

COUNTY COUNCILCOUNCIL MEETING - 14 JULY 2015

MINUTES of the meeting of the Council held at the Council Chamber, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2DN on 14 July 2015 commencing at 10.00 am, the Council being constituted as follows:

Sally Marks (Chairman)

* Nick Skellett CBE (Vice-Chairman)

*	Mary Angell	Saj Hussain
	W D Barker OBE	David Ivison
*	Mrs N Barton	Daniel Jenkins
	Ian Beardsmore	George Johnson
*	John Beckett	Linda Kemeny
	Mike Bennison	Colin Kemp
	Liz Bowes	Eber Kington
	Natalie Bramhall	Rachael I Lake
	Mark Brett-Warburton	* Stella Lallement
	Ben Carasco	Yvonna Lay
	Bill Chapman	Ms D Le Gal
	Helyn Clack	Mary Lewis
	Carol Coleman	Ernest Mallett MBE
	Stephen Cooksey	* Mr P J Martin
	Mr S Cosser	Jan Mason
*	Clare Curran	Marsha Moseley
	Graham Ellwood	Tina Mountain
	Jonathan Essex	Mr D Munro
	Robert Evans	Christopher Norman
	Tim Evans	* John Orrick
	Mel Few	* Adrian Page
	Will Forster	Chris Pitt
*	Mrs P Frost	Dorothy Ross-Tomlin
	Denis Fuller	* Denise Saliagopoulos
	John Furey	Tony Samuels
	Bob Gardner	Pauline Searle
	Mike Goodman	Stuart Selleck
	David Goodwin	Michael Sydney
*	Michael Gosling	Keith Taylor
	Zully Grant-Duff	Barbara Thomson
	Ramon Gray	Chris Townsend
	Ken Gulati	Richard Walsh
	Tim Hall	Hazel Watson
	Kay Hammond	Fiona White
	Mr D Harmer	Richard Wilson
*	Nick Harrison	Helena Windsor
*	Marisa Heath	Keith Witham
	Peter Hickman	Mr A Young
*	Margaret Hicks	Mrs V Young
	David Hodge	

*absent

45/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Angell, Mrs Barton, Mr Beckett, Mrs Curran, Mrs Frost, Mr Gosling, Mr Harrison, Miss Heath, Mrs Hicks, Mrs Lallement, Mr Martin, Mr Orrick, Mr Page, Mrs Saliagopoulos and Mr Skellett.

46/15 MINUTES [Item 2]

The minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 19 May 2015 were submitted, confirmed and signed.

47/15 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS [Item 3]

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- (i) South East Employers Member Development Charter Award – Cllr Rory Love, Chairman of South East Employers presented the Chairman of the Member Development Steering Group with the Award. He was invited to say a few words.
- (ii) Surrey Fire and Rescue Service – the Chairman presented an award, received from the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment (The Tigers) to the Chief Fire Officer, in recognition for the service's sterling efforts in rescuing artefacts from the Surrey Infantry Museum, including the regimental colours at the recent Clandon Park House Fire.
- (iii) Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2015 and the Queen's Awards for Voluntary Service – the full lists were included within the agenda. However, she drew attention to the honours received by:
 - Lynne Owens, Chief Constable for Surrey Police
 - Mrs Perdita Hunt, Director of Watts Gallery
 - Mr Nick Sealy, past High Sheriff
 - Ms Kate Orrick, Head of DifD Libya

Also, she acknowledged the high number of volunteer groups that had been recognised and received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service this year.

- (iv) On behalf of the Council, she congratulated David Hodge on being elected as Leader of the Conservative Group at the Local Government Association (LGA) and also at the same time being installed as one of the LGAs four Vice-Chairmen.
- (v) Magna Carta event, Runnymede Meadows on 15 June 2015, she said that this was an outstanding event, and that she was honoured to receive HM the Queen and other senior members of the Royal Family, the Prime Minister and other VIPs to the event. She thanked all those involved, including Surrey County Council staff, volunteers and the Police, for making it a memorable occasion.
- (vi) Armed Forces Day on 27 June 2015 had been marked with celebrations across the UK, with a focus on Guildford where there was a service at Guildford Cathedral, a High Street parade, a Red Arrows fly past and

entertainment in Stoke Park. She also thanked the volunteers and Surrey Police.

48/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 4]

There were none.

49/15 LEADER'S STATEMENT [Item 5]

The Leader made a detailed statement. A copy of the statement is attached as Appendix A.

Members raised the following topics:

- Congratulations on his new appointments at the Local Government Association (LGA)
- A request to utilise his new position at the LGA to explore 'best practice' in Children's Services amongst other authorities
- A request for more information in relation to the Devolution agenda and how it applies to Surrey, both the County Council and Boroughs / Districts
- The impact and cost, particularly to Adult Social Care Services, of introducing the 'living wage'
- Confirmation of investment in recycling waste
- Continue to lobby Central Government for a better settlement for Surrey
- Details of where the £67m savings required in this financial year would be coming from.

50/15 SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL PROGRESS REPORT: JANUARY - JUNE 2015 [Item 6]

The Leader presented the Surrey County Council Progress Report – January – July 2015, the twelfth of the Chief Executive's six monthly reports to Members.

Members made the following comments:

- Disappointment that the emphasis of the report has changed so that there was not as much attention given to scrutiny
- Also, there were only four key areas set out in the report which, for scrutiny purposes, were not specific or measurable and therefore, the Leader / Chief Executive were requested to review the report and its target audience
- There was no reference to financial targets or the Medium Term Financial Plan
- The report was considered at a recent meeting of the Council Overview Board (COB), where Members were impressed with the achievements of staff and partner organisations
- The correct priorities were outlined in the report and did not minimise the forthcoming challenges for the Council. However, the Board considered that the report would benefit from inclusion of some targets
- The report was optimistic, upbeat and provided an opportunity to highlight the County's achievements to residents.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report of the Chief Executive be noted.
- (2) That the staff of the Council be thanked for the progress made during the last six months.
- (3) That the support for the direction of travel be confirmed.

51/15 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME [Item 7]

Notice of 15 questions had been received. The questions and replies are attached as Appendix B.

A number of supplementary questions were asked and a summary of the main points is set out below:

(Q1) Mr Sydney asked the Cabinet Member for Business Services and Resident Experience – (i) when the Department for Education changed their policy on Bio-mass installations, and (ii) why had the original wood fuel installation at High Ashurst been removed. The Cabinet Member said that she would respond outside the meeting.

(Q2) Mr Robert Evans extended an invite to Mr Ivison to visit Stanwell Moor to see what the impact of proposed expansion at Heathrow would have on this community. **Mr Beardsmore** asked the Leader of the Council if he was aware that an additional 9000 homes would be required in the Spelthorne / Runnymede area if further expansion at Heathrow went ahead – this would also put more pressure on the Green Belt in Surrey.

Mr Forster requested that issues relating to air quality in parts of Spelthorne were adequately addressed as part of the Council's debate on airport expansion.

Mr Munro informed Members that the Council Overview Board would be considering airport expansion at its meeting on 10 September 2015.

The Leader of the Council said that the County Council would only support airport expansion if it was beneficial for Surrey and that expansion could not take place until the necessary improvements to infrastructure had taken place. He also confirmed that he was aware of the issues re. housing and the pressures for Stanwell Moor and agreed to visit the area.

(Q3) Mr Goodwin asked the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Flooding if he was aware that there had been recent articles in the press relating to the programme for re-surfacing Surrey roads and that all Members should have been informed prior to it appearing in the press. The Cabinet Member said that the information used in the article was three years old and that under the Horizon programme, Surrey was performing well.

(Q8) Mr Robert Evans asked the Cabinet Member for Localities and Community Wellbeing to expand on the information provided in his response concerning emergency access to and from roads closed due to the Prudential Ride London event. The Cabinet Member agreed to provide a response outside the meeting.

(Q9) Mr Essex questioned whether the figure of an average 160 passengers being negatively affected by the proposals and recommendations arising from the Local Transport Review were accurate. He also queried the carbon emission data and

asked what would be environmental impact of the changes in Surrey. The Cabinet Member considered that the Local Transport Review had been thorough, and had included two extensive consultations. He said that the '160' figure had not been challenged previously, and concerning the carbon data, he said that the figures were projections, it was not an exact science but the County Council was fully aware of carbon issues and were addressing them.

(Q10) Dr Grant-Duff asked the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Flooding if he was aware that the Police had powers to take action against illegal and anti-social activities of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs). The Cabinet Member confirmed that the Police did have the powers but did not necessarily utilise them and that ultimately it was the Police and Crime Commissioner who made the decision on where to target their resources.

(Q12) Mr Robert Evans asked the Cabinet Member for Business Services and Resident Experience why the cost of this project remained commercially sensitive when the land had already been purchased. The Cabinet Member said that it was part of the Property Asset Management Programme and therefore she was unable to provide more information in a public meeting.

(Q13) Mr Essex requested details from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning on what action the County Council would be taking to address and reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions which could arise from further airport expansion at Heathrow. The Cabinet Member said that they would be discussing any mitigating actions with Heathrow later in July.

Cabinet Member Briefings on their portfolios are attached as Appendix C.

Members made the following comments:

- The Cabinet Member for Business Services and Resident Experience asked Members to note a name change: that the Surrey Pension Fund Board be re-named as the 'Surrey Pension Fund Committee' with immediate effect. This name change would be formally included in the report – Updates to the Constitution' which would be reported to the next County Council meeting in October.
- Asked the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning to confirm that the County Council would continue to offer support, beyond the setting up phase, for Community Transport. The Cabinet Member said that the next phase of the Local Transport Review would include engaging with and looking at Community Transport.
- Now that the assessment study was complete, assurance requested for the County Council's continued support for the North Downs Line.
- Also continue to lobby for Oyster Card use in Spelthorne.
- Several questions relating to the Ofsted inspection of Children's Services from Mr Kington, which he agreed to put in writing to the Leader of the Council who agreed to respond outside the meeting.

- That there would be an opportunity at a Member seminar, scheduled for later this year, for Members to input into the Surrey Infrastructure Plan and other infrastructure studies, including Crossrail 2 (CR2).
- A suggestion that future Local Transport Reviews should show a net effect of those passengers who would be negatively affected by any proposals.
- School building projects – concern where projects overran, resulting in children being taught in temporary rooms. However, assurance was given that the quality of teaching and learning was not jeopardised if / when alternative temporary rooms were used.

52/15 STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS [Item 8]

There were no local Member statements.

53/15 ORIGINAL MOTIONS [Item 9]

ITEM 9(i)

Under Standing order 12.3, the Council agreed to debate this motion.

Under Standing Order 12.1, Mr Few moved the motion which was:

‘This Council notes with delight the success of the many Magna Carta celebrations and in particular the historic event which took place on Runnymede Meadows on 15 June 2015 celebrating the 800th anniversary of its sealing.

This Council thanks all of the many people, partners and organisations that helped make the celebrations so successful and which enabled the county of Surrey to showcase a unique event of world significance.

This Council wishes in particular to thank its own staff and Members, many of whom went way beyond the call of duty, in the successful organisation of these celebrations.’

Mr Few made the following points in support of his motion:

- It was a brave decision, taken by Surrey County Council, to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta on the Runnymede Meadows in Surrey
- The event has heightened awareness of Surrey and the county will benefit from increased numbers of visitors
- There had been dedicated teams from the County Council and National Trust working on the event – organising traffic management plans, coach transport, security checks and ensuring that guests would be fed and watered
- With VIP guests, including several senior members of the Royal Family, the Prime Minister and other international guests, the organisation of the event was challenging and its success was achieved with the help of partnership working
- 200 people were presented to Royalty and other dignitaries
- The event culminated in a fly past from the Red Arrows
- It was a very well organised event.

The motion was formally seconded by Mrs Clack, who made the following points:

- Continuation of thanking the people who had key roles in bringing the event to fruition, in particular: Susie Kemp - Assistant Chief Executive, Peter Milton – Head of Cultural Services, Katie Brennan and the Magna Carta team and also the Civic team
- She also thanked Surrey Police, Surrey Highways, Surrey's Emergency Planning team, Surrey Social Services, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, the Ambulance Service, Runnymede Borough Council, Surrey Performing Arts Service, National Trust, Dame Sarah Goad and the Chief Executive
- That the vision of the Leader of the Council in relation to this event had placed Surrey on the 'world map'
- The magnificent artwork, The Jurors by Hew Locke which was commissioned by Surrey County Council and the National Trust
- That art interpretation volunteers were on site at weekends and since the event the car park takings had increased by 50%
- Finally, she said that it was a perfect day and that she was proud to be a part of the Magna Carta celebrations.

Eight Members spoke on the motion, with the following points being made:

- The event had highlighted the reputation of Surrey and put Runnymede and Spelthorne on the map
- The Jurors artwork was a good legacy
- The perception that the event was for 'the great and the good' and not for ordinary people – perhaps more could have been done for local people on the day
- The TV coverage was limited
- It was an amazing day and Members were proud to be part of it
- Praise for the Police
- Concern about the cost of the event, when there were cuts to services being made
- That the artwork could have been funded by public subscription rather than Surrey County Council
- Thanks to those staff who worked so hard to make the event a success
- That the County Council was responsible for the wellbeing of its residents and this event was good for morale and businesses
- Thanks to all the school children who designed the flags for the event
- The Red Arrows flypast at exactly 12.15
- This was not a Conservative event, it was a Surrey County Council event.

After the debate, the motion was put to the vote with 61 Members voting for it. No Members voted against it but there were three abstentions.

Therefore it was:

RESOLVED:

This Council notes with delight the success of the many Magna Carta celebrations and in particular, the historic event which took place on Runnymede Meadows on 15 June 2015 celebrating the 800th anniversary of its sealing.

This Council thanks all of the many people, partners and organisations that helped make the celebrations so successful and which enabled the county of Surrey to showcase a unique event of world significance.

This Council wishes in particular to thank its own staff and Members, many of whom went way beyond the call of duty, in the successful organisation of these celebrations.

ITEM 9(ii)

Under Standing order 12.3, the Council agreed to debate this motion.

Under Standing Order 12.1, Mrs White moved the motion which was:

‘This Council agrees to prioritise the recruitment and retention of Social Workers including by ensuring that the County Council's social worker pay is competitive with neighbouring councils, carrying out recruitment campaigns, recruiting social work graduates from universities, providing key worker housing and relevant training, in order to:

- provide sufficient qualified, trained and experienced Social Workers to support and protect vulnerable children and adults in Surrey,
- reduce the council's over-reliance on costly agency staff
- reduce the workload of social workers.’

Mrs White made the following points in support of her motion:

- The recruitment and retention of social workers in Surrey was a longstanding issue
- Continuity of social worker care was very important
- The use of technology was no substitute for the personal approach
- Established social worker teams that worked closely with one another were needed
- Acknowledgement that Surrey's proximity to London Boroughs, where social workers were paid higher rates, made it more difficult to recruit social workers to Surrey
- The cost of agency staff
- The importance of tackling the issues and to think ‘outside the box’ for solutions i.e. key worker housing
- A need to address Surrey County Council's reputation with social workers
- That social work was a vocation for most social workers and that money was not a prime consideration

- Possible consideration of utilising some of the money paid to agency staff to pay enhance wages for social workers
- Surrey County Council needed to be good employers to attract and retain social workers

The motion was formally seconded by Mrs Watson, who reserved her right to speak.

The Leader of the Council thanked Mrs White for her timely motion and said that this was a national issue. He said that the County Council faced fierce competition in recruiting social workers and had made some progress in recent years but recognised that there was more to do. He confirmed that the Conservative Group would be supporting this motion.

Five Members spoke on the motion, with the following points being made:

- The number of Surrey residents requiring social care services
- The affect of a Supreme Court judgement in relation to Deprivation of Liberty issues, which had resulted in an increase in applications from 57 last year to over 3000 this year – this was a budget pressure for the County Council because experienced social workers had to assess these applications
- Everything that had been suggested by Mrs White was being considered plus a number of strands of work to progress the issue had been identified, including looking at retention and also co-operation with London Boroughs
- There had been some good points made, where officers and Members had been commended, in the Children's Services Ofsted report i.e. Adoption processes
- The importance of tying any possible provision for key worker housing to specific jobs
- It was vital that the County Council attracted a good calibre of people with the right skills into social work positions
- That there were similar problems in the NHS and the County Council needed to work together with the Health Service to prevent duplication.

Mrs Watson, as seconder of the motion, said that she was delighted with the response and considered that there had been a positive and constructive debate. She said that the high vacancy rates were due to the proximity of the county to London but the Council needed to do everything it could to attract people to apply for social worker posts in Surrey.

Mrs White, as proposer of the motion, referred to the point made by Mr Witham in relation to the number of Deprivation of Liberty applications and also the obligations to the Council arising from the Care Act and said that this made the need for social workers positions to be filled even more critical.

Finally, she thanked all Members for supporting her motion.

Therefore, it was:

RESOLVED:

This Council agrees to prioritise the recruitment and retention of Social Workers including by ensuring that the County Council's social worker pay is competitive with neighbouring councils, carrying out recruitment campaigns, recruiting social work graduates from universities, providing key worker housing and relevant training, in order to:

- provide sufficient qualified, trained and experienced Social Workers to support and protect vulnerable children and adults in Surrey,
- reduce the council's over-reliance on costly agency staff
- reduce the workload of social workers.

ITEM 9(iii)

Under Standing order 12.3, the Council agreed to debate this motion.

Under Standing Order 12.1, Mrs Watson moved the motion which was:

‘This Council requests the Cabinet to allocate additional funding to all Local Committees to enable them to introduce 20 mph speed limits outside schools where requested by both the school and the local community in order to reduce traffic speeds and to improve road safety.’

Mrs Watson made the following points in support of her motion:

- She called upon the Authority to provide additional funding to local committees to enable the introduction of 20mph speed limits outside schools where requested
- Made reference to a trial at three schools in Mole Valley where the reduced speed limit had now been made permanent
- That the safety of all children was paramount and many parents wanted a 20mph speed limit outside schools
- Any 20mph speed limit would need enforcement
- There was evidence across the country that drivers did slow down when 20 mph speed limits were in place.

The motion was formally seconded by Mr Cooksey.

Seven Members spoke on the motion, with the following points being made:

- That speed limit assessments were already delegated to local committees for decision and this motion was a request for additional resources for local committees
- Not all problems that occurred outside schools related to speed
- That it was the County Council’s policy to undertake an assessment of safety outside schools and that report was then considered by the relevant local committee
- There were only 15 out of over 500 schools in Surrey that were near accident black spots and these schools had been fully evaluated and some road improvements made
- Local people should make local decisions on local issues
- Where would the extra funding requested come from?
- The motion said that introduction of 20mph speed limits would only happen if requested by the school and the local community
- The motion went against any devolution principles for increasing responsibility locally

- Whilst local committees had the power to introduce changes to speed limits, they did not have sufficient resources to implement them
- Many other local authorities throughout the country had implemented 20mph speed limits outside schools.

After the debate, the motion was put to the vote, with 12 Members voting for it. 52 Members voted against it and there were no abstentions.

Therefore the motion was lost.

54/15 ELECTED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY [Item 10]

The authority was awarded Charter status in October 2011, this was renewed in April 2015 and the Member Development Steering Group intend to achieve Charter Plus status before the end of 2017.

As Chairman of the Member Development Steering Group, Ms Le Gal introduced the revised Elected Member Development Strategy. She highlighted the following points:

- (i) That the induction of the new Council in 2017 would formalise processes for using feedback from newly elected councillors
- (ii) The introduction of a 180 feedback process for Members.

When asked about the protocol for elected Members attendance at external courses and conferences, Ms Le Gal confirmed that the Member Development programme was tailored to each Members individual needs and that all requests should be agreed by the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman of the Member Development Steering Group.

RESOLVED:

That the Elected Member Development Strategy be approved.

55/15 REPORT OF THE CABINET [Item 11]

The Leader presented the Report of the Cabinet meetings held on 26 May and 23 June 2015.

Reports for Information / Discussion

The following reports were received and noted:

- Joint Commissioning Strategy for Speech and Language Therapy for children and Young People
- The Agreement with Surrey Wildlife Trust for the Management of the County Council's Countryside Estate
- Confident in Surrey's Future: Equality, Fairness and Respect Strategy 2015 – 2020
- Quarterly report on decisions taken under Special Urgency Arrangements: 1 April – 30 June 2015

RESOLVED:

That the report of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 26 May and 23 June 2015 be adopted.

56/15 REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE [Item 12]

The Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee introduced the report and commended the updated strategies against Fraud and Corruption and Risk Management, plus the updated Code of Corporate Governance to Members.

RESOLVED:

1. That the updated Strategy against Fraud and Corruption, attached as Annex A to the submitted report, be approved, for inclusion in the Constitution.
2. That the Risk Management Strategy, attached as Annex B to the submitted report, be approved, for inclusion in the Constitution.
3. That the updated Code of Corporate Governance, attached as Annex C to the submitted report, be approved, for inclusion in the Constitution.

57/15 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE CABINET [Item 13]

No notification had been received from Members wishing to raise a question or make a statement on any of the matters in the minutes, by the deadline.

[Meeting ended at: 12.45pm]

Chairman