

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Denise Turner-Stewart

**PORTFOLIO:** Deputy Leader and Communities and Community Safety lead

The current focus is on supporting our residents and our communities through the cost-of-living crisis:

**Community Helpline:** Over the summer months the helpline provided health and welfare support to over 1,000 residents. Enquiries included requests for advice on debt and benefits, emergency benefits, foodbanks, and mental wellbeing. Increases were seen in calls relating to the impending rise in energy costs, and from parents requiring support with purchasing school uniforms. Working with colleagues in Finance and Comms, pages were updated and restructured in the financial support section of the health and welfare support web pages making it easier for residents to access information digitally.

**Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS):** Work is ongoing with partners to mitigate the impacts of the cost of living on communities, where possible, informed by valuable insights from infrastructure organisations like Surrey Community Action. The Local Resilience Forum has stood up the Welfare Cell to co-produce proactive interventions and responses, making the best use of our collective resources and learning from our work during Covid. The VCFS is also working to drive forward our equality, diversity, and inclusion ambitions for the county. For example, Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum's Minoritised Stakeholder Group, will be working with Surrey Fire and Rescue Service to deliver safety training with small and medium sized enterprises, landlords and households from minoritised communities, who historically have not been easy to engage with. An equality, diversity, and inclusion lead has been recruited for the VCFS to work with charities to help them improve their ways of operating and delivering services so the reach and offer in all communities is extended as fairly as possible.

**Homes for Ukraine Bus Pass Scheme:** Customer Service has processed over 1,000 applications for temporary bus passes for Ukrainian guests, under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. This will provide them with free travel on their chosen bus route whilst they settle into their new lives.

**Community Engagement:** Eleven Community Link Officers and an events team have been deployed across Surrey's Districts and Boroughs, bringing focus to key neighbourhoods within them. Over twenty-one events have been attended countywide with c. 2500 individual conversations held with residents. Feedback from residents has been resoundingly positive, with many happy to see the Council engaging with them in their neighbourhoods. We are providing a human face to what can seem like a very complex organisation. One resident wrote '*... my wife, children and I had some excellent conversations with your 'Make It Happen' team. They were open and receptive...It was very much appreciated*'. The team has supported County Councillors to hold conversations with residents in their local areas, undertaken community walkabouts, and started trialling different ways of reaching our residents and making local connections. An internal SharePoint site has been launched to share these approaches, events, resident insights, success stories, challenges, and learnings, and to build local internal networks around communities that improve our collaboration, shared knowledge and understanding and help us to empower our communities.

**Your Fund Surrey (YFS):** Two projects were awarded funding at Cabinet in September. Old Woking Community Centre received £982,389 towards creating a fully sustainable and accessible community centre by converting a large, inefficient 1960s building to a low carbon, low resources, low running cost community asset. Ripley Village Hall also received £586,396 funding towards rebuilding. YFS has now funded fourteen projects worth £3.91m with another eight projects expected to be taken for a decision by the end of the year. The process is continuing to be refined, especially for low value capital projects where a new fund for Members is to be launched. YFS are working with Community Link Officers in our more deprived areas to encourage and help applications.

**Trading Standards:** Work supporting victims of scams continues to be a priority and over the last few months almost £700,000 has been saved for the victims of scams by the Trading Standards service. Most recently the service has been returning money to residents, average age 81, which was being sent to scam "Clairvoyants" abroad. The scam, persuasively worded, targeted the most vulnerable, promised recipients huge sums of money, luck, love, and protection in exchange for sending cash. Risks from cheap, unsafe, illicit, or fake consumer products are also on the rise in the face of the cost-of-living crisis. In recent months, in externally funded work, the service inspected over 53,000 consumer products and stopped almost 3,000 unsafe products entering the market. It has also seized over 61,000 illicit cigarettes in joint operations with Buckinghamshire. Such products undermine legitimate business, have no tax paid on them, are a health risk to consumers, and create an increased fire safety risk due to their burning properties.

## DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

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

**Levelling Up Fund bid – East Woking Sustainable Transport Corridor:** Surrey County Council has bid for funding of circa £12m to deliver targeted improvements to walking, cycling, and bus infrastructure in eastern Woking; providing better connections to Woking town centre and the surrounding area. The improvements will form part of a wider network of active travel and sustainable transport measures, building on the existing walking and cycling networks, and a network of quality bus corridors, through upgrading existing infrastructure in the East Woking/Sheerwater area. The bid was submitted in August 2022 and a decision on funding is expected by the end of 2022.

**Insight profiles for 21 Key Neighbourhoods:** Insight profiles for the twenty-one key neighbourhoods identified in the Health and Well Being Strategy have been developed which give clear, useful data and metrics for these specific areas. This data will help to ensure that the right interventions are made, and appropriate services are provided to these areas, whilst giving the opportunity to measure outcomes. This data will provide insight that is coherent and consistent across all the different issues being worked on such as cost of living, levelling up, reducing inequalities etc. The profiles can be found on Surrey-i and include a [one page infographic for each area](#) with key information, and a more detailed pack with detailed insights and comparison with other areas in Surrey. The packs have been shared with partners and received positively. Development on these packs is ongoing.

**Local Area Coordinators and Community Link Officers:** Local Area Coordination has now been introduced in Surrey. This offers a unique type of individual one-to-one support for residents at a very local level. LACs work within a small geographic area and are embedded within the local community. They help people of all ages become stronger, healthier, happier, and be more connected with their community. Our first three LACs, based in Sheerwater & Maybury, Horley, and Hurst Green, are now actively taking introductions and walking alongside residents with a wide range of different support needs to help them realise their vision of a good life. Positive stories are already emerging about how this approach is complementing existing support and services. A new LAC is due to start in Old Dean/St Michaels shortly.

Following recent recruitment there is now a full complement of Community Link Officers (CLOs), with one CLO allocated to each District and Borough across the county. They are working alongside County Councillors in all areas, but with a priority focus on the twenty-one Key Neighbourhoods.

**EDI:** Progress towards achieving the EDI action plan continues across the workstreams with activity being monitored by the Programme Board. Highlights include: securing three properties for self-contained refuges for people fleeing domestic abuse for whom existing provision is unsuitable; the completion of the review of the current recruitment process and development of the associated action plan that will enable the Council to recruit a workforce reflective of the communities served; the development of a digital platform to support disabled jobseekers; the Reasonable Adjustments service; and making significant progress towards achieving improvements identified in the Cabinet Office review of web accessibility. Our new Programme Manager and Head of EDI have started their roles and are working collaboratively with others across Surrey County Council and partner organisations to further develop the SCC approach to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion.

The Staff Networks are continuing to thrive with the Women's, MEGA and DENIS networks holding successful and engaging events over the summer months. Inclusion Week (26 September- 2 October) saw the launch of the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Hub on SharePoint. Coming up in October are activities for Black History Month and Dyslexia Awareness Month, as well as the re-launch of the Reverse Mentoring Scheme.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Ayesha Azad

**PORTFOLIO:** Finance and Resources

**2022/23 Budget Update:** At Month 4, the Council is forecasting a deficit of £30m against Directorate revenue budgets. It is recognised that the economic climate and rising inflation provide significant challenges to the delivery of our services within available budget and the impacts are being monitored closely. Contingencies contained within the budget provide comfort that the budget remains balanced should inflationary pressures not be containable. Cabinet Members will continue to work with Directorates and Finance to mitigate the budget position. The Capital Programme forecast at M4 is £220.8m, a variance of £3m against budget. This is the net effect of acceleration in some areas and slippage against other schemes.

**2023/24 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2027/28:** Work on the 2023/24 budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2027/28 is well underway. There are a number of specific challenges faced by the Council in setting next year's budget, including high inflation, the impact of policy changes such as Social Care Reforms, continued demand for services, the cost-of-living crisis, and uncertainty on the Council's funding. We are therefore at a critical stage in our budget setting process and are looking to identify considerable efficiencies in order to balance the budget for next financial year. Informal briefings of Select Committees and engagement with opposition groups have taken place, with further briefings scheduled. A draft budget is due to be presented to Cabinet in November.

**Internal Audit:** Work completed to date shows the service is on target to deliver the annual plan against its Key Performance Indicator (90% completion by year-end), and that completed assignments are compliant with professional standards. A summary of work completed in the first quarter identifies 23 separate audit assignments, of which 5 received 'Substantial Assurance' (including 3 schools), 13 received 'Reasonable Assurance' (including 7 schools), 1 received 'Partial Assurance', and 4 were grant certification assignments. In addition, 7 irregularity investigations were completed in this quarter.

For the majority of this work Internal Audit has reported in their upper two categories of assurance, which suggests the Council's control environment remains stable and robust. The 1 Partial Assurance opinion given was in respect of Home to School Transport where remedial actions to improve controls and processes were agreed with management and for which a follow-up audit is forthcoming. Significant resource has been invested by Internal Audit in supporting the Council's ongoing Digital Business and Insights (DB&I) programme in the move from SAP to MySurrey processes. Internal Audit has advised the Programme Board on matters of risk and control within the proposed system processes over the course of this year and continues to support the programme as it moves towards the go-live stage.

**Procurement:** The team continues to lead delivery of c.250 projects across the Council, with due consideration given to Social Value and 'net zero carbon' ambitions, developing material to ensure the Council procures in an ethical and responsible way. The Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy was approved by Cabinet and SCC's Modern Slavery Statement; a requirement previously only for large private entities but recently extended to public sector bodies. This has been published on the SCC website and uploaded to the Government Platform. Procurement staff have received initial modern slavery training. Work will now focus on developing category specific approaches, further training and embedding the policies and processes, and on using Procurement's new programme management software to target areas where the greatest policy risks and opportunities exist. The new Contract Management Advisory Service within procurement is in development. A recent recruitment campaign filled all available posts, and the full scope of the pilot service is now being defined in readiness for launch in January 2023.

**Digital:** Further establishing our digital design capability continues to be a key focus. Designing in collaboration with officers, partners and residents enables us to utilise a blend of perspectives in the definition of target outcomes and a broader corporate review of design and change. Delivery continues to focus on transformation to improve service quality and resident experience whilst reducing cost. Examples of this work over the last three months include: a new Adult Social Care Online financial assessment chatbot to directly support the charging reform work, new Internet of Things initiatives for energy monitoring, the completion of the first development cycle for the replacement for Vulnerable People and Residents System (VPRS), which will be used by the Council and partners to keep our most vulnerable residents safe in an emergency.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Natalie Bramhall

**PORTFOLIO:** Property and Waste

### Capital Projects:

- Fire & Rescue Service - Designs underway for new stations at Lingfield and Chobham. Feasibility commenced for a major development at Wray Park, including a new station and Training Centre.
- Children's Homes - Homes at Epsom, Walton and Shaw Family Contact Centre, Woking are under construction. In Dorking planning submitted for Children's Home and Care Leavers Accommodation.
- Hubs - Design for Sunbury is in progress and public engagement scheduled for October. Weybridge progressing as a standalone project with design process underway for major refurbishment. Staines library design is progressing with requirements being gathered for additional services.
- SEND - 273 new pupil places have been delivered in September 2022 from a range of projects.
- Caterham Downs - The project which transformed a Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community (GRT) site back to Countryside will be awarded an International Green Apple Award on 21 November at the Houses of Parliament.
- Libraries Transformation - Design development underway for Epsom, Guildford, Redhill and Woking.
- Supported Independent Living - Planning applications have been submitted for Coveham Hostel, former Horley Library, and former Manor School.
- Extra Care Housing (DBFO) - Pond Meadow Ltd have submitted a full planning application. The competitive tender process is underway for Bentley, Brockhurst, Lakeside, Pinehurst, and Salisbury Road.

### Facilities Management:

- Transformation Programme - The Programme reached a significant milestone in September with the publication of the Supplier Questionnaire (SQ) for the new Hard and Soft services contract.
- Energy prices - Increased energy prices over the last 6 months are putting additional pressure on forecast revenue expenditure 2022/23. Our forward purchasing strategy has helped mitigate the scale of cost increases for both current and next financial year. There is a significant risk that energy costs will increase steeply in 2024/25. To reduce the impact an Energy Management Task Force has been created to identify opportunities to reduce consumption within our buildings.
- Reactive Works - There has been a significant increase in reactive works requests up >40% on last year. This is largely attributable to staff returning to working post COVID. This, combined with inflationary pressure on materials and labour, has resulted in pressure on revenue budgets. To address these challenges there has been renewed focus to prioritise essential reactive works for H&S and business continuity, whilst identifying remedial works that should be incorporated into the wider Capital Forward Maintenance Programme.

**Agile Office:** Our Agile Office Estate programme continues to deliver efficiencies and improvements to retained office estate and remains on track to deliver financial benefit of £2.2m in efficiencies by 2025/26, and revenue savings of over £400k. Plans are progressing for a new family contact facility at Woodhatch Place as well as a mobile vaccination centre, continuing to drive optimised utilisation of our corporate office estate.

**Assets and Disposals:** Focus is on revenue savings and generation, and to progress disposals to deliver capital receipts. The capital receipts programme 2022/23 continues to forecast approx. £54m of sales this financial year with over £40m already either completed (£9.5m) or exchanged (£31.5m). Marketing has commenced on the disposal of Coxbridge Farm, Farnham, which has planning consent for 320 housing units. Marketing has commenced on Consort House, Redhill on both a freehold or leasehold basis with staff relocated to Woodhatch Place. Looking at options to renegotiate leases reducing rental costs and lease vacant space for rental income

**Waste:** The Anaerobic Digestion plant has been commissioned and is now processing all Surrey's food waste. The gasification facility was awarded an Acceptance Certificate by the Independent Certifier in March 2022 and is now processing residual waste. Negotiations are ongoing to try to avoid a formal legal dispute with Suez. The Council is working with Suez to identify ways in which the Eco Park can deliver wider social and environmental value to residents, and to ensure better community engagement on the facility.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Matt Furniss

**PORTFOLIO:** Transport, Infrastructure and Growth

**LCWIP & Active Travel:** We were recently rated as a level 2 authority by Active Travel England, the highest of South East authorities, with a grant funding of £863k to be spent on improving our capability and ambition to deliver the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and active travel schemes. We have also delivered 6 active travel schemes delivered by end of September from tranche 2 schemes, remaining 2 are on track to be delivered within the next year. We have been consulting on the 4 schemes from tranche 3 with a value of £5m as well as working on detail designs.

The first instalment of the 'Surrey's Active Journeys' marketing campaign launched in late September for six weeks coinciding with World Car Free Day. The campaign signposts residents to walking and cycling resources, encouraging greater participation in active travel using communication insights from market research conducted in early 2022.

**Planning & Waste and Minerals Plan:** The Minerals and Waste Policy Team continue, as a matter of priority, to collate, organise, and analyse stakeholder feedback/ representations/ site nominations received in respect of the Issues and Options public consultation. An Issues and Options Consultation summary report will be produced and will provide detailed outcomes of the Issues and Options public consultation and will be used to inform the preparation of the Preferred Options (Draft Plan) public consultation which is set to take place in June 2023.

**Healthy Streets:** A report is set to go to October Cabinet which, if agreed, will endorse the adoption of the Healthy Streets for Surrey guide as County Council policy for the design of all new streets and public realm schemes in the County, while encouraging the Districts and Boroughs to do the same, resulting in higher quality development.

**SIP:** The SIP Phase 3 update is due to Cabinet in November and will outline the next tranche of schemes subject to Cabinet approval and final business case being signed off by the Capital Programme Panel.

**One Surrey Growth Board:** The One Surrey Growth Board met in September. The meeting focused on the development of the Surrey Skills Plan but also discussed updates on the other key challenges agreed by the Board in June. This included consideration for housing affordability, infrastructure and spatial constraints, and cluster and innovation work.

**Surrey Skills Plan:** A Skills Plan is under development which focuses on the needs of businesses and how the skills system can be more responsive to employer needs. The priorities for action identified through the report include enhancing collaboration between Surrey businesses, schools, anchor institutions, and skills providers, and supporting more people to access sustainable employment through a lifetime of learning. Some of the actions will be progressed by SCC directly, whilst a majority will require partnership work and effort from across the whole skills system. A draft of the Skills Plan will be discussed at Cabinet on 25 October 2022.

**Innovation Programme Update:** Stakeholders from across SCC, the Business Leaders' Forum, Surrey Universities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, Innovate UK, and District and Boroughs came together in September to form a cross-organisational working group to drive forward the Cluster and Innovation workstream and consider ways to raise Surrey's profile at a national and international level as a hub for innovation. Short term priorities for the group include the mapping of cluster activity and coordinating existing and future cluster development initiatives.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Kevin Deanus

**PORTFOLIO:** Highways and Community Resilience

**River Thames Scheme:** The River Thames Scheme (RTS) will be launching a public consultation in November. Since the previous consultation in 2016, the RTS has changed with the omission of Channel 1. It has evolved into more of an integrated scheme which responds to the challenges of flooding; creating more access to green open spaces and sustainable travel routes, in addition to encouraging inclusive economic growth, increasing biodiversity and responding to the dual challenges of climate change and nature recovery. During the forthcoming public consultation, the RTS will host a number of events across the route of the Scheme for residents, communities, and stakeholders to 'drop in', look at the proposals, talk with the team delivering the Scheme and ultimately leave their feedback. Pre-consultation, the RTS engagement team will be out meeting with communities and stakeholders to raise awareness of the Scheme and the coming consultation.

**Flood Risk Management:** In August and September, several thunderstorms brought heavy rainfall across much of Surrey causing widespread disruption due to surface water flooding. In total we received 68 reports of property flooding, of which 21 related to properties suffering internal flooding and 47 external. The Flood and Climate Resilience Team has contacted affected residents and completed a number of investigations as a result. We are continuing to work through the remaining cases. In addition to working with Surrey Highways, and District and Borough partners, we are working with the Environment Agency to understand the flooding of 10 properties in a particular incident in Haslemere.

The Flood and Climate Resilience Team are continuing to fit Property Flood Resilience measures to homes at risk of flooding in the Caterham on the Hill area. In 2016, 96 properties were flooded from surface water following an intense downpour. SCC is leading a project to survey and fit measures designed to make properties more resilient to flooding. This is being done in partnership with the London Borough of Croydon, the Environment Agency, Tandridge District Council, Thames Water, the local Flood Action Group, and delivery partner Whitehouse Construction. 205 properties have been included in the scheme of which 143 have expressed an interest. 128 of these have had surveys with 41 properties fitted with the measures so far.

**Military Covenant and Community Resilience:** On Wednesday 22 June, the Chair of Surrey County Council hosted a successful Reserves Day event at Woodhatch Place attended by the Deputy Commander (Reserves) for 11 Security Force Assistance Brigade Col Mark Siebenaller, along with reservists employed by Surrey County Council, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, Surrey Police, and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council. The Council also welcomed soldiers from 4 Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment who set up a stand in Woodhatch Place reception to enable colleagues to learn more about what the reserves do.

The Surrey Team has been preparing for the Armed Forces Act 2021 which is due to come into force in late autumn; which will place a 'legal duty' on local authorities to have 'due regard' for the Armed Forces community in the provision of education, housing and homelessness and healthcare services. In preparation Surrey Officers have been providing training to frontline staff and Councillors across the county as part of the wider Forces Connect funded project.

The Forces Connect App, which is managed by SCC continues to go from strength to strength with twenty-seven regions in England on the app which now has over 18,500 downloads. This number is expected to continue to grow with NHS Scotland coming onboard as well as the app being promoted to all Royal Naval staff through their portal. Another area of focus for the team is to work with partners to encourage GP surgeries to become accredited as Veteran Friendly. To date, only eight Surrey surgeries have signed up and officers are working with staff at Surrey Heartlands and Ashford and St Peters Hospitals Trust to increase this.

**Surrey Prepared:** They have been promoting resilience messaging through attendance at Surrey Pride and the Surrey Fire Service Open Day. Engagement from members of the public was very positive, who welcomed messaging around what to do and who to contact in an emergency, the benefits of 'Message in a Bottle' and the importance of signing up to the Priority Services Register. During late summer Surrey Prepared organised three successful community first aid training sessions run by British Red Cross in Surrey Fire Stations attended by over 40 people and following further requests officers will look to schedule additional sessions.

## DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Jordan Beech

**PORTFOLIO:** Highways

**LED rollout:** 77,986 (88%) of streetlights have now been converted to LED. Our supply chain continues to be affected by the global shortage of electronic components. We are monitoring the situation and updating our programmes accordingly. If we can maintain the supply, we are confident the project will be completed on schedule. Officers are also investigating opportunities to further reduce electricity consumption.

**Road and Pavement Programme Update:** We are now six months into our Term Maintenance Contract with Ringway and working our way through this year's programme delivery. We have already completed a number of planned maintenance schemes for roads and pavements, with some good successes with our concrete and footway programmes and are working hard with Ringway and their supply chain to programme and deliver the rest of our very large programmes for this financial year, with approximately 600 schemes in total for the year. In addition to this year's delivery, our Engineers will soon be starting the Walk Talk Build process to design next year's planned maintenance programmes, ready for programming from April onwards. Next year could potentially see double the size of programme, with the rest of the additional funding.

**Parking Enforcement:** We are in the middle of a procurement process for a Countywide parking enforcement and moving traffic violations contract, with Cabinet due to receive a recommendation at their December meeting. Officer discussions are ongoing between the County Council and District and Boroughs, as we collectively work to support staff directly impacted and understand any local conditions or arrangements our incoming contractor will need to be aware of. A clear objective of the project is to ensure a smooth transition from the current to the new arrangements, which results in our residents benefitting from high service levels and a new enforcement service that is provided in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

**Environmental Maintenance:** Preparations are ongoing to ensure continuity of service from April next year when the remaining eight agency agreements with the Districts and Boroughs (D&Bs) expire. Officers are working closely with colleagues in the D&Bs to ensure staff are supported, accurate schedules of cutting/spraying areas are provided and that any local conditions are understood. Contractors will be engaged, and it is intended that from April the whole county benefits from the standard number of cuts but also there is an increasing focus on biodiversity and the wider greener futures aspirations.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Marisa Heath

**PORTFOLIO:** Environment

**Energy Projects:** The Green Homes Grant LAD2 scheme was completed in the summer with 130 low income homes received free energy saving and renewable energy measures at the approximate value of £10k per home. The Sustainable Warmth programme, which is the next phase of Government funding, was launched on 3 October and will run until end of March 2023. Surrey County Council are the lead authority for the scheme on behalf of the Surrey consortium to which a total grant of £12m has been allocated.

The Solar Together scheme which offers subsidised solar PV to able to pay home owners has now been completed. Through the scheme a total of 5.6MW of solar was installed, which is equivalent to 50% of Surrey's installed solar capacity. The scheme leveraged around £8M private investment in low carbon technologies. The LoCASE programme, which offers grants to SME businesses for energy efficiency and decarbonisation measure is continuing to gain momentum. To date 67 SMEs have received funding of £477k which will result in annual energy savings of over £300,000 and annual carbon savings of 321tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

**Decarbonising our own estate and schools:** The Council is preparing to deliver the scheme to install energy efficiency measures and solar in the 15 buildings to which Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding (PSDS) of £2.65m was awarded. The opportunity to bid for the next phase of PSDS funding is expected to open imminently and the Council has identified and developed a bid for a further 30 buildings. If successful the funding will be available from next year. The design of the solar canopy at Woodhatch has needed to be changed to allow for access requirements. This has caused a small delay as an amendment is required to the Planning application. It is expected that the installation will be completed before the end of the year. Officers are continuing to develop roof mounted solar and solar farm schemes.

**Finance:** Officers are continuing to develop the Greener Futures Finance Strategy, which will set out our approach to funding the Climate Change Delivery Plan by leveraging grant funding and private and community investment. This Strategy will be taken to Cabinet in the Spring. New finance mechanisms that we are seeking to develop include:

- An offer to decarbonise schools, focusing initial on solar PV "rent a roof" scheme.
- Exploring the development of a 'rent a roof' solar PV scheme for commercial, industrial, and agricultural buildings in order to generate income streams.
- Pilot finance platform to match carbon reduction projects to private sector investment opportunities.
- Options for loans or municipal bonds to overcome the high up-front capital costs of low carbon measures.

**M25 J10 Wisley and Ockham:** National Highways have begun improvement works to the junction including a large scale restoration of heathland and the UK's widest green bridge. A briefing was circulated to all members on 30 September.

**Tice Meadow:** On 29 September I attended the official handover of saw the official handover of Tice's Meadow Nature Reserve to Surrey County Council safeguarding this much-loved wildlife haven on the outskirts of Farnham. It was celebrated with all six Councils involved in the purchase and representatives from Hanson planting a commemorative tree. [Local authorities to protect much loved nature reserve | Surrey News \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](#)

**Public Rights of Way:** The Council's Traffic Regulation Order policy has been reviewed and a paper will be presented to Cabinet in November with a recommendation for a new policy on how Byways open to all traffic are managed. A paper with proposed changes to decision making on changes to rights of way will be presented to the Council.

**Climate Change Adaption:** This summer we have seen the problems caused by heatwaves across the county. Heat Impacts are one of the range of climate impacts that will be addressed in the Surrey Climate Change Adaptation Strategy that is under development (due for completion in early 2023). As with all of the climate risks (floods, droughts, extreme temperatures, and indirect impacts) the council will need to assess the risks. As an organisation we can guide development in the region to ensure new builds, and new developments are designed fit for a future climate. Integration is emerging between short-term emergency response teams, and the longer-term resilience and adaptation responses required.



## DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Paul Deach

**PORTFOLIO:** Environment

**Norbury Park:** The Vision for Norbury Park will be published this month. Last month the Norbury Park Forum considered issues around rights of way in advance of the consideration of a selection of promoted trails in February. Refurbishment works at the sawmill are now complete enabling the Council's Youth Teams to operate the workshop, providing training and vital links to woodland management on the site.

**Ash Die Back works:** Ash Die back has affected large parts of the Council's Countryside Estate. Following a comprehensive survey of the trees affected, contractors are being engaged to carry out initial works. Consultation with local residents has begun with a second presentation to the Norbury Park Forum last month and an on-site consultation event planned for November.

**Basingstoke Canal:** Consultants have been engaged to secure a leisure operator at Lock Cottage at Deepcut Lock. Water levels have been extremely low on the canal this summer as a result of the drought but are now slowly starting to increase. The Basingstoke Canal Authority are providing up to date information on how this impacts navigation.

The Canal Watch project on the Basingstoke Canal has been given an award by the Home Office. The team at the Basingstoke Canal Authority, especially Fiona Shipp, have been part of a multiagency approach to tackling indecent assaults on the canal through the use of CCTV and signage, removal of scrub and the purchase of 4 e-bikes for police and voluntary patrols. The project is now being put forward for an international award.

**Newlands Corner:** Helyn Clack, Chair of Surrey County Council, officially opened Newlands Corner's Discovery Centre last month at a lunch with local dignitaries and school children. The visitor improvements include a new natural play area, a new wildlife garden, additional seating, refurbished toilets, and water fountain. The main part of the car park has been resurfaced and reorientated to maximise the view and support wider access. [New facilities rejuvenate iconic countryside site | Surrey News \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](#)

**The Downs, Caterham:** Refurbishment works carried out at the Downs in Caterham by SCC in partnership with contractors has been awarded an International Green Apple Award in recognition of its contribution to conservation of chalk downland habitats.

**Tree Planting:** The team have secured a second round of funding from the Forestry Commission's Treescapes Fund. This will provide just under £300,000 towards the Council's tree planting target this winter. This is alongside projects to support planting in urban areas by volunteers and schools. [Funding secured for more tree planting in Surrey giving much needed boost for nature | Surrey News \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](#)

**Flood Risk Management:** Part of the work of updating the local flood risk management strategy is exploiting the collective benefits of our schemes. The Horsell Common project is part of the Surrey Flood Alleviation Programme. The primary focus is on reducing flood risk to 20 properties in the centre of Woking through the creation of three attenuation ponds. By using a nature-based approach these wetland areas will improve biodiversity through diverse habitat creation. The design also increases public accessibility to the area through the creation of footpaths and boardwalks.

**Surrey's Farms:** Surrey's Land and Property Department have asked the service to consider how the Council's farms could support corporate objectives, especially the Climate Change Delivery Plan and the One Surrey Growth Plan. An approach has been proposed and the two departments are now collaborating to establish condition surveys, baseline data and options to invest in the estate's assets.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Mark Nuti

**PORTFOLIO:** Adults and Health

**Adult Social Care (ASC) Charging and Fair Cost of Care Reforms:** Cabinet approved up to £2.9m of the Budget Equalisation Reserve in 22/23 to facilitate implementation of ASC reforms, above government funding. The first meeting of the programme board was held on 9 September. Recruitment to posts to support implementation is underway. We are analysing and validating cost of care returns from providers to enable fair rates to be calculated for return to DHSC by 14 October, with a report to Cabinet in November. We continue to work with similar local authorities to assess the financial impacts of the reforms, lobby government and explore opportunities to work together.

**CQC Assurance:** An initial meeting of the programme board (Care Quality Commission CQC Assurance) was held on 9 September. In addition to our own preparatory work, we continue to engage with the CQC, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Local Government Association in readiness for the release of the assurance framework in the Autumn. Once the framework is released, we will undertake a departmental self-assessment to identify our strengths and areas for improvement and develop an action plan. A business case is being prepared should additional resources be needed to prepare for future assurance and inspection.

**Delivering the Accommodation with Care and Support Strategy:** The contract for delivering affordable Extra Care Housing (ECH) in Pond Meadow, Guildford has been awarded to Pond Meadow Ltd. The support and care contract will be tendered separately. Pond Meadow Ltd submitted their detailed planning application to the Guildford Borough Council Planning Authority in September 2022. There is a tender underway to identify a strategic partner to deliver affordable ECH at a further five sites. We continue to progress delivery plans for Supported Independent Living (SIL) and are evaluating the tender submissions to be included in the new Approved Provider List (APL) for SIL. Contracts through the APL will commence at the start of 2023.

**Discharge to Assess:** A model is in place across Surrey supporting pathway one, two and three discharges from the acute hospitals. We continue to evaluate the outcomes being achieved for residents within a sustainable financial arrangement. On 22 September, the government announced £500m funding to help hospitals discharge patients through the winter period Oct 2022 – Mar 2023. We are waiting for details on what this will mean and how the funding will be allocated across Integrated Care Systems.

**Senior Management Team Functional review:** The Joint Executive Director Adult Social Care and Integrated Commissioning, Liz Bruce is making changes to the senior management team in ASC to establish a more balanced line management structure.

**Public Health:** Strategic oversight of the Surrey Health and wellbeing strategy continues with the latest summary of delivery across different partners available via the quarterly highlight reports at <https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/about/highlight-reports>.

Surrey Index metrics will be refreshed and published in November. Strategies that are in development which we are either leading on or are a key partner in include: Children and Young Peoples Emotional Wellbeing, Mental Health, and an update on Suicide Prevention. Some further highlights of the Public Health team objectives include:

- Within our commissioned services the new contract for Sexual Health services will begin on 1 October.
- The substance misuse treatment plan was accepted by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities which secures additional funding for use over the next three years to deliver on the 10-year national drugs strategy: 'From harm to hope'.
- Whilst we maintain our oversight of COVID through our health protection function this is as part of the wider work and input on seasonal health and winter planning.
- The rolling process of updating the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment has started with the publication of updated "Surrey context: People and Place" chapter now live and additional chapters, for example mental health will be online during the next few months.
- The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment that was delayed nationally during COVID has been updated and will be published on 1 October.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Clare Curran

**PORTFOLIO:** Education and Learning

**New Education and Learning Portfolio:** I would like to start this update by saying how pleased I am to be taking over the Education and Learning Cabinet portfolio. My priorities as Cabinet Member will be to drive a lifetime of learning strategy for Surrey, focussing on skills and education from the very early years through to adulthood. There is much we can do as a Council to ensure that every young person, including care leavers, or those with additional needs or a disability progresses well into employment with skills that match the needs of our local businesses and communities. My aim is to continue to build strong relationships with our early years' providers, our whole range of schools and our colleges in Surrey as they are all such important partners in preparing young people for their futures.

**Improving communication with parents and stakeholders:** In a large county such as Surrey, good communication with our many parents and stakeholders can be challenging. It is vital, though, in ensuring that we are able to co-create the outcomes we want for our children and young people. I am committed to renewing our communications, through direct meetings and engagement sessions, surveys and research and listening to feedback, compliments, and complaints. Only when we understand the lived experiences of all our children and their families are we able to agree what we need to focus on so that no child is left behind.

**Update on 'SEND' improvement work and our Safety Valve agreement:** As part of the refresh of our Additional Needs and Disabilities Strategy taking place this Autumn, over 1000 parents and carers responded to our survey, relating to the experiences of over 1,300 children and young people with additional needs and disabilities. 52% were satisfied or very satisfied with the support their children received for their additional needs, 32% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied, and 16% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. This indicates that our 'SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities)' improvement work is having an impact, however there is clearly more to do.

This academic year, we are prioritising improved information and guidance, strengthened statutory assessment and decision-making, development of schools' specialist support, the Team Around the School pilot, development of the Joint Commissioning Strategy, expansion of Alternative Provision and specialist places through the capital programme and enhanced pathways into adulthood. I receive regular updates on Surrey's Safety Valve agreement which is delivering a £100m contribution from the Department for Education to our SEND improvement plans. It is on track for delivering both financial sustainability by 2027 as well as the ambitious areas of service improvement being targeted.

**Home to School Travel Assistance:** On behalf of the Council, I would like to sincerely apologise to anyone experiencing delays with recent home to school travel assistance applications. I know many Members have been contacted by concerned parents in their division. We are experiencing a 20% increase in applications in comparison to 2021 and are working hard to process these as quickly as possible. As with many services nationally we are dealing with complex and significant challenges, particularly with driver shortages in some areas. We have taken urgent steps to address this by increasing internal staffing resources to process applications and offering temporary financial allowances to enable families to make alternative arrangements themselves, where possible. These measures are improving the situation for families, with 711 applications processed since 1st August 2022 and transport provided to 471 eligible children since 5th September

**Future School Visits:** Finally, in my new Cabinet role, I am looking forward to visiting our schools and I would be interested to hear from any members who are Governors and would like to invite me to visit.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Sinead Mooney

**PORTFOLIO:** Children and Families

**New Children and Families Portfolio:** I would like to say how pleased I am to have taken on my new role as Cabinet Member for Children and Families, as well as continuing my work on Equalities, Diversity, and Inclusion, (in partnership with the Deputy Cabinet Member for Levelling Up) and the development of a partnership led accommodation, housing, and homes strategy.

**Achieving Excellence Programme:** Our improvement work across Children's Services continues at pace following the inspection this year. It was good to have the acknowledgement from Ofsted of all the positive changes made already but we know we still have more to do. We are in a new phase of improvement - now known by a title that reflects our ambition - 'Achieving Excellence' for Surrey's children and families. We know it's likely to be 2-3 years until Ofsted return for a full inspection, but it's important that we keep improving practice for our residents and so we've setup an Achieving Excellence Improvement Board to support and oversee our ambitious improvement programme. There are a handful of key practice areas that were highlighted by Ofsted this year that we need to address as a priority but that's just a small part of the ambitious improvement plan. A few examples of the important projects within our Achieving Excellence programme include:

- Developing a reunification framework for children in care, supporting them to return home with extra help for them and their families.
- Reviewing our engagement with partners and residents at the front door to Children's Social Care, working towards earlier intervention and ensuring we are focused on meeting the needs of children and families.
- Improving the recruitment and retention of social work staff so that our residents are supported by skilled and experienced practitioners with the time available to meet their needs.
- Addressing placement sufficiency in the local area and improving our provision to ensure that Surrey children can live in Surrey homes.

**Budget:** At the end of July, Children, Families and Lifelong Learning were predicting a £22.5m overspend:

- £15m projected overspend on Home to School Travel Assistance because of the rapid increase in demand, with an expected 9% increase in pupil numbers from September, which only came to light after the 2022/23 budget setting process was complete. These demand pressures are compounded by volatility in fuel prices which remains a significant risk, and other inflationary pressures. In addition, providers can "hand back" routes leading to higher costs in the tender process. This projection includes the changes from the implementation of the Council's new transport policy. A Task & Finish Group has been set up to drive weekly progress, ensure clear action plans and be accountable in this area.
- £2.6m overspend on External Looked After Children (LAC) placements – due to increased numbers of LAC since last year and the full year effect of some high-cost placements which came in late March.
- £2.5m overspend on Children with Disabilities (CWD) Care - this is a residual pressure from 2021/22 due to high levels of demand for direct payments and personal support.
- £1.6m overspend relating to social work staffing – this relates to the double funding of the assessed and supported year in employment (ASYE) social work cohort where agency staff are used for three months while ASYE's gradually build up their caseload. There are also additional staffing costs in fostering due to the level of agency staff.
- £0.8m overspend for Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers (UASC) – We hoped to make savings of £1.1m in this area by lobbying for additional funding, but it has not been possible to deliver the full amount anticipated.

I recognise the difficulties being faced by the service, because of increasing demand against a background of inflation and staffing pressures and will be working closely with them to try and identify savings and efficiencies to ensure that these increased costs can be mitigated before the end of the financial year.

**Accommodation, Housing and Homes Strategy:** Economic, health and community drivers have led to the County Council facilitating a partnership approach to the creation of an Accommodation, Housing and Homes Strategy for Surrey; work has progressed well and through thorough research and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders a baseline assessment has been undertaken. This will form the basis for further engagement through a series of deliberative workshops during the Autumn, as the strategic lobbying proposals and priorities are collectively determined. A further report will come to Cabinet early in the New Year.

## DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Maureen Attewell

**PORTFOLIO:** Children and Families

**Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Partnership:** The VAWG Partnership Strategy has been developed over the past six months with consultation and input from a range of partners, including a consultation exercise conducted through the East Surrey Domestic Abuse Service (ESDAS) to gather the views and experiences of survivors of these crimes.

The strategy itself is based on four key pillars which build upon existing work being carried out by partners:

- **Prepare** - To develop a stronger system which can respond to VAWG in Surrey
- **Prevent** - To prioritise prevention through education and information campaigns
- **Protect** - To support victims and survivors through the criminal justice system and to provide safe accommodation for them
- **Pursue** - To improve the pursuit of perpetrators and hold them to account

A key principle of the strategy is to improve communication and coordination between partners. It is essential that residents in Surrey have trust and confidence in our partnership and its services. This requires a consistent approach from first contact or identification of these crimes, through the criminal justice and recovery process.

The VAWG Partnership has an Executive Group that is responsible for the strategic oversight of the partnership and will be responsible for coordinating funding, ensuring partners act in line with the objectives of the strategy, and advising and supporting partners. They met recently to ratify the group's terms of reference, agree membership of the group (with additional representation from District and Borough colleagues) and to approve the VAWG partnership strategy.

As part of this approach the County Council will continue to play a leading role in funding refuge and outreach providers, as well as supporting the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in submitting bids for the acquisition of further funding for specialist services. Following approval of the strategy by the partner organisations, the strategy will be launched on 25 November 2022 to coincide with the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls and the beginning of the 16 days of activism.

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