

County Council Meeting – 12 October 2021

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 20 July and 28 September 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 11 October 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. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPELTHORNE JOINT COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION FOLLOWING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM BY SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

That Cabinet RECOMMENDS that the County Council:

1. Approves the changes to Spelthorne Joint Committee constitution, in relation to non-executive decision making, to reflect the change from a Cabinet to a Committee system within Spelthorne Borough Council (as set out in the Cabinet report from 28 September 2021).

Reasons for decisions:

To ensure that the Joint Committee constitution is fit for purpose.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

At its meeting on 20 July 2021 Cabinet considered:

B. COVID-19: SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL - UPDATE, REVIEW AND LESSONS LEARNED

As the nation moved into the final stage of the Government's planned roadmap for easing lockdown restrictions, the report presented to Cabinet summarised the extent of the council's response to date and highlights the lessons learned to date in doing so.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That Cabinet acknowledges the impact that COVID-19 has had and continues to have on Surrey, its residents and economy and the services provided by the Council.

2. That Cabinet notes and endorses the actions being delivered through Surrey's Local Outbreak Control Plan, including the vaccination roll out, and the ongoing support to vulnerable residents, including through the council's Community Helpline and the COVID-19 Winter Support Grant scheme.
3. That Cabinet reviews and comments on the lessons learned derived from a review by the Surrey Local Resilience Forum and County Council on the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reasons for decisions:

The recommendations set out in this report ensure that the Cabinet are appraised of the scope, detail and learning from our response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic to date.

C. RIVER THAMES SCHEME COLLABORATION AGREEMENT PRINCIPLES

The report outlined the principles to be used in the development of the Collaboration Agreement between Surrey County Council (SCC) and the Environment Agency (EA) and any additional associated contracts and agreements as may be required as a natural consequence of the completing the Collaboration Agreement.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That Cabinet approves the principles proposed for the development of the Collaboration Agreement.
2. That Cabinet agrees the delegation of authority to the Executive Director for Environment, Transport and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Executive Director of Resources, to enter into the collaboration agreement and to take such actions and decisions necessary to facilitate the delivery of the Scheme within the approved budget.
3. That Cabinet recommends to Council that all decisions and actions relating to the Council's regulatory and planning functions that pertain to the River Thames Scheme be delegated to the Director of Law and Governance in consultation with the Planning Group Manager.

Reasons for decisions:

The River Thames Scheme Collaboration Agreement will provide a sound legal basis for partnership working between the EA and SCC to deliver the River Thames Scheme.

However, development of the Agreement will take some time and will not be complete until the end of the calendar year. As such, Cabinet approval of a set of Collaboration Agreement principles will provide political support and direction for the negotiation of the full legal agreement, ensuring that it will represent the Council's best interests.

The delegation of the approval of the final Collaboration Agreement as set out in the recommendations will ensure that SCC decision making is as agile as possible and does not hold up progress on the Scheme.

In addition, Cabinet has previously approved, on 26 January 2021, the need to develop an approach to separate the exercise of the Council's functions as (i) a joint applicant to the DCO and (ii) its regulatory functions as a local planning authority to avoid a perceived conflict of interest. The final recommendation above puts this into action.

D. JOINT WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR FINANCE SERVICES WITH TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

The report sought approval for Surrey County Council's continuing support for the finance partnership with Tandridge District Council (TDC), the Tandridge Finance Transformation Plan and the resources necessary from Surrey County Council officers to support its successful delivery within TDC. Subject to this, to also approve the creation of a Joint Working Agreement following satisfactory negotiation of the detailed arrangements.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That Cabinet approve the continued development of the Finance Services partnership with Tandridge District Council through the development and delivery of the Tandridge Finance Transformation (TFT) Programme.
2. That Cabinet approve the commitment of the necessary SCC officer time to support the successful delivery of the TFT plan within TDC.
3. That Cabinet approve the development of a Joint Working Agreement with TDC and delegate its final approval to the Executive Director, Resources, subject to the satisfactory negotiation of the details of the working arrangements.

Reasons for decisions:

TDC faces challenges both in terms of needing to improve its financial health and the capacity and capability of the finance function. SCC has been providing support to the TDC finance function since August 2020 during which time formative progress has been made. There is now a need to broaden the scope of the work to ensure that the changes identified as necessary (both within the TDC finance function and more widely across TDC) can be delivered.

A transformation plan ('TFT') has been developed which identifies a new operating model for the TDC finance function and includes a business case for the necessary investment to support the delivery of the TFT plan. This plan will involve the commitment of officer time from SCC to ensure its successful delivery. A Joint Working Agreement will provide the formal legal basis for the governance of the partnership and clarify the expectations of both Parties.

The development of the finance partnership with TDC supports the delivery of one of the SCC key objectives which is to develop Stronger Partnerships with other public services.

The successful delivery of the TFT plan will assist TDC to emerge with a stronger underlying financial position and a finance function which is capable of sustaining this over the longer term.

At its meeting on 28 September 2021 Cabinet considered:

E. AWARD OF TERM MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR HIGHWAY SERVICES

In September 2020, Cabinet approved the Procurement Strategy for the Highways Contracts. This report provided an update to Cabinet following a procurement exercise for the Term Maintenance Contract and proposed a recommendation to award the contract to the successful bidder.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That Cabinet approves the award of the Term Maintenance Contract to the successful bidder; and authority be delegated to finalise and enter into contract with the successful bidder to the Executive Director for Environment, Transport and Infrastructure in consultation with the Executive Director for Resources and the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure.

Reasons for decisions:

For several years, the Council has worked with private sector partners to deliver highway maintenance and improvement activities across the county on its behalf, and with the current arrangements expiring in April 2022 a new contract arrangement needs to be determined.

Following approval of the Procurement Strategy in September 2020, officers from Highways and Transport supported by officers from across the Council including Procurement, Legal Finance and Strategic Commissioning have conducted a “Competitive Procedure with Negotiation” procurement exercise to identify the next Term Maintenance provider.

Following the recent completion of that procurement process, officers are now able to recommend the contract be awarded to the most “economically advantageous” bidder as explained in the Part 2 report.

F. POLICY ON THE USE OF SAFETY CAMERAS IN SURREY

The report presents a new policy which sets out the criteria and process that will be followed for investment in new safety cameras.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That Cabinet approve the policy on the use of safety cameras in Surrey presented in Annex 1 of the submitted report.

Reasons for decisions:

Higher vehicle speeds increase the risk of collisions. Also, the higher the speed the more severe the consequences are likely to be. Safety cameras have proven to be a

very effective intervention to reducing casualties at the worst casualty hotspots where speeding or failure to comply with red traffic signals have been part of the problem.

In more recent years there has been greater use of average speed cameras as these can encourage greater compliance with the speed limit over a longer stretch of road compared with spot speed cameras. The policy presented here will ensure that safety cameras will continue to be deployed effectively in Surrey to reduce road collisions. It also allows for deployment at other locations to reduce the impact of speeding traffic in local communities where there might be concerns over air quality, noise pollution and congestion. It will also free up police officer enforcement resources to be deployed to tackle other locations.

G. SURREY OUTDOOR LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT – PHASE 1, THAMES YOUNG MARINERS

The report requested Cabinet to approve capital investment of £6.2m for Thames Young Mariners, Phase 1 of the Surrey Outdoor Learning Development (SOLD) improvement programme.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That Cabinet approves the total funding of £6.2m. This comprises £4.2m to be transferred from the current pipeline within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) that was approved on 9 February 2021 as part of the capital programme. An additional £2m of capital investment has been identified through this business case to enable a comprehensive rebuild of the site, address significant repair and maintenance requirements and to extend and enhance the site's facilities which will generate additional income for the Council.

Reason for Decisions:

Capital development at Thames Young Mariners will enable SOLD to realise the potential in the site through a significant increase in service capacity, supporting the Council's strategic priorities for children, young people, and families by providing bespoke programmes of personal development, appropriate education, skills training and family support. It will further enhance SOLD's ability to work in partnership with services across the Children, Families and Lifelong Learning Directorate to support vulnerable children and young people including children with a social worker, young people in contact with the criminal justice system and children missing education. Whilst focussing on children and young people, the facilities will also be available for all ages to support the Council's broader strategic objectives.

Commitment to the £6.2m capital investment would allow TYM to offer an all year-round programme. The lack of year-round residential and day facilities means the site can only operate April – October, with five months of no significant on-site activity. Market testing confirms that post-pandemic there is considerable unmet demand from the customer base for year-round and residential facilities.

The proposed investment will see TYM contribute significantly to the long-term financial sustainability of SOLD as the investment will be self-funding through the net

surplus created each year. In addition, site assessments of the current property confirm that the facilities are increasingly unsafe and require urgent backlog maintenance works of £0.4m simply to make the site safe and facilities usable in the immediate term. Site assessments also confirm that in the next five years, a further £0.9m of capital forward maintenance will be required to maintain the facilities at an acceptable, safe standard.

In the mid to long term period, by proceeding with the proposed £6.2m capital investment programme at TYM, the Council will in total reduce its net maintenance liability by approximately £1m over the next ten year period as the current site is in very poor condition and will require significant works to maintain the standards of the building and surrounding site.

In the longer term, should the proposed works not proceed, in addition to the most urgent maintenance requirements, there is also a further requirement of maintenance works over the next 30 years of £1.68m based on an annual estimated cost of £56k for building and external areas. Lack of further investment will also put the achievement of planned revenue generation from TYM (circa £235k per annum by 2025/26) at serious risk.

H. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 14 July 2021 - 4 October 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 have been NO urgent decision in the last three months.

**Tim Oliver, Leader of the Council
4 October 2021**