

CABINET DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken by the Cabinet on Tuesday, 31 January 2023 and will take effect on 09/02/2023 unless the call-in procedure has been triggered.

CALL-IN DEADLINE: 08/02/2023.

The following represents a summary of the decisions taken by the Cabinet. It is intended to represent the formal record of the decisions taken and to facilitate the call-in process. The minutes will be published in due course to site alongside this decision sheet.

Members wishing to request a call-in on any of these matters, should contact the Regulatory Business Manager or relevant Committee Manager.

The Cabinet at its meeting on Tuesday, 31 January 2023 considered the following matters and resolved:

- **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** (Item 1)
Apologies were received from Mark Nuti.
- **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 20 DECEMBER 2022** (Item 2)
These were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.
- **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** (Item 3)
There were none.
- **Members' Questions** (Item 4a)
There were six member questions. The questions and responses were published as a supplement to the agenda.
- **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** (Item 4b)
There were two public questions. The questions and responses were published as a supplement to the agenda.
- **PETITIONS** (Item 4c)
There were none.
- **REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED ON REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE** (Item 4d)
There were none.
- **REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES , TASK GROUPS, LOCAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL** (Item 5)

RESOLVED:

That the three Select Committee reports be noted and recommendations considered.

- **LEADER / DEPUTY LEADER / CABINET MEMBER/ STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST CABINET MEETING (Item 6)**

RESOLVED:

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

- **CABINET MEMBER OF THE MONTH (Item 7)**

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member of the Month update be noted.

- **REFRESH OF THE ORGANISATION STRATEGY 2023- 2028 (Item 8)**

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet commend the updated version of the Organisation Strategy to Council subject to the amendments agreed.

Reasons for Decisions:

The Organisation Strategy is updated at least every two years to ensure that Surrey County Council's plan for delivering under the Community Vision for Surrey 2030 remains up-to-date and relevant to the changes in circumstance of the county.

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

- **2023/24 FINAL BUDGET AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY TO 2027/28 (Item 9)**

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet makes the following recommendations to Council on 7 February 2023.

Cabinet recommends that Council:

1. Approves the net revenue budget requirement be set at **£1,101.5 million** (net cost of services after service specific government grants) for 2023/24 (Annex B), subject to confirmation of the Final Local Government Financial Settlement.
2. Approves the total Council Tax Funding Requirement be set at **£866.0 million** for 2023/24. This is based on a council tax increase of 2.99%, made up of an increase in the level of core council tax of 0.99% and an increase of 2% in the precept proposed by Central Government to cover the growing cost of Adult Social Care (Annex E).
3. Notes that for the purpose of section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council formally determines that the increase in core council tax is not such as to trigger a referendum (i.e. not greater than 3%).
4. Sets the Surrey County Council precept for Band D Council Tax at

£1,675.08, which represents a 2.99% uplift. This is a rise of £0.94 a week from the 2022/23 precept of £1,626.39. This includes £217.94 for the Adult Social Care precept, which has increased by £32.46. A full list of bands is as follows:

**Council tax by valuation band
2023/24**

Valuation band	Core precept	ASC precept	Overall precept
A	£971.43	£145.29	£1,116.72
B	£1,133.33	£169.51	£1,302.84
C	£1,295.24	£193.72	£1,488.96
D	£1,457.14	£217.94	£1,675.08
E	£1,780.95	£266.37	£2,047.32
F	£2,104.76	£314.80	£2,419.56
G	£2,428.57	£363.23	£2,791.80
H	£2,914.28	£435.88	£3,350.16

5. Notes that underlying General Fund Balances are projected to remain at £48 million as of 1 April 2023.
6. Approves the Total Schools Budget of £599.3 million to meet the Council's statutory requirement on schools funding (as set out in Section 9 of the 2023/24 Final Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2027/28).
7. Approves the overall indicative Budget Envelopes for Directorates and individual services for the 2023/24 budget (Annex B).
8. Approves the total £1,950.4 million proposed five-year Capital Programme (comprising £1,202.4 m of budget and £748.0m pipeline) and approves the £308.7 million Capital Budget in 2023/24 (Annex C).
9. Approves the Capital and Investment Strategy (Annex F - Sections 1 to 3), which provides an overview of how risks associated with capital expenditure, financing and treasury will be managed as well as how they contribute towards the delivery of services.
10. Approves the policy for making a prudent level of revenue provision for the repayment of debt (the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy) (Annex G).
11. Agrees the Council's refreshed Transformation and Cross Cutting Efficiency Programme (as set out in section 3 of 2023/24 Final Budget Report and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2027/28)
12. Note that the investment in Transformation required to deliver improved outcomes and financial benefits is built into the proposed Medium-Term Financial Strategy (as set out in section 3 of 2023/24 Final Budget Report and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2027/28).
13. Cabinet notes that the Audit & Governance Committee has approved Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators (Annex F – Section 4) which set a framework for the Council's treasury function to manage risks, source borrowing and invest surplus cash on 24 January 2023.

Reasons for Decisions:

Council will meet on 7 February 2023 to agree a budget and to set the Council

Tax Precept for 2023/24. Cabinet is required to recommend a budget to Council for consideration at this meeting. The budget directs available resources to support the achievement of the Council's ambitions and priorities in the 2030 Vision and the Refreshed Organisation Strategy.

The budget will also support the delivery of the continuing transformational changes that are required to ensure that the Council can improve priority outcomes for residents, while managing growing demand for services and ensuring future financial sustainability.

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

- **SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL PEOPLE STRATEGY 2023- 2028** (Item 10)

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet endorses the direction of travel for the Surrey County Council People Strategy 2023-2028

Reasons for Decisions:

The council's workforce is crucial to delivering the Organisation Strategy for the benefit of Surrey residents and to ensure no one is left behind. Approximately 36% of the council's budget is spent on staffing so it is vital this money is spent wisely on a workforce that performs to its full potential and is inclusive of the communities the council represents. The People Strategy sets out the outcomes needed to deliver this and ensure that outstanding services can continue to be delivered to residents, particularly those who are most vulnerable, in the context of significant financial challenges. It is recommended that the Cabinet endorses the draft People Strategy, in the context of setting the 2023/24 budget and agreeing the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Further work will then be undertaken to finalise the People Strategy and develop a delivery plan setting out the specific actions needed to deliver the four people outcomes and how we will measure our progress.

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

- **THE SURREY SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN AND A LIFETIME OF LEARNING STRATEGY 2030** (Item 11)

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet agrees the approach to secure the ambitions within the Community Vision for Surrey 2030 and the Surrey Skills Plan through collaborative work with stakeholders;
2. That Cabinet endorses the School Organisation Plan 2022-2032 which will meet our statutory duties to ensure that there are sufficient high-quality places for pupils in Surrey and refer it to Council for approval (**Annex A**)
3. That Cabinet agrees the principles to be adopted in the light of falling birth rates across Surrey and growing vacant school places (**Annex A**).

Reasons for Decisions:

In a changing education landscape, it is imperative to bring all education providers

in Surrey together to secure a shared vision based on collaboration that meets the needs of all our learners.

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

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

- **SURREY INCLUSION AND ADDITIONAL NEEDS STRATEGY (Item 12)**

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet endorses the Inclusion and Additional Needs Strategy 2023-26 and in doing so approves the following ambition statement for children with additional needs and disabilities:

“Our aspiration is to enable Surrey children and young people aged 0-25 with additional needs and / or disabilities to lead the best possible life. This strategy sets out our ambition that all Surrey children and young people with additional needs and/or disabilities and their families:

- *are heard and are involved in the decisions that affect them*
- *achieve positive outcomes, including the opportunity to lead healthy lives*
- *develop positive relationships*
- *learn and achieve their educational potential, and*
- *become increasingly independent where possible and flourish within their community.*

To achieve this, we will work in partnership with families and colleagues across education, health, social care and the third sector to:

- *improve experiences and outcomes for children, young people and their families and ensure that no-one is left behind*
- *be a champion for children and young people with additional needs and/or disabilities*
- *ensure children and young people are rooted in Surrey and educated locally, wherever possible*
- *learn from our feedback and continue our improvement journey”.*

Reasons for Decisions:

It is a requirement of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated SEND Code of Practice to “ensure that all children and young people are able to access the right support and provision to meet their needs”.

The Inclusion and Additional Needs Strategy 2023-26 replaces the Surrey ‘SEND’ Partnership Strategy 2019-2022 and underpins the additional needs and disabilities transformation programme. The strategy sets out the commitment of the partnership to work together to enable all children with additional needs and disabilities in Surrey to thrive and achieve their full potential.

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

- **FOSTER CARE REMUNERATION (Item 13)**

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet considers the business case and approves the investment to improve remuneration to Surrey County Council Foster Carers.
2. That Cabinet approves the request to back-date the improved remuneration package to 1 January 2023.

Reasons for Decisions:

The proposed investment will bring the allowances and fees paid to Surrey County Council foster carers more in line with competitors; this is an essential component of addressing current and future issues of recruitment and retention of foster carers.

The Council needs to increase in-house fostering capacity and reduce the number of children who have to be placed with Independent Agency foster carers. Placement with independent carers, or in residential care is more expensive and more likely to be at greater distance from Surrey than in-house foster care.

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

- **ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SURREY'S COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024 AND SURREY'S RELEVANT AREA (Item 14)**

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet RECOMMENDS that County Council agree:

1. That the catchment for Southfield Park Primary School is extended for 2024 admission to include the Parkview estate as a replacement for 'nearest school', as indicated in Enclosure 1 and Appendix 3 of Enclosure 1.
2. That the tiebreaker within catchment for Southfield Park Primary School is changed to straight line distance from the school for 2024 admission, as indicated in Enclosure 1.
3. That a catchment area is introduced for Stamford Green Primary School for 2024 admission to replace 'nearest school', as set out in Enclosure 1 and Appendix 4 of Enclosure 1.
4. That the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Reception at Beauclerc Infant School is reduced from 40 to 30 for 2024 admission, as set out in Appendix 1 of Enclosure 1.
5. That the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Reception at Farncombe Infant School is reduced from 50 to 30 for 2024 admission, as set out in Appendix 1 of Enclosure 1.
6. That the change to the Published Admission Number (PAN) and admission criteria for Year 3 at St Ann's Heath Junior School is not

progressed, so that the admission arrangements for this school remain as determined for 2023, as set out in Enclosure 1 and Appendix 1 and 2 of Enclosure 1.

7. That the Published Admission Numbers (PANs) for September 2024 for all other community and voluntary controlled schools (except Beauclerc and Farncombe infant schools which are covered by Recommendations 4 and 5) are determined as they are set out in Appendix 1 of Enclosure 1.
8. That the aspects of Surrey's admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2024 for which no change has been consulted on, are agreed as set out in Enclosure 1 and its appendices.
9. That Surrey's Relevant Area is agreed as set out in Enclosure 4.

Reasons for Decisions:

Recommendation 1

- The removal of 'nearest school' will bring the admission criteria into line with the remaining community and voluntary controlled schools
- It will ensure that the admission arrangements for this school comply with the School Admissions Code
- It will simplify the admission arrangements
- It will enable parents to better understand how their application will be considered
- It will ensure the Parkview estate is still served by the school, which is the area that 'nearest school' was originally introduced to serve
- There are no other changes to the catchment boundary
- It is expected to have minimal impact on the intake to the school
- Where children might be displaced, a place at an alternative local school will be available
- The final distance criterion will still exist which will enable remaining applicants to be prioritised based on the distance they live from the school, ensuring children who live closer to the school are allocated ahead of children who live further away
- It is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school

Recommendation 2

- Based on current application numbers and forecasts, all children living within catchment who want a place are expected to be offered and so this change should not alter the intake
- It will reduce likelihood of error by removing a process that needs to be carried out manually
- It will reduce the resource and expertise needed to maintain the waiting list for this school
- It is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school

Recommendation 3

- The removal of 'nearest school' will bring the admission criteria into line with the remaining community and voluntary controlled schools
- It will ensure that the admission arrangements for this school comply with the School Admissions Code
- It will simplify the admission arrangements
- It will enable parents to better understand how their application will be considered

- It will ensure most children who would ordinarily be offered the school are not displaced in favour of children who have another school that is nearer, especially those living on the Noble Park and Wells estates
- It is expected to have minimal impact on the intake to the school
- Where children might be displaced, a place at an alternative local school will be available
- The final distance criterion will still exist which will enable remaining applicants to be prioritised based on the distance they live from the school, ensuring children who live outside catchment but closer to the school are allocated ahead of children who live further away
- It is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school

Recommendation 4

- It is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school, having been requested by them
- It is supported by Surrey's Education Place Planning team
- There will still be sufficient places for local children if the PAN is decreased
- It will help the school maintain financial viability as they will be able to operate with just one class
- It will have no impact on children who are currently on roll at the school

Recommendation 5

- It is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school, having been requested by them
- It is supported by Surrey's Education Place Planning team
- There will still be sufficient places for local children if the PAN is decreased
- It will help the school maintain financial viability as they will be able to operate with just one class
- It will have no impact on children who are currently on roll at the school

Recommendation 6

- This change was subject to it being agreed for Meadowcroft Infant School to become an all through primary school by the end of December 2022. As this decision is not now expected to be made until February 2023, it is not yet possible to change the arrangements for St Ann's Heath Junior School
- If it is agreed to expand Meadowcroft Infant School into a primary school in February 2023, the local authority will consider submitting an in year variation to vary the admission arrangements for 2024 in line with the consultation

Recommendation 7

- Most other PANs remain as they were determined for 2023 which enables parents to have some historical benchmark by which to make informed decisions about their school preferences for 2024 admission
- The PAN for Ash Manor has been increased from 240 to 270 as part of a school expansion
- The Education Place Planning team supports the PANs

Recommendation 8

- The admission arrangements are working well
- The arrangements enable the majority of pupils to attend a local school and in doing so reduce travel and support Surrey's sustainability policies
- The changes highlighted in bold in Section 12, Section 15 and Section 21 of Enclosure 1 have been made to add clarity to the arrangements and

reflect existing practice

Recommendation 9

- The local authority is required by law to define the Relevant Area for admissions
- The Relevant Area must be consulted upon and agreed every two years even if no changes are proposed
- Setting a Relevant Area ensures that any schools who might be affected by changes to the admission arrangements for other local schools will be made aware of those changes
- No change has been made to Surrey's Relevant Area since it was last determined in February 2021

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

- **GODSTONE AND MERROW HIGHWAYS DEPOTS - REPLACEMENT SALT BARNs** (Item 15)

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet approves capital funding from the Highways Depot Strategy budget and pipeline (total £16.5m) for the development and construction of two new salt barns, one at Godstone and one at Merrow. The design and build costs are commercially sensitive at this time and are set out in the Part 2 report.
2. That Cabinet approves procurement of appropriate supply chain partners to deliver the design, build and fit out of the two new structures in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Standing Orders.
3. That Cabinet notes that, regarding the procurement of supply chain partners, the Executive Director for Resources and the Director of Land and Property are authorised to award such contracts, up to +5% of the budgetary tolerance level.

Reasons for Decisions:

It is essential to provide salt barns at both Merrow and Godstone Depots in order to:

- Provide fit for purpose, long-term facilities for the Council's Highways department to provide its critical services, and statutory Health and Safety requirement of gritting highways in winter weather.
- The services provided by Highways are essential for enabling safer travel across the county for residents, businesses and visitors.
- Ensures the Service has the right facilities in the optimum locations to deliver its services, within agreed response times.

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

- **YOUR FUND SURREY APPLICATION -THE OXSHOTT COMMUNITY HUB**
(Item 16)

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet agrees to fund project CF147 for the full amount requested of £1,187,817 towards the creation of The Oxshott Community Hub.

Reasons for Decisions:

This application has been the subject of a rigorous assessment by officers who consider the project to meet the aims and published criteria of the fund and to satisfy the requirements to award funding.

The existing scout and guide hut is not fit for purpose and not utilised to its' full potential by the local community due to its' poor state. Rebuilding the building would create an environmentally friendly hub for use by the whole community, including the scouts and guides.

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

- **2022/23 MONTH 8 (NOVEMBER) FINANCIAL REPORT** (Item 17)

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet notes the Council's forecast revenue and capital budget positions for the year, including the use of the contingency budget and the commitment to develop Directorate budget recovery plans.

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)

- **GODSTONE AND MERROW HIGHWAYS DEPOTS - REPLACEMENT SALT BARNs** (Item 19)

RESOLVED:

See Exempt Minute [E-01-23]

Reasons for Decisions:

See Minute 18/23.

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

- **FUTURE WASTE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SERVICES** (Item 20)

RESOLVED:

See Exempt Minute [E-02-23]

Reasons for Decisions:

See Exempt Minute [E-02-23]

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

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