

*County Council Meeting – 9 December 2014*

## REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 21 October and 25 November 2014.

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 21 October 2014 meeting are included within the agenda at item 13. The minutes of the 25 November 2014 meeting will be circulated separately. Cabinet responses to Committee reports are included in or appended to the minutes. 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 8 December 2014).

For members of the public all non-confidential reports are available on the web site ([www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk)) or on request from Democratic Services.

### 1. STATEMENTS/UPDATES FROM CABINET MEMBERS

None.

### 2. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

*21 October 2014*

#### A SURREY EDUCATIONAL TRUST

1. On 1 April 2004, Surrey County Council and VT Education and Skills Limited formed a joint venture company (VT Four S Limited, now Babcock 4S) for the delivery of educational services to the local authority, Surrey schools and beyond.
2. The Surrey Educational Trust was established as a Company Limited by Guarantee in 2010, to distribute a proportion of the earnings generated through the joint venture between Surrey County Council and Babcock 4S. The purpose of the Trust is to provide support to Surrey state funded schools, educational projects and organisations for the benefit of children, young people and learners from Surrey.
3. The trustees appointed were as follows:
  - Two appointed by Surrey County Council;

- One Headteacher from each of the Primary, Secondary and Special phases within Surrey as nominated by the relevant Phase Council;
  - One Surrey Governor as nominated by the Surrey Governors' Association;
  - Two appointed by Babcock 4S; and
  - One appointed by the Professional Associations/Trade Unions.
4. The Trust invites bids up to twice a year from Surrey state funded schools, educational projects and organisations. The Trust allocates grants to projects across the county in line with its criteria, with a particular focus on those supporting the core themes of:
- Leadership development.
  - Extending educational opportunity.
  - Increasing young people's resilience and personal growth.
  - Modern Foreign Languages.
  - English as an Additional Language.
  - Promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.
5. Reporting the activity of the Trust to Cabinet demonstrated a continuing investment in improving outcomes for Surrey's children and young people. It also ensured greater public accountability and transparency about how the funds were used to support projects of an educational nature. To date the funding allocated to the Trust by the County Council was £1,213,003.07.
- 6. The Cabinet agreed:**

That the projects funded through the Surrey Education Trust, to date, be noted.

## **B CREATION OF A JOINT TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE WITH BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

1. The implementation of the Public Value Review of Trading Standards in 2012 delivered several service improvements. It also produced savings of 20% (including a 50% reduction in management costs). Further Medium Term Financial Plan savings of 4% have been achieved in Trading Standards this financial year. The Public Value Review recognised that future efficiencies would need to come from sharing services, and from increasing income.
2. This proposal was a natural continuation from the Public Value Review and recommended the creation of a new joint Trading Standards Service between Surrey and Buckinghamshire. The new service would provide an enhanced service for residents and businesses in both counties. It would also ensure future service resilience, whilst at the same time reducing costs. The cashable savings equate to approximately 12% of the joint service delivery costs by year 4. The alternative in each service would be

to make service delivery reductions which would reduce both the protection for residents and the support for local businesses.

3. A business case was written which summarised the benefits of a new joint service for residents and for businesses. It also provided further detail on the financial benefits and income generation projections. This approach enabled the savings required by the Medium Term Financial Plan to be made without damaging front line services.
4. The business case demonstrated how a joint service with Buckinghamshire would:
  - Share expertise and best practice and ensure greater resilience to cope with unforeseen challenges, such as animal disease outbreaks, large scale investigations, complex frauds, or illness or loss of key officers and their specialist technical knowledge.
  - Reduce costs through sharing resources, including IT and databases, intelligence and specialist financial, legal and other roles that could cover the wider service area more economically.
  - Eliminate duplication, by needing to do things once rather than twice in two different places e.g. Enforcement Policies, Enforcement Concordat, RIPA, Funding Bids etc.
  - Build on the successes and innovation within the current services to maximize the potential benefits e.g. income generation from business services, systems thinking, developing volunteering, maximizing prevention through social media and other means helping to further enhance the local reach and impact of the service.
  - Reduce costs by operating jointly, for example by reducing management costs, and by bringing services currently commissioned elsewhere (because of lack of capacity and skills) back in house as the council builds that capacity and competence in a new joint service.
  - Enhance the national and regional profile and impact of the Trading Standards service. Increasing the influence we can have on policy making to ensure residents and local businesses are represented.
  - Increase income generation from specialist services for businesses and in securing additional external funding. The business case provides more detail of how this will be achieved, but one key element will be selling more services to businesses, such as the highly successful and valued Primary Authority Partnerships with local businesses.
5. A Project Board has overseen the development of the proposal. This Board recommends Governance arrangements via a Joint Committee which would have responsibility for the service delegated to it from

Surrey and Buckinghamshire. This would be underpinned by an “Inter Authority Agreement” (IAA) setting out the legal arrangements for the partnership. The authorities would also need to agree the Standing Orders which would apply to any meetings of the Joint Committee. These can be decided upon alongside the IAA.

6. The joint service would remain subject to the scrutiny of the relevant Select Committees in both Surrey and in Buckinghamshire.

**7. The Cabinet agreed:**

1. The proposal to create a new Joint Trading Standards Service with Buckinghamshire County Council with effect from 1 April 2015 be approved.
2. That the executive functions of the Council, which are within the remit of the Trading Standards service, shall be discharged by a newly constituted Joint Committee to be established with Buckinghamshire County Council with effect from 1 April 2015 be agreed.
3. That the Joint Committee will comprise one Cabinet Member from each partner authority, together with another member from each who may attend regularly in an optional advisory and supportive capacity but who would not form part of the Joint Committee itself be agreed.
4. The responsibility for agreeing the detail of an Inter Authority Agreement with Buckinghamshire, and other related issues including establishing the Standing Orders for the Joint Committee, be delegated to the Strategic Director for Customers and Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Services.
5. The responsibility to amend the Council’s Constitution to reflect the changes arising from the report be delegated to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services.

**C ENDORSEMENT OF THE SURREY HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY (AONB) MANAGEMENT PLAN**

1. The Surrey Hills AONB is one of 37 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England. It covers 25% of the county and was one of the first landscapes to be designated in 1958. This is a landscape designation for the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty, which is equal in status to National Parks in planning terms.
2. Under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000, the constituent local authorities in each AONB have a statutory duty to produce and review AONB management plans. Where the AONB

stretches across more than one local authority, for practical purposes local authorities work in partnership to produce a joint plan.

3. The Surrey Hills AONB extends across 6 constituent local authorities, including Surrey County Council, Guildford, Mole Valley, Waverley, Tandridge, and Reigate and Banstead. In conjunction with these authorities, Surrey County Council devolved the responsibility to the Surrey Hills Partnership, known as the Surrey Hills AONB Board. The Board is constitutionally a joint committee. The County Council is represented on the Board by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning.
4. The Surrey Hills AONB Management Plan 2009-2014 was adopted by Surrey County Council on 17 February 2009. Under the CRoW Act local authorities are obliged to review management plans every 5 years and this plan is now due for review.
5. The previous Management Plan had a Strategic Delivery Plan which sets out the objectives, and the activities that were measured to monitor the delivery of the plan and demonstrate its overall success. The AONB Unit has established three additional vehicles to deliver the management plan, Surrey Hills Enterprises, The Surrey Hills Society, and Surrey Hills Community Foundation. These three organisations are now represented on the AONB Board and are in the process of collaborating on the new Strategic Delivery Plan for the 2014-19 period. The Delivery Plan will tie all the organisations into delivering the actions in the plan and the Surrey Hills Board will take the lead in monitoring the implementation of the Plan.
6. The management plan needs to be adopted by each Local Planning Authority as the statutory plan which sets out the management of the Surrey Hills AONB, and demonstrates their compliance with the statutory duty to have regard to the purpose of the designation of the AONB when undertaking their functions.
7. **The Cabinet agreed:**

That the review of the AONB Management Plan be adopted as the statutory AONB Management Plan for the Surrey Hills for the period 2014 to 2019.

**Mr David Hodge  
Leader of the Council  
28 November 2014**

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