

County Council Meeting – 4 February 2020

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 17 December 2019 and 28 January 2020.

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 the 17 December 2019 meeting have been included within the original agenda at item 13. The minutes of the 28 January 2020 meeting have been circulated as part of this supplementary agenda. 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 3 February 2020).

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.

<h3>RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS</h3>
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A. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS AND CO-ORDINATED SCHEMES FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

The Cabinet was asked to consider the Admission Arrangements for Surrey's Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools and Co-ordinated Schemes for all schools for September 2021 at its meeting on 28 January 2020. The full report, Enclosures and Appendices are set out in the Cabinet agenda.

Cabinet AGREED:

The Cabinet RECOMMENDS that the County Council approves the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and co-ordinated schemes for September 2021 (as set out in the Cabinet paper from 28 January 2020).

Recommendation 1

That priority is introduced for children of staff for September 2021.

Reasons for decision

- there was overwhelming support for this proposal
- it will help community and voluntary controlled schools with staff recruitment and retention
- it is permitted under the School Admissions Code
- the definition of children of staff is compliant with the Code
- it will put community and voluntary controlled schools on an equal footing with those academies, foundation, free, trust and voluntary aided schools which already give priority for children of staff

Recommendation 2

That the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Reception at Worplesdon Primary School is decreased from 60 to 57 for September 2021.

Reasons for decision

- It will enable children admitted to the Special Education Needs & Disabilities (SEND) specialist centre to be educated in the mainstream class more than 50% of the time
- It will reduce the likelihood of the school having to take qualifying measures to meet infant class size legislation
- It is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school
- There will still be sufficient places for local children if the PAN is decreased
- It will have no impact on children who are currently on roll at the school

Recommendation 3

That no changes are made to the assessment of nearest school for 2021 admission.

Reasons for decision

- It will allow time for a wider review of the use and definition of nearest school ahead of consultation for 2022 admission
- It will enable parents to have some historical benchmark by which to make informed decisions about their school preferences for 2021 admission

Recommendation 4

That the Published Admission Numbers (PANs) for September 2021 for all other community and voluntary controlled schools (excluding Worplesdon Primary School which is covered by Recommendation 2) are determined as they are set out in Appendix 1 of Enclosure 1.

Reasons for decision

- Most other PANs remain as they were determined for 2020 which enables parents to have some historical benchmark by which to make informed decisions about their school preferences for 2021 admission
- The PAN for Ash Manor School has been increased from 210 to 240 as part of a planned expansion
- The School Commissioning team supports the PANs

Recommendation 5

That the aspects of Surrey's admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2021 for which no change has been consulted on, are agreed as set out in Enclosure 1 and its appendices.

Reasons for decision

- The existing arrangements are working well
- This will ensure stability and consistency for the majority of Surrey's parents, pupils and schools
- The arrangements enable parents to have some historical benchmark by which to make informed decisions about their school preferences
- The arrangements enable the majority of pupils to attend their nearest schools and in doing so reduce travel and support Surrey's sustainability policies
- The changes highlighted in bold in sections 14 and 15 of Enclosure 1, which have not otherwise been referenced in this report, have been made in response to determinations by the Schools Adjudicator

Recommendation 6

That the primary and secondary coordinated admission schemes that will apply to all schools for 2021 are agreed as set out in Enclosure 2.

Reasons for decision

- The coordinated schemes for 2021 are essentially the same as 2020 with dates updated
- The coordinated schemes will enable the County Council to meet its statutory duties regarding school admissions
- The coordinated schemes are working well

B 2020/21 FINAL BUDGET AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Cabinet recommends that Council:

1. Approves the net revenue budget requirement be set at **£968.4 million** (net cost of services after service specific government grants) for 2020/21 (Annex B), subject to confirmation of the Final Local Government Financial Settlement;
2. Approves the total Council Tax funding requirement be set at **£765.3 million** for 2020/21. This is an increase of 3.99%, made up of an increase in the level of core Council Tax of 1.99% to cover core Council services and an increase of 2% in the precept proposed by Central Government to cover the growing cost of Adult Social Care (Annex E);
3. Notes that for the purpose of section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council formally determines that the increase in Council Tax is not such as to trigger a referendum (i.e. not greater than 2%);
4. Sets the Surrey County Council precept for Band D Council Tax at £1,511.46, which represents a 3.99% uplift. This is a rise of £1.11 a week from the 2019/20 precept of £1,453.50. This includes £131.46 for the Adult Social Care precept, which has increased by £29.07. A full list of bands is as follows:

Council Tax Band	2019/20 £	2020/21 £
Band A	£969.00	£1,007.64
Band B	£1,130.50	£1,175.58
Band C	£1,292.00	£1,343.52
Band D	£1,453.50	£1,511.46
Band E	£1,776.51	£1,847.34
Band F	£2,099.51	£2,183.22
Band G	£2,422.51	£2,519.10
Band H	£2,907.01	£3,022.92

5. Approves the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy for 2020/21 to meet the statutory guidelines for the use of such receipts to fund transformation and the move back into the County (Annex F);
6. Notes that underlying General Fund Balances remain at £21.3 million as at 1 April 2020;
7. Approves the Total Schools Budget of £505.7 million to meet the Council's statutory requirement on schools funding;

8. Approves the overall indicative Budget Envelopes for Executive Directorates and individual services for the 2020/21 budget (Annex B);
9. Approves the total £1.447 billion proposed five-year Capital Programme (comprising £851m of budget and £596m pipeline) and approves the £175.7 million capital budget in 2020/21 (Annex C);
10. Approves the Capital Strategy (Annex G), which provides an overview of how risks associated with capital expenditure, financing and treasury will be managed as well as how they contribute towards the delivery of services;
11. Approves the policy for making a prudent level of revenue provision for the repayment of debt (the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy) (Annex H); and
12. Approves the Investment Strategy (Annex I), which provides detail on how the Council will manage commercial investments;

Cabinet recommended that the Audit & Governance Committee approved the following:

13. Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators (Annex J) which set a framework for the Council's treasury function to manage risks, source borrowing and invest surplus cash.

Reason for decisions:

Council will meet on 4 February 2020 to agree a budget and to set the Council Tax Precept for 2020/21. Cabinet is required to recommend a budget to Council for consideration at this meeting. The budget directs available resources to support the achievement of the Council's ambitions and priorities in the 2030 Vision and the Organisation Strategy.

The budget will also support the delivery of the continuing transformational changes that are required to ensure that the Council can improve priority outcomes for residents, while managing growing demand for services and ensuring future financial sustainability.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

C QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 1 OCTOBER – 31 DECEMBER 2019

1. 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 special urgency arrangements set out in Standing Order 57 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), nor available 5 clear days before the meeting. Where a decision on such matters could not reasonably be delayed, the agreement of the Chairman of the appropriate Select Committee, or in his/her absence the Chairman of the Council, must be sought to enable the decision to be made.

2. A Part 2 item dealt with at the 17 December meeting of the Cabinet was an update report - Commercial Programme (Waste). Details are included in the Minutes of the Cabinet at agenda item 13.

[The Chairman of the Communities, Environment & Highways Select Committee was notified as this did not appear on the Leader's Forward Plan]

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
31 January 2020**

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