

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL'S SELECT COMMITTEES

SCRUTINY OF:

- **DELIVERING IN PARTNERSHIP: TOWNS – THE NEXT PHASE**

Date Considered: 8 February 2023

Select Committee: Communities, Environment and Highways

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As part of regular scrutiny and monitoring process, Community, Environment and Highways Select Committee received a report on 'Delivering in Partnership: Towns – The Next Phase' to seek the Committee's views and contribution to the next phase of the work, including the suggested priority towns for the next phase, and the ongoing engagement with and role of Members in those towns.

The Select Committee, inter alia, noted:

- i. In order to extend the approach being taken using towns as the key building blocks and spatial level at which practical delivery in partnership with others can best be secured, an independent socio-economic analysis of our 27 strategic towns and 2 village areas, was commissioned. The towns and the relationships each has with District or Borough Councils, key neighbourhoods, Primary Care Networks and Place Alliances. A set of multi-dimensional, socio-economic and health criteria and data, along with local intelligence, have been used to identify the towns to be prioritised for 2023/24. This has included an assessment of the co-ordinated partnership activity already in place in localities (e.g. Cranleigh, Camberley); and
- ii. The intention, subject to the consultation responses and further engagement, is to phase the roll out of five towns every six months, over the coming two years, based on updated assessments of socio-economic and health factors. As a result, all towns will in due course be included, albeit that they may come forward later in the programme.

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:

The Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee:

- a. Endorses the principle of bringing together key agencies, particularly the National Health Service, Districts & Boroughs as well as others, at a towns spatial level on a prioritised basis, to work collaboratively on locally determined priorities, empowering local residents to contribute to their achievement;
- b. Seeks reassurance around the monitoring of inputs, outputs and outcomes using key criteria and measures of success with regular reporting to the relevant Cabinet Member/Cabinet, in order that the effectiveness of the towns approach can be evaluated;
- c. Encourages the active consideration of how rural areas are to be effectively incorporated into the future programme, recognising the particular needs and issues faced in those communities;
- d. Requests that the rationale for the prioritisation of towns should be shared with Members; and
- e. Asks the Cabinet Member and the relevant Executive Directors to provide a progress report to this Select Committee on the progress being made, by December 2023, including an update on recommendations a. to d. above.

John O'Reilly

**Chairman of the Community, Environment & Highways Select Committee
Surrey County Council**