

## **CABINET- 28 MARCH 2023**

### **CABINET RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY OF SCRUTINY OF DELIVERING IN PARTNERSHIP: TOWNS – THE NEXT PHASE**

#### **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**

## **Cabinet Response:**

I warmly welcome the Select Committee's endorsement of the principle and approach being taken to bringing partners together at a towns spatial level to collaborate on delivering local services and empowering local residents.

This is a critically important part of the Council's work to address the key strategic priorities of growing a sustainable economy from which everyone can benefit, a greener future, reducing health inequalities, and thriving and empowered communities, as well as working to ensure that no-one is left behind.

The focus of the approach is very much on delivery at a local level, in partnership with others and with the full involvement of and engagement with local Divisional Members and Ward Councillors.

As the next phase of the prioritised towns is implemented, the priorities of each town will be identified and used as the basis for programmes of work and local relationships and partnership working. Town-specific performance measures, ideal outcomes and measures of success will be derived, upon which progress and the effectiveness of the approach can be appropriately reported and assessed.

In addition, as the next set of towns come forward, particular consideration will be given, where appropriate, to how any rural areas related to specific towns can best be incorporated into the work of the town(s) in question.

In response to the Select Committee's request, further background information has been provided to all Members following the Select Committee meeting, setting out the rationale for the prioritisation of the next set of the towns, as well as a suggested comparative prioritisation of all 29 towns and village areas.

As discussed at the Select Committee, this work is very much emergent and will develop going forwards having regard to the progress, effectiveness and learning derived from the earlier work in the pilot towns, as well as this forthcoming next phase.

I will be pleased to provide a progress report to this Select Committee on the progress being made, by December 2023, as requested.

**Denise Turner-Stewart**

**Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety**

**28 March 2023**