

County Council Meeting – 11 October 2022

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 26 July 2022 and 27 September 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 14. Any Cabinet responses to Committee reports are included in or appended to the minutes. If any Member wishes to raise a question or make a statement on any of the matters in the minutes, notice must be given to Democratic Services by 12 noon on the last working day before the County Council meeting (Monday 10 October 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

There were no reports with recommendations for Council.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

At its meeting on 26 July 2022 Cabinet considered:

A. INCREASING ACCESS TO LIBRARY BUILDINGS

Following Cabinet's approval of the Library and Cultural Service Strategy 2020-2025 in November 2019, the Library and Cultural Services Transformation Programme has commenced significant change across the Library Service. This includes a major workforce transformation and initiation of a five-year programme of work to modernise library settings across Surrey.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet agrees the introduction of Open Access technology in thirteen libraries across the county.
2. That Cabinet agrees an initial capital allocation of £345k from the £1.8m identified in the Capital Pipeline.
3. That Cabinet agrees the proposed approach to a phased introduction of Open Access in additional libraries.
4. That Cabinet delegates to the Capital Programme Panel (CPP) the approval of any subsequent release of funding, within the overall envelope identified in the Capital Pipeline and subject to a robust business case.

Reasons for decisions:

Cabinet agreement to introduce Open Access technology into libraries is essential to unlock the full potential of library buildings, increasing access beyond the current opening hours, and empowering communities to reap wider benefit from using these valuable community assets. Thirteen libraries have been prioritised, based on analysis of where there is greatest opportunity to achieve positive impact, and with a good geographic spread across the county. Careful analysis of usage, cost and revenue generation opportunity from the initial thirteen will inform the proposal and business case for future phases of implementation.

B. SUNBURY HUB

This report sought Cabinet approval to redevelop the former Sunbury Fire Station with a new integrated five-storey, multi-service hub. The aim is to bring together key local services into a vibrant community facility which will provide residents with space to connect, socialise, learn and access to essential public services in one building, in their local area.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet approves the allocation of capital funding from the pipeline to the capital programme for the development of the detailed design and construction of Sunbury Hub. The funding required is commercially sensitive and is set out in the Part 2 report.
2. That Cabinet approves procurement of an appropriate construction contractor partner for the delivery of all associated services required in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Standing Orders.
3. Regarding the procurement of the construction contractor, Cabinet agrees that the Executive Director of Resources and the Director of Land and Property authorise and award such contracts, within the +/-5% budgetary tolerance level.

Reasons for decisions:

Approving the recommendations in this report will:

- a. Regenerate a vacant Council-owned site.
- b. Accelerate much-needed investment in Sunbury to support regeneration.
- c. Deliver a multi-purpose building that improves service delivery and the community experience.
- d. Optimise use of Council-owned assets and release other assets for Service re-use or disposal, in line with the Council's Asset and Place Strategy.
- e. Support the Adult Social Care (ASC) transformation programme ambition to reduce the number of people with a learning disability and/or autism in

residential care by 40-50% by 2025, and ensure these residents are supported in-county.

- f. Provide modern space and enable digital solutions for Services.
- g. Produce benefits which link to all of the Council's strategic priority areas.
- h. Specifically reduce carbon emissions by using innovative technologies and smart build in the project's design.
- i. Support the delivery of the Council's Agile Office Estate programme.
- j. Create commercial opportunities where appropriate.
- k. Offer tangible social value to residents.

C. OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE FOR THE RE-PROCUREMENT OF WASTE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SERVICES

This report sought to award twenty local bus contracts to nine operators, for the provision of twenty-four public bus services. This decision relates to 20 current contracts which expire on 27 August 2022 and have been retendered. If awarded the new contracts will commence from 28 August 2022.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet approves the Outline Business Case for the future re-procurement of the Waste Treatment and Disposal Services to inform the development of a Detailed Procurement Strategy.
2. That Cabinet delegates authority of approval of the final procurement route to market for services from 2024 to the Cabinet Member for Property and Waste, in consultation with the Executive Director for Environment, Transport and Infrastructure.

Reasons for decisions:

Approval of the OBC is critical to enable the Council to continue to deliver its statutory duty seamlessly beyond September 2024. This will also be instrumental in designing the services to both maximise value for money and contribute to Surrey's ambitious environmental targets.

At its meeting on 27 September 2022 Cabinet considered:

D. ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT POLICY

This report set out the proposed policy to improve environmental considerations in the Council's procurement activities to meet the Council's Strategic Priority areas for 'Enabling a greener future' and 'Growing a sustainable economy so that everyone can benefit'.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet approve the Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy on behalf of Surrey County Council (SCC).

2. That Cabinet delegate authority for approving any future changes to the Policy to the Director of Procurement in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and the Cabinet Member for Environment, to enable the policy to evolve and adapt to local and national developments.

Reasons for decisions:

This policy aims to improve the environmental considerations built into the core delivery of goods, works and services that the Council procures. Having declared a climate emergency and published both the Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan, this policy supports the net zero targets of the Council and embeds environmental sustainability, such as increases to Surrey's biodiversity and reducing waste, into procurement decisions to lead to a greener future for Surrey and its residents. This policy will prepare prospective suppliers for the environmental considerations and expectations that will be implemented into the Council's future contracts. On average, SCC spends £890million through its procurement activities across an average of 6,300 vendors per annum; increasing environmental considerations across the Council's procurement activity presents a significant opportunity to influence a reduction in carbon emissions across the county and within SCC's own services.

As national policy and technology are rapidly changing, the policy must also be agile. Therefore, it is recommended that delegated authority be given to the Director of Procurement in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and the Cabinet Member for Environment, to enable the policy to evolve as needed. Review of the policy is expected to take place on an, at least, annual basis once approved or as required following local and national policy directives.

E. REVISION TO PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS

Cabinet is asked to approve amendments to the 2021 Procurement and Contract Standing Orders (PCSO's) which require updating due to changes in government legislation and internal practice.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet gives approval to amend summary table 2.7a in the 2021 PCSO's to update the current thresholds to ensure compliance with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) GPA (General Procurement Agreement).
2. That Cabinet agrees to change the requirement for further approvals of contract awards over the regulated threshold to only being required when the budget is exceeded by +5%, removing further approval if the recommended contract price is below the allocated budget.
3. That Cabinet agrees to utilise the flexibilities for sourcing the best route to market for below threshold Public Contracts Regulations (PCR) 2015 Light Touch Regime procurements (applicable to Health, Educational, Cultural and Social Care related service procurements).

4. That Cabinet delegates authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Resources for future changes to the regulatory thresholds specified in table 2.7a to be made in accordance with the WTO GPA thresholds without submitting to Cabinet / Council.
5. That Cabinet agrees to the removal of the requirement to register and maintain contracts over £5k and to increase this to £25k. This specifically relates to the uploading of contracts onto the procurement contracts database. Procurement is responsible for sourcing contracts over the value of £25K and therefore all contracts below this level are registered and maintained by the service. This amendment does not change any of the controls or the method/process of how we compliantly source the good/services.

Reasons for decisions:

- Care related services falling below the Light Touch Regime threshold have greater flexibility in procurement delivery methods whilst still ensuring value for money is secured.
- Providing delegated authority to amend table 2.7a in line with regulatory thresholds will negate the need for Cabinet / Council approval whenever they are updated.
- The revisions will ensure that the Procurement and Contract Standing Orders (PCSO's) are current and in line with the latest government legislation and internal practice to enable procurement efficiency and compliance.

F. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 2 July 2022 – 30 September 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 have been NO urgent decisions in the last three months.

**Tim Oliver, Leader of the Council
30 September 2022**

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