

CABINET – 27 November 2018

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Public Questions

Question 1: Mark Welling, Chair, NewSPAL

At its June 2018 meeting Cabinet invited NewSPAL to produce a detailed and robust business plan for consideration by Cabinet in Autumn 2018. Surrey Libraries management provided guidance on what the plan should contain and gave comments on an early draft (submitted to them in early October). NewSPAL employed a highly experienced consultant to help ensure that the plan was credible, robust and comprehensive. In consultation with Surrey Libraries officers, on 7 November NewSPAL's plan was delivered to your officers with a view to it being considered by Cabinet on 27 November. On 8 November NewSPAL was informed that officers considered that NewSPAL's proposal would need to be the subject of a public consultation before being submitted to Cabinet. Having regard to the time required to conduct the public consultation, at which Cabinet meeting is it now envisaged NewSPAL's proposal and business plan will be considered by Cabinet?

Reply:

The Cabinet Member for Community Services is very pleased to receive proposals from NewSPAL in respect of the Surrey Performing Arts Library and acknowledges the significant progress made in moving towards robust new arrangements. We are committed to making a decision about the new arrangements at the earliest opportunity and in order to achieve this will undertake a final consultation over the coming weeks. It is planned to take the proposals to Cabinet in February 2019 for decision following the consultation.

Ms Denise Turner-Stewart
Cabinet Member for Community Services
27 November 2018

Question 2: Diane Thornton, Local resident

In the light of the new guidelines issued by the UN that we have 12 years to respond effectively to climate change and the recommendation of 100 leading academics* that anything less than zero emissions by 2025 is not sufficient to avert a climate catastrophe will the council:

- a) Seek to meet these new deadlines and quotas and adopt a timetable and action plan to do so; and
- b) follow the example of Bristol City Council in declaring a climate emergency to push through radical measures?

*Letter to The Guardian 26 October 2018

Reply:

The whole issue of air quality, including climate change, impact on the environment, and the effect on human health is one that this Council takes seriously and have taken a number of steps to improve the air we breathe. They also work closely with the Surrey Energy and Sustainability Partnership and the Surrey Air Alliance.

The Government's clean air policy is due to be launched later this year and this will give further guidance to local authorities, business and residents how they can work to improve the air we breathe.

Throughout the summer SCC have been working on low emission and EV policy strategies to reduce transport-related air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. This item is on the agenda (item 8) for this Cabinet meeting when a report will be presented for discussion:
<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/documents/g5821/Public%20reports%20pack%20Tuesday%2027-Nov-2018%2014.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10>

Mr Mike Goodman
Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport
27 November 2018