



LEADER REPORT TO COUNCIL

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL PROGRESS REPORT
JULY – DECEMBER 2014**

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

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

BACKGROUND:

1. This is the eleventh of the Chief Executive's six-monthly reports to Members. It provides an **overview of the Council's progress** over the past six months and the challenges ahead.
2. Once again the report includes a number of inspiring case studies that capture the **positive impact our work has on people's lives day in day out**. I know from my visits around the county that there are many other fantastic examples.
3. This report confirms that **the Council has continued to perform strongly** - fulfilling all its critical day-to-day responsibilities while continuing to develop creative solutions to longer term strategic challenges.
4. The Chief Executive once again highlights the pressures we face of reduced resources coupled with rising demand for our services. We will continue to press Government on Surrey's **strong case for fairer funding and increased local powers** to unlock the flexibility and freedoms we need to help tackle them.
5. In spite of this, our achievements to date confirm we are on the right track. It will get tougher to stay ahead of the pressures we identified, but **I am confident we can succeed**. This comes from the progress we've made through our "one team" approach.
6. Over the next six months we will be spreading and strengthening the "one team" approach. We will continue to work with partners and residents so we focus on shaping better outcomes for places and people. It also means making sure **all staff and Members can make positive contributions** to improving what we do, and finding new innovative solutions.
7. I look forward to working with all Members over the coming months as **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.

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Sources/background papers: *Confident in our Future*, Corporate Strategy 2014-19, report to Council, 11 February 2014

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