

## CABINET – 25 JULY 2023

## PROCEDURAL MATTERS

**Public Questions:****Question (1): Alastair Bayliss**

I was delighted to have been invited to the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee - Wednesday, 5 July 2023 10.00am in my role as a representative for 20's Plenty for Surrey who campaign for lower traffic speeds where people are.

Item 5 - A New Road Safety Strategy for Surrey, while focussing on safety, included an excellent and well thought out policy addressing not only safety, but the wider issues of pollution, encouraging active travel and, put simply, making our places better places to be.

I was informed that the item has been postponed until October. The policy was detailed, evidence based and aligned with popular best practices elsewhere. Does the postponement indicate that this proposal will be changing in any significant way and if that were the case, how?

**Reply:**

I was sorry that consideration of this item was deferred from the meeting of the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee on 5 July. This deferment is to provide more time to engage with key stakeholders who will help us to develop the proposal, with the clear objective of reducing death and injury on Surrey's roads.

I am therefore pleased to inform you that we are arranging a new session for key stakeholders to help the Council shape a new Speed Limit Policy that is part of our work to develop a new Road Safety Strategy for Surrey. 20's Plenty will be invited to the rearranged session which is planned for early October. I hope to be able to confirm arrangements very shortly and I look forward to hearing from 20's Plenty and other key stakeholders.

**Kevin Deanus**  
**Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience**  
**25 July 2023**

**Question (2): Jenny Desoutter**

As the constant and unrelenting pressures of human activity continue globally to erode vital biodiversity, and cumulative small losses increasingly threaten the sustainability of life on earth, it is encouraging to note that the Council seems to be paying more attention to biodiversity in Surrey, for example through focus groups.

Does this indicate a shift towards adopting a clear policy of putting nature first, and will the Council now commit to a formal policy that every Council Department, when planning, or agreeing to, any and all operations, particularly where these involve the Council's Countryside Estate, must first and foremost give priority to protecting the

biodiversity of the target area from the impact of any initiatives, and where possible take steps to increase and enhance that biodiversity?

**Reply:**

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Firstly, I would like to thank you and the other local ecologists who participated in the Ecology workshop for Norbury Park I chaired last month. I have received very positive feedback from attendees who gave their time and engagement to consider how we best support nature in how we manage Norbury Park on the Council's Countryside Estate. Following agreement and publication of the Vision for Norbury Park, we have been working on a landscape-scale land management plan for the site that we expect to consult on in the Autumn and we welcome the offer of local ecologists to act in an advisory capacity during this process.

We already ensure nature and environment is a key consideration in how we manage our land, however, we do recognise that there are improvements that could be made and we are currently drafting a Land Management Policy which will set out how we manage all the land that Surrey County Council owns and operates. It will ensure that we protect and enhance biodiversity on all our Estate and that supporting nature is integral to how we deliver vital services to our residents and achieve a balance that puts nature and residents at the heart of our policies.

We would very much welcome residents and local ecologists and environmental groups input into its development.

**Marisa Heath**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**  
**25 July 2023**

**Question (3): John Oliver**

When I received my Council Tax bill for the 2023/24 year, the Council's leaflet accompanying the bill said that the average Band D Council Tax per year is £1,675.08. The leaflet went on to say that £232.37 of this amount is spent on "Environment, transport and infrastructure". Would you please set out how much of the £232.37 is spent on each of these three elements of policy?

**Reply:**

As stated in the Council Tax leaflet £232.37 is an illustration of the proportion of Band D Council Tax spent by the Environment, Transport & Infrastructure (ETI) directorate. This can be further broken down into individual services: Environment £120.75 (including waste disposal and countryside services), Highways & Transport £104.31 (including highway maintenance, streetlights and non-commercial bus services), and Infrastructure Planning & Major Projects £4.25 (including the Planning service), with the remainder allocated to cross-cutting management and support functions.

**Tim Oliver**  
**Leader of the Council**  
**25 July 2023**