

CABINET – 24 November 2020**PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

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Members Questions**Question (1) Will Forster (Woking South):**

At the start of this year, the Council confirmed that there was a total of 5,400 secondary school places in Woking Borough.

Please can the Council confirm it has done an assessment on the capacity of colleges and school sixth forms in the Woking area? Does the Council believe these institutions can cope with the number of pupils currently at secondary school?

Reply:

The Council have a statutory duty to shape and influence further education and training provision for young people. This is delivered by maintaining a strategic overview of the provision available and work with post 16 providers to resolve gaps in provision. Funding for further education and training provision is provided directly to the schools, colleges and training providers by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). The Council does not have a responsibility for the place planning of further education colleges.

FE Colleges are a critical contributor to the sufficiency of post-16 education provision and are a popular choice for young people. An assessment of capacity and current utilisation has been undertaken for further education providers within the Woking area. This activity highlighted that Woking College is a popular college and is regularly oversubscribed and providing more places at the college would be welcome. To date it has not been possible to secure access to capital funding to facilitate a proposed expansion of Woking College. Officers will be writing to the ESFA to support expansion at the college.

The Council is very aware of increasing secondary pupils across the County and for these secondary pupils there is a need to be able to offer increased education, employment and training. Officers have already written to the Regional Schools Commissioners about the increase in post 16 numbers and intend to lobby the appropriate offices, that is ESFA and FE Commissioners, for government funding to provide additional places in colleges.

Mrs Julie Iles
Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning
24 November 2020

Question (2) Will Forster (Woking South):

The former Manor School in Byfleet was closed in 2008 and has not been used since. The County Council confirmed in 2017 that the site was no longer required for future service use and was looking at options for the site.

Please can the Council confirm what the latest plan is, if any, for the former Manor School in Byfleet?

Reply:

The site is under review for a use which will contribute to the well-being agenda. Due to commercial confidentiality, I am unable to provide further information but as soon as I am able Divisional Councillors will be briefed.

Mrs Julie Iles
Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning
24 November 2020

Question (3) Jonathan Essex (Redhill East):
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Please confirm in bringing minerals and waste planning together under a joint Surrey Minerals and Waste Local Plan (SMWP), the starting point for the waste element will be the Surrey Waste Local Plan (SWLP), which was recently approved by Cabinet. So while the whole of the Surrey Minerals Plan (2011) will be reviewed, for waste this will start with the Aggregates Recycling DPD, rather than reconsulting on the Surrey Waste Local Plan?

Reply:

The County Council has traditionally produced separate minerals and waste plans. As the proportion of recycled aggregate produced in the County has increased and the sources of available primary aggregate have diminished, the inter-relationship between the two disciplines has grown. Currently this is addressed through the Aggregates Recycling DPD which sits between both plans. Given this increasing synergy however, it is considered that the planning of future minerals and waste development in the County will be best served through the production of a combined minerals and waste plan. Whilst a number of other County Councils have been doing this for some time, this is a new approach for Surrey.

In order to produce a combined plan however, it will be necessary to review all elements of minerals and waste planning in the County. By necessity, that will need to include a review of our approach to waste planning. Although the Waste Plan has been reviewed recently, it is necessary that review the evidence and sites in the Plan to ensure they are as up to date as possible and to allow a us to move to this more holistic approach. Much of the background assessment work from the production of the Surrey Waste Local Plan can be reused, so the focus of the background data collection is predominantly around minerals and aggregate recycling. Waste, minerals and climate change are all fast changing policy areas and this approach will ensure that the Council's planning approach is forward looking and as up to date as it can be. The issues and options consultation currently scheduled for June 2021 will give residents the opportunity to shape the future approach to minerals and waste planning.

Mrs Natalie Bramhall
Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change
24 November 2020

Question (4) Jonathan Essex (Redhill East):
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Cabinet item 11 notes the introduction of between 70 and 80 ultra- low or zero emission buses, alongside over 50 community transport mini buses. Please confirm what is meant by the 'vehicle cascade being as high as 1 to 1, and whether this constitutes all buses in Surrey, if not what percentage will be left? In addition, what allowance has been made for electrifying

more buses in line with coping with the climate emergency? Finally, please confirm that an EIA has been completed for this scheme and all these new vehicles will be fully accessible.

Reply:

The Surrey Ultra-Low and Zero Emission Scheme for buses and community transport is an exciting proposition that will accelerate the delivery of clean vehicle technology into Surrey, demonstrating the councils commitment to tackle the declared climate emergency.

Our scheme is set to deliver between 70 and 80 ultra-low and zero emission buses, plus over 50 ultra-low and zero emission community mini buses. When these new clean vehicles are introduced they will replace existing diesel buses and mini buses operating in Surrey. If the displaced vehicles are the less-polluting models of a 'Euro 6 or 5' emissions rating, we will work with operators to cascade these throughout their fleet operating in Surrey to replace higher-polluting models with 'Euro 3 and 4' emissions ratings. The level of cascade and numbers of higher-polluting models to be removed will become clear when we evaluate operator bids to the scheme in early 2021. However, it could be as high as one for one. It is anticipated that the introduction of the community transport ultra-low and zero emission vehicles will, in the main, be managed as part of the ongoing fleet renewal programme by our partners, replacing the oldest and most polluting vehicles first.

Approximately 700 diesel buses are used on bus services in the county, although not all at the same time. The number of new buses to be delivered by our scheme will lead to the removal of around 11% of existing diesel buses on Surrey routes. Further fleet replacement with direct operator investment in future years is expected to result in an even higher percentage being removed.

The scheme has no material impact on existing equalities policy and, importantly, all new vehicles will be accessible to all.

An Environmental Sustainability Assessment will be developed as part of the detail of the Surrey Ultra-Low and Zero Emission Scheme.

Mr Matt Furniss
Cabinet Member for Transport
24 November 2020

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