

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET  
HELD ON 29 JULY 2015 AT 2.00 PM  
AT ASHCOMBE SUITE, COUNTY HALL, KINGSTON UPON THAMES,  
SURREY KT1 2DN.**

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Cabinet at its next meeting.

Members:

*Mr David Hodge (Chairman)	*Mr John Furey
Mr Peter Martin (Vice-Chairman)	* Mr Mike Goodman
* Mrs Helyn Clack	* Mrs Linda Kemeny
Mrs Clare Curran	* Ms Denise Le Gal
*Mr Mel Few	*Mr Richard Walsh

Cabinet Associates:

*Mrs Mary Angell	*Mrs Kay Hammond
*Mr Tim Evans	Mr Tony Samuels

\* = Present

**PART ONE  
IN PUBLIC**

**143/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]**

Apologies were received from Mrs Curran, Mr Martin and Mr Samuels.

**144/15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 23 JUNE 2015 [Item 2]**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**145/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]**

Ms Le Gal declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 19.

**146/15 PROCEDURAL MATTERS [Item 4]**

**a MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 4a]**

There were none.

**147/15 PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 4b]**

Two questions were received from members of the public. The responses are attached as **Appendix 1**.

**148/15 PETITIONS [Item 4c]**

No petitions were received.

#### **149/15 REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED ON REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE [Item 4d]**

No representations were received.

#### **150/15 REPORTS FROM SCRUTINY BOARDS, TASK GROUPS, LOCAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL [Item 5]**

Reports were received from the Council Overview Board concerning Welfare Reform and the Chief Executive's 6 month report. The responses are attached as **Appendix 2** and **Appendix 3**.

#### **151/15 FINANCE AND BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR JUNE 2015 [Item 6]**

The Leader of the Council presented the second budget monitoring report for the 2015/16 financial year. He reflected that the report set out the continuing hard choices the Council faced as service demand grows and funding declines.

He informed Members that the report had a new format of the report that was shorter with comments that focussed on matters that are significant at county council level. He drew attention to the first table that set out the current budget, including changes for carry forwards and other adjustments and stated that the impact of the changes on the overall net budget this year would be met from using £3.6m from the Budget Equalisation Reserve.

He highlighted the Council's four key drivers to ensure sound governance in managing finances and providing value for money which include:

##### **1. Keep any additional call on the council taxpayer to a minimum**

Currently the forecast end of year revenue position was for an overspend of +£1.7m. The Council's multi-year approach to financial management aims to smooth resource fluctuations over five years. As part of this, Cabinet approved the use of £3.6m from the Budget Equalisation Reserve to support 2015/16.

##### **2. Continuously drive the efficiency agenda**

That, at the end of May, services forecast delivering efficiencies at their target level of £67.4m. Of this, £26m had either already been implemented or was on track, £19m has some issues, £17m is additional in year or one off savings and £6m is considered to be at risk.

##### **3. Reduce the Council's reliance on council tax and government grant income.**

That reducing reliance on government grants and council tax was key to balancing budgets over the longer term. The Revolving Infrastructure and Investment Fund has invested £2m so far this year and forecasted investing £25m by the year end.

#### **4. Continue to maximise our investment in Surrey**

That, the council's capital programme not only improved and maintained services, it was also a way of investing in Surrey and generating income for the council. The capital programme had planned £696m spend for 2015-20, and forecasts £196m in 2015/16.

Other Cabinet Members were invited to highlight the key points and issues from their portfolios, as set out in the Annex to the report.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted, including the following:

1. Services forecast the 2015/16 revenue budget to overspend by +£1.7m, as set out in Annex1, paragraph 1 of the submitted report.
2. Services forecast efficiencies and service reductions for 2015/16 at £67.4m, as set out in Annex1, paragraph 24 of the submitted report.
3. The total forecast capital expenditure, including long term investments is £196.2m, as set out in Annex1, paragraph 31 of the submitted report.
4. The quarter end positions for: balance sheet, earmarked reserves, debt and treasury management, as set out in Annex1, paragraphs 10 to 26 of the submitted report.

That the following be approved:

5. A new proposal to charge third parties for the use of the council's intellectual property which runs the on-line Careers Education Information and Guidance, a web based advice and guidance service for young people, as detailed in Annex1, paragraph 14 of the submitted report.

#### **Reasons for Decisions:**

This report is presented to comply with the agreed policy of providing a monthly budget monitoring report to Cabinet for approval and action as necessary.

#### **152/15 REFRESH OF 2015 - 20 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN [Item 7]**

The Leader introduced the report and explained that when the Council approved the Medium Term Financial Plan 2015-20 (MTFP 2015-20) in February 2015, it was in the context of several uncertainties such as: the General Election, services' progress making savings, growth in demographic pressures, an early Budget by the new Government and the Spending Review scheduled for 2015.

He stated that it was prudent and right for Cabinet to reassess the council's medium term financial plan at this point in time, when some of the uncertainties had been lifted. He said that while the Chancellor's July 2015 Budget announced no reductions to the local government settlement for 2015/16, the funding for Public Health would be reduced by £200m nationally this year. He stated that the Spending Review was likely to increase pressure on public service funding, including local government in the years from 2016/17.

He drew Cabinet Members attention to the following points set out within the report:

- the increased demand and complexity of pressures the Council faced over the next five years and the revised and updated budget assumptions for the years 2016 to 2020.
- That officers needed to develop further service transformational strategies needed for the council to meet its financial challenges, for Cabinet's approval in November as a draft MTFP.
- That approval was sought for important recommendations, including two match funding items with local partners:
  - £1.9m revenue investment in a £3.8m pooled budget with the Surrey CCGs for targeted Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, which would reduce and avoid cost pressures on both health and social care in future years; and
  - up to £1m additional capital investment each year to match funding by district and borough councils to improve secondary local shopping areas, which are important for improving residents' experience and supporting small businesses which are the lifeblood of Surrey's economy.
- That appendix 4 set out a revised Financial Strategy for approval that had been developed in the context and format of the Corporate Strategy.

The Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Flooding expressed delight at the plans to work with District and Boroughs to undertake regeneration work and improve the street scene.

The Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement said that she was very pleased to endorse the investment in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and that it showed that the Council was taking its corporate parenting role seriously.

The Cabinet Member for Business Services and Resident Experience referred to the updated Financial Strategy and how simple and easy to understand that was.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That £1.9m per year funding for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service pooled budget, as set out in paragraph 29 of the submitted report, be approved.
2. That the increased demand and complexity of pressures faced by the Council in the next five years be noted.
3. That the revised and updated revenue budget assumptions for the years 2016 to 2020 be noted.
4. That the revised capital programme for 2015-20 be approved, including:
  - a. removal of three schemes totalling £7.0m, as detailed in paragraphs 42 to 44 of the submitted report.
  - b. addition of up to a total of £1m per year to match funding for district and borough councils for improving secondary local shopping areas, as detailed in paragraph 45 of the submitted report.

5. That officers be required to develop business cases for capital investment in SEND and Looked After Children provision, as set out in paragraphs 47 to 48 of the submitted report.
6. That officers be required to develop further, for approval by Cabinet in November 2015, service transformational strategies necessary for the Council to meet its financial challenges, as set out in paragraph 54 of the submitted report.
7. That officers be required to prepare a draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2016 to 2021 for the Cabinet Meeting in November 2015 as set out in paragraph 55 of the submitted report.
8. That the revised financial strategy to meet the challenges of the next five years as set out in paragraphs 56 to 59, and Appendix 4 of the submitted report be approved.

**Reasons for Decisions:**

To ensure the Council has a plan to develop a balanced and sustainable budget.

**153/15 LEADERSHIP RISK REGISTER [Item 8]**

The Cabinet Member for Business Services and Resident Experience explained that the Surrey County Council Leadership risk register was presented to Cabinet each quarter and this report summarised the risk governance arrangements and presented the Leadership risk register as at 30 June 2015. She also thanked the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning for his input into the updated Risk Governance Framework.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning informed Cabinet Members that he had attended a Strategic Risk Forum meeting and was reassured with the debate and challenge between officers and that he felt the risk management arrangements were robust.

The Leader of the Council thanked staff in the risk management team for their important work.

**RESOLVED:**

That the content of the Surrey County Council Leadership Risk Register, Annex 1 to the submitted report, be noted and the control actions put in place by the Statutory Responsibilities Network be endorsed.

**Reasons for Decisions:**

To enable the Cabinet to keep Surrey County Council's strategic risks under review and to ensure that appropriate action is being taken to mitigate risks to a tolerable level in the most effective way.

**154/15 ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, REDHILL [Item 9]**

The Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement introduced the report and business case by stating that this proposal was to

deal with increasing demand for school places and that there was a shortfall this year and next. She said that this was a proposal to expand St Joseph's Catholic Primary School to create much needed places in Redhill where there had been an increase in birth rates and increased migration and housing.

She informed Cabinet Members that the school had a good Ofsted rating and that it had conducted its own consultation as it was voluntary aided. She stated that the financial information was set out in Part 2 of the agenda under item 16.

**RESOLVED:**

That, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information for the expansion set out in agenda item 15 in Part 2 of this agenda, the business case for the provision of an additional 1 Form of Entry (210 places) primary places at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Redhill be approved.

**Reasons for Decisions:**

The proposal supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places, relative to demand.

**155/15 AWARD OF FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR THE SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF FROZEN AND GROCERY PRODUCE AND VIENNOISERIE AND PIZZA PRODUCTS [Item 10]**

The Cabinet Member for Business Services and Resident Experience drew Cabinet Members attention to the report that was seeking approval to award a framework agreement in three lots for the supply and distribution of Frozen and Grocery Produce and Viennoiserie and Pizza Products for use within Schools and Civic catering facilities. She explained that the framework was due to start on 1 October 2015 and highlighted that the financial information was available in the Part 2 report under item 17.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That a framework agreement with a start date of 1 October 2015 be awarded for three years to each supplier in the following lots:
  - Lot 1 - Frozen and Grocery Produce – BFS Group Ltd trading as Bidfest 3663
  - Lot 2 - Viennoiserie Products – Delice de France Ltd and BFS Group Ltd trading as Bidfest 3663
  - Lot 3 - Pizza Supplies – South Coast Restaurants Ltd trading as Express Foodservice and BFS Group Ltd trading as Bidfest 3663.
2. In year three of the framework agreement, a decision be made to either extend the agreement in accordance with the single 12 month extension available or to terminate it.
3. Immediate call-off contracts for each lot under the framework agreement be placed with each of the suppliers named in (1) above, up to the annual sum set out in the part 2 report (item 17).

### **Reasons for Decisions:**

A full tender process, in compliance with the requirements of Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and the Council's Procurement Standing Orders has been completed, and the recommendations provide best value for money for the Council.

These suppliers will provide a good mix between local enterprises for nominated lines and national providers, all of which have demonstrated the ability to deliver the required produce and products through a competitive procurement and thorough evaluation process.

The framework agreement as awarded sets out the general terms and conditions under which specific purchases known as call-off contracts can be made on behalf of the Council during the term of the framework agreement.

### **156/15 APPROVAL TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF A STOP SMOKING SERVICE [Item 11]**

The Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Health informed Cabinet Members that smoking remained the biggest cause of mortality and morbidity in Surrey and had cost Local Authorities, local businesses and the NHS over £100 million in 2012.

She went on to say that preventative measures were key and that current data had shown that the success rate of people quitting had reduced. She said that the provision of high quality local Stop Smoking Services was a key priority for reducing health inequalities and improving the health of local populations.

She asked the Cabinet to approve a contract to North 51 for the provision of a Stop Smoking Service to commence on 1 February 2016 which would target priority groups including deprived communities, pregnant women and young people.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Wellbeing and Independence queried whether the new contract would cover electronic cigarettes and was informed that this would not form part of the contract due to electronic smoking not currently being regulated.

The Cabinet Associate for Community Safety Services reflected how comprehensive the Equality Impact Assessment was.

The Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement informed Members that she welcomed this report and would want to see it linked to a comprehensive campaign in schools with a focus to stop children smoking.

The Leader concluded the discussion by requesting that the contract was reviewed a year in by the Health and Wellbeing Board to measure its success.

**RESOLVED:**

That the contract be awarded for the provision of the Stop Smoking Service as described in the Part 2 report (item 18) for a period of three years with an option to extend on one or more occasions for up to two years commencing from the 1 February 2016. In any event the contract shall be for no more than five years in total and any such extension be notified to the Service Provider at least 3 months prior to the contract end date.

**Reasons for Decisions:**

The recommended contract award will deliver an evidence based Stop Smoking Service that meets national guidance and will be responsive to the needs of key priority groups including deprived communities, pregnant women and young people. Priority groups have been identified in the Tobacco needs assessment as being particularly at risk of smoking related morbidity and mortality, or in the case of pregnant women, their smoking can cause harm to others.

An independent review commissioned by the Council found that the existing provision, which is delivered in-house, does not fully meet the current evidence base, national guidance or the needs of priority groups. Following consultation, and an appraisal of the options with key stakeholders, a decision was taken to commission an external specialist stop smoking service.

A full tender process, in compliance with the requirements of EU Procurement Legislation and the Council's Procurement Standing Orders has been completed, and the recommendation provides best value for money for the Council following a thorough evaluation process.

The service will be delivered in Surrey from local office bases and will provide apprenticeship opportunities to Surrey Young People whilst delivering efficiencies for Public Health Services.

**157/15 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SHAREHOLDER BOARD [Item 12]**

The Leader of the Council introduced the annual report of the Shareholder Board and explained it was the first report to be presented to Cabinet. He stated that the Council had established a Shareholder Board, which would report to Council annually and that this report will be presented at the County Council meeting in October.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the first Annual Report of the Shareholder Board, Annex A to the submitted report, be endorsed and that the report be presented to Council at its meeting in October.
2. That the Council's strategic approach to innovation and evaluating new models of delivery, ensuring that this innovation is supported by best practice governance arrangements, be continued to be supported.



### **Reasons for Decisions:**

To inform the Council about the activities of the Shareholder Board. Continued innovation will enable the Council to continue to respond to the challenges it faces and will contribute to enhancing its financial resilience in the longer term. The Shareholder Board has been established in accordance with best practice governance to ensure effective oversight and alignment with the strategic objectives and values of the Council.

### **158/15 JOINT STRATEGIC REVIEW OF SHORT BREAKS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES [Item 13]**

The Leader of the Council introduced the item by stating that he was aware that there was a lot of interest in this item and that he wanted to clarify what the Cabinet would be taking a decision on at the meeting.

He stated that the Joint Strategic review of Short Breaks was a partnership between Surrey County Council and Guildford and Waverley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), on behalf of all six Surrey Clinical Commissioning Groups. He went on to say that Cabinet had considered the review, first in February and then again in September last year and that a consultation had taken place in early 2014 which had been reported to Cabinet at the September meeting.

The Leader confirmed that the report was asking Cabinet to consider re-opening the consultation, because officers had not been able to secure the purchasing arrangements contemplated in 2014. He stated that Cabinet was not being asked to take a decision about the future of overnight short breaks in the east of the county, or indeed the future of the Beeches at that meeting.

He explained that once the consultation was completed that the results would be reported to Cabinet by officers and that the consultation findings would be part of a wider report, covering all the things that would need to be taken into account to make a final decision.

The Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement confirmed that she had received a number of comments about the report and she wanted to provide some additional background for those who have not been closely involved with the matter.

She stated that the previous consultation recommended spot purchasing overnight short breaks at Beeches, but despite the Council's best efforts this had not been possible to agree at a reasonable price. She said that following this, although consultation had already taken place, parents should be given an opportunity to comment further following the failure of the negotiations.

She said that she recognised that provision of overnight short breaks for children with disabilities was a lifeline for families so Cabinet needs to be assured there was sufficient provision to meet assessed needs in East Surrey. She explained that the Council proposed to consult from 3 August until 2 October and engage with families throughout the consultation period as well as arrange meetings at local schools during the second week in September.

She concluded by stating that officers would also meet with the families of current users of Beeches and prospective users at the beginning of School term in September so that in October the Cabinet had sufficient information to understand the impact on families of the proposed changes to the service before they reached a final decision. She then drew Cabinet Members attention to the amended recommendations that had been tabled at the meeting.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Wellbeing and Independence said that he thought that undertaking further consultation was a very good idea and this was endorsed by the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Health.

**RESOLVED:**

Following the negotiations with Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SABP), the earlier consultation be reopened / concluded with the options that Surrey County Council:

- negotiates an acceptable block contract with SABP for overnight short breaks or;
- funds alternative services, which may result in Beeches being closed.

**Reasons for Decisions:**

Overnight short breaks are a positive experience for children and young people with disabilities to spend time away from their parents, relax and have fun with their peers. They are also a lifeline for many families giving parents a break from the day and night care for their child. They give siblings an opportunity to spend some quality family time with their parents. SCC is committed to ensuring that this type of support continues to be available.

Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust continue to own and run Beeches and have confirmed again that they will not lease the building to the Council or a Private or a Voluntary organisation. Their block contract with Guildford & Waverley CCG (G&WCCG) ends on 4 November 2015.

Completing the consultation is recommended now that there is clarity that if there is not a council block contract with SABP the Beeches may close.

**159/15 LEADER / DEPUTY LEADER / CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST CABINET MEETING [Item 14]**

**RESOLVED:**

That the decisions taken by Cabinet Members since the last meeting, as set out in Annex 1, of the submitted report, be noted.

**Reasons for Decisions:**

To inform the Cabinet of decisions taken by cabinet Members under delegated authority.

## **160/15 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC [Item 15]**

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

PART TWO – IN PRIVATE

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF BUSINESS WERE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE BY THE CABINET. SET OUT BELOW IS A PUBLIC SUMMARY OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN.

## **161/15 ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, REDHILL [Item 16]**

This Part 2 report contains information the financial and value for money information relating to item 9.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the business case for the project to expand St Joseph's Catholic Primary School by 210 places, at a total estimated cost, as set out in the submitted report, be approved.
2. That the arrangements by which a variation of up to 10% of the total value may be agreed by the Strategic Director for Business Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement, the Cabinet Member for Business Services and Resident Experience and the Leader of the Council.

### **Reasons for Decisions:**

The proposal delivers and supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places to meet the needs of the population in the Redhill area.

## **162/15 AWARD OF FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR THE SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF FROZEN AND GROCERY PRODUCE AND VIENNOISERIE AND PIZZA PRODUCTS [Item 17]**

This part 2 report contained the financial and value for money information relating to item 10.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That a framework agreement with a start date of 1 October 2015 be awarded for three years to each supplier in the following lots:
  - Lot 1 - Frozen and Grocery Produce – BFS Group Ltd trading as Bidfest 3663
  - Lot 2 - Viennoiserie Products – Delice de France Ltd and BFS Group Ltd trading as Bidfest 3663

- Lot 3 - Pizza Supplies – South Coast Restaurants Ltd trading as Express Foodservice and BFS Group Ltd trading as Bidfest 3663.
2. In year three of the framework agreement a decision be made to either extend the agreement in accordance with the single 12 month extension available or to terminate it.
  3. Immediate call-off contracts for each lot under the framework agreement be placed with each of the suppliers named in (1) above for the Council to the total value for the three lots for four years, which includes the option to extend for a further period of one year in accordance with the framework agreement.

**Reasons for Decisions:**

The existing agreement will expire on 30 September 2015. A full tendering process, in compliance with the requirements of Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and the Council's Procurement Standing Orders has been completed, and the recommendations provide best value for money for the Council following a thorough evaluation process.

**163/15 APPROVAL TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF A STOP SMOKING SERVICE [Item 18]**

This part 2 report contained the financial and value for money information relating to item 11.

**RESOLVED:**

That a contract be awarded to North 51, at a value, as set out in the submitted report, for the provision of a Stop Smoking Service to commence on 1 February 2016 targeting priority groups including deprived communities, pregnant women and young people. The price is fixed for the duration of the contract term of three years.

**Reasons for Decisions:**

A full tender process, in compliance with the requirement of EU Procurement Legislation and Procurement Standing Orders has been completed, and the recommendations provide best value for money for the Council following a thorough evaluation process.

**164/15 PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS - TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION UPDATE [Item 19]**

A non-pecuniary interest was declared by Ms Le Gal for this item.

The Investment Strategy agreed by Cabinet in July 2013 was developed in response to the requirement for the Council to maintain its financial resilience in the longer term. In facilitation of the strategy, Cabinet approved the business case for this regeneration project in May 2015 and following amendments to the original proposal the Leader of the Council highlighted the key points of the updated proposal and commended the recommendations to Cabinet.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the County Council participates in the regeneration scheme by the contractual mechanisms and financial considerations outlined in the updated report.
2. That the Strategic Director of Business Services is authorised to agree the appropriate contractual and financial arrangements, following the completion of all necessary due diligence, in consultation with the Leader, Director of Finance, Director of Legal & Democratic Services and the Chief Property Officer.

**Reasons for Decisions**

Participation in the scheme is in accordance with the council's Investment Strategy; to invest in schemes that have the potential to support economic growth in the county. The council's participation in this regeneration scheme will ensure that the proposed development proceeds and delivers a significant enhancement to the economic outcomes of the area.

**165/15 PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS - ACQUISITION OF PREMISES IN ALFOLD, CRANLEIGH [Item 20]**

The Cabinet Member for Business Services and Resident Experience asked the Cabinet to authorise the acquisition of the freehold interest of premises in Alfold, Cranleigh, for potential future service delivery improvements.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the acquisition of the freehold interest of Lindon Farm, Rosemary Lane, Alfold, Cranleigh, for potential future service needs, be approved.
2. That the freehold interest of the property be purchased for a maximum acquisition cost not exceeding the sum set out in the submitted report, including ancillary costs of purchase (stamp duty legal and surveyors costs).

**Reasons for Decisions:**

A time-limited opportunity has arisen for Surrey County Council (SCC) to purchase the freehold interest in Lindon Farm in Alfold, near Cranleigh. The purchase provides a site for a comprehensive refurbishment and development opportunity, providing an expected ten bed autism supported living service with in-house live in provision for care workers.

The creation of this service would address an urgent need for a provision within Surrey for individuals with complex autism who need accommodation with significant outdoor space. The acquisition of the site therefore aligns with the Council's strategy to support individuals with disabilities by maximising their independence and enabling them to be part of the local community.

The building is being disposed of by a private individual in three separate lots, comprising the main farm house with gardens and two piggeries. The vendor has secured a planning consent for residential use for all three plots. The Purchaser report prepared, and attached as Annex 2 to the submitted report,

concludes that there are no reasons why the site would not be suitable for a supported living service.

**166/15 PUBLICITY FOR PART 2 ITEMS [Item 21]**

It was agreed that the non-exempt information relating to items 19 and 20 that were considered in Part 2 of the meeting would be made available to the press and public, at the appropriate time.

[Meeting closed at 3:30pm]

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**Chairman**

**Public Questions**

**Question (1) from David Beaman:**

Stagecoach have announced their intention to withdraw the section of bus route between Farnham and Alton from 30 August 2015 which will end the long established inter urban service that has operated for many years between Guildford, Farnham, Alton and Winchester.

To date this service has been operated commercially with the only financial support from local authorities being reimbursement for provision of free concessionary travel. The withdrawal of this section of route will affect the following 3 main groups of existing passengers viz:

- It will end the ability of passengers to make through trips from Guildford and Farnham to Alton and Winchester. A significant number of such long distance trips are made by the elderly for shopping and social purposes which helps them to remain active members of the community;
- Although the morning and afternoon college buses will continue to be operated to and from Alton College, there are a significant number of part time students living in Farnham who use the college buses in one direction only and use service 65 buses to make either their outward or return journey. These students will now face being stranded in Alton for several hours;
- In Farnham the withdrawal of service 65 will, associated with the proposed withdrawal of the 565 service between Coxbridge Business Park and Farnham which is being implemented from the same date, result in no public transport service being provided along West Street which will effect local residents living along this road and particularly the Chantry Estate which already has a number of social problems.

In addition, Waverley Borough Council are currently considering a planning application as part of the proposed redevelopment of East Street to relocate the day facilities that are currently provided for the elderly at the Gostrey Centre in the centre of Farnham to the Memorial Hall which is located nearly 1 km from the town centre and in the Access and Design Statement the provision of the bus service is stated to be one of the reasons that allows this planning application to comply with NPF guidelines for edge of centre locations for community use of buildings to be required to be accessible and well connected to the town centre.

It is also likely that there will be substantial new residential development at Coxbridge and this would fail to meet NPF guidelines that all new residential developments should be sustainable if there is no public transport service.

The recent Surrey Rail Study identified the corridor between Alton, Farnham and Guildford as being one of strategic importance and proposed the introduction of a direct rail service.

The existing bus service already provides this direct link with journey times that are comparable with any proposed rail service since between Farnham and Alton the bus service uses the direct route via A31 whilst any rail service would operate via Aldershot. Since this corridor is already identified as having such strategic importance the continued operation of the existing level of bus service be regarding as a strategic bus route that should not only be continued but improved rather than withdrawn.

Whilst appreciating that there are restrictions on local government expenditure with savings currently being sought in the level of subsidy paid for bus services will Surrey County Council working in partnership with Hampshire County Council provide the financial support necessary to ensure the continued operation of the existing bus service along a corridor that has already been identified as being of strategic importance?

**Reply:**

Surrey County Council is disappointed that Stagecoach intends to withdraw the section of route between Farnham and Alton on their bus service 65, for commercial reasons. The company considers that the number of people travelling on the Farnham to Alton section is insufficient to sustain the service from a revenue perspective. They consider that the train service between those towns caters for much of the overall travel demand.

For a service run without a contractual obligation to a local authority, national legislation gives the company the prerogative to make such a decision. The reduction in public transport travel choice now and in the future is recognised, as well as the potential impact on those residents located along West Street in Farnham.

However, both Hampshire and Surrey County Councils are currently assessing whether a replacement service of some kind could be obtained that would be sustainable in the future against current budgetary pressures. Discussions with operators are ongoing and cost option information is at this time still awaited, to allow any decision to be reached

**Mr Mike Goodman**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning**  
**29 July 2015**

<b>Question (2) from Fran Morgan:</b>
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The question is as follows:

- We do not understand why the only proposed question in the public consultation is whether the council should agree a block contract with Surrey and Borders Partnership Trust to run the service. Parents do not care whether the service is paid for on a block contract or spot purchase basis only that they are able to continue to access the service at the Beeches. Can you specify how the potential answers to this question would influence the council's decision – how many people would need to agree that they wanted a block contract before the council would commission it?



- How does the council reconcile discontinuing local respite provision with their stated aim of helping children with disabilities to remain living at home and within their local community?
- What risk assessment has the council carried out to compare the current annual cost of keeping Beeches open (£565K pa on the current block contract) with the potential costs of having to take one or more disabled children into care (over £300k each pa)? To give an indication of the likely costs: with the current level of provision, 8 children from one of the local schools were taken into care during the last year. Parents of 2 of the current Beeches users have indicated that they will not be able to continue caring for their child at home, if they lose their current respite provision.
- What regard has Surrey given to NHS Surrey's impact assessment 2012 that stated: "The original reasons for closure did not take into account the full health impact on families, their overall wellbeing and the preventative role played by Beeches." Why was this advice disregarded in Surrey's own joint strategic review passed by cabinet in 2014?
- There are 800 severely disabled children who currently meet the criteria for respite at Beeches and 161 at the 2 local SLD schools. Is it credible to cabinet that promises made by Caroline Budden and Ian Banner, that social workers would actively promote the Beeches as an option for all eligible families, should result in only 15 families being assessed for the Beeches?
- Using Surrey's own data, the spend on children with disabilities in East Surrey (in the parent panel meeting in 2014) was £47,856 less than in West Surrey, yet there are more disabled children in East Surrey. There are also less respite centres in East Surrey, with one of only two now planned for closure. How does the Local Authority justify this discrepancy between East and West?

**Reply:**

We thank Family Voice for their questions and comments, which raise a number of important issues. As you will see from the Agenda, Cabinet is considering a report this afternoon which recommends a further period of consultation on the provision of short breaks, and the questions raised will be referred to the officers responsible so that those issues can be taken into account in the consultation.

**Mrs Linda Kemeny**  
**Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement**  
**29 July 2015**

**CABINET RESPONSE TO COUNCIL OVERVIEW BOARD**

**WELFARE REFORM TASK GROUP  
(considered by Council Overview Board on 3 June 2015)**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

For the Cabinet to endorse the recommendations made by the Council Overview Board regarding Welfare reform as listed below:

1. The case for continuing funding for the Local Assistance Scheme in Surrey is reconfirmed as part of the budget and service planning cycle, having due regard to usage, need, benefits and cost of delivery.
2. That the getWiSE or a similar service, be extended for a further 3 years, with a built-in review of usage and need on an annual basis.
3. That careful consideration be given to the role of Libraries as a 'gateway to County services' when developing a vision for the future of the Surrey Library Service and that the Resident Experience Board (previously Communities Select Committee) continues to monitor the progress.
4. A Member representative of the Welfare Reform Task Group be invited to be briefed on the Universal Credit pilot in Elmbridge, and agree a protocol for keeping the Task Group informed.
5. That a structured project plan for the Universal Credit roll Pilot in Elmbridge be shared with Members of the Task Group
6. A robust monitoring scheme needs to be introduced to measure uptake of staff accessing training but also measuring the numbers starting the programme and the number of staff completing the training.
7. The Task Group to explore further the length of time it can take claimants to reach tribunal when they have launched an appeal against a benefits decision and request further information about how the assessment process has improved since moving to the Maximus contract.
8. Surrey's District & Boroughs and Housing Associations ensure that all options are explored for alternative payment arrangements for vulnerable claimants.
9. The Welfare Reform Coordination Group continues to work with partners to ensure that the reforms, including the introduction of Universal Credit, are communicated widely with residents and services across the County.
10. The Surrey County Council Contact Centre is adequately trained to deal with, and signpost, callers to the correct services, particularly during the initial period of Universal Credit.

11. The Welfare Reform Task Group should continue for a further year, meeting quarterly to monitor the impact of the reforms. The Chairman of the Task Group to engage with the Resident Experience Board to carry out future work.

12. The Welfare Reform Task Group to investigate the disparity between hardship fund spending in different districts and boroughs in Surrey.

**RESPONSE:**

I am pleased that the Task Group is satisfied that the Council is prepared for the welfare reforms and I am happy to endorse the Task Group's recommendations.

Some of the recommendations and issues raised by the Task Group relate to national policy - in particular, the ongoing issue of delays in benefit appeals reaching tribunals. I endorse the continued work of the Task Group in monitoring this issue and should the Chairman of the Board wish to write to the Secretary of State to raise any concerns, I would be happy to endorse the letter.

A number of the Task Group's recommendations refer to Universal Credit. Officers are working very closely with Elmbridge Borough Council to support the introduction of Universal Credit and how this affects our residents and services. As part of this, the Council will be organising an information sharing session in the autumn and I have asked that Officers ensure the Task Group is kept informed.

The Task Group also makes recommendations regarding the future of the getWIS£ and Local Assistance Scheme. Officers are currently evaluating the existing arrangements before developing a business case to see how best to deliver these schemes in the future. Again, I have asked Officers to ensure that the Task Group is kept up to date with this work.

Finally, I would like to thank the Task Group for its continued hard work in scrutinising the impact of welfare reform on Surrey residents. This is a complex and ever changing issue, which makes the careful and considered scrutiny that the Task Group offers even more important.

**David Hodge**  
**Leader of the Council**  
**29 July 2015**

**CABINET RESPONSE TO COUNCIL OVERVIEW BOARD**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S 6 MONTH REPORT  
(considered by Council Overview Board on 1 July 2015)**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

1. The Chief Executive and Staff are congratulated on their hard work contributing to the report.
2. That the Chief Executive's 6 month report continue to be presented to Full Council in future years.
3. That future reports include key milestones and targets in relation to the Council's priorities.
4. That the Four Priorities for the next 6 months, as set out in the Chief Executive's report, are endorsed by the Scrutiny Board.

**RESPONSE:**

I would like to join the Council Overview Board in congratulating the Chief Executive and Staff for their hard work contributing to the 6 month report. Despite the challenges we face, there are some great examples within the report of how this Council continues to make a positive difference to Surrey residents.

I am glad that Members find the report useful and support the request for it to be presented to Full Council in future years.

The report is part of a suite of documents which provide Members with information on the Council's priorities and performance. Reports such as our Corporate Strategy and Annual Report include further detail on our key milestones and targets, and the Chief Executive's 6 month report should be read alongside these other documents. Members can also keep up to date on progress against our corporate priorities on our new performance web pages (<https://performance.surreycc.gov.uk>). However, I have asked the Chief Executive to be mindful of the feedback from Members regarding milestones and targets when drafting future reports.

I am pleased that the Council Overview Board approves the four priorities as set out in the report. We will need a strong focus on these priorities if we are to meet our corporate responsibilities in 2016 and beyond. I hope that the Overview and Scrutiny function can support the organisation in achieving these goals through continuing to offer robust challenge.

On behalf of the Cabinet, I endorse these recommendations.

**David Hodge  
Leader of the Council  
29 July 2015**