



LEADER REPORT TO COUNCIL

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL PROGRESS REPORT JULY – DECEMBER 2013

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

To consider the attached report and the matters to which the Chief Executive draws attention.

BACKGROUND:

1. This is the ninth of the Chief Executive's six-monthly reports to Members but the first to the current Council. It provides an **overview of the Council's progress** over the past six months and the challenges ahead.
2. I regularly meet staff and residents and see the wide range of important work the Council does and the **positive impact it has on people's lives**. This report brings together these examples and confirms that **the Council has continued to perform strongly**.
3. There is no doubt that the challenges ahead will continue to get tougher. Rapidly **rising demands for services** - along with Government funding and policy changes - mean we have to accelerate our efforts to find new and better approaches, while maintaining our critical day to day responsibilities.
4. The Corporate Strategy approved by Council in July is called *Confident in Our Future*. **Despite the challenges ahead I remain confident**. Our work to date has put us in a strong position.
5. The Council has **set a strategic direction for the next four years** and progress is already being made on our key goals for residents. Our track record of improvement means we now have a stronger voice at a regional and national level and can **argue the case for Surrey and its residents**. And we have continued to work more closely and effectively as **one team with residents and partners**.
6. Over the coming months we must remain true to our strategy, stay focussed on **our goals for residents** and further strengthen our one team approach. We also need to continue to **learn and improve** when we do not get things right.
7. Amidst the difficult challenges there are **exciting opportunities ahead** for the Council and the county. I look forward to working with all Members over the coming months to realise these opportunities and ensure we continue to improve services and value for residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Council notes the report of the Chief Executive, thanks staff for the progress made during the last six months, and confirms its support for the direction of travel.

David Hodge, Leader of the Council, 020 8541 8003

Sources/background papers:

Confident in our Future, Corporate Strategy 2013-18, report to Council 16 July 2013