

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL'S SELECT COMMITTEES**SCRUTINY OF:**

- Surrey Strategy for Accommodation, Housing and Homes

Date Considered: 5 December 2022**Select Committee: Communities, Environment and Highways**Surrey Strategy for Accommodation, Housing and Homes

As part of its overview and scrutiny role, Community, Environment and Highways Select Committee received a report on Surrey Strategy for Accommodation, Housing and Homes.

The report was presented by Cabinet Member for Children and Families and Executive Director of Prosperity, Partnerships and Growth.

In considering the report, the Select Committee, inter alia, noted:

1. The Surrey-wide strategy was a response to several drivers and pressures identified by different agencies.
2. Social care perspectives were significant drivers in the development of this countywide strategy with the main reason for the strategy being with the economic, workforce, social care and public health aspects currently being experienced.
3. Possibility to consider opportunities where areas of land owned by multiple partners that did not fall in the district or borough remit. This type of element would benefit districts and boroughs housing waiting lists and housing plan targets without undermining their sovereignty with housing or the planning process.
4. The strategy had not yet been written and would include a response to the baseline assessment and feedback provided (including any

concerns by districts and boroughs) at a recent housing meeting which had included all the districts and boroughs – the statutory functions of the districts and boroughs would not be affected.

5. It was not intended to be a strategy for the Surrey County Council to deliver alone, rather a call to action on strategic countrywide issues that partners could decide to enact or not. The County Council would lead the call to action in its stewardship role to champion housing in Surrey within the context currently played by the districts and boroughs.

After detailed discussion and noting the responses to its key lines of enquiry, the Select Committee agreed the following recommendations for Cabinet to consider.

RESOLVED (Stephen Cooksey and John Furey abstained):

The Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee:

1. Recognises that the County Council can make a positive contribution to the many and diverse challenges relating to housing and therefore supports the principle of establishing a comprehensive Surrey-wide housing strategy founded on mutual respect and common interests of all partners.
2. Is concerned that, while no individual prospective partner should wield a 'veto' in the process, the County's 11 District and Borough Council Leaders have expressed serious concerns and therefore welcomes the Cabinet Member's i) pledge to reflect on and take further into account the views of the District and Borough Council Leaders, as expressed by Councillor Cooksey, and ii) offer to continue to engage with those Councils.
3. Urges the early development of key performance indicators to determine whether the high ambitions and expectations arising from the Strategy as listed in paragraph 14 of the report are realistic.

4. Requests that recommendation bullet points 2 & 3 above are addressed before a final strategy to Cabinet is presented.

John O'Reilly

Chairman of the Community, Environment & Highways Select Committee

Surrey County Council

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