

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD

19 January 2021

1. NEXUS PARCEL 3 - DISPOSAL

This Part 2 annex contains information which is exempt from Access to Information requirements by virtue of paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including commercially sensitive information to the bidding companies).

Details of decision:

The following recommendations were agreed:

1. That Approval is given for an Agreement to Lease the property which be granted to [E-1-21] by the end of March 2021 at the latest with the lease entered into once suitable planning permission is granted to [E-1-21].
2. That a premium of [E-1-21] be accepted.
3. That subject to a premium of no less than [E-1-21] being accepted, the Assistant Director Commercial has delegated authority, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, Director for Land and Property and S151 Officer, to accept a pro rata reduced premium in the event that [E-1-21] S106 & S 278 costs exceed [E-1-21], or to terminate the agreement.

Reason for Decision:

The financial offer from [E-1-21] exceeds all other expressions of interest received.

The site is presently vacant, non-income producing and a management liability.

The provision of a food and drink outlets improves the areas amenities and creates value to the adjoining SCC property investments.

The offer exceeds the SCC book value of [E-1-21] and therefore according to our agents Vail Williams, SCC is obtaining Best Value for this disposal.

**CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS
FEBRUARY 2021**

CABINET MEMBER FOR ALL AGE LEARNING

1. PETITION – SEN FUNDING

Details of petition

A petition had been received from Mr Richard Wilson that read:

“Surrey County Council has presented a proposal to cut school funding for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN). This proposal will affect 67 primary and 2 secondary schools in Surrey. The funding for SEN pupils is a tiny amount compared with the Council's overall spending and we think the SCC proposal risks the futures of children who should be their top priority. This is the worst possible time to apply a funding cut to schools that will damage the education of all pupils and hamper the ability of teachers to bring out the best in the next generation.

The following schools in Surrey Heath are affected by this proposed cut:

- Heather Ridge Infant School
- Valley End CofE Infant School
- Windlesham Village Infant School
- Lightwater Village School
- Lakeside Primary School
- Gordon's School

We believe the SCC Cabinet team should withdraw this proposal with immediate effect.”

Mr Wilson, the lead petitioner, was unable to join the meeting to present the petition.

Details of decision:

- 1 To note that the response to the petition was published with the agenda and sent to petitioners prior to the meeting. Attached as appendix to this annex.
- 2 That any further queries from Mr Richard Wilson, lead petitioner, would be responded to in writing.

Reason for decision:

To respond to the petition.

(Decision taken by the Cabinet Member for All Age Learning – 2 February 2021)

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS

2. HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND, VICTORIA ARCH, WOKING - COMPULSORY PURCHASE

Details of decision:

That officers may acquire land compulsorily as required by the Housing Infrastructure Fund project for Woking town centre using the Council's powers under the Highways Act 1980 if negotiation proves unsuccessful.

Reasons for decision:

Woking Borough Council (WBC) is acting as the recipient to the Housing Infrastructure Fund and lead authority for project delivery. In this role WBC has considered the use of its compulsory purchase order (CPO) powers and had a resolution by Full Council on 30 July 2020 approving the use of compulsory purchase powers order under the relevant statutory powers (being the powers under the Highways Act 1980 or the powers under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as appropriate) in respect of the "Order Land" identified in Annex 1 to facilitate the carrying out of the scheme.

Since that time, Counsel's advice has been to progress the CPO under the Highways Act, the reason being that most of the land still to be acquired is for the highways scheme, which falls to SCC as Highway Authority.

Cabinet Member approval is now sought to progress the CPO process under the powers of the Highways Act 1980.

(Decision taken by the Cabinet Member for Highways – 2 February 2021)

Appendix

Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning

2 February 2021

We say NO to SCC proposal to cut SEN funding for schools

Surrey County Council has presented a proposal to cut school funding for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN). This proposal will affect 67 primary schools and 2 secondary schools in Surrey. The funding for SEN pupils is a tiny amount compared to the Council's overall spending and we think the SCC risks the futures of children who should be their top priority. This is the worst possible time to apply a funding cut to schools that will damage the education of all pupils and hamper the ability of teachers to bring out the best in the next generation.

The following schools in Surrey Heath are affected by this proposed cut:

- Heather Ridge Infant School; Valley End CofE Infant School; Windlesham Village Infant School; Lightwater Village School; Lakeside Primary School; Gordon's School

We believe the SCC Cabinet team should withdraw the proposal with immediate effect.

Submitted by: Mr Richard Wilson

Signatures: 108

Response:

Thank you for this petition and for raising your concerns about the funding pressures facing your local schools. I welcome the opportunity to explain how we are targeting our resources better to meet the needs of children with special educational needs and supporting all Surrey schools to be inclusive of some of our most vulnerable children.

Surrey County Council has high ambitions for all children in Surrey and especially those with special educational needs and disabilities. We support children with SEND directly with provision such as therapies and short breaks, and also through a systematic approach to helping schools to meet their needs. For instance, the Council's Early Help Offer, the Graduated Response and the Learners' Single Point of Access provide direct support for schools to meet the needs of all children with additional educational needs earlier and more effectively. We are investing nearly £80m to create an additional 1600 specialist places for children with SEND over the next four years in both mainstream and special schools. And we have significantly expanded our programmes to support young people with SEND onto vocational pathways through apprenticeships and supported internships to move them into independent and fulfilling adulthood.

This significant funding is supporting the school system to provide more effective support for all children, and to include a greater number of children with additional educational needs within Surrey mainstream schools, including specialist units. As a result of this significant investment in early and specialist provision, the Council is projected to spend £175m on high needs expenditure in 2020/21, £33m in excess of the available grant funding; funding that has been directly spent on meeting the needs of children with additional needs.

We are doing this because we want the best for children and young people in Surrey with special educational needs. This was recognised in December by the Department for Education and NHS England, following a monitoring meeting of work to improve the attendance of children with SEND, who concluded that the Council and its partners had demonstrated clear and sustained progress. They acknowledged that this positive result

comes as the result of a great deal of commitment and hard work on the part of the local authority, the Clinical Commissioning Group, families and front-line staff across education, health and social care. Despite the unprecedented pressures arising from the Covid-19 crisis, these improvements have been made against an extremely challenging backdrop. They encouraged Surrey SEND partners to build on these successes to continue to support some of the most vulnerable children and young people in society.

Historically, we have provided discretionary additional SEN funding to a minority of mainstream schools. The funding this year amounted to £1m and was received by 69 Surrey schools. The funding is not directed at individual children with additional educational needs, rather it has contributed to those schools' overall budgets.

Our analysis confirmed that much of this discretionary funding is being received by schools with significant reserves. And for most schools, it is a very small portion of their budget. Both these findings indicated to us that the funding formula used to distribute this funding did not meet the DfE requirement to be 'simple and transparent, consistent and fair.' Schools Forum also concluded that the current distribution mechanism did not meet this criteria, as it was not effectively targeted at the schools that may need it most, and not providing targeted support to the children who are in most need.

We are also mindful that core funding to Surrey schools very closely matches the government's national funding formula. The government expects the funding to be sufficient for a school to meet the first £6,000 of an individual child's additional educational needs.

Before making any decision to change these discretionary arrangements, we undertook a thorough consultation with the Schools Forum and schools directly and carefully considered feedback from Family Voice Surrey and residents, including this petition. We thought this very important.

While we do recognise that some schools are under financial pressure, our analysis concluded that for most of the 69 schools, the financial impact will be low and most schools will be able to manage within their budgetary controls. The funding as it is currently provided is retrospective, and not targeted to individual children. With the transitional arrangements, schools will be able to plan staffing for academic year 2021/22.

Taking all this into careful consideration, the Director for Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture in consultation with me, made the decision on 29 January 2021 to withdraw the existing discretionary funding arrangements to mainstream schools from 1 April 2021.

Importantly, we will be providing a full term of transitional funding for the schools affected during the Summer 2021 term in order to prepare for the changes. We are also confident that we will have a mechanism in place for those schools for whom this withdrawal would have an overly onerous effect for September 2021. We are working closely with our Schools Forum leaders to design this.

The full record of the decision is available on the Council's website.

We would like to acknowledge the strong support that Mr Wilson and the petitioners have for their local schools and local school children and thank them for raising their concerns.

Julie Iles
Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning
2 February 2021

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