

County Council Meeting – 16 March 2021

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 23 February 2021.

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 meetings above have been included within the original agenda at Item 14. 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 15 March 2021).

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS

A. SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN

The School Organisation Plan sets out the policies and principles underpinning both mainstream and specialist school organisation in Surrey. It highlights the likely demand for school places projected over a 10-year period and sets out any potential changes in school organisation that may be required in order to meet the council's statutory duty to provide sufficient places.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. The Cabinet recommends that the County Council approves the School Organisation Plan 2020-2030.

Reason for Decision:

The School Organisation Plan is a key document used by schools and education stakeholders in considering medium and long term plans. It is necessary to review the plan to ensure that the best and most up to date information is published for use in this process to encourage collaborative and collegiate planning.

Link to School Organisation Plan 2020-2030:

<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/documents/s76033/School%20Organisation%20Plan%202020-30%20090221.pdf>

B. STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT - FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/20

As part of its strategy to innovate in developing new models of delivery and to benefit from the freedoms introduced by the Localism Act, Surrey County Council had made investments and created trading companies to deliver income and efficiencies and in doing so has established a Strategic Investment Board, which reports annually to the

Council. The purpose of the Board was to safeguard the Council's interest as shareholder and to take decisions in matters that required the approval of the Council as owner of a company.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That Cabinet recommends that Council endorse the Annual Report of the Strategic Investment Board.

Reason for Decision:

To inform the Council about the activities of the Strategic Investment Board.

The Strategic Investment Board has been established in accordance with best practice governance to ensure effective oversight and alignment with the strategic objectives and values of the Council.

Link to Annual Report of the Strategic Investment Board 2019/20:

<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/documents/s76072/Annex%20A%20Annual%20Strategic%20Investment%20Board%20Report.pdf>

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

At its meeting on 23 February 2021 Cabinet considered:

C. SETTING A RADICAL AGENDA FOR EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN SURREY AND SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

This report asks to endorse a new Action Plan to embed equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) into everything we do at the council. It sets out a new vision for EDI and takes a radical approach that will change the systems, processes and behaviours affecting the experiences of all Surrey residents and staff who work for the council. The plan is a living document that will continue to evolve as we make progress and as our strategic context changes.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the Surrey County Council EDI Action Plan 2021-22 be endorsed and the new EDI Policy Statement be agreed.

Reasons for decision:

The EDI Action Plan is key to delivering the equality objectives in the Organisation Strategy 2021-26 and plays a pivotal role in supporting the council's wider aim to tackle inequality to ensure no-one is left behind. Moving to a fairer, more compassionate and inclusive culture will inform how we develop policy, take decisions and serve residents so everyone who lives, works and studies in Surrey is supported to thrive.

The updated EDI Policy Statement will provide a clear, definitive commitment to staff and communities against which the council's actions can be held to account in its effort to become a fairer and more inclusive organisation. It responds to feedback from staff that they want EDI to be integral to how we work and for Members and

senior officers to show greater leadership on this agenda. It also recognises how EDI needs to underpin all we do to tackle inequalities facing residents.

D. IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES, EXPERIENCES AND SERVICES IN SURREY

This report sets out the pressures and challenges being faced by the mental health system in Surrey, the issues and concerns arising and the multi-agency approach and activity underway aimed at addressing them, to ensure improved mental health outcomes, experiences and services for Surrey residents.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the significant demands, issues, concerns and performance associated with the mental health system in Surrey, particularly arising from the additional pressures created by Covid-19, and the impact this is having on Surrey residents be noted.
2. That the range of multi-agency work going on and being initiated to address the situation, including through the Surrey Heartlands Mental Health Partnership and Improvement Board and Health and Wellbeing Board be approved and supported.
3. That Cabinet receive a further report on the issue of mental health outcomes, experiences and services in Surrey in July 2021.

Reasons for decisions:

Tackling health inequality is one of the Council's four strategic priorities. Poor mental health is a key factor in a range of conditions and personal situations, such as substance abuse, unemployment, poor physical health, that create and/or worsen health inequality. The mental health system in Surrey is under great stress and struggling to manage the demands made upon it. This report and its recommendations, the work to date and the work proposed are intended to support the mental health system deal with the immediate demands and pressures as well as building an effective and sustainable improvement programme.

E. SURREY INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITISATION

Surrey County Council is working with partners in the development of a Surrey Infrastructure Plan, which builds on the Surrey Infrastructure Study, which was originally undertaken in 2016, refreshed in 2017, which identified the infrastructure required to support planned growth to 2031 and the funding required to fund that infrastructure. As the 2017 study identified a funding gap of £2.47bn, the development of an Infrastructure Plan will enable the Council and partners to better prioritise and pursue funding to deliver the infrastructure the county needs. The Infrastructure Plan will prioritise projects in the county over the short, medium and long term to support "good growth," as defined in Surrey's 2050 Place Ambition, with a commitment to environmental, place and health and wellbeing outcomes.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the Surrey Infrastructure Prioritisation Framework be approved.

2. That further engagement with key stakeholders, including the Districts and Boroughs to review the assessed schemes to develop a prioritised list of projects be approved.
3. It be agreed that individual schemes are submitted to Cabinet seeking approval for implementation when the Outline Business Case has been developed and funding identified as necessary.

Reasons for decisions:

The recommendations will enable the development and delivery of an Infrastructure Plan that includes schemes that meet a wide range of outcomes as well as demonstrate deliverability and affordability. The long list of schemes that have already been identified following discussions with officers from Surrey's district and borough councils since late 2019 will be assessed using the Prioritisation Framework and will lead to the creation of a prioritised shortlist of schemes. Further feasibility work undertaken can then be undertaken to produce an Outline Business Case (OBC) for each scheme. Subject to a positive OBC and the identification of funding schemes will then be reported back on an individual basis to Cabinet seeking approval to implement as necessary.

The process is intended to remain ongoing with new schemes added to the long list as they are identified, and a continuous programme of schemes developed taking them from concept through to delivery.

F. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 10 February 2021- 16 March 2021

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.

The Cabinet RECOMMENDS that the County Council notes that there has been NO urgent decision in the last month.

**Mr Tim Oliver, Leader of the Council
16 March 2021**