

CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

MAY / JUNE 2014

**(i) Funding and delivering Infrastructure in partnership:
Memorandum of Understanding between Elmbridge Borough
Council and Surrey County Council**

Details of decision

1. That the Memorandum of Understanding with Elmbridge Borough Council, as set out in Annex A of the submitted report, be approved and signed.
2. That future similar Memorandum of Understandings relating to the delivery of infrastructure be delegated to the Strategic Director Environment & Infrastructure in consultation with relevant Cabinet Members and the Chairman of the Local Committee.

Reasons for decision

The Borough and District Councils and Surrey County Council plan and deliver significant amounts of infrastructure. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a new and flexible source of funding that provides an opportunity to improve the way infrastructure is planned, funded and delivered in partnership.

(Decision of Leader of the Council – 20 May 2014)

(ii) Allocation of Surrey Growth Fund 2014/15

Details of decision

That the Deputy Leader agreed the recommended programme of economic development activity in Annex A of the agenda papers to be funded through the Surrey Growth Fund in the financial year 2014-15.

Reasons for decision

The activities outlined support the aims and objectives of the SGF. The proposed programme of activity will also enable the Council to support the delivery of the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP)'s Strategic Economic Plans (SEPs) which will deliver local sustainable economic growth.

The approach will assist the council in achieving the One County, One Team Corporate Strategy 2012-17 (as endorsed by Cabinet on 31 January 2012 and by full Council on 7 February 2012), which includes a specific priority to make Surrey's economy strong and competitive.

(Decision of Deputy Leader – 4 June 2014)

(iii) Extension of Short Break Contracts for Children with Disabilities

Details of decision

The extension of the Disability Challengers contract for six months from 1 April 2014 until 30 September 2014 be approved.

Reasons for decision

Children's Social Services are seeking permission to the fund the Disability Challengers Contract for a further six months, from 1 April to 30 September 2014, when new contracts will be place under the Short Breaks Framework. This is to ensure a continuity of service and so that children and young people with disabilities and their families are not adversely affected by the delay. Without this extension the short break provider will not have enough time to recruit staff and plan for their busiest period in the summer holidays.

(Decision of Cabinet Member for Children and Families – 4 June 2014)

(iv) Adoption of High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan

Details of decision

That the High Weald AONB Management Plan for 2014-2019 is adopted.

Reasons for decision

If the County Council does not adopt the plan then the Council would be in breach of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and would be expected to produce its own review of the management plan to cover the area of the AONB in Surrey.

(Decision of Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning – 4 June 2014)

(v) Petition – Lyne and Long Cross School

Details of decision

That the response attached as an Appendix be agreed.

Reasons for decision

To respond to the petition.

(Decision of Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning – 12 June 2014)

(vi) Sayes Court Primary School: Expansion

Details of decision

That the proposal to expand Sayes Court Primary School from one to two forms of entry by September 2015 be approved, subject to planning permission and timescales required for the successful delivery of the building work.

Reasons for decision

There have been no formal representations since the publication of the notices and in effect there is no new information for the Cabinet Member to consider. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in Surrey. Demand for school places has increased significantly in Runnymede in recent years. Expansions have been commissioned at a number of primary schools in Runnymede including Darley Dene Infant School, Trumps Green Infant School, St Ann's Heath Junior School, Lyne and Longcross Church of England Infant School and Thorpe Church of England Infant School. Even with these additional places, most primary schools in Runnymede are expected to be full and to continue to be full in the future and more schools places are needed.

(Decision of Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning – 12 June 2014)

(vii) Stanwell Fields CofE VC Primary School: a proposal from the Governing Body

Details of decision

The Cabinet Member gave due consideration of all the issues and determined that Stanwell Fields VC Primary School should change category to Voluntary Aided.

Reasons for decision

The school has put forward this proposal for a number of reasons; its overall premise being that it believes it will benefit from greater independence as a Voluntary Aided School. A key perceived benefit is that the Diocese of London has undertaken to commit to a programme of capital maintenance using its Local Education Authority Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP) budget to improve the building stock and facilities at the school.

(Decision of Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning – 12 June 2014)

‘We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to stop the demolition and expansion of Lyne and Long Cross School’

Presented by Stephen Craig

Further Details of petition:

I'm sure you are aware of the planned expansion to Lyne and Longcross School from 90 pupils to 210, which includes the demolition of the existing school house. The main reason for our disapproval is the traffic mayhem that will happen should this take place.

With morning and afternoon school runs, comes traffic chaos which we are all very used to (with only 90 pupils at the school). Cars park along Lyne Lane from the Fangrove Park entrance to the school, making it very difficult for passing traffic. We are now told that the school is to increase by 120 pupils and 8 more staff (???), with no car traffic management scheme in place, and car parking on the school grounds reduced to 4 spaces.

The existing character school building is to be replaced by an uncharacteristic and unsympathetic building closer to Lyne Lane with no character for this part of Lyne village which sit next to the grade II listed Holy Trinity Church.

This is a very important local matter which has not been thought though and your support could make Surrey County Council think before they make a big mistake.

RESPONSE

The School appreciates the current parking problems during the pick-up and drop-off periods albeit this is often an issue associated with school sites. There is also concern that, if appropriate measures are not put in place, these problems could be exacerbated with the proposed expansion of the School. This is why the School will be implementing a School Travel Plan with a comprehensive and robust set of measures aimed at reducing car use and encouraging walking and cycling where possible.

Measures for pupils who are able to walk or cycle will include 'Walk to School Week', Surrey County Council's 'Golden Boot Challenge', Road Safety and pedestrian training activities and 'Bikeability' training for the older pupils. New cycle stands and scooter pods will also be provided as part of construction.

For those who are unable to walk or cycle due to the distance they live away from the School (and it is accepted that the schools location is not widely accessible given its rural location), Surrey County Council's 'Park Smart' scheme will be implemented to bring greater awareness of safe and considerate parking by parents. Parents will also be encouraged to car share with their friends whenever possible and assistance will be provided if they would like to car share but don't know any parents on their route to School. The School is also proposing to use the Village Hall car park as a drop-off / pick-up point for a Walking Bus and Park 'n' Stride scheme, which all parents will be encouraged to use and which should help ease any future problems as the school grows.

The School Travel Plan sets targets for reducing travel by car over the next 4 years. If the School is not achieving its targets, a review will be carried out into the reasons why existing measures may not be working effectively and recovery measures may be implemented, such as staggered drop-off and pick-up times.

It is important to bear in mind that when a School expands from Infant to primary, it increases the proportion of siblings attending the School. We estimate that at least 30 additional trips could be saved as a result of the increase in siblings and the reduction in the numbers of parents picking up and dropping off at infant/junior provision.

With regard to staff parking, whilst the School car park will officially have 4 designated spaces, it is expected that a further two staff could be accommodated within the car park. Staff will also be asked to park considerately and off-street, such as the Church car park or Village Hall car park, where possible. As part of the School Travel Plan, measures will also be introduced to reduce travel by car by members of staff, including the setting up of a car sharing database and priority spaces for those staff who car share. A travel survey of staff was recently carried out and the response to car sharing was very positive, with 44% of staff saying that they would like to car share. A variety of other measures are also proposed to encourage those members of staff who could walk or cycle if combined with or without public transport to do so.

Other school sites were considered when considering how to provide much needed additional junior places in the area but for a number of reasons these were not possible. Surrey County Council has a policy of creating primary provision from infant and junior provision where there is a basic need case that provides the opportunity, and throughout the consultation phase this proposal was very popular with parents and local schools.

Mrs Linda Kemeny
Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning
12 June 2014

