

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2021****QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED UNDER THE PROVISIONS
OF STANDING ORDER 10.1****MARK NUTI, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES****1. JONATHAN HULLEY (FOXHILLS, THORPE & VIRGINIA WATER) TO ASK:**

The £100 million Your Fund Surrey is an exciting and bold initiative aimed at empowering communities and transforming towns and villages across the county.

Would the Cabinet Member for Communities update the Council on the steps taken to date to allocate Your Fund Surrey funding to community-led projects across Surrey?

RESPONSE:

Your Fund Surrey (YFS) is the County Council's flagship fund, bringing community-led projects to life across Surrey. These are projects that make a real difference in communities and offer accessible and inclusive facilities for the benefit of many.

YFS has seen an incredible public response across the county. Currently there are nearly 1,350 ideas pinned and over 135,000 people have visited the Commonplace ideas map, with nearly 10,000 subscribers to the YFS newsletter updates. The team has received nearly 200 submissions since the portal opened earlier this year.

The Think Big advertising campaign launched YFS right across Surrey, including a combination of online and offline media and is an integral part of the overarching Empowering Communities campaign Make It Happen. Officers have also been out and about at community events including Surrey Pride – to talk about the fund to residents.

We have now reached a stage where some projects are now at the point of being allocated YFS funding. In September the YFS Advisory Panel came together to consider the first two community lead projects under the fund and it will now be convening on a regular monthly basis to consider projects who have made it through the submission process ready to be considered for approval.

Officers have been proactive in keeping Members informed on the progress of the fund via the Members Portal and via Top Lines Brief newsletter. You can also sign up to the latest news on the YFS Commonplace map. We see Members as being key in identifying key stakeholders in their communities and being an encouraging

force to support ideas coming forward in their areas. Any additional materials we can offer to further support your efforts would be considered.

We will now be actively promoting the great news that funds are now being allocated with the aim of ensuring like-minded community groups consider coming forward and also to encourage those who wouldn't normally consider coming forward to have the confidence to do so.

NATALIE BRAMHALL, CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY

2. NICK DARBY (THE DITTONS) TO ASK:

What arrangements exist for disposal of unused or surplus food from the Woodhatch Place catering facilities?

RESPONSE:

Surrey County Council contracts Selecta UK to manage the supply, stock, monitoring and removal of foods in the catering hub at Woodhatch Place. Selecta UK also supplies the ambient foods and sub-contracts a local supplier to provide fresh foods.

In accordance with Regulation 1169/2011 (on the provisions of food information to consumers), Article 24 (l) states "After the 'use by' date a food shall be deemed to be unsafe in accordance with Article 14(2) to (5) of Regulation 178/2002". Fresh food past its 'use by' date is removed from the fridges and cannot be used for human consumption. Currently, surplus fresh food is disposed of, however, officers are working with Selecta UK to move towards zero waste and ensure systems are in place to prevent or limit food waste and ensure packaging is recycled.

Ambient foods are labelled with a 'best before' date and can be safely consumed after this date, but the quality may have deteriorated. Selecta UK works with a national food charity to redistribute ambient foods (there is a cost for this service); officers are exploring this, and other more local options. However, to date, there has been no surplus of ambient foods in the catering hub.

In an effort to minimise waste, officers also monitor the Surrey County Council booking systems to forward plan fresh food orders and check the end of week stocks.

TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

3. WILL FORSTER (WOKING SOUTH) TO ASK:

- a) Following the Leader of Surrey County Council's letter to the Government on 10 August regarding a possible County Deal for Surrey, will the Council agree to hold a meeting for Members to discuss and scrutinise the proposals?
- b) Does the Council intend to consult with Surrey residents before any proposals are progressed?
- c) Does the Council intend to consult with Surrey residents before a final decision is made?

RESPONSE:

We have submitted an expression of interest to Government to outline the potential impact a County Deal could have in Surrey. We have also started to develop an initial framework setting out the types of powers, freedoms and flexibilities that could maximise opportunities to accelerate economic growth, protect and enhance our places and better ensure the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities in the county. We are awaiting an announcement from Government on which county areas they would like to begin negotiating pilot County Deals with. If Surrey is selected as a pilot area, we will engage Members and partners in the development of proposals and the terms of any deal. It is important we wait for clarity following publication of the Government's Levelling Up White Paper, due in the autumn, about the parameters and potential benefits for Surrey of a County Deal, before we spend time on fully working up proposals with Members and partners, and consulting residents and outlining what shape that process will take.

BECKY RUSH, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES

4. PAUL FOLLOWS (GODALMING SOUTH, MILFORD & WITLEY) TO ASK:

In the Council budget for 2021/22 the administration used 0.5% of the 3% precept available to them to raise additional funds for adult social care services. Given that the government has announced an increase in national insurance to help pay for these services, and in the light of rising inflation and energy costs, will the Council confirm whether it is planning to add the additional 2.5% precept rolled over from this year to council tax bills in 2022-23?

RESPONSE:

The Council is facing an estimated £200 million gap over the five-year period to 2026/27. The budget approved by Council on 9 February 2021 estimated the gap for 2022/23 alone at £47 million.

The Draft Budget for 2022/23 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2026/27 are currently being prepared and will be taken to Cabinet on 30 November. Efficiencies and pressures, particularly those linked to inflation, will continue to be refined until the final budget is approved by Cabinet in January. Simultaneously, Government funding will become clearer at the Spending Review on 27 October and the Local Government Finance Settlement in December. Council Tax Base and Business Rates estimates will continue to be refined with District and Borough Councils over that period.

Until those pressures, efficiencies and funding issues have been finalised, a decision cannot be taken on the extent to which use of the Adult Social Care Precept will be necessary. Funding from the recently announced increases to National Insurance will go initially to the NHS and to Local Government from 2023/24 onwards, however the funding does not, as far as we can tell, meet existing Adult Social Care pressures

and it is not clear that they will be sufficient to meet the cost of reforms. Overall, the reforms may increase the pressure on local authority Adult Social Care provision.

We will continue to do all that we can to keep any council tax increases to the absolute minimum required to deliver improved services to our residents.

MARISA HEATH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

5. LANCE SPENCER (GOLDSWORTH EAST AND HORSELL VILLAGE) TO ASK:

On 9 July 2019, the Council passed a motion which:

“declares a ‘Climate Emergency’ and commits actions to support businesses and all local authorities in their work to tackle climate change by providing a strong unified voice for councils in lobbying for support to address this emergency and sharing best practice across all councils.”

Addressing an emergency means that urgent action is required to start resolving the issue.

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment confirm how much capital and revenue has already been spent on addressing the climate emergency since that date and the expenditure planned for the budget years 2021/22, and 2022/23?

RESPONSE:

The capital and revenue breakdowns for the current and previous years are included below:

Revenue	Outturn	Outturn	Forecast (P5)	Budget
	2019/20	20/21 spend	21/22	2022/23
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Total Revenue Expenditure / Forecast	1008	1722	3787	4898
	Outturn	Outturn	Forecast (P5)	Budget
Capital	2019/20	20/21 spend	21/22	2022/23
Street Lighting LED Conversion	1,064	5,597	7,747	4,793
Local Enterprise Partnerships Funded Schemes	9791	7,529	7,696	0
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	1,762	0	644	326
LEP Funded Schemes Electric Vehicle Charging Point Pilot Study			580	
Passenger Transport Initiatives	91	61	344	

Active Travel			6,232	
Tree Planting		57	0	0
Greener Homes LAD contribution		3	374	373
Greener Homes LAD Grant Funded scheme			1,600	1,600
Treescaping			175	88
Woodland Creation (Tree Planting)			31	13
Heat decarbonisation, energy efficiency improvement and renewable generation (Salix grant)			1635	
Dawnay School Energy and Decarbonisation projects (Salix grant)			367	
Energy efficiency and low carbon improvements to Surrey's New County Hall building			2001	
Total Capital Spend / Approved Budget	12,708	13,247	29,426	7,193
Woodland Creation (Tree Planting)			19	37
Ultra Low Emission Vehicles - Bus Companies			1,000	25,000
Materials Recovery Facility at Trumps Farm			0	0
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure			0	1,010
Active Travel (both EATF & future)			4,606	400
LCWIPS			0	1,500
Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) Funded Schemes			7,324	0
Greener Futures - net zero 2030				6,084
Greener futures - Decarbonising community schools loan fund				2,000
Greener futures - Decarbonisation loan fund (private sector landlords, off gas households, businesses)				3,000
Greener futures - grow back greener (replaces new woodland creation TBC)				100
Draft Capital Pipeline for Budget Proposals	0	0	12,949	39,131

Officers are still in the process of setting revenue and capital budgets for 2022/23 and so provisional budget requests have not yet been approved, however the scale of funding has increased as a result of the financial analysis carried out by Atkins on the Council's 2030 and 2050 net zero carbon targets.

SINEAD MOONEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS AND HEALTH

6. FIONA WHITE (GUILDFORD WEST) TO ASK:

The National Care Forum has said that providers are facing the most acute recruitment and retention crisis ever, with staff turnover across the sector at 30%.

Please can the Council confirm the level of staff turnover in its social care teams and advise the current vacancy rate in the care sector across the Council and its partner organisations?

RESPONSE:

Surrey County Council has been working in partnership with the Surrey Care Association since March 2020 to develop an improved offer around recruitment and training and development for the social care sector as a key part of addressing the workforce challenges the sector faces. This work has included a number of initiatives where the council has supported the following:

- Moving the Surrey Skills Academy training modules online for the independent care sector, enabling mandatory training to be completed for care staff during the pandemic.
- Establishing a Skills Academy steering group with the sector to identify and plan for future training needs.
- A local radio and media advertising and recruitment campaign.
- The development of the web-based platform and recruitment brand called “Proud to Care” for Surrey.
- The commissioning of a Training Needs report reflecting the work we are undertaking in developing a single point of access via the web for training across Adult Social Care and Surrey Heartlands ICS, bringing together infection control, manual handling training etc.

Social Care National data is collected annually. It is a mandatory requirement for Local Authorities to submit social care workforce data, however it is optional for the external provider sector. Many providers do submit their data as by making a submission they gain access to national funding and training opportunities. The data currently available is from 2019/20, which was submitted September 2020, and the overall turnover rate in 2019/20 (covering the SCC workforce and those providers that submitted data) was 39% and vacancy rates were 9.8%. From our own data for the last twelve months turnover to 31.08.21 within Older Peoples Services was 21.3% and for Learning Disabilities was 17.1%.

Source: Skills for Care - 10/7/202; Next update due: Mid October 2021

CLARE CURRAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

7. CARLA MORSON (ASH) TO ASK:

At July’s meeting of the Council, Lance Spencer asked a supplementary question on waiting times for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). In her written response the Cabinet Member for Children and Families advised that in the neurodevelopmental pathway the wait was 236 working days and that at that time there was a backlog that should be cleared by September 2021.

Can the Cabinet Member for Children and Families say whether the identified backlog has now been cleared and what the wait time is now estimated to be for any children and young people (CYP) new to the process?

RESPONSE:

As of September 2021, all of the 1,512 CYP from the backlog identified in Dec 2020 who were identified to be on the Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) backlog are on or have completed the assessment pathway. 11 have completed the screening and are moving into assessment, 339 are in assessment progress and 1162 have completed their assessment.

Since January 2021, there have been 832 new CYP entering the ASC pathway. 626 of these new cases have completed the screening and are moving into assessment, 188 are in the assessment progress and 18 have completed assessment.

The average waiting time from receipt of referral to completing the assessment is around 216 days (July 2021) which has reduced from 236 working days. The length of time taken is due to the detailed process of collecting information from schools, primary care and the family, to complete the required observations and then to complete the assessment online or face to face. However, early support work happens whilst children are waiting for each part of the assessment process.

There are significant new developments in reporting the data with new systems being stepped up. In building these systems a data quality issue has been identified and is being resolved to be confident to report the average waiting time from receipt of referral to the start of the assessment process. This is anticipated to be resolved by November 2021.

DENISE TURNER-STEWART, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND LEARNING

8. STEPHEN COOKSEY (DORKING SOUTH AND THE HOLMWOODS) TO ASK:

In the recent annual report on corporate complaints it was revealed a significant increase in the amount of financial redress paid in 2020/21 (£104,630.15) compared to 2019/20 (£47,877). This included £86,748.60 related to Home to School Transport during the autumn academic term to refund some parents/carers who had to transport their children themselves for a period of time.

- a) Will the Council please give an update on the status of the home to school transport applications process in the current autumn term and in particular for those pupils with special needs?
 - How many applications were still unprocessed at the start of the autumn term?
 - How many applications are still undetermined?
- b) In 2020/21 181 complaints were made about Home to School Transport under the corporate complaints' procedure. What is the Council doing to improve the efficiency of (a) the application process and (b) the service provided to pupils?

RESPONSE:

- a) As of 1 October, we have 7756 children travelling to 500 establishments, on 2010 routes via home to school transport.

At the start of the autumn term there were, 69 outstanding applications for those with special needs (SEN) and 302 for mainstream pupils. This was due to applications being submitted late. Each application must be assessed for eligibility against the national home to school transport guidance. Once eligibility has been confirmed there is then a rigorous process to secure the appropriate transport both in terms of safeguarding arrangements and following procurement guidelines to ensure value for money.

During August and September, we received a total of 1229 applications, and 797 of these have now been completed. All applications for SEN are being processed within the 20 working days target from application to completion. As of 8 October, there are 127 SEN applications outstanding which should be processed by 22 October and 305 mainstream applications with the aim that these will be completed by 29 October. The number of outstanding applications is due to a mixture of complex and late applications, and the prioritisation of SEN applications

- b) (a) A number of changes to the way SCC manages travel assistance have taken place over the past year to improve the process. From February this year, the travel Assistance team assumed responsibility for all mainstream assessments, so that now all assessments are completed by one team. In addition, the application form is now combined for SEN and Mainstream and is on a new platform which makes uploading forms much easier for parents and processing more efficient for the assessment officers.
- (b) A restructure has taken place and the Travel Assistance & Transport Coordination Centre went live on 1 May and is now working together as 'one team' with a new Service Manager to oversee the end-to-end journey who has been in post since 9 June 2021.

In order to encourage applications to be submitted in time for them to be processed before transport is required, a communications plan has been implemented so that parents are proactively contacted about Travel Assistance and advised when to apply. They are being provided with links to an improved website to make it easier for parents to find information about Travel Assistance. Those pupils identified with continued needs will have their transport automatically extended with no need to reapply which will reduce unnecessary applications. We are also meeting on a weekly basis with Family voice to reaffirm the messages mentioned above, as well as to develop a parent guide that will include step by step processes for applications, and expectation of when travel assistance will be secured in a user friendly format, as the policy itself can be quite legalistic and difficult to interpret.

However, there is a time lag between application, approval and transport being arranged which may be reduced but which cannot be eliminated for the safeguarding and procurement reasons set out above, but we are making every effort to process all the outstanding applications as quickly as possible.

MARISA HEATH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

9. HAZEL WATSON (DORKING HILLS) TO ASK:

The Council set a target to facilitate planting 1.2 million trees in Surrey by 2030.

- a) Since 2020 how many of the new trees planted in Surrey were planted by Surrey County Council itself?
- b) How much money has the County Council spent on planting new trees since 2020?
- c) what is the County Council's budget for planting new trees in the current financial year?
- d) Since 2020 how many trees on County Council land, including on Highways land which have died or have been felled owing to disease, have been replaced by new trees?

RESPONSE:

- a) SCC's planting programme for 1.2 million trees was launched in October 2019. As our recording only captures the planting season and not the month of planting, the figures below are given on that basis.

During the 2019/20 planting season (October 2019 to March 2020), 6420 trees were planted by SCC.

During the 2020/21 planting season, 20,488 trees were planted by SCC and a further 800 trees were given to Surrey schools.

As of now approaching the 21/22 season approximately 800 trees have been given to Surrey residents by SCC at community events.

- b) Since the 19/20 planting season records at our disposal illustrate approximately £310,000 has been spent or is financially committed to tree planting and its aftercare in both woodland and amenity planting scenarios.
- c) In September Surrey County Council and participating partners were awarded £297,000 in grant funding through the Forestry Commission's Local Authority Treescapes Fund for planting of Trees outside of Woodlands and three year's establishment costs. Of this total grant, £57,510 will be spent on tree planting on Surrey County Council's own estate during the current financial year.

For the current financial year, the county council is contributing £31,000 in match funding for 2021/22 towards the Treescapes project.

In addition to the Treescapes project above, a further £95,000 has already been spent or committed to, for 2021/22 on trees and planting thereof.

Specifically, the Highways team has a budget of over £1.4million pounds to resolve highway tree related issues, with a proportion of this committed to planting for 21/22.

- d) Records at our disposal illustrate that since January 2020, 3889 trees were removed from Highways and Land & Property related sites. During the 19/20 planting season (Nov-March), a total of 20,488 trees were planted on these combined portfolios.

MARISA HEATH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

10. ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK:

A recent analysis by the Mayor of London's Office, (August 2021) found that 99% of Londoners live on streets with dangerous levels of air quality. The study also found that over three million children in London attend a school with toxic levels of air pollution; levels which exceed World Health Organisation limits.

Given the urban nature of some parts of Surrey, the proximity of two major international airports and several motorways, it seems inevitable that many Surrey residents will be similarly affected.

Is the Council leadership aware of any such data? If not, will it endeavour to discover it?

RESPONSE:

The Council recognises the seriousness of air pollution and the harm it can cause to health of residents. The Surrey Transport Plan, which is part of the Climate Change Delivery Plan, is focused on significantly reducing petrol and diesel vehicles and shifting journeys to active and public transport, to reduce carbon and improve air quality.

There are 27 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMQs) in the county, where current or future air quality is unlikely to meet national air quality objectives. These are areas where air pollution levels exceed the level considered to be safe for human health. The main source of pollutants in these areas is road traffic.

The statutory responsibility for monitoring air quality and creating AQMQs falls to the Boroughs and Districts. They are required to report on air quality levels to Government on an annual basis. The Surrey Air Alliance is a network of officers with responsibility for monitoring and improving air quality in the county. Officers from SCC are also members of the alliance, because, as the Highways Authority we are best placed to enable reduction in emissions from transport.

In the last two years we have delivered or allocated funding for the following schemes which will result in air quality improvements:

- £6m in Government funding for active travel schemes across the county
- £40m of SCC funding allocated for the Bus Back Better scheme, investment in zero emission buses
- £260k Government funding for an electric vehicle taxi scheme
- £7m of funding for SME businesses through LoCASE which can be used to fund zero emission vehicles
- Delivering the following schemes with schools;
 - Cycle training for secondary schools
 - Cleaner Air 4 Schools toolkit
 - Golden Boot Challenge (competition to encourage green travel by staff and students)

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

11. ROBERT KING (EGHAM) TO ASK:

Whilst Surrey has seen some improvement in the number of potholes reported, compensation claims, paid out to drivers who have had their vehicles damaged by the quality of this County's roads, were still the fifth highest in the country in 2019/20 according to the RAC. A particularly bad patch for potholes and poor surface quality is on one of the main driving, bus and cycle routes going into my division, along Egham By-Pass & around the A30/B388 roundabout. This being in the Member for Englefield Green's division.

Can the Council give an update to any resurfacing works which maybe scheduled along this route and the cost to the council of any compensation paid in the past three years to drivers who had their vehicles damaged along this route?

RESPONSE:

Major maintenance by means of resurfacing the carriageway at the A30 / B388 roundabout is included on the 2021/22 planned maintenance programme (also referred to as [Horizon](#) on our website). There are currently delays in obtaining an approved start date as works are still ongoing to upgrade drainage in Tite Hill. It is anticipated these may be finished in March 2022. The road will continue to have safety inspections with any defects at intervention level scheduled for repair.

Other sections of the A30 including Egham Hill & B388 High Street / Church Road have been assessed for future schemes and will be added to the Horizon programme when projected funding determines a deliverable timescale.

We have not paid any compensation in respect of claims in relation to the Egham By-Pass or the A30/B388 Egham Hill Roundabout during the period of 06/10/2018 to 06/10/2021.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

12. JONATHAN ESSEX (REDHILL EAST) TO ASK:

Gatwick is now consulting on its plans to expand as well as Heathrow, and both require significant surface transport investment. Transport for London (TfL) estimate £13 billion will be required to support Heathrow's expansion. Yet at the same time, Surrey is seeking to reduce road travel in the county, as described in the Surrey Climate Strategy and draft Surrey Local Transport Plan 2022-2032.

How will Surrey ensure that the government finance required to decarbonise existing transport in Surrey will be prioritised over investment in road infrastructure required to support the airports' expansion?

RESPONSE:

In considering airport expansion in principle, the Council has been consistent in emphasising that necessary infrastructure should be in place before expansion together with appropriate mitigation measures and commitments to address environmental impacts. Surface access improvements required to enable Gatwick Airport Limited's Northern Runway proposal would need to be funded by Gatwick Airport Limited through the Development Consent Order process. Through the consultation process, the council will continue to stress the need for binding commitments to sustainable travel targets.

In terms of Heathrow, expansion plans are currently paused whilst the airport recovers from the impacts of the pandemic.

TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

13. CATHERINE BAART (EARLSWOOD AND REIGATE SOUTH) TO ASK:

Surrey County Council has established two strategic boards (the One Surrey Growth Board and Greener Futures Board) and could be required to establish an Inclusive Care Board.

Please can you explain how these (and any other) boards will be held to account and provide transparency to Members and the wider Surrey public?

RESPONSE:

With regards the strategic boards, these are not statutory bodies, but rather voluntary partnerships made up of individual organisations that find it helpful under the County's convening and leadership role to come together to plan and take action in a more co-ordinated manner, in the interests of securing the best outcomes at the optimum cost for Surrey residents. Where required, individual partners are scrutinised and held to account through their own governance arrangements.

MARISA HEATH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

14. TIM HALL (LEATHERHEAD AND FETCHAM EAST) TO ASK:

During the Summer and last year, a number of District Councils have suspended Garden Waste Collections for long periods.

Could the Cabinet Member for Environment please;

- a) provide an update on the functioning of the community recycling centres (CRCs) now they are back to normal operation post COVID
- b) confirm the impact of non-collection of green waste from some Boroughs and whether the suspension has had any effect on the tonnages of Garden/Green Waste collected at SCC CRC Sites?
- c) confirm whether there is any trend over the last three years on Garden/Green Waste Tonnages collected at Surrey CRC Sites?
- d) confirm how much it costs to collect/process Garden/Green Waste at SCC CRC Sites per Ton?

RESPONSE:

- a) All social distancing measures have now been removed from the CRCs which has greatly increased the capacity of the sites while removing the queues of traffic that were evident during the lockdowns. A full range of materials are now accepted at the sites though only 3 of the 5 Reuse Shops have reopened fully – Witley's Reuse Shop is now open at weekends while Woking's remains closed though Suez are working on this situation. All of the sites currently open an hour early on Saturday and Sunday though this is planned to cease at the end of October. Black bag sorting at the CRCs remains halted, efforts are being made to explore how this may resume as it makes an important contribution to the recycling rate at CRCs. However, you'll appreciate that this activity carries additional risks due to the Covid infected materials that could be in the black bags.
- b) Anecdotally we are seeing some extra queuing at the sites near to the Boroughs that have ceased garden waste collections though this queuing is not at a scale that we had during lockdown or with social distancing measures in place. Additionally, staff have commented that at these sites most visitors are bringing garden waste. We will have additional data later in the month regarding tonnages and visitors during September and will be reviewing this in the light of the cessation of garden waste collections.
- c) It is difficult to find any trend in garden waste over the last three years as this waste is so dependent on weather conditions and other seasonal patterns that vary between years.
- d) The cost of managing garden waste through the CRC service is £57.19 per tonne including operating, haulage and disposal costs.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

15. KEITH WITHAM (WORPLESDON) TO ASK:

Can the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure give an update on the LED rollout progress and how much carbon it should save as part of our Greener Futures strategy?

RESPONSE:

The LED conversion programme started in March 2020 and is an ambitious project to convert all 89,096 street lights to use the latest energy efficient LEDs. The original programme date for completion was April 2023, but despite the challenges Covid-19 brought, I am pleased to confirm we are ahead of programme. If the excellent progress made so far can be maintained, we will complete the project by the end of 2022.

As of the end of August 2021, 43,383 columns have been updated. The overall energy saved by using LEDs is approximately 65%. This means that so far the project is estimated to have saved 2,196 tonnes of carbon. This figure will only increase and once all columns have been converted it is estimated the project will save in the region of 6,000 tonnes of carbon per annum (compared to 2018 output), very much supporting the County Council's Greener Futures strategy.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

16. DAVID LEWIS (COBHAM) TO ASK:

Following the introduction of Lane Rental in April this year, could the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure give an indication of the charges that have been levied and a breakdown of which utilities are digging up Surrey's roads?

RESPONSE:

Up to the end of August 2021 we had invoiced £734,000 in Lane Rental Charges. Utility companies who have so far been invoiced for Lane Rental charges are: Thames Water, Southern Gas Networks, South Eastern Power Network, Southern Electric Power Distribution, SES Water, BT Openreach, South East Water, Affinity Water, Cadent Gas Limited, TOOB, EE Limited, Network Rail and Virgin Media.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

17. LUKE BENNETT (BANSTEAD, WOODMANSTERNE & CHIPSTEAD) TO ASK:

Please could the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure provide an update on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) programme and

confirm this Council's commitment to investment in walking and cycling improvements?

RESPONSE:

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) are being developed across all areas of the county over the next twelve-eighteen months to provide detailed plans for investment in high quality cycle and walking infrastructure and associated measures. £0.6 million is funding the stage 1 concept designs and up to £3 million is being provided to work up the stage 2 feasibility design so that capital funding to implement this infrastructure can be secured at the earliest opportunity.

LCWIPs will complement existing Local Cycling Plans in areas where these already exist. Surrey County Council are leading on this work in partnership with Boroughs and Districts with support from Atkins and Sustrans.

The programme for developing LCWIPs is progressing well. A pilot LCWIP for Woking town centre was completed in 2020. Reigate & Banstead LCWIP is almost complete. Further LCWIPs are underway for Elmbridge, Runnymede and Spelthorne; all due for completion later this year. The next phase LCWIPs are being prepared to commence for Mole Valley, Surrey Heath and Waverley. Discussions with other Boroughs and Districts including Guildford, Tandridge and Epsom & Ewell are in the programme and will follow.

Some LCWIP schemes that have been developed are now already funded using Department for Transport (DfT) Active Travel (tranche 2) and further schemes are currently awaiting a decision on funding from DfT Active Travel (tranche 3).

SINEAD MOONEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS AND HEALTH

18. RIASAT KHAN (WOKING NORTH) TO ASK:

In 2019, the Government pledged to end rough sleeping by 2024 through initiatives such as Housing First and the collaborative working of local authorities, housing associations and charities. During the pandemic, the Council led on the county-wide approach to supporting rough sleepers and those experiencing multiple deprivation - such as mental health, substance misuse.

Could the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health confirm if this is still a priority area for Surrey and the District and Borough Councils, and if so, what plans are in place to continue to work towards this goal?

RESPONSE:

The multi-agency work to address those experiencing multiple deprivation that was stood up and led by SCC during the pandemic continues to grow and expand to address the underlying longer term issues that we recognised as part of this work.

The homeless multi-agency group continues to meet regularly as part of the wider work happening to improve outcomes for those experiencing multiple disadvantage

with a number of workstreams being progressed to improve systemic issues and challenges that have been highlighted through the [Surrey Adults Matter](#) approach. Significantly this collaborative working has enabled us to be successful over the summer in securing an additional £2.8 million from the national changing futures fund over the next three years to improve outcomes for those experiencing multiple deprivation. More details on this are available via the initial [press release](#) with further updates being provided soon however it intends to build on the innovative actions that have been developed over the past 18 months such as the use of temporary accommodation cabins to provide additional accommodation locally and also which can be accessed to support by those suspected of having COVID who need to isolate.

This is very much a collaborative effort both within the Council and with wider partners and obviously with strong engagement with district and borough housing teams.

Within the Council, Adult Social Care are very much supporting Public Health colleagues to deliver this work and are committed to supporting the most vulnerable and socially excluded groups. For example, this is a priority as part of the accommodation with care and support programme. One workstream of this programme is to conduct a strategic review all our housing related support funded schemes which support adults who are homeless, at risk of homelessness and have mental health or substance misuse needs. We want to make sure our resources are used in the most effective ways, working in partnership with our District and Borough colleagues, to improve the outcomes of these marginalised groups.

CLARE CURRAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

19. LIZ BOWES (WOKING SOUTH EAST) TO ASK:

This summer, there were many news reports about large numbers of migrants who crossed the channel in small boats. This included unaccompanied children and young people, whom the Home Office has tried to disperse to local authorities across the country through the National Transfer Scheme.

Could the Cabinet Member for Children and Families confirm whether the Council participates in the National Transfer Scheme and accepts these children and young people? How many unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people does this council support?

RESPONSE:

The new voluntary national transfer scheme started on 26 July 2021. Although we do not endorse the voluntary rota scheme currently in operation (advocating instead for a mandatory scheme covering all local authorities) we have accepted referrals from the scheme, in addition to supporting young people who present directly in Surrey. We have a positive relationship with the South East Strategic Migration Partnership (SESMP), the National Transfer Scheme is currently a voluntary scheme and Surrey supports this on a goodwill basis.

As at 7 October the council is looking after 128 children, under eighteen who are seeking asylum in the UK. Some of these young people are disputing the age they have been given by the home office and we are currently undertaking further age assessments which comply with the relevant case law. We are also offering a care leaver service to 301 children who were previously asylum-seeking children. This service is offered to young people up to the age of 25.

CLARE CURRAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

20. JEREMY WEBSTER (CATERHAM HILL) TO ASK:

According to the Children's Society, the number of children in poverty in the country is set to exceed five million this year, as the impact of Covid-19 has pushed more families into crisis.

Please can the Cabinet Member for Children and Families verify if this council has a plan to respond to the tragedy of child poverty in Surrey?

RESPONSE:

My predecessor and I have been working intensively with the Executive Director of Children, Families and Lifelong Learning and the Surrey Office of Data Analytics (SODA) to understand the distribution, severity and changing nature of child poverty in Surrey during the pandemic. A cross-service review has been completed to assess the full network of support offered to families struggling with financial hardship, which includes a variety of initiatives such as our work in Family Centres, emergency hardship funds, and programmes targeting the impacts of food, fuel, and housing poverty specifically. Moreover, officers continue to engage with the Health and Wellbeing Board, District and Borough Councils, and our community partners to consider a full system response and what further interventions we could invest in to not only mitigate the impacts of child poverty but also address its root causes. Together, this data, funded support services, and partnership working informs our Surrey forward plan for child poverty.

MARISA HEATH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

21. DAVID HARMER (WAVERLEY WESTERN VILLAGES) TO ASK:

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment set out the engagement of stakeholders and partners on the Climate Change Delivery Plan and confirm how she will ensure ongoing engagement in the Council's journey to Net Zero?

RESPONSE:

An extensive programme of engagement was undergone to develop the Climate Change Delivery Plan (CCDP). Internally this meant engaging with:

- Cabinet Member for Environment, Property, Finance & Resources and Transport
- SCC Members (through member seminars and development sessions)

- Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee (through Greener Futures Member Reference Group)
- Corporate Leadership Team (CLT)
- Service leads for relevant teams

These relationships will be maintained going forward through internal meetings including the Greener Futures Board, the Green Schools Working Group and CLT. Externally a diverse range of residents and community groups were engaged with through a variety of methods:

- Greener Futures Engagement Platform (Commonplace) which has included survey questions relating to the CCDP
- Greener Futures Resident e-newsletter
- Community led workshops (East Surrey People's Assembly, Surrey Climate Change Commission)
- Presence at events (Empowering Communities roadshow at Newlands Corner, Farnham Sustainability Festival)
- Focus groups targeted at different sectors of community particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change (older people, younger people, homeowners, tenants and businesses)
- Meetings with community leaders/campaigners (Extinction Rebellion, Zero Carbon Guildford, Youth Cabinet, faith representatives)

Finally, there was a significant amount of engagement with other partners for the development of the CCDP. This includes at:

- The Greener Future Board
- District and Boroughs; Surrey Leaders Group, Chief Executives Group, Cabinet leads (1:1 meetings)
- District and Boroughs climate change leads through monthly network meeting, and themed workshops with academic experts
- Surrey Climate Change Commission
- Parish Councils network
- Schools and education providers (through dedicated communications channels and 1:1 meetings)
- Health partners (Heartlands ICS Board and ICS Estates Board)
- SCC's contractors for procured services

The feedback from consulting and engaging with these groups has been incorporated into the proposals and there is an attachment to the Climate Change Delivery Plan cabinet report in October 2021.

We will continue to engage with stakeholders, communities and residents on an ongoing basis through the following channels;

- Greener Futures Engagement Website (Commonplace)
- Greener Futures newsletter and Greener Futures business newsletter
- Greener Futures blog, for members of the Surrey community to share their experiences of reducing their carbon footprint.
- Dedicated workshops with business community

- Focus groups with community schools
- Community and resident focussed events and roadshows

BECKY RUSH, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES

22. LESLEY STEEDS (LINGFIELD) TO ASK:

In the Summer, Slough Borough Council became the latest Council to issue a s114 notice.

Please can the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources outline what lessons we can learn from Slough and other Councils?

RESPONSE:

The Council's Financial Improvement Plan, in place since 2018, has led to a step change in the approach to financial management and governance with consequential improvements to the Council's resilience. Nevertheless, we consider improvement as an ongoing priority and are keen to learn from other organisations; whether that be adopting best practice or learning from mistakes.

Unfortunately, a number of authorities have issued Section 114 notices recently, effectively signalling financial failure. In addition, external auditors have released Public Interest Reports setting out concerns about financial health and governance of authorities they audit. The Council evaluates each one of these for lessons that we can take on board.

Key themes emerging relate to weaknesses in governance; both of the Council involved and, in some cases, their subsidiary companies, particularly:

- Failure to properly understand and respond to risk;
- Lack of commercial expertise;
- Lack of clarity over roles;
- Poor quality financial information;
- Lack of key financial controls and technical failings, for example in recognising income before it was secure and not providing sufficiently for debt repayment;
- Lack of financial resilience, depletion of reserves and lack of clarity on how low resilience had become.

This Council recognised many of these weaknesses in itself in 2018 and took a conscious decision to change course. Since that point, reliance on reserves to balance the budget has ceased and reserves have been restored to a resilient level.

The Council's financial approach is based on accountability, strong and clear financial advice, with an open and self-analytical approach drawing in opinion, guidance and best practice from other authorities.

The Council is developing its approach to risk management and commercial capacity to ensure that complex financial decisions are taken with a clear understanding of the risks involved, the Council's appetite for risk and clarity on the financial impact of those risks coming to pass. The Council are currently undertaking a health-check of governance and oversight of its subsidiary companies in drawing on lessons from elsewhere. Initial findings are that governance and oversight is good, although improvements will be made to further safeguard the Council.

BECKY RUSH, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES

23. MARK SUGDEN (HINCHLEY WOOD, CLAYGATE AND OXSHOTT) TO ASK:

I understand the Council has won two awards at the Public Finance Awards in September for "Finance training and development" and the Pensions team for "Financial Reporting and Accountability".

This is really good news, but could the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources confirm what this means for the Council and Surrey?

RESPONSE:

The Finance Academy won the 'Finance Training & Development Initiative' award. The award is not only recognition for all the work put into developing the Finance Academy but has also raised the profile of the organisation within public finance networks. A number of contacts have been made to officers to both congratulate and request further information on what we have achieved.

The Finance Academy was a key part of the Council's wider Finance Improvement Programme and has helped to drive forward a shift in financial management culture across the organisation, by:

- providing training for budget holders to assist in ensuring a strong understanding of their financial management roles and responsibilities and also providing them with the skills needed to monitor budgets effectively.
- refreshing and developing the financial understanding of Councillors through the Finance Fundamentals Programme.
- ensuring the Finance service develops the appropriate knowledge, skills and behaviours to support the Council achieve its priorities within available resources.

Surrey Pension Fund won the award for Achievement in Financial Reporting and Accountability. This was an acknowledgement of the efforts of the Pension Fund to produce a redesigned 2019-20 Annual Pensions Report despite the significant challenges of Covid-19, delays to audit, and additional CIPFA reporting requirements.

The award also recognised the innovative way that the Pension Fund has engaged with stakeholders, including a ground-breaking United Nations Sustainable Development Goals mapping project.

This project has shown the Surrey Fund as pension industry leaders in aligning and measuring investment performance by reference to the positive impact its investment activity has on society.

This recognition can be added to further recent accolades from Pensions Age and the Local Authority Investment Awards to mark the Surrey Pension Fund as true market leaders in sustainable investment strategies.

Overall, we want to look outside, learn from the highest performing organisations and share learning with others. Examples of this in practice are the External Assurance Panel, with senior officers from partner Councils giving oversight, advice and scrutiny of our plans, and a collaboration group with other County Councils to share best practice, insights and intelligence on emerging financial issues.

MARK NUTI, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES

24. SCOTT LEWIS (WOODHAM AND NEW HAW) TO ASK:

I believe you have been out on the road over the summer engaging with communities during several events.

Could the Cabinet Member for Communities provide an update on what has been the general feeling, and, on any feedback, he has received among our communities?

RESPONSE:

We are on a journey to reinvigorate our relationship with Surrey's residents, working with them, to energise and empower them to influence what happens in their local area. We were keen to start engaging with residents across Surrey and begin a conversation with them about where they live. We held four community engagement events in August and September 2021 at Newlands Corner, Egham, Dorking and Godalming.

As Cabinet Member for Communities, I was delighted to be joined by a diverse selection of colleagues from teams across the Council, including Greener Futures, Active Surrey, Surrey Libraries and Community Partnership and Engagement, all united in our goal to listen, be more inclusive and engage with our residents. Each event catered to different age groups and interests and was used to kick-start conversations about Make it Happen, the council's campaign encouraging residents to join in and join up with others in their communities to help them thrive.

Surrey Pride in Godalming on 25 September was an uplifting and inspiring event where we used games and activities to encourage residents to share their views with us. Over 120 residents spoke with us at this event, telling us what they loved about their area, the improvements they wished to see, and what would increase their sense of community, inclusion, and wellbeing. The overwhelming feedback from residents at these events was positive. They were encouraged to see the Council actively out and about in their local

areas, particularly after a year where many had felt disconnected from those around them. Residents were excited to hear about the possibilities offered through Your Fund Surrey, and the greater local connection and collaboration that the Make It Happen campaign is promoting. It was evident that residents valued feeling part of a community, with many wanting to get more involved in their local area through volunteering or simply getting to know more people around them. There was great enthusiasm for Surrey's green spaces, and supporting local businesses, community projects, neighbourhood groups, and cultural venues.

We will be continuing the local conversations across Surrey in the coming months, ensuring we are visible, open, inclusive and accessible to our diverse communities. We are eager to engage and work with residents, local organisations and partners who want to see areas thrive and make things happen.

DENISE TURNER-STEWART, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND LEARNING

25. REBECCA PAUL (TADWORTH, WALTON & KINGSWOOD) TO ASK:

While Surrey schools have made an incredible effort to maintain education through home and blended learning wherever possible, children have undoubtedly lost out on the benefits of a wide and rich curriculum and learning environment. Music and drama lessons have been curtailed, as has access to the arts.

Please could the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning reassure me that this council intends to invest in facilities that will enable our children to develop a range of talents and interests that will further their aspirations and opportunities?

RESPONSE:

I would like to thank Member for Tadworth, Walton & Kingswood for her question as it draws attention to the need for a wide and rich curriculum especially in the performing arts.

The Council has recently invested in facilities at Ash Manor and this will enable enrichment of performing arts including music and drama for both the school and the community. A one form of entry expansion opened on 7 September on time for the new school academic year. The new building incorporates: a Performing Arts centre that includes retractable bleacher seating for flexibility in using the space; and specialist Music and Drama curriculum spaces.

The expansion also has other facilities including: two Science labs; Internal refurbishments to improve WC's; and changing rooms and reconfiguration of internal teaching spaces. There was a grand opening on 22 September to encourage the local residents to come and see the building and promote community use. The Head and Business Manager, pupils and teachers are delighted with the building and all the students are using the spaces and performing.

The build cost is around £4.8 million with £803,795 of that from S106 contributions. The Council will always consider the facilities available at schools when undertaking construction works, mainly through expansions. This ensures that the appropriate facilities are available for pupils for curriculum delivery and additional learning and where possible having facilities available for the wider community.

SINEAD MOONEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS AND HEALTH

26. JORDAN BEECH (HORLEY EAST) TO ASK:

Could the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health provide the latest COVID-19 vaccination uptake figures for Surrey broken down by age bracket?

RESPONSE:

[Surrey's COVID-19 Intelligence Summary Report](#) provides a comprehensive overview of COVID-19 data and intelligence, including the latest vaccination uptake data broken down by age bracket. The report is published weekly (every Friday) on the Surrey County Council website.

Please see below for the latest vaccination uptake figures extracted from Surrey's COVID-10 Intelligence Summary Report, published 8 October:

Vaccination Uptake - Summary

- Surrey-wide, 900,893 first doses have been administered between 8 December 2020 and 6 October 2021. Benchmarking data shows us 79% of individuals in Surrey have received first dose COVID-19 vaccinations. This is the same as the South East (79%) average and above the England average (75%)
- In total, 840,289 second doses have been administered (74% of individuals).

COVID-19 Vaccinations – 1st dose in Surrey, South East and England

- 900,893 individuals in Surrey have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccination
- The table below shows number of individuals who have received the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccination, by vaccination date. Data is shown for the latest week available - all figures are cumulative for the period 8 December 2020 to 6 October 2021.

Area	12-15	16-17	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55+	Total (12+)
England	303,523	760,189	3,529,856	2,899,262	3,199,830	3,229,105	3,174,925	3,296,412	3,665,208	16,717,219	40,775,529
South East	63,662	139,394	575,945	444,322	506,623	532,560	547,717	570,108	622,670	2,875,391	6,878,392
Surrey	7,830	19,806	74,313	54,086	63,394	70,913	77,955	81,192	83,585	367,819	900,893

- In total, 79% of individuals in Surrey have received COVID-19 vaccinations
- The table below shows the percentage of people who have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccination compared to the population figures provided by the National Immunisation Management Service (NIMS), by vaccination date. Data is shown for the latest week available. All figures are cumulative for period 8 December 2020 to 6 October 2021.

Area	12-15	16-17	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55+	Total (12+)
England	11%	56%	66%	64%	67%	71%	77%	82%	87%	92%	75%
South East	14%	62%	71%	69%	72%	76%	81%	85%	89%	94%	79%
Surrey	12%	65%	72%	70%	74%	78%	82%	85%	88%	93%	79%

COVID-19 Vaccinations – 2nd dose in Surrey, South East and England

- 840,289 individuals in Surrey have received a second dose of a COVID-19 vaccination
- The table below shows number of individuals who have received a second dose of a COVID-19 vaccination, by vaccination date. Data is shown for the latest week available - all figures are cumulative for the period 8 December 2020 to 6 October 2021.

Area	12-15	16-17	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55+	Total (12+)
England	6,793	216,952	2,923,032	2,510,944	2,859,928	2,971,230	2,988,558	3,153,393	3,550,254	16,410,546	37,591,630
South East	1,030	36,842	486,779	390,659	459,050	497,038	522,415	551,063	607,773	2,830,987	6,383,636
Surrey	178	5,050	63,835	48,357	58,080	66,897	74,957	78,906	81,894	362,135	840,289

- In total, 74% of individuals in Surrey have received a second dose of a COVID-19 vaccination
- The table below shows the percentage of people who have received a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination compared to the population figures provided by the National Immunisation Management Service (NIMS), by vaccination date. Data is shown for the latest week available. All figures are cumulative for period 8 December 2020 to 6 October 2021.

Area	16-17	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55+	Total (12+)
England	16%	55%	56%	60%	66%	72%	79%	84%	91%	69%
South East	16%	60%	60%	65%	71%	77%	82%	87%	92%	73%
Surrey	16%	62%	63%	68%	73%	79%	83%	86%	91%	74%

Source: [GOV.UK, COVID-19 Vaccinations](#)

BECKY RUSH, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES

27. NICK DARBY (THE DITTONS) TO ASK: (2nd Question)

In relation to National Insurance (NI):

- a) What are the estimated annual costs to the Council of the additional employers NI (before any reimbursement)?
- b) What is the projected additional annual cost to the Council of the extra NI costs likely to be incurred by Surrey County Council suppliers (e.g. care homes on their staffing costs)?
- c) What is the estimated annual cost to the Council of the ability of "self-funders" to seek equivalence of care home fees as a consequence of recent Government announcements?

RESPONSE:

The Government announced a 1.25% increase in National Insurance contributions, initially to fund the NHS and subsequently reform to Adult Social Care. From April 2023, £5.4 billion will be invested in Adult Social Care. Amongst a number of changes; from October 2023, a £86,000 cap will be placed on individual care costs. Accommodation costs as opposed to the cost of care will still be the responsibility of self funders.

Individuals funding their own care (self-funders) can already ask local authorities to arrange their own care, but the changes set out in the reforms are likely to increase such requests and, as people reach their cap, the Council will become responsible for funding their care. This will potentially increase the proportion of care packages in Surrey funded by the Council. It is unclear how the £5.4 billion funding to meet these pressures will be distributed, or whether it will be sufficient to meet the costs. We will be working closely with Government to understand the funding distribution and set out clearly the impact it will have on individual local authorities. We are expecting further clarification in the Spending review announcements on the 27th October.

- a) The Council has quantified its pressure from a 1.25% increase in employers' National Insurance at £2.5 million, for directly employed staff. This excludes schools staff where increased costs will need to be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant. The Government have said that they will fund this pressure for local authorities.
- b) The impact on suppliers has yet to be quantified. Officers in Finance and Adult Social Care are working to understand the impact of this and other inflationary pressures on suppliers.
- c) The impact of market changes resulting from the changes to self-funding arrangements are far from clear and cannot be quantified at this point. A number of questions are outstanding and officers are liaising closely with the Department for Health and Social Care to understand the impact and the proposed funding to compensate.

TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

**28. WILL FORSTER (WOKING SOUTH) TO ASK:
(2nd Question)**

Will the Council please confirm how much money and staff time is being spent on the Council's four strategic communications and engagement initiatives?

Namely: An Unstoppable Force, Make it Happen, One Surrey Story and What does SCC do for you?

RESPONSE:

The four themes referred to in the question make up the communications narrative for the council, and everything the communications team deliver falls under these themes. They do not directly relate to one specific campaign, although many campaigns sit within or across these themes.

MARISA HEATH, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

**29. LANCE SPENCER (GOLDSWORTH EAST AND HORSELL VILLAGE) TO ASK:
(2nd Question)**

There have been six consultations relating to action on climate change on the SCC Website in the last few months.

Can the Cabinet member for Environment say how many unique residents of Surrey have accessed these consultations and specifically how many have commented on each of the consultations?

They are: Greener Futures Climate Change Delivery Plan 2021-25; Greener Futures Communities; Regeneration, Planning and Infrastructure; Managing Green Spaces; One Net Zero Public Estate; 1.2 Million new Trees Initiative.

RESPONSE:

To clarify, these were not formal consultations, but an opportunity for residents to see the Delivery Plan as it was developing and to provide comment. The main content on the Platform related to the broad themes which helped to shape the first draft of the Delivery Plan. We received 2212 visitors to the site and 389 comments over a period of three months.

The information relating to 1.2 million trees was not a consultation but just for information.

The other five areas consulted on the more refined climate change delivery plan content. There were 648 visits to the site since their launch towards the end of August which complemented a number of face to face discussions with residents in interest groups.

Overall, there were 311 respondents to the two parts of the consultation, 490 comments and 971 agreements with comments:

- Greener Futures Climate Change Delivery Plan 2021: 2514 comments and 11 likes
- Greener Futures Communities: 14 comments and 7 likes
- Regeneration, Planning and Infrastructure: 21 comments and 5 likes
- Managing Green Spaces: 11 comments and 7 likes.
- One Net Zero Public Estate: 8 comments and 4 likes

The site is new and so requires dedicated promotion in order to drive users. Our intention is to leave the site live for the foreseeable future and to continue to promote this to residents and communities in order to gain feedback to further develop our delivery approach.

DENISE TURNER-STEWART, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND LEARNING

30. ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK: (2nd Question)

The government has a stated aim for 75% of pupils to take a modern language GCSE by 2022 and 90% by 2025, as part of its English Baccalaureate. However recent figures suggest only 53% of year 10 pupils were studying for a language GCSE in 2020.

Across Europe, 91% of students in primary and secondary school study English (2017 figures). In Germany (where 60% of children study English) the government is very concerned about the disappearance of German and other modern foreign languages from the British curriculum.

Does the Council share these concerns and is the responsible cabinet member able to provide figures, for the number of children in Surrey studying German, French, Spanish and/or other modern languages in its primary and secondary schools?

RESPONSE:

State funded primary schools have had a legal responsibility to teach languages since 2014. The first cohort of pupils that should have studied languages throughout key stage 2 moved to secondary school in September 2018. There are currently 50,657 pupils at state funded schools in KS2 all of whom will be learning a modern foreign language, and these are most popularly French and Spanish.

Under the National Curriculum the learning of a modern foreign language at KS3 is compulsory and most youngsters will either continue with their Primary School Language, change to the one offered by their secondary school, or they may take more than one language. In state funded secondary schools there are currently 33,888 pupils in KS3 all of whom will be learning a modern foreign language.

At KS4 the main languages offered to students at GCSE in state funded Surrey schools are French, Spanish and German, with 2483, 2184 and 1091 taking GCSEs

in these subjects respectively in 2019. This represents 24% of students for French, 21% for Spanish and 11% for German. In all cases this is higher than the equivalent national state-funded figure (22%, 17% and 7% respectively). There are a range of other languages offered including Latin and Greek, Russian and other world languages.

The Surrey performance in the EBacc, where at least one Modern Foreign Language is part of the requirement, is high – in 2019 at 30.2% of pupils completing the EBacc against England at 24.1% and the South East at 27%. Almost half of all students had been entered for the EBacc (46.9%) compared with 40% nationally.

At A level in 2019 the numbers of entries in modern languages in all Surrey schools were as follows: - French 176; German 50; Spanish 167; other modern languages 48.

While it is the responsibility of schools to develop a broad and rich curriculum, including Modern Foreign Languages we are pleased to see such a high take up and the success of Surrey's pupils and schools in this important area.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

31. ROBERT KING (EGHAM) TO ASK: (2nd Question)

In October members of Surrey and Runnymede Borough Council met for a workshop on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), on the proposed improvements to the walking and cycle routes within the Borough. A positive step, and the beginning of a clearer plan to move more people out of their cars, towards cycling and walking. One concern however I raised was the obstacles the railway line which runs through Egham town centre creates for other modes of transport in and around the town. The at grade level crossings on both the B388 and Station Road in Egham and the restricted height and width bridge on the A320 on Chertsey Lane, creates huge difficulties for HGV routes, pollution from vehicles idling and restricts cycle movements.

Can the Council outline if any capital works programs have been discussed through the Horizon program to improve these pinch points, either by offering a lowering of the carriageway through the bridge on the A320 and/or a bridge replacement on the B388 level crossing, and if not will they be explored in this financial year?

RESPONSE:

I am pleased to learn that the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) workshop was positive. As these develop we will look to improve options for our residents to use sustainable modes of transport. The Council is very much aware of the problems caused by the level crossings and the restricted height / width bridge in the Egham area. Much work has previously been considered for the Pooley Green Road (B388) level crossing, but unfortunately a business case could not be made for any substantial improvements. The level crossings are managed and operated by

Network Rail and as a highway authority we are unable to restrict or formally influence how often the barriers need to be down. We do support District & Borough Councils with any air quality management plans they determine are required. I can confirm that a full refurbishment of the “over height vehicle warning signs” is planned for the A320 bridge in the next financial year. Whilst the responsibility for adhering to warning signs firmly rests with the professional HGV / PSV driver, the County Council will continue to do whatever we can to help minimise vehicle strikes and the damage and delays that these cause. The Egham town side of both Pooley Green Road and Station Road benefited from resurfacing in June 2021.

SINEAD MOONEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS AND HEALTH

**32. JONATHAN ESSEX (REDHILL EAST) TO ASK:
(2nd Question)**

Please can you set out the consequences of passing the Health and Care Bill on how NHS and the care services in Surrey would be provided, and how the role of Surrey County Council as commissioner of care services would change.

RESPONSE:

Passage of the Health and Care Bill will formalise joint working arrangements between Surrey County Council, Surrey Heartlands CCG and Frimley CCG as the two ‘Integrated Care Systems’ will become legal entities and Surrey County Council will be a statutory partner of those legal entities.

We were disappointed that NHS England did not take the opportunity of the forthcoming legislation to ‘repatriate’ those bits of Surrey that currently sit within Frimley Integrated Care System so that we would have one ‘Surrey Integrated Care System’. I believe that this decision was a missed opportunity to realise the full potential of a single, strategically aligned NHS and Upper Tier Local Authority working in sync to deliver integrated health and care to citizens in Surrey. However we will, of course, continue to work collaboratively and constructively with both Frimley ICS and Surrey Heartlands ICS to realise the benefits of local authority engagement with each ICS for the benefit of our residents.

We expect the passage of the bill to be an enabler to our ongoing efforts to better integrate the process of commissioning across health and care and better integrate services provided by the Council, the NHS or other service providers. The Council already has one Joint Executive Director with Surrey Heartlands and we plan to begin recruitment for a Joint Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Commissioning imminently. To drive our ambitions further, the Council is working with Surrey Heartlands Clinical Commissioning Group and Frimley Clinical Commissioning Group to develop integrated commissioning teams for adult mental health and learning disabilities services, and for children’s health and care commissioning.

It is not a requirement of the legislation that this level of integration between Surrey County Council and the NHS take place, but we believe the changes effected by the

Bill present an opportunity to improve the way we commission and deliver health and care to Surrey's residents.

DENISE TURNER-STEWART, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND LEARNING

**33. ROBERT KING (EGHAM) TO ASK:
(3rd Question)**

At the start of the new academic year a number of members, including myself and the member for Addlestone, became aware of the difficulties some parents had been having accessing Surrey funded and/or scheduled school transport for children with special educational needs. In one example, a mother was unable to send her child to school for nearly three weeks as Surrey had simply not scheduled the transport, due to an error on the County's part where the correct application paperwork had not been provided to the parent. Parents often have to send their children to schools some distance away from their home to get the best education and to support their child needs, this comes with added financial and time constraints which do not fit around their work which is vital to support their families. I would like to sincerely thank the Cabinet Member for her help and intervention on this specific case which produced a positive resolution in the end.

Can the Cabinet Member highlight what good practice improvements will be learnt from this and what processes will change in future to prevent this from happening to another parent?

RESPONSE:

In relation to the specific cases highlighted in the question above, they were all late applications for transport which came in on 17 August and 1 September respectively. The applications were assessed as eligible on 8, 10 and 13 September and transport was in place for two of the applicants on 23 and 27 September with the last applicant's transport commencing on 4 October.

The Travel Assistance service has identified areas that will improve services to parents, which are:

We are working with the IT & digital team to automate the process. From February 2022 when the outcomes of key stage transfers are known, more targeted communications via emails and SMS messages will be sent directly to parents explaining processes and key dates, for example applying by the end of June for all mainstream and SEN applications. Sending reminder messages to parents during the year, such as post 16 students needing to reapply each year, and messages to parents that will have continuing transport needs. Within all messages we will direct parent to the Travel Assistance website, where all information, application forms and updates are published

During this year we have also worked on the following points:

- Reduction in unnecessary applications: pupils identified whose transport will be automatically extended with no need to reapply;

- Website review: making it easier for parents to find information about Travel Assistance;
- New online application form: making it easier to apply and providing automated management information

We are also meeting on a weekly basis with Family Voice to reaffirm the messages mentioned above, as well as to develop a parent guide that will include step by step processes for applications, and an expectation of when travel assistance is secured in a user friendly format, as the policy itself can be quite legalistic and difficult to interpret.

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