

**Appendix A**

County Council – 10 October 2017

**Leader of the Council's statement**

Mr Chairman and members, the autumn budget statement did not deliver any good news for local government. But, we are all aware of the increasing demands in sustaining statutory children and adult social care services which in turn leave significantly less funding for all other services that our residents expect. Things have to change.

I believe, we were all elected to be game-changers by our residents. They expect us to stand up for Surrey and their individual place and we must never forget that responsibility.

So what do I mean by being the game changers in our County Council Divisions? We should be working more closely with our District and Borough Councillors, the voluntary & community sector, our health service colleagues, local police officers and our residents as a single community to look again at our place with fresh eyes.

We need to determine what can be done to make everything easier and better for local residents. Of course, we must put our residents at the heart of all of this, listening to their priorities and involving them in all we do. That goes without saying.

We have many strong and vibrant communities across Surrey and we need to work with them to strengthen our collective success in our places. Of course, Mr Chairman and members I recognise that issues which may need addressing in Godalming will differ to those in Horley or those in Staines or those in Camberley - but fundamentally it is our role as game changers to be the catalyst that drives reform.

We must work together to improve the unique aspects of each place within our Divisions. That is the future. And that also means working with officers across public services so that they can also become part of that game changing role.

So Mr Chairman and members; my challenge to everyone in this Chamber for 2018 is embrace the concept of game changers for your local places. Be that Community Leader of place, work together as One Team and let's sow the seeds of change to improve every opportunity for our residents in each local place. Mr Chairman, we have over 100 community places in Surrey and that means over 100 opportunities for change.

We need to look at serving those communities in a new way that achieves the best for each place and for every resident. When a resident goes into a public building Mr Chairman, they don't care if it is run by the county or the borough or district, or some other public service. When an elderly person receives care, they want it to be designed around them, for them, in their home, in their place. When a child needs care, we must listen to their needs and ensure their protection is designed around them in a safe place. When a start-up business wants support, they want it designed around them, for them, in their place.

Our residents only care about the quality of the service they receive. That must be our goal: to provide seamless, affordable, high quality services in our places. To achieve that goal I suggest we must focus on 4 questions:

1. How do we work with our residents in new ways to achieve these ambitions?
2. How do we deliver better services in a place?
3. How do we join up services to better focus on the needs of a particular place?  
And
4. How do we can make better use of all our collective assets and resources?

Of course this will need continued strong leadership to address these four questions, and I am very pleased that we have secured Joanna Killian to be this county council's new chief executive, an appointment that I hope Members will approve later this morning.

Joanna has a proven and successful track record in local government and the private sector, so it is testament to this Council's ambition and standing that the vacancy attracted such a strong field of candidates. Subject to Council's approval I very much look forward to working alongside Joanna when she takes up the post next year.

I know that one of Joanna's priorities will be getting to know and building strong relationships with our key partners:

- our district and borough councils
- Surrey Police
- the health service
- our schools & Universities leadership
- the voluntary and faith sector
- the Civic leadership
- Surrey businesses and our local Enterprise Partnerships

And I can confirm to everyone today that the concept of Game Changers for different places in Surrey has the full backing of Joanna. I know that she is clear about the importance of working with local communities, in their places, to find new solutions to the increasingly challenging public service issues we face going forward.

I am proud of the way that partners in Surrey have responded to the challenges of sustained financial pressures over recent years by strengthening the way we work together. It has not been easy but I want to extend my thanks to our District and Borough Leadership teams for their support in difficult financial times for all of us. I have already started talking with Surrey's eleven district and borough leaders who are supporting this place direction and I look forward to continuing discussions in the New Year.

Mr Chairman, I also look forward to a positive announcement from Government in the next few weeks on the joint bid from Surrey's local authorities to be a Business Rates pilot. This pilot would go a long way to supporting the work underway between the County and districts and boroughs to strengthen Surrey's economy.

Mr Chairman as we look ahead to what we know will be a challenging 2018 we should focus on the opportunities that lie ahead. I know that our communities hold the key to the future. They have the knowledge, insight and capacity to help us make Surrey an even better place to live and work. Let's all work together to deliver this goal of supporting powerful places to thrive.

May I conclude Mr Chairman by first thanking staff across Surrey County Council for their dedication and support during difficult times and to all our members, particularly those newly elected this year, for your steadfast support for residents.

May I also wish you, our members and staff and their families, and all Surrey residents an enjoyable festive period and prosperous new year.

Finally Mr Chairman, as you have already said, this will be Ann Charlton's final County Council meeting before her well-deserved retirement. Ann has been a brilliant sounding board for so many staff and councillors over many years.

I have found Ann to be highly professional and of immense integrity; clearly an example to those whom she works with. Since I became Leader, Ann has offered constructive advice, yes even told me when I am wrong!! , but I have never failed to be impressed by her calmness, efficiency and professionalism.

I know she doesn't look old enough, but Ann has recently become a grandparent, and I wish her and her family well in the future. Thank you, Ann for everything you have done and achieved for Surrey residents. I know that all of us at SCC will really miss you.

This page is intentionally left blank