

County Council Meeting – 8 December 2015

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 27 October and 24 November 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 27 October 2015 meeting are included within the agenda at item 14. The minutes of the 24 November 2015 meeting will be circulated separately. Cabinet responses to Committee reports are included in or appended to the minutes. If any Member wishes to raise a question or make a statement on any of the matters in the minutes, notice must be given to Democratic Services by 12 noon on the last working day before the County Council meeting (Monday 7 December 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS

24 November 2015

A SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN

1. The Cabinet at its meeting on 24 November 2015 considered the report on the School Organisation Plan 2015/16 – 2024/25. The recommendations and reasons for recommendations considered by Cabinet are attached at Appendix 1. The report submitted to Cabinet together with the School Organisation Plan is attached as Appendix 2.

2. The Cabinet RECOMMENDS:

That the School Organisation Plan 2015/16 – 2024/25 be approved.

27 October 2015

B REVISION OF PROCUREMENT STANDING ORDERS

1. The Procurement Standing Orders (PSOs) sets out how the Council governs spending by officers on goods, works and services. The PSOs need revision to take account of recent changes in the law, and to update them to ensure they reflect best practice and Council priorities, including partnership working.
2. These Procurement Standing Orders have four main purposes:
 - To secure **value for money** through appropriate market competition for contracts, so that the Council offers best value for services to Surrey residents.
 - To be **transparent** to Surrey's residents about how the County Council spend their money.

- To make sure that the Council spends its public money **legally and fairly**, and to **protect** it from undue criticism or allegation of wrongdoing.
- To support **sustainability** and social value objectives, and the Council's public sector equality duty.

3. They have been updated to take account of:

- new Public Contract Regulations 2015
- best practice updates for lower value contracts from Lord Young recommendations aiming to making it easier for small and local businesses to tender for contracts
- the Local Government Transparency Code on publication of data
- closer alignment of procurement practices to support effective collaboration and partnership working, including extension of the existing partnership with East Sussex County Council, whilst still respecting the sovereignty of individual Council requirements
- improvements to purchasing processes intended to speed up transactions and ensure proper compliance
- improvements to strengthen contract management and management of contract variations and extensions
- updates to reflect best practice around electronic invoicing.

Xx The Cabinet RECOMMENDS:

That the proposed changes to Procurement Standing Orders, as set out in Appendix 3, be approved.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

27 October 2015

A ORBIS THREE YEAR BUSINESS PLAN

1. On 15 April 2015, East Sussex and Surrey County Councils established a transformative public sector partnership, 'Orbis', with the vision to deliver a fully integrated and compelling business service offer to the public sector.
2. It was imperative that business services for both East Sussex and Surrey County Councils were delivered in a way which enabled front line services to respond to the needs of residents quickly and seamlessly. Both Councils also needed to realise efficiencies which could be used to protect the services residents value the most and Orbis provides the platform for this through increased economies of scale and pooled expertise.
3. Orbis has a unique aspiration to grow beyond the two founding partners of East Sussex County Council and Surrey County Council, to become one of the largest shared services providers of its kind. With the two founding partners, Orbis has a combined budget of £65m and employs 1400 staff. There has already been a positive reception from peers, and other county, city and district councils have begun to engage and shown an interest in joining the partnership.

4. Following Cabinet approval in February 2015 to establish the partnership, detailed work has been undertaken at Cabinet's request to produce a three-year business plan for the partnership, this was endorsed by the Orbis Joint Committee on 28 September 2015.
5. In order to achieve full projected benefits, Cabinet's endorsement and sign-off of the next level of investment was required. This investment was necessary to realise the full benefits of Orbis, including improved business services for customers, and therefore residents.
7. **The Cabinet AGREED:**
 1. That the Orbis business plan, approved by the Orbis Joint Committee on 28 September 2015, and the roadmap for the integration of services, as described in the plan, within the Cabinet report, be noted.
 2. That the one off investment (SCC share £4.7m) required to deliver the benefits (SCC share £5.6m recurring) through off-setting of investments against benefits in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) (2016-21) be approved in principle.
 3. That the Surrey County Council share of the initial investment in the programme team up to 2017/18 be approved and IT costs for 2015/16 which is £862,000, be funded from the 'Invest to Save' fund initially, where investment precedes benefits, otherwise to be off-set against benefits.

**Mr David Hodge
Leader of the Council
27 November 2015**

CABINET IS ASKED TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL:

A. SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN

That the School Organisation Plan 2015/16 – 2024/25 be approved.

Reasons for Recommendations

The School Organisation Plan is a key document used by schools and education stakeholders in considering long term plans. It is necessary to review the Plan to ensure that the best and most up to date information is published for use in this planning process.

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