

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Colin Kemp

PORTFOLIO: Infrastructure

Infrastructure Projects & Surrey Infrastructure Plan: I am pleased to be able to update you with the great progress we have made on our infrastructure projects. Investment in infrastructure is essential for sustainable economic growth and to cater for the changing needs of Surrey's businesses and communities.

We have been working with partners in the development of the Surrey Infrastructure Plan which builds on the Surrey Infrastructure Study, refreshed in 2017. The study identified the infrastructure required to support planned growth to 2031 and the funding required to fund that infrastructure. The development of the plan enables us to better prioritise and pursue funding to deliver the infrastructure the county needs, However, this list is not fixed and further engagement with local communities and local Members, along with changing local priorities, will mean that this list is ever evolving.

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. We have identified a list of schemes in discussion with Districts and Boroughs since late 2019 and these will be assessed using the Prioritisation Framework and will lead to the creation of a prioritised shortlist of schemes. Further feasibility work will be then undertaken to produce an Outline Business Case for each scheme. The prioritisation framework was passed by Cabinet in February.

We have already been able to invest £286 million in large scale infrastructure projects such as Farnham town centre and the A320 scheme, and £253m has been invested in flood alleviation to protect thousands of homes and businesses. To drive this work forward, I am pleased that we have been able to recruit and build a project management team. Increasing staff levels will mean we have the capacity to engage locally on these infrastructure projects and identify the infrastructure projects that are needed within our communities. This team will also allow us to start to build these schemes and have the outline business cases on the shelf which will allow us to react to funding streams faster.

Superfast Broadband: In April we will be bringing an update to Cabinet to update on the progress being made in driving Surrey's Gigabit capable digital infrastructure. Currently we have 98% superfast broadband coverage in Surrey, making it one of the leading areas for Superfast provision. Surrey is also a leader in Ultrafast provision. However, full fibre speed provision needs to be expanded, and an ongoing consultation by BDUK will allow us to identify gaps across Surrey where we can support improved coverage.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Mark Nuti

PORTFOLIO: Communities

Arts Service: The service has won national recognition for its Covid-19 response and been shortlisted for two education awards. Surrey Arts Online Learning has facilitated the delivery of activities to support learning and safeguard income. As well as students, 400 teachers have benefitted from training delivered. Visits to the YouTube channel have increased by 900% from pre-Covid. Over 230 pupils attended an online holiday programme. Surrey Open Artist Studio programme had 8500 visitors and £303,500 of artwork sold. We hope to hold this hugely successful event again in 2021.

Heritage: During lockdown the archaeological unit created popular guided audio walks for the public. Downloads of images of records published on Ancestry have risen by 31%, and parish registers published on Find my Past in early 2020 have now been viewed 73,223 times, generating additional income for the service.

Libraries: During lockdown, libraries have provided a click and collect service, and launched the popular 'Ready Reads' service for residents. Libraries continue to provide essential PC use with 19,578 hours of use logged since July 2020. We have a popular range of digital events which have been engaged with over one million times on YouTube and Facebook, with over 4500 hours of combined viewing. Overall e-Audio demand has increased by 152% with e-book demand increasing by 201%. Libraries are planning to fully re-open on 12 April.

Registration & Nationality Service: Death registrations have sadly significantly increased during the pandemic, but the service has been able to continue to offer registration appointments within 2 working days. The team are planning for the reintroduction of marriages and civil partnerships, with ceremonies resuming from 29 March.

Customer Services: The whole of the county is now covered by our Covid-19 tracing service. It operates seven days a week, making contact with Covid-positive residents that the NHS Test & Trace have been unable to reach. On 3 March we are piloting an approach in 3 areas where our team will contact all positive cases as soon as their results are registered on the national system. We have taken over 14,500 calls since our Community Helpline went live. Our programme continues to improve the journey for customers that need access to our services.

Your Fund Surrey: I am thrilled that the second phase went live on 1 March 2021 with the official opening of the online application portal. Ideas can now be submitted in more detail with successful projects being invited to progress to the full application phase. Currently there are almost 1000 ideas pinned and over 71,000 people have visited the commonplace map.

Community Engagement: We are focusing on two start-up areas, Horley and Caterham, joining up with GPs who are planning to engage on health in the community. We are developing a cohesive approach to community engagement, including work with health and police colleagues and other engagement platforms. We have trialled engagement activities through Local and Joint Committees using virtual events which have reached over 40,000 residents.

VCFS: During this lockdown we have used pre-established support structures to continue to offer services to help members of the community that need it, such as Covid Mutual Aid groups and the wider VCFS organisations. We will be giving £500,000 to the Community Foundation for Surrey which will be fully matched through public donations, bringing £1m of benefit to Surrey's communities. The VCFS sector's work in ensuring the vaccine rollout is successful has been vital. Faith leaders have played a pivotal role, acting as trusted ambassadors, and leading by example.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Matt Furniss

PORTFOLIO: Highways

General Highways Update: In the past four years, we have resurfaced over 400 miles of road. Over the past year, the increased budget for Highways Maintenance has enabled us to resurface an additional 36 miles of roads and to carry out preventative surface dressing on 78 miles of roads on top of what has already been carried out. With the budgets for the next five years agreed by Cabinet and Council, we will be able to carry out a further 130 miles of road resurfacing, some of which will be using innovative methods such as recycling and thermal patching, as well as carrying out 225 miles of preventative maintenance on our roads. We will also be carrying out 60 miles of pavement surface renewal and 120 miles of preventative maintenance on pavements over the next 5 years.

Winter Service Update and Actions: I thought it important to highlight the excellent work that took place during the snowy and icy weather in February. The Highways teams in conjunction with Kier, farmers and other partners worked day and night in advance of, and during, the snowy weather to keep the highway network operational. Over 12 treatments were completed and over 850 tonnes of salt were used over 3 days. In addition to the road network treatments, we had resources helping grit vaccination and testing centre footways and car parks with hand gritting resource along with adding roads to our 33 'Priority 1' routes.

AI Cameras and Innovation: We are currently trialling the use of video cameras which use Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning in three separate areas: to identify potholes, to carry out condition surveys on our highway network, to gather data on traffic movements and flows to assist with the design of schemes, and to monitor the outcome of schemes once completed. The aspiration is to determine if these technologies can be used to give us data more quickly and with better degrees of accuracy from which to make decisions about our highway network. We are also trialling the use of sensors to measure the temperature of our road network in order to provide better intelligence for us to make decisions about winter gritting.

Stop the Abuse Campaign: Road worker abuse is a growing concern on both the local and strategic road networks in the UK and affects the physical and mental health and wellbeing of workers on a regular basis. In Surrey, we are seeing an increase in motorists ignoring instructions and driving through road closures and traffic management, putting both themselves and our workforce at risk. Roadworks are a place of work and the people working there deserve the same respect as anyone else in their place of work. I am pleased to announce that we will be supporting the national Stamp It Out campaign and taking practical steps to help eliminate abuse of all kinds from our road network.

HGV Enforcement: HGVs are necessary to the economy of Surrey and the Country as a whole but can cause disturbance to residents. I am pleased to advise that later this month, Cabinet will be considering a report which is recommending the introduction of "Surrey HGV watch". Working with residents, this will help to increase compliance of restrictions. The government has signalled their intent to permit authorities outside of London to enforce moving traffic violations, including HGV restrictions. The County Council is considering appropriate enforcement tools that could be used once we are legally permitted to do so.

Lower speed limits in rural areas across the south of Surrey: As part of our commitment to setting sensible and effective speed limits, an investment of £100,000 is being made by Surrey Police through the Drive SMART Surrey Safer Roads Partnership to implement lower speed limits in rural areas across the south of Surrey. Supporting this, we have been awarded £39,840 from The Road Safety Trust to evaluate the project. This new project will evaluate the impact of the speed limit reductions already in place and evaluate the new reductions on a proactive strategic area-wide basis to the west of the A24 across the Surrey Hills towards Guildford. Successful speed management will support the Council's goals of improving road safety, supporting active travel and reducing air and noise pollution on our rural roads.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Natalie Bramhall

PORTFOLIO: Environment & Climate Change

Climate Change: Officers are developing SCC's climate change delivery plan (2021-25), to be launched in June. The plan will detail the carbon reduction projects that have been developed since the Climate Change Strategy was endorsed, as well as outlining future activities and investment that the Council will undertake to reduce carbon emissions in Surrey. The plan includes quantified carbon emission reduction per year and over the lifetime of schemes, as well as details on the timescales for delivery, cost per tonne of carbon saved and any additional co-benefits. Officers are also in the process of producing an evidence base for the Land Management Framework, including data on natural capital values of all land in Surrey (as well as specific areas of our own estate), updating our habitat inventory and a landscape assessment of all SCC-owned land. We were awarded £1.6m from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund to install decarbonisation measures on our seven most carbon intensive buildings. We were also awarded £25,000 to produce decarbonisation feasibility studies for 25 of our biggest carbon emitting schools. In the 20/21 tree planting season SCC planted 20,651 trees and 1.2km hedgerow. We are producing an online map to show the locations of these along with those planted by partners, including Districts and Boroughs (D&Bs).

Rethinking Waste: Baseline data gathering including waste flow modelling (to determine what waste material is collected by D&Bs now and in future) and Infrastructure need assessment (to determine current and future infrastructure need and provision) will be completed by April, when market engagement will commence. A stakeholder workshop on collaboration with D&Bs has been held, co-chaired by Surrey County Council and Surrey Environment Partnership (SEP) and further engagement with Chief Executive's and Portfolio Holders is being planned. A member seminar was held on 1 February, covering the current arrangements for managing waste disposal in Surrey, an overview of the rethinking waste programme and potential options for collaboration. Work continues on reducing contamination of dry mixed recycling which will boost recycling rates and offer minor financial benefits. The initial business case for the programme has been drafted setting out the approach to delivering the programme including the re-procurement of waste treatment and management services from 2024, identifying risks, dependencies and constraints, stakeholder analysis, strategic aims and priorities. Benefits and outcomes have been mapped to individual projects to ensure the programme outcomes are achieved.

Eco Park Update: After exhausting other options available, we have now entered legal proceedings with Suez to resolve our issues. We hope to bring this to a swift conclusion to allow us to move forward with the Eco park and resolve the matter.

Countryside Improvement Programme: Norbury Park Sawmill: The sawmill will be closing on 31 March 2021. This process will be managed by SWT and the site passed back to SCC. SWT announced to staff on 15 February and a press statement was issued by SCC on 17 February. Two Senior Officers attended the Mole Valley Local Committee on 24 February to provide additional information to local Councillors. A petition against the closure will be discussed by Cabinet in May. Email queries have been answered and officers are following up on enquiries from potential tenants for the site. An options appraisal for the site is due for completion at the end of March, after which proposals for the site's future will be shared. Planning, access, and investment costs will steer recommendations for the site. The Council is optimistic there is sufficient demand in the marketplace for the site to continue to be used for woodland and rural craft activities combined with visitor services, with the current level of employment maintained.

Newlands Corner: New threshold signs have been installed at all countryside sites with the new countryside branding. Newlands Corner will be the first site to have new information boards installed this month. Work has started on refurbishing toilets, the Visitor Centre refurbishment will start once permission has been granted, to create a modern digital experience. Commons consent has been applied for to install natural play equipment to replace the play unit recently removed for safety reasons.

Flooding: Following heavy rainfall at the end of January flooding occurred in areas close to the River Thames with Spelthorne seeing prolonged problems. SCC Highways and other partners supported the EA deployment of temporary flood defences in Elmbridge in response to rising levels on the River Thames. We worked with colleagues in Spelthorne Borough Council and Thames Water to assist residents to alleviate the flooding. Although no properties were reported to have flooded internally, we will be carrying out an investigation into the circumstances of flooding and what role the relevant authorities have in it. We will also revisit previous investigations carried out in the area.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Julie Iles

PORTFOLIO: All Age Learning

Back to School arrangements and Testing: I was pleased to write directly to parents, carers, and young people this month about the return to classroom learning from 8 March. The perseverance and commitment that families have made to remote learning, often in difficult and challenging circumstances, deserves our appreciation. Equally, our schools and colleges worked incredibly hard to set up remote learning in January and then the arrangements for the safe return of all students from 8 March. While teachers have been undertaking symptom free testing since January, the introduction of twice weekly testing of secondary and colleges students is a new development to support the other infection control measures that are well in place. Once again, our schools and colleges have stepped up in order to set up their testing programmes to enable students to return to their classrooms and we are very thankful for their hard work and dedication.

However advanced remote learning from schools and colleges has been, it cannot fully replace the full experience and richness of face-to-face learning. For parents or children worried about the return to school, we are providing a range of support tools to enable them to adjust to going back.

Winter Grant Funding and Free School Meals: We know that many families have struggled financially due to Covid, and that can be particularly acute in the school holidays. That is why the Council committed to providing food vouchers to over 20,000 children eligible for free school meals over the Christmas, February half term and Easter holidays. We are also using government funding to set up a new Holiday Activity and Food programme to provide free healthy meals and enriching activities during the school holidays.

Transitions for children with SEN and secondary school offers for September 2021: I was pleased that the new admission arrangements for children with SEN has resulted in over 90% receiving confirmation of their school place by 15 February. All other children received confirmation of the placement type, and we are now working closely with those families to secure an appropriate school for their child over the next few weeks. In addition, despite the number of secondary applications increasing by 2.3% this year (to 12,311), 94.9% of students were offered a place at one of their preferred schools. This is an excellent outcome, giving students a great start to secondary school in September. We have made sure that the small number of students who did not get into their preferred school have an alternative place and are able to get on a waiting list.

Response to the consultation on the DfE SEND Review: We have put forward a robust case to the Department for Education's review of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system following government reforms in 2014. While demand for SEND services has grown exponentially in that time, funding has simply not kept pace. In order to meet the growing demand, the Council has invested significantly to meet the needs of children with SEND earlier and closer to home: nearly £80M in 1,600 additional specialist places, a new Graduated Response service and Learners' Single Point of Access, the expansion of programmes to support young adults into apprenticeships and internships. We have also made sustained progress in delivering our SEND improvement plan, which was formally recognised by DfE sign-off at the end of last year. I briefed Surrey MPs last month on the situation regarding SEND in Surrey, and they were very supportive of our case for sustainable government investment in these services.

Update on Surrey Adult Learning contribution to economic recovery: Even prior to the pandemic, Surrey Adult Learning (SAL) has been aligning its curriculum offer to skills gaps, employer requirements and the progression of learners towards a wider range of outcomes. As we begin to recover economically, this strategic shift becomes even more important. Working closely with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and Surrey's two Local Enterprise Partnerships, SAL is ensuring it supports learners, particularly those with low qualifications and on low pay, to either re-skill or upskill with digital skills being a focus. Supporting learners with routes into apprenticeships and progression into sustainable jobs are a key outcome for the service.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Mary Lewis

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families

Ofsted Focused Visit: Last week, we received notification from Ofsted of a Focused Visit to Surrey, week beginning 22 March 2021. The visit will focus on frontline practice, which will be used to form a holistic view of Children's Services and will involve interviews, desktop exercises that have already started and two days of (virtual) inspection. We had long anticipated a visit from Ofsted and as such, our team is well prepared and already hard at work to submit all the relevant details on time and in good order. While this visit is not a judgement inspection, meaning that no grading will be given afterwards, it will report back our strengths and areas of improvement – which we will use to fine tune our practice, as we continue on our journey to 'good'.

An example of a recent Focused Visit report from another authority can be found [here](#).

Poverty: Following the Council's December motion on Child Poverty, work has begun to better understand the complex picture of poverty in Surrey. Using recent data analyses from local and national sources, one thing is strikingly clear - children are in poverty because adults are in poverty. The data tells us that:

- The percentage of children living in relative low-income families (8.3%) has steadily increased in Surrey over the past four years to 2019 in all Districts and Boroughs. Given survey data through the pandemic, our expectation is that this number has grown even further in 2020, but firm data is not yet available.
- Using internal modelling, we estimate the level of need for free school meals has increased by 20% since Jan 2020, due to the economic conditions caused by the pandemic, on top of steady increases over the two previous years.
- In 2019, an estimated 5,130 households (with more than one child) could be considered 'low income' (less than £20,000 per annum) and were largely concentrated in more urban areas.

Historically, this county has been perceived as 'affluent' with 'pockets' of lower income individuals and families. However, it is clear from our study of the data that this too often causes us to overlook the impact of Surrey's higher cost of living on a significant number of residents. Anecdotal and survey data have already demonstrated that the pandemic has exacerbated existing financial difficulties, causing more families to fall into financial distress and reinforcing the need for a more joined-up approach to poverty reduction. Over the next few months, we will continue in deepening our understanding of poverty in Surrey with a focus on the causes and the opportunities across the system, with a view to alleviate and prevent poverty in future years. This will inevitably involve working closely with partners to support people into both work and better paid employment. A report outlining the findings will come to Full Council in July 2021.

There is support in place for families from the Council and our system of third sector partners (Homestart, the YMCA and Eikon), for example the Surrey Crisis Fund, Family Centres, and the Family Support Programme. I would encourage Councillors to direct residents to these services, should they find themselves in need.

Corporate Parenting: As corporate parents, we have a shared responsibility to ensure children and young people looked after by the Council receive the best possible care and safeguarding. Over the last few months of lockdown restrictions, we have been working alongside foster carers to mitigate some of the impacts that this has had on those in our care and to ensure that contact with birth families is maintained. I am pleased that, wherever possible, social workers, youth support workers and Personal Advisors are engaging with children in care and care leavers face to face. In the last few months, Corporate Parenting Board Members have also made virtual pastoral visits to residential care homes and had online meetings with Care Experienced young people to discuss issues of concern to them.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Sinead Mooney

PORTFOLIO: Adult Social Care, Public Health & Domestic Abuse

COVID-19 Response: In meeting the challenges of the pandemic, we have continued to quickly mobilise resources to deliver measures that reassure, protect, and support our communities. With regards to vaccinations, I am pleased that across the South East, we rank first for our vaccine rollout and sixth nationally – demonstrating the efficacy of our approach to get Surrey moving again. Most recently, with the support of NHS and Public Health England colleagues, we conducted surge testing in Woking and Egham, which has now successfully concluded. Preliminary findings indicate that the variant of concern demonstrated low infectivity levels in both areas, leaving us with a firm hand on the future health of the county.

Domestic Abuse: Over the last three months, we have also been pushing hard to increase the awareness and operational effectiveness of our domestic abuse work, which has culminated in a change in my portfolio title – to better reflect the renewed attention and parity that I want this work to have alongside Adult Social Care (ASC) and Public Health (PH). The Domestic Abuse Transformation Programme has continued unabated by the pandemic, ensuring that both survivors of domestic abuse, and outreach providers, have been well assisted at this time.

Accommodation with Care and Support: In the coming months, our Accommodation with Care and Support Programme will focus on developing the Surrey-wide Care Commissioning Strategy for Extra Care Housing. In February, Cabinet agreed to the use of additional Surrey County Council owned sites for Extra Care Housing development. I am pleased that we have now identified sites across the county, to support us in delivering 725 affordable units of Extra Care Housing. As a result of this, the programme will also look to develop our business cases, with a view to deliver swiftly. In doing this, I want to assure councillors of my desire to work closely with District and Borough Housing Authorities, to develop nomination agreements and allocation policies for all schemes.

Mental Health Partnership Board: Last month, we launched an independently chaired Mental Health Partnership Board, which will look to bring a range of partner organisations together, in order to drive improvements in mental health outcomes for children and adults in Surrey; ensuring better equality of access and health outcomes. The Board has hit the ground running and is already working diligently, as it looks to oversee the delivery of a shared action plan for the rapid overhaul of our systems.

ASC/PH Budget: As of the end of December 2020, ASC was forecasting an underspend of £4.7m against ASC's BAU budget. However, we are predicated to spend more than £56m, in addition to the BAU ASC budget on ASC activity related to the pandemic. In Public Health, Surrey's core PH grant has increased by £2.4m, which Cabinet allocated to support the need for increased investment in PH services, at a time when the service continues to play a leading role in our response to the pandemic.

Technology Enabled Care: In my last update, I spoke about a technology enabled care pilot, which would best support those coming out of hospital into the reablement pathway. I can report that the innovative nature of this pilot has been received positively and has demonstrated a real effect in alleviating the burden borne by carers. One family member commented to staff *"this has made life so much easier. I used to go down every single day, [but] I can now check and see if carers have been in"*. Following a review of the data, the team will move forward with a considered rollout of this technology, helping potentially thousands across our county.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Alison Griffiths

PORTFOLIO: Deputy Cabinet Member for Health

Parents and Carers Network: This network held its virtual launch event on 23 February 2021 and was attended by over sixty parents and carers. The event was introduced by Executive Director for Communities and Transformation, Marie Snelling as well as Councillor Becky Rush and I in our capacity as Cabinet sponsors. The network will build upon the great progress already made in supporting carers working at Surrey County Council, to establish a workplace where parents and carers can forge fulfilling careers alongside their parenting and caring responsibilities, without compromise. The forum confirmed the network priorities as: sharing support, advice and tips for parents and carers, and challenging and developing our policies and practice.

Children and Young People's Suicide Prevention: Over the last six months, we have made significant progress to support priority four of our Surrey Suicide Prevention Strategy 2019-2022, which seeks to "reduce attempted suicide and self-harm especially amongst children and young people". I am pleased that we have secured national funding from NHS England, which will support us in reviewing the self-harm pathway against best practice, as well as funding better responses to individuals who present with self-harm at A&E. We have additionally commissioned Mental Health First Aid courses. This will enable 320 frontline staff to be trained in basic mental health awareness and 64 frontline staff to become Mental Health First Aiders. This training is currently being delivered and I'm thrilled that we have received so much demand for this. A working group has also been set up which will be responsible for the delivery of actions derived from the Suicide Prevention Strategy and recommendations from the SSCP Thematic review of Adolescent Suicides.

End of Life Care: '[Caring to the End](#)' is a guide to end of life care and practicalities, to be used by unpaid carers, when caring for unwell individuals in Surrey. It has been produced by a multi-agency group of professional practitioners from the health and social care sectors, hospices, and voluntary sector providers. The group worked with carers and former carers who had experience of end of life care and they were instrumental in the scope design and content of the website. The aim of the website is to provide a single point of access resource for practical, legal and financial information for carers who are caring or who have just lost a loved one, as well as advice on coping with grief and where to go for support after caring.

The website directs carers quickly to the issues that are most helpful and relevant to their caring situation at different points during their end of life caring journey and provides links to different pages within the website and to other local or national websites. The website has had really good feedback from carers, which is very encouraging. One carer who has viewed the new site commented: *"I think the website looks great, creating a lovely calm and reassuring atmosphere. There's a huge amount of information contained within it, but I guess that was always the aim - and it is well broken down into chunks, so as not to be too overwhelming."*

The website can be found at <https://www.caringtotheend.org/>

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Becky Rush

PORTFOLIO AREA: Resources and Corporate Support

Capital and Revenue: The latest revenue budget forecast for 2020/21 shows a small overall deficit of £0.2m, against the £1,022.5m budget. This is likely to improve to a small surplus at outturn. The forecast position demonstrates the stability of our finances and reflects hard work across the Council to respond to Covid-19 whilst continuing to deliver business as usual services, within the approved budget. Progress towards delivering the Capital Programme for 2020/21 remains strong, with £238m of spend on track to be delivered this year. £5.7m of planned spend will be re-phased into 2021/22; representing 2% of the total £244m budget.

Transformation initiatives have been impacted by the pandemic and not all ambitions planned at the start of the year will be achieved, but there have still been significant achievements, for example the Adults with Learning Disabilities and Autism programme has seen consistent improved performance across the service; the Domestic Abuse programme has mobilised the Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors in Surrey's A&E settings; and our Greener Futures programme has received a £1.6m grant from Salix for decarbonising the corporate estate. Additionally, our Agile Organisation Programme has seen the successful exit from County Hall with the Woodhatch HQ site now fully operational; Cabinet has approved in principal four sites to be developed for supported Independent Living; and the 'Getting to Good' delivery is progressing well. Overall, the programme is on track to deliver £18.5m in efficiency savings by year end along with significant levels of cost containment.

We remain confident in delivering the resilient budget for 2021/22 approved by Council on 9 February. Ongoing liaison with District and Borough Councils show a continued improvement in the collection of Council tax and business rates.

Covid-19 Financial Update, Month 9: The latest projections show SCC will have spent a gross total of £131.7m on CV-19 related costs, offset by specific grants of £75.8m, with the remainder of £56.1m to be charged against the Covid Emergency funding received from Government. A balance of £9.9m is currently held in reserve for CV-19. The situation remains fluid and will continue to be closely monitored. Covid-19 emergency funding and specific Government grants have been essential in managing the Council's response to Covid-19. Funding includes:

- £67m to Adult Social Care including Government Infection Control, Rapid Testing and Workforce Capacity Funds, hospital discharge funding and support payments to providers from SCC early in the pandemic;
- £16.6m relating to increased referrals and costs for supporting Looked After Children, and supplier support in SEND;
- £5.8m for bus operator support, school transport and active travel;
- £7.7m relating to increased waste volumes;
- Funding to tackle Covid-19 related scams, support for the clinically extremely vulnerable, increased refuge places, hardship funding, PPE etc.

The Council has played a lead role in ensuring funds provided by Central Government have reached the most vulnerable. Both the DEFRA Food & Essential Supplies Grant and the Covid Winter Support Grant have been distributed in accordance with grant conditions and have resulted in c£3m being distributed to support vulnerable residents. The bulk of this funding has enabled the provision of food vouchers to those entitled to Free School Meals during the holidays, supporting more than 20,000 children in schools and Early Years settings. In addition, this funding has been distributed to Food Banks, Districts & Boroughs, Care Leavers, homeless Winter Cabins and been used to support the Council's existing Crisis Fund. The Crisis Fund has utilised this additional funding to increase our offer to over 2500 residents at their most vulnerable point to provide essential funds as well as support with the provision of white goods and furniture where needed. This funding detailed above is part of gross expenditure across Surrey of £464.1m on Covid-19 through the Local Resilience Forum including £175.5m for Health, £3.5m for Surrey Police, £5.6m for LRF Cells including death management and PPE, and £153.8 to District & Borough Councils.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Denise Turner Stewart

PORTFOLIO AREA: Community Protection

Trading Standards: They have been very busy during 2020/21 responding to the changing advice to businesses and enforcing legislation relating to Covid-19, in addition to their business as usual activities. The team stopped approximately 700,000 dangerous products entering the marketplace, including counterfeit PPE. A new trading approval scheme, Traders4U was launched in the Summer and in February a reporting tool for residents was launched, enabling people to raise concerns about breaches to the Covid-19 rules. So far over 100 reports have been received, often highlighting multiple concerns, from businesses remaining open during lockdown to a lack of face coverings or social distancing measures. We are pleased that as a result of successful prosecutions throughout the year we saw two significant custodial sentences imposed for fraud against a vulnerable person and that thousands of pounds have been paid back to the victims of fraud and unfair trading practices.

Community Safety: With regards to Serious Youth Violence, we have just endorsed a new partnership strategy with Health, Police and District and Borough colleagues, which will support us in tackling some of the wider causal factors of serious youth violence. This includes links to exclusion, social deprivation, and class A drug dealing and county lines. Following the Manchester Arena enquiry, there will be a new Protect Duty to improve the security at public venues and spaces. This duty is currently out for consultation, but it is likely to compel certain owners and operators of publicly accessible locations to consider the risk of terrorism and take reasonable steps to improve protection and mitigate the impacts of an attack.

Armed Forces Covenant: The Armed Forces team have continued to support veterans and ex-services personnel through the on-line Veteran's Hub with the second session being held last month. Once restrictions are lifted, visits to the network of Veteran Hubs and drop-ins across the county will be relaunched. The annual Surrey Armed Forces Covenant Conference is being held online on 18 March with the theme 'The Power of Partnerships'. This well attended event will see a range of speakers from both military and partner organisations. One of this year's guest speakers is a SCC Reservist who will discuss working with the military through the Local Resilience Forum on the response to Covid-19. Within the conference, the Forces Connect app will be relaunched with new partners. The app currently has over nine thousand users throughout the UK and the team are looking to expand this to support more ex and current armed forces personnel and their families.

The Ministry of Defence has been working with local authorities to develop recommendations and guidance ahead of the Armed Forces Covenant being enshrined in law, in a new Armed Forces Bill. As part of its journey through Parliament, Canon Peter Bruinvels, SCC Civilian-Military Liaison Adviser, was invited to be one of the first expert witnesses at a Select Committee evidence session on the bill at the House of Commons. MPs thanked him for his very positive input, recognising his extensive experience of working with the Armed Forces Covenant and the great work he does on behalf of Surrey with regards to regional and national veterans' issues.

Coroner's Service: The Service is seeing a downward trend in the number of Covid-19 deaths which is also reflected in the number of referrals to the service. This is a positive sign for Surrey and for the service, which has been under significant pressure during the pandemic. We are pleased that the Coroner's Service restructure is now moving ahead at pace. Once in place, and with the number of referrals falling, the service will be less reliant on Business Continuity arrangements. Longer term plans are to look at working to bolster pathology capacity to prevent potential delays in post-mortems, and at how the Coroner's Service will operate a body storage facility. Lessons learned from the response to Covid-19 have been, and will continue to be, important to the future planning for the service.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Marisa Heath

PORTFOLIO: Deputy Cabinet Member for Organisation & People

IT&D update: A key focus for the Council is to make our services easy to access and our information clear and simple to locate. There is no doubt that the Covid-19 pandemic has led to more people using computers to access services. To help with this, a new on-line tool has been introduced called the [Surrey's Family Help Hub](#), to improve the way we provide information to our residents. It has been really positively received, and we are currently reviewing and deciding upon the next stage of developments to this resource. Working closely with Customer Services, work is also underway to exploit our chatbots and digital forms capabilities that have recently been made available on the Council website; this will enable the Council to interact, through digital services, with our residents at a time that is suitable to them. This is not about removing the ability to speak to a real person, it is about offering a range of ways to communicate and providing answers as fast as possible.

Behind the scenes we are also seeking to apply digital approaches to our internal processes. The Agile Capability Programme has moved to the next stage of delivery with the initiation of a project to deliver a Personalised Intranet. This project is working closely with key stakeholders in the Communications team and across the organisation and has undertaken research to assist in defining how this technology can support an agile workforce. Alongside this, the Joiners, Movers and Leavers project is delivering rapid, tangible improvements and assisting the recruitment team to streamline and enhance the recruitment and on-boarding processes.

Preparation for Adulthood: The programme has been through a period of refresh to ensure that we are rightly focused on the experience of young people and are able to provide the collective leadership across education, social care and health to drive the system change required to support young people with complex physical health, mental health and learning disabilities as they prepare for adulthood. A Preparation for Adulthood Transformation Programme Board has been established to ensure that the programme delivers at pace and scale. This also provides an opportunity for us to take a truly joint approach to working between health, social care, and education. We will codesign proposals for integration and joint working across the system and with families and young people.

Our programme of activity is driven by a deep commitment to meeting the following outcomes:

- Children and young people are helped to become resilient and independent so that they can lead independent and fulfilling lives in their own communities
- The majority of young people transitioning into adulthood will be supported in their families and communities and access universal services rather than rely on statutory intervention
- The whole system will consider the young person's needs across their whole life course and plan accordingly
- Provision will be financially sustainable for the whole system and meet needs within the funding available

We know that the majority of young people with an education, health and care plan will go on to employment pathways. We are hearing positive feedback and success stories from young people that have been on supported and pre-supported internship programmes for the past academic year, with an increase of 13% in take up. Building on this success, we are expanding the offer of vocational provision for September 2021. As part of this, I am pleased to announce that Surrey County Council will begin recruitment for its own apprenticeship scheme for young people with additional needs in May. This is an important step and signifies the commitment and value that the County Council must keep developing a diverse workforce, fit for the future.

A pilot is being established for the Children with Disabilities and the Adult Social Care Transitions Team to jointly work with young people and their families to plan for adulthood with a clear ambition for these children to achieve their potential to lead fulfilling lives as adults. We know that when we plan collaboratively with young people and their families as they near adulthood this is more likely to be a positive experience for this young person and their family and they are more likely to achieve greater resilience and independence. I look forward to reporting the findings of the pilots back to Council over the summer.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Edward Hawkins

PORTFOLIO AREA: Deputy Cabinet Member for Land and Property

Capital Programme: The Capital Delivery Team has prepared a strategy which sets out immediate priorities of the Capital Programme with an emphasis on 58 projects which are targeted to start on site over the next 18 months.

Sites which have been identified for service need have had a programme of site preparation and demolition to improve the pace of delivery. A procurement exercise is under way with Invitations to Tender issued for professional consultants (Project Managers, Quantity Surveyors, Architect Services) to deliver the programme. Tenders for Engineering services will follow. Several planning applications have been submitted for sites due to commence in early FY2021/22 and tenders for the main contractor. In addition to the Schools programme, works commenced on site for Longmead, Henley Fort Phase 1 and Sunbury Hub. Investigations and due diligence surveys for a further 14 sites are in progress.

Assets for Disposal or Redevelopment: The Commercial Team continue to work on identifying and bringing forward assets for disposal or redevelopment potential. At the end of February, the current number of surplus assets was 63. Of these, 38 assets have been identified for disposal, of which 14 are under active market negotiations. The team has generated over £12m of Capital receipts and are targeting a further £30m of receipts by the end of March 2021.

Agile Organisational Programme: The Corporate Landlord team are progressing with the Agile Organisational programme. Cabinet approved the outline Agile Office Estate Strategy in January which adopts a strategically led approach to transform the Council's office estate, so that it provides better overall value including improved condition and location of the estate and aligns with our Greener Future ambitions. The full programme business case will be finalised in FY2021/22, Q2. The programme will link into live projects such as Woodhatch Place and the Dakota building.

Office works at Woodhatch Place are on track to be complete by Friday 19 March. Office works in the Lodge are also on track and will be complete by early May to be ready for the first induction day for new councillors scheduled for Monday 10 May (subject to Covid restrictions). One part of Woodhatch Place is currently operating as a vaccination centre and this is expected to continue until May.