

CABINET – 29 JUNE 2021**PROCEDURAL MATTERS****Members Questions****Question (1) Will Forster (Woking South):**

Please would the Cabinet Member confirm the cost, in terms of officer time and money, in preparing and managing the Council's Annual General Meeting?

Reply:

I can confirm that due to the Remote Meetings legislation not being extended beyond 6 May 2021, the following additional facilities costs were incurred in preparing the central wing atrium of Woodhatch Place for the Council's AGM to take place:

- **£4,139.45 (exc. VAT)** – Removal and reinstatement of furniture in the atrium
- **£1,604.40 (inc. VAT)** – AV hire and external support on the day and in preparation

Surrey County Council (SCC) were in the fortunate position to be able to utilise space within its headquarters building to host the meeting rather than having to hire an external venue which helped reduce costs. There were staffing costs associated with this meeting however the majority of these sat within the Democratic Services team who would provide support for this meeting regardless of the pandemic situation, so these have not been included within this response.

I would like to confirm that SCC has welcomed the opportunity to put forward its views to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's **Local Authority Remote Meetings: Call for Evidence** and a full response to this has been submitted. The Council remains supportive of local authorities having flexibility and local choice as to whether to hold meetings remotely going forward.

Becky Rush

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

29 June 2021

Question (2) Catherine Baart (Earlswood and Reigate South):

Item 12 of this agenda sets out a feasibility study into establishing affordable supported independent living accommodation on 4 sites which notes that these sites will be designed to take into account environmental impacts, sustainability and ongoing life-cycle costs which will support the Council's Greener Futures agenda. Please can you confirm that, in meeting the requirement for these to be designed as environmentally sustainable buildings in line with Surrey Climate Strategy while addressing the issues of fuel poverty for adult social care, the Terms of Reference for the feasibility studies require these buildings to be carbon-neutral.

Reply:

The terms of reference for the development of the Independent Living assets will be to deliver against our emissions reduction targets, this being through the creation of a science based carbon neutral pathway. Further work is currently underway to develop an update to the Climate Change Strategy with specialist technical consultants setting out tangible deliverables

against current and emerging technology and innovative design solutions. Implementation of the solutions will reduce energy requirements and usage in buildings and therefore help to reduce fuel poverty and improve the health impacts of fuel poverty.

Natalie Bramhall
Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Property
29 June 2021

Question (3) Jonathan Essex (Redhill East):

This month the Government announced that companies bidding for major central government procurement contracts from September 2021 should have a carbon reduction plan in place that reflect the government's carbon reduction targets (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-policy-note-0621-taking-account-of-carbon-reduction-plans-in-the-procurement-of-major-government-contracts>). Will Surrey County Council match this requirement, to requiring companies bidding for significant Surrey County Council contracts, including through frameworks, to commit to Carbon Reduction Plans in line with Surrey's Climate Change Strategy?

Reply:

It is our intention to follow the central government policy as best practice and reflect carbon reduction targets in major procurements. We are in the process of developing a Sustainable Procurement Policy that will embed our Greener Future ambition and environmental/sustainability considerations in all procurement decisions whilst maintaining good value and quality of service.

Surrey County Council (SCC) has commissioned the Carbon Trust to benchmark our supply chain emissions and to help us take a category approach to outlining a pathway to net zero (by 2050 at latest) and this work will set out our approach. A newly appointed Sustainable Procurement Manager will lead on the development of appropriate processes, guidelines and tools to help SCC deliver on the carbon reduction targets through procurement projects.

In addition, we have already started embedding Greener Future considerations in our biggest tenders – e.g. Highways Core Maintenance contract re-procurement in which we've outlined SCC's carbon reduction ambitions in line with SCC's 'net zero' carbon strategy. As part of the tender SCC are currently engaging with bidders to firm up environmental commitments.

SCC will also work with small and medium sized enterprises in our supply chain as part of our LOCASE project, supporting them to make improvements and access new opportunities and our larger corporate partners to see how we can maximise social value benefits that arise as a result of the Greener Future Agenda.

Becky Rush
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources
29 June 2021