

CABINET – 26 September 2017

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Members Questions

Question (1) Hazel Watson (Dorking Hills):

The Leader of the Council, in his Leader's Statement at Council on July 11th 2017, said:

"We're also working with district and borough colleagues on a housing strategy and have identified several dozen sites to deal with the chronic housing shortage".

Please could he list the "several dozen sites" that SCC and the boroughs & districts have identified for housing.

Reply:

Thank you for your questions, I am able to advise that Surrey County Council (SCC) Cabinet will shortly be considering a Cabinet Paper on this specific subject matter to bring forward at scale and pace the delivery of housing across a number of sites across Surrey.

By working closely with District & Boroughs, a number of strategic opportunities are being explored together that will help bring forward sites to deliver housing that meets the needs of residents across Surrey.

As for the list of sites at this time I can advise that within the SCC ownership there are 36 sites currently identified. Some sites are currently classed as vacant but generating income and the Council continues to examine its assets to enable SCC to optimise Service Delivery whilst identifying income generation ideas.

As the Member has already listed in her second question she must accept and recognise the information requested is commercially sensitive at this time to ensure that SCC is able to retain the maximum benefits from any redevelopment proposals.

As SCC progresses matters I will ensure members are made aware of information that can be released without compromising commercial factors.

Mr David Hodge CBE
Leader of the Council
26 September 2017

Question (2) Hazel Watson (Dorking Hills):

What are the costs per annum of retaining each of the following County Council owned vacant buildings with regard to any head rent, rates, security, general maintenance or any other direct costs? Please provide the costs per building and the period of time each building has been vacant:

Former Pond Meadow School, Pond Meadow, Guildford.

Former Lime Tree School, Alexander Road, Reigate RH2 8ED
Brockhurst, Brox Road, Ottershaw, KT16 0HQ
Former Spelthorne Clinic, Spelthorne Junior School, Feltham Hill Road, Ashford.
The Former Manor School, Magdalen Crescent, Byfleet.
Elm Grove Hersham Road Walton on Thames KT12 1LZ
Sycamore Centre, 14 West Hill, Epsom, KT19 8HR
Former Depot, 14a Ladymead, Guildford
Bramley Grounds Maintenance Depot, Gosden Common, Bramley.
7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Gosden Common, Bramley, Guildford. GU5 0AD
Dorking Centre, Dene Street, Dorking.
Former Depot, Chalkpit Lane, Guildford Road, Great Bookham.
Bentley Centre, Banstead
Merstham Youth Centre Radstock Way, Merstham, Redhill
Glenthorne, Rookery Road, Staines.
The Oast House, Kingston Road, Staines.
White Cottage, 34 Kingston Road, Staines.
Malthouse, Kingston Road, Staines.
Former Portesbery school, Portesbery Road, Camberley GU15 3SZ
Coachman's, France Hill Drive, Camberley
Dormers, Foxon Lane Caterham CR3 5SG
Former Warlingham Boys Club, Chelsham Road, Warlingham.
Bletchingley AEC, Sytchens Lane, Bletchingley
Depot at Beech Grove Yard, Caterham.
Longfield, Killicks Road, Cranleigh
Cobgates, Farnham
Old Fire Station, High Road, Byfleet
Woking Youth Centre, Walton Road, Woking, GU21 5DL
Cartref, Moor Lane, Woking GU22 9RB

Reply:

As the Member is aware, she has submitted a significant list of assets that requires a considerable amount of officer time to investigate and respond to and, as stated in response to her first question, it would be inappropriate to provide any material that would compromise the commercial interests of the Council.

Mr David Hodge CBE
Leader of the Council
26 September 2017

Question (3) Jonathan Essex (Redhill East):

Please can you confirm what proportion of the housing proposed in the new strategy announced by the Leader at Council on July 11th will be:

- a) at an affordable or social rent; and
- b) built on green belt land?

Reply:

- a) I can advise that each scheme will be independently assessed and that when presented to the relevant local planning authorities the schemes presented will be those that aim to assist the relevant local policies on affordable and social rent whilst delivering schemes that are financially viable.
- b) I am sure we can agree that more housing is much needed in Surrey. The council has an existing policy about protecting the Green Belt and schemes will need to be designed with the requirements of the planning authority's Local Plan in mind.

Mr David Hodge CBE
Leader of the Council
26 September 2017

Question (4) Jonathan Essex (Redhill East):

The overall County Council's recycling rate for last year was reported as 57.7%. Please could the Cabinet Member outline what extra resources will be deployed in order to meet (or indeed exceed) the County Council's agreed strategy of at least 70% recycling, in the light of his plan to reduce the opening hours of CRCs and end the free daily allowance?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. Firstly I would point out that Surrey County Council is not removing any of the recycling facilities from its community recycling centres (CRCs) so residents will still be able to recycle the same wide range of materials. In addition, as reported to Cabinet, officers will be working with Suez to increase the recycling rates at CRCs by further black bag sorting. I therefore do not expect the proposed changes to impact negatively on the recycling rate at our CRCs.

The greatest potential for increasing recycling lies with the borough and district council kerbside collection service. Whilst the collection services offered by Surrey district and borough councils are broadly similar, there is a significant difference in recycling rates between individual districts and boroughs. The Council continues to work as part of the Surrey Waste Partnership to encourage greater levels of participation in recycling schemes through targeted publicity campaigns and working on specific initiatives such as improving the recycling offering for flatted properties. Significant resources are being employed by the Surrey Waste Partnership in both of these areas and Surrey County Council will continue to support these important initiatives.

Mr Mike Goodman
Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure
26 September 2017