

County Council Meeting – 8 February 2022

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 26 October 2021, 30 November 2021, 21 December 2021 and 25 January 2022.

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 16. 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 7 February 2022).

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. COORDINATED ADMISSIONS SCHEME FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

That Cabinet RECOMMENDS that County Council approves the coordinated admissions scheme that will apply to all schools for 2023 (as set out in the Cabinet paper from 30 November 2021)

Reasons for decisions:

- The coordinated admissions scheme for 2023 is essentially the same as 2022 with dates updated
- The coordinated admissions scheme will enable the County Council to meet its statutory duties regarding school admissions
- The coordinated admissions scheme is working well
- The Local Authority has a statutory duty to publish its coordinated admissions scheme for 2023 by 1 January 2022
- The proposed scheme meets the statutory requirements of the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Coordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 and the School Admissions Code

Council is asked to note that due to the postponement of the 14 December Council meeting and the deadline for publishing the coordinated admissions scheme, this item was approved by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of Council, the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer under Standing Order 54.

B. 2022/23 Final Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2026/27 [Agenda Item 5 on this agenda]

The production of the 2022/23 budget has been developed through an integrated approach across Strategy, Transformation and Finance, ensuring that revenue budgets, capital investment and transformation plans are all aligned with each Directorate's service plans and all four of the council's corporate priorities. These are:

- Growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit
- Tackling health inequality
- Enabling a greener future
- Empowering communities

The overall outlook for 2022/23 is one of significant challenge, with budget envelopes in the key service areas increasing by a modest 3.7% (£37.3m) in the face of substantially higher increases in the cost of maintaining current service provision. Despite an increase in projected funding, there remain challenges in managing growth in demand (particularly in Adult Social Care and Children's Services), inflationary pressures and the ongoing impact of Covid-19 within those envelopes.

Cabinet AGREED:

That Cabinet makes the following recommendations to Council on 8 February 2022.

Cabinet recommends that Council:

1. Approves the net revenue budget requirement be set at **£1,042.0 million** (net cost of services after service specific government grants) for 2022/23 (Annex B), subject to confirmation of the Final Local Government Financial Settlement.
2. Subject to finalisation of the tax base, approves the total Council Tax Funding Requirement be set at **£831.0 million** for 2022/23, subject to final confirmation of District and Borough tax base. This is based on a council tax increase of 4.99%, made up of an increase in the level of core council tax of 1.99% to cover core Council services, including 1% for mental health, and an increase of 3% in the precept proposed by Central Government to cover the growing cost of Adult Social Care (Annex E).
3. Notes that for the purpose of section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council formally determines that the increase in core council tax is not such as to trigger a referendum (i.e., not greater than 2%).
4. Sets the Surrey County Council precept for Band D Council Tax at £1,626.39, which represents a 4.99% uplift. This is a rise of £1.48 a week from the 2021/22 precept of £1,549.08. This includes £185.48 for the Adult Social Care precept, which has increased by £46.47. A full list of bands is as follows:

Valuation Band	Core Precept	ASC Precept	Overall Precept
A	£960.60	£123.66	£1,084.26
B	£1,120.70	£144.27	£1,264.97
C	£1,280.80	£164.88	£1,445.68
D	£1,440.91	£185.48	£1,626.39
E	£1,761.11	£226.70	£1,987.81
F	£2,081.31	£267.92	£2,349.23
G	£2,401.51	£309.14	£2,710.65
H	£2,881.82	£370.96	£3,252.78

5. Notes that the 4.99% increase in Council Tax will be deployed as follows:
 - 0.99% increase to fund the increased cost of delivering services
 - 3.00% increase to fund additional spend in adult and children's social care
 - 1.00% increase to fund additional investment in mental health.

Across this investment, the 3% increase in Adult Social Care Precept will be directed entirely to Adult Social Care.

6. Notes that underlying General Fund Balances are projected to remain at £28.0 million as of 1 April 2022.
7. Approves the Total Schools Budget of £575.2 million to meet the Council's statutory requirement on schools funding (as set out in Section 9 of the 2022/23 Final Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2026/27).
8. Approves the overall indicative Budget Envelopes for Executive Directorates and individual services for the 2022/23 budget (Annex B).
9. Approves the total £1,909.6 million proposed five-year Capital Programme (comprising £1,031.2m of budget and £878.4m pipeline) and approves the £212.1 million Capital Budget in 2022/23 (Annex C).
10. Approves the Capital and Investment Strategy (Sections 1 to 3), which provides an overview of how risks associated with capital expenditure, financing and treasury will be managed as well as how they contribute towards the delivery of services.
11. Approves the policy for making a prudent level of revenue provision for the repayment of debt (the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy) (Annex G).
12. Agrees the Council's refreshed Transformation Programme (as set out in section 3 of 2022/23 Final Budget Report and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2026/27)
13. Note that the investment in Transformation required to deliver improved outcomes and financial benefits is built into the proposed Medium-Term Financial Strategy (as set out in section 3 of 2022/23 Final Budget Report and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2026/27).
14. That Cabinet approves the £15m transfer from the Budget Equalisation Reserve to the Transformation Reserve set out in paragraph 10.

15. That Cabinet notes that the Audit & Governance Committee has approved the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators (Annex F – Section 4) which set a framework for the Council’s treasury function to manage risks, source borrowing and invest surplus cash on 24 January 2022.

Reasons for decisions:

Council will meet on 8 February 2022 to agree a budget and to set the Council Tax Precept for 2022/23. Cabinet is required to recommend a budget to Council for consideration at this meeting. The budget directs available resources to support the achievement of the Council’s ambitions and priorities in the 2030 Vision and the Refreshed Organisation Strategy.

The budget will also support the delivery of the continuing transformational changes that are required to ensure that the Council can improve priority outcomes for residents, while managing growing demand for services and ensuring future financial sustainability.

Please note that this report will have been considered under item 5 of this agenda.

C. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SURREY’S COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

That Cabinet RECOMMENDS that County Council agree:

1. That priority for children who have the school as their ‘nearest school’ is removed from the admission criteria for Hurst Park Primary School, Langshott Primary School, Meath Green Infant School, Tillingbourne Junior School and Wallace Fields Junior School for 2023 admission, as indicated in Enclosure 1.
2. That a catchment area is introduced for Walton on the Hill Primary School for 2023 admission to replace ‘nearest school’, as set out in Enclosure 1 and Appendix 5.
3. That a nodal point to measure home to school distance is introduced for Reigate Priory School for 2023 admission, as set out in Section 8 of Enclosure 1.
4. That the Published Admission Number for Year 3 at West Ashted Primary School is reduced from 30 to 2 for 2023 admission, as set out in Appendix 1 of Enclosure 1.
5. That a Published Admission Number of 4 is introduced for admission to Year 3 at Leatherhead Trinity Primary School for 2023 admission, as set out in Appendix 1 of Enclosure 1.
6. That a Published Admission Number of 2 is introduced for admission to Year 3 at Felbridge Primary School for 2023 admission, as set out in Appendix 1 of Enclosure 1.
7. That priority is given to children of a member of staff for entry to a nursery school for 2023 admission as set out in Section 20 of Enclosure 1.
8. That a supplementary information form is introduced for families applying on the basis of exceptional social/medical need for 2023 admission, as set out in Appendix 6 of Enclosure 1.
9. That the Published Admission Numbers (PANs) for September 2023 for all other community and voluntary controlled schools are determined as they are set out in Appendix 1 to Enclosure 1.
10. That the aspects of Surrey’s admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2023 for which no change has been consulted on, are agreed as set out in Enclosure 1 and its appendices.

(as set out in the Cabinet paper from 25 January 2022)

Reasons for decisions:

Recommendation 1:

- It will bring the admission criteria into line with the majority of other community and voluntary controlled schools
- It will ensure that the admission arrangements for these schools comply with the School Admissions Code
- It will simplify the admission arrangements
- It will enable parents to better understand how their application will be considered
- Analysis would indicate that this change will have no or minimal impact on the intake to each of these schools
- Where children might be displaced, a place at an alternative local school will be available
- It will enable school specific criteria to remain for Wallace Fields Junior School which exists to accommodate a feeder link from Wallace Fields Infant School
- The final distance criterion will still exist which will enable remaining applicants to be prioritised based on the distance they live from the school, ensuring children who live closer to the school are allocated ahead of children who live further away
- 86% of academies, foundation, trust and voluntary aided schools do not give priority on the basis of 'nearest school'
- The change is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of Hurst Park Primary School, Langshott Primary School, Meath Green Infant School and Wallace Fields Junior School
- The change is not supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of Tillingbourne Junior School which is concerned at maintaining pupil numbers and serving the areas of Gomshall and Shere. However, with a projected deficit of Year 3 places across Tillingbourne Valley until 2026/27 and the projected forecasts for Godalming showing a surplus of Year 3 places for the foreseeable future, the local authority does not anticipate that the school will face a shortage of pupils nor that children from Godalming will displace children from Gomshall and Shere.

Recommendation 2:

- It will ensure that the admission arrangements for these schools comply with the School Admissions Code
- It will simplify the admission arrangements
- It will enable parents to better understand how their application will be considered
- The introduction of a catchment is not anticipated to affect the pattern of admission to the school as it has been based on the catchment created by use of 'nearest school'
- The final distance criterion will still exist which will enable remaining applicants to be prioritised based on the distance they live from the school, ensuring children who live outside catchment but closer to the school are allocated ahead of children who live further away
- It is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school

Recommendation 3:

- It will ensure the pattern of admission does not change if the school moves site

- It will ensure that families to the north of Reigate will still be served by the school if the school moves site
- Use of a nodal point to measure home to school distance is permitted by the School Admissions Code
- It is supported by Surrey's Education Place Planning team
- It is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school

Recommendation 4:

- It is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school, having been requested by them
- It is supported by Surrey's Education Place Planning team
- There will still be sufficient places for local children if the PAN is decreased
- It will help the school maintain financial viability as they will be able to operate with just one class in KS2
- It will have no impact on children who are currently on roll at the school

Recommendation 5:

- It is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school
- It is supported by Surrey's Education Place Planning team
- It will help to offset the reduction in PAN at West Ashted Primary School
- It will help to alleviate any pressure on places in Fetcham and Bookham
- It will have no impact on children who are currently on roll at the school

Recommendation 6:

- It is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school, having been requested by them
- It is supported by Surrey's Education Place Planning team
- It reflects what is currently being operated within the school
- It will ensure parents know that they can formally apply for a place in Year 3
- It will have no impact on children who are currently on roll at the school

Recommendation 7:

- It will align the criteria for entry to a nursery to that for Reception
- Priority for children of staff is permitted under the School Admissions Code
- The definition of children of staff is compliant with the Code
- It will help nurseries with staff recruitment and retention
- It will put community and voluntary controlled nurseries on an equal footing with those academies, foundation, free, trust and voluntary aided nurseries which already give priority for children of staff

Recommendation 8:

- It will ensure applicants can be guided through the process for applying on the basis of social/medical need
- It will enable applicants to understand what they need to provide to support their application
- It will enable applicants to declare details of their case in more detail than is allowed on the application form

Recommendation 9:

- Most other PANs remain as they were determined for 2022 which enables parents to have some historical benchmark by which to make informed decisions about their school preferences for 2023 admission
- The PAN for Oakwood School has been increased from 300 to 330 to provide additional capacity in Horley

- The Education Place Planning team supports the PANs

Recommendation 10:

- The admission arrangements are working well
- The local authority has undertaken to review the admission arrangements for the remaining two schools which will still use 'nearest school' ahead of any consultation on the arrangements for 2024
- The arrangements enable the majority of pupils to attend a local school and in doing so reduce travel and support Surrey's sustainability policies
- The changes highlighted in bold in Section 7, Section 11, Section 12 and Section 16 of Enclosure 1 have been made to add clarity to the arrangements and reflect existing practice

D. NO ONE LEFT BEHIND: CHILD POVERTY IN SURREY

That Cabinet RECOMMENDS that County Council:

1. Notes the data research review on poverty, with emphasis on children, in Surrey as requested in a previous Council motion.
2. Endorses and adopts the proposed framework, approach and themes as the basis for the Council's strategic response to child poverty in the county (as set out in the Cabinet paper from 25 January 2022)

Reasons for decisions:

A strategic response to child poverty will ensure that SCC stays true to its principle of 'no one left behind' and deliver a number of benefits to Surrey residents. A more aligned strategy around support services will ensure cross-cutting understanding of personal circumstances; more tailored advice and support, more effective signposting between services and community offerings, effective targeting of hardship funds for families, and new projects to mitigate and impact the root causes of poverty in the county.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

At its meeting on 26 October 2021 Cabinet considered:

E. SURREY'S GREENER FUTURES CLIMATE CHANGE DELIVERY PLAN (CCDP)

This report set out the plans to reduce emissions and tackle the effects of climate change in line with net-zero carbon targets between 2021 and 2025.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That Cabinet approves the Greener Futures Climate Change Delivery Plan for 2021 – 2025 (Delivery Plan).
2. That Cabinet approve the Council's 2030 Net Zero Carbon Programme (the 2030 Programme), which sets out how the Council's organisational emissions will be reduced, on the basis that any resulting significant new policy will be brought to future Cabinet meetings for approval.
3. That Cabinet approves the initial Greener Futures Finance Strategy (the Finance Strategy), noting the quantum of investment necessary to meet our 2030 and

2050 carbon reduction targets, that the plan will be reiterated over time and recognising that where appropriate future investment will need to be considered as part of the Council's MTF5.

4. That Cabinet approves the initial Greener Futures Communications and Engagement Plan (the Engagement Plan), whose priorities will be updated on a six-monthly basis; recognising the critical role of partners in delivering net zero carbon.
5. That delegated authority for approving any further changes to the Delivery Plan is given to the Executive Director for Environment, Transport and Infrastructure in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, to enable the plan to evolve and adapt to local and national developments.

Reasons for decisions:

The Delivery Plan and associated annexes document the proposed approach to meeting the targets set out in the Climate Change Strategy agreed by the SCC Cabinet in May 2020. The Delivery Plan is Surrey-wide, not a plan solely for SCC. It must have broad ownership by the public sector, residents, communities and business for successful delivery, and it must continue to remain relevant to existing and new partners to ensure continued ownership. National policy and technology are rapidly changing so the Delivery Plan must also be agile. Therefore, it is recommended that delegated authority be given to the Executive Director for Environment, Transport and Infrastructure in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment to evolve the Delivery Plan.

F. NATIONAL BUS STRATEGY - BUS BACK BETTER - A BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR SURREY

A new National Bus Strategy for England (Bus Back Better) was published by the Government on 15 March 2021. Bus Back Better requires a Local Transport Authority to consider its role in encouraging more people to travel by bus post-Covid 19 and sets out aspirations for bus services that are more frequent, more reliable, easier to understand and use, better-co-ordinated, cheaper to use and with high quality information for passengers. The report explains the next stage of this council's response to Government, namely the creation of a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That Cabinet welcomes the level of aspiration and the proposed initiatives set out in the draft Bus Service Improvement Plan for Surrey, including the proposed measures aiming to ensure buses can operate reliably on Surrey's roads.
2. That Cabinet agrees that the draft Bus Service Improvement Plan for Surrey be submitted to the Department for Transport by the 31 October 2021 deadline, with authority delegated to the Executive Director for Environment, Transport and Infrastructure in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure to agree the final document.
3. That Cabinet support the proposed draft governance arrangements that will oversee the delivery and further development of the draft Bus Service Improvement Plan.
4. That a further report is taken to Cabinet once levels of Government funding are confirmed, setting out the interventions and improvements to be delivered in partnership with Surrey's bus operators.

Reasons for decisions:

The Government's aspirations in the National Bus Strategy, to be delivered through Bus Service Improvement Plans and Enhanced Partnership schemes, support the Council's own intentions within the emerging new Surrey Transport Plan, to encourage modal shift and a deliver a reduction in carbon and other emissions from the transport sector.

A Cabinet Member for Highways & Infrastructure report on 29 June 2021 gave approval to proceed with the development of Enhanced Partnerships with bus operators and to issue a notice of intent to prepare Enhanced Partnership Schemes, as set out in section 138F of the Transport Act 2000.

The Bus Service Improvement Plan in the next task, to be completed and submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) by 31 October 2021.

This council and our bus operator partners will then develop and enter into formal Enhanced Partnership arrangement, to commence on 1 April 2022.

G. ACQUISITION OF LAND AT TICE'S MEADOW, FARNHAM

The report asked Cabinet to approve acquiring the freehold interest in approximately 55 hectares (137 acres) of land, a restored former quarry, at Tice's Meadow Farnham. The proposal was for Surrey County Council to purchase the land in conjunction with some of its district, borough and neighbouring authorities for the purposes of supporting the community and offering additional benefit through mutual management controls. Purchasing the land will not only safeguard it but also enable the development of an important natural habitat adjacent to existing county and district holdings for recreational and habitat creation purposes in support of Surrey County Council's wider green agenda

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That Cabinet approves the freehold purchase of land known as Tice's Meadow, Farnham, dependent on receipt of 45% of the purchase price from a consortium of key partners, as previously agreed. The purchase price and transaction costs are commercially sensitive at this time and are set out in the Part 2 report.
2. That Cabinet delegates authority to the Director of Land and Property and the Executive Director of Resources, in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Property, to conclude contracts and completion and to recover agreed capital contributions from its key partners. The capital contributions are commercially sensitive at this time and are set out in the Part 2 report.
3. That Cabinet agrees that Surrey County Council takes over as lead accountable body for the Aftercare and Management Scheme, in partnership with its public sector partners and approved private bodies.
4. That Cabinet notes that Surrey County Council will become responsible for the Aftercare Management Scheme as set out in paragraph 8 in this report, and the associated costs noted in the Part 2 report.

Reasons for decisions:

It is recommended that Cabinet approves Surrey County Council purchasing land in Farnham as set out in the Part 2 report. The land is a former quarry which has been restored and remains subject to a 20-year management plan for its enhancement and protection delivered in partnership with Waverley Borough Council, Farnham Town

Council, Guildford Borough Council, and both Hampshire County Council and Rushmoor Borough Council, supporting the Blackwater Valley Partnership.

The purchase of land, on behalf of its local authority partners, protects against the risk of a private purchaser taking over and seeking to reduce public access or amenity benefit, and also averts the risk of land disposal possibly into small parcels that would make future purchase potentially more complex and expensive.

The Council's Natural Capital Estate provides 10,000 acres of high-quality landscape and recreational space. However, in Waverley open space of this kind is currently limited, so the purchase of this land provides an ideal opportunity to expand space available for residents and visitors. The area complements Surrey's existing land ownership known as Tongham Pool to the immediate east, and the Blackwater Valley Way (owned by Rushmore Borough Council) which sits along the northern boundary. It will also provide the opportunity for a number of circular walks within the site, and an additional attraction for visitors to explore wildlife and the natural environment.

Since the landscape quality of the site as a quarry was very low, there is a high net biodiversity value to be gained from active management of the site to maximise value delivered by the new wetland, woodland and grasslands.

By approving the purchase of the land Surrey County Council will support both its public sector partner authorities and the Greener Futures priority objectives.

At its meeting on 30 November 2021 Cabinet considered:

H. 2022/23 DRAFT BUDGET AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY TO 2026/27

The Council has a statutory duty to set a balanced budget in advance of each financial year. The Final Budget for 2022/23 will be approved by Cabinet in January 2022 and full Council in February 2022. This report and the 2022/23 Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2026/27 sets out progress towards delivering a balanced budget.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That Cabinet note the 2022/23 Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2026/27, including progress to date in setting out spending pressures and efficiencies, as set out in Annex A.
2. That Cabinet note the provisional budget gap of £19.5m for 2022/23 and the next steps required to close the gap.
3. That Cabinet note the proposed Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2026/27 of £1.9bn set out in Section 6 and Annex B.
4. That Cabinet note the Executive Summary of Resident Engagement set out in Section 9 and Annex C.

Reason for Decisions:

In January 2022, Cabinet will be asked to recommend a Final Budget for 2022/23 to full Council for approval in February. The draft budget sets out proposals to direct available resources to support the achievement of the Council's corporate priorities in the refreshed Organisation Strategy, giving Cabinet the opportunity to comment on the proposals and next steps.

The draft budget also provides an update on the continuing transformational changes and the 'Twin Track' approach which are required to ensure that the Council can continue prioritising outcomes for residents, while managing growing demand for services and safeguarding future financial resilience and sustainability.

I. LIBRARIES TRANSFORMATION UPDATE AND THE NEXT PHASE, MODERNISING OUR LIBRARY ESTATE

The report set out the strategic intent and principles that will underpin a five-year programme of work to modernise library settings across Surrey. This will mean libraries can meet the needs of communities, support wider strategic priorities, and are fit and sustainable for the future.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That Cabinet agree the overall strategic intent and key principles that will underpin the development of a five-year modernisation plan for libraries across the county.
2. That Cabinet note that once this overall approach has been agreed, individual detailed business cases will subsequently be developed and brought forward for agreement as the programme is progressed. These will be based upon service analysis and prioritise key locations based on need and opportunity.

Reasons for Decisions:

The Cabinet's agreement of these principles and an overall countywide framework for the modernisation of library properties will pave the way for specific individual library business cases to then be developed and formally brought forward for approval as required. It is essential these principles and parameters are agreed first, in order to ensure the overall countywide programme can meet the agreed vision for libraries, is affordable, and can be successfully delivered.

J. TRANSFORMATION OF SURREY CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

The report asked for Cabinet approval to transform Surrey County Council Children's Homes by addressing vulnerabilities in the current staffing structure and management capacity, strengthening the specialised purpose for each home and developing a new provision for children with autism experiencing crisis.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That Cabinet agree to the transformation of Surrey County Council's community children's homes that will update the current staffing establishments, approve the specialisation of purpose for each home, implement new job descriptions and scope out the management spans of each home.
2. That Cabinet agree to the transformation of Surrey County Council's specialist crisis provision for young people with mental health difficulties that will update the current staffing establishment, implement new job descriptions and scope out the management spans of the home.
3. That Cabinet agree to the transformation of Surrey County Council's residential services for children with disabilities that will update the current staffing establishments to ensure continued legal compliance, implement new

job descriptions, as well as allow development of a new joint-funded crisis provision for children with autism.

4. That Cabinet note the intended funding position, which includes significant health funding contributions and that this investment will enable efficiencies by containing or saving costs on commissioning external placements, therefore having a neutral budgetary effect.

Reason for Decisions:

In order to meet the current and future needs of children who need residential care, transformation and investment in the in-house children's homes is required. This is

- to ensure children receive the best care that is appropriate for their needs, close to their family and communities.
- to contribute to meeting the Council's legal duty to ensure that as far as is possible and consistent with the welfare of the children concerned it has sufficient homes for looked after children in the county, now and in the future
- to meet the Council's legal duties to operate children's homes of good quality
- to develop services to meet children's diverse and complex needs in partnership with other statutory agencies
- to contain increasing costs and budget pressures

Transformation will ensure the in-house homes are able to specialise in caring for the children with the highest and most complex needs, maximising the occupancy levels in each home and preventing, where appropriate, those young people going to out of county placements at additional cost to the council. This is an important measure designed to contribute to the Council meeting its statutory sufficiency duty.

At its meeting on 21 December 2021 Cabinet considered:

K. SURREY FORUM AND DELIVERING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

The report set out an overview of the framework of strategic partnerships across Surrey and their governance, that drives, aligns and enables the delivery of the ambitions for people and place in Surrey set out in the Community Vision 2030.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That Cabinet note the convening and facilitating role Surrey County Council has played in developing co-ordinated and aligned Surrey-wide collaborative leadership.
2. That Cabinet endorse the establishment of the Surrey Forum and its place in a wider framework of county-wide strategic partnership boards.
3. That Cabinet agree that the multi-agency Surrey Forum partnership lead an inclusive, comprehensive refresh of the Community Vision 2030 to 2050

Reason for Decisions:

Building on the strong partnerships already in existence across the county, the response to the Covid-19 pandemic across the county has highlighted the benefits and need for improved alignment, coordination and collaboration between communities and the public, private and voluntary, community and faith sectors, to collectively deliver for residents. The Surrey Forum will play a key role in overseeing

progress towards delivering a single shared vision for the county and ensuring alignment of partners' strategic priorities, decisions and resources.

L. ANNUAL PROCUREMENT FORWARD PLAN 2022/23

The revised Procurement and Contract Standing Orders agreed by the Council in May 2019 require the preparation of an Annual Procurement Forward Plan (APFP) during the business planning cycle. The APFP was developed for 2022/23 and Cabinet was asked to approve the plan to allow implementation of the identified procurement activity.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That Cabinet gives approval to Procure for the projects listed in Annex 1 – “Annual Procurement Forward Plan for 2022/23” in accordance with the Council’s Procurement and Contract Standing Orders.
2. That Cabinet agrees that where the first ranked tender for any projects listed in Annex 1 is within the +/-5% budgetary tolerance level, the relevant Executive Director, Director or Head of Service (as appropriate) is authorised to award such contracts.
3. That Cabinet agrees the procurement activity that will be returned to Cabinet prior to going out to market.
4. That Cabinet notes projects that will be presented to Cabinet or the Strategic Investment Board for approval of the business case (highlighted in grey).

Reasons for Decisions:

- To comply with the Procurement and Contract Standing Orders agreed by Council in May 2019.
- To provide Cabinet with strategic oversight of planned procurement projects for 2022/23.
- To ensure Cabinet oversight is focussed on the most significant procurements.
- To avoid the need to submit multiple individual requests for Approval to Procure as well as individual contract award approvals for work taking place in 2022/23.

At its meeting on 25 January 2022 Cabinet considered:

M. CHANGES TO SURREY’S COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRE POLICIES

To seek approval for a number of changes to the Community Recycling Centre (CRC) operating policy in advance of the main waste disposal re-procurement that align to our strategic priorities and are designed to increase operational efficiency, simplify policy for residents, and respond to customer feedback.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. To allow users of pickups, trailers or vans registered on the SCC permit scheme to bring chargeable construction waste to the nine CRCs that currently accept it.
2. To restrict the use of all Surrey CRCs to Surrey residents only, requiring proof of identity to gain entry, to ensure Surrey are only paying for waste we have a legal duty to dispose of.

3. Temporary COVID measures allowing residual waste to be accepted at the four 'Recycling Only' CRCs be made permanent.

Reasons for Decisions:

There is currently an anomaly in the CRC operating policy that allows a resident with a car to bring in chargeable construction or DIY waste to CRC sites but does not allow residents who have a permit for a van, pickup, or trailer to bring in the same waste.

Construction and DIY wastes are not considered household waste. Residents are allowed to bring certain construction and DIY waste into nine CRCs by car and dispose of it for a charge. The original rationale for not allowing vans, pickups, and trailers to be used was to reduce the risk of trade waste abuse through limiting capacity of vehicles permitted. Changing the policy to allow users of permitted vans, trailers, and pick-ups to bring chargeable construction and DIY waste to the nine CRCs that operate the chargeable waste scheme will make the policy simpler for residents and more consistent. Trade waste will still be banned from CRCs.

Secondly, most waste disposal authorities that border Surrey have now introduced resident only policies at their CRC sites preventing Surrey residents from using them. To ensure that that SCC are only paying for waste they have a legal duty to dispose of it is recommended that a Surrey resident only policy is also implemented at Surrey CRCs.

Finally, during the Covid pandemic residual waste containers were reintroduced at the four 'recycling only' Surrey CRCs as a means of reducing congestion at other CRCs caused by social distancing measures. Tonnages of residual waste across Surrey have not increased because of this measure, therefore it is recommended that SCC retains these temporary arrangements mainly as a means of reducing car travel undertaken by residents who currently have to travel longer distances to CRC sites that do accept residual waste.

N. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 4 October 2021 - 31 January 2022

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 has been NO urgent decision in the last three months.

**Tim Oliver, Leader of the Council
31 January 2022**