

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Becky Rush

**PORTFOLIO:** Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources

**2021/22 Budget Update:** At Month 10, the Council is forecasting a small surplus of £0.6m against Directorate revenue budgets (less than 0.1%). Cabinet Members will continue to work with Directorates and Finance to manage the budget position for the remaining two months of the year. The Capital Programme forecast at Month 10 is £169.1m; £1.5m less than the reset budget of £170.6m. The net variance at Month 10 mainly relates to slippage and reprofiling of £1.2m and an underspend of £0.3m. Capital Programme delivery is a key priority and will be subject to continued concerted effort across the Council.

**2022/23 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy:** The Final Budget of £1,042m and MTF5 was approved by Council on 8 February 2022. The final budget included a 3% increase in precept to fund additional spend in adult and children's social care, a 1.00% increase to fund £8m additional investment in mental health and 0.99% to meet the increasing cost of providing services. Future opportunities to transform services and deliver a financially sustainable future, through the Twin Track programme, are being developed with a range of stakeholders including staff, Members partners and residents.

**Internal Audit:** Delivery of the remainder of the annual audit plan continues as year-end approaches. Advice and support is ongoing for the DB&I Programme. Three Partial Assurance opinions have been issued in respect of a follow-up review of Officer Code of Conduct, Public Accessibility, and a review of consultant use and contract management in Land & Property. Significant time has been spent in consultation with senior management and members of the Audit & Governance Committee to develop the 2022-23 Strategy and Annual Plan, due at Committee for approval on 28 March.

**Procurement:** The central policy team is developing material to ensure that third party spend goes beyond the core Council operations, ensuring the Authority procures in an ethical and responsible way. The draft Environmentally Responsible Procurement Policy and Modern Slavery Statements are due to be approved and launched in Q2 FY 2022/23. We now have a baseline of the Council's scope 3 emissions, from which we are exploring carbon accounting methodology and developing category specific approaches. We are on track to meet Modern Slavery Act changes requirements coming into force this year, are rolling out supply chain specific Modern Slavery Training, and are developing networks across Sussex and Surrey. The Social Value (SV) Policy is in place, and SV champions and tailored SV Charter is supporting the delivery of SV specific to the needs of Surrey residents, which will be enhanced by the SV Marketplace refresh currently underway. In reviewing tender materials in respect of policy risks and opportunities we are also seeking to enhance consideration of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion factors when procuring from third parties.

**Risk:** We are monitoring the Ukraine situation closely, liaising with both central government and local partners. Risk Management processes and up-to-date Business Continuity Plans take particular account of eventualities arising from cyber-attack or power outage. We are also reviewing the impact on the cost of living from price increases, particularly around fuel, and will respond to the unfolding situation on refugees.

**Digital Programme:** Focus has been on day-to-day delivery of the programme, collaborating with services to deliver capabilities and process optimisations to support their service delivery ambitions. This includes delivery of the new death registration chatbot, live Single View of Transition Data, and delivery of the 'discovery digithon' workshops for Adult Social Care, Your Fund Surrey, and Surrey Fire and Rescue Service to help frame opportunities and challenges using a digital lens which enables a cross-organisational approach to service and process re-design, with targeted technology. The Digital programme has also been focussed on the planning, engagement and pipeline for Digital 22/23. This includes work to support the CRM initiative to support delivery of the Data Strategy. All of the above is providing learning and insight that is informing the planning for the transition of Digital from a programme to a business-as-usual capability within the IT and Digital service.

**HR & OD:** We are progressing the Workforce of the Future strategy and undertaking a three-year programme of reward reform to simplify and modernise the reward approach across the Council to fit with our talent attraction and retention initiatives, ensuring we have a strong Employee Value Proposition and supporting ongoing initiatives to create more resilience, engagement and diversity in our workforce.

## DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Rebecca Paul  
**PORTFOLIO:** Levelling Up

**Levelling Up:** Our ultimate ambition here in Surrey is that no one is left behind. The role we play in the broader levelling up agenda is two-fold. At the national level, our contribution as a significant economic powerhouse is crucial; and at county level, our focus is on addressing existing inequalities and disparities in communities across Surrey. The Government's levelling up agenda is fundamentally a commitment to tackling inequalities and spreading opportunity and aligns well with our own objectives for making Surrey an even better place to live for all.

The recently published White Paper outlined twelve missions through which levelling up will be achieved and measured, with 'local leadership' being one. As part of our work to achieve no one left behind, we will be working to deliver against these missions. The 'local leadership' mission means that by 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal. Securing a devolution deal is a clear way through which we can 'level up' in Surrey and make progress towards no one left behind. Accordingly, we will be seeking to secure a County Deal at the earliest opportunity. In early March we held a Member development session on the Government's Levelling Up White Paper and what possibilities and opportunities it presents for Surrey. We will continue to engage and update Members as this work progresses.

As anticipated, the majority of the content of the White Paper was focused outside of London and the South East. However, there are still some key opportunities for Surrey, including influencing the health agenda via the upcoming Health Disparities White Paper and the health integration programme. The focus that Government is placing on health disparities is particularly important given that the most pronounced ways in which inequality exhibits itself within Surrey is across key healthy life expectancy indicators. Our ongoing work within the organisational priority objective to tackle health inequalities should align well to the Government's agenda in this area.

Data has been and will continue to be crucial both in identifying priority areas for action in Surrey and in measuring the progress of 'no one left behind' initiatives. The Health and Wellbeing Board has already identified five priority neighbourhoods for collaborative and creative action with communities based on a methodology that brings together the Index of Multiple Deprivation, child poverty data, and data on where education, training and/or skills are falling behind. This work will complement programmes of activity across all parts of the county which address inequalities that exist in other areas.

**Looked After Children Leisure Offer:** Following the agreed Council motion in [January 2022](#) we have been working alongside our district and borough (D&B) colleagues to develop a leisure offering for Children in Care, Care Leavers and Foster families across the whole of Surrey. Following a recent joint meeting it has been agreed to set up a Task and Finish group to look at operation of the scheme, involving Active Surrey, D&B colleagues and potentially leisure operator contacts. The target date for launch of the scheme is June 2022.

**School Inclusion Summit:** Permanent school exclusion has a negative impact on life outcomes for children and is disproportionately experienced by those on Free School Meals, with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and known to social care. The Council and the High Sherriff jointly commissioned Royal Holloway University of London to undertake research and analysis into the characteristics and reasons for permanent exclusions in Surrey. There was a Summit on 2 March 2022 to review this at which the Leader announced that the Council will fund the Surrey Alternative Learning Programme for the next financial year, which plays a key role in reducing permanent exclusions across Surrey. We are also looking into other ways we can better support high risk children and avoid permanent exclusion.

**Family Hubs:** The Government has committed to championing 'Family Hubs', which are a way of joining up services at local level and bringing existing family help services together to improve access to services, and connections between families, professionals, services, and providers, and putting relationships at the heart of family help. We have submitted a bid to the Department for Education for some transformation funding for Surrey and await a response to this bid, expected this month.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Natalie Bramhall

**PORTFOLIO:** Property and Waste

### Property:

- Terms have been agreed to transfer a property back to the NHS as part of a contractual buy-back arrangement, providing the Council with a bonus return on its book cost.
- Marketing has concluded on the disposal of the former College site in Guildford, more than twelve bids received, terms have been agreed with a major social investment fund.
- A further tranche of housing assets has been transferred to Halsey Garton Residential Ltd bringing the portfolio under management to 77 units.
- Greener Future workstreams have been established to track property progress. A current key focus to support delivery of works totalling around £2.3m to date, is on track for completion by the end of March 2022. Bids for further funding totalling £7.6m to decarbonise 31 sites have been submitted. Heat Decarbonisation Plans are being drawn up for 39 buildings.
- Implementing the Agile Office Estate programme continues. Staff located in Reigate and Banstead offices and Consort House will relocate to Woodhatch Place in July and December.
- The Temporary Body Storage facility at Bagshot is on track. Works are due to complete in May for operational readiness in the Autumn. A Permanent Mortuary business case is in development. Discussions are ongoing with the option to develop as a Joint Venture with the University of Surrey.
- Discussions are underway with the MOD for a potential joint Tower training facility with fire services on a MOD site.
- The lease and supporting documentation for Pond Meadow (Adult Extra Care) is in the process of being agreed; FAH had requested amendments to the documents and officers have responded. Officers continue to work closely with Procurement on the property aspects ahead of marketing the next four options.

The Council's properties compliance remains at 98% and the Minor Capital Works for FY21/22 continues at pace with an estimated spend of £15m, slightly above forecast. The minor works for FY22/23 are now listed totalling circa £20m; services have been extremely helpful supporting and developing the priorities list. Although there has been an increase of capex spend forecast from the previous year, officers remain confident of delivery as they are seeking additional temporary resources from external parties to support the internal team. The significant increase in energy prices over the last six months is putting additional pressure on forecast revenue expenditure for the 2022/23 budget year. Whilst the Council procures the majority of its energy through CCS in advance of the financial year, there is a small proportion that has yet to have been purchased and the utility costs have increased significantly in light of the recent events in the Ukraine. In February, officers, in conjunction with the Children's Service, gave a presentation to the Resources & Performance Select Committee on the maintenance works to be carried out at Children's Homes, which was well-received by the attending Members.

Approaching the end of FY21/22 the Capital Projects team have mobilised work on over 100 major projects with an estimated combined value of £500m. Approximately 50% of the projects are in the early RIBA Stages of Work for feasibility studies for outline business cases. The remaining 50% are working through the detailed design stages, planning process, procurement, and a number are in construction. Looking ahead to FY22/23 and beyond, a greater number of projects will be reaching the delivery stage and associated capital expenditure will increase to meet the five-year MTFS projections. Several projects in delivery to note include: the remediation project at Caterham Downs site, now nearing completion; two new Children's Homes and a Family Contact Centre; six projects for September 2022 SEND places; and Cranleigh Primary and Oakwood Secondary SBN provision. Projects to be submitted for Cabinet approval over the next six months include: Supported Independent Living accommodation (Manor, Horley and Cobham), Sunbury Hub, Bucklands Nursery, SBN Strategy Report, Reigate Priory Junior School, Public Mortuary, Extra Care Accommodation and Short Breaks, and the Highways Depot Strategy. The new property system, Planon, is on track to be fully delivered by the end of March.

**Waste:** The arbitration process with SUEZ has commenced. There are several stages, to culminate in a three-week hearing next July. At the time of writing the gasifier has not had an Acceptance Certificate from the Independent Certifier. Meanwhile SCC continue to engage with the Environment Agency to ensure SUEZ communicates with residents and the site is run in compliance with its Permit. The gasifier is operational though has experienced some technical difficulties in the last couple of months.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Marisa Heath

**PORTFOLIO:** Environment

**Energy Projects:** The Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (GHGLAD2) programme was launched on 21 February, offering fabric insulation and solar PV up to a value of £10k to fuel poor households across the county. The scheme is being delivered by Action Surrey, with the Council as the lead authority and will run until June 2022. It will be replaced with the Sustainable Warmth Programme, for which £13m has been allocated to the county to decarbonise fuel poor and off-gas grid homes. Surrey's Solar Together scheme, which offers subsidised solar PV to homeowners, has been a success with approximately 1,400 residents so far accepting quotations. Installations are expected to be completed by next month.

**Decarbonising our own estate and schools:** £2.65m has been allocated to SCC to install low carbon heat pumps and energy efficiency measures in 15 buildings through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund (PSDS3). Each of the buildings are being assessed for suitability for solar PV to offset the increase in energy prices resulting from switching from gas to electricity powered heat. Five buildings are schools and will be treated as pilots in our move to decarbonise Surrey's schools. Environment and Land and Property divisions are working together to put in place the programmes and policies required to meet our 2030 net zero carbon targets. We are also assessing our remaining building stock to prepare for the next tranche of the PSDS Programme (which has been confirmed). The business case to install a solar canopy and 16 EV chargers (with future capacity for a further 16 chargers) has been approved for Woodhatch Place. The installation is expected to start in April/May.

**Finance:** Surrey has been selected to partner in programme led by IBEX Earth and funded by the Greater South East Energy Hub to look at the opportunity to set up a Net Zero Vehicle to draw in private sector investment to fund decarbonisation schemes across the South East. SCC has been selected as the LA representative for the EM3 LEP area. The programme will seek to draw in funding from the Infrastructure Bank. The GF Data and Economics Manager post has now been recruited to develop this work. Officers will start to develop low/ zero interest loan schemes to fund decarbonisation measures for private rented housing in partnership with D&Bs.

**Public Rights of Way:** The maintenance capital programme for Public Rights of Way has been accelerated this year with over 30 bridges maintained. The team are currently recruiting to increase capacity, especially in enforcement activity and volunteering. The Council's Traffic Regulation Order will be reviewed this year with a paper presented to Cabinet at the end of the summer.

**AONB:** Work is underway with Natural England and its consultants on the proposed extension to the Surrey Hills. Community groups and the public have submitted over 2000 pieces of evidence that will help to identify the potential Candidate Areas. These areas will be subject to statutory consultation later in the year.

The new Farming in the Surrey Hills fund has supported 26 projects to help deliver nature recovery which includes planting over 7.5km of hedgerow, much of which has been undertaken by the Surrey Hills Society with volunteers and community groups. With the expected increase in visitors to the countryside this Spring, a new website has been commissioned to better promote the 180 Surrey Hills Enterprise's member businesses, the promotion of active travel with community rail partnerships, visitor information and the management of activities like mountain biking.

## DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Steve Bax

**PORTFOLIO:** Environment

**Norbury Park:** Work has begun at Young Street car park, Norbury Park, to provide natural play equipment, a mobile café, additional seating by the river and improved landscaping. The Vision for Norbury Park consultation attracted over 500 responses, and these are being collated for presentation to the Community Forum in March and a final document in early April. Plans for two vacant properties (the Sawmill at Norbury Park and Lock Cottage on the Basingstoke Canal) are being drafted with Property colleagues alongside maintenance programme for the estates.

**Tree Planting:** A Tree Planting Summit was jointly hosted with the Forestry Commission at RHS Wisley on 10 March. Lord Deben Chairman of the Climate Change Committee attended, and the discussion was around the benefit of landowners planting trees and then SCC and the Forestry Commission set out the practical ways in which landowners could start planting. We are now following up with the attendees to assess the level of interest. The Environment team is also working on a clearer policy for tree planting across the county including on urban land so that members of the public will know what they can do and how to do it including where trees are not viable, planting of hedges, shrubs, and flower boxes.

**Flood Risk Management:** Part of the work of updating the local flood risk management strategy is exploiting the collective benefits of the partner's work. Priest Hill is one of those locations where designating a Local Nature Reserve and linking it to flood risk and tree strategy objective may provide a collective gain. Northey Fields and adjacent Priest Hill and Howell Hill nature reserves in Ewell have been identified for Local Nature Reserve designation. The area is at risk of surface water flooding and is upstream of known historic flooding events, initiated by Natural Environment Team, this project has been added to the Catchment Action Plan to be considered for flood risk contribution where another part of SCC is leading. It is a good example of where the collective benefits and collective funding can deliver our objectives through inclusion at the scoping stages.

**Newlands Corner:** The Discovery Centre and toilets at Newlands Corner are almost complete. The main part of the car park has been resurfaced and reorientated to maximise the view and support wider access. The parking machines have been sold and the information boards updated. All information has now been provided to Guildford Borough Council and planning permission is expected to be granted next month so the building work can be completed. Commons consent has now been granted for a natural play area and additional seating which will be installed in time for the end of spring.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Matt Furniss

**PORTFOLIO:** Transport & Infrastructure

**Ringway update:** Fortnightly mobilisation meetings and joint programme board meetings are now underway with the Council team and Ringway. A monthly meeting has also been put into place between Ringway and Kier facilitated by Surrey to aid transition.

**Storm update:** Colleagues from SCC, Kier and their supply chain worked incredibly hard to deal with Storms Eunice and Franklin. Between 18 and 28 February, over 1000 jobs were received with new calls being received on average every 8.2 minutes and incidents resolved every 11 minutes. It was amazing to see the dedication of everyone involved which led to a fantastic response keeping the residents of Surrey safe, along with allowing the road network to flow as smooth as it possibly could.

**Infrastructure:** Phase 1 schemes were approved by Cabinet in October. They form part of the expanded infrastructure programme including the River Thames Scheme, EVs, A320. The project management team are undertaking a programme review to challenge timescales for all projects and seek opportunities to bring forward construction activity where appropriate. A further batch of schemes (Phase 2) has been identified and feasibility design is underway to progress these to business case stage at the earliest opportunity. Several of these projects will be reported to Cabinet in May seeking approval for implementation.

**Transport - Active Travel:** Current next steps are to deliver 8 Tranche 2 schemes by end of 2022, await funding outcome from DfT for Tranche 3, commence preliminary design on tranche 3 schemes, deliver Tranche 3 schemes by March 2023, continue the development of LCWIPs across the county, awaiting announcement from DfT for invitation to bid for Tranche 4 active travel funding in Summer 2022 and finally, continue behaviour change project and PR campaign and work with communities to develop the bike loan scheme.

**Bus Back Better:** Consultation on the Enhanced Partnership Plan & Scheme with statutory consultees (Police, D&Bs, Traffic Commissioner, Passenger Focus, etc). DfT asked we do this after the BSIP funding announcement. Whilst not a requirement, we will separately consult with a wider set of stakeholders, including disability groups, to help set the initial and longer-term priorities for the partnership. A final EP was originally required by end March - now DfT require a draft EP by the end of April.

**Planning & Waste and Minerals Plan:** The Policy team has undertaken four public engagement events at libraries across Surrey (Farnham, Reigate, Addlestone and Guildford). Public engagement at these events was limited despite direct notification of local stakeholders and related advertising. However, the discussions at the events were largely positive, helpful, and informative for both interested parties and officers. Consultation responses continue to be received by officers directly by email and letter and through the digital consultation hub which closed on 7 March, however, officers will continue to accept written (letter or email) representations for a reasonable period of time after this date (for some two weeks).

**Healthy Streets:** The final version is expected in Spring 2022 with stakeholder engagement and consultation to follow. The project has been chosen by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities as a Design Code Pathfinder and the funding that this provides means that the digital version of the guidance can be much more ambitious than originally envisaged. A paper will be coming to Council in Autumn 2022 for adoption of the PDF Guidance with a launch of the interactive digital guide in 2023.

**Enforcement:** Launch of HGV watch scheme delayed due to difficulties recruiting a co-ordinator to manage it. It is important the postholder has civil enforcement experience because they will also be involved with our application and rollout of Moving Traffic Enforcement. The third recruitment attempt is underway with interviews planned for second half of March. Bus lane enforcement cameras are now installed at the Woking Road and Onslow Street bus lanes. The camera software is being integrated with Guildford Borough parking enforcement software to allow warnings and fines to be issued from April. Guildford Borough Council are going to provide a timetable for the 'go live' process.

**LTP4:** The additional consultation period, aimed at reaching a wider audience, is almost complete. UCA Students artwork to be displayed/ performed in late March. A full paper will be going to Cabinet in May, and Council in July for adoption of the plan.

## DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Jordan Beech

**PORTFOLIO:** Highways

**LED rollout:** A three-year programme to introduce LED lighting within the county. Currently in year two and still ahead of schedule for completion, 59,255 out of 89,096 completed (66.5%). Our supply chain is being affected by the global shortage of electronic components. We are working with our contractor to monitor the situation and update our programmes accordingly. If we can maintain the supply, we are confident the project will be completed on schedule. We are also exploring opportunities for the expanded use of the street lighting central management system (CMS) to allow county wide connected devices and other capabilities. An update will be provided when the review is complete.

**Winter Service Review:** The Winter Service season 2021-22 was unusually cold from the start in but has been relatively warmer in recent months. We saw some wintery conditions and small amount of snow in November and treated the roads far more than usual from November to January, with 23 treatment runs in January alone. On average we undertake 52 treatment runs during the whole winter and we thought we were in for a record year, but the weather has turned warmer since January, and we are now looking at the forecast for the next 30 days showing steadily rising temperatures. We are hopeful this will remain the case and will continue monitoring forecasts to look for opportunities to stand the service down earlier in April if the risk is considered acceptable.

During this season we have moved from using Diesel in our gritter fleet to using HVO (Hydrotreated vegetable oil) Biofuel, this is expected to reduce their CO2 emissions by 90%. This trial is being closely monitored and there has been no impact on fleet effectiveness from doing this. During the second year of the pandemic, as during the first, we have been working closely with NHS colleagues to support safe access and operation of the test and vaccination centres during winter. Kier have also trialled two types of small electric vehicles for salt treatment. These have been employed treating footways at the test and vaccination centres.

**Road and Pavement Programme Update:** Our contractors have been working hard since the beginning of the financial year on our planned road and pavement programmes. To date we have completed 58 miles of carriageway resurfacing works which includes resurfacing 15 miles of road and carrying out preventative surface dressing on 39 miles, plus 4 miles of treatments that include some innovative solutions such as concrete fine milling which has a lower carbon footprint than traditional treatments and provides a longer lasting finish – we are particularly pleased with this process, as will prove to be excellent value for money and whole life costing.

We have also treated 19 miles of pavements. We still have over 6 miles of treatments to carry out on roads over the coming months along with another 5 miles of pavement treatments, which we are confident will be delivered before end of the financial year. We have now started the process of mobilisation with our new Term Maintenance Contractor, Ringway, who officially start at the end of April 2022. We are working through 10 different Mobilisation Working Groups with Ringway and Surrey colleagues, in preparation for next year, including IT systems and Operations. We are working hard to provide a seamless and collaborative service through the end of the current contract and start of the new one and are excited to embrace new challenges

**Lane Rental:** Lane Rental scheme is being operated efficiently as part of Streetworks Team BAU with income received broadly in line with estimated income levels set out in Cabinet Report. Officers are working with Consultants: Open Road Associates (ORA) to develop enhanced reporting functionality around success of scheme thus far regards mitigating network disruption. An annual report will be produced at the end of year one of operation. The Governance Board to allocate surplus funds to projects held its inaugural meeting in Feb 2022 and is developing the bidding and assessment process for potential projects and will meet again this June to allocate funds to initial tranche of project bids received.

**Innovations in highways and materials:** Innovation is a key part of our new Highways Contract and Officers have been working with the incoming contractor, Ringway to establish plans and processes to continue to build an innovative culture within all aspects of the Highways Service. An Innovation Hub will be established at the Merrow Highways Depot and Boards are being established to look at areas including Technology, Materials, Sustainability, and IT systems. In the meantime, work is ongoing to test products such as AI and machine learning for Highway Inspections and Condition Surveys and we are reviewing new materials products such as light reflecting aggregates for use in low light areas.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Kevin Deanus

**PORTFOLIO:** Community Protection

My last portfolio update highlighted the work being carried out in Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, Emergency Planning, Health and Safety and flooding. This update will focus on the other services within the Community Protection portfolio in order to focus on all areas of my portfolio during the year.

**Prevent and Protect:** An Independent Review of Prevent is currently being conducted by William Shawcross. This will gather and analyse a range of information to underpin robust, evidence-based findings and recommendations on the government's strategy for supporting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Although the Review has been delayed, it is hoped that it will be completed soon.

The ground-breaking Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) Early, counter radicalisation campaign is being taken direct to young people, with innovative new first-person videos. More children and young people than ever before are being drawn towards extremism, and sometimes even terrorism. The videos, which use first hand testimony of real-life stories from people who have been through a radicalisation process or lost loved ones, can be accessed on ACT's website under [Real Stories](#). The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) has also launched a video for businesses, highlighting practical steps to be taken in the event of having to lockdown during a terrorist (marauding) attack. The video can help businesses plan for such incidents and gives advice on building a plan applying the principles of RUN, HIDE, TELL. The video can be viewed on CPNI UK's YouTube channel and is entitled "[Café Lockdown Drama](#)." Please do share these films in your communities.

**Trading Standards:** The team have seen an increase in their work with Heathrow Airport on imported goods. They are currently preparing to launch a campaign aimed at preventing purchases of sub-standard carbon monoxide alarms from online retailers such as Amazon Market Place which are being imported via the airport. These products are not compliant with UK safety regulations and are either not alerting residents to the poison quick enough or alerting them when they shouldn't be.

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS), which is part of the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has indicated that they are looking into purchasing samples from a variety of online market places to understand the market picture better. Trading Standards will continue to feed further into OPSS regarding similar products found at the Ports for potential inclusion with the proposed market surveillance work.

The service is also working to promote and work with convenience stores on new legislation that is coming into force in October. The Government's new regulations will affect thousands of retailers. The intention of The Food (Promotion and Placement) (England) Regulations 2021 is to:

- reduce the availability of products high in fat, salt, and sugar (HFSS) bought through "volume promotions" like 'buy one get one free' offers, and
- to restrict the placement of HFSS product categories in high footfall areas of an affected store, like checkouts, end-of-aisle units, store entrances, and designated queueing areas.

**Armed Forces:** The annual Armed Forces Covenant Conference 2022 took place at the Army Training Centre, Pirbright on Tuesday 15 March. The event brought together all those supporting the Armed Forces Covenant in Surrey to share, celebrate and build on the partnership between Surrey's armed forces and civilian communities. The agenda included an update on current deployments and priorities, resettlement of Afghan citizens, supporting the wellbeing of our veterans and their families along with keynote speakers.

In July the Armed Forces Bill 2021 is expected to come into force. This Act prevents disadvantage faced by the Armed Forces Community due to the unique nature of their service in the Armed Forces. This new legislation is designed to increase awareness of, and in turn improve the delivery of, the Armed Forces Covenant in the three key areas that are fundamental to a good life - education, healthcare, housing and homelessness.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Mark Nuti  
**PORTFOLIO:** Communities

**Active Surrey:** We have secured five years of investment of £2.7m into tackling inequality and inactivity in Surrey from Sport England. We continue to focus on building the financial resilience of services, supporting them to develop income generation concepts, construct strong bids and to identify saving opportunities in collaboration with the Becoming More Entrepreneurial programme.

**Arts Service:** Surrey Arts successfully delivered a new music programme with Afghan refugee communities and delivered the Dance21 programme across various Districts and Boroughs, promoting health and wellbeing, and engaging residents in activities out in the community. Engagement in whole-class ensemble primary school programme increased by 60% compared to pre-covid levels.

**Libraries:** 542 events took place in libraries in January and February with over 10,000 attendees. This includes key events celebrating World Book Day and the British Libraries Living Knowledge Network, alongside popular rhyme time and story time and school visits sessions.

**Registration & Nationality Service:** Surrey's registration service has successfully cleared a birth backlog, 4,803 historic birth certificates have been issued, 20,287 birth and death certificates have been issued for new events, 1,752 notices have been taken for marriages/ civil partnerships, 749 marriages and civil partnerships have been carried out in Surrey, and 907 new British citizens welcomed.

**Customer Services:** We have launched a new 'transaction bot' so customers can book, reschedule, or cancel death registration appointments online, providing an enhanced service for those who want to interact digitally. Following Government announcement to move to 'living with Covid', we have brought to a close the local test and trace operation within Customer Services, which successfully traced more positive cases than the national model. We have also secured funding to expand the Community Helpline and work with Citizen's Advice to deliver an enhanced welfare offer for Surrey residents who are in challenging situations and/ or struggling financially, due to launch April 2022. We have rolled out a collaboration pilot to five Libraries, so customers can be connected to advice, information and services in their local library setting, along with a digital support offer if needed.

**Your Fund Surrey:** Claygate Community Pool has been awarded £363,500 to redevelop an existing outdoor pool into an indoor facility that will enable the whole community to use the pool all year round. Pirbright Community Amateur Sports Pavilion has been awarded £300,000 for an environmentally sustainable, community amateur sports pavilion to help foster wider engagement in active lifestyles. South Park Community 3G Pitch has been awarded £150,000 for a floodlit Stadia/ Community 3G Artificial Grass Pitch providing an opportunity for teams to play and build their provision for women, girls and people living with disabilities.

**VCFS:** In line with the No One Left Behind key priority, the County Council gave £560,000 as one-off grant funding to the Citizen's Advice Charities across Surrey. This is to support those Surrey's communities that are struggling financially due to the impacts of Covid and the increased cost of living. A key aspect of this funding is to ensure more outreach points and Citizen Advice officers and volunteers going to community areas such as foodbanks and libraries to proactively support residents. The Volunteer training gives this funding an element of sustainability despite being one-off, and the added outreach capacity will act as a preventative measure, catching people who need support at the right time before they spiral further into difficulties.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Sinead Mooney

**PORTFOLIO:** Adults & Health

**Consultation on Future of In-House Older People's Homes:** There is an implementation plan in place that has been signed off by the Adult Leadership Team on 2 March 2022. It was agreed that:

- The number one priority is the need to find new residential homes safely, sensitively, and efficiently for the existing residents. We would like families and residents to be happy with the choice of new home.
- Once an individual has moved, they will remain open to the Supported Placement Group until they have had their six-week review or are settled in their new home.
- A staff consultation will start in April.
- The phasing will be such that there is one home in each area being closed at a time:
  - The homes in phase 1 that will start in April will be Birchlands in Englefield Green, Keswick in Great Bookham, Orchard Court in Lingfield.
  - The homes in phase 2 will be Heathside in Woking, Meadowside in Staines and Chalkmead in Merstham.
  - The homes in phase 3 will be Barnfield in Horley and Abbeywood in Ash.
- Service Delivery to move onto "the next home" in each area in order, once the last resident of the preceding home has been successfully moved, although there will be scope for doing some work "in parallel".
- The phasing should not give the impression that home x will be closed in a specific time period
- It will take about two years to close all the homes.
- Short term placements are acceptable, but we should not be making permanent placements in any of the homes.
- Barnfield and Abbeywood will continue with supporting the system though Discharge to Assess with bridging beds etc until their phase starts. In addition, for Abbeywood options will be explored regarding development of the site for alternative adult social care services or a joint development with NHS/ partners. The building may still need to close if large scale essential maintenance or development is required, and if no alternative developments are identified.

**Budget Update – Adult Social Care and Public Health:** With the 2021/22 financial year now nearly at an end, attention is turning to the delivery of the 2022/23 budget approved by Council in February. One of the key areas of focus is increased investment in services to support people's mental health and emotional wellbeing. The 2022/23 budget provides for £7.9m of increased investment in these services, £1.4m of which is increased spending on existing services, primarily in Adult Social Care, and £6.5m of transformation investment. The funding will be used for interventions that enhance or safeguard supporting and protecting factors that help people avoid becoming acutely or chronically unwell. The investment will maintain or improve wellbeing and reduce the need for formal or acute treatment. Interventions will be designed alongside stakeholders and partners and could include, for example, investing in improved supported housing options for people with mental health problems, use of technology, peer support and expanding the immediate support available for people in a crisis, to avoid the need for longer-term interventions.

As Surrey and the country as a whole start to move out of the height of the pandemic, investment in Public Health is also a key focus. A number of initiatives funded out of the Contain Management Outbreak Fund (COMF) grant will continue into 2022/23 to ensure the county continues to effectively manage the virus. Since the 2022/23 budget was published, DHSC has confirmed that Surrey's Public Health grant will increase by £1m in 2022/23 although it should be noted that this increase is needed to meet inflationary pressures. Despite this increase, Surrey continues to receive a very low allocation (the third lowest per head of population in the country), and so as well as continuing to lobby government about Surrey's low level of Public Health funding, SCC's Cabinet will be considering future investment in Public Health in this context and Surrey's wider prevention agenda.

**Public Health Changing Futures:** The successful Changing Futures (CF) Grant Award (£2.8m) was the result of a system – wide submission created in consultation and engagement with a wide range of partner organisations and individuals with lived experience. It builds on the local Surrey Adults Matter approach that has been established to fund local initiatives to support improved outcomes for individuals with multiple disadvantage, including relevant evaluation and monitoring as follows:

- Three organisations have been providing the Bridge the Gap Trauma Informed Outreach Service for one year in response to the pandemic and an external evaluation has been commissioned. A recruitment process of providers to join the alliance is underway and should bring in an additional four and be

operational by April 2022, utilising 50% of the CF grant with community-based organisations for outreach support.

- Thirty networks have been identified from the mapping of lived experience and peer mentoring. These will enable individuals to review and engage in co-production of services and systems under CF.
- Bedding in four new one-year Assistant Social Worker posts in Adult Social Care to inform system improvements in relation to accommodation. Funded through the COMF they are assisting with frontline co-ordination of health, wellbeing and accommodation/ homelessness during the pandemic and beyond.

**COVID-19 Update – 8 March 2022:** On 22 February, the Government published [COVID-19 Response: Living with COVID-19](#). The Government’s objective is to manage COVID-19 like other respiratory illnesses, while minimising mortality, and retaining the ability to respond if a new variant emerges or during periods of waning immunity, that could again threaten to place the NHS under unsustainable. As such, all domestic restrictions have been / are due to be removed, as outlined below:

<b>From 21 February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Guidance on twice weekly asymptomatic testing in most education settings was removed</li> </ul>
<b>From 24 February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The <b>legal requirement</b> to self-isolate following positive test was removed and replaced with new guidance – <a href="#">COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts</a></li> <li>○ Routine contact tracing ceased</li> <li>○ Self-isolation support payments ended</li> <li>○ <a href="#">The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 3) Regulations</a> were revoked</li> </ul>
<b>From 1 April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The use of the NHS COVID Pass will no longer be recommended in certain settings</li> <li>○ Free universal testing for the general public in England will no longer be provided</li> <li>○ ‘Working Safely’ guidance will be replaced with new public health guidance</li> </ul>

Encouraging safer behaviours through public health advice; protecting the most vulnerable to COVID-19 through vaccination and targeted testing; and maintaining resilience through ongoing surveillance and contingency planning are the underpinning principles of the Living with COVID-19 plan.

Surrey’s [Local Outbreak Management Plan](#) (LOMP) has been updated to reflect the Living with COVID-19 plan. A full review of the LOMP will be undertaken when all guidance is published – expected to be by the end of March. Surrey’s COVID Management Group has been stood down and the Surrey Heartlands Resilience and Emergency Preparedness Resilience and Response Board resumed on 9<sup>th</sup> March for continued oversight of the pandemic response.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Clare Curran

**PORTFOLIO:** Children & Families

**Ofsted Inspection of Surrey local authority Children's Services:** The CFLL Directorate welcomed the [Ofsted report](#) on Children's Services, following the January inspection, which demonstrates the considerable progress made since the previous inspection in 2018. I am delighted that the inspectors recognised significant improvements in all areas and the evidence that Surrey children are now safer. Following a thorough and in-depth analysis of the service, the inspectors judged that overall, the service "requires improvement to be good", which I agree is a fair reflection of the point we are at in our improvement journey. Inspectors recognised that there is a strong foundation on which to improve services further. The service is no longer in statutory intervention so the oversight of the DfE and Ofsted has ceased.

I would like to say an enormous thank you to both the departmental leadership team and our dedicated and hardworking staff for all they have achieved for our children and young people, despite the extra demands placed on them during the last two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, and for providing the information and evidence requested during the inspection. I would also like to thank the children and families we work in partnership with for their helpful input into the changes we've made and for their engagement with the Ofsted inspectors.

I recognise that inconsistencies remain, and we need to keep building on the firm foundations we've already built to embed improvements and ensure excellent practice in all parts of the service so that no children and young people are left behind. We have focussed on early help and intervention, to prevent children needing more intensive support at a later stage and the inspectors were able to see that some children have benefited from helpful services at this stage, which have made a real difference to their lives. I am pleased that the inspectors found that most social workers listen carefully to children and make sure that children's views inform decision-making.

Our staff feel they have been well supported during the COVID-19 pandemic which, in turn, has enabled them to continue to support children and families. This comes at a time when the service is actively recruiting permanent staff and striving to retain the best people. Do, please, watch and share this lovely [video](#) which shows the sense of purpose that roles in social work bring.

We will be building on these strengths and others identified by Ofsted including:

- Thorough – and in some cases – excellent assessments of need
- Recent success in recruiting foster carers and developing an effective support model with them
- Thoughtful, sensitive, and person-centred direct work with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
- Strong multi-agency work, and interventions for children missing or at risk of exploitation/ significant harm
- Our highly effective Family Safeguarding Model addressing & reducing long-standing risks & needs

The inspectors identified the following priority areas for improvement:

- The quality and effectiveness of assessments and plans for all children, including disabled children, homeless 16- and 17-year-olds and privately fostered children
- Partnership work to secure support for children and young people's mental health and well-being
- The provision of essential information to carers about children and viability assessments to inform placements with friends or family
- The sufficiency of suitable accommodation for young people, including care leavers
- The quality and impact of supervision to ensure that decisions are timely and support the progression of children's plans
- The proportion of permanent staff, to reduce turnover

Task and Finish Groups are being established to tackle these areas and we expect to see tangible improvements within six months. In some cases, we already have established programmes, such as Recruitment, Retention and Culture of our workforce. Based on the evidence gathered, comprehensive plans to address all areas for improvement are being drawn up to address all the feedback from the inspection, not just the six priority areas identified in the final report. The service is determined to continue the trajectory of improvement.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Denise Turner-Stewart

**PORTFOLIO:** Education & Learning

**Supporting Refugees in Surrey:** Across the world, we have seen horrendous refugee crises afflicting countries like Afghanistan, Syria, Hong Kong, and now Ukraine. Surrey County Council has supported refugees for many years and responded to the needs of the refugee communities in the County. Our schools have always been very responsive to requests to admit Afghan children under the Government's Afghan resettlement scheme and welcomed them warmly into their school community. There are 170 children in Surrey schools across all year groups who are part of the Afghan resettlement scheme.

Surrey's Admissions team has also worked closely with West Sussex to ensure children accommodated close to the Surrey/ West Sussex border have been able to secure a school place and this has led to 58 children being placed in West Sussex schools. Surrey Adult Learning is currently offering eight bespoke English courses for British Nationals arriving from Hong Kong. Eighty-eight learners are enrolled, and we are putting on more courses this month for the 22 Hong Kong British Nationals on our waiting lists. They join other refugees from Syria and Afghanistan also accessing ESOL classes through Surrey Adult Learning.

**Co-production in Surrey:** Co-production is an approach we take to work closely with families to design, plan and deliver effective services and we recognise that this plays an important role in the way we work. We are continuing to build a strong relationship of networks via our partners in Education, Health, Social Care, and the voluntary sector, as well as with those families receiving services. One of our key projects is Surrey's All Age Autism Strategy 2021-2026, that aims to deliver improvements to the lives of the 12,300 autistic people living in Surrey. As the Strategy moves into the implementation phase, a workshop is being held on 15th March to build our co-production strategy and weave this into the fabric of the services that we offer.

Alongside this, we are working with partners to co-produce a self-evaluation of our 'SEND' system, including working with our colleagues and families to build case studies of what it is like living with 'SEND' in Surrey through ethnographic research, which will lead into the design of a large-scale survey for parents and carers to be launched in the summer term. We are also working closely with partners such as Family Voice and Surrey Youth Focus to build stronger partnership working between the Council and the families who access our services. All of this work will tie in to developing a new SEND partnership strategy for Surrey, to be in place by January 2023. This strategy will focus on further improving the way we identify needs, meet needs, and improve services and outcomes for children and young people with additional needs in Surrey and their families.

**Inclusion Summit:** The High Sheriff, Dr Julie Llewellyn hosted a ground-breaking summit which focused on the Inclusion of Young People by preventing permanent exclusions— What works to keep children and young people in education. The summit explored partnership working and collaboration to reduce and prevent exclusions and shared the research commissioned by Surrey County Council in 2019 which was undertaken by the Royal Holloway University of London. A comprehensive report was produced which brings together national research with the Surrey context. As a result, a Central Surrey Alternative Learning Programme (SALP) Board has been established to oversee the activity taking place across the County to reduce permanent exclusions.

Speakers heard from the Leader of the Council who highlighted the 2030 community vision that no one is left behind and the ambition of the council to support young people and their families. The Leader also confirmed the continuation of funding for the Surrey Alternative Learning Programme (SALP) for a further financial year. The summit recognised schools exclude reluctantly and as a last resort, but the challenge was 'we could do better'. Importantly the summit confirmed the view that schools, services, and the voluntary sector are well-placed to identify and respond to the vulnerability of young people who have experienced adverse experiences.

**Access2 Education (A2E) Service:** Our A2E service provides learning support for children who, for a range of reasons, may not be able to attend school for a time. It was pleasing to hear the positive feedback on the A2E service which was recently received from a parent whose daughter has autism and was having difficulty leaving the house and attending school during the pandemic. The mother said that the A2E service was 'amazing' in supporting her child back into school and extra-curricular activities. She saw remarkable progress for her child and reflected 'They are all caring dedicated professionals. The teachers and mentors are just really lovely and a credit to the service.' Post pandemic services such as this are crucial now more than ever and we are very proud of the staff who are delivering these.

## DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Maureen Attewell

**PORTFOLIO:** Children & Lifelong Learning

**Domestic Abuse (DA) and Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG):** In Surrey our vision is for every adult and child experiencing DA to be seen, safe and heard, and free from the harm caused by perpetrator behaviour. As a partnership we focus on preventing DA and ensuring that all affected:

- Are empowered to live lives free from domestic violence or abuse
- Perpetrators are held to account and change their behaviour
- Gain the personal confidence to build healthy relationships for themselves and their dependants
- Can access the right information, services, and support, at the right time in the right place

2021 was a significant year with regards to DA legislation and has seen the introduction of the DA Act which aims to:

- Raise awareness and understanding about the devastating impact of DA on victims, children, and families
- Further improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims of DA and bringing perpetrators to justice
- Strengthen the support for victims of abuse by statutory agencies

SCC and our partners have made good progress with the implementation and delivery of the DA Act and achieved the following to date:

- Required Needs Assessment completed
- Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) Health Checks completed with all Districts and Boroughs and action plans developed
- Support in [Safe Accommodation Strategy](#) published
- Sanctuary Scheme review and redesign in progress
- Secured funding for dispersed units to provide safe accommodation to victim groups where existing refuge provision is not appropriate

This partnership work will continue into 2022 with the following next steps:

- The Surrey Against Domestic Abuse Partnership will ensure that we set outcomes against plans to tackle VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls)
- Develop VAWG Partnership Strategy
- DAHA health assessments – work with D&Bs to implement action plans to address Countywide and localised gaps and recommendations
- Dispersed accommodation with specialist support to be mobilised
- Work with key partners to explore options to develop and deliver move on accommodation to survivors and their families in Surrey
- Centralisation Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) coordination to provide consistency and Countywide learning which will vastly improve the way we carry out DHRs in Surrey
- Monitor, evaluate, and consider ongoing sustainability of the perpetrator's and YUVA (behaviour change intervention for young people who utilise abusive behaviours) programmes.
- Consult with residents, service users, survivors, and professionals to further develop our Strategy
- Utilise knowledge and expertise to understand barriers that prevent women and girls from accessing support
- Review Local and National Domestic Homicide Reviews to identify where coercive and controlling behaviour is a feature and what can be learned from this
- Review training offer to ensure a Countywide understanding around DA and VAWG

**Youth Offending Inspection Outcome:** I am delighted to announce that YOS has been recognised by HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) with a “good” grading following an inspection in November. Incredibly, the service has gone from “inadequate” to “good” in three short years since 2019 and, although the report was “good” overall, the service was graded as “outstanding” in three areas. You can find out more [here](#).