

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**TUESDAY 08 OCTOBER 2019****QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED UNDER THE PROVISIONS
OF STANDING ORDER 10.1****MARY LEWIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES****1. MR CHRIS TOWNSEND (ASHTREAD) TO ASK:**

There is considerable disquiet amongst a number of members around the current situation on youth services. A number of members have local communities interested in assisting here and would like to know the current position regarding youth services.

Namely what support, if any, is being given by Surrey County Council to the youth sector, this includes funding, buildings and staffing.

Is a universal service being considered, if not, what is being suggested?

There is no information being provided by Surrey County Council, officers or cabinet members, on the subject and the ability to move forward is being hampered by this lack of information.

Please can we have the information we need to move forward in a positive manner?

Response:

I am pleased to be able to respond positively to this important question from Councillor Chris Townsend. He is right there is an encouraging desire in local communities around Surrey to ensure that 'open access' youth services are available for our young people.

Whilst the Council is not now able to fund 'open access' youth services, it does own a number of buildings and it is our intention to make these buildings available to local communities and voluntary sector organisations as a base to provide youth services. It is our intention to put in place a process over the next six months that will see our buildings brought into use in a way that will provide vibrant services to our young people.

Officers and I will be setting out shortly the process to develop the conversations that will enable these important services. It is likely that SCC will maintain a small, flexible and mobile service that can target services in the short term where new need emerges.

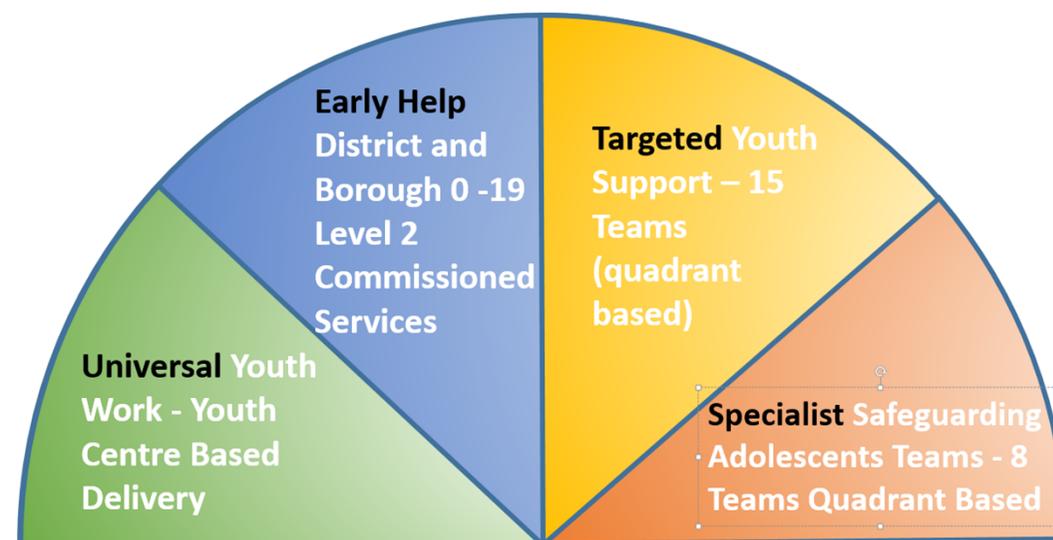
The following information indicates how universal access youth work provided by the voluntary, community and faith sector fits in with the continuum of targeted support provided by the County Council.

The Surrey County Council Youth Offer



The Surrey Safeguarding Partnership has established the 4 levels of Need for children, young people and families as **Universal (level 1)**, **Early Help (level 2)**, **Targeted Support (level 3)** and **Specialist (level 4)**

The term '**Youth Offer**' is used to describe the range of services for young people that are provided by Surrey County Council for each level of need.



The transformation of Children and Family Services has created new teams to ensure Young People who need additional support get it at the right time and in the right way from either Targeted Youth Support Teams or the Safeguarding Adolescence Teams. The level 2 Early Help 0-19 offer is also being recommissioned to create a lead provider in each District and Borough for young people who need help early when issues occur. The Public Health approach to reducing serious youth violence and knife crime requires effective arrangements across all the levels of need and has informed the creation of the new model. These new services do not deliver universal, open access Youth Work such as Youth Centres. Open access universal youth work is provided in some areas by the existing Surrey County Council Youth Service but in many areas open access youth work is already delivered by the voluntary and community sector. The voluntary and community sector also supports Young People who need additional support with more details available on the Surrey County Council Family Information Website. The following diagram describes the Surrey County Council Youth Offer against each of the levels of need.

Universal Youth Work

Universal Youth Work is open to all young people and is provided by Youth Work practitioners in a number of Youth Centres across Surrey. Universal Youth Work often uses activities as a way to engage young people, young people do not need to be referred to the Youth Centre and can access the programme of activities for little or no cost. In Surrey, a number of centres are now run by the voluntary, community and faith sector and the buildings are also used for other non-youth work related activities.

There is no statutory duty for Surrey County Council to provide open access universal youth work. Whilst Universal Youth Work provides a range of activities such as sport and music to engage young people, its primary focus is social and emotional development.

Early Help

Some young people need to be helped early when issues occur to ensure they reach their potential. This can be as straightforward as a supportive conversation by a teacher, neighbour or police officer or perhaps help to access support on specific issues. A significant number of voluntary, community and faith sector organisations support young people that need help with their identity, emotional health, relationships and life as a young person in general. Surrey County Council commissions a range of these services across Surrey as part of a 0-19 Level 2 Early Help offer in each District and Borough. These services can be accessed direct without a need for referral to the Children's Single Point of Access.



Targeted Youth Support (TYS)

TYS is a new service that works with young people after a request for support has been made through the Children's Single Point of Access. Young People need to give their consent with the exception of young people involved with Criminal Justice. Young People will be allocated to a practitioner who will undertake an assessment and produce a plan with the young person. Targeted Youth Support engage young people who are at risk of exclusion from school, risk of homelessness and coming into care, difficult family relationships, risk of exploitation, substance misuse, offending behaviour, emotional and mental health support. YYS meet young people in the most appropriate settings to meet their needs, using community venues and some youth centres. The support can be 1:1 or in groups and can include working with the whole family where appropriate

Safeguarding Adolescents Teams (SATs)

The SATs provides the statutory Child Protection and Safeguarding support for adolescents in Surrey. The Service is accessed through the Children's Single Point of Access. Young People are likely to be experiencing exploitation, serious offending, homelessness, exclusion from school. The Social Work led teams work closely with other partner agencies to protect young people and support their recovery. SATs work very closely with YYS to provide a seamless response when risks increase and decrease. When young people do come in to the care of the local authority SATs will work with the young person and families to repair fractured relationships and their return home where appropriate.

Youth Justice – YYS and SATs

MIKE GOODMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE

2. MR EBER KINGTON (EWELL COURT, AURIOL & CUDDINGTON) TO ASK:

1. Is the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste able to provide a date for the publication of Surrey County Council's new tree planting policy?
2. As agreed at Council Meeting in July, will it contain "a more proactive policy that looks to increase the number and regularity of trees planted" in urban areas?
3. Will the policy have a target for the number of trees planted annually by Surrey County Council in urban streets, which in Epsom and Ewell currently stands at zero?

Response:

In July 2019 Surrey County Council committed to facilitating the planting of 1.2m trees in Surrey by 2030, one for every head of the population, in order to tackle climate change.

Officers are currently working with partners from the Forestry Commission, Woodland Trust, Surrey Wildlife Trust and the University of Surrey to develop a strategy for the 1.2m new trees. This strategy will ensure that the right trees (ie those which can adapt to a changing climate and disease) are planted in the right places to ensure the trees reach maturity and sequester the maximum possible carbon dioxide.

The strategy is expected to be published once it has been approved by Cabinet before the end of the year.

The strategy will not be prescriptive about the number of trees planted in any given location or area, however a mix of woodland and urban trees is expected. The County Council will work with partners including officers from the boroughs and districts to identify potential funding mechanisms to allow for more urban trees as part of this initiative.

The first tree was planted by the Leader and Chairman of Surrey County Council on the 5 October 2019 at the Surrey Hills Wood Fair at the Cranleigh Show Ground and this was the first official action by SCC in tackling climate change.

TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

3. MR NICK DARBY (THE DITTONS) TO ASK:

Concerning 'Moving Closer to Residents':

1. Please confirm the professional fees incurred to date in respect of the proposed move from County Hall, including a breakdown.
2. What is the current estimate of the annual net savings which we will make once the move from County Hall is completed, again with a detailed breakdown, and including whatever assumptions have been made?
3. What alternatives have been considered in relation to reduced use of County Hall space by Surrey County Council and different use of other sections of County Hall by third parties, whether on a rental or other basis?

Response:

1. In April, Cabinet agreed that the following eight specialist professional services were essential and should be commissioned for this complex, multi-million pound transformational project, along with the estimated required funding being made available:

#	Item	Description	Cost (£)
1	Desk utilisation study	Of office sites within Surrey	53,150
2	Specialist professional staff (short-term)	Specialist staff to work on delivery of property-stream and records/filing management work	105,000
3	'Art of the possible' office space planning	Assess potential for adapting sites to be Agile workspaces. Design specifications and costing, building alteration specifications and costings	75,000
4	Heritage statement for County Hall	Statement of Significance and assessment of approaches to County Hall internal layout and redevelopment options	60,000
5	Architect's feasibility study for County Hall	Planning and architectural feasibility with drawings, showing how the complex could be converted or redeveloped	80,000
6	County Hall valuation	Valuation of the County Hall complex, taking into account heritage statement and architect feasibility study	25,000
7	Specialist planning consultant	Planning advice to assist with the development of an outline planning application	100,000
8	IT infrastructure Project Manager and network conditions surveys	Site scoping and detailed network condition surveys of potential sites for the new Civic Heart	40,000
			538,150

As at Tuesday 1 October 2019 (the most recent data available) the council has spent £332,150.

2. The current estimate of the likely annual net revenue savings for two possible options for a future 'Civic Heart' currently being evaluated, along with a generally more agile workforce across the Council, range between £700,000 and £1,100,000. The savings arise mainly because a new building would be smaller and more efficient than County Hall, leading to reduced costs for business rates, utilities and maintenance.
3. The Moving Closer to Residents Programme Board continues to consider a full range of future uses of the County Hall complex with a view towards achieving the greatest value and return for the residents of Surrey. As outlined in the April 2019 Cabinet paper, an initial prospective appraisal of the site has been carried out and has identified the following options as potential futures for the site:
 - a. Maintain the complex as a council hub for meetings and council business
 - b. Develop or dispose of the complex for residential accommodation
 - c. Develop or dispose of the complex for hospitality accommodation
 - d. Develop or dispose of the complex into alternative/non-council office space
 - e. Develop or dispose of the complex for retail space

- f. Develop or dispose of the complex for education space and/or student accommodation

It has been made clear that as part of the 'Moving Closer to Residents' programme, County Hall will be sold. Work is ongoing to establish a planning context for its disposal that will enable the optimum future contribution the building makes to Kingston, balanced with achieving an optimum receipt for the County Council.

Discussions are being held with Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames and other third parties about the partial use of County Hall for various purposes as, with the implementation of more agile working for more staff, we reduce our own space requirements ahead of an eventual sale of the building.

We are in regular discussions with other interested parties and professional advisers, the details of which are commercially confidential at this stage of negotiations. Further updates will be provided to Councillors as and when appropriate.

MIKE GOODMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE

4. MRS HAZEL WATSON (DORKING HILLS) TO ASK:

The Dorking Community Recycling Centre (CRC) is currently only open three days per week and only takes recyclable material. The consequence is that residents in southern Mole Valley turning up at the Dorking CRC with recyclable and non-recyclable material have been sent away to Leatherhead to dispose of their non-recyclable material. On Fridays, in Mole Valley there is no facility to accept non-recyclable material as the Dorking CRC does not take it and the Leatherhead CRC is closed. In addition, residents are encountering long queues at the Leatherhead CRC, which is clearly not coping with the increased demand.

Given these problems being encountered by residents in southern Mole Valley, can the Cabinet Member confirm that the number of days that the Dorking CRC will be open will be increased from three days to seven days per week and that it will accept non-recyclable material to avoid residents from southern Mole Valley having to drive to the Leatherhead CRC?

Response:

I would like to thank Councillor Watson for her question.

Surrey County Council's Cabinet will discuss and agree any future changes to the community recycling centre service at their meeting on 29 October 2019. In coming to a decision, Cabinet will take into account the findings of the Waste Task Group, reported to the Communities, Highways and Environment Select Committee on 19 September 2019 as well as representations set out in a number of petitions and any other feedback including that from Councillor Watson.

TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

5. MR WILL FORSTER (WOKING SOUTH) TO ASK:

Amongst other things, Parliament is currently debating the Vehicle Emissions (Idling Penalties) Bill. This bill would empower local authorities to tackle vehicle idling, improve air quality and reduce congestion, all key issues regularly raised by local people in Surrey.

Please will the Leader of the Council agree to back this bill and write to Surrey's 11 MPs urging them to support it?

Response:

The Council is working hard with borough and district councils, public health organisations, schools and others to tackle air quality. This includes our targeted work in teaching children about the impacts of poor air quality, showing them what they and their families can do to reduce emissions and congestion, for example, active travel (walking, scooting and cycling) to school and discouraging vehicle idling outside schools.

I believe that it is too early to commit to this Bill. This is because we have yet to see the detail of what is being proposed and how it might impact upon the hard work already underway. We will all watch with interest the progress of the Bill through Parliament. In the meantime we will continue to work hard with partners to tackle air quality.

DENISE TURNER-STEWART, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, FIRE AND RESILIENCE

6. MRS NIKKI BARTON (HASLEMERE) TO ASK:

The recently issued Making Surrey Safer Plan purports to "make sure we have the right resources in the right places at the right time to respond when you need us".

Haslemere fire station is a high priority station due to its proximity to the Hindhead Tunnel on the A3 and its distance from neighbouring stations. Due to a lack of supervisory managers at Haslemere's on call unit, wholtime appliances have had to be moved to Haslemere to provide cover over night.

When there have been insufficient wholtime fire appliances available retained/on call appliances have been moved to Haslemere to cover the shortfall.

During August this resulted in "Standby" appliances being moved from their base station elsewhere in the county to Haslemere to provide night cover twenty times.

On occasion, when there have been insufficient resources, the Haslemere area has been abandoned without cover for a period of 24 hours.

At present the Fire Service is struggling to maintain cover at night. This situation will be exacerbated by the cutting of a further 7 appliances at night.

The new Making Surrey Safer Plan:

- Slashes the night time cover throughout the county, potentially leaving Haslemere exposed,
- Increases dependency on an already over-stretched pool of part-time fire fighters, and
- Relies on crews backing each other up over long distances at risk to the base station's primary response area.

The Plan therefore increases rather than reduces the risk to my constituents' safety and fails to ensure the right resources will be in the right place at the right time to respond to residents' needs in emergency. Far from driving the improvements called for by Her Majesty's Inspectorate last year, Surrey's Plan is a roadmap for deterioration in our fire service.

1. Would the Cabinet Member please explain how, if the plan is implemented in its current form, I can reassure my constituents that they will be safe in their beds at night if the reduction of seven night time appliances across Surrey leaves insufficient resources when 24 hour fire cover at Haslemere cannot currently be guaranteed?
2. Due to the nature of the on-call system, fire crew availability can never be guaranteed. Staff are already struggling with the extra demands on their time covering the shortfalls. Do you believe the heavy reliance on retained/on call stations is sustainable once there is a further reduction of seven appliances at night?

Response:

1. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service has robust plans in place to ensure it can always deal with emergencies effectively and continually monitors all of its vehicles around the county, using the very latest technology, so that firefighters and equipment are in the right place at the right time.

There have been occasions recently at Haslemere when cover has been moved in from other fire stations at night. This has been due to short-notice leavers at Watch Officer level. It is normal practice for the service to move crews and resources around the county based on a dynamic analysis of risk. Just before each shift, highly trained and experienced 999 Mobilising staff work with Duty Officers to assess crewing levels and deploy staff accordingly.

The Making Surrey Safer Plan for 2020 – 2023 was approved by Cabinet on 24 September 2019. Under these changes, fire and rescue cover will continue to be provided across Surrey on a 24/7 basis. Fire engines may come from neighbouring fire stations in some areas at night-time, but these will still arrive within the service's current response standard. The Making Surrey Safer Plan is focussed on re-aligning Surrey's fire and rescue service in order to put more resources into community and business safety activities, to reduce the likelihood of emergencies happening in the first place.

In terms of the Waverley area specifically, the impact on response times is minimal and in fact improves at the weekend under the Making Surrey Safer Plan and overall:

- Weekday – no change to arrival of the first appliance to a critical incident
- Weekend day – 32 seconds quicker arrival of the first appliance to a critical incident
- Night – 10 second slower arrival of the first appliance to a critical incident

- Overall, at all times of day, the arrival of the first appliance to a critical incident will be 1 second quicker

These meet the risk assessment which shows that weekend days are the busiest, night times are less busy, and week days remain the same.

The service will regularly review its [Community Risk Profile](#) and distribution of resources as population numbers and distribution changes over time to ensure adequate resources are provided. Once implemented from April 2020, the changes will be closely monitored by the service and a dedicated task group which will report back to Surrey County Council's Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee for appropriate scrutiny.

2. There is no guarantee of the availability of either whole time or on-call staff unfortunately however the Making Surrey Safer Plan for 2020 – 2023 increases the potential use of on On-Call staff and appliances at night. Two On-Call new starter courses will take place in the lead up to 1 April 2020 (when the changes will start to be implemented), to increase our number of on-call firefighters.

MEL FEW, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE

7. MR STEPHEN COOKSEY (DORKING SOUTH AND THE HOLMWOODS) TO ASK:

A County Council planning application for conversion of the further education building in Dene Street, Dorking to flats was given a three year planning permission by Mole Valley District Council on 23 December 2016. Since then there have been numerous statements about when the conversion work would begin, none of which have come to fruition. The building has been empty for more than 10 years and the current planning permission expires on 23 December 2019.

Would the appropriate Cabinet Member please indicate whether it is intended to begin work on the conversion before 23 December 2019, whether a new planning application will be forthcoming or whether the project has been abandoned?

Response:

I can confirm that plans are in place to enable works on site to commence the development granted by planning consent, ref. MO/2016/0610/PLAMAJ prior to 22 December 2019.

TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

8. MR EBER KINGTON (EWELL COURT, AURIOL & CUDDINGTON) TO ASK: (2ND Question)

In August a highly critical Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) Report on Surrey's youth offending services was published rating the Service as inadequate. This follows the failed Ofsted report on Children's Services (Feb 2018), the Fire and Rescue Service report rating the service as unsafe, (December 2018) and the Care Quality Commission's critical report on failings in SEND (May 2019). These reports suggest a worrying and long term level of inadequate service provision across the Council which needs to be addressed and which requires effective monitoring, by Members, of the progress made against the requirements of the Inspectors Reports.

In line with that, and in order that Members outside of the Cabinet are able to clearly understand the outcomes of the regular monitoring reports and re-inspections associated with these HMI and Ofsted judgments, and also so that Members can be reassured about other key services of the Council, will the Leader of the Council ensure that, going forward:

1. All Members are sent an emailed copy of each report/Rr-inspection report with an accompanying email from the relevant Cabinet Member that includes an un-edited list of the identified progress made and an unedited list of all those service issues that are causing continued concern.

In addition will the Leader of the Council and/or relevant Cabinet Member:

2. As a priority, advise the relevant Scrutiny Committee of any service or service area which, if currently were to be the subject of an independent inspection or review, would be the cause of serious concern.

Response:

The Council takes all judgements from regulators very seriously and in each of the service areas mentioned in the question the Council has produced a robust action plan. Wherever necessary the Council is working closely with improvement agencies and other local authorities to rapidly improve services.

Dealing with the services mentioned in turn:

- The Youth Offending services inspection is being followed up with a strong improvement plan and the Council has secured the services of the hugely experienced John Drew CBE, who will both chair the Surrey Youth Justice Board and act as our improvement advisor. John was previously the long-standing Chief Executive of the National Youth Justice Board and the pre-eminent expert in the field.
- The Ofsted report of Children's Social Care has been monitored by an independently chaired improvement Board (The Ofsted Priority Action Board). In addition, the Council is subject to close monitoring by the DfE appointed Commissioner - Trevor Doughty. The Commissioners team has visited SCC twice firstly in August 2018 and again in March 2019, on both occasions being on site for two weeks, both visits have noted consolidated and impressive progress. The Commissioner and his team from Cornwall will visit again for two weeks on the 14 October 2019. Ofsted undertake regular monitoring visits to measure progress and will return for the fourth such visit on 31 October and 1 November 2019, their visits are reported publicly and each visit has noted consolidated progress, with the most recent visit in June noting particularly strong progress.
- The SEND re-visit took place between the 18 and 21 March 2019. This was a follow up from a full inspection of SEND in October 2016, and both were jointly undertaken by Ofsted and CQC. A formal grading is not given, but areas for action are identified. The original inspection required five priority actions, whereas the visit in March 2019, removed the requirement in four of the five areas for action. There is a robust plan in place for the remaining action, which relates to absence from school for SEND children.
- Surrey Fire and Rescue Service received a report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) in December 2018. This set out 'requirements for improvement' in the areas of effectiveness and people and said that the Service was 'inadequate' in the area of efficiency. Prior to receipt of the

report the Service had already begun a review with the intention to modernise. The formal report provided the impetus to drive this modernisation and reform through. The recently agreed Making Surrey Safer Plan is the platform to launch the transformation needed. It sets out what the changes are and why they must be done. With the plan approved the service will now focus on working together with the workforce and partners to shape the new ways of working and deliver improvements for residents, beginning from April 2020. HMICFRS returned in September 2019 to revisit the service and measure its performance against the agreed improvement plan. Their report is expected in the next few weeks. Since the inspection, the Community Protection Group has also been formed. This includes Surrey Fire and Rescue, Trading Standards, Health & Safety, Emergency Management and Military Covenant and Resilience. The group will put prevention and protection at the core of service delivery and help strengthen the response to the inspection findings.

- The Council is determined that we face up to any issues in our services and improve them rapidly. Our stated aim is to provide outstanding services and we are already well on our way in achieving that goal.
- We have been entirely frank and straightforward about any criticism with reports always made public and of course provided to Members. There have also been robust reviews by the Select Committees and regular updates at Member briefings. We will of course continue to be open and transparent into the future.

MIKE GOODMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE

9. MR WILL FORSTER (WOKING SOUTH) TO ASK: (2ND Question)

Latest Government figures show there were 4.31 billion bus passenger journeys made in England for the year ending June 2019, which is 30 million fewer journeys on the previous year and the lowest number since 2007.

Please could the County Council confirm how many bus passenger journeys were made in Surrey over the same two periods?

Response:

The national long term trend of reducing bus journeys during the last ten years or so is concerning. It is an area where the bus industry, national government and local authorities must work collaboratively to improve reliability and the overall attractiveness of bus services, to make the bus a real alternative to the private car. This supports our 2030 vision to connect communities and to make journeys across the county easier, more predictable and safer.

In Surrey, bus passenger journeys in 2007/8 totalled 27.2m. In 2018/19 the figure was 27.3m. This highlights a long term trend of stability.

The Council responded to a range of challenges during this period. These included funding support for non-commercial bus services being adjusted to a sustainable level. In doing so, the Council worked very hard to make efficiencies, whilst maintaining the bus network. Wide ranging consultations were carried out with operators, bus users and other stakeholders to gain their views and ensure that we maintained the bus routes that residents relied on the most, thus enabling residents to get to work, school or college, health care appointments and to access other essential services by bus.

More recently, the ministerial announcement of additional funding for buses is welcomed. New funding could further improve services and raise public awareness and patronage, noting that the detail and relevant guidance is awaited; something we will aim to capitalise upon.

TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

10. MR EBER KINGTON (EWELL COURT, AURIOL & CUDDINGTON) TO ASK: (3RD Question)

In 2018/2019 senior management staffing related expenditure amounted to £5,030,000. In May 2019, and based on management structures developed for Tier 3, twenty-one posts had been/were anticipated to be evaluated with a pay range including £100,000 per annum and above.

I note that two new Director Posts are in the process of being advertised:

- Chief of Staff with a base pay range for the role of £90,470 - £112,161 per annum
- Executive Director of Environment, Transport & Infrastructure salary c.£160,000 per annum

Will the Leader of the Council confirm:

1. If these two appointments take the number of six-figure Tier 3 posts to 21 or if there are more to come.
2. If it still remains his view that there should be no public scrutiny of such a high cost centre as senior management pay, and that Members, for example on the People, Performance and Development Committee (PPDC), have no role in reviewing how public money is spent in this area of Council expenditure.

Response:

There are currently 22 posts within the Council's senior management structure that have been independently evaluated with a corresponding pay range including £100,000 p.a. The Council's significant and ongoing transformation journey has included root and branch reviews/corresponding restructures of many areas of the organisation; these have in general been sequenced and aligned to transformation priorities. Although a significant element of this work has been completed there remain areas yet to be reviewed and as such there is likely to be further restructuring and realignment of roles (with corresponding changes to senior management numbers/structures), to ensure that the council has the expertise in place to enable it to deliver against its priorities, for the benefit of our residents.

Whilst the PPDC is responsible for determining policy on pay and contractual terms and conditions of employment for all staff, it does not have a role in determining the terms and conditions of individuals, nor of reviewing expenditure in this area. Endorsement of the Council's annual budget (including salary related budget) is a matter for all elected Members via Council. In terms of public scrutiny, details of senior officer pay are published on the council's website, along with the annual Statement of Accounts, which includes the detail of staffing related expenditure.

TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

11. MR WILL FORSTER (WOKING SOUTH) TO ASK:

(3RD Question)

In July 2018, there was a member led, cross-party review of local and joint committees, the outcome of which was a number of recommendations to strengthen their work.

Please can the Council confirm what progress has been made in implementing the 14 recommendations?

How does the Council envisage local and joint committees will work with the emerging Local Partnership Boards?

Response:

Working in partnership is key to achieving better outcomes for residents. We know we can't realise the aspirations in the Community Vision for Surrey in 2030 (Vision for Surrey) alone, all organisations in Surrey have a key role in delivering this.

The Council has committed to being a better partner and collaborating effectively. Toward this end it is making progress to strengthen partnership working across the county through the development of Local Partnership Boards.

The development of Local Partnership Boards, build on the 2018 cross party review of Local and Joint Committees, acknowledging the strong track record of locality working and seeks to strengthen partnership work.

The development of Local Partnership Boards, draw on the recommendations of the cross-party review.

The boards will have a key place-based role across SCC, district and borough councils and partners, helping to articulate the needs and ambitions for stronger communities, making a crucial contribution to the Vision for Surrey.

The boards will broaden the remit of local and joint committees encompassing a wider representation of key partners in a locality, whilst a simplified framework for governance will significantly reduce the level of bureaucracy. Work is currently underway to develop this approach, starting with two pilot areas by the end of this year.

We will work with local areas to plan for the necessary changes to current Local and Joint Committees in anticipation of the new arrangements being in place. This will include looking at the best way to manage funding and decision making arrangements that are currently in place through the Local and Joint Committees.

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