



CABINET REPORT TO COUNCIL

Delivering the Community Vision for Surrey in 2030: Working with Partners and Residents

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

1. During the summer of 2018, residents, communities, voluntary and charitable bodies, faith groups, organisations, public sector bodies, businesses and others from across Surrey worked to set out an ambitious and wide-ranging Vision for Surrey in 2030, focused on its people and the place.
2. As part of this, it was widely accepted that working in partnership is key to achieving better outcomes for residents and that all organisations in Surrey with a role to play in delivering the Vision need to collaborate effectively, to better meet the needs and aspirations of the people of Surrey. It was further recognised that the wider community of Surrey has the foundations to enable this.
3. [On Tuesday 30 April 2019, Cabinet received a report](#) that set out the work undertaken to strengthen partnerships and the direction of travel for the future with better partnership and collaborative working between local organisations and residents.
4. To help progress this work, Council is asked to endorse the draft 'Partnership Commitment' which is intended as a statement of the principles underpinning how all those involved in partnership work across the County will work and to which partners will be invited to subscribe.

BACKGROUND:

5. Partners across the county – district and borough councils, public sector organisations, the Voluntary, Community, Faith Sector and businesses – face multiple, complex and, in some cases, interrelated challenges, including demographic changes, rising service demand, government policy changes and uncertainty, and the cumulative impact of reducing resources.
6. Through the engagement work on the Vision for Surrey, it became apparent that given these challenges, the ambition of the Vision could only be secured through effective partnership working. Discussions with

partners identified both where partnerships were working well and how we needed to change and improve the way we work together. Evidence from the [engagement exercise on the Vision](#) also highlighted residents' expectations that partners work in a joined up way.

7. The positive relationships and ways of working partners adopt when collaborating are critical to success, and is just as, if not more, important as defining the priorities they work on and the support they need to deliver. In response to feedback from partners and residents, we set out our intention to work with partners to develop a partnership commitment to define these.
8. Through two partner workshops held in February 2019, we co-designed a draft partnership commitment that sets out expectations of each other as partners (Annex A). Other key conclusions from the workshops were:
 - a. All partners have a responsibility to take ownership of the Vision for Surrey and to promote it with stakeholders less familiar with it
 - b. It is important for partners to use their knowledge, skills and experience to complement the work of others, and to avoid duplication
 - c. Being better partners means being honest and flexible to take account of each organisations' interests
 - d. We shouldn't lose sight of the outcomes we are trying to achieve
9. Partners need to develop more opportunities for residents to contribute to their communities. This includes removing some of the barriers that can prevent people contributing, such as the formal nature of some voluntary roles and commitments.
10. Cabinet approved the direction of travel for improving how we work with partners and residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council:

- a. endorse and approve the Partnership Commitment and support its promotion across the county.

Lead Officer:

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Annexes:

Annex A – Partnership Commitment