

County Council Meeting – 13 December 2022

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 25 October 2022 and 29 November 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 18. 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 12 December 2022).

For members of the public all non-confidential reports are available on the web site (www.surreycc.gov.uk) or on request from Democratic Services.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS

A. COORDINATED ADMISSIONS SCHEME FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

That Cabinet *recommends* that the County Council approve that the coordinated admissions scheme that will apply to all schools for 2024 (as set out in the Cabinet report from 29 November 2022)

Reasons for Decisions:

- The coordinated admissions scheme for 2024 is essentially the same as 2023 with dates updated
- The coordinated admissions scheme will enable the County Council to meet its statutory duties regarding school admissions
- The coordinated admissions scheme is working well
- The Local Authority has a statutory duty to publish its coordinated admissions scheme for 2024 by 1 January 2023
- The proposed scheme meets the statutory requirements of the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Coordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 and the School Admissions Code

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

At its meeting on 25 October 2022 Cabinet considered:

B. COUNTY DEAL FOR SURREY

This report provided an update on the progress made since April 2022 on a county deal for Surrey. It outlines how partners and key stakeholders had actively engaged in the development stage of the County Deal and goes into further detail about the core set of proposals being recommended for inclusion in the County Deal for Surrey. In addition, it outlines the intentions to take these proposals

forward for negotiation with Government subject to when the council is formally asked to begin discussions with government.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet note the leading role the council has taken to engage with partners and key stakeholders to develop initial draft proposals for negotiation with Government on a County Deal for Surrey.
2. That Cabinet approve the initial draft core set of proposals for negotiation with Government for inclusion in a County Deal for Surrey, that have been developed in line with Level 2 of the Government's Levelling Up Devolution Framework.
3. That Cabinet endorse the approach to begin preparations for the integration of Surrey-wide LEP functions into a County Deal, subject to the outcome of negotiations with Government
4. That Cabinet endorse the approach to begin exploring appropriate governance arrangements for each of the "core" proposals in collaboration with the relevant Surrey's strategic partnership boards and other relevant key stakeholders.
5. That Cabinet approve the approach to negotiations with Government, noting that the initial draft proposals are likely to be subject to change during negotiations and that any final County Deal for Surrey deal will be brought to Cabinet and Full Council for approval.

Reasons for decisions:

The Government's Levelling Up White Paper presents a rare opportunity for the council to pursue a devolution deal for Surrey that will bring new powers, freedoms and flexibilities, better enabling the council to deliver for residents against the 2030 Community Vision, the council's four strategic priorities (Growing a sustainable economy; Tackling health inequality; Enabling a greener future; and Empowering communities), and work towards the overarching ambition of No One Left Behind.

C. A SKILLS PLAN FOR SURREY

This report introduced the Skills Plan for Surrey, which is being produced with a focus on the role that skills development has in securing economic and inclusion outcomes across the county. Within 'Surrey's Economic Future,' the Economic Strategy approved by Cabinet in December 2020, several strategic priorities are reliant on both a skilled workforce and on the role skills play in enabling an inclusive economy. The 'Skills Plan for Surrey' builds out from these priorities and sets out Surrey's skills and recruitment related objectives.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet endorse the emerging outcomes and priorities of the Skills Plan for Surrey and recognise its role in relation to the forthcoming 'Lifetime of Learning' strategy.

Reasons for decisions:

The Skills Plan for Surrey sets out the challenges and opportunities facing the Surrey economy in terms of recruitment and skills. Due to the combination of factors impacting the Surrey labour market which have seen substantial increases in demand for people and skills against a decreasing level of supply, action is required by both Surrey County Council and a wide range of partners, including businesses and training providers, to positively impact this agenda. Through doing so, we can help to support economic growth and provide greater opportunities for Surrey's residents, supporting the principle of leaving no one behind.

D. HEALTHY STREETS FOR SURREY DESIGN GUIDE

This report provided Cabinet with an update on the development of the Healthy Streets for Surrey design guide and sought Cabinet's endorsement of the guidance and its adoption as County Council policy. The refreshed approach to street design will support active travel and movement, seek to enrich the County's biodiversity and to support happy, healthy and sustainable lives. In doing so, this work will help to deliver the 'tackling health inequality' and 'enabling a greener future' dial up areas.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet endorse the Healthy Streets for Surrey guide.
2. That Cabinet agree adoption of the guide as County Council policy for the design of streets in all new developments in the County.
3. That Cabinet agree to apply the approach to all County Council public realm schemes.
4. That Cabinet strongly recommends the guidance to the Boroughs and Districts.
5. That Cabinet delegates any amendments to the policy to the Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth and the Executive Director for Environment, Transport and Infrastructure.

Reasons for decisions:

Surrey County Council has a significant role in the design and implementation of new development, particularly in respect of streets specifically and transportation in general. As such, the County Council as the local Highway Authority advises the county's Boroughs and Districts on the transportation implications of applications for planning permission. The Surrey Street Design Guide, 'Healthy Streets for Surrey,' is being produced in order to assist developers, the Boroughs and Districts and the community to understand what standards the County Council will be seeking when considering proposals. The aim is to deliver high quality, attractive, safe, accessible and sustainable development and well-designed places.

At its meeting on 29 November 2022 Cabinet considered:

E. RESPONDING TO THE RISING COST OF LIVING IN SURREY

The report provided an update on the rising cost of living situation nationally, as well as a review of local data showing the emerging picture across Surrey. It outlined work by Surrey County Council, along with partners and key stakeholders, that is already underway to support households facing financial hardship. The report also set out the proposed strategic approach to the rising cost of living over the short to medium term, including initiatives that have been identified to provide additional support to the most vulnerable.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet note the emerging insights around the rising cost of living in Surrey, and the rapidly evolving national context.
2. That Cabinet note the potential severity of the evolving situation and the possible impact for local communities, staff and business continuity.
3. That Cabinet note the financial investment made to date and the council's intention to continue to support residents, communities and partners through further financial investment where possible, whilst being mindful of the increasing financial pressures on the council.
4. That Cabinet endorse the developing response to the rising cost of living, both internally and with partners, and the planned mitigations to manage risks to resident welfare, staff wellbeing, and service capacity and continuity.
5. That Cabinet agree that the council will work with other councils and national organisations such as the LGA and the County Council's Network to engage with Government on matters of importance relating to cost of living, including to further support provision targeted at vulnerable households to improve thermal insulation and reduce fuel poverty.

Reasons for decisions:

The rising cost of living has the potential to affect many of Surrey's residents including, but not limited to, those already experiencing financial hardship. The council's response to the situation has been designed to support residents and staff, whilst being mindful of the council's own financial situation.

F. ADULT SOCIAL CARE STRATEGY FOR PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITY AND SENSORY IMPAIRMENT 2022 - 2027

The report set out Surrey County Council's new strategy for people with physical disabilities and/or sensory impairments 2022 – 2027. It develops and articulates a shared understanding, vision, and action plan of how we will respond to the needs of people with a physical disability and/or sensory impairment. The strategy will enable people to access the right health and social care at the right time in the right place that helps them to remain independent, achieve their potential and ensures nobody is left behind.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet endorse the new strategy for people with physical disability and/or sensory impairment.
2. That Cabinet agrees to establishing a Disability Partnership Board which will be co-led by people with lived experience of physical disabilities and sensory impairments and will oversee the development of the different work streams needed to achieve the strategy and strategy action plan.

Reasons for decisions:

The recommendations have been made to ensure that together with our system partners we improve outcomes, services, and support for people in Surrey with a wide range of physical disabilities and/or sensory impairments.

G. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER POLICY

Cabinet was asked to approve a new Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) policy which set out how the Council will manage BOATs in the future including the use of Traffic Regulation Order (TROs).

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet agree to remove the SCC Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) Policy for byways open to all traffic (BOATs) on Public Rights of Way.
2. That Cabinet agree the new policy which sets out how the Council will manage BOATs in the future including the use of TROs.

Reasons for Decisions:

Surrey County Councils current Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) Policy for Byways Open to All Traffic (“BOATs”) on Public Rights of Way is under review. The current policy does not make reference to all the grounds on which a TRO can be made. Therefore, the current policy is being removed and a new policy has been drafted for agreement by Cabinet.

H. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 1 October 2022 – 2 December 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
2 December 2022**