

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET
HELD ON 29 JUNE 2021 AT 2.00 PM
AT COUNCIL CHAMBER WOODHATCH PLACE, 11 COCKSHOT HILL,
REIGATE, SURREY ,RH2 8EF.**

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Cabinet at its next meeting.

Members:

* = Present

*Tim Oliver (Chairman)	*Natalie Bramhall
*Clare Curran	*Matt Furniss
*Mark Nuti	*Denise Turner-Stewart
*Sinead Mooney	*Marisa Heath
*Becky Rush	*Luke Bennett

Deputy Cabinet Members:

*Steve Bax	*Kevin Deanus
*Edward Hawkins	*Maureen Attewell

The following Cabinet Member and Deputy Cabinet Members attended the meeting via Microsoft Teams and therefore could not vote on any items being discussed. Deputy Cabinet Members do not have voting rights.

*Steve Bax

Members in attendance:

Will Forster, Local Member for Woking South
Jonathan Essex, Local Member for (Redhill East)
Catherine Baart, Local Member for Earlswood and Reigate South
Liz Bowes, Chairman of the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee
Nick Darby, Chairman of the Resources and Performance Select Committee

**PART ONE
IN PUBLIC**

113/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

There were no apologies.

114/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 01 JUNE 2021 [Item 2]

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 01 June 2021 were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

115/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were none.

116/21 PROCEDURAL MATTERS [Item 4]

116/21 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 4a]

There were three member questions. The questions and responses were published as a supplement to the agenda.

There was one supplementary question from Jonathan Essex who asked if the Cabinet Member could confirm if carbon reduction plans would be in place for the organisations that worked with the council and also if the carbon reduction targets of these organisations would match the targets in the council's climate change strategy. It was queried if the council would encourage SME's to register their climate commitment with the SME climate hub so these matched up with Surrey's climate change strategy.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources stated that it was critical to incorporate carbon reduction plans in our procurement process and that she would provide a written response to the supplementary question asked.

117/21 PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 4b]

There were three public questions. The questions and responses were published as a supplement to the agenda.

There was one supplementary question from Ms Sally Blake who stated that she was pleased that the Council's policy on tree felling would be reviewed this year. Ms Blake stated that a large number of mature trees were felled in Albury, along both sides of the A25 below Newlands Corner, over a long stretch of road. It was queried why these trees had been felled as the stumps showed no signs of disease.

The Cabinet Member for Environment explained that she would need officers to look into this specific case but that trees were only felled with good reason. The Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure added that trees close to the highways were only felled if there was a safety issue. A written response would be provided to Ms Blake.

118/21 PETITIONS [Item 4c]

There were none.

119/21 REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED ON REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE [Item 4d]

There were none.

120/21 REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES , TASK GROUPS, LOCAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL [Item 5]

There were none.

121/21 LEADER / DEPUTY LEADER / CABINET MEMBER/ STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST CABINET MEETING [Item 6]

The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning explained that the decision taken was in relation to additional specialist school places for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) at Clifton Hill school and Woodfield secondary school. Surrey's ambition was to ensure sufficient maintained placement availability for the cohort of children and young people who have SEND and need specialist placements, so that they are educated closer to home and are more connected to local communities and support services.

RESOLVED:

That the delegated decisions taken since the last meeting of the Cabinet be noted.

Reason for decision:

To inform the Cabinet of decisions taken by Cabinet Members, Strategic Investment Board and the Committee in Common subcommittee under delegated authority.

122/21 COVID-19 DELEGATED AND URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN [Item 7]

There were none.

123/21 SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL STRATEGY AND DELIVERY - 2021 AND BEYOND [Item 8]

The item was introduced by the Leader who explained that extensive work had been undertaken to design a vision for Surrey and as a result a Community vision for Surrey in 2030 had been developed, prior to the pandemic. Since the pandemic, the council must revisit the impacts and effects on communities, localities and the economy. The report assesses the most likely medium-term future for Surrey and considers the role of the council in shaping and responding to this outlook, taking into account a range of factors. There were four key areas agreed by Full Council in October 2020 that the council would focus on including Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit, Tackling health inequality, Enabling a greener future and Empowering communities. It was essential the council remained flexible and responsive to the changing needs and behaviours of communities and localities.

The Cabinet Member for Communities announced that the 'make it happen' campaign had been launched and the council wanted to engage with residents and listen to what communities were saying. The campaign would empower communities.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet reaffirms and endorses the strategic direction of the Council, recognising the progress and achievements to date.

2. That Cabinet acknowledges the impact that Covid-19 has had on residents, communities and economy, and the changed context the Council now faces.
3. That Cabinet recognises the financial challenge that the organisation continues to face and endorses the twin-track approach to budget setting in the short and medium terms.
4. That the initial elements of a high-level strategic programme, to be developed further be approved to ensure the ambitions of the Community Vision 2030 and Organisation Strategy priorities are achieved.
5. That the indicative target operating model and workforce of the future for the Council, required to achieve our ambition and priority objectives be approved.

Reason for decision:

The challenges brought about by Covid-19 make it even more important that we achieve our ambitions to be an agile, flexible and responsive organisation that engages directly with communities and utilises innovations in digital and data to transform the way we design and deliver services.

Endorsing our current ambitions and strategic direction and setting out a high-level delivery programme for the medium term will help us to add more value, make greater impact and improve services so they deliver the best possible long-term outcomes for residents. As part of this, more radically transforming our organisation to reform its function, form, focus and culture will be key.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Resources & Performance Select Committee]

124/21 IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES, EXPERIENCES AND SERVICES IN SURREY [Item 9]

The Leader explained that a Mental Health Partnership Board which was chaired by Independent Chairman, Alan Downey had been set up with the purpose 'To bring together a range of partner organisations to oversee, govern and drive whole system transformation and improvement in mental health outcomes, experiences and services for children and adults living with mental ill-health in Surrey.' The final report from the board had been reviewed by various committees including the Health and Wellbeing Board. Recommendations in the report would be monitored by the delivery board and focus was on prevention and early intervention. Thanks was given to the Chairman of the Board and all those who had participated in the work of the board.

There was wide support from Cabinet on the report. The Cabinet Member for Adults stated that the board had undertaken a great piece of work and had identified priority areas to improve mental health and wellbeing. The improvement programme was special and would make tangible differences. Thanks was given to the Chairman of the board and all stakeholders involved with the work. The Cabinet Member for Children and Families added that the improvements in children's social care was interdependent on systemic transformation in emotional health and wellbeing services for children and young people. A new i-THRIVE model was in place and would focus on early intervention. The establishment of the board was welcomed.

RESOLVED:

1. That the work commissioned and undertaken by the Surrey Mental Health Partnership Board be acknowledged.
2. That the recommendations and implementation programme arising from that work, which will drive improvements across the mental health system are endorsed.
3. That the Council's role and contribution to emotional wellbeing and mental health outcomes, experiences and services in Surrey be acknowledged.

Reason for Decision:

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.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Adults and Health Select Committee]

125/21 CHILDREN'S IMPROVEMENT UPDATE [Item 10]

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families introduced the report explaining that the report provides an update on the improvement of Surrey's children's services, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the improvement programme and a summary of the recent Ofsted Focused Visit (March 2021), including findings & feedback. Scrutiny of improvements being undertaken in the service is carried out regularly. The Chairman of the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee spoke on the item stating that she supported the report and explained that the Select Committee worked openly and transparently with the service to ensure no stone was left unturned. There was no complacency and additional scrutiny would take place where needed.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning stated that the report highlights the robust systems we have in place for children missing from education and that are being home educated. Work had been done with school leaders to improve our school inclusion strategy and work was being undertaken to increase the number of school places and keep as many children and young people in school.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet review the findings from the March 2021 Ofsted Focused Visit and the updated improvement plan and priorities as set out by children's services in response to the feedback received.

2. That Cabinet receive a further update on the progress made delivering the children's services 'Getting to Good' plan and the improvement priorities resulting from the Ofsted Focused Visit in early Autumn 2021.
3. That the cross-cutting approach on how 'getting to good' across the directorate be noted, which also includes services for children with additional needs (SEND) and services for children with emotional wellbeing or mental health issues (CAMHS), highlighting some key areas of focus; performance, retention, professional development, partnerships and finances.

Reason for Decision:

Children's services improvement is a high priority for the Council. It is important that Cabinet is aware of the evidence of progress made to improve services so far, as determined by both internal and external scrutiny and of the ongoing, ambitious and innovative improvement plan which is driven by a focus on improving outcomes for children and families and goes well beyond resolving only the issues highlighted by Ofsted, the Department for Education (DfE) and the Commissioner.

The routine national inspection activity resumes from May 2021 at which point Ofsted will begin a gradual restart of the Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) programme for local authority children's services. Although the timetable for inspection is not notified in advance, we are anticipating a full re-inspection of Surrey's children's services later in 2021 or early in 2022.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning & Culture Select Committee]

126/21 VARIATION TO ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SURREY'S COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021 AND SEPTEMBER 2022 [Item 11]

The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning explained that the report details variations to admission arrangements for Surrey's community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2021 and September 2022. The variation would give top priority to children adopted from state care outside England, alongside looked after and other previously looked after children. It will ensure that children adopted from state care outside England are given the same priority for admission as children adopted from state care in England.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet recommends that the County Council approves the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and co-ordinated schemes.

1. That, subject to the new School Admissions Code coming into force on 1 September, the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2021 and 2022 are varied to give top priority for children adopted from state care outside England,

alongside looked after children and other previously looked after children.

Reason for Decision:

- It will ensure the local authority complies with the new School Admissions Code that is due to come in to force on 1 September 2021.
- It will ensure that children adopted from state care outside England are given the same priority for admission as children adopted from state care in England.

127/21 SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING - FEASIBILITY STUDY [Item 12]

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Property who explained that Cabinet was being asked to approve capital programme funding of £1.9m to carry out a feasibility study to progress supported independent living schemes for accommodation units at four identified sites in Surrey. Once approved the team would be able to develop business cases for each site. The Supported Independent Living programme aims to Empower Communities and Tackle Health Inequalities by increasing the number of working age adults with support needs living in supported independent living settings and reduce reliance on traditional residential care provision. The Chairman of the Resources and Performance joined the meeting and stated that he had no issues with the principle of supported independent living but there were some concerns around the financing of the feasibility study.

The Cabinet Member for Adults stated her support for the report and highlighted that it would allow the council to deliver on its promise to build affordable extra care and independent living units. The Cabinet Member would be looking forward to working with district and boroughs to deliver these schemes. The Deputy Cabinet Member for Land and Property voiced his support for the recommendations.

Recommendations 2 and 3 were agreed and Recommendation 1 would be discussed confidentially at Item 17.

RESOLVED:

1. That capital funding of £1.9m from the capital programme Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) pipeline allocation for Supported Independent Living for a feasibility study to progress supported independent living accommodation schemes at four identified sites up to full planning applications be approved.
2. That procurement of appropriate supply chain partners for the delivery of all associated services required, in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Standing Orders be approved.
3. Regarding the procurement of supply chain partners, that the Executive Director of Resources and the Director of Land and Property be authorised to award such contracts within the +/-5% budgetary tolerance level.

Reason for Decision:

The decisions recommended in this report will contribute to enabling the Council to:

- i. Meet the need, identified by the Council's Adult Social Care (ASC) team, for supported independent living accommodation units in the four identified sites.
- ii. Enable local residents with Learning Disabilities and/or autism to have their own accommodation to improve their independence and wellbeing.
- iii. Make an essential contribution towards the Council's strategic objective to tackle health inequality, in line with the 2030 Community Vision to ensure no-one is left behind.
- iv. Potentially release assets for alternative use or disposal, where identified as surplus to supported independent living requirements by the ASC team.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Resources & Performance Select Committee]

128/21 SURREY'S GREENER FUTURES CLIMATE CHANGE DELIVERY PLAN (CCDP) [Item 13]

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Environment who explained that the report sets out the proposed approach and principles underpinning the first five-year Greener Futures Climate Change Delivery Plan and works towards the council becoming carbon neutral by 2050. The recommendations focus on agreeing the pivotal role of behaviour change in delivering the county's net zero targets and agreeing to continue to fully engage partners. A conscious effort had been taken to link up and communicate with partners and residents to ensure a clear 5 year plan. This plan requires input from residents and partners so it can be a plan for the whole of Surrey. Jonathan Essex spoke on the item stating that he hoped the Greener Future Board would engage with politicians across the party spectrum. The delay to the plan was welcomed and the member commented that he hoped the Greener Future Board would work with district and boroughs to come up with a plan to de-carbonise all buildings and homes in Surrey by 2035. The member felt there were many opportunities for the Greener Future Boards to deliver improvements.

The Leader stated that a delivery plan should not be rushed through and the summer would be spent consulting with residents and partners on a plan that was deliverable. It was also vital that the government did more to support the council and the right channels would be used to lobby government. Most importantly, the hearts and minds of residents needed to be won over to bring about change towards a greener future.

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed approach and principles underpinning the development of the Greener Futures Climate Change Strategy Delivery Plan for achieving net zero 2050 be approved.

2. That Cabinet agree to continue to fully engage partners, in particular districts and boroughs, in developing and shaping the Plan.
3. That Cabinet agree the pivotal role of behaviour change in delivering the county's net zero targets and the outline approach for engaging and empowering communities to act.
4. That the crucial role that all partners must play in delivering and approving the establishment of a Greener Futures Board to provide countywide leadership to this agenda be agreed.
5. That the full county Greener Futures Climate Change Delivery Plan, the Council's own Net Zero Delivery Plan and a robust Greener Futures Finance Strategy be brought back to Cabinet in Autumn 2021.

Reason for Decision:

Having declared a climate emergency and published the Greener Futures Climate Change Strategy in 2020, it is now essential to have an evidence-based delivery plan that shows how Surrey's target of net zero by 2050 can be achieved.

Surrey County Council has a crucial role to play in delivering and driving this agenda and must ensure that the resources and levers that are within its control, and the influence that can be brought to bear, are utilised to maximum effect.

However, the Council is only one part of the solution, and ultimately all partners must play their part in the implementation of a jointly developed, owned and delivered plan, with a strong governance framework to provide strategic direction.

Most importantly, delivering the ambitions of the Greener Futures Climate Change Strategy will require a step change in how our communities live, work and play, and therefore the critical role of enabling residents and businesses to make more sustainable choices is highlighted as a major focus.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee]

129/21 THE SURREY TRANSPORT PLAN (FOURTH EDITION) [Item 14]

The Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure introduced the draft fourth edition of the Surrey Transport Plan and its emerging Delivery Programme. The Plan sets out the Council's transformational and ambitious roadmap to deliver the required carbon reduction targets set out in the Climate Change Strategy for the transport sector, whilst supporting the county's communities and economy to thrive. The Plan was a significant contributor to the Council's contribution to the delivery of the county's net zero carbon target of 2050. The Council had already undertaken informal consultation with key stakeholders in the development of the draft plan over recent months and a consultation with Statutory Consultees, Key Partners, Businesses, and residents is planned to take place from 5 July to 24 October 2021.

Catherine Baart spoke on the item and welcomed the draft plan and the increase in active travel arrangements. It was queried how the implementation

of 20mph zones could be sped up seeing as road speed limits were key in the draft plan. The Cabinet Member stated that joint and local committees were responsible for making decisions around road speed limits based on local residents priorities and this could take up to a year to implement.

RESOLVED:

1. That the evidence base and development of the first draft of the Surrey Transport Plan (4th edition) be noted.
2. That the draft fourth edition of the Surrey Transport Plan be approved and be put forward for statutory consultation between the 5 July 2021 and 24 October 2021, noting the following in particular:
 - a) The vision, objectives and outcomes.
 - b) The “Avoid / Shift / Improve” Framework.
 - c) The nine new policy areas identified.
 - d) The sustainable travel hierarchy and street’s family framework.
 - e) The four impact strategies to deliver the expected outcomes.
3. That the requirement to consider, as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), additional investment into more sustainable transport infrastructure and/or to reprioritise existing capital commitments to deliver the ambitions of the new Surrey Transport Plan, pending initial feedback from the consultation be noted.
4. That the launch of the statutory consultation and delegate sign-off of consultation contents to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure and Executive Director for Environment, Transport & Infrastructure be approved.
5. That the development of a programme to support delivery of the Surrey Transport Plan which will include a funding strategy and a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) be approved. If required, projects and programmes will be brought back to Cabinet with costed delivery plans for future approval.

Reason for Decision:

Achieving the scale of carbon emissions reduction to deliver net zero carbon by 2050, requires a step change in how transport services and its infrastructure are planned, delivered, maintained, and used. This will need the Council, partner organisations, businesses, and all of Surrey’s residents to act now and work together to make changes in when, where, and how they choose to travel, including adopting digital opportunities. The plan sets out policies to support these changes by developing and enhancing safe, cleaner, greener ways of travelling and accessing services and opportunities. Behaviour change, innovation, and uptake of technology such as electric vehicles, will all be integral to meet the challenge of achieving the county’s target of net zero carbon by 2050. The plan also supports the importance of ensuring that our transport policies and networks enables a prosperous economy and healthier, better connected communities.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee]

130/21 2021/22 MONTH 1 (APRIL) FINANCIAL REPORT [Item 15]

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources introduced the report explaining that the report provides details of the County Council's 2021/22 financial position as at 30th April 2021 (M1), and the expected outlook for the remainder of the financial year. Directorates have identified net risks of £6.7m, consisting of risks quantified at £13.1m and opportunities of £6.4m. Where possible, Directorates will take action to mitigate these risks and maximise the opportunities available to offset them. The report also sets out proposed increases to Public Health's budget, funded by additional Public Health grant.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council's forecast revenue and capital budget positions for the year be noted.
2. That the increase to Public Health's budget to fund PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) medicine and other initiatives recommended by the Public Health Leadership Team and approved by the Executive Director of Resources be noted.

Reason for Decision:

This report is to comply with the agreed policy of providing a monthly budget monitoring report to Cabinet for approval of any necessary actions.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Resources and Performance Select Committee]

131/21 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC [Item 16]

RESOLVED: That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

132/21 SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING - FEASIBILITY STUDY [Item 17]

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Property introduced a Part 2 report containing information which was 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).

The Chairman of the Resources and Performance Select Committee was invited to speak on the item and asked some questions around the value for money element of the recommendations. There was a discussion around costings for the feasibility study. Recommendation 1 of the report was approved by Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

See Minute 127/21.

Reasons for Decisions:

See Minute 127/21.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Resources & Performance Select Committee]

133/21 PUBLICITY FOR PART 2 ITEMS [Item 18]

It was agreed that non-exempt information may be made available to the press and public, where appropriate.

Meeting closed at 03:20pm

Chairman