennett	Andy Lynch
Amanda Boote	Andy MacLeod
Harry Boparai	Ernest Mallett MBE
* Liz Bowes	Michaela Martin
Natalie Bramhall	* Jan Mason
Helyn Clack	Steven McCormick
* Stephen Cooksey	Cameron McIntosh
* Colin Cross	* Julia McShane
Clare Curran	Sinead Mooney
Nick Darby	* Carla Morson
Fiona Davidson	Bernie Muir
* Paul Deach	Mark Nuti
* Kevin Deanus	John O'Reilly
Jonathan Essex	Tim Oliver
Robert Evans OBE	Rebecca Paul
Chris Farr	* George Potter
* Paul Follows	Catherine Powell
Will Forster	Penny Rivers
* John Furey	John Robini
Matt Furniss	Becky Rush
Angela Goodwin	Joanne Sexton
Jeffrey Gray	Lance Spencer
David Harmer	* Lesley Steeds
Nick Harrison	Mark Sugden
Edward Hawkins	Richard Tear
Marisa Heath	Ashley Tilling
Trefor Hogg	Chris Townsend
Robert Hughes	Liz Townsend
Jonathan Hulley	Denise Turner-Stewart
Rebecca Jennings-Evans	* Hazel Watson
Frank Kelly	Jeremy Webster
Riasat Khan	Buddhi Weerasinghe
Robert King	Fiona White
	Keith Witham

*absent

r = Remote Attendance

44/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies for absence were received from Liz Bowes, Stephen Cooksey, Colin Cross, Paul Deach, Kevin Deanus, Paul Follows, John Furey, Jan Mason, Julia McShane, Carla Morson, George Potter, Lesley Steeds, Hazel Watson.

Members who attended remotely and had no voting rights were Steve Bax.

45/23 MINUTES [Item 2]

The minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 23 May 2023 were submitted, confirmed and signed.

46/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were none.

47/23 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS [Item 4]

Richard Tear joined the meeting at 10.04 am.

The Chair:

- Noted that a Surrey Arts 'Singing Picnic' was held last week at Woodhatch Place, it was good to see many local school children participating.
- Noted that his full announcements could be found in the agenda.

48/23 LEADER'S STATEMENT [Item 5]

Amanda Boote joined the meeting at 10.06 am.

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

Members raised the following topics:

- Stressed that Members cross-party were concerned with the inadequate provision of the services that residents received, evidenced by the many Member questions on vulnerable children and grass verges.
- Noted disappointment that the Leader did not mention climate change despite the Council's declaration of a 'climate emergency' four years ago, a step change was still awaited on climate change.
- Noted concern that the Council was still ignoring the Government and a Liberal Democrat original motion in 2018 by charging householders for taking DIY waste to Community Recycling Centres, the Council must change its policy and not charge householders.
- Hoped that the detailed input the Residents' Association and Independent Group provided to the task and finish groups would be part of the rapid improvement and positive change to highways.
- Noted that residents in a 2021 consultation on council tax spend, wanted funding protected for services to support the vulnerable, more investment in early intervention and prevention, and those most at risk of being left behind at the heart of decision-making.

- Noted that contrary to the above, efficiencies were made in the 2022 and 2023 budgets affecting services to the most vulnerable: children and young people including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) with cuts in funding to charities that delivered early intervention, and older adults and adults with disabilities and their carers.
- Asked how officers chose which children would benefit from the Local Early Autism Programme funding and who would be left behind, the demand was four times the places available.
- Noted that there were 1,300 Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) outstanding against the twenty-week limit.
- Welcomed early engagement on the budget and the commitment to provide the Equality Impact Assessments in October to the select committees but noted the need to act now to reinstate the early intervention and prevention services that were lost.
- Noted that the 2024 budget must deliver for all residents, placing those most at risk of being left behind at the heart of decision-making; officers and Members must work collaboratively and use local knowledge.
- Asked for the Leader to provide detail on the Integrated Care Systems and how new partnerships had been forged across the county.
- Noted that the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) found that the Council had failed SEND children and young people were not receiving the education to which they were entitled, asked whether those responsible for the failures in the system had been held to account.
- Asked the Leader to comment on the leaflet by UNISON which referred to the current dispute with the Council regarding the low pay offer, it was highlighted that one in ten members of UNISON resorted to food banks.
- Asked what measures the Leader would propose to improve the health of people in Surrey, particularly those in the more urban areas who were more subjected to nitrogen oxides; and whether the Leader would consider something similar in Surrey to the Ultra Low Emission Zone.
- Asked what the connection was between the declaration of a climate emergency four years ago, the equal need to declare a 'biodiversity emergency' now and the commitment to leaving no one behind; an emergency called for action rather than tweaking existing strategies.
- Highlighted that the Council underspends on special needs provision in schools by around £2.4 million, equivalent to 2,365 children waiting twelve weeks over the twenty-week limit.
- Noted that schools were experiencing the underspend through a lack of Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators, other children and teachers were affected; asked the Leader to commit to address the shortage.
- Asked whether the ambition of 'No One Left Behind' would be treated as a public declaration, an emergency to act on now.
- Welcomed the Leader's focus on the provision of essential services and ambition of 'No One Left Behind', whilst acknowledging that difficult decisions needed to be made in light of the current financial context.

Edward Hawkins joined the meeting at 10.34 am.

- Emphasised that Your Fund Surrey was enhancing and improving communities and providing essential services; thanked the Cabinet for the £3 million awarded to the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford.
- Noted that the Your Fund Surrey Small Community Projects Fund was vital and noted an upcoming allocation to 1st Send Scouts which would transform their ability to be a community facility on the River Wey.

- Noted that the Surrey Scouts headquarters, Bentley Copse, was delivering opportunities and experiences for young people across the county; and this would be pursued with the relevant Cabinet Member.
- Noted that 70% of Surrey was rural and those areas had a different feel and need to urban areas; praised the work of parish councils in their rural division, Members' funding from the Council had supported the parish councils; would like to see parish councils recognised going forward in the positive opportunities arising from the task and finish groups.
- Noted that allowing grass verges to grow long in rural areas was beneficial, they were havens for wildlife and a natural traffic calming tool.
- Encouraged the Leader to explore how children could be supported in the classroom who may not need an ECHP but need extra help.
- Referring to the Council's takeover of parking enforcement on 1 April from the borough and district councils, noted inaction from the parking enforcement team regarding several emails sent to them.
- Noted that verge cutting was not being done and the issues were not anticipated, cuttings were left in gutters and drains blocked; the weather was not to blame.
- Referred to the Equality Act 2010 and the requirement to make reasonable adjustments to the Council's buildings such as Woodhatch Place, only a few actions and recommendations from the 2021 report were completed. A witness to recent select committee meetings produced a report listing many problems around accessibility, concluding that the whole building urgently required safety improvements.
- Referring to the Leader's comment on people having pride in their neighbourhoods in Surrey, noted that many residents were appalled by the state of their verges and roundabouts; roads signs being obscured due to the failure to cut grass verges was not due to encouraging biodiversity.
- Noted that as with filling potholes, the Council needed to get the basics right, otherwise the claims of success and modernisation would be lost.
- Asked when the conclusions and recommendations of the two task and finish groups on highways would be available to Members.
- Thanked the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth for expanding the bus network in Surrey and urged them to press on with providing more services particularly in rural areas.
- Highlighted that the Surrey Connect Demand-Responsive Transport bus service was due to start at the beginning of September with five routes, filling in the infrequent services provided by Arriva and Stagecoach; residents were astounded by the new bus service available from 7.00 am to 7.00 pm Monday to Friday and from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm on Saturdays.

Becky Rush joined the meeting at 10.55 am.

49/23 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME [Item 6]

Questions:

Notice of thirty-five questions had been received. The questions and replies were published in the supplementary agenda (items 6 and 8) on 10 July 2023.

The Chair noted that as Kevin Deanus had given apologies, Members could ask supplementary questions which would be responded to in writing. A Member requested that the written responses to supplementary questions to the Cabinet Member be circulated to all Members collectively and in a timely way.

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

(Q1) Catherine Powell asked the Cabinet Member to share the timelines for the review and when she envisaged the plans being presented to the select committee. She noted that whilst alignment with the nationally used terminology had merit, the change would impact Surrey residents who would need to be kept up to date to avoid any unnecessary stress and concern if the specialist placements were to remain the same type of provision as they were.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning noted that she would keep the Member updated with the proposed timeline for the review and would liaise with her about whether that was required to go through the select committee.

(Q2) Joanne Sexton referred to the Leader's comment about wanting residents to have pride in Surrey's neighbourhoods and asked why the administration blamed everything on the weather and did not take ownership and accountability by working with its residents to deliver services that they deserve and pay for. She noted that residents in her division were appalled that they had a substandard service and that the Council did not consult with residents and political groups. She asked for assurance that the Council would work with all going forward. She also asked why there was no centralised list of works.

On Kevin Deanus' behalf, the Leader corrected the Member's continual comment that there was no consultation with political leaders, noting that he attended several meetings with the Surrey Leaders' Group where it was discussed in detail. Furthermore, Council officers had several conversations with district and borough council officers. A written response to the other points made would be provided by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience.

(Q3) Fiona Davidson noted that she was surprised and disappointed that when negotiating with NSL there was no benchmarking against the best performing districts and boroughs in Surrey, such as Guildford which produced a significant parking surplus. She noted that she was receiving an increasing number of complaints about enforcement and a lack of communication from NSL, she had been waiting since 11 May for a response to an enforcement issue. She asked whether the Cabinet Member was happy with the current service provided by NSL, both in terms of enforcement and their communications.

A written response would be provided by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience.

(Q4) Lance Spencer asked the Cabinet Member to ensure that the social media material would be made available to Members so they could distribute it to the younger people in their divisions. He asked how long the Cabinet Member expected that it would take to get to the target of 12,000 residents aged 20 years old and under using the Surrey LINK bus card scheme.

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth encouraged all Members to share the link provided in the response to the Surrey LINK bus card and noted that several Cabinet Members and other Members had shared it around social media. He clarified that the 12,000 figure was not a target, the scheme had been budgeted for that amount. It was hoped that every young person aged 20 years old and under would have the Surrey LINK bus card, which the Council was providing

free of charge and provided half price bus travel across the whole of Surrey on single and return fares.

(Q5) Will Forster noted that the former Debenhams site in Winchester was now worth £3.6 million having been originally purchased for £15.8 million, he asked whether the Cabinet Member thought it provided value for money.

Jonathan Essex referred to part d) asking whether there was also a requirement to pay business rates on the empty property and if that was the case, how much.

The Cabinet Member for Property and Waste responded to Will Forster noting that the Council's external valuers had conservatively re-estimated the value of the site at £8.75 million. She responded to Jonathan Essex noting that she believed that there had been a cost and would provide a written response.

(Q6) Ashley Tilling noted that Members' inboxes were full of questions and comments about the Council's takeover of the contract for cutting grass verges. He noted that the contractor who used to undertake the contract for Elmbridge Borough Council now operated the contract for Surrey and was ashamed about the inadequate provision of four urban cuts at county level compared to eight to ten at borough level; the length of the grass between the last and first cut needed cutting with agricultural machinery and was a safety concern at road junctions. He sought reassurance that the contract would be reviewed so that the job would be done properly.

On behalf of Kevin Deanus, the Leader explained that there would be meeting with the chairs of the select committees in July to look at the findings of the task and finish groups, to be reviewed by the relevant select committee in September. He noted that the Councillor was an Elmbridge Borough Council Cabinet Member when it took the decision to cease the funding of the service. He noted that the task and finish group had done a thorough job, he appreciated Members' examples and information provided which would be reviewed and result in a clear process and a revision to the contract for next year. If additional information was required, a written response could be provided by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience.

(Q7) Jonathan Essex referring to the response which noted that it could cost the Council £1 million per year, he asked whether the actual cost saving through reduced fly-tipping from the change could be explored and how the change in the amounts of DIY waste dumped in household bins might reduce. Following the upcoming Cabinet Member Decision to be taken, he sought confirmation on whether the Cabinet Member would actively promote it as an opportunity for residents to better separate and reuse their DIY waste.

The Cabinet Member for Property and Waste agreed that Community Recycling Centres should be used more for reusing and recycling, she had conversations with the Cabinet Member for Environment about that. She would look into household waste going into rubbish bins that were collected by the borough and district councils, and explained that lots of the fly-tipped rubbish across the county was carried out by workers rather than householders as evidenced by prosecutions. The Council was working closely with its waste contractor to enable more reuse, it was looking at expanding the reuse shops and network.

(Q8) Catherine Baart had no supplementary question.

Catherine Powell wondered whether the Cabinet Member could provide more details on how the vehicle assets were being maximised as part of the roll out. For example,

were there opportunities for addressing some of the Home to School Transport issues and was data being collected on mileage and usage with and without passengers and what was the number of passengers.

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth would provide the data requested and would share it with all Members. He noted that regarding the trial in Mole Valley demand had increased weekly and some diesel minibuses were used to cope with the demand. There were a lot of benefits such as usage to attend medical appointments as it was a door-to-door service. Whilst it would be a more expensive option, it would enable the Council to meet its ambition of 'No One Left Behind' in the rural areas.

(Q9) Eber Kington asked whether the Leader agreed with him that an open and transparent council should provide for easy access to published reports from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) as soon as they are received and via an obvious link on the Council's website. He noted that was not happening and asked for him to review the accessibility and timeliness.

The Leader explained that whilst some LGSCO reports went to the Cabinet, he would review where the reports were published on the Council's website.

(Q10) Robert Evans OBE noted that of the figure of 1,292 asylum seekers in Surrey, he asked whether the Leader was aware that over 100 of those were in his division and that had not caused the problems feared initially. Referring to the Home Office's statement recognising the additional pressures locally to school places, transport and health services; he asked whether the Leader discussed those areas of concern in his meetings with the Home Office and if so, whether that information could be shared with him and other Members whose divisions were most affected by asylum seekers.

Helyn Clack noted that there were around 200 asylum seekers in her division and asked whether the Leader was aware that the Council had a good relationship with the Home Office and Mole Valley District Council to ensure that their needs were met. Also, whether he was aware of the meeting between herself, local leaders, parish councils and the Home Office to discuss further help.

The Leader noted that there were nine Initial Asylum Accommodation sites, three Overspill Dispersal Accommodation sites, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy or 'bridging' accommodation across three sites, Afghan refugees resettled in permanent accommodation across the county; as well as the Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) Welcome Programme, Home for Ukraine Scheme and the Ukraine Family Sponsorship Scheme. He noted that the Council had drafted a letter to go to the Home Secretary - under review by the Surrey Leaders' Group - setting out the concerns and impact in Surrey particularly with the imminent closure of some bridging hotels. Areas affected were highlighted in the letter particularly Horley. He noted that coordination work was underway regionally and nationally. Once agreed by the Surrey Leaders' Group, he would circulate the letter to Members and would keep Members informed when their areas were affected.

(Q12) Nick Darby regarding the rear fire escape in the Council Chamber, he asked what the escape procedure was for those partially sighted or disabled.

The Cabinet Member for Property and Waste noted that her response clarified that when a fire alarm sounds, a visitor or officer with a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) would be contacted by the Facilities Management team directly and would be assisted to leave the Council Chamber.

(Q13) Angela Goodwin asked whether the communications team would be willing to work with Members to develop some communications to encourage residents to cut back their vegetation that spills over onto the public highway.

A written response would be provided by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience.

(Q14) Mark Sugden noted that he was aware of the Road Safety Working Groups which operated biannually in each borough and district, he sought further clarity on what those discussed and who decided the outcomes and how. He asked whether the Cabinet Member could facilitate an onsite meeting with residents on the matter with an officer from the Road Safety Team. He noted that the implication in the final paragraph of the response about action taking at least two years and would be subject to a countywide Integrated Transport Scheme (ITS) bid was incorrect, he would not wait two years for action to be taken and there were various allocations that Members could use.

A written response would be provided by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience.

(Q15) Catherine Powell noted that she was alarmed that regarding the mainstream maintained schools in Surrey the notional budget towards the cost of fulfilling their duty to 'best endeavours' was set at £6,000, which was 40% lower than the national average. She asked whether that could be resolved in less than two years, recognising the current pressures faced by schools.

Jonathan Essex asked whether in considering whether the Council should remain with the notional budget set at £6,000 or for it be increased, for the Council to benchmark its performance in delivering EHCPs on time or late.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning responded to both Members explaining that any change of the notional figure of £6,000 per child needed to be agreed by the Surrey Schools Forum. She would raise that with them to see whether that work could be accelerated.

(Q16) Joanne Sexton had no supplementary question.

Eber Kington asked whether the Cabinet Member was aware that residents in his division were advised by Surrey County Council's contact centre that Epsom and Ewell Borough Council had asked the Council to take back verge cutting because Epsom and Ewell Borough Council wanted to spend the money on other priorities, that was incorrect. He asked whether the Cabinet Member could investigate how that false messaging was allowed to be issued and to apologise to the Chief Executive of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council.

A written response would be provided by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience.

(Q17) Lance Spencer noted that it was unfortunate that the roads in Woking were not dry or clean enough to paint the white lines and that had led to a significant nine-month delay. He asked the Cabinet Member to work with the contractors to ensure that the works in Woking would be completed by the end of summer 2023.

Catherine Powell asked how the Cabinet Member intended to address the yellow lines that were approved as part of the 2021 parking review, in her division that had still not been undertaken including some outside a school where there had been a recent incident.

Written responses would be provided by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience.

(Q19) Jonathan Essex noted that he asked the question because no action had been taken through the normal channel of the highways inbox, he hoped that would be remedied rather than relying on the Cabinet Member to intervene to fix temporary tarmac in a town centre for example. He asked whether more could be done regarding the specification sent to utility companies to ensure that there was more reuse of materials like granite blocks. He suggested that the Council and the borough and district councils could work together on individual town locations to ensure that the utility companies get the works right first time.

A written response would be provided by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience.

(Q22) Steven McCormick asked whether an alternative approach to addressing Home to School Transport issues might be required. He asked the Cabinet Member to consider undertaking an alternative root cause analysis approach to provide more school places in the areas of need.

Catherine Powell noted that the provision of school places report did not account for the significant localised housing development near her where there were 8,000 new homes spread across Surrey and Hampshire. The report talks about additional schooling in Ash Manor, however there was no easy bus service between the two. She asked the Cabinet Member to commit to reviewing secondary school places in Farnham to take account of the house building in both Surrey and Hampshire.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning responded to Steven McCormick reiterating that school admissions was a statutory process and was subject to parental preference and choice. She noted that it was not necessarily possible to redesign a school admissions process to take geographic issues into account.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning responded to Catherine Powell noting that she had asked her the same question around a year ago and she arranged a one-to-one meeting between her and the School Place Planning Team; she was happy to arrange for that again. She noted that she had been given assurance by that team that when they did their school place projections, they considered projected future residential development both in the immediate area and across the border in other counties.

(Q24) Catherine Powell asked whether the Cabinet Member recognised that families with SEND children had been disproportionately impacted by the cost-of-living crisis and that the Council needed to address that going forward.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning noted that the issue had been satisfactorily covered in her response.

(Q25) Lance Spencer asked whether the Cabinet Member would agree that the current death rate which had plateaued at around thirty deaths per year and a further 600 serious road casualties per year was too high. He asked whether he supported

the principle of targeting zero deaths as put forward in the Vision Zero original motion at the March 2023 Council meeting.

Nick Harrison asked why the report on twenty miles per hour zones had been withdrawn from the agenda of the July meeting of the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee.

Written responses would be provided by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience.

(Q27) Jonathan Essex asked the Cabinet Member whether in the Adequacy of Consultation (AoC) representation, he would highlight the inadequacy of consultation by Gatwick Airport Limited, covering areas including: the miscalculation of climate costs, the public being misled over the economic benefit, and the failure to properly consult on noise and transport impacts such as replacing roundabouts with grade-separated highway interchanges.

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth agreed that the Gatwick consultation and evidence provided were insufficient. The Council would be writing to the Government to request that they decline the Development Consent Order (DCO).

(Q29) Robert Evans OBE asked whether the Cabinet Member was aware that temporary traffic lights were the source of frustration amongst many motorists, causing more traffic delays than they stopped and blocked roads unnecessarily. He asked whether he had seen cases where pavements were dug up and soil was dumped on the road, he asked for him to review his response regarding permits being granted and Streetworks officers inspecting works, as the wrong conclusions were being made.

A written response would be provided by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience.

(Q30) Steven McCormick asked the Cabinet Member for further help and support in gaining answers to the other questions which he raised on the Chalk Pit issue, but to date had not had any replies.

John Beckett welcomed the reassurance regarding the two Conditions and sought assurance that the appropriate enforcement action would be undertaken by the Council where required.

Bernie Muir noted the problematic handling of the Chalk Pit issue by all three agencies: the Environment Agency, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council and Surrey County Council. She asked the Cabinet Member to state what was being done as a matter of urgency to protect the residents from the noise, dust and vehicle movements on the site; given the recent communications from the site owner and residents.

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth noted that regarding the extra information requested, all three Members had been invited to a community stakeholder meeting for the Members and residents affected to hear directly from the Council's Planning Enforcement Team about what was being done. He noted that it was a single operator on a multi operator site and resolving the issues required the Environment Agency and Epsom and Ewell Borough Council to work with the Council.

(Q32) Lance Spencer noted that he asked the same question a year ago and the plan then was to have EHCPs completion back at national levels by May 2023, the current plan was to reach national levels by December 2024. He asked whether that was realistic considering the financial constraints faced by the Council and the efficiencies that would have to be made.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning noted that there was a recovery plan in place to improve the timeliness, that had not gone as well or as quickly as planned. The issue was being revisited to see what additional resources could be brought into the system and more recruitment into the Educational Psychology Service to improve the timeliness. An end-to-end review of additional needs services was also underway. The process would take until 2024 to reach the goal for all EHCPs to be completed on time.

In line with Standing Order 10.12, the time limit of 45 minutes had been reached. Members could ask supplementary questions on Q33 - Q35 via email.

A Member raised a point of order regarding Standing Order 10.1. Mindful of the procedure adopted by the Chair for the current meeting, he requested that officers review how the Council manages original Member Questions and supplementaries in the absence of the relevant Cabinet Member. The Chair agreed that the matter would be considered.

Cabinet Member Briefings:

These were also published in the supplementary agenda (items 6 and 8) on 10 July 2023.

The Chair noted that he had been informed that there was an error relating to Natalie Bramhall's Cabinet Member Briefing on page 54, the location of Lakeside Primary Academy was Frimley and not Farnham.

Members made the following comments:

Cabinet Member for Education and Learning: on the Council's failure regarding SEND children's education and that several young people had not received the education to which they were entitled to, **Robert Evans OBE** asked what personal responsibility she had.

The Cabinet Member noted that it was distressing to read the LGSCO reports and where fault had been found with the Council that recompense was provided to the affected families; it was right for the Council to acknowledge its failings and for public apologies to be issued - she was happy to do that. She noted that the LGSCO reports referred to situations in the past and that the Council aspired to do better.

Cabinet Member for Property and Waste: Nick Harrison was pleased that settlements had been reached with SUEZ and asked whether the Council would be seeking the grants that were held back by the Government in relation to the waste arrangements.

The Cabinet Member noted that the Council was working with officials from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs and hoped to bring that to a conclusion within the month.

Regarding the investments to reduce the impact of hauling recyclable materials over long distances, **Jonathan Essex** asked whether there were plans to do the same for composting material and have that more locally dealt with across Surrey.

The Cabinet Member noted that she would discuss the matter with officers and would respond to the Member.

Regarding the Council's takeover of the Edge Leisure Centre in Haslemere by Facilities Management, **David Harmer** noted that the Edge Leisure Centre was used by a wider community than what was advised as the local users, he asked how wider local users would be advised on the use of facilities and activities.

The Cabinet Member noted that Waverley Borough Council took the decision to close the Edge Leisure Centre, Surrey County Council had taken back that facility and was working with the school that has use of that facility to enable them to continue to use it. The groups that had paid their fees to Waverley Borough Council for a year's membership were directed to them to receive a refund and could be signposted to one of their other facilities. The closure was unexpected and Surrey County Council was pursuing a dilapidations claim against Waverley Borough Council.

Liz Townsend stated that Waverley Borough Council did not close the Edge Leisure Centre and that it had leased the Edge - run by contractors - from Surrey County Council; she welcomed the opportunity to speak to the Cabinet Member about her use of language. She noted that Waverley Borough Council had been in talks with Surrey County Council for a couple of years about the future of the Edge. She noted that Waverley Borough Council already ran another leisure centre in Haslemere.

The Cabinet Member refuted the Member's comment noting that Waverley Borough Council's officers gave six-months' notice to Surrey County Council's officers in January 2023. Waverley Borough Council had a 99-year lease which around a decade ago it was decided that the lease be pulled back to 2023, it was not anticipated that the Edge would close; it was well used by several groups. She noted that Surrey County Council's Land and Property officers had worked hard to try and come to an acceptable work in progress for Waverley and Hampshire residents, that was not to be so Surrey County Council put in place arrangements for the local school and others to continue to use it.

Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways: regarding the parking enforcement updates to Members in July with an offer to attend a parking task group for their area, **Chris Townsend** asked when those would be available.

The Deputy Cabinet Member noted that the parking task groups on a borough basis would begin later in the month and he would ensure that the dates would be circulated to Members.

50/23 STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS [Item 7]

Steve Bax (East Molesey and Esher) made a statement on the positive feedback received from residents about Ringway which resurfaced the Walton Road in Molesey at the end of May. The Ringway crew undertook the noisiest of the work before midnight, efforts were made to accommodate residents and the resurfacing was completed swiftly. He thanked the foreman and his team for their hard work and the Council for providing the funding.

Becky Rush left the meeting at 11.59 am.

Mark Sugden (Hinchley Wood, Claygate and Oxshott) made a statement on the redevelopment of the existing outdoor swimming pool at Claygate Primary School - Claygate Community Pool. A new building had been built to cover the pool including showers and changing rooms to achieve the ambition of swimming year-round, the pool made a positive difference to the local community. The project team raised significant funds including from Claygate Parish Council and Elmbridge Borough Council, and Your Fund Surrey granted a substantial £363,500 contribution.

Robert King left the meeting at 12.01 pm.

Tim Hall (Leatherhead and Fetcham East) made a statement on the Leatherhead and Dorking Gymnastics Club expansion, there were a variety of grant applications and Your Fund Surrey provided a £550,000 contribution to expand the facilities including a sensory room and the site had been connected onto mains drainage. The focus was on children and adults with learning disabilities, there were positive relationships with local schools. It was a charity and the volunteers had worked hard to provide an inspirational facility. He recommended Members to visit various Your Fund Surrey projects.

51/23 ORIGINAL MOTIONS [Item 8]

Item 8 (i)

Under Standing Order 12.3 the Cabinet Member for Environment, Marisa Heath, moved a proposal. The proposal was as follows:

That the motion below by Lance Spencer be referred to the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee for the purpose of consideration and making recommendations to the Cabinet or the Council for decision.

This Council notes that:

- At the Council meeting on 9 July 2019 an original motion resolved that the Council:
 - 4. declares a 'Climate Emergency', and commits actions to support businesses and all local authorities in their work to tackle climate change by providing a strong unified voice for councils in lobbying for support to address this emergency, and sharing best practice across all councils.
- At the Council meeting on 21 March 2023 an original motion resolved that the Council noted that:
 - Food production has a high impact on climate and the environment. The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on climate change and land estimates that 21-27% of total greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) are attributable to the food system ([Special Report on Climate Change and Land, IPCC, 2019](#)). Local, organic and animal friendly food production systems reduce these emissions.
 - What we eat has a significant impact on our climate impact in the UK. This is explored by the Centre for Alternative Technology ([Zero Carbon: Rethinking the Future - Centre for Alternative Technology](#))

- What we eat has a strong role to play in our public health, including through Surrey's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- At the Council meeting on 21 March 2023 the aforementioned original motion resolved that the Council believed that:
 - Surrey County Council has a significant role to play in leadership in this area - including through our procurement of food, addressing food waste and through our farm ownership.
 - Implementing Surrey's Climate Change Strategy will have a positive impact on our land-use in Surrey.
 - Surrey County Councillors can play an active role in advocating for what is needed in this area.

This Council further notes that:

- The Government's independent Climate Change Committee advises that meat consumption should be reduced by a fifth, and that public bodies should lead the way by promoting plant-based food options. Leading by example on this, and food waste, should be fundamental components of our commitment to cutting carbon emissions.
- Furthermore, in the UK, only 18% of children consume the recommended five portions of fruit and vegetables per day, and most young people's diets lack fibre. Providing appealing plant-based school meals along with education on healthy, climate-positive food choices are excellent ways to address these problems.
- Currently school meals services have plant-based menus available as part of their regular offer.

This Council calls on the Cabinet to:

- I. Ensure that food provided at all council catered events and meetings is predominantly plant-based, preferably using ingredients sourced from local food surplus organisations.
- II. Ensure that school meals service have a totally plant based menu one day per week, ideally Mondays.
- III. Continue to outreach to schools and young people to actively influence and inform on climate change and in particular on food choices and their impact on the environment, health and animal welfare.
- IV. To further encourage and empower students to make informed decisions about the food available in their school.
- V. Inspire, promote and support initiatives surrounding climate change and in particular food growing, preparation and waste avoidance, especially as part of school and community projects.

Lance Spencer made the following points:

- Noted that he was against the referral of the motion.
- Noted that in July 2019 the Council passed a motion recognising the climate crisis and that it had a key role to work with local communities to find a way

forward to reduce the amount of carbon emitted in Surrey: 6 million tonnes annually.

- Noted that June 2023 was the hottest June ever recorded and was 1.46 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial average, close to the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold for irreversible damage to the planet.
- Noted that between October 2021 and the current Council meeting, there had been six motions on various subjects related to climate change and those sought to engage with communities to highlight the need to act; minimal action had been taken.
- Noted that debating the motion at the current Council meeting would encourage more people to talk about climate change.
- Noted that there was no technological solution that would fix the problem, until the Government and the Council makes the environment a priority, then it could be assumed that the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold for irreversible damage to the planet would be passed soon.

In speaking to her proposal, the Cabinet Member for Environment:

- Noted that a lot of the work the motion called for was already being done, the contractor Twelve15 provided Meat-free Mondays and the take up of vegetarian meals was up to 30%, work was underway with the Eco-Schools project around food sustainability and nutritious diets.
- Noted that Twelve15 was working with the Council to figure out how locally sourced food could be supplied and reviewing how the Council could ensure that it would meet its net zero guidelines regarding food.
- Noted that the motion at the March 2023 Council meeting was referred to the Greener Futures Reference Group for consideration, the topic of locally sourced food was broad and as the Surrey Food Strategy work remained underway, it was vital to refer this motion to the relevant select committee to scrutinise all the work underway in-depth.
- Noted that it was a complicated matter, involving land management, nature recovery, working with Surrey's schools and many other elements that could not be addressed at a Council meeting.

Lance Spencer confirmed that he was against the referral of the motion to the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee.

The proposal to refer the motion was put to the vote and was carried.

Therefore, it was **RESOLVED** that:

The motion be referred to the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee for the purpose of consideration and making recommendations to the Cabinet or the Council for decision.

Item 8 (ii)

Under Standing Order 12.3 the Council agreed to debate this motion.

Under Standing Order 12.1 Catherine Baart moved:

This Council notes that:

- Four years ago, Surrey County Council declared a Climate Emergency. Our already changing climate has a significant impact on biodiversity, alongside degradation from habitat loss, pollution, overexploitation, increases of non-native species and flooding.
- In May 2019, the United Nation's Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) raised the alarm about the urgent ecological emergency the world also faces. The UK's State of Nature 2019 report also highlights the critical decline in biodiversity in the UK - 41% of species studied, including much loved butterflies and hedgehogs, are currently in decline ([State of Nature 2019 - National Biodiversity Network \(nbn.org.uk\)](https://www.nbn.org.uk)).
- In December 2022 the UK was amongst 188 signatories of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and committed to reversing biodiversity loss and to protect 30% of land and oceans, all by 2030 ([2030 Targets and Guidance Notes \(cbd.int\)](https://www.cbd.int)).
- The UK Environment Act (2021) has led to consultation on new binding targets, including for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste reduction (March 2022). Planning authorities are required to implement at least 10% biodiversity net gain from November 2023 for developments in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The Surrey Nature Partnership planning position statement has recommended adopting a 20% minimum biodiversity net gain target across Surrey.
- The latest State of Surrey Nature Report (Surrey Wildlife Trust, 2017) noted that there are 972 species in decline in Surrey, and 626 that are now extinct in Surrey ([State of Nature in Surrey Web.pdf \(surreywildlifetrust.org\)](https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org)). Surrey Wildlife Trust have a strategic plan to restore Surrey's nature (2018-23, [5 Year Plan 2018 Master 0.pdf \(surreywildlifetrust.org\)](https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org)).
- The Surrey County Council is due to agree to a new duty as responsible authority for production of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Surrey in July 2023.

The Council resolves to:

- I. Declare a Biodiversity Emergency, and reflect this in forthcoming strategies, including Surrey's Local Nature Recovery, Food and Land-use Strategies.

Request the Leader and Cabinet to:

- II. Within six months to set out how Surrey County Council will contribute to the UK meeting its 30% by 2030 biodiversity target, both for its own estate and for all of Surrey.
- III. Proactively work with Surrey's boroughs and districts to develop and agree deliverable and robust strategies and plans to increase biodiversity, including restoration of degraded habitats, restricting invasive species, allocating defined areas across Surrey that have high potential for increased biodiversity that should be protected from housing development and reducing pollution.

Catherine Baart made the following points:

- Noted that yesterday the Council issued a press release which announced Government funding received to develop the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Surrey.
- The press release explained that the Strategy was vital to tackle the 'nature crisis', noted that if her wording of 'biodiversity emergency' could be replaced with nature crisis then perhaps Members could agree the original motion.
- Noted that the continuing decline in nature was on the trajectory to catastrophe, many species in Surrey had become rare or extinct; a small removal could cause the whole system to collapse.
- Noted that a nature crisis was dangerous as humans relied on natural systems which carried out essential jobs for free: pollination of food crops, providing flood and drought resilience and heat mitigation.
- Noted that the above services required an abundance of creatures to work, lower biodiversity makes natural systems less resilient to climate change; making it harder and more expensive for the Council to meet its net zero targets.
- Recommended Members read the People's Plan for Nature, an initiative in response to the recent BBC Wild Isles series narrated by Sir David Attenborough; the response from one of its producers about biodiversity was that the UK could not escape a nature collapse.
- Noted that there was a vital difference between noting a decline in biodiversity as in the proposed amendment, compared to declaring a biodiversity emergency and target; which would be a call to action.
- Noted that the motion referred to the national and local State of Nature scientific reports, voting against the motion suggested that Members overall did not understand or care to acknowledge that data.
- Noted that the above was the same pattern for climate change, time had been lost and so the costs and dangers were higher; quoted a well-known naturalist who did not 'think enough of those people who are in the decision-making process are feeling it quite enough yet.'
- Noted that the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Surrey was due in twelve to eighteen months, in all that time the Council would not have any target for limiting biodiversity loss; suggested the target of protecting 30% of Surrey's nature by 2030, calling on partners and stakeholders immediately to consider their own actions.
- Noted that other Conservative-led councils had declared a biodiversity emergency: Dorset Council, Devon and Cambridgeshire County Councils.
- Noted vision statements provided in the People's Plan for Nature whereby: nature is valued and cared for, species are abundant and all look after and are a voice for nature, there is a collaborative long-term approach to prioritising nature in all decision-making, creating an empowered and healthier world; the motion could move towards that.

The motion was formally seconded by Catherine Powell, who reserved the right to speak.

Marisa Heath moved an amendment which had been published in the supplementary agenda (items 6 and 8) on 10 July 2023, which was formally seconded by Denise Turner-Stewart.

The amendment was as follows (with additional words in bold/underlined and deletions crossed through):

This Council notes that:

- Four years ago, Surrey County Council declared a Climate Emergency. Our already changing climate has a significant impact on biodiversity, alongside degradation from habitat loss, pollution, overexploitation, increases of non-native species and flooding.
- In May 2019, the United Nation's Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) raised the alarm about the urgent ecological emergency the world also faces. The UK's State of Nature 2019 report also highlights the critical decline in biodiversity in the UK - 41% of species studied, including much loved butterflies and hedgehogs, are currently in decline ([State of Nature 2019 - National Biodiversity Network \(nbn.org.uk\)](https://www.nbn.org.uk)).
- In December 2022 the UK was amongst 188 signatories of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and committed to reversing biodiversity loss and to protect 30% of land and oceans, all by 2030 ([2030 Targets and Guidance Notes \(cbd.int\)](https://www.cbd.int)).
- The UK Environment Act (2021) has led to consultation on new binding targets, including for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste reduction (March 2022). Planning authorities are required to implement at least 10% biodiversity net gain from November 2023 for developments in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The Surrey Nature Partnership planning position statement has recommended adopting a 20% minimum biodiversity net gain target across Surrey.
- The latest State of Surrey Nature Report (Surrey Wildlife Trust, 2017) noted that there are 972 species in decline in Surrey, and 626 that are now extinct in Surrey ([State of Nature in Surrey Web.pdf \(surreywildlifetrust.org\)](https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org)). Surrey Wildlife Trust have a strategic plan to restore Surrey's nature (2018-23, [5 Year Plan 2018 Master 0.pdf \(surreywildlifetrust.org\)](https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org)).
- The Surrey County Council is due to agree to a new duty as responsible authority for production of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Surrey in July 2023.

The Council resolves to:

- I. **Note that this Council has recognised that there has been biodiversity decline in Surrey** ~~Declare a Biodiversity Emergency,~~ and **will be reflecting** this in forthcoming strategies, including Surrey's **emerging** Local Nature Recovery, Food and Land-use Strategies.

Request the Leader and Cabinet to:

- II. ~~Within six months to set out how~~ **Note that this Council is proactively working with Surrey's districts and boroughs, as well as other partners and landowners through the development of the emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy to reverse the decline in biodiversity and restore degraded habitats as well as consideration of how** Surrey County Council

will contribute to the UK meeting its 30% by 2030 biodiversity target, both for its own estate and for all of Surrey, **though this will be in the timeframe of the development and agreement of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.**

- III. ~~Proactively work with Surrey's boroughs and districts to develop and agree deliverable and robust strategies and plans to increase biodiversity, including restoration of degraded habitats, restricting invasive species, allocating defined areas across Surrey that have high potential for increased biodiversity that should be protected from housing development and reducing pollution.~~
Commit to its role as Lead Authority for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy to proactively engage with the WWF People's Plan for Nature and ensure Surrey residents are fully involved in the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Marisa Heath spoke to her amendment, making the following points:

- Noted that she had amended the motion for three reasons: firstly, to acknowledge the existing vehicles that the Council was working in and the work underway, secondly, to reflect the People's Plan for Nature as Members were the custodians looking after the countryside in Surrey for their residents, and thirdly, to remove the word emergency as the Council was beginning to develop its Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Surrey and the use of the word could be damaging to people's mental health, particularly young people.
- Noted that she did not underestimate the challenge set out in the 2017 State of Surrey's Nature report, the amendment noted that the Council accepted that nature recovery was important moving forward and would be integrated into business-as-usual work, using the mechanism provided by the Government.
- Agreed with many of the principles in the motion, it was evident that there was a problem with nature and that needed to be addressed.
- Noted that outline work was underway on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Surrey; there had been workshops with Surrey Hills nature groups and it would be vital to include the experts and baseline data, ensuring that the outcomes could be measured and delivered.
- Recognised that the People's Plan for Nature was crucial ensuring that all residents are engaged with and that had been added in the amendment, she thanked Jonathan Essex for raising that with her.
- Noted that she welcomed Members' involvement and that they would be kept regularly updated on the progress of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Surrey through her Cabinet Member Briefings.

The amendment was formally seconded by Denise Turner-Stewart, who made the following comments:

- Noted that the amendment helped to shine a light on Spelthorne, one of Surrey's most nature depleted boroughs, the greatest opportunity for nature recovery was in Surrey's nature depleted boroughs, and urban and suburban areas.
- Noted that compared to twenty years ago when the rural restoration programme was established including tree planting, hedgerow restoration and green corridors which saw the return of nature; biodiversity had become a mainstream priority and commitment.
- Noted that the Council's commitment to reversing the decline in biodiversity was evident through: the River Thames Scheme and numerous

environmental projects, supporting the BLUE Campaign, working with borough and district councils to rewild open spaces, the Eco-Schools programme, Your Fund Surrey Small Green Projects about to launch, the tree planting programme and supporting the Surrey Tree Warden Network, the imminent stump removal and tree replacement programme, and protecting nature conservation areas.

- Noted that the amendment supported the endeavour to collectively work together to reverse the decline in biodiversity, restore degraded habitats and meet the 30% by 2030 biodiversity target.

Catherine Baart did not accept the amendment and therefore the amendment was open for debate.

Two Members spoke on the amendment and made the following comments:

- Noted that June 2023 was the hottest June on record in the UK, seas around the UK's coast in some places were 4.6 degrees Celsius hotter than average June temperatures, the weather caused the unprecedented deaths of fish in rivers and affected insects and plants.
- Noted that Thames Water had aerators running in the River Bourne for ten days to try and recover the water after a massive sewage spill from Chobham Sewage Treatment Works.
- Hoped that Members accepted that the climate emergency was having a bigger impact on the flora and fauna in Surrey than it was on people.
- Noted that the 2017 State of Surrey's Nature report stated that Surrey was an impressively diverse county biologically, in Surrey there was over 4,242 species and in 2017 it was estimated that 11.5% of those species were locally extinct, compared to the 2% figure nationally.
- Noted that the priority species for national conservation accounted for about 400 of those species, in 2017 31% were already extinct in Surrey, 37% were threatened or remain in worrying decline, leaving only 31% that were considered stable or recovering.
- Stressed that Members needed to reflect on whether the motion once amended would have any impact, or would it fall into the category of the previous six motions that related to climate change over the last two years, where the impact had been negligible; whilst the motion called for action, with dates and commitments.
- Welcomed the addition in the amendment to proactively engage with the People's Plan for Nature, however sought clarity on whether that engagement would include the backers of the plan: the National Trust, the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; as well as the Surrey Wildlife Trust, and the Woodland Trust who had all declared a biodiversity emergency.
- Hoped that once proactive engagement had been undertaken, the administration might submit its own version of the motion calling on the Council to declare a biodiversity emergency as part of the production and delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Surrey.

The Chair asked Marisa Heath, as proposer of the amendment to conclude the debate:

- Noted that the best way forward was to do the work, that was already underway.

- Noted that regarding the declaration of a biodiversity emergency, the best people to decide in due course were the experts involved in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Surrey work.

The amendment was put to the vote and was carried and became the substantive motion.

No comments were made by Members on the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and was carried.

Therefore, it was **RESOLVED** that:

This Council notes that:

- Four years ago, Surrey County Council declared a Climate Emergency. Our already changing climate has a significant impact on biodiversity, alongside degradation from habitat loss, pollution, overexploitation, increases of non-native species and flooding.
- In May 2019, the United Nation's Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) raised the alarm about the urgent ecological emergency the world also faces. The UK's State of Nature 2019 report also highlights the critical decline in biodiversity in the UK - 41% of species studied, including much loved butterflies and hedgehogs, are currently in decline ([State of Nature 2019 - National Biodiversity Network \(nbn.org.uk\)](https://www.nbn.org.uk)).
- In December 2022 the UK was amongst 188 signatories of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and committed to reversing biodiversity loss and to protect 30% of land and oceans, all by 2030 ([2030 Targets and Guidance Notes \(cbd.int\)](https://www.cbd.int)).
- The UK Environment Act (2021) has led to consultation on new binding targets, including for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste reduction (March 2022). Planning authorities are required to implement at least 10% biodiversity net gain from November 2023 for developments in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The Surrey Nature Partnership planning position statement has recommended adopting a 20% minimum biodiversity net gain target across Surrey.
- The latest State of Surrey Nature Report (Surrey Wildlife Trust, 2017) noted that there are 972 species in decline in Surrey, and 626 that are now extinct in Surrey ([State of Nature in Surrey Web.pdf \(surreywildlifetrust.org\)](https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org)). Surrey Wildlife Trust have a strategic plan to restore Surrey's nature (2018-23, [5 Year Plan 2018 Master 0.pdf \(surreywildlifetrust.org\)](https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org)).
- The Surrey County Council is due to agree to a new duty as responsible authority for production of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Surrey in July 2023.

The Council resolves to:

- I. Note that this Council has recognised that there has been biodiversity decline in Surrey and will be reflecting this in forthcoming strategies, including Surrey's emerging Local Nature Recovery, Food and Land-use Strategies.
- II. Note that this Council is proactively working with Surrey's districts and boroughs, as well as other partners and landowners through the development of the emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy to reverse the decline in biodiversity and restore degraded habitats as well as consideration of how Surrey County Council will contribute to the UK meeting its 30% by 2030 biodiversity target, both for its own estate and for all of Surrey, though this will be in the timeframe of the development and agreement of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- III. Commit to its role as Lead Authority for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy to proactively engage with the WWF People's Plan for Nature and ensure Surrey residents are fully involved in the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Item 8 (iii)

Under Standing Order 12.3 the Council agreed to debate this motion.

Under Standing Order 12.1 Catherine Powell moved:

This Council notes that:

- Increasing cycling and walking is a key objective of this Council, this is part of the Surrey's Community Vision for 2030 and Local Transport Plan (LTP4, 2021).
- The Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience has recently committed to align all existing highways policies, procedures etc., with LTP4 and bring this through scrutiny to Cabinet by the end of 2023, including the frequency of highway inspections.

This Council further notes:

- The Council's progress in developing plans to encourage walking and cycling but is aware that more needs to be done.

Therefore, this Council calls upon the Cabinet to:

- I. Review and update the Surrey Highway Hierarchy Definition to align with the sustainable travel hierarchy in LTP4 and to support a higher priority grading on routes for local walking and cycling journeys, particularly to areas of high employment, schools, hospitals, and leisure facilities. This work should be included within the review that the Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience has committed to.
- II. Develop and fund a proactive maintenance approach to vegetation impacting on walking and cycling routes. This approach should prioritise areas of high employment (including town centres), schools, hospitals, and leisure facilities to ensure that these routes are consistently safe, enjoyable, easy, and

- convenient to use to promote them as an alternative to private vehicle use, whilst continuing to promote biodiversity.
- III. Ensure that the approach to highway inspection is extended from surveying highway defects to inspections of issues that impact on all road users (not just vehicles), for example encroaching vegetation, left-behind signs, debris on pavements and cycleways and blocked drains.
 - IV. Use the knowledge of Members, local organisations and cycling and walking groups to enable the relevant officer team to create local walking and cycling maps for schools, businesses, health, and leisure facilities etc. to use within their own plans and strategies. These maps should proactively encourage sustainable travel across the county using tools such as Surrey Interactive Map.

Catherine Powell made the following points:

- Noted that climate change was already impacting on the weather, communities and ecosystems.
- Noted that people's travel choices were driven by how convenient, safe, easy, and enjoyable the options were; such choices impacted on the individual's carbon footprint and their health and wellbeing.
- Noted her dependence as a young person on walking, cycling or the bus - services were reliable and well-used - and not the car.
- Noted that in recent decades, the increasing prevalence of the car with its door-to-door convenience had made it the easiest option for many.
- Noted that the challenge was how to increase walking, scooting, cycling and use of public transport; involving and learning from residents had the highest chance of success to increase uptake.
- Noted that firstly, the Council needed to show residents that it was serious about the issue by making the most of the infrastructure it had invested in by proactively maintaining surfaces, managing vegetation and prioritising the routes that people valued and uses most.
- Noted that secondly, the Council needed to involve residents in identifying the routes on and off road that they valued most that linked to schools, offices, hospitals and the local public transport system; involving them in creating maps that would allow them to share their knowledge and to identify opportunities for future improvements.
- Urged Members to support the motion to ensure that residents were not put off walking, cycling or scooting because of overgrown paths, poorly repaired surfaces or the absence of a map showing the cut throughs; key routes should be signposted and should be convenient, safe, easy and enjoyable options so that residents would choose to use those instead of their car.

The motion was formally seconded by Jonathan Essex, who made the following comments:

- Noted that the motion called for a shared commitment by all Members, including to progress the links between highway maintenance and the Local Transport Plan (LTP4).
- Noted that the first recommendation called for bus and cycle lanes, and pavements to be inspected more frequently, leading to better journeys, and less trip hazards and buses diverted due to potholes.
- Noted that the motion called for the Council to be proactive, not reactive. Undertaking basic verge maintenance so that people can walk or cycle on pavements without overgrown vegetation and for safety inspections to look

beyond simply spotting road defects, removing signs at the end of a utility job for example.

- Noted a meeting where he would be guided with simulation spectacles by the Royal National Institute of Blind People, to experience what it was like to walk on Surrey's pavements as a blind person; cars parked on pavements and overflowing vegetation were hazards, the motion sought to address that.
- Noted that the motion called for simple and inexpensive changes to be better promoted, so that more residents could choose to get on a bus, walk and cycle as attractive alternatives; that was aligned to the Government's National Active Travel Commissioner who said that people need to drive 25 to 30% less for massive health benefits.

Tim Oliver (on behalf of Kevin Deanus) moved an amendment which had been published in the supplementary agenda (items 6 and 8) on 10 July 2023, which was formally seconded by Jordan Beech.

The amendment was as follows (with additional words in bold/underlined and deletions crossed through):

This Council notes that:

- Increasing cycling and walking is a key objective of this Council, this is part of the Surrey's Community Vision for 2030 and Local Transport Plan (LTP4, 2021).
- The Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience has recently committed to align all existing highways policies, procedures etc., with LTP4 and bring this through scrutiny to Cabinet by the end of 2023, including the frequency of highway inspections.

This Council further notes:

- The Council's progress in developing plans to encourage walking and cycling but is aware that more needs to be done.

Therefore, this Council calls upon the Cabinet, following the review of the work of the task and finish groups by the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee, to:

- I. Review and update the Surrey Highway Hierarchy Definition to align with the sustainable travel hierarchy in LTP4 and to support a higher priority grading on routes for local walking and cycling journeys, particularly to areas of high employment, schools, hospitals, and leisure facilities. This work should be included within the review that the Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience has committed to.
- II. Develop and fund a proactive maintenance approach to vegetation impacting on walking and cycling routes. This approach should prioritise areas of high employment (including town centres), schools, hospitals, and leisure facilities to ensure that these routes are consistently safe, enjoyable, easy, and convenient to use to promote them as an alternative to private vehicle use, whilst continuing to promote biodiversity.
- III. Ensure that the approach to highway inspection is extended from surveying highway defects to inspections of issues that impact on all road users (not just

vehicles), for example encroaching vegetation, left-behind signs, debris on pavements and cycleways and blocked drains.

- IV. Use the knowledge of Members, local organisations and cycling and walking groups to enable the relevant officer team to create local walking and cycling maps for schools, businesses, health, and leisure facilities etc. to use within their own plans and strategies. These maps should proactively encourage sustainable travel across the county using tools such as Surrey Interactive Map.

Tim Oliver spoke to Kevin Deanus' amendment, making the following points:

- Agreed with what the proposer and seconder said regarding the Council's ambition and desire to further promote walking, cycling and the use of public transport.
- Agreed that residents should be actively involved in helping to identify appropriate walking and cycling routes, for example via the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs).
- Noted that the amendment called on the Cabinet to act following the review of the work of the task and finish groups by the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee because the motion had budgetary and operational impacts.
- Highlighted to opposition party Members his commitment as Leader that any policy changes within the Council would first be scrutinised by the select committees and their task and finish groups, which could then make recommendations to the Cabinet.

The amendment was formally seconded by Jordan Beech, who confirmed his support for the Leader's comments.

Catherine Powell accepted the amendment and therefore it became the substantive motion.

No comments were made by Members on the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and received unanimous support.

Therefore, it was **RESOLVED** that:

This Council notes that:

- Increasing cycling and walking is a key objective of this Council, this is part of the Surrey's Community Vision for 2030 and Local Transport Plan (LTP4, 2021).
- The Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience has recently committed to align all existing highways policies, procedures etc., with LTP4 and bring this through scrutiny to Cabinet by the end of 2023, including the frequency of highway inspections.

This Council further notes:

- The Council's progress in developing plans to encourage walking and cycling but is aware that more needs to be done.

Therefore, this Council calls upon the Cabinet, following the review of the work of the task and finish groups by the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee, to:

- I. Review and update the Surrey Highway Hierarchy Definition to align with the sustainable travel hierarchy in LTP4 and to support a higher priority grading on routes for local walking and cycling journeys, particularly to areas of high employment, schools, hospitals, and leisure facilities. This work should be included within the review that the Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience has committed to.
- II. Develop and fund a proactive maintenance approach to vegetation impacting on walking and cycling routes. This approach should prioritise areas of high employment (including town centres), schools, hospitals, and leisure facilities to ensure that these routes are consistently safe, enjoyable, easy, and convenient to use to promote them as an alternative to private vehicle use, whilst continuing to promote biodiversity.
- III. Ensure that the approach to highway inspection is extended from surveying highway defects to inspections of issues that impact on all road users (not just vehicles), for example encroaching vegetation, left-behind signs, debris on pavements and cycleways and blocked drains.
- IV. Use the knowledge of Members, local organisations and cycling and walking groups to enable the relevant officer team to create local walking and cycling maps for schools, businesses, health, and leisure facilities etc. to use within their own plans and strategies. These maps should proactively encourage sustainable travel across the county using tools such as Surrey Interactive Map.

52/23 STATUTORY LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES [Item 9]

RESOLVED:

Council noted that the Leader has appointed Sinead Mooney as the Statutory Lead Member for Children's Services in accordance with Section 19 of the Children Act 2004.

53/23 SURREY YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2023/24 [Item 10]

The Chair noted that following discussion with the Group Leaders, it was proposed that the item be deferred to the next Council meeting in October to allow for it to be considered by the relevant select committee prior to Council approval.

RESOLVED:

That the Surrey Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 item be deferred to the next Council meeting in October to allow for it to be considered by the relevant select committee prior to Council approval.

54/23 MEMBER CONDUCT PANEL REPORT [Item 11]

The Director of Law and Governance introduced the report noting that as the Council's Monitoring Officer he was required to notify the Council of decisions taken by the Member Conduct Panel as set out in the Annex.

A Member noted that the sanctions available were limited. Whilst he understood that the list of sanctions was prescribed nationally, he asked the Leader to use his influence at the Local Government Association (LGA) to revisit the issue so that sanctions for breaches of the Member Code of Conduct, especially for actions external to the Council itself, are more reflective of the alleged breach.

The Leader noted that he had no influence at the LGA - unlike the County Councils Network - but would be happy to raise the matter there.

RESOLVED:

That Council noted the decision sheet of the Member Conduct Panel of 22 May 2023.

55/23 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION: REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION REVIEW GROUP [Item 12]

The Chair noted that there was a correction to recommendation 1 (c) whereby the correct Standing Order was 85.5, not 85.6 as drafted in report.

The Leader introduced the report and thanked the Constitution Review Group for their work. He highlighted the changes to the length of speeches to six minutes by the leaders of the two largest opposition groups in response to the Leader's Statement, explicit reference made to Deputy Cabinet Members being able to answer questions on their Briefings and other updates such as no requirement to sign an attendance register. He noted that the Group Leaders had discussed and agreed the proposals.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council agreed the following amendments to the Constitution:
 - (a) The proposed amendment to Part 4 - Standing Order 18.
 - (b) The proposed amendment to Part 4 - Standing Orders 9.3, 10.2, 10.3 and 10.12.
 - (c) The proposed amendment to Part 4 – Standing Order 85.5.
 - (d) The proposed amendment to Part 4 - Standing Order 30.
 - (e) The proposed amendment to Part 4 - Standing Orders 15.1, 23.2 and 28.1.
 - (f) The proposed amendments to Part 6 – Codes and Protocols – (02) – Arrangements for dealing with Member Conduct, paragraph 10 and (04) Member-Officer Protocol Annex A – Member Role Profiles, Chair of Council Key Duties and Responsibilities, paragraph 8.
 - (g) The proposed amendment to Part 3, Section 2 - Scheme of Delegation, paragraph 6.10(a).
2. That Council delegated the approval of the Risk Management Strategy to the Audit & Governance Committee, with the document continuing to be included in Part 5 of the Constitution as agreed by the Audit & Governance Committee.

56/23 REPORT OF THE CABINET [Item 13]

The Leader presented the report of the Cabinet meetings held on 30 May 2023 and 27 June 2023.

Recommendations on Policy Framework Documents:

There were no reports with recommendations for Council.

Reports for Information/Discussion:

30 May 2023:

- A. Surrey County Council's Adoption of the Revised Surrey Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

27 June 2023:

- B. Modernising our Library Estate, Libraries Transformation - Phase 1

A Member highlighted the importance of the Council's Library and Cultural Services Transformation programme, since 2019 the increase in capital spending on Surrey's libraries had delivered benefits to many residents. She welcomed the increased investment in Woking Library, which was a key part of the town centre and was one of the first original models for creating library hubs back in 2012. Following increased investment Woking Library expanded to provide a quiet room for book clubs to meet, more computers, free Wi-Fi, and a shop. It served as a key community hub for both children and adults. She noted the need to continue with the modernisation of libraries which would meet the Council's commitment of 'No one being left behind', she thanked the Leader and portfolio holder.

- C. Weybridge Hub Redevelopment

- D. Surrey Infrastructure Plan - Phase 4 Schemes

- E. Quarterly Report on Decisions Taken Under Special Urgency Arrangements: 13 May 2023 - 3 July 2023

RESOLVED:

1. Noted that there had been no urgent decisions in the last two months.
2. Adopted the report of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 30 May 2023 and 27 June 2023.

57/23 MINUTES OF CABINET MEETINGS [Item 14]

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: 12.51 pm]

Chair

Leader's Statement – County Council, 11 July 2023

Mr Chair, Members, welcome to the final Council meeting before our summer recess.

While the meetings might be pausing, the sun might be shining and the tennis is on the television, our work goes on, and the work of Council staff goes on - to improve the lives of the people of Surrey.

I want to touch on that work today – that intense effort that goes on day-in, day-out from this organisation.

As we've demonstrated over the last few years, Surrey is an ambitious, forward-looking Council.

We are constantly looking to innovative new ideas, new ways to deliver better outcomes for our residents, new technology, new opportunities, new ways to collaborate.

It is only with this mentality that we can deal with the serious and sustained pressure that local government is under.

As we saw coming many months ago, huge challenges are upon us.

In many ways these challenges are greater and more varied than we expected, and that has meant that service delivery has not always kept up pace with the changing landscape and demands.

But our work, our vision and taking our responsibilities seriously, has enabled us to stand strong.

We have given ourselves the room to adapt, and work in such a way that helps us overcome these challenges.

The impacts of climate change that we are already experiencing, the war in Ukraine, rapid inflation, the cost-of-living pressures, increasing demand on services, the after-effects of the Covid pandemic – all of these issues, all coming together at the same time are contributing to noticeable and very visible pressures on services.

From our roads to our classrooms, from our countryside to our high streets. Our society is changing and adapting.

We have to adapt too.

It's not easy, it's not straightforward, and the solutions are not always within reach.

But as a Council, we are focussed.

We are committed.

We are working hard.

I personally, as Leader of this council, I am fully focussed on the priorities our residents want us to address.

One of these most important priorities is supporting children and young people who really need extra support as they grow and learn – particularly those young people with additional needs and disabilities.

For parents and carers, this is all-consuming.

As a parent myself I get it.

There is nothing more important than your child's wellbeing, and I completely accept how passionate and frustrated parents and carers can be with the system when they are seeking advice and support.

Applications from parents for Education, Health and Care Plans – EHCPs – are through the roof.

This is a symptom of many factors, and it is not unique to Surrey.

The system around EHCPs is frankly not good enough – it's a national issue, and a very complex issue – but here in Surrey we take our responsibilities very seriously and I am personally committed to improving the situation.

We need to get the assessment process moving quicker, clear any backlog and ensure parents have the confidence that their child will be supported in the most appropriate way.

In many instances, this will not require an EHCP, and for those children the current support in school has to be there, and it has to be of a high standard.

We are creating more SEN places in both mainstream and special schools across the county, hundreds more already delivered over the last couple of years and hundreds more to come, with committed funding and sites identified.

We are also investing in additional staff to tackle this.

It is not always about throwing more money at the problem – in professions like Educational Psychologists, who are needed to undertake assessments, there are simply not enough qualified in the country – but where we can, we will do everything to get these professionals to Surrey, to help us improve the system for parents.

It is not a simple situation to fix – there are many different layers, different stakeholders, different funding streams and solutions.

But we're lobbying government around policy and funding, we're working with schools to provide the right support and communication with parents, and we're constantly reviewing and adapting our own processes to make the system work better.

I accept it's not good enough right now, but please believe me when I tell you that we're totally focussed on making it better in Surrey, and I will continue to engage with officers, parents, and carers as we do that.

Another area where we have undertaken a rapid review and put in place a clear plan for improvement is around Surrey's street scene – our roads, highways verges, and localised flooding – as well as our management of tree felling and planting.

These are things that our residents understandably care deeply about.

We want people to have pride in their neighbourhoods - where they live, our environment, and the roads they travel on every day.

We want people to be able to move around our towns and our county safely and comfortably.

Over the last couple of months Officers from our Highways and Countryside Teams, along with Cabinet Members and Senior Leaders in the organisation have worked tirelessly on these issues, to review service delivery, policies, communications, and put in place both immediate actions where possible and a series of recommendations that will result in noticeable improvements for residents.

Hundreds of discarded signs have been cleared, pothole backlogs have been dramatically reduced, more grass cuts have been added to the schedule and a surge in additional line painting is underway.

We've identified a wide range of further costed interventions, which will be scrutinised and taken forward through the proper channels.

Again, many external factors have seriously impacted these areas and how quickly and severely issues arise.

The weather has been a perfect storm for pothole development – a record breaking hot summer followed by a very wet and cold winter means more cracks, more water, more ice that combines to break up our road surfaces.

It has also played its part in the maintenance of grass verges – something that this Council has only just taken over management of - with a wet and sunny spring leading to rapid growth of long grass. Unfortunately, we are still having to work through which areas of verges and green spaces are the responsibility of the County Council and which remain with the District and Boroughs as this has become blurred over the years but that will be resolved over the coming weeks.

While we welcome the biodiversity of letting our verges rewild, this has to be balanced by giving road users the ability to see across junctions, as well as the attractiveness of our highways.

Those verges that have been designated appropriate for rewilding should now be clearly signposted, helping residents understand the benefits for their local area.

While many other grass verges are now in the process of receiving their second cut of the summer.

The impact of the weather on our most visible assets is compounded by the huge increase in cost when it comes to maintenance.

Inflation has impacted all aspects of all of our lives – everything is costing more and the things we deliver in local government are no different.

Over the last year, the money we have simply buys less.

But money is not the only answer.

We have reviewed every element of service delivery to make sure we are adapting to the challenges we face, to deliver the best possible service for our residents.

That's our mindset as a Council.

We are ferociously committed to making Surrey the best place it can be.

Whether that's looking after children who need extra help, or making sure our towns and villages are places to be proud of.

We are ambitious, we are creative, we are dedicated to public service.

In local government, challenges come at us all the time, from many different angles and in many different guises.

At the LGA Conference last week I talked to many Councillors and Senior Officers from across the country – from counties, Districts, London Boroughs, Unitaries, Mayoral Combined Authorities.

We all face huge challenges, with new ones emerging.

It is how you approach those challenges that makes the difference.

When you have the responsibility for delivering vital services, on the frontline, you cannot shirk that responsibility. You cannot be complacent, or half-hearted.

You must be prepared and be prepared to act.

Five years ago, many of the challenges this council faced had not been fundamentally and robustly addressed.

We recognised that and transformed our mindset, our culture and how we deliver.

Thanks to that transformation, we've come a long way and made great strides as an organisation.

We are seen as leaders in many areas of our work – our finances are robust thanks to sound judgement and leadership, we are delivering major infrastructure improvements, we're more actively supporting local community projects, we're modernising care and building new children's homes.

We have delivered and we will continue to deliver.

But challenges keep coming, and we never rest.

There is no let-up in local government, there is no time to waste when you're here to serve the public.

We can, and must improve, in everything we do.

When problems emerge, we interrogate why and relentlessly work to fix them.

When things don't go right, we listen, learn, and adapt.

This is a Council full of great people, doing some great work every single day trying to make sure Surrey is the best place it can be, for everyone.

And that no one is left behind.

I know that at times we fall short of that ambition but what is important is that we recognise where those shortcomings exist, that it strengthens our resolve and that we put in place a robust plan to get it right first time, every time.

This is not a Council that puts its head in the sand. It listens, it looks elsewhere for good practice, and it acts.

Indeed, when new opportunities arise, we try to grasp them with both hands. I am hopeful that we will be able to progress a devolution deal for Surrey over the coming months – giving us more control over our adult education budget, which is a key aspect of addressing our skills shortage across the county, more levers to support our businesses that are the life blood of our local economy, as well recognising this historic county of Surrey as the footprint for further devolved powers and funding from this and future governments.

This plays strongly in to our towns and villages initiative as the basis of delivery of improved health outcomes and opportunities along with our partners in health, the third sector, the police, and of course our community groups.

But Members, I also want to pay tribute to the fantastic things we've seen delivered recently by Your Fund Surrey.

We launched that fund a couple of years ago now, and it was always going to take a period of time for projects to come to life.

Now we're really seeing that wonderful scheme truly delivering for our residents.

Claygate Community Pool – opened with the help of an Olympic swimmer no less – will make swimming more accessible to a whole new generation of people, improving health and wellbeing in Claygate for years to come.

Leatherhead and Dorking Gymnastics Club has undergone a huge upgrade with a new gymnasium and sensory room, catering specifically to individuals with disabilities. Again, opening up a whole new world of opportunity to a new group of people.

A brand new pavilion is now open for Pirbright Community Amateur Sports, giving that community a new beating heart with a new environmentally sustainable building with new changing rooms, toilets, kitchen, and a community café.

A new community shop and café in Normandy, which is nearly complete, will bring people together to shop locally, sustainably, and build new friendships and connections that will benefit that community long into the future.

Big new applications are being approved all the time and Members are putting to really good use their £50k fund, boosting culture, sport, environment, wellbeing, health, and inclusivity across the county.

Your Fund Surrey is delivering exactly what we set out to deliver – stronger, thriving communities throughout Surrey.

Mr Chair, I believe this Council is unrecognisable from the Council it was several years ago – it had to be.

As the world changes, we must change with it.

As the challenges grow, we must grow to tackle them.

If the work gets harder, we must work harder to improve.

It is my responsibility as the Leader of this Council, to set the tone of the organisation and it's a responsibility I don't shirk from. I am clear that we must continue to drive harder and faster our transformation agenda and improve the quality of the services we deliver to the benefit of our residents.

We are not and will not be complacent.

We will never stand still.

Members, as we formally part ways over the summer, I hope we can reflect on all of this work that continues throughout the Council.

The shared endeavour between Members and Officers.

The collaboration with our partners, with our residents, and with our communities.

We are all striving for the same goals – for the benefit of Surrey – a strong and vibrant local economy, better health outcomes, equal opportunity, a greener and sustainable future and above all for everyone in this great county to have the support from families and their communities as they start out in life, through their education, their working lives, and as they glide in to retirement.

This Council must be there every step of the way.

And we will be.

Thank you.

County Council Meeting – 10 October 2023

CHANGES TO CABINET PORTFOLIOS AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

1. Article 6.02 of the Council's Constitution requires that the Leader of the Council will report any changes to Cabinet appointments to Council.
2. Article 6.03 and Article 6.04 of the Council's Constitution authorises the Leader to appoint Cabinet Members and Deputy Cabinet Members respectively.
3. On 9 October 2023, the Leader's changes to the membership of the Cabinet will be effective. The new membership is listed in **Annex 1**. The updated Cabinet Portfolios are listed in **Annex 2**.
4. Under Standing Order 6.10, Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen, and Select Committee Task Group Leads must be appointed by Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the changes to Cabinet appointments and Portfolios set out in Annex 1 and 2 to this report be noted.
2. That Helyn Clack be appointed as a Select Committee Task Group Lead for the Adults and Health Select Committee, replacing Riasat Khan, for the remainder of the 2023/24 Council Year.

Lead/Contact Officers:

Sarah Quinn, Regulatory Business Manager
sarah.quinn@surreycc.gov.uk

Annexes:

Annex 1 - Cabinet Member and Deputy Cabinet Member Portfolios – October 2023

Annex 2 - Cabinet Member Portfolio Updates – 09 October 2023

Sources/background papers:

County Council's Constitution

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Cabinet Member and Deputy Cabinet Member Portfolios

Cabinet Member	Portfolio
Denise Turner-Stewart	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities
David Lewis (Cobham)	Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources
Matt Furniss	Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth
Kevin Deanus	Cabinet Member for Fire and Rescue, and Resilience
Marisa Heath	Cabinet Member for Environment
Natalie Bramhall	Cabinet Member for Property, Waste and Infrastructure
Mark Nuti	Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, and Public Health
Clare Curran	Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong learning
Sinead Mooney	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

*Leader not included in the above

Deputy Cabinet Member	Portfolio
Paul Deach	Deputy Cabinet Member to Leader of the Council
Maureen Attewell	Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning
Jordan Beech	Deputy Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities

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Cabinet Member Portfolio Updates – 09 October 2023

Cabinet Member Position	Portfolio Holder	Responsibilities	Key Officers	Select Committee(s)
Leader of the Council	Tim Oliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall vision and strategic direction • Major Government and National Representation • District and Borough partnerships • Regional and Strategic partnerships • Communications • Engagement and Consultation • Business Relationships • Corporate governance • Place-based work e.g. Thinking place work • HR and OD • Integrated Business Planning & Performance • Transformation Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Executive • Deputy Chief Executive/Executive Director for Resources • Executive Director for Customer and Communities • Strategic Director, Communications and Engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources and Performance Select Committee • Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee
Deputy Cabinet Member to Leader of the Council	Paul Deach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide and support assistance to the Leader, and in particular with his responsibility for communications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Director Communications and Engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee • Resources & Performance Select Committee
Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources	David Lewis (Cobham)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance – Revenue & Capital • Digital, Business and Insights Programme • Capital Programme • Internal Control/Audit • Commercial Investment and Capital Programme Oversight • Procurement • Orbis • Legal and Democratic • IT • Digital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director for Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources and Performance Select Committee

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract Management • SCC Companies • Performance and Management Reporting • SCC Data 		
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Cabinet Member Position	Portfolio Holder	Responsibilities	Key Officers	Select Committee(s)
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	Sinead Mooney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Social Care • Adult Safeguarding • Accommodation for vulnerable and elderly adults • Learning Disabilities • Transitions • Housing Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director for Health, Wellbeing and Care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults and Health Select Committee • Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee (housing)
Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, and Public Health	Mark Nuti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Social Care Integration • Public Health • Health and Wellbeing including Mental Health • Integrated Commissioning • EDI • Surrey Office of Data Analytics (SODA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director for Health, Wellbeing and Care • Executive Director for Resources (SODA) • Chief of Staff to Chief Executive (EDI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults and Health Select Committee • Resources and Performance Select Committee (EDI)

Cabinet Member Position	Portfolio Holder	Responsibilities	Key Officers	Select Committee(s)
Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong learning	Clare Curran	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Home to School Transport • Schools - relationships • Place planning • Admissions • Adult Learning • Children's Integrated Commissioning • Corporate Parenting (including fostering and adoption) • Children with Disabilities (CwD) • Children's Safeguarding • Accommodation for vulnerable children • Children's Mental Health (Mindworks) • Family Resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee
Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning	Maureen Attewell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide support and assistance to the Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Lifelong Learning, as well as including the below responsibilities: • Youth Services • Youth Offending • Early Help • Violence Against Women & Girls • Domestic Abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee

Cabinet Member Position	Portfolio Holder	Responsibilities	Key Officers	Select Committee(s)
Cabinet Member for Property, Waste and Infrastructure	Natalie Bramhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land and Property • Waste • Capital Programme Delivery • Infrastructure • Major Projects • 5G Rollout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director Environment, Growth, Land, Property and Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources and Performance Select Committee • Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee
Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth	Matt Furniss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Air and Rail • Highways • Road Safety • Parking • Economic Growth • Skills and Apprenticeships • Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) relationships • Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director Environment, Growth, Land, Property and Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee • Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee
Cabinet Member for Environment	Marisa Heath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greener Futures Programme • Climate Change • Air Quality • Countryside • Trees • Flooding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director Environment, Growth, Land, Property and Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee

Cabinet Member Position	Portfolio Holder	Responsibilities	Key Officers	Select Committee(s)
Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities And Deputy Leader	Denise Turner – Stewart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Democracy and Engagement Design • Community Foundation Surrey relationship • Customer Services • Libraries, Arts and Culture • Registration Services • Your Fund Surrey • VCFS • Town and Parishes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director for Customer & Communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee • Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee
Deputy Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities	Jordan Beech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide support and assistance to the Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director for Customer & Communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee
Cabinet Member for Fire and Rescue, and Resilience	Kevin Deanus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire and Rescue (SFRS) • Coroners • Emergency Planning • Military Covenant • Community Resilience • Community Safety • Corporate Health and Safety • Trading Standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Fire Officer • Executive Director for Customer & Communities • Strategic Director Communications and Engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee

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OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

APPROVAL OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR ABSENCE

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

The purpose of this report is to request that the County Council considers whether to agree that County Councillor John Furey may continue to be absent from Council meetings by reason of ill health.

BACKGROUND:

Under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, a Member ceases to hold that office if he/she has not attended a meeting for a period of six consecutive months, unless the failure to attend is due to a reason approved by the authority during that six months.

The last meeting that John Furey attended was a meeting of the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee in December 2022. He has continued to be unable to attend any formal meetings since then due to ongoing ill health.

For that reason, the County Council is requested to agree that he may continue to be absent from meetings while maintaining membership of the Council during his period of ill health. This decision will be reviewed at the County Council meeting in March 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That John Furey may continue to be absent from meetings until March 2024 by reason of ill health. The Council looks forward to welcoming him back in due course.

Lead/Contact Officers:

Vicky Hibbert, Governance Lead Manager, Democratic Services, Surrey County Council, vicky.hibbert@surreycc.gov.uk

Sources/background papers:

None

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OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEES' REPORT TO COUNCIL

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

For Members to note the headline activity of the Council's overview and scrutiny function in the period March 2023 to September 2023 asking questions of Scrutiny Chairs as necessary.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the ongoing process to raise standards in the Council's overview and scrutiny function and to raise the profile of the work of Select Committees more generally, Chairs agreed to regularly report activity to Council.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY:

At the May Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Council several appointments were made that affected the memberships of the Select Committees.

Specifically, the Chairing personnel of all four Select Committees were changed. From May the leadership of the Select Committees would be:

Adults and Health Select Committee: Trefor Hogg (Chair), Angela Goodwin (Vice-Chair) and Riasat Khan (Vice-Chair).

Children, Families, Lifelong Learning & Culture Select Committee: Fiona Davidson (Chair), Chris Townsend (Vice-Chair) and Jeremy Webster (Vice-Chair).

Communities, Environment & Highways Select Committee: Jonathan Hulley (Chair), Steve Bax (Vice-Chair) and Lance Spencer (Vice-Chair).

Resources & Performance Select Committee: Bob Hughes (Chair), Steven McCormick (Vice-Chair) and Lesley Steeds (Vice-Chair).

As a result of these changes and the start of a new municipal year all of the Select Committees dedicated time to planning new annual **forward work**

programmes following the AGM. As part of this planning several sessions were held with Committees to consult Cabinet Members, Executive Directors and other stakeholders on the key issues within Select Committee remits to help develop their forward plans which have subsequently been agreed and published.

All of the Select Committee's received briefings from Finance, Executive Directors and Cabinet Members on the **budget setting** process and key issues for the 2024/25 Revenue and Capital Budget. As part of this process each Select Committee convened a sub-group to conduct budget 'deep dives' into key areas of their remits with a view to report their findings in late October at the next round of budget briefings and ultimately feed into the draft budget set by Cabinet.

Outside the formal scrutiny structure, Hazel Watson and Catherine Powell assumed leadership roles as Chairs of the Select Committee Chair and Vice-Chairs' Group and the Budget Task Group respectively. Both groups have met twice in this time period.

Adults and Health Select Committee

The Committee met twice in public:

13 April 2023 to consider the following items: *Access to GPs, Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care System (ICS) – Patient Experience, Cancer and Elective Care Backlogs in both ICSs* and an update on *Community Mental Health Transformation for Adults & Older Adults*.

15 June 2023 to consider the following items: the *Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Strategy, Mental Health Improvement Plan Update* and the report of the Committee's *Health Inequalities Task & Finish Group* which was endorsed by the Committee.

The Committee Chair and Vice-Chairs have conducted a number of meetings with NHS England commissioning leads and stakeholders such as parents on the plans for **reconfiguration of paediatric cancer services** in the region prior to a formal public consultation.

Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee

The Committee met twice in public:

12 June 2023 to consider the following items: *Children with Disabilities - Short Breaks, Report of the Adult Learning Task & Finish Group, Home to School Transport Assistance Update, Additional Needs and Disabilities Monitoring*, and the *Children's Homes – Ofsted Reports and Performance Overview* items.

20 July 2023 to consider the following items: *Education, Health and Care Plans Timeliness, Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report, and the Children's Homes – Ofsted Reports and Performance Overview* items.

The Committee has held initial scoping meetings to define a task & finish group to scrutinise the support for, and experience of families accessing SEND services.

The Committee made recommendations to Cabinet in March, April and July 2023.

In March, the Committee made a [recommendation](#) on the Council's *Strategy for Accommodation, Housing & Homes* accepted by the Cabinet Member.

In April, the Committee made six [recommendations](#) that were considered by the Cabinet.

The Adult Learning & Skills Task & Finish Group reported its findings and recommendations to Cabinet in July. The detailed response to those 20 recommendations is available [here](#). The Committee will review the implementation of its recommendations in April 2024.

Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee

The Committee met once in public in this period:

5 July 2023 to consider the following items: *Green Finance Strategy* and an update on the performance of the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service.

The Committee made [recommendations](#) to Cabinet in March on *Delivering in Partnership: Towns – The Next Phase* and endorsed the approach taken in the programme. The Committee also submitted [recommendations](#) on the *Strategy for Accommodation, Housing and Homes* with a focus on the creation of KPIs for the strategy,

The Committee continues to run its Greener Futures Member Reference Group which met with Environment, Transport & Infrastructure officers twice in this period.

Resources and Performance Select Committee

The Committee met twice in public in this period:

24 April 2023 to consider the following items: *Digital Inclusion, IT & Digital Update, and Procurement Modernisation*.

22 June 2023 to consider the following items: *People and Change Workforce Update* and an *Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Update*.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Council review the work summarised in this report providing feedback to Scrutiny Chairs as appropriate.

Lead/Contact Officers: Ross Pike, Scrutiny Business Manager, Democratic Services, Surrey County Council, ross.pike@surreycc.gov.uk

Sources/background papers:

Select Committee Agenda and Minutes:

[Committee structure - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](http://surreycc.gov.uk)



OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL – ELECTORAL REVIEW: RESPONSE TO LGBCE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

To endorse Surrey County Council's (SCC) response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) divisional arrangements recommendations.

BACKGROUND:

1. An electoral review is an examination of a council's electoral arrangements. This means:
 - the total number of councillors elected to the local authority;
 - the number and boundaries of wards or divisions for the purposes of the election of councillors;
 - the number of councillors for any ward or division of a local authority; and
 - the name of any ward or division.

2. The LGBCE conducts an electoral review of a council for four reasons:
 - At the request of the local authority; or
 - If the local authority meets the Commission's intervention criteria:
 - a) If one ward has an electorate of +/-30% from the average electorate for the authority
 - b) If 30% of all wards have an electorate of +/-10% from the average electorate for the authority.
 - If sufficient time since the last review (periodic review)
 - As a result of significant structural change

3. SCC is undergoing a review as it had been 12 years since the last review in 2010.

THE ELECTORAL REVIEW PROCESS:

4. The electoral review has two distinct parts;
 - *Part One - Council size:* before they re-draw division boundaries, the Commission comes to a view on the total number of councillors to be

elected to the council in future. In February 2023, the LGBCE confirmed that SCC will maintain 81 divisions and councillors.

- *Part Two - Division boundaries*: this is where the commission re-draw division boundaries so that they meet certain statutory criteria. There is two phases to this part; the first is where the Commission ask for proposals on future arrangements. The council put forward its suggestions for division boundaries in March 2023. The second phase is responding to the divisional boundary recommendations, which is the purpose of this submission.

<u>DEVELOPING THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO LGBCE RECOMMENDATIONS:</u>

5. A cross-party Member task group has been established to lead SCC's response to the Electoral Review. The task group consists of the following Members:
 - John O'Reilly (Conservative) – Chair
 - Amanda Boote (Residents' Association/Independents)
 - Jonathan Essex (The Green Party)
 - Will Forster (Liberal Democrats)
 - Tim Hall (Conservative)
 - Nick Harrison (Residents' Association/Independents)
 - Robert King (Labour)
 - Hazel Watson (Liberal Democrats)
6. This working group co-ordinated the Council's responses to the Council Size submission (endorsed formally by the County Council on 13 December 2023), and Divisional Boundaries Submission (endorsed by County Council on 21 March 2023).
7. The deadline for submitting the final division boundary response is 16 October 2023.
8. Although there is no formal requirement for the division boundary response submission to be endorsed by County Council, it is best practice. If the County Council cannot come to an agreement, individual political groups and/or councillors will instead need to make their own individual submissions.

<u>NEXT STEPS:</u>

9. After the commission have considered all the representations made during the draft recommendations consultation, they will publish their final recommendations in December 2023 and put before Parliament in early 2024.

10. The new electoral arrangements will come into effect at the local elections in May 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Council endorses the Electoral Review Task Group's response to the LGBCE.

Lead/Contact Officers:

Elliot Sinclair, Support Services Manager, Surrey County Council
elliott.sinclair@surreycc.gov.uk

Annexes:

Annex 1 - Stage Three Response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England - October 2023

Sources/background papers:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/surrey>

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Surrey County Council

Electoral Review of Surrey County Council

Stage Three Response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

October 2023

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In May 2022, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (“LGBCE” or “the Commission”) announced that it would be conducting an electoral review of Surrey County Council. The review was triggered by the fact that it had been 12 years since our last electoral review in 2010.
- 1.2 The Review began in May 2022 with an initial consultation on the overall council size. Surrey County Council submitted a detailed response to this consultation, considering each of the Commission’s criteria in turn, and recommended that the current council size of 81 Members be retained. In commencing phase two of the Review, the Commission has confirmed that, in line with the Council’s own view, it is minded to recommend retaining the Council’s current size of 81 Members and therefore the County Council’s response to this phase begins at this point.
- 1.3 During Stage Two of the Review, the County Council submitted a scheme of electoral divisions that it felt best met the Commission’s three statutory criteria:
- **Electoral equality.** Each councillor should represent as near as possible to the same number of electors.
 - **Community identity.** Division boundaries should recognise and support strong community links, such as parishes, shared facilities and transport links.
 - **Effective and convenient local government.** Divisions should be coherent with good internal communication links. For example, ensuring the Member can effectively travel to all parts of his/her division.
- 1.4 In addition, no division could cross a district or borough boundary and therefore must be contained entirely within one of the 11 districts and boroughs within Surrey.
- 1.5 The Commission also made it clear that they could not consider any of the following as evidence:
- Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries
 - Current County divisions
 - Local political implications of recommendations
 - School catchment areas
 - Postcodes or addresses
- 1.6 The County Council is pleased to note that having considered the submissions received during Stage Two, the Commission developed proposals broadly based on the County Council’s scheme, having regard to evidence submitted by other interested parties (including District, Borough and Parish Councils.)

- 1.7 This report outlines the County Council's response to the Commission on its draft recommendations, focussing on the areas where the Commission has amended the County Council's proposed scheme and providing further evidence against the statutory criteria.

2 The Council's Approach

- 2.1 In May 2022, the Council set up a cross-party working group to lead on its response to the Electoral Review. This working group co-ordinated the Council's response on Council Size, divisional arrangements for stage two, and administering feedback for stage three of the Review.
- 2.2 As each division must be contained wholly within a district/borough area, the working group felt that it was appropriate to focus on each district and borough area discretely in the first instance. To ensure that any proposals put forward were fully informed by local knowledge, meetings were held with each local grouping of county councillors to gather their views on how best to arrange divisions within their district or borough area given the Commission's criteria.
- 2.3 In putting forward proposals, local Members were asked to give consideration to the Commission's criteria and to work within a 10% variance from the average electorate per division. Working within these boundaries, Members were asked to put forward a pattern of divisions that would best support strong community identity and used easily identifiable boundaries – such as parishes, major roads/railways and rivers. However, it is recognised that each local area is different and both the geography and pattern of communities can, in exceptional circumstances, make this 10% variance difficult to achieve. In such instances, local Members provided additional evidence to explain the detrimental impact of altering any proposed divisions to bring them within the tolerance range for electoral equality.
- 2.4 Where there was unanimous local agreement for a pattern of divisions that met the criteria, this was adopted as the Council's response as it was felt that local Members are best placed to advise on this. Where local agreement did not prove possible, the task group looked at all the views put forward and recommended the pattern it felt best met the Commission's criteria. If there wasn't a unanimous agreement on one option, the task group agreed to present multiple options.
- 2.5 Using this bottom-up approach, the proposals put forward by the County Council were locally drafted and moderated for consistency by the cross-party working group.
- 2.6 At the end of Stage Two, the Commission published its draft recommendations for a further period of consultation from 8 August – 16 October 2023. Members were made aware of the report and sent links to the Commission's website. All Members were given the opportunity to submit views on the Commission's proposals to the cross-party working group to consider when

drafting a response based on the Council's original proposed scheme and the Commission's recommendations.

- 2.7 The County Council's views are outlined in the remainder of this report for the Commission to consider prior to developing its final scheme of electoral divisions.

3 Response to the Proposals by District and Borough Area

3.1 Elmbridge

- 3.1.1 After consulting the local Members on the Commission's recommendations, the Council supports the proposals for most divisions, however the local Member for The Dittons division stated he cannot support recommendations made to their division and the North-West of the Borough. The objections to the Commission's proposals can be linked to the LGBC criteria of community identity and good and effective local government.
- 3.1.2 With regards to geography, the local Member for The Dittons provided evidence for what he called an 'artificial divide' between Thames Ditton and Molesey, namely Hampton Court Way from Embercourt roundabout up towards Hampton Court. The Member noted this road has a 40 mph limit, is prone to accidents, also prone to gridlock during commuting times also any time there are events in Esher (eg racing at Sandown Park Racecourse), Hampton Court Palace (e.g. the Flower Show) and stretching as far as Twickenham (e.g. rugby and music events at Twickenham Stadium).
- 3.1.3 The local Member believes these to be examples of a significant divide and lack of community, not natural boundaries. In addition, the Member believed a number of other roads and their own associated issues acted more as boundaries and dividers of communities. On the other hand, Portsmouth Road which crosses the Dittons is narrower, not prone to gridlock, and more naturally provides crossings at Angel Road, Claygate Lane, and Thorkhill Road for traffic, the latter with lights. Towards Thames Ditton, also to Long Ditton, there is the junction with St Leonards Road, also 2 with Giggs Hill Road. The lights lead to the "Rec" in Long Ditton, also the Long Ditton Village Hall. Thames Ditton itself leads some way south at the Angel Road, Claygate Lane, and Thorkhill Road junctions, the latter also to the Ferry Lane cul-de-sac. The Angel Pub is by the Angel Road junction, well frequented by both communities.
- 3.1.4 In terms of community identity and interests, the local Member for The Dittons felt there is a clear sense of community within the existing boundaries of the division. There are 2 Residents Associations, the *Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents Association*, and the *Long Ditton Residents Association*. The local Member attends both "Exec" and open meetings of both and works closely with them. On specific items the Member highlighted in their feedback, both areas were involved with the Local Plan submissions for Green Belt retention. This is within Long Ditton, though

highly relevant to Thames Ditton and Weston Green as well and a recent application for Village Green status for a well-used recreational area used by many, not far from the border of Long Ditton. The well used Long Ditton Village Hall is available to and close by all.

- 3.1.5 The local Member believes in no case can the same, or close to it, be said to exist for Molesey. He added that at best there is little in common between the Dittons and Molesey, no joint meetings, nor liaison with ward Councillors, certainly at County level. As examples, the Member gave the efforts to prevent Green Belt release. This hugely affecting the Dittons as a whole, but not Molesey. In the case of the Village Green application, Thames Ditton & Weston Green contributed to the significant costs involved. Despite requests the Hinchley Wood Residents Association did not.
- 3.1.6 To conclude the additional evidence that rejects the LGBCE recommendation, the Member for The Dittons focused on the advantages in Thames Ditton and Long Ditton working together in pursuit of common interests, and the significant disadvantages in not doing so. The Member felt that any divide would continue to serve 'no useful purpose' indeed very much to the contrary. He explained they were not aware of any benefit in making change so far as the number of electors is concerned. Further to that any additional conversations between the LGBCE and the Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents Association, and the Long Ditton Residents Association, would reinforce the arguments made above.
- 3.1.7 The views outlined above were not unanimous, as a counter view to that submitted by the Member for The Dittons has also been raised. The Member for West Molesey is in support of the Commission's recommendations and the rationale provided which supports amendments to the East Molesey & Thames Ditton Divisions.
- 3.1.8 Taking into consideration the views of the local Members with regards to the changes to The Dittons division, the Council invites the Commission to reflect further on the evidence provided by the local Members. As outlined in the Stage Two response, the Council previously recommended that only minor changes be made to this division where a new boundary would sit where the northern part of Claygate Lane meets Manor Road North. Along Manor Road North, the East/West boundary would see Dene Gardens moved into The Dittons electoral division, alongside the few closes to its East (Greenwood Close, Orchard Avenue, Manordene Close, and Greenwood Close). The North-Western boundary would remain as is at the railway line which forms a fairly clear 'natural' border. This was supported by local Members when originally proposed, and the Council would encourage the Commission to further engage with local resident groups and associations before making further recommendations.

3.2 Epsom & Ewell

- 3.2.1 In response to the Commission's request for further evidence regarding the proposed name change of 'Ewell' division to reflect the three wards

‘Stoneleigh, Ewell Village and Nonsuch’: Whilst Epsom itself is probably more widely known (through the Derby for example), Ewell is much larger and extends across three of the current Epsom & Ewell divisions. If anything, the current designation of ‘Ewell’ as a division is confusing given that there is also currently a division called ‘West Ewell’ and ‘Ewell Court, Auriol & Cuddington division’.

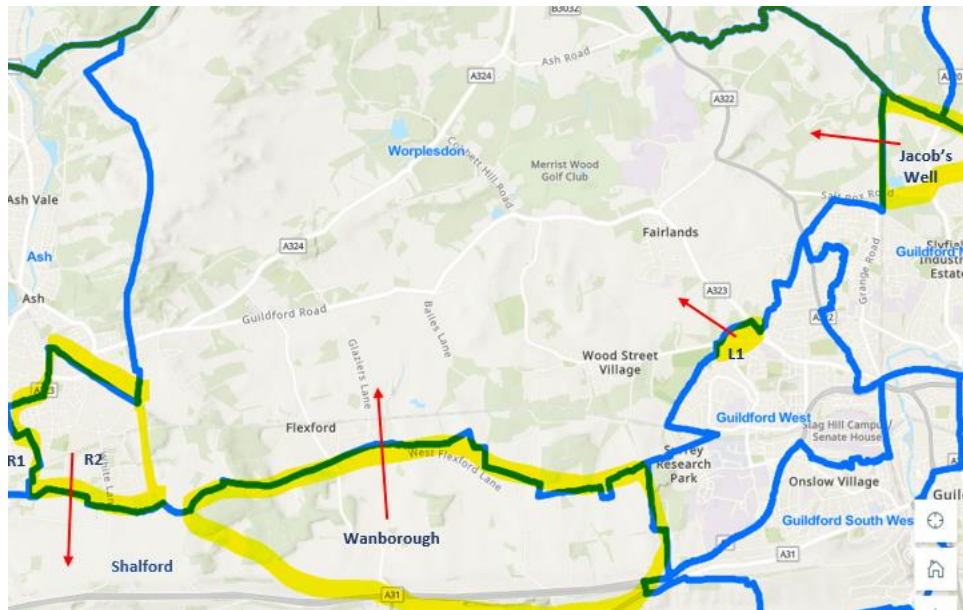
- 3.2.2 The Borough Council dates back to 1937 and the borough itself contains 10 distinct Residents’ Associations that coincide with ward boundaries and most of which have a large subscribing membership and are very active in the local community. Those include Stoneleigh and Auriol RA, Ewell Village RA and Nonsuch RA. Each of the three wards have their own unique identity and residents readily identify with these locations, whilst ‘Ewell’ and ‘Epsom’ are viewed as postal areas but not distinct communities.
- 3.2.3 Stoneleigh includes the borough’s second largest shopping centre, Stoneleigh Broadway. It also contains Stoneleigh Station, one of Surrey’s most used stations and which is currently receiving an £11 million upgrade to make it step free. Ewell Village is the borough’s third largest shopping Centre and Nonsuch includes Nonsuch Park and remnants of Henry VIII’s Nonsuch Palace. People from across Epsom & Ewell visit Stoneleigh to travel and Stoneleigh Broadway and Ewell Village to shop (not Ewell) and Nonsuch Park for leisure (not Ewell).
- 3.2.4 Epsom and Ewell residents are very conscious of where they live, and community is important. Bordering London with its large council geographical areas and lack of distinct individual communities, we should highlight and promote localism, identify communities, and design them into our electoral arrangements.
- 3.2.5 The name Stoneleigh, Ewell Village and Nonsuch continues the identification of those communities already established across the Ewell part of the borough in the Divisional names of West Ewell as well as Ewell Court, Auriol and Cuddington.

3.3 Guildford

- 3.3.1 The Council proposes the following changes to the Commission’s recommendations:
- 3.3.2 Worplesdon Division: The Council does not agree with the inclusion of South Ash (R2) into this division, or the removal of Jacob’s Well from it. In doing so, the Commission is disregarding the existing community identities of these areas. The Council requests that the Commission reconsiders the original proposal which would; retain Ash Polling District R2 in Shalford, Keep Jacob’s Well in Worplesdon, move part of Polling District L1 (above

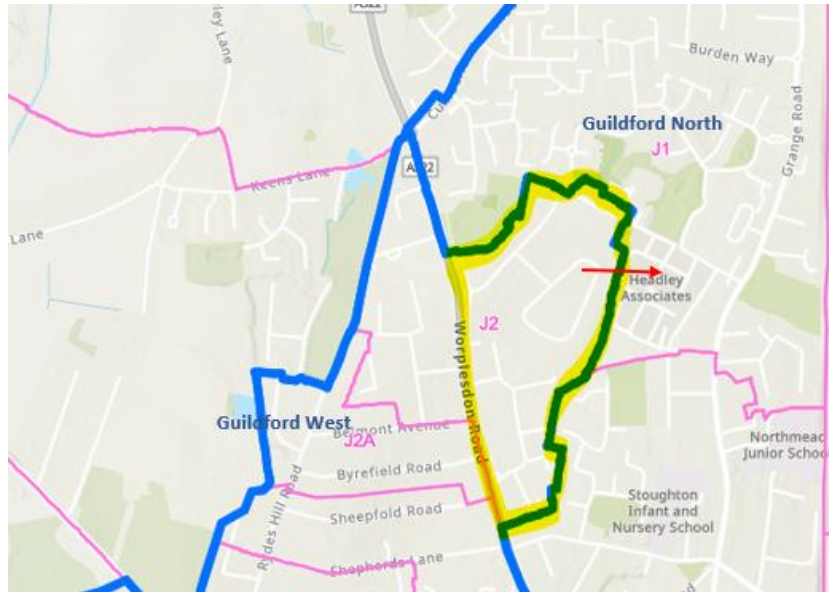
broad street) into Worplesdon and move Wanborough from Shalford to Worplesdon.

- 3.3.3 Shalford Division: To reemphasise the above point regarding Ash Polling District R2, local members submitted that this is not in alignment with community identity, as residents have a stronger affinity and identity with Tongham. To maintain the existing community identity links and keep Shalford within the electoral variance tolerance, the Council does not support the proposal to move polling district H5 from the Shere Division into Shalford Division.



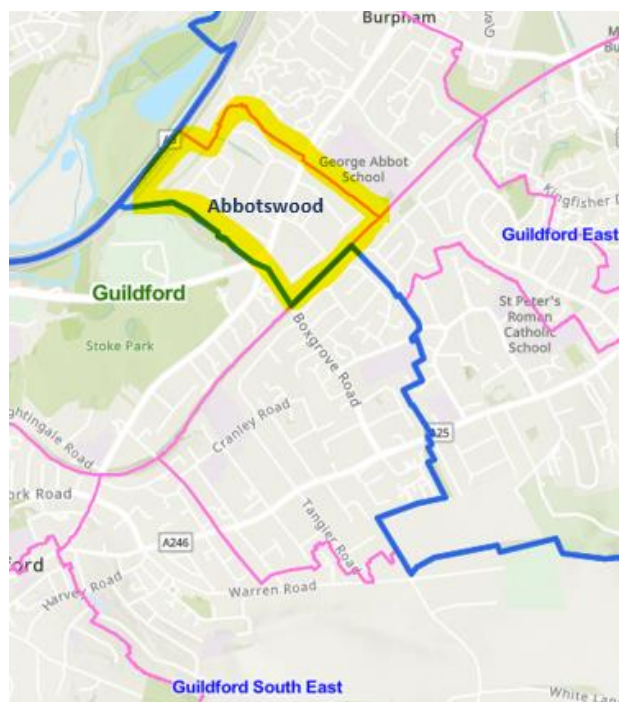
(Map references paragraph 3.3.2 and 3.3.3)

- 3.3.4 Guildford North and Guildford West Division: The Council requests that the Commission considers splitting the Polling District J2 along Worplesdon Road to improve co-terminosity with wards. We caveat this request on the basis that it does not create an electoral inequality consequence outside of the variance tolerance.



(Map references paragraph 3.3.4)

3.3.5 Guildford South East and Guildford East: The Council wishes to present the views of both local members, regarding the move of Abbotswood into Guildford East.



(Map references paragraph 3.3.5)

3.3.6 The member for Guildford East supports the Commission’s proposal on the grounds of co-terminosity (Option B in Table 1 below).

3.3.7 Conversely, the member for Guildford South East requests that the commission retains Abbotswood in the current division (Option A in Table 1 below). The commission’s rationale for co-terminosity is understood,

however the local member does not agree that this will benefit the community and this option delivers optimum electoral equality.

- 3.3.8 The local member argues that the decision by Guildford Borough Council to incorporate the Abbotswood area into the Burpham ward was not based on taking account of the community and geographic boundaries, affiliations and characteristics. They believe that this decision should not be perpetuated at division level when there are strong arguments to retain Abbotswood in the current division which meet the commission's criteria.
- 3.3.9 There is a strong physical boundary and geographic separation between the existing Guildford East and Guildford South East boundaries. To the south the boundary is George Abbot School, and to the north the boundary is the line between Abbotswood and the Weylea estate. There are no paths connecting the areas. The only connecting route is via the main A3100.
- 3.3.10 There is a historic physical milestone on the main A3100 identifying Burpham as starting at the eastern boundary of Abbotswood. There is a very discernible and active village community in Burpham, an active Burpham Community Association (a Residents' Association) and many local societies and organisations, including the Burpham and Merrow Facebook Page, Burpham Bowling Club, etc. The Abbotswood area is not considered part of the village. There is a Neighbourhood Plan for Burpham, but it does not cover the Abbotswood area.
- 3.3.11 The Abbotswood area is not a cohesive community (unlike Burpham). It comprises a number of separate communities each with their own social organisations. There are three residents' associations in the roads named Abbotswood, Abbotswood Close and Westward Ho alone. The pattern in this area is generally that resident groups are organised by road, rather than area, and people tend to identify with the road they live in rather than the area. This is in contrast to Burpham village.
- 3.3.12 The Abbotswood area comprises mature residential housing, which is very similar to the housing in the rest of this area of Guildford South East – on the other side of London Road past Boxgrove Roundabout. There has been no significant development in this area for many years. In contrast, Burpham village has grown significantly with many new developments since the 1970s and 80s into the 2000s.
- 3.3.13 In addition to arguing for the retention of the Abbotswood area, the local member accepts the Commission's proposal to add C4 into Guildford South East. C4 is in the town centre and adjacent to an existing area of Guildford South East, so the areas are similar communities and share many characteristics.
- 3.3.14 In summary for Guildford, the Council proposes the following amendments to the draft recommendations:

1. Retain Ash R2 in Shalford

2. Keep Jacobs Well in Worplesdon
3. Move part of L1 (above Broad Street) into Worplesdon
4. Move Wanborough from Shalford to Worplesdon
5. Retain H5 in Shere
6. Move part of J2 (East of the Worplesdon Road) from Guildford West To Guildford North
7. That the Commission has further reflection on the different views regarding Abbotswood.

3.3.15 Whilst we do not have the exact electoral number for suggestions 3 and 6, the table below estimates the electoral variances between the Commission's proposals, and the consolidated suggestions:

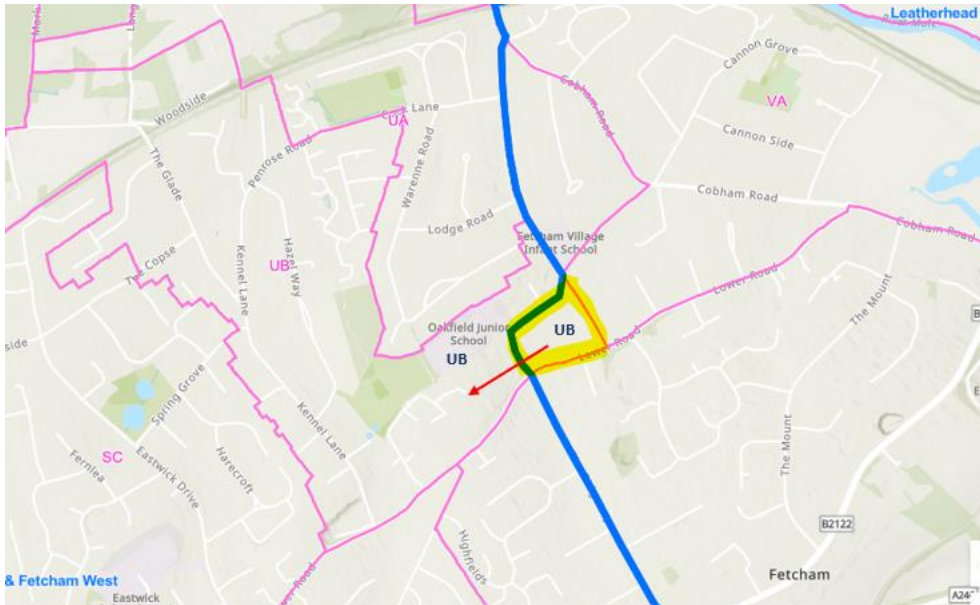
Division	LGBCE Proposals	Option A (with Abbotswood in Guildford South East)	Option B (with Abbotswood in Guildford East)
Ash	10%	10%	10%
Guildford East	6%	-1%	6%
Guildford North	9%	6%	6%
Guildford South East	-7%	0%	-7%
Guildford South West	11%	11%	11%
Guildford West	8%	3%	3%
Horsleys	8%	8%	8%
Shalford	-5%	10%	10%
Shere	-6%	2%	2%
Worplesdon	6%	-9%	-9%

(Table 1: Guildford options with electoral variances)

3.4 Mole Valley

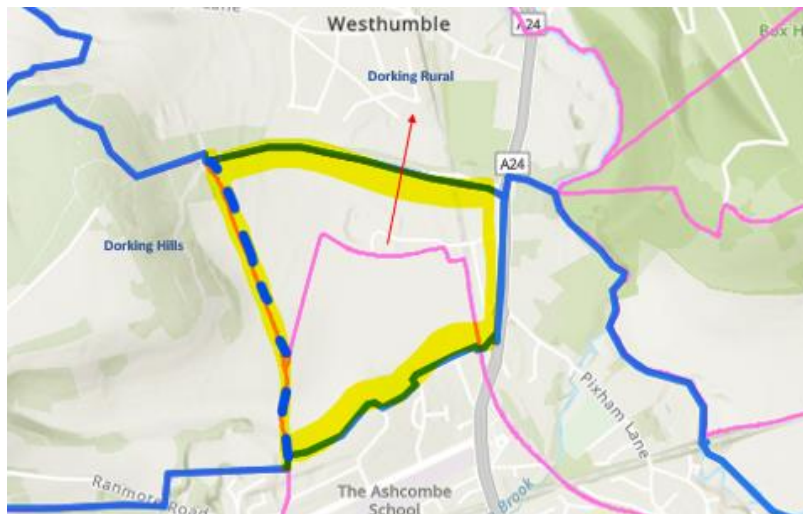
3.4.1 The Council agrees with most of the Commission's recommendations, but requests the following amendments and considerations:

3.4.2 Bookham and Fetcham West and Leatherhead and Fetcham East: Maintain the existing boundary of Bell Lane located within Bookham and Fetcham West, as the proposed boundary splits an established community and polling district (UB).



(Map references paragraph 3.4.2)

3.4.3 Dorking Hills/Dorking Rural: The Council requests that the boundary is moved to reflect the current Polling District boundaries within the Mickleham, Westcott and Okewood ward (changing to the dashed blue line in the image below).

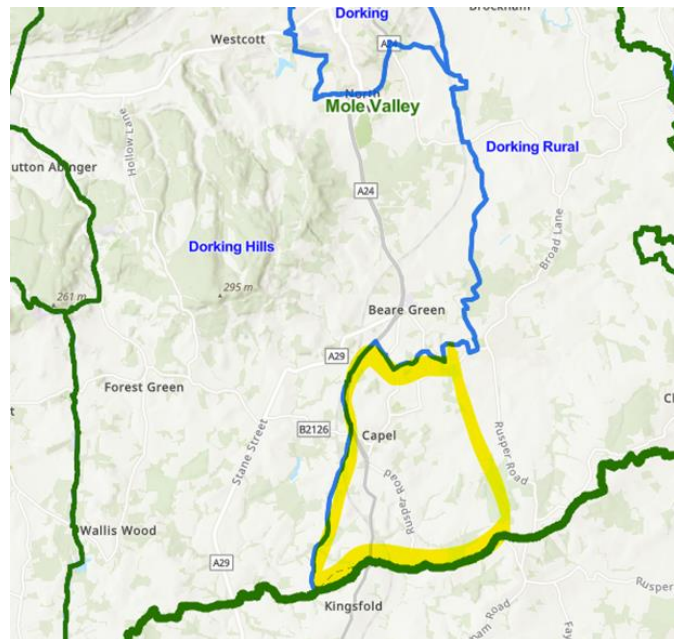


(Map references paragraph 3.4.3)

3.4.4 The six properties in Bradley lane [Voters LL 22 to 32 on the current register: 1–4 Bradley Farm Cott, Bradley House and Bradley Farm House RH5 6AA] vote at the Westhumble Polling Station and are part of Westhumble village. If they are not in the same County Division as the rest of the Westhumble village then a new Polling District would need to be created for only 11 voters.

3.4.5 The Council also wishes to respond to the area of Capel, which was identified as an error within the draft recommendations. For the Commission’s variance proposals to work, the Capel Polling District JA needs to be in Dorking Hills, however the Commission’s mapping proposals

show it within Dorking Rural. We are content that the LGBCE has acknowledged this error.



(Map references paragraph 3.4.5 and 3.4.6)

3.4.6 The Council understands that the decision to move Polling District JA (Capel) into Dorking Hills does not align with ward co-terminosity, however, to not move it would result in this division being outside of tolerance at -14%. We have listened to both local members affected and there is a balanced argument that has not delivered a firm consensus for the Council to submit a clear preference. This is mainly due to balancing the different views of community identity leanings and aiming to deliver electoral equality. However, as has been seen in the North of the District, there are exceptions to variances outside of tolerance. On that basis, the Council requests that the Commission delivers a final recommendation based on further considerations gained throughout this consultation.

3.5 Reigate & Banstead

3.5.1 The Council largely supports the proposals outlined in the Commission's recommendations for Reigate and Banstead. There is one minor amendment that the Council requests based on further conversation with the local Member. This involves Doods Park Road remaining in the Reigate division as opposed to the Commission's proposal to move it into the Redhill and Meadvale West division. This proposal is opposed on the ground of community identity and interest, as it is felt residents in this area identify far more as part of Reigate.

3.6 Runnymede

- 3.6.1 The Council supports the proposals outlined in the Commission's recommendations for Runnymede. A local Member expressed support for changes to the New Haw, Woodham and Row Town ward which would help resolve division.

3.7 Spelthorne

- 3.7.1 The Council largely supports the proposals outlined in the Commission's recommendations for Spelthorne. There is an amendment that the Council requests based on further conversations with the local Member.
- 3.7.2 In support of the proposal to change the name of the Stanwell and Stanwell Moor to Stanwell, Stanwell Moor and North Ashford the Member offers the following points.
- 3.7.3 The A30 is a major road dividing Ashford from Stanwell. The postal addresses north of the road are all Stanwell and those to the south Ashford. They are two very distinct communities, for example, no-one in Ashford would say they live in Stanwell and vice-versa.
- 3.7.4 Children from Ashford would normally attend Ashford primary schools and Stanwell children one of two in Stanwell.
- 3.7.5 One of the two borough council seats covering their electoral division is called Ashford North and Stanwell South. The other being Stanwell North.
- 3.7.6 The Member believes that voter participation in Ashford North will increase if the residents felt the name was more representative of the area.

3.8 Surrey Heath

- 3.8.1 The Council supports the proposals outlined in the Commission's recommendations for Surrey Heath. The Council raises a concern at a misprint on paragraph 108 of the LG BCE recommendation. Sovereign Drive will be moving from Heatherside & Parkside to Camberley East, not Camberley West.

3.9 Tandridge

- 3.9.1 In the Commission's proposals they noted the Council's suggestion around partial alterations to Tandridge Parish, but instead decided to go further and place all of Tandridge Parish in the Godstone division. After further consultation and evidence from the local Member, the Council asks the Commission reconsiders this proposal, based on the 'interests and identities of local communities'. Tandridge Village is closely aligned with Oxted to the North, with many residents accessing services including doctors, library, shops, schools and leisure facilities in Oxted town centre. It is closely linked

by the A25 road, and many residents here feel a closer identity to the Oxted area rather than Godstone.

- 3.9.2 Elsewhere in the District, the local Member has raised concerns over the recommendation from the LGBCE to include Burstow in the new name of the division. The Member contests that people are not familiar with that name and would instead know what is being referred to as Burstow as Smallfield. It is felt Burstow only evokes confusion and restricts the understanding of the area that Lingfield Division covers i.e. Felbridge, Smallfield, Dormansland, Dormans Park, Felcourt, Horne and Crowhurst, as well as Lingfield. The Member has stated that their views on this point are echoed by the local Parish Council Clerk, who would like the Parish name to be changed from Burstow to Smallfield, as it was before.

3.10 Waverley

- 3.10.1 Given Waverley's largely rural nature, it has always been difficult to address a number of the electoral variance issues without having significant impacts on the other criteria of community identity and good an effective local government. With this in mind, the Council again largely supports the Commission's recommendations for most of the Borough but rejects the proposed changes to the division, currently known as Waverly Western Villages (WWV).
- 3.10.2 After further evidence from the local Member, the Council believes the suggested name change to Frensham, Elstead and Hindhead does not fairly represent the other 6 villages: Especially Thursley which is, by a substantial margin, the geographically largest of the 9 villages and contains the Common which bears its name and is the most nationally important of the 15 separate Commons in the Division.
- 3.10.3 The local Member also noted, the general public have become accustomed to the WWV titled for reporting matters and for understanding how the various villages and their various parish representations work together across a very substantial and very varied geographical region. The LGBCE proposals retain the Waverley Eastern Villages, so the Member questions why it is not possible to retain the 'Western Villages' name? The Member further explains that, to an outsider, the two names separated by the ancient turnpike, now the A286, and the area adjacent to that road, are a clear expression of their relative geography.
- 3.10.4 With the Council proposing that Waverley Western Villages remain the name of the division. By extension, the Commission's proposed name change to Waverley Eastern Villages should also remain, as it is the Council's view that 'Eastern Villages' (the Commission's proposed name) was too generic and doesn't adequately convey the fact that many Waverley residents recognise they live within the West of the county.
- 3.10.5 In addition to the opposition to the proposed name change, the Council supports the local Member's view that that the proposal to incorporate part of

Wormley village into the former Waverley Western Villages division is not helpful. Whereas there are a small number of Wormley properties on the Western side of the A283, they look to the North and South of that road rather than to the West, as applies equally to the small number of properties on the Western side of the A283 near its junction with Church Lane. It is the Member's view that Wormley has no cultural attachment to the Western villages.

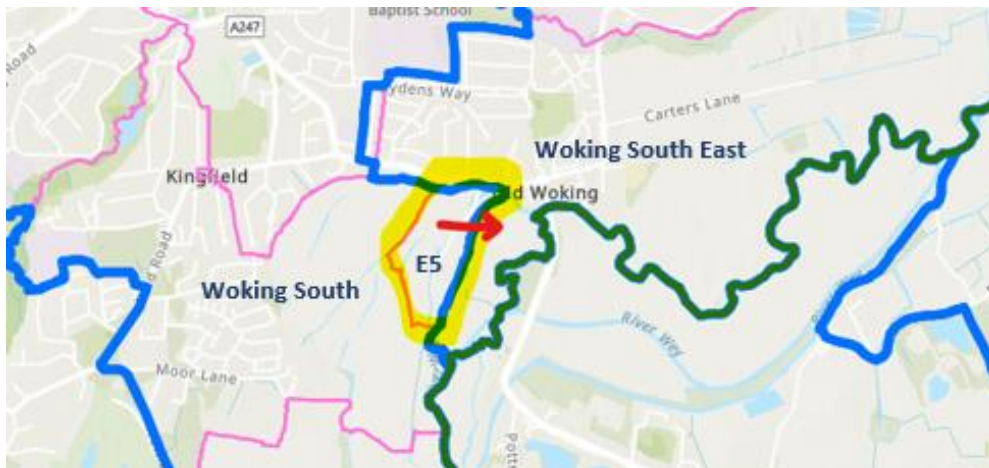
3.10.6 With this in mind, it is the Council's view that what the commission gains in term of electoral equality by making the change, it loses in terms of community identity and making an already geographically very large and difficult to effectively cover division, even bigger.

3.11 Woking

3.11.1 The Commission received three proposals from the County Council and they have recommended a slightly modified scheme that does align with one of the original proposals.

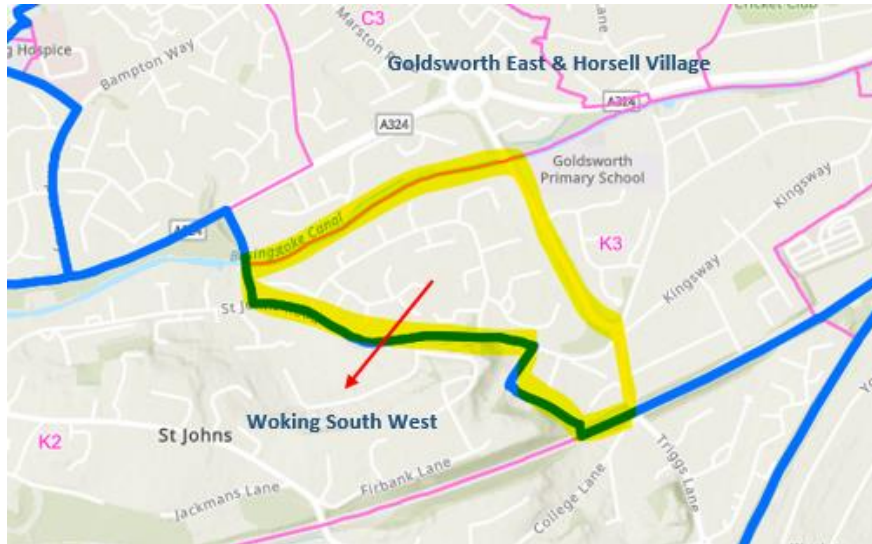
3.11.2 The Council proposes two alterations to the recommendations.

3.11.3 The first is to move Polling District E5 from Woking South to Woking South East. Historically the boundary between divisions and wards in Woking was along the River Wey, but a housing development called Gresham Mill has been built partly over the waterway. Most of Gresham Mill is in Woking South East, but a small section, Polling District E5 (72 electors) is in Woking South. If E5 is moved to Woking South East, it will create a boundary that unites a community within one division.



(Map references paragraph 3.11.3)

3.11.4 The second alteration is to move the boundary between Goldsworth East & Horsell Village and Woking South West, from the current St John's Road to Parley Drive and Triggs Lane.



(Map references paragraph 3.11.4)

- 3.11.5 The argument in support of this was this it would create a much clearer boundary between the divisions (due to these roads being substantially larger physically), and it would address the unclear boundary that exists in the south of the highlighted area where the boundary comes off St John's Road and moves through Janoway Hill Lane and down to the railway line.
- 3.11.6 However, this was not a unanimous suggestion. The member for Woking South-West does not agree that this creates clearer boundaries, nor does it support coterminosity with the ward boundaries. They argue that Winnington Way and the roads off it were the initial stages of the Goldsworth Park development in the 1970s and were historically part of the Goldsworth Park ward, which was split into East and West in 2000. This part of K3 remained in Goldsworth East, which is why it was placed into the Goldsworth East and Horsell Village division in 2013. Therefore, St Johns Road is the correct boundary historically, which was not developed along the south side until the 1980s. This impacts the existing community identity as the north side had never been considered to be related to St John's Village. Consequently, there is existing rationale for maintaining the current St John's Road boundary and to change this could negatively impact community identity.
- 3.11.7 The Council requests that the Commission takes a balanced decision based on the views received.



OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION – REPORT OF THE PLANNING & REGULATORY COMMITTEE

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

It is the Council's responsibility to approve changes to the Council's Constitution.

This report sets out proposed changes to the Surrey Code of Best Practice in Planning Procedures (Part 6(11)). Consequential changes to Standing Orders (Part 4) in relation to public speaking at Planning & Regulatory Committee are also required. These are brought to Council for formal approval in accordance with Article 4.04(b) and Article 13.01 of the Council's Constitution.

BACKGROUND:

1. CONTEXT AND SCOPE

- 1.1 At its meeting on 26 July 2023, the Planning & Regulatory Committee considered a report on the outcome of a review of the Committee by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS). Several of the recommendations arising from the review involve amending the operating procedures of the Committee, which can only be achieved by amending the Council's Constitution – specifically the Surrey Code of Best Practice in Planning Procedures (Part 6(11) and Standing Orders (Part 4).
- 1.2 At its meeting on 27 September 2023, the Planning & Regulatory Committee approved the proposed changes and agreed to recommend them to Council.

2. THE SURREY CODE OF BEST PRACTICE IN PLANNING PROCEDURES

- 2.1 The Surrey Code of Best Practice in Planning Procedures forms Part (11) of the Council's Constitution. The amendments to the Code are set out in Annex 1 to this report and are summarised below.

2.2 Annual Planning & Regulatory Committee Monitoring Visit

The PAS review recommended that councillors visit a sample of implemented planning permissions on an annual basis to assess the quality of their decisions to help improve the quality and consistency of decision making, strengthen public confidence in the planning system, and help with reviews of planning policy. This has been added to the Code of Best Practice.

2.3 Speaking at Committee Process

The PAS review recommended that the applicant to be allowed to speak regardless of whether there are objectors/supporters and to consider whether 10 speakers for 30 minutes as a maximum is the appropriate number. The consensus at the July P&R meeting was that 6 speakers (3 for and 3 against) would be appropriate given the proposed changes to the committee running order. Changes are proposed to Standing Orders and are set out in paragraph 3 below.

2.4 Running Order at Planning & Regulatory Committee

The PAS review recommended that the running order of the Planning and Regulatory Committee follows the proposed order as follows:

- (i) Chairman introduces the item
- (ii) Introduction of item by officer(s)
- (iii) Representations by objector(s)
- (iv) Points of clarification from Members
- (v) Representations from supporter(s)
- (vi) Points of clarification from Members
- (vii) Representations by applicant or agent
- (viii) Points of clarification from Members
- (ix) Representation by local Member(s)
- (x) Points of clarification from Members
- (xi) Consideration of application by committee

The Code of Best Practice has been amended to reflect this new running order.

2.5 Site Visit Conduct and Reporting

The PAS review recommended that the importance of site visits should be emphasised and there should be a procedure protocol as to how site visits should be conducted. This has been added to the Code of Best Practice. A further recommendation that a report of the site visit should be added as an addendum to the Planning & Regulatory Committee papers to include who attended, what particular things were pointed out to Members, questions raised and answers given, is not being taken forward at the present time. As it is made clear in the Code of Best Practice, site visits are not a formal part of the decision making

process and therefore this degree of recording is not considered appropriate.

More broadly, the County Council's Code of Best Practice Planning was adopted in 2014 and has been under review since late 2021. This was paused to await the outcome of the PAS review. There are a number of additional amendments that have been proposed by officers arising from that Code of Best Practice Review that have also been incorporated into the revised version. These are primarily by way of clarification.

3. AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

3.1 The proposed amendments to Standing Orders all relate to the procedures for Public Speaking at Planning & Regulatory Committee and are attached as Annex 2 to this report and summarised below:

3.2 Standing Order 86.3

It is proposed that this Standing Order is amended to reflect the recommendation in the PAS report that it be made clear that members of the public should only speak on matters raised in their written representations and should not make new points when addressing the committee.

3.3 Standing Order 86.5

It is proposed that this Standing Order is amended to state that a maximum total number of six speakers (three supporters and three objectors) be allowed to speak. This reflects the recommendation in the PAS report that there be a clearer explanation of how the time allowed for public speaking is allocated between supporters and objectors. Committee Members were of the view that allowing five supporters and five objectors over 30 minutes could sometimes result in information overload, and therefore the overall maximum number of speakers allowed should be reduced.

3.4 Standing Order 86.6

Further to the above, a reduction in the maximum amount of time allocated to speakers is proposed, allowing 9 minutes in total for supporters and 9 minutes in total for objectors.

3.5 Standing Order 86.7

It is proposed that this Standing Order is amended to reflect the recommendation in the PAS report that the applicant or agent be allowed to speak on applications where no objectors have registered to speak.

- 3.6 Officers will continue to work in conjunction with the Committee Chairman, Planning officers and Democratic Services officers to implement the remaining changes recommended by the PAS review that do not require Council approval.
- 3.7 The Planning & Regulatory Committee resolved at its meeting on 27 September 2023, that if approved by Council, the operation of these changes will be reviewed after six meetings.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. The amendments to the Surrey Code of Best Practice in Planning Procedures and Standing Orders as set out in Annexes 1 and 2 be approved.
- B. That the Planning & Regulatory Committee reviews the operation of these changes after six meetings.

Lead/Contact Officers:

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Annexes:

Annex 1 - Proposed amendments to the Surrey Code of Best Practice in Planning Procedures
Annex 2 - Proposed amendments to Standing Orders

Sources/background papers:

Constitution of the Council
Report to the Planning & Regulatory Committee, 26 July 2023
Report to the Planning & Regulatory Committee, 27 September 2023

**THE SURREY CODE OF BEST PRACTICE
IN PLANNING PROCEDURES**

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THE SURREY CODE OF BEST PRACTICE IN PLANNING PROCEDURES

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The third report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (the Nolan Committee) recommended that all planning committees should consider whether their procedures were in accordance with best practice, and adapt their procedures if necessary, setting them out in a code accessible to members, staff and the public.
- 1.2 **One of the key purposes of the planning system is to balance the applicant's interests in the development and use of land against the wider public interest.**
- 1.3 **Although much of this Code applies only to Members (including substitute Members) of the Planning and Regulatory Committee, some aspects affect any Member who becomes involved with a planning matter.** This Code of Best Practice aims to provide clear guidance to Members about how they should carry out their duties in relation to planning and development proposals.
- 1.4 This Code should be considered in conjunction with the Members' Code of Conduct, the Member/Officer Protocol and the Media & Publicity Protocol.

2 ROLE OF MEMBERS

Committee members

- 2.1 Members of the Planning and Regulatory Committee act in a semi-judicial capacity making decisions on planning and development proposals.
- 2.2 It is recognised that voting members of the Planning and Regulatory Committee have an overriding duty to the whole community, and not just the people living or working in their division, when considering proposals brought to the committee. Whilst Members should bring to planning decisions a sense of the community's needs and interests, they have the difficult task of **combining** their duty to represent the interests of the community with an obligation to remain within the constraints of planning law. They must only take account of relevant matters, i.e. sound land use planning considerations, **not political or council priorities**, and must have regard to the development plan and government policy. Local feelings may run high but these must be weighed carefully against all material considerations. The officer's report will deal specifically with these matters **in order to inform the committee's considerations** and so that Members can arrive at an informed decision.
- 2.3 Members of the Committee are required to observe the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in this Constitution.

Local Members on the Committee

- 2.4 It is recognised that a local Member can give support to a body of opinion whilst not advocating for a particular outcome. If a member of the committee felt they wished to support a particular outcome on a local matter coming to the committee for consideration, the Member could speak as the local Member as long as they declare their intention at the meeting, move to act as the local Member, **do not participate in the debate,** and do not vote on the application.
- 2.5 Members of the committee who wish to act as the local Member on a particular application must inform the Chairman of the committee and Committee Manager of their wish to speak as such following the agenda publication and prior to the committee meeting. They will then be entitled to speak as a local Member rather than a member of the committee.
- 2.6 If there were several items for consideration at the meeting where the committee member wished to act as the local Member, it would be better for the Member to appoint a substitute and attend the meeting as the local Member only.
- 2.7 If a Committee member wished to participate in the consideration and voting on a particular issue at the committee, they should avoid **being associated with or** leading a campaign or organising support for or against the planning application.

Local Members not on the Committee

- 2.8 Members who are not members of the Planning and Regulatory Committee may wish to address the committee on a matter within their division. In this circumstance, they will inform the Chairman and Committee Manager of their wish to speak prior to the meeting. **The order of speakers, which includes representations from a Local Member, is found at Point 7 of this document.** The Chairman may terminate a speech by a Member if s/he considers that it is not contributing to the effective working of the meeting.

Twin-Hatted Members

- 2.9 Members of the Planning and Regulatory Committee who sit on borough, district or parish councils need to ensure that, when they consider planning applications on which they have been consulted in their capacity as a councillor of another Council, that they come to the matter with an open mind
- 2.10 Where an application has been discussed at a meeting at another Council at which the Member was present they should declare this before proceeding to consider the matter at County level on the basis of the reports and information presented to the committee.

Planning applications by Council Members

- 2.11 When the committee considers a planning application submitted by a Council Member, the Member who submitted the application will be entitled to speak to officers prior to the committee as an applicant but not as a Council Member. The Council's Monitoring Officer will be informed of all applications by Members and officers.
- 2.12 When the committee considers a planning application submitted by a committee member, the Member must withdraw from the committee, speak on the application

when the applicant is provided the opportunity to address the meeting, and then withdraw from the room for the consideration and voting on the application.

- 2.13 If a Member has acted in a professional capacity for any individual, company or other body pursuing a planning matter then that Member must declare any disclosable pecuniary interest and act in line with the Members' Code of Conduct. If the Member is a member of the committee, they should withdraw from the committee for this item.

3 DECLARATION AND REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS

Members will make oral declarations at the Planning and Regulatory Committee of significant contact with applicants and objectors, in addition to the usual disclosure of pecuniary interests, **especially in relation to involvement with any County Council proposals resulting in a Regulation 3 planning application to be determined by the Planning and Regulatory Committee.**

- 3.1 The law and guidance on the declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests as set out in the Members' Code of Conduct and the Council's Standing Orders, must be observed and upheld by all Members and officers. At committee meetings Members will make oral declaration of significant contact with applicants or objectors
- 3.2 Members who have substantial property interests or involvement with the property market or other interests which would prevent them from voting on a regular basis will avoid serving on the Planning and Regulatory Committee.
- 3.3 Members should bear in mind the potential for their interests to affect the decisions they may take on such matters, even if such interests do not amount to disclosable pecuniary interests. If a member's interest in a matter would lead them to predetermine a decision, it would not be appropriate for that member to participate in the decision, even if they are not subject to any specific statutory prohibition relating to disclosable pecuniary interests. If they were to do so, they would be at risk of breaching the code of conduct and making the authority's decision vulnerable to challenge.

4 TRAINING

Before sitting on the Planning and Regulatory Committee new Members must undertake a period of training in planning law and procedures

- 4.1 No Member can act as a member of the Planning and Regulatory Committee without having previously attended training by the Council's lawyers and planning officers on the legal and practical aspects of the operation of the Town and Country Planning system such training will also be required for both ex-officio Members and named substitutes.
- 4.2 **Additional training on specific/specialist topics and matters may be provided which are relevant to planning applications coming forward for determination at committee.**
- 4.3 Members are encouraged to attend training sessions relating to planning or related legal matters, these sessions are open to all Members.

- 4.4 The County Council will from time to time consider and review the form of training that is most appropriate. **Officers, in consultation with the Chairman**, will welcome suggestions from Members on any other subjects which they would like to see covered and any other training procedures that they would wish to adopt.
- 4.5 **Refresher training will be provided as and when officers, in consultation with Chairman, deem necessary.**
- 4.6 **There will be an annual training session for the committee involving visits to a sample of implemented planning permissions to assess the quality of the decisions in order to help improve the quality and consistency of decision making, strengthen public confidence in the planning system and to help with reviews of planning policy.**

5 SITE VISITS

- 5.1 Site visits will be arranged to familiarise members with land or buildings which are the subject of a planning application and the surrounding area where there is a clearly identified benefit to be gained because a proposal is contentious or particularly complex and/or the impact might be difficult to assess or visualise from the submitted information or plans.
- 5.2 **Dates for site visits prior to each meeting date will be set in advance as part of the committee schedule.**
- 5.2 A record will be kept by the Committee Manager of such visits and those attending. **There is no debate on the merits of the application at a site visit. No minutes or record of the discussion is made.**
- 5.3 The need for a site visit will be determined by the Planning Group Manager **or the Planning Development Manager** in consultation with the Chairman of the committee in advance of the application being considered by the committee. Any member of the committee who considers that a site visit would be useful in respect of a particular application should contact the Committee Manager in advance of the committee meeting.
- 5.4 All members of the committee are invited to attend site visits, together with the local Member(s). Where a proposal could have a significant impact on an adjoining electoral division or divisions the adjoining local Member(s) will also be invited. **Members of the committee are strongly encouraged to attend site visits.**
- 5.5 All Members attending site visits should be accompanied by an officer. If access to private land is necessary the case officer will secure the prior agreement of the land owner/operator/applicant who will be advised against lobbying and asked to provide only factual answers or information to Members.
- 5.6 Any persons present at a site visit who are neither Members nor officers of the Council may observe but not participate in the site visit.
- 5.7 Site visits are not part of the formal consideration of the planning application therefore public rights of attendance and speaking do not apply.

- 5.8 As noted above, the site visit is arranged first and foremost for the Members of the Committee to see the site in its context. It is not an opportunity to lobby the committee by any parties – applicants, objectors, local or adjoining members. Discussion on an application should only take place in the meeting where it is determined. Members will not debate or comment on the planning merits or otherwise of a proposal. For the avoidance of doubt, the respective roles of the parties are as follows:**
- 5.9 Chairman/Vice-Chairman - To ensure that this protocol is adhered to and to ensure that the site visit is conducted in an orderly fashion.**
- 5.10 Officers – To lead the site visit and to introduce the site and the proposal and to bring any relevant planning matters to the attention of the Committee.**
- 5.11 Members of the Committee – To follow the instructions of the Officers and only seek factual clarification from the applicant. They should avoid being lobbied on site by any parties and should avoid indicating to any parties how they are likely to vote when the matter is considered by Committee. Members of the Committee should not break into smaller groups with applicants, objectors or local or adjoining members without an officer to ensure that all members receive the same information and there is no actual or perception of being lobbied.**
- 5.12 Landowner/Operator/Applicants and their Consultants – Attend purely to facilitate the site visit, explain their proposals and to answer factual/clarifying questions. Shall not engage in lobbying of committee members.**
- 5.12 Objectors – Have no right to attend site visits and can only observe from publicly accessible land.**
- 5.13 Local and Adjoining Members – Will be given a short opportunity to explain the main issues for the local community at the start of the site visit following the Officers’ introduction, shall only direct questions via the officers and shall not lobby the Committee on site, either collectively or individually.**
- 5.14 The expectation is that site visits will be conducted on this basis. The Chairman/Vice-Chairman in conjunction with the attending Officers may decide to end a site visit if not.**

6 LOBBYING OF AND BY COUNCILLORS

Members should avoid indicating their likely decision on an application or otherwise committing the Authority during contact with applicants and objectors.

- 6.1 Members of the Planning and Regulatory Committee keep an open mind when considering planning applications in accordance with the relevant planning considerations. Members must not favour any person, company, group or locality. However Members who have previously done something that directly or indirectly indicated what view they took, would or might take in relation to a matter and the matter was relevant to the decision but who come to the Committee prepared to hear all relevant considerations will not be perceived to have a closed mind when voting on the application
- 6.2 Members involved in decision making on planning applications should not, whether orally or in writing, organise support or opposition to a proposal, lobby other Members, act as advocate or put pressure on officers for a particular recommendation. However, Members not on the Committee can make written representations on an application

Attendance at public meetings

- 6.3 When Members attend public meetings, they may request that an officer attends with them. Wherever possible such meetings should ensure that representatives of both proposers and objectors are allowed to present their views. Members will be subject to lobbying on specific applications and in such cases it is essential that care is taken to protect the public perception of the independence of the planning process.

Committee Pre-Meetings

- 6.4 All committee pre-meetings will be held when necessary as agreed by the Chairman and the Planning Group Manager or Planning Development Manager to give the committee the opportunity to seek clarification and ask any factual or technical questions in advance of the committee. The merits of any particular application will not be discussed at these meetings and a record of the discussion will be kept by the Committee Manager.**

7 COMMITTEE MEETING PROCEDURE

- 7.1 The following procedure will apply in respect of each item when any of the persons identified are eligible to speak at the meeting:
- Chairman introduces the item
 - **Introduction of item by officer(s)**
 - Representations by objector(s)
 - **Chairman invites points of clarification of objector(s) from Members**
 - Representations by supporter(s)
 - **Chairman invites points of clarification of supporter(s) from Members**
 - Representations by applicant or agent
 - **Chairman invites points of clarification of applicant or agent from Members**
 - Representation by local Member(s)
 - **Chairman invites points of clarification of local Member(s) from Members of committee**
 - ~~Introduction of item by officer(s)~~**Chair invites officers to respond to matters raised**
 - Consideration of application by committee **and decision**

8 OFFICER REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

All applications considered by a Planning Committee should be the subject of full written reports from officers incorporating firm recommendations.

- 8.1 All applications considered by the Committee will be the subject of a full written report by officers incorporating firm recommendations. These reports will deal with national and local plan policies and guidance and **comments** made by statutory and **non-statutory consultees**, local residents and other interested parties. An update sheet will be provided at Committee ~~only~~ if there have been any significant developments or changes to the report **and to update the position on consultee comments and representations received since the agenda was published.**
- 8.2 **Officers involved in the processing and determination of planning matters must act in accordance with any appropriate officer and professional codes of conduct, primarily the Royal Town Planning Institute's Code of Professional Conduct. As a result, planning officers' views, opinions and recommendations will be presented on the basis of their overriding obligation of professional independence, which may on occasion be at odds with corporate and member aspirations and priorities.**
- 8.3 Proposals for the County Council's own development **with 5 or more objections** must by law be determined by the Planning and Regulatory Committee and will be treated in the same way as any application submitted by a private developer. Decisions will be made strictly on planning merits.
- 8.4 In any case where the Planning and Regulatory Committee is minded to refuse a planning application for County Council development, it will refer the application back to the applicant with the grounds for refusal which would apply were it to determine the application. This will provide the applicant an opportunity for the applicant to reconsider the application in discussion with the Planning **Group or Planning Development** Manager before deciding whether or not to resubmit the original application or to amend it in some way.
- 8.5 Where the committee decides to approve or refuse an application when the officer's recommendation has been to permit the application, the Committee must provide detailed reasons for its refusal.
- 8.6 If, having read the committee report, a member of the committee is minded to vote against the officer recommendation they may find it helpful to liaise with the Planning **Development** Manager, **Planning** Development Control Team Leader or **the relevant** Case Officer with regards to wording of possible reasons for refusal that could be put forward to the committee if they are still so minded following the discussion at the committee. There is nothing to prevent a Member from seeking advice from officers before a committee meeting. In this instance, the committee member should declare that s/he had discussed possible reasons for refusal prior to the meeting but that s/he would consider all the information presented at the meeting before deciding what course of action to take.

9 LEGAL REPRESENTATION AT COMMITTEE

- 9.1 An officer from the Council's Legal and Democratic Services will attend meetings of the Committee to advise Members on legal and procedural matters.

10 DETERMINATION OF APPLICATION

The reasons given by a Planning Committee for refusing or granting an application should be fully minuted.

- 10.1 Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires all planning applications to be determined in accordance with the development plan, if material to the application, and all other material considerations.
- 10.2 The County Council recognises that planning decisions are often matters of fine judgement. The officer's report will normally rely heavily on planning policy and Members may exercise their discretion to permit an application as an exception to policy or disagree with the recommendation.
- 10.3 Where the committee wishes to make a decision contrary to the officer's recommendations (whether for approval or refusal) a member will move a motion which will be seconded and a vote taken. If the motion is carried the committee will agree the reasons for refusal (or any conditions if approved) after taking advice from officers on the correct policy references. If this cannot be completed during the debate, the committee may then adjourn or proceed with the agenda whilst the Planning **Group** Manager **or Planning Development Manager** consider the formal wording of the decision to go against officer recommendation. This wording will then be presented to the committee when the meeting reconvenes to approve or amend the wording.
- 10.4 If a decision cannot be reached on the wording of reasons at the meeting, the committee may delegate this action to the Planning **Group** Manager or **Planning Development Control Team** Manager in consultation with the Chairman of the committee, the proposer and the seconder of the approval or refusal of the proposals.
- 10.5 There will be full and accurate minuting of resolutions with a careful record being kept of the debate when a resolution is proposed which is contrary to an officer recommendation. In such cases the Chairman will summarise, or cause to be summarised, the salient points of the debate, and ensure the text of the proposition is clearly understood before putting the matter to the vote. The officers will support the decision of the committee.
- 10.6 A Member shall decline to vote in relation to any planning application unless he or she has been present in the meeting of the committee throughout the consideration of that particular item.

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS (PART 4)

Public speaking at meetings of the Planning and Regulatory Committee

- 86.1 Members of the public and their representatives may address the Planning and Regulatory Committee on any planning applications, applications made to the council as Commons Registration Authority (CRA) and all applications relating to public rights of way (PROW) being considered by that Committee.
- 86.2 Speakers must first register their wish to speak by telephone or in writing to the committee manager by 12 noon one working day before a meeting, stating on which item(s) they wish to speak.
- 86.3 Only those people who have previously made written representations in response to a planning application/application to the CRA will be entitled to speak or in the case of an application to the CRA if 86.11 applies. **Members of the public should only speak on matters raised in their written representations and should not make new points when addressing the committee.**
- 86.4 Speakers must declare any financial or personal interest they may have in the application.
- 86.5 Registration of speakers will be on a first come first served basis and speakers will be taken in the order in which they are registered, with the first five **three supporters and objectors (a maximum of six in total)** registered being entitled to speak. Where more than one person has registered an interest to speak, the subsequent speakers will be entitled to speak first if the first named speaker is not in attendance five minutes before the start of the meeting. Representations can be combined if necessary. A reserve list will also be maintained if necessary.
- 86.6 The time allowed for public speaking will be limited to ~~45~~ **9** minutes for objectors and ~~45~~ **9** minutes for supporters per item, and to 3 minutes per speaker.
- 86.7 Subject to 86.11, ~~only if a member of the public or their representative speaks objecting will the applicant/agent be allowed to speak and then only to respond to the points raised by the objectors, and will be limited to 3 minutes for each objector who has spoken~~ **the applicant/agent will be allowed to speak for 3 minutes per objector registered to speak and 3 minutes if there are no objectors registered.**
- 86.8 No additional information may be circulated by speakers at the meeting and they will have no right to speak or question Members or officers once they have made their submission.

- 86.9 Speeches will precede the Committee's formal discussion on each application requiring the Committee's attention.
- 86.10 The right to speak will only be exercised at the first meeting at which the application is considered and will not normally be the subject of further presentations at any subsequent meeting unless significant changes have taken place after a deferral by the Committee.
- 86.11 In relation to applications made to the council as CRA:
- a) the applicant and any other person may speak where this is a requirement under the regulations relating to the particular type of application being considered by the committee;
 - b) the provisions of Standing Order 86 otherwise apply to these applications.

County Council Meeting – 10 October 2023

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 25 July 2023 and 26 September 2023.

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 15. 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 09 October 2023).

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. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN (as set out in the Cabinet paper from 26 September 2023)

1. That Cabinet RECOMMENDS that County Council approves the 2023/24 Youth Justice Plan at its meeting on 10 October 2023.

Reasons for decisions:

An annual youth justice plan is a statutory requirement for local authorities. This plan has been prepared following national guidance from the Youth Justice Board.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

At its meeting on 25 July 2023 Cabinet considered:

B. THE CARE AND SUPPORT COMMISSIONING STRATEGY FOR EXTRA CARE HOUSING

This report sought Cabinet approval for the Care and Support Commissioning Strategy.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet approves the Care and Support Commissioning Strategy for Extra Care Housing at Surrey County Council owned sites.

Reasons for decisions:

Tackling health inequality and empowering our communities are two of the Council's four strategic priorities. It is essential that the care and support provided

by ASC enables us to deliver our Community Vision for 2030 and promotes the independence of the individual in all scenarios. We know that getting older and living longer is something we should all look forward to. However, living a healthy life and living well for yourself, including staying in your own home, can be more difficult for some people. Our Living Well in Later Life Commissioning Strategy for Older People – Living Well in Later Life – 2021-2030 is our plan to help support older people in Surrey to make this happen. It shows how we will help residents to have more choice and control over the care and support they need, when and where they need it.

A key component of Our Living Well in Later Life Strategy are our plans to deliver Accommodation with Care and Support: Extra Care Housing, which will provide Surrey's residents with suitable accommodation with care and support, where they can access the right health and social care at the right time in the right place.

Extra Care Housing is a housing with care model, with a separation in responsibilities between the operators of each setting and the dedicated providers commissioned to deliver care and support to each setting's residents. For the settings which will be delivered through the Accommodation with Care and Support Strategy, while the operators will be regulated by the Regulator of Social Housing and deliver high quality housing management in line with the Council's lease, the care providers will be regulated by the Care Quality Commission and separately commissioned through Adult Social Care contracts. In Annex 1 we provide a diagram which demonstrates the relationship between the different partner organisation involved in the delivery of Extra Care Housing.

The Care and Support Commissioning Strategy for Extra Care Housing sets out the Council's approach to securing high quality, sustainable support through CQC-regulated care providers, and will ensure that future residents in the new settings 'live their best lives'.

C. FREEDOM TO TRAVEL STRATEGY

Freedom to Travel is a new pipeline transformation programme to design and deliver a new model of travel assistance services for Surrey. Cabinet was asked to endorse a long-term strategy that accompanies the report, which sets out a positive vision for travel assistance and a clear delivery plan. As the delivery plan progresses, Cabinet would make further decisions on some specific projects at subsequent meetings.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet endorses the Freedom to Travel Strategy and approach to delivery.

Reasons for decisions:

"By 2030, all Surrey residents requiring travel assistance will have the freedom to travel to access opportunities that make their lives better so no-one is left behind."

In order to achieve this vision, a number of significant changes will need to be made in behaviours and expectations and a wider range of transport options be made available to our residents.

A review and change of approach to procurement, commissioning transport and travel, as well as collaborative partner working will offer better value for money, competition and choices within Surrey.

Commissioned transport comprises most of the costs for travel assistance services for SCC. These costs have continued to increase and will continue to do so in line with demand if no action is taken. These increasing demands are not financially sustainable long-term.

The strategic challenges and opportunities facing travel assistance services means there is a strong case for rethinking and redesigning the way we plan, commission and deliver travel assistance. The current model is unsustainable financially and environmentally.

The Freedom to Travel Strategy has been developed to address these challenges and enable the vision.

D. APPROVAL TO PROCURE INCREASED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY (EP) AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) SERVICE CAPACITY

Cabinet was asked to approve delegated authority for Educational Psychology and Special Educational Needs capacity to be expanded at pace, enabling the Education, Health and Care Plan timeliness to be improved to an acceptable level as quickly as possible.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet gives approval to procure additional Educational Psychology service capacity and Special Educational Needs service capacity up to the aggregate contract value of £15m over 3 years between 2023/24 and 2026/27.
2. That Cabinet approves the delegation of contract award decisions to the Executive Director for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources.

Reasons for decisions:

- The timely completion of Education, Health and Care needs assessments and annual reviews (collectively referred to as EHCP Timeliness throughout this report) makes an important contribution to ensuring that children and young people with additional needs and disabilities receive the right support, in the right place, at the right time.
- The EHCP Timeliness Recovery Plan is being accelerated to address the current significant delays and approvals are required to avoid delays in procuring services and allocating funding and resources. There is an urgent need to retain existing capacity and secure additional flexible capacity in the

Council's Educational Psychology (EP) and Special Educational Needs (SEN) services to improve the timeliness of these services at pace.

- Approval of the recommendations in this report will have multiple benefits, the most important being an improvement in the experience of families and outcomes of children and young people with additional needs and disabilities undergoing an EHC needs assessment or awaiting an annual review.

E. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 4 July 2023 - 2 October 2023

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 have been TWO urgent decisions since the last Cabinet report to Council.

1. Approval to procure increased Educational Psychology and Special Educational Needs Service Capacity: Cabinet, 25 July 2023.
2. Proposal For Solar Rooftop and Building Decarbonisation Project: Cabinet Member for Environment Decisions, 25 July 2023.

**Tim Oliver, Leader of the Council
2 October 2023**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET
HELD ON 25 JULY 2023 AT 2.00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBER, SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL, WOODHATCH
PLACE, 11 COCKSHOT HILL, REIGATE, SURREY, RH2 8EF.**

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

Members: = Present

- *Tim Oliver (Chairman)
- *Natalie Bramhall
- *Clare Curran
- *Matt Furniss
- *David Lewis
- *Mark Nuti
- *Denise Turner-Stewart
- *Sinead Mooney
- *Marisa Heath
- *Kevin Deanus

Deputy Cabinet Members:

- *Maureen Attewell
- *Rebecca Paul
- *Paul Deach
- Jordan Beech

Members in attendance:

Catherine Powell, Residents' Association and Independent Group Leader
Fiona Davidson, Chairman of the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning &
Culture Select Committee
Chris Townsend, Vice Chairman of the Children, Families, Lifelong
Learning & Culture Select Committee

PART ONE
IN PUBLIC

109/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Jordan Beech.

110/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 27 JUNE 2023 [Item 2]

These were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

111/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were none.

112/23 PROCEDURAL MATTERS [Item 4]

1112/23 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 4a]

There were none.

113/23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 4b]

There were three public questions. The questions and responses were published in a supplement to the agenda.

With regards to her public question Jenny Desoutter thanked the Cabinet Member for the response but stated that the climate change delivery plan does not directly address biodiversity loss and the Land Management plan was still not in place. She asked that with biodiversity being lost every single day why was the council not acting now to recognise the biodiversity emergency and taking a holistic view of biodiversity before any operations took place. The Cabinet Member for Environment stated that the climate change delivery plan was ultimately about reaching net zero but there was a chapter in there about natural environment. Many of the officers work with biodiversity in their minds and the council would be taking responsibility for the local nature recovery strategy which would help better understand habitats.

John Oliver could not attend the meeting but Jenny Desoutter asked a question on his behalf which was how much of the £120.75 environment budget from the council tax related solely to countryside services and if other services viewed as 'desirable' could have their budgets diverted to the countryside service. The Leader agreed to send Mr Oliver a written reply on the breakdown of the £120.75 but argued that the services viewed as desirable by Mr Oliver including arts were very important to residents and supported health and wellbeing.

114/23 PETITIONS [Item 4c]

There were none.

115/23 REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED ON REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE [Item 4d]

There were none.

116/23 REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES , TASK GROUPS, LOCAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL [Item 5]

The report was introduced by the Vice-Chairman of the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee who stated that it was important to try and understand where the council was with adult learning and skills in Surrey and what was being provided by the various providers and at what cost. It was also important to try and understand the split between the community and economic side. The location of adult learning and skills hubs needed to be explored to make them easily accessible. The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning thanked the Select Committee for its report stating that the skills arena had moved forward quite significantly since the report of the Select Committee was written. It would have been positive if the task group had done a little more work around the opportunities and pathways into employment for some of our vulnerable groups, such as care leavers and those with additional needs and disabilities. The Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth stated that quite a period of time had passed since the initial evidence gathering period and the council had increased its work around education and skills. The Cabinet agenda had two

skills based items on it and there was now a local skills improvement plan in place. It was agreed that Select Committee involvement was welcomed.

RESOLVED:

That the task group report be noted and recommendations considered.

117/23 LEADER / DEPUTY LEADER / CABINET MEMBER/ STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST CABINET MEETING [Item 6]

The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning explained that statutory notices had been published thereby bringing into effect the formal commencement of the proposal to expand Woodfield School onto a Specialist Satellite site at Carrington School from September 2023. The site was part of the SEND capital programme. The Cabinet Member for Children and Families stated that funding from the mental health investment fund had been used to help children and vulnerable adults.

RESOLVED:

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

118/23 CABINET MEMBER OF THE MONTH [Item 7]

The Cabinet Member for Adults and Health provided the Cabinet with an update on the work he and the services he supports had been undertaking. The following key points were raised:

- The Cabinet Member stated that there was pressure on the council and the NHS to get people out of hospital to enable people to get into hospital. Discharge from hospital had been reactive and therefore work needed to be undertaken with partners to reduce the need for hospitalisation in the first place and create a more consistent approach. IMPOWER were commissioned by Surrey County Council to support discharge and flow in East Surrey and Royal Surrey acute hospitals through winter and spring (November 22 - May 23). The work had produced positive results improving outcomes for patients and had given a much better understanding for staff and the people in and around the area of how the system should work.
- A Transformation Programme was underway to identify the opportunity for implementing the corporate SCC customer operating model to the Adult Social Care [ASC] directorate. The programme is currently in the discovery phase, the aim of which is to investigate and analyse the landscape of existing entry points to ASC services and undertake a demand management analysis of all ASC entry points, identifying who uses them, when, why and how, including associated pain points from a service delivery perspective and from a service user perspective.
- A thanks was given to public health colleagues and recognition was given to all the preventative work they were undertaking in challenging circumstances. Thanks was given to colleagues on all the work they do.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member of the Month update be noted.

119/23 THE CARE AND SUPPORT COMMISSIONING STRATEGY FOR EXTRA CARE HOUSING [Item 8]

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health who stated that it was essential that the care and support provided by adult social care enabled the council to deliver its Community Vision for 2030 and promote the independence of the individual in all scenarios. In July 2019 Cabinet endorsed the Accommodation with Care and Support Strategy. A major programme within the strategy is the delivery of 725 units of affordable Extra Care Housing for older people by 2030. Since then the council have plans in place to deliver circa 370 units across six sites in Surrey. The Care and Support Commissioning Strategy for Extra Care Housing sets out the Council's approach to securing high quality, sustainable support through CQC-regulated care providers, and will ensure that future residents in the new settings 'live their best lives'. The dedicated on-site care providers will support Extra Care Housing residents with personal care and other support for people to remain independent.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet approves the Care and Support Commissioning Strategy for Extra Care Housing at Surrey County Council owned sites.

Reasons for Decisions:

Tackling health inequality and empowering our communities are two of the Council's four strategic priorities. It is essential that the care and support provided by ASC enables us to deliver our Community Vision for 2030 and promotes the independence of the individual in all scenarios. We know that getting older and living longer is something we should all look forward to. However, living a healthy life and living well for yourself, including staying in your own home, can be more difficult for some people. Our Living Well in Later Life Commissioning Strategy for Older People – Living Well in Later Life – 2021-2030 is our plan to help support older people in Surrey to make this happen. It shows how we will help residents to have more choice and control over the care and support they need, when and where they need it.

A key component of Our Living Well in Later Life Strategy are our plans to deliver Accommodation with Care and Support: Extra Care Housing, which will provide Surrey's residents with suitable accommodation with care and support, where they can access the right health and social care at the right time in the right place.

Extra Care Housing is a housing with care model, with a separation in responsibilities between the operators of each setting and the dedicated providers commissioned to deliver care and support to each setting's residents. For the settings which will be delivered through the Accommodation with Care and Support Strategy, while the operators will be regulated by the Regulator of Social Housing and deliver high quality housing management in line with the Council's lease, the care providers will be regulated by the Care

Quality Commission and separately commissioned through Adult Social Care contracts. In Annex 1 we provide a diagram which demonstrates the relationship between the different partner organisation involved in the delivery of Extra Care Housing.

The Care and Support Commissioning Strategy for Extra Care Housing sets out the Council's approach to securing high quality, sustainable support through CQC-regulated care providers, and will ensure that future residents in the new settings 'live their best lives'.

(The decisions on this item can be called-in by the Adults and Health Select Committee)

120/23 EXTRA CARE HOUSING - PHASE 2 DELIVERY [Item 9]

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health who explained that the report being presented set out Surrey County Council's proposed delivery approach for three sites proposed for Extra Care Housing and will form Phase 2 of the delivery programme. The development of Extra Care Housing on the three sites set out in this report would represent an important contribution towards the Council's strategic objective to expand affordable Extra Care Housing provision by 2030. Tendering for a strategic development and housing management partner(s) to take forwards the development of Extra Care Housing on the sites is consistent with previous decisions made by Cabinet. The Cabinet Member for Property and Waste provided the Cabinet with an update on the design and build programme for the three identified sites. The Cabinet Member for Environment commented that she was grateful that the Former Birchlands Care Home would be used extra care housing.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet grants approval to proceed with the design and construction of Extra Care Housing at three identified Council-owned sites in Reigate and Banstead, Runnymede and Tandridge within the capital funding envelope set out in the Part 2 report. The sites are as follows:
 - Former Orchard Court Care Home, East Grinstead Road, Lingfield, RH7 6ET
 - Former Birchlands Care Home, Barley Mow Road, Englefield Green, Egham, TW20 0NP
 - Colebrook, Noke Drive, Redhill, RH1 1PT
2. That Cabinet approves external delivery of affordable Extra Care Housing at the three sites through a tender for a strategic development and housing management partner(s) as the preferred option. This will be in the form of a design, build, fund and operate (DBFO) model.
3. That Cabinet grants delegated authority for contract award to the following Council officers:

- Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Cabinet Member for Property and Waste.
 - Executive Director for Adult Social Care in consultation with Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.
 - Director, Land and Property.
4. That Cabinet notes that a separate procurement process will be conducted to identify onsite support and care provision to avoid long-term support and care provision being tied into the development and housing management contract.

Reasons for Decisions:

The development of Extra Care Housing on the three sites set out in this report will represent an important contribution towards the Council's strategic objective to expand affordable Extra Care Housing provision by 2030.

Tendering for a strategic development and housing management partner(s) to take forwards the development of Extra Care Housing on the sites is consistent with previous decisions made by Cabinet. In October 2019, July 2020, October 2020 and July 2022 Cabinet agreed to identify a strategic partner(s) for the development and housing management of Extra Care Housing at the former Pond Meadow School, the former Brockhurst Care Home, the former Pinehurst Care Home, Cuddington (formerly known as Salisbury Road), Lakeside and Bentley sites through tendering processes.

There are multiple benefits for the Council from developing Extra Care Housing on the sites. These include:

- Accessing economies of scale from delivering Extra Care Housing across more settings, which is likely to lead to a more commercially favourable response for the Council.
- Fulfilling significant resident demand for affordable specialist accommodation in the districts.
- Limiting the capital investment required by the Council and in doing so limiting the costs of borrowing within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- The new Extra Care Housing settings will house residents from existing affordable housing as well as residential care settings, which will free up availability of affordable housing within the local districts and boroughs.

This is consistent with our ASC vision for development of Extra Care Housing, which has been clearly communicated through market and stakeholder engagement.

The other option available is for the Council to directly deliver the Extra Care Housing scheme at the sites. This would involve the Council committing significant capital expenditure and be responsible for the ongoing housing management function of the Extra Care Housing settings. This option is not recommended as it is anticipated to be significantly less financially beneficial to the Council and would likely take longer to deliver given that there is already a well-established approach for the Council tendering for a strategic

development and housing management partner on a DBFO basis. Financial modelling for both options is commercially sensitive at this time and is set out in the Part 2 report.

(The decisions on this item can be called-in by the Adults and Health Select Committee)

121/23 SURREY HOMES FOR SURREY CHILDREN: DELIVERING A REPLACEMENT CHILDREN'S HOME [Item 10]

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families who explained that the report was asking Cabinet to agree to allocate the remaining £3.3 million from the designated Care Leaver Accommodation and Children's Homes capital pipeline budget for the delivery of a new-build replacement four-bed and additional two-bed children's home on the site of an existing Surrey County Council children's home in Cobham. The council was committed to enabling the best possible outcomes for Surrey's looked after children and a new home directly supported the delivery of the statutory Looked After Children and Care Leaver Sufficiency Strategy 2020-25. The proposals in the report were supported by the Cabinet and the quality of the new homes being built was recognised. Although there was some pressure on the capital programme, the Leader recognised the importance of this work.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet agrees to allocate the remaining £3.3m from the designated Care Leaver Accommodation and Children's Home capital pipeline budget for the delivery of a new-build replacement four-bed and additional two-bed children's home on the existing site of children's home SC040631 in Cobham. This will follow the same model as has recently been delivered in Walton and planned for delivery in Dorking.
2. That Cabinet confirms delegated authority to approve the details of the scheme within overall budget constraints prior to construction to the Corporate Programme Panel, in consultation with:
 - Executive Director – Children, Families and Lifelong Learning
 - Cabinet Member for Children and Families
 - Cabinet Member for Property & Waste
 - Director of Land and Property
3. That Cabinet notes the overview of the planned capital programme to create new children's homes and care leaver accommodation in Surrey and indicative timescales for delivery, in support of SCC's ambition to enable every looked after child to have choice to remain in Surrey, where this is appropriate to their needs and circumstances.

Reasons for Decisions:

SCC, as corporate parent, is committed to enabling the best possible outcomes for Surrey's looked after children, within the resources it has available. Alongside this moral imperative, we also have a clear statutory duty to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that there is sufficient accommodation for looked after children that meets their needs and is within their local authority (LA) area (Children Act 1989, Section 22G). Whilst SCC

is already taking concrete steps to deliver this duty and enable positive outcomes, this further proposal to re-provide an existing but outdated SCC Children's Home directly supports the delivery of our statutory Looked After Children and Care Leaver Sufficiency Strategy 2020-25, which includes the ambition to create Surrey homes for Surrey Children.

These proposals also have wider benefits in support of Surrey's four Organisation Strategy priorities, as set out above: growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit; tackling health inequality; enabling a greener future; and empowering communities.

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

122/23 FREEDOM TO TRAVEL STRATEGY [Item 11]

The report was introduced by the Leader who explained that the Freedom to Travel Strategy would re-think how the council delivered its transport services and would bring together a number of different transport strategies. The council spent around £70m a year on transport which included the home to school travel assistance service and travel assistance to service users of Adult Social Care. These services are under significant financial pressure due to a combination of economic factors, such as the highest inflation experienced by the UK in decades, and rising demand for services. Freedom to Travel aims to respond to these challenges and opportunities with a positive vision for the future of travel assistance services. It aims to simultaneously deliver on objectives to ensure that no-one that requires support to travel is left behind, while also contributing to financial efficiencies needed to make sure these services are sustainable.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet endorses the Freedom to Travel Strategy and approach to delivery.

Reasons for Decisions:

"By 2030, all Surrey residents requiring travel assistance will have the freedom to travel to access opportunities that make their lives better so no-one is left behind."

In order to achieve this vision, a number of significant changes will need to be made in behaviours and expectations and a wider range of transport options be made available to our residents.

A review and change of approach to procurement, commissioning transport and travel, as well as collaborative partner working will offer better value for money, competition and choices within Surrey.

Commissioned transport comprises most of the costs for travel assistance services for SCC. These costs have continued to increase and will continue to do so in line with demand if no action is taken. These increasing demands are not financially sustainable long-term.

The strategic challenges and opportunities facing travel assistance services means there is a strong case for rethinking and redesigning the way we plan,

commission and deliver travel assistance. The current model is unsustainable financially and environmentally.

The Freedom to Travel Strategy has been developed to address these challenges and enable the vision.

(The decisions on this item can be called- in by the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee or the Adults and Health Select Committee)

123/23 GREEN FINANCE STRATEGY [Item 12]

The Cabinet Member for Environment explained that the report set out the updated approach and investment principles that support the delivery of the Council's 2030 and 2050 net zero targets, as set out in the Green Finance Strategy. Officers in Greener Futures and Finance with support from Land and Property had been further developing the 2030 finance model, which was originally produced by consultants, in order to gain a more robust understanding of the capital costs required to achieve the 2030 target. Given the increase in costs, four future approach options had been developed. Work around achieving net zero carbon targets would constantly be reviewed as new policies and targets are introduced. With regards to the expansion of the ULEZ, the Leader stated that the council supported improving air quality but did not support the negative impacts the charge would have upon Surrey residents and businesses.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet agrees the updated approach and investment principles, that support the delivery of the Council's 2030 and 2050 net zero targets, as set out in the Green Finance Strategy.
2. That Cabinet agrees the recommended approach option for the delivery of the Council's 2030 net zero target, including exploring and developing additional finance mechanisms to offset potential future costs.

Reasons for Decisions:

- In the eighteen months since the Climate Change Delivery Plan and the Initial Finance Strategy were published in November 2021, rapidly changing and increasing costs along with learnings from the delivery of capital decarbonisation schemes on the Council's estate, has meant that the Finance Strategy requires updating. This paper, and the accompanying Green Finance Strategy, sets out the updated approach for approval.
- Officers in Greener Futures and Finance with support from Land and Property have been further developing the 2030 finance model, which was originally produced by consultants, in order to gain a more robust understanding of the capital costs required to achieve the 2030 target, as well as the potential to offset these costs through energy savings and income generation. Given the increase in costs, four future approach options have been developed. The recommendation to Cabinet is to adopt the 4th option.

- It should be noted that all options will require the Council to invest money up front in advance of income being generated. Net zero is a significant cost to the council with all options, but the approach is to off set this and aim for cost neutrality over the longer term by generating income through renewables and reducing costs of energy.
1. The Council abandons the 2030 net zero target.
 2. The Council only installs decarbonisation measures which have a strong return on investment (such as solar) to reduce capex, accepting that this will increase the cost to the Council for carbon offsets from 2030 onwards. The minimum projected offset costs for this option (to 2050) amount to at least £14m, calculated at a rate of £95t/CO₂, however by 2030 this rate may be much higher. This option is therefore not recommended as the financial risk is considered too great and the efficiencies resulting from investment in the more costly decarbonisation measures would not be achieved.
 3. The Council builds all the projected increased costs of achieving the 2030 target into the Medium Term Financial Plan, and income is seen as a bonus. This is the approach taken by other Local Authorities however by not pursuing and prioritising investment in renewables, which would generate income, this would lead to a budget pressure.
 4. The Council continues with the current approach to achieving the 2030 target, which includes being open and transparent with costings and balancing the delivery of high cost and quick pay back measures. This approach includes the development of finance income generation mechanisms, mainly renewables, with the purpose of generating a return on investment to offset any future potential cost increases to the Council, or to be used for other Greener Futures priorities.

(The decisions on this item can be called -in by the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee)

124/23 PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT - SURREY CAREERS HUB [Item 13]

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth who explained that the report set out the significant progress made since the March Cabinet report on 'Pathways to Employment: Supporting Surrey Residents' Skills Development and Employability' and provides details of the agreement reached with the Careers & Enterprise Company for the council to create and deliver a single Careers Hub aligned to the Surrey geography starting in September 2023. It was explained that there were currently two Careers Hubs that operated in Surrey managed by each of the Local Enterprise Partnerships. By Surrey county council taking over the functions of the Careers Hub across a Surrey-wide geography it would allow the council to deliver activity that is better aligned with its four strategic priorities, whilst also delivering greater impact for young people, residents and

businesses. The report was welcomed by the Cabinet and the clear alignment with the council's forthcoming Education and Lifetime of Learning Strategy, which would enable closer links with schools.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet notes the updated plan for the Council to deliver a Surrey Careers Hub on behalf of the Careers and Enterprise Company from September 2023. This work aligns with the Surrey Skills Plan and priorities of the Local Skills Improvement Plan.
2. That Cabinet notes the proposals for funding and longer-term resourcing of the programme.
3. That Cabinet agrees the proposals for monitoring and evaluation of the Careers Hub through a number of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), including delegation of oversight on progress to the Portfolio Holders for Education & Learning and for Transport, Infrastructure & Growth, with the Children, Families and Lifelong Learning Select Committee also having a scrutiny role.

Reasons for Decisions:

Currently, there are two Careers Hubs that operate in Surrey managed by each of the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). By SCC taking over the functions of the Careers Hub across a Surrey-wide geography it will allow the council to deliver activity that is better aligned with its four strategic priorities, whilst also delivering greater impact for young people, residents and businesses.

(The decisions on this item can be called-in by the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee)

125/23 APPROVAL TO PROCURE INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT AND SUPPORT IN PRIMARY CARE (IPSPC) [Item 14]

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth who stated that the council had secured funding as one of 12 national sites to pioneer the Individual Placement and Support in Primary Care (IPSPC) model, in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The IPSPC programme would provide employment support to adults with long term conditions or disabilities to help them access and maintain work in the longer term and would ensure nobody was left behind. The IPSPC grant allocated to the council totalled £6.3m and would be used to procure a number of services to support access to skills development and employment. The programme would run from October 2023 to March 2025 and aims to support 2882 people to access and maintain work. It was explained that the Individual Placement and Support is a proven model of employment support for people with severe mental health issues . It had been shown to deliver superior employment and health outcomes, achieving up to twice as many job outcomes for people with severe mental illness than traditional programmes.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet approves the procurement of constituent elements of the IPSPC offer in Surrey up to the value of the £6.3m DWP grant,
2. That Cabinet approves the delegation of subsequent contract award decisions to the Executive Director for Partnerships, Prosperity, and Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth.

Reasons for Decisions:

The IPSPC programme has secured £6.3m in DWP grant funding for SCC. The programme activity will be funded through this DWP grant.

Approval to procure the service using this grant will enable SCC to support up to 3,000 adults with long term conditions or disabilities into employment in Surrey.

This procurement will particularly support the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in Surrey who are expected to be the key delivery partners.

(The decisions on this item can be called-in by the Resources and Performance Select Committee)

126/23 APPROVAL TO PROCURE INCREASED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY (EP) AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) SERVICE CAPACITY [Item 15]

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning who explained that Cabinet was being asked to approve the procurement for additional Educational Psychology service capacity and Special Educational Needs service capacity to improve Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) timeliness. It was explained that timeliness of completing assessments in 2021 was 65% of plans issued within 20 weeks and was stable until Spring term 2022 with a marginal decline. However, in the summer term 2022 timeliness began to drop more rapidly. This led to overall cumulative timeliness for plans completed during the 2022 calendar year in Surrey falling to 26%. The council was committed to supporting young people with Special Educational Needs and their families. The Cabinet Member explained that EHCPs had to be reviewed by educational psychologists and the lack of these meant a delay in plan completion. The Leader stated that the additional funding would help clear the backlog of EHCPs and the council recognised the service was not where it needed to be.

The Chairman of the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee spoke on the report welcoming the recommendations. The Select Committee recognised that EHCP timeliness was poor and negatively impacting young people and their families. The council was ranked 128/152 for EHCP timeliness and urgent action needed to be taken. The Select Committee endorsed additional funding but urged Cabinet to ensure additional funding came from reserves and not efficiencies from other parts of the service. The Leader confirmed additional funding would not come from efficiencies in the service.

Mark Nuti left the meeting 15:30 and returned at 15:34.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet gives approval to procure additional Educational Psychology service capacity and Special Educational Needs service capacity up to the aggregate contract value of £15m over 3 years between 2023/24 and 2026/27.
2. That Cabinet approves the delegation of contract award decisions to the Executive Director for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources.

Reasons for Decisions:

- The timely completion of Education, Health and Care needs assessments and annual reviews (collectively referred to as EHCP Timeliness throughout this report) makes an important contribution to ensuring that children and young people with additional needs and disabilities receive the right support, in the right place, at the right time.
- The EHCP Timeliness Recovery Plan is being accelerated to address the current significant delays and approvals are required to avoid delays in procuring services and allocating funding and resources. There is an urgent need to retain existing capacity and secure additional flexible capacity in the Council's Educational Psychology (EP) and Special Educational Needs (SEN) services to improve the timeliness of these services at pace.
- Approval of the recommendations in this report will have multiple benefits, the most important being an improvement in the experience of families and outcomes of children and young people with additional needs and disabilities undergoing an EHC needs assessment or awaiting an annual review.

127/23 YOUR FUND SURREY - CF265 ASHFORD COMMUNITY BUILDING [Item 16]

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety introduced the report explaining that the Cabinet was being asked to approve 76% of total project cost. The application was being made by 8th Ashford Scouts, the largest scout group in Spelthorne which had been part of the community since 1945. The application was for a new purpose-built building, with a variety of different sized spaces which would appeal to a broad number of users. It will have one main hall, a kitchen, storage area and two smaller meeting rooms. The new community building would provide affordable facilities for a variety of groups and the wider community as well as meeting the current increasing demand for scouts, cubs and beavers in the area. The project would provide a much-needed community building supporting one of Surrey County Council's most deprived neighbourhoods, Stanwell.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet approves the full amount requested of £899,645, (76% of total project cost), comprised of:
 - Up to £899,645 of capital funding towards the construction of a community building to be paid in staged payments, on evidence of spend.
 - 5% of which will be retained as final payment until final evidence of income, expenditure and building control sign-off is provided.

Reasons for Decisions:

- This application has been the subject of a rigorous assessment process and officers consider the project meets the aims and published criteria of the Fund and to satisfy the requirements to award funding.
- The project will provide a much-needed community building supporting one of Surrey County Council's most deprived neighbourhoods, Stanwell. There are very few facilities currently in the area, so the new community building will enhance the neighbourhood and provide many opportunities for the residents as there has been considerable interest in using the new facility.

(The decisions on this item can be called-in by the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee)

128/23 YOUR FUND SURREY - CF277 WILDLIFE AID FOUNDATION [Item 17]

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety introduced the report explaining that the Cabinet was being asked to approve 21% of the total project cost. The Wildlife Aid Foundation (WAF) has been rescuing and rehabilitating sick, injured and orphaned wildlife, including some of Britain's most vulnerable and endangered animals. The charity had purchased a 20-acre piece of land in Leatherhead, where they planned to create "The Wildlife Aid Centre" which would include new habitats, a visitor centre & community hub, a new wildlife hospital and a domestic vet practice. The community hub would comprise of two classroom/meeting spaces, an exhibition space/retail area and café which would be opened up to the local community.

The Cabinet Member for Environment expressed her support for the project stating that the WAF was a well respected charity and the project would create a legacy for the future. The Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment also welcomed the project stating that he had visited the site and the project would contribute to the skills deficit and create work experience opportunities for Surrey residents.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet approves the full amount requested of £2,808,000 (21% of total project cost), comprised of:

- Up to £2,808,000 of capital funding towards the development of a community hub to be paid in staged payments, on evidence of spend. The final value of funding will be contingent on Surrey County Council's (SCC) review of a tender before entering into a funding agreement.
- 5% of which will be retained as final payment until final evidence of income, expenditure and building control sign-off is provided.

Reasons for Decisions:

- This application has been the subject of a rigorous assessment process and officers consider the project meets the aims and published criteria of the Fund and to satisfy the requirements to award funding.
- This project has the potential to have a long-lasting positive impact on the environment and wildlife in Surrey. The proposed Wildlife Centre would help redress the balance between humans and nature and play a part in preserving Surrey's natural heritage for future generations to enjoy. The community spaces will support charities, schools and diverse community groups across Surrey and provide education for all about how to protect the natural environment for the future.

(The decisions on this item can be called -in by the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee)

129/23 2023/24 MONTH 2 (MAY) FINANCIAL REPORT [Item 18]

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources who provided the Cabinet with an update of the County Council's 2023/24 financial position, for revenue and capital budgets, as at 31st May 2023 (M2) and the expected outlook for the remainder of the financial year. With regards to Revenue, at M2, the Council was forecasting an overspend of £9.7m against the 2023/24 revenue budget approved by the Council in February 2023. This represented a deterioration of £3.7m since the April position. In addition £19.3m of net risks to the forecast position had been quantified. With regards to Capital, the M2 position showed a forecast spend of £307.9m against a budget of £326.4m, an underspend of £18.6m, mainly due to project slippage in Highways and Transport. It was noted that the Council was operating in a period of high inflation which was having an impact on the budget.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet notes the Council's forecast revenue and capital budget positions for the year and the need for mitigating actions to be developed to offset the projected revenue overspend.
2. That Cabinet approves an increase in the 2023/24 revenue budget of £5.7m, in response to the Council's recognition of the need to accelerate the improvements in service delivery in the following specific areas:
 - improvement in the rates of Education Health and Care Plan timeliness,

- to support initiatives to improve recruitment and retention within the childrens social work workforce, and
- highways and environmental service improvements.

This temporary increase in budget is proposed to be funded from the Council's contingency reserves, following a review of the sufficiency of reserve levels. Ongoing implications of these additional investments will be factored into the 2024/25 budget planning process.

Reasons for Decisions:

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)

130/23 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC [Item 19]

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.

131/23 EXTRA CARE HOUSING - PHASE 2 DELIVERY [Item 20]

The Cabinet Member for Adults and Health introduced the Part 2 report which 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 the authority holding that information).

The Cabinet Member read an updated recommendation. Cabinet approved the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED:

See Exempt Minute [E-11-23]

Reasons for Decisions:

See Exempt Minute [E-11-23]

(The decisions on this item can be called-in by the Adults and Health Select Committee)

132/23 APPROVAL TO PROCURE INCREASED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY (EP) AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) SERVICE CAPACITY [Item 21]

The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning introduced the Part 2 report which 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 the authority holding that information).

Cabinet approved the recommendations.

RESOLVED:

See Minute 126/23

Reasons for Decisions:

See Minute 126/23

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

133/23 PROPERTY TRANSACTION- ACQUISITION OF LAND IN WOKING FOR NORTH-WEST SURREY SHORT STAY SCHOOL PERMANENT SITE (ALTERNATIVE PROVISION) [Item 22]

The Cabinet Member for Property and Waste introduced the Part 2 report which 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 the authority holding that information).

Cabinet approved the acquisition of the land in Woking for a north-west surrey short stay school permanent site.

RESOLVED:

See Exempt Minute [E-12-23]

Reasons for Decisions:

See Exempt Minute [E-12-23]

(The decisions on this item can be called-in by the Resources and Performance Select Committee)

134/23 DISPOSAL OF COXBRIDGE FARM, WEST STREET, FARNHAM [Item 23]

The Cabinet Member for Property and Waste introduced the Part 2 report which 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 the authority holding that information).

Cabinet approved the disposal of Coxbridge Farm, West Street, Farnham.

RESOLVED:

See Exempt Minute [E-13-23]

Reasons for Decisions:

See Exempt Minute [E-13-23]

(The decisions on this item can be called-in by the Resources and Performance Select Committee)

135/23 PUBLICITY FOR PART 2 ITEMS [Item 24]

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

Meeting closed at 16:00

Chairman

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET
HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 2.00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBER, WOODHATCH PLACE, 11 COCKSHOT HILL,
REIGATE, SURREY ,RH2 8EF.**

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

Members: **=present*

*Tim Oliver (Chairman)
*Natalie Bramhall
*Clare Curran
*Matt Furniss
*David Lewis
*Mark Nuti
*Denise Turner-Stewart
*Sinead Mooney
Marisa Heath
*Kevin Deanus

Deputy Cabinet Members:

*Maureen Attewell
*Rebecca Paul
*Paul Deach
Jordan Beech

**PART ONE
IN PUBLIC**

136/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Marisa Heath.

137/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 25 JULY 2023 [Item 2]

These were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

138/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were none.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS [Item 4]

139/23 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 4a]

There were four member questions. The questions and responses were published in a supplement to the agenda.

140/23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 4b]

There were four public questions. The questions and responses were published in a supplement to the agenda.

141/23 PETITIONS [Item 4c]

There were none.

142/23 REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED ON REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE [Item 4d]

There were none.

143/23 REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES , TASK GROUPS, LOCAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL [Item 5]

There were none.

144/23 LEADER / DEPUTY LEADER / CABINET MEMBER/ STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST CABINET MEETING [Item 6]

The Cabinet Member for Property and Waste informed members that a decision had been taken so that residents could now bring small amounts of construction waste from do-it-yourself activities free of charge to community recycling centres in accordance with the changes to the Controlled Waste Regulations 2012 as proposed by Government. This would take effect from 1 September 2023.

RESOLVED:

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

145/23 CABINET MEMBER OF THE MONTH [Item 7]

The Cabinet Member for Property and Waste provided the Cabinet with an update on the work she and the services she supports had been undertaking. The following key points were raised:

- The commercial property investment portfolio now consisted of 16 assets, and brings in an annual passing rent of £16.12m. Whilst similar property portfolios had an average running yield of 5.35%, as a result of our successful implementation of strategy to maximise revenue, the council's portfolio was returning 6.85%.
- A Facilities Management (FM) Procurement exercise has been run by Land and Property with separate procurements being held for Hard FM and Soft FM. Mace Operate Ltd had been the successful bidder for both the Hard and Soft FM contracts with service delivery commencing from mid-November. The new operating model would bring benefits including improving the customer experience for service users.
- With regards to capital projects, Children's homes in Epsom and Walton had been completed, a new Shaw Family Contact Centre in Woking had been completed and handed over to operations and the SEND programme would be delivering 234 additional specialist school places by the end of 2023.
- With regards to waste an update was given on the Suez contract which would be extended to 2029. SUEZ had also installed defibrillators at all Surrey community recycling centres.

Members commended the reuse initiatives being utilised at CRCs including donating walking aids collected at community recycling centres to Ukrainian based organisations for use in medical rehabilitation. The Cabinet Member for Children and Families commented that medical aids collected at CRCs were also donated to hospitals and the council's adult social care service. Members commended the vast amount of work being undertaken by the land and property team to deliver education provision and library improvements.

The Leader thanked the Executive Director for Environment, Transport and Infrastructure and the Director for Waste for their negotiations around the Suez contract.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member of the Month update be noted.

146/23 YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN [Item 8]

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families who explained that there was a duty on the local authority to formulate and implement a Youth Justice Plan for Surrey. The plan had been circulated with partners and had been approved by the Surrey's Youth Justice Board. It was explained that the Surrey Youth Justice Service was an ambitious and outcomes-focused service, demonstrating passion and purpose in its approach to reducing offending, supporting children, families and victims and creating a safer environment for Surrey's residents in the process.

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Families welcomed the plan and the work undertaken by the Youth Justice Service and in particular the Targeted Youth Team who start work with young people as soon as they enter custody. The Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment highlighted the work of the Skill Mill which found transformative and inspiring ways to engage with young people through various schemes.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet approves the 2023/24 Youth Justice Plan ahead of its consideration by Full Council on 10 October 2023.

Reasons for Decisions:

An annual youth justice plan is a statutory requirement for local authorities. This plan has been prepared following national guidance from the Youth Justice Board.

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

147/23 2023/24 MONTH 4 (JULY) FINANCIAL REPORT [Item 9]

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources introduced the report explaining that at Month 4, the Council was forecasting an overspend of £21.1m against the 2023/24 revenue budget approved by Council in February 2023. In addition, £19.2m of net risks to the forecast position had been

quantified. Directorates would be taking action to mitigate the forecast overspend and maximise the opportunities to offset risks, in order to contain costs within available budget envelopes. With regards to the Capital position, the Month 4 position showed a forecast spend of £292.1m against a budget of £326.4m, spend of £34.3m less than budget, mainly due to projected slippage in programmes within Highways & Transport and Land & Property. The Cabinet Member highlighted recommendation 2 within the report regarding approval of £3.5m of additional revenue spend.

The Leader stated that the council was facing a challenging economic climate with huge increases in costs due to inflation. The council had managed the budget efficiently over the past 5 years and would be working hard to secure finances over the next few months.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet notes the Council's forecast revenue and capital budget positions for the year and the need for mitigating actions to be developed to offset the projected revenue overspend.
2. That Cabinet approves £3.5m of additional revenue spend (as set out in paragraph 9), in response to the Council's recognition of the need to accelerate the improvements in service delivery in the following specific areas:
 - in-house Intensive Family Support Service
 - Quality Assurance and Performance in childrens' services
 - Surrey LINK Card; and
 - Surrey's street scene

This temporary increase in spend is proposed to be funded from the Council's contingency budget. Ongoing implications of these additional investments will be considered and factored into the 2024/25 budget planning process where appropriate and affordable.

Reasons for Decisions:

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)

148/23 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC [Item 10]

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.

149/23 FUTURE WASTE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SERVICES [Item 11]

The Cabinet Member for Property and Waste introduced the Part 2 report which 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 the authority holding that information) and Paragraph 5: Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet confirms its acceptance of the statement of position with DEFRA.

Reasons for Decisions:

See exempt minute [E-15-23]

(The decisions on this item can be called-in by the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee)

150/23 PROPERTY TRANSACTION- DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY IN EPSOM [Item 12]

The Cabinet Member for Property and Waste introduced the Part 2 report which 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 the authority holding that information).

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet approves the sale of Karibu, Wells House, Spa Drive, Epsom KT18 7LR.

Reasons for Decisions:

See exempt minute [E-16-23]

(The decisions on this item can be called-in by the Resources and Performance Select Committee)

151/23 PUBLICITY FOR PART 2 ITEMS [Item 13]

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

Meeting closed at 14:40

Chairman

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