

County Council Meeting – 11 July 2023

## REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 30 May 2023 and 27 June 2023.

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 14. 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 10 July 2023).

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

### RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS

There were no reports with recommendations for Council.

### REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

#### At its meeting on 30 May 2023 Cabinet considered:

#### **A. SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S ADOPTION OF THE REVISED SURREY AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education must be reviewed by the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education at least every five years. Cabinet was asked to formally adopt the 2023 revised Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Surrey before it is recommended to Surrey schools.

#### ***It was AGREED:***

1. That Cabinet formally adopts the 2023 revised Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Surrey.

#### **Reasons for decisions:**

There have been a number of changes in curriculum delivery, content and in guidance from the Department of Education since the existing syllabus was adopted in 2017, meaning it was no longer fit for purpose. The revision period has enabled a comprehensive engagement including the adoption of the recommendations from Ofsted in relation to curriculum design, set out as follows:

- It should be sequenced in such a way that the 'curriculum is the progression model'
- It should help pupils to make connections across their learning, build strong schemata.

- It should set out what it means to get better at RE in substantive, disciplinary and personal knowledge, across ages and stages of development.

There has been a complete review of the content by qualified teachers and the Advisor to the Surrey SACRE, and the revised syllabus can now be recommended to the Cabinet for teacher training and implementation from September 2023 and first teaching from September 2024. The action being proposed will have benefits for the residents of Surrey in as much as teachers will be able to begin a new academic year by teaching a more relevant RE curriculum that complies with national guidance, prepares young people well for examination courses in RE, and more accurately reflects the values and beliefs of citizens in this country.

**At its meeting on 27 June 2023 Cabinet considered:**

**B. MODERNISING OUR LIBRARY ESTATE, LIBRARIES TRANSFORMATION - PHASE 1**

This report set out the next stage of the modernisation of the Library Estate as part of the Library and Cultural Services Transformation programme. Cabinet approval was requested to release funding from the capital pipeline for investment to support the major transformation of four priority libraries within Phase 1 of the programme: Epsom, Redhill, Staines and Woking.

***It was AGREED:***

1. That Cabinet notes that the first phase of projects is presented as one single business case comprising four library property projects, with detailed information about each individual project provided via annexes, rather than individual detailed business cases per library.
2. That Cabinet Approves capital funding for:
  - The refurbishment of Epsom Library
  - The refurbishment of Redhill library
  - The refurbishment of Woking library
  - The relocation and refurbishment of the proposed new Staines Hub

The capital funding required for these projects is commercially sensitive at this time and is set out in the Part 2 report.
3. That Cabinet approves procurement of an appropriate construction contractor partner for the delivery of all associated services and an appropriate library design partner for the design and delivery of furniture, fittings, and equipment, in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Standing Orders and the Public Contracts Regulation 2015.
4. That Cabinet agrees that, regarding the procurement of supply chain partners, the Executive Director for Resources and the Director of Land and Property are authorised to award such contracts, up to +5% of the budgetary tolerance level.

## **Reasons for decisions:**

- The Library and Cultural services transformation programme has delivered significant benefits to residents since its strategy was approved in November 2019. This has included enhanced customer service, technology (PCs, Wi-Fi, and self-service) and improvements to some buildings leading to an increased range of events and activities. The next phase includes plans to develop modern libraries that are bright, inviting, flexible spaces. In doing so, it focuses on transforming the county's libraries to ensure they are all vibrant hubs, providing warm, friendly spaces where everyone is welcome. Developing modern libraries as community hubs supports the Council's commitment to Empowered and Thriving Communities and No-one Left Behind. It also closely aligns with and supports the Council's ambitions around towns and villages.
- This report seeks approval for capital funding at four priority locations: Epsom, Redhill, Staines and Woking under Phase 1 of the programme. These four libraries account for 23% of the visits with a population reach of circa 300,000 residents. Based on national evidence, we are projecting that investment in these sites will deliver a 25% increase in use at these libraries. It will also enable them to support a wider range of community and Council services by creating flexible, modern spaces with increased capacity for events and activities. This will facilitate cultural, social, economic, and learning outcomes, deliver agile working spaces for Surrey County Council staff, and reduce long term maintenance costs to the Council.
- Investment in these four schemes also aligns with Surrey's Greener Futures and Net Zero ambitions as it includes works to decarbonise and increase energy efficiency of the buildings.

## **C. WEYBRIDGE HUB REDEVELOPMENT**

Cabinet was asked to approve capital funding to refurbish and extend Weybridge Library, a Surrey County Council owned asset, to create a multi-use service hub delivering a wider range of services and facilities, accessible to all Weybridge residents.

### ***It was AGREED:***

1. That Cabinet approves capital funding to redevelop Weybridge Library, extending the ground floor and refurbishing the existing building, to create a new multi-service hub. The capital funding required to redevelop the site is commercially sensitive at this time and is set out in the Part 2 report.
2. That Cabinet approves procurement of appropriate supply chain partners to deliver the design, build and fit out of the new building in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Standing Orders and Public Contracts Regulation 2015, alongside other related legislation in force at the time.
3. That Cabinet notes that regarding the procurement of supply chain partners, the Executive Director for Resources and the Director of Land and Property are authorised to award such contracts up to +5% of the budgetary tolerance level.

### **Reasons for Decisions:**

Approving the recommendations set out in this report will result in the following outcomes:

- Services delivered from the building will be improved, accommodating a wider range of services and facilities for Weybridge residents provided by the Council, public sector and third-party partners.
- Deliver a new, modern library and cultural provision which meets current and future needs of users and staff.
- Flexible and integrated public services, co-located in one building, accessible to all members of the community.
- Optimise and make best use of an existing Council asset.
- Create potential commercial opportunities and increase Council income from letting/hiring vacant space to third-party groups and partners.
- Improve the building's environmental performance, reducing energy use and carbon emissions.

### **D. SURREY INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN - PHASE 4 SCHEMES**

Cabinet was asked to approve of a further phase of schemes to be implemented as part of the Surrey Infrastructure Plan Phase 4.

#### ***It was AGREED:***

1. That Cabinet agrees the implementation of the Surrey Infrastructure Plan Phase 4 projects identified in this report and set out in Appendix 1, within the approved budget envelope, subject to the final business case for each scheme being approved by the Capital Programme Panel.
2. That Cabinet agrees to delegate the development and delivery of the schemes to the Executive Director of Environment, Transport & Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure & Growth.

### **Reasons for Decisions:**

The recommendations will enable the continued development and delivery of infrastructure schemes that meet a wide range of outcomes and demonstrate deliverability and affordability. They enable the implementation of the fourth phase of schemes and the development of a continuous pipeline of projects that require further feasibility work. The process is intended to remain dynamic with new schemes added to the long list as they are identified. A continuous programme of

schemes will be developed taking them from concept through to delivery identifying suitable funding opportunities as they progress.

**E. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 13 May 2023 - 3 July 2023**

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 two months.***

**Tim Oliver, Leader of the Council  
3 July 2023**

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