



LEADER REPORT TO COUNCIL

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL PROGRESS REPORT JANUARY – JUNE 2013

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

To consider the attached report and the matters to which the Chief Executive draws attention.

BACKGROUND:

1. This is the eighth of the Chief Executive's six-monthly reports to Members. It provides an **overview of the Council's progress** over the past six months. This particular report also takes a longer term view, reflecting on the last four years and the strategic challenges ahead.
2. The wide range of examples and achievements set out in the report confirm that **the Council has continued to perform strongly** over the last six months. It has done this while going through an important transition into a new Council term.
3. Also on the agenda at this Council meeting is a refreshed Corporate Strategy 2013-18 called *Confident in our Future*. It sets out a **clear strategic direction** and the long term goals that will ensure Surrey residents remain healthy, safe and confident about their future.
4. There are **significant challenges** that need to be overcome for these goals and ambitions to be delivered. Doing so will require putting the key components of our strategy into practice over the coming months, making sure we have the right attitude, approach and focus.
5. The very significant progress the Council has made in recent years means we can be confident about making a positive contribution to the county's future. **Yet there is – and can be - no complacency from Members or officers.**
6. The Council's job will continue to get tougher over the next five years. We will respond by continuing to build on our strengths, working together as **one team with residents and partners** to find innovative solutions that can improve services and value for residents.
7. We will continue to **focus our efforts** on the issues residents tell us are most important to them. The Corporate Strategy sets out these priorities for 2013/14. I look forward to working with all Members over the coming months to deliver these.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Council notes the report of the Chief Executive, thanks staff for the progress made during the last six months, and confirms its support for the direction of travel.

David Hodge, Leader of the Council, 020 8541 8003

Sources/background papers:

Confident in our Future, Corporate Strategy 2013-18 and Supporting Strategies, report to Cabinet 25 June 2013

Budget Monitoring Forecast 2013/14 (period ending May 2013), report to Cabinet 25 June 2013