

County Council Meeting – 10 February 2015

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 16 December 2014 and 3 February 2015. The report from the meeting held on 3 February 2015 will be circulated following that meeting.

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 16 December 2014 meeting are included within the agenda at item 10. The minutes of the 3 February 2015 meeting will be submitted to the next County Council meeting. 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 9 February 2015).

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

1. STATEMENTS/UPDATES FROM CABINET MEMBERS

Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning Statement in relation to Youth Collective, Surrey County Council's newly formed Youth Parliament

A key question which faces today's society is how do we get more young people involved in decision making processes and governance? Young people should be given the opportunity to voice their concerns on issues that impact upon their well-being and contribution to their community. Surrey County Council's newly formed youth parliament, Youth Collective, aims to do exactly this.

As a young person led inclusive, representative and democratic body, it is a forum for young people to SPEAK, DO and IMPROVE and strive to make positive change- not only for those involved but for the whole community. Not only will Youth Collective give young people a voice on issues that are important to them, it will promote young people's involvement in the wider democratic process.

Young people aged between 11 and 19, or 25 if they have special educational needs, are able to get involved with Youth Collective. They must live, work or be educated within one of our boroughs and districts. Elections to the first Youth Collective were held in November 2014 - Woking was the most competitive borough at 172 votes. The elections returned 11 democratically elected young people with between 5 and 10 nominated representatives from minority groups such as young carers, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender) and looked after children.

In January, all the members attended a residential at High Ashurst Outdoor Education Centre. The aim of the weekend was to build team morale, improve skills and set campaigns for the coming year. It was clear that all the young people shared the same vision and wanted to make a difference to the services on offer to young people within Surrey. The young people decided upon anti-bullying, anti-discrimination,

better access to services and stability for young people in care to be the campaigns for Youth Collective 2015.

Over the coming months, the young people will plan their campaigns and take action to achieve them. Garath Symonds, Assistant Director for Young People and Clare Curran, Cabinet Associate will act as an intermediary between Surrey County Council and Youth Collective. The young people will also have the opportunity to attend cabinet and select committee meetings if and when appropriate as well as engaging with Youth Task Groups and local committees in their area.

It is only just the beginning for Youth Collective. There is a lot to look forward to as the group begins to form its own identity and find its place in the decision making process within Surrey County Council.

Linda Kemeny
Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning
29 January 2015

2. RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS

A CONFIDENT IN OUR FUTURE, CORPORATE STRATEGY 2015 – 2020

The Cabinet will be considering Confident in our Future, Corporate Strategy 2015 – 2020 at its meeting on 3 February 2015. A copy of the Cabinet report is attached as an Appendix 1 to this report and the recommendation arising from the Cabinet's meeting will be circulated as a supplementary paper.

B REVISED MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (MWDS)

1. The Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (the Scheme) is the County Council's public statement of its planning policy documents and its programme for revising these documents. A revision to the Scheme is required primarily because the Surrey Waste Plan will need to be reviewed in the foreseeable future and the Scheme therefore needs to set out a programme for the review of the Waste Plan.
2. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that local plans are to be prepared which set out the manner in which development and use of land should take place in a planning authority's area and that they should be kept up to date. In Surrey, the County Council is responsible for the minerals and waste development framework which provides the minerals and waste planning policy in Surrey. The main documents are the Surrey Minerals Plan 2011(SMP) and the Surrey Waste Plan 2008 (SWP).
3. When determining planning applications the County Council as County Planning Authority must have regard to these plans, so far as material to the application, and any other material considerations. It is important, therefore, that these plans are consistent with current policy and legislation and remain fit for purpose.
4. The Scheme originally came into effect on 11 April 2005. Subsequent revisions were necessary in October 2006, March and December 2007, December 2008

and October 2011. These revisions have mainly related to the progress of the Surrey Minerals and Waste plans to their respective adoption stages.

5. Changes to the Scheme are necessary for a number of reasons but primarily as a result of the need to review the Surrey Waste Plan in the foreseeable future and therefore to set out a programme for its review. The proposed revised Scheme is attached as **Appendix 2**.
6. The Cabinet **recommended** that:

That the revised Minerals and Waste Development Scheme, as set out in Appendix 2, be approved.

3. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

16 December 2014

A SURREY LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

1. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (hereafter the Act) identified risk management authorities - bodies with an interest in flood risk management. The County, in its role as Lead Local Flood Authority, is responsible for the management of flood risk associated with surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses, with the Environment Agency having an overseeing role in this as well as their responsibility for managing the flood risk associated with main rivers. The organisations involved include:
 - The Environment Agency
 - County Councils and Unitary Authorities (lead local flood authorities)
 - Highway Authorities
 - District and Borough Councils
 - Water Companies
 - Internal Drainage Boards
2. In recognition of this, Surrey County Council established the Surrey Flood Risk Partnership Board (hereafter the Partnership Board). All Surrey District and Borough Councils have joined and it includes senior officer representatives from the Environment Agency and Thames Water.
3. The Board also includes Surrey's Local Resilience Forum and Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and other key partners
4. The Partnership Board has overseen the development of the Strategy which is a requirement under the Act, for Surrey County Council to produce as Lead Local Flood Authority for the County.
5. The Strategy followed guidance set out in the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy 2011 and laid out high level ambitions. It will be a statutory document that Surrey's risk management authorities must pay heed to.
6. The Act requires Surrey County Council to develop a strategy for 'local flood risk'. That is, from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses i.e.

smaller rivers and streams. The Partnership Board has developed an integrated strategy across all flood risks.

7. The Strategy is supported by Surrey County Council's drainage strategy, wetspots programme and other strategies and plans produced by Surrey's risk management authorities including the Environment Agency, sewerage undertakers (water companies) and District and Borough Councils.
8. The Environment Agency has undertaken a review of the significant winter flood incidents in 2013/14 associated with the main rivers in Surrey and Surrey County Council is currently carrying out Section 19 reports into the flooding incidents associated with surface water, groundwater and watercourse flooding. This is required under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The Surrey Flood Risk Partnership Board will review the Section 19 reports over the coming year. Surrey's risk management authorities will need to address the concerns raised in the reports.
9. **The Cabinet agreed:**
 1. That the Surrey Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and action plan be approved and adopted as set out in the appendices of the submitted Cabinet report.
 2. That active engagement be undertaken with all risk management authorities through the Surrey Flood Risk Partnership Board.
 3. That the Council publicises the findings of the Flood and Water Management Section 19 investigations on the Council's external website.

B THE AGREEMENT WITH SURREY WILDLIFE TRUST (SWT) FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S COUNTRYSIDE ESTATE

1. A review was recently undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the Agreement and to set out changes which will improve the outcomes. Key areas of focus have been the management of built property, management of the woodlands and the opportunity to improve visitor facilities and generate income from the Estate. Attention on these areas will, in turn, help to move the management of the Estate to a self funding position, providing improvements for visitors and reducing costs.
2. The County Council's Countryside Estate comprises 6,206 acres (2,514 hectares) of land owned by the County Council, with a further 2,538 acres (1,028 hectares) managed under Access Agreements. The Estate has five farms, woodland, heathland and downland held by the County Council for public benefit, recreation and landscape conservation.
3. Following a procurement process to find a suitable partner to work with, a fifty year Agreement to manage the Countryside Estate was signed with SWT in 2002, which included a financial formula. The formula allowed for an incremental reduction in SCC's contribution that resulted in a £300,000 reduction in the base contribution between 2007 and 2012. The current review set out to establish the effectiveness of that Agreement.

4. A Countryside Management Task Group was set up by the Environment and Transport Select Committee in July 2012. The key recommendations which relate to the Agreement with Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) are set out below:
 - (i) The Strategic Director for Environment and Infrastructure reviews the contract between Surrey Wildlife Trust and Surrey County Council. This review should include:
 - All aspects of the contract;
 - The development and measurement of more clearly defined outputs that ensure value for money;
 - A review of the governance arrangements and;
 - The development of a communication strategy to promote the benefit of the partnership arrangements to Members of the County Council and Surrey residents.
 - (ii) Specific management plans are created for iconic locations in Surrey. These locations include such sites as Newlands Corner and Ockham. The plans will develop improved visitor facilities to encourage people to stay longer and enjoy the sites. In addition, it is planned to make local produce more available to a wider customer base through countryside sites. A programme of consultation will allow stakeholders to suggest improvements and comment on these plans.
5. Surrey County Council has drawn up a set of terms for the ongoing Agreement with Surrey Wildlife Trust, which are:
 - SCC financial contributions
 - Governance
 - Financial and Risk Mechanism
 - Property Management
 - Development Plans
 - Woodlands
 - Performance Indicators
6. **The Cabinet agreed:**
 1. That the proposed changes to the Agreement, as set out in the submitted Cabinet report, be noted.
 2. That the details of the proposed changes to the Agreement be worked up by the Assistant Director of Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning.
 3. That a further report recommending the draft final terms for the Amended Agreement be brought to Cabinet for approval in April 2015.

C QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 1 OCTOBER – 31 DECEMBER 2014

1. The Cabinet is required under the Constitution to report to Council on a quarterly basis the details of decisions taken by the Cabinet and Cabinet Members under the special urgency arrangements set out in Article 6.05(f) of the Constitution. This occurs where a decision is required on a matter that is not contained within the Leader's Forward Plan (Notice of Decisions), nor available 5 clear days before the meeting. Where a decision on such matters could not reasonably be delayed, the agreement of the Chairman of the appropriate Select Committee, or in his/her absence the Chairman of the Council, must be sought to enable the decision to be made.

There has been one decision during the last quarter, as follows:

Youth Engagement Fund Application
(taken at Cabinet on 25 November 2014)

Reason for Urgency:

That the decision cannot be reasonably deferred because the deadline for submission of the bid to Department for Works and Pensions was 28 November 2014.

Mr David Hodge
Leader of the Council
30 January 2015