

County Council Meeting – 14 July 2015

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 26 May and 23 June 2015.

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 26 May and 23 June 2015 meeting are included within the agenda at item 13. 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 13 July 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.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A JOINT COMMISSIONING STRATEGY FOR SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

1. A draft joint commissioning strategy for speech and language therapy services for children and young people aged 0-25 years was proposed by the Council and Surrey Clinical Commissioning Groups. The key proposals were: a new speech and language therapy service structure to support children and young people in school and an alternative approach to how the Council should procure speech and language therapy services from April 2016.
2. Speech and language therapy services for children and young people in Surrey have until now been commissioned separately by the Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Local Authority.
3. The Children and Families Act 2014, and more specifically the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice, has provided new guidance and clarity regarding expectations about commissioning arrangements for children with special educational needs and disabilities.
4. The Council and Surrey Clinical Commissioning Groups established a therapy forum (February 2014) with provider and service user representation to further inform strategic commissioning and the shift to an outcome based model of commissioning and the following five commissioning principles were co-produced in collaboration with this group:
 - The right support at the right time
 - An open and transparent service
 - Seeing the bigger picture
 - Therapy for children and young people is everyone's business
 - An outcome focussed approach

5. The draft strategy, set out as Annex 1 to the submitted Cabinet report, proposed that the Council took on responsibilities for speech and language therapy provided in schools. This included services for which Surrey Clinical Commissioning Groups were currently responsible. However, Surrey Clinical Commissioning Groups would retain responsibility for Early Years speech and language therapy services and fund the provision of speech and language therapy for school and college aged children in relation to medical conditions.
6. In addition to the strategy and the new responsibilities for the Council to take on, it was proposed that speech and language therapy services are procured differently from April 2016. Rather than purchasing services directly from health providers, it was proposed that funding for provision in special schools and specialist centres will be devolved to schools to employ therapists directly and the service for mainstream schools to be brought in-house to Surrey County Council.

7. The Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the draft commissioning strategy and the five joint commissioning principles within the strategy be approved.
2. That, in principle, the realignment of commissioning responsibilities for the Council and Surrey Clinical Commissioning Groups be approved.
3. That the work to continue in developing a detailed costing model for a new speech and language therapy service be agreed. [At this stage it was estimated to mean an increase of £377,000 in the Council's budget, to be made available from the School's High Need Block and would be subject to Schools Forum approval in June].
4. That the new speech and language therapy service be procured through devolving funding directly to special schools and specialist centres and bringing the mainstream service in-house to the Council and this service to be fully in place from September 2016.

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

1. In 2002, Surrey County Council (SCC) signed a 50 year agreement (the Agreement) with Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) to manage the County Council's Countryside Estate. Land and building comprising the Estate were leased to SWT for the same period. In December 2014, following a thorough review of the effectiveness of the Agreement, Cabinet approved a set of proposed changes and since December officers have worked closely with SWT to develop a revised Agreement which will provide improvements for visitors while reducing costs, aiming at a self funding position for the Agreement by 2021.
2. The proposed variations cover the following areas:
 - Revised financial formula
 - Revised Governance arrangements
 - The Asset Management Plan
 - Performance Management

3. The Cabinet agreed:

1. That variations to the Agreement, and associated leases, relating to revised financial formula, governance arrangements, Asset Management Plan, performance management and woodland management, as described in paragraph 3-7 of the submitted report, and subject to the same variations being agreed by Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) Trustees in July 2015 be approved.
2. That the net contribution of Surrey County Council to the SWT Agreement be reduced to zero by 2020/2021; that the distribution of funds thereafter will be determined; and that a robust business plan be required to achieve this and be reported to Cabinet by November 2015; and that failure to implement recommendation 1 or 2 will lead to an immediate review of alternative methods of achieving value for money in the management of the Council's Countryside Estate.
3. That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director for Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, the Cabinet Member for Business Services and Resident Experience, the Director for Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Property Services, to enter into final negotiations with SWT to vary the Agreement.

C CONFIDENT IN SURREY'S FUTURE: EQUALITY, FAIRNESS AND RESPECT STRATEGY 2015 – 2020

1. *Confident in Surrey's Future: Equality, Fairness and Respect Strategy 2015-2020*, is an updated version of the Council's current equality strategy, approved by the Cabinet on 22 October 2013, which is designed to meet the Council's responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010.
2. This Strategy has been refreshed to align with the Council's Corporate Strategy, *Confident in Surrey's Future: Corporate Strategy 2015-2020*, in order to help achieve the Council's three strategic goals of wellbeing, economic prosperity and resident experience. It will ensure that equality, fairness and respect remain an integral part of the delivery of the Council's priority areas of work and will enable more open and transparent progress reporting through the Council's corporate performance reporting arrangements.
3. **The Cabinet AGREED that** *Confident in Surrey's Future: Equality, Fairness and Respect Strategy 2015-2020* (as set out in Appendix 1) be approved and that progress towards its priorities be reported on an annual basis through the Council's corporate performance reporting arrangements.

D QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 1 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2015

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 were no decisions taken under Special Urgency Arrangements during the last quarter.

**Mr David Hodge
Leader of the Council
3 July 2015**