

*County Council Meeting – 21 May 2019***REPORT OF THE CABINET**

The Cabinet met on 26 March 2019 and 30 April 2019.

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 26 March and 30 April meetings are included within the agenda at item 19. Any 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, 20 May 2019).

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
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A. REVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS

At its meeting on 30 April 2019 the Cabinet considered a report that set out the proposed revisions to procurement and contract standing orders.

Cabinet AGREED:

To make the following recommendation to County Council on 21 May 2019:

Cabinet RECOMMENDS County Council:

Approves the proposed changes to Procurement and Contract Standing Orders as set out in Annex 1.

Reasons for Decision:

- Introduction of an annual forward procurement plan which provides a platform for early sight of key strategic procurements, improved planning and management of procurement projects and identification of a future savings pipeline.
- Introducing more streamlined procurement thresholds, which reduces the burden on small and local business and the voluntary sector to win council work.
- Consistent and aligned policy and process across the Orbis partnership, engendering greater efficiencies, reducing bureaucracy and developing a flexible pool of expert resources to conduct procurement activity.
- Incorporating the latest legislative and regulatory changes.

REPORT FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION
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B. ASSET AND PLACE STRATEGY

At its meeting on 30 April 2019 the Cabinet considered a report regarding utilising the council's building more efficiently, setting up a 'civic heart' within Surrey's borders as well as seeking a long term use for County Hall. The Council had appointed an Advisory Panel to act as a critical friend and the Leader thanked

them for their work. In undertaking this work, a key output had been to build upon the existing relationships with partners. Services would be consolidated into 100 of the 300 existing council buildings which would provide hubs for both council and partners. Surplus assets would be used to provide additional income for services.

The Leader went on to report that he had received suggestions from the Highways and Growth Select Committee which would be picked up going forward as part of a wider review of the Councils investment strategy. The full report, enclosures and appendices are set out in the Cabinet agenda.

Cabinet AGREED:

- 1) That the Advisory Panel's report be noted and thanks extended to the Panel for their work on this project;
- 2) That the Asset and Place strategy be approved.
- 3) That the Action Plan be agreed.
- 4) That where the Council builds new homes, and where viability allows, the principle that it is committed to ensuring that all schemes meet the affordable housing requirement from the district or borough planning authority be agreed.

Reason for Decision:

The recommendations drive pace and delivery of property projects to deliver revenue income to support service delivery for residents and provision of flexible workspaces that support staff for the future.

C. MOVING CLOSER TO RESIDENTS

At its meeting on 30 April 2019 the Cabinet considered a report that set out how, as part of the council's ongoing [transformation programme](#), the opportunity was being taken to move those staff located at County Hall, Kingston, closer to residents and partners. The council would establish a new 'Civic Heart' within the county, with quality collaborative spaces where elected members, the Corporate Leadership Team and their respective strategic support teams could work and conduct council business. Presently, a number of options were being explored at Guildford and Woking. Confirmation for the site of the new Civic Heart was hoped to be reported to the July meeting of Cabinet. The Leader went on to explain the potential savings and the work being undertaken with the Royal Borough of Kingston to find a suitable use for County Hall. The full report, enclosures and appendices are set out in the Cabinet agenda.

Cabinet AGREED:

- 1) That the principle of moving the council closer to the residents of Surrey, and leaving the County Hall complex (in Kingston) by the end of 2020 be approved.
- 2) That the principles and criteria upon which the location for the new Civic Heart will be chosen be agreed.
- 3) That the analysis provided for selecting a location for the new Civic Heart of the council in accordance with the selection principles be approved and that further work be done to provide due diligence for the leading location options – Guildford and Woking.
- 4) That the principle of reviewing council staff work bases and relocating our people to other premises within the council's estate, in order to better meet service needs and work closer with our partners, be agreed.

- 5) That the responsible officer be authorised to appoint advisors to work with the council to explore and appraise the options for the County Hall complex to maximise the potential receipt or benefit to the council, and for this analysis to be presented back to Cabinet in July 2019.
- 6) That a detailed programme proposal report for decision would be received at July 2019 Cabinet meeting.

Reason for Decision:

The Community Vision for Surrey in 2030 and the council's own [Organisation Strategy](#) envisage a quite different and much improved relationship and connectivity between the council and Surrey residents, and a new way of working for the council. A foundational step in furtherance of both is to locate the headquarters of the council in Surrey itself. The move (comprising the establishment of a 'Civic Heart' where many of the functions of a County Hall will be located, a wider workforce increasingly enabled to work in a more agile way and the introduction of new ways of working across multiple work locations) will secure benefits to residents and the council.

D. LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN

Cabinet were asked to note the Monitoring Officer's report at its meeting on 30 April 2019, giving background details to the complaint that had originated in 2015/16. The Monitoring Officer explained that Council has accepted the recommendations of the Ombudsman. The Council will pay a total of £3750 for missed provision and time and trouble for the complainant in pursuing the complaint. An apology had been extended to the family for the delay in issuing the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan), and for the lack of communication during this period. Training would be delivered for special educational needs (SEN) staff to prevent a recurrence of the fault found by the Ombudsman and to make sure another family does not have the same experience. He again stressed that the service had changed greatly since the date of the complaint in 2015/16.

The Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning and Leader of the Council extended their apologies for the failings in the handling of the complaint and were pleased that changes had now been put in place and the child was receiving support.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the Ombudsman's report and the steps taken by the service to address the findings be noted.
2. That no further action should be taken.
3. That the Monitoring Officer would bring his report (attached as Annex 2) to the attention of all councillors.

QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 1 FEBRUARY – 7 MAY 2019

The Cabinet is required under the Constitution to report to Council on a quarterly basis the details of decisions taken by the Cabinet and Cabinet Members under the general exception arrangements set out in Standing Order 55 of the Constitution. This occurs where a decision is required on a matter that is not contained within the Leader's Forward Plan (Notice of Decisions). Where a decision on such matters

could not reasonably be delayed, the Chairman of the appropriate Scrutiny Board must be notified.

1. An item was dealt with under General Exception at the 30 April 2019 Cabinet meeting – Fostering Allowance Uplift. Details are included in the Minutes of the Cabinet at agenda item 19.

[In accordance with Standing Order 55 (General Exception), the Chairman of the Corporate Overview Select Committee agreed that the decisions on this item could not be reasonably deferred so this item was not subject to call in]

The Cabinet RECOMMENDS that the County Council notes that there has been one urgent decision in this quarter.

**Mr Tim Oliver, Leader of the Council
30 April 2019**