

County Council Meeting – 10 October 2023

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 25 July 2023 and 26 September 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 15. 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 09 October 2023).

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

RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS

A. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN (as set out in the Cabinet paper from 26 September 2023)

1. That Cabinet RECOMMENDS that County Council approves the 2023/24 Youth Justice Plan at its meeting on 10 October 2023.

Reasons for decisions:

An annual youth justice plan is a statutory requirement for local authorities. This plan has been prepared following national guidance from the Youth Justice Board.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

At its meeting on 25 July 2023 Cabinet considered:

B. THE CARE AND SUPPORT COMMISSIONING STRATEGY FOR EXTRA CARE HOUSING

This report sought Cabinet approval for the Care and Support Commissioning Strategy.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet approves the Care and Support Commissioning Strategy for Extra Care Housing at Surrey County Council owned sites.

Reasons for decisions:

Tackling health inequality and empowering our communities are two of the Council's four strategic priorities. It is essential that the care and support provided

by ASC enables us to deliver our Community Vision for 2030 and promotes the independence of the individual in all scenarios. We know that getting older and living longer is something we should all look forward to. However, living a healthy life and living well for yourself, including staying in your own home, can be more difficult for some people. Our Living Well in Later Life Commissioning Strategy for Older People – Living Well in Later Life – 2021-2030 is our plan to help support older people in Surrey to make this happen. It shows how we will help residents to have more choice and control over the care and support they need, when and where they need it.

A key component of Our Living Well in Later Life Strategy are our plans to deliver Accommodation with Care and Support: Extra Care Housing, which will provide Surrey's residents with suitable accommodation with care and support, where they can access the right health and social care at the right time in the right place.

Extra Care Housing is a housing with care model, with a separation in responsibilities between the operators of each setting and the dedicated providers commissioned to deliver care and support to each setting's residents. For the settings which will be delivered through the Accommodation with Care and Support Strategy, while the operators will be regulated by the Regulator of Social Housing and deliver high quality housing management in line with the Council's lease, the care providers will be regulated by the Care Quality Commission and separately commissioned through Adult Social Care contracts. In Annex 1 we provide a diagram which demonstrates the relationship between the different partner organisation involved in the delivery of Extra Care Housing.

The Care and Support Commissioning Strategy for Extra Care Housing sets out the Council's approach to securing high quality, sustainable support through CQC-regulated care providers, and will ensure that future residents in the new settings 'live their best lives'.

C. FREEDOM TO TRAVEL STRATEGY

Freedom to Travel is a new pipeline transformation programme to design and deliver a new model of travel assistance services for Surrey. Cabinet was asked to endorse a long-term strategy that accompanies the report, which sets out a positive vision for travel assistance and a clear delivery plan. As the delivery plan progresses, Cabinet would make further decisions on some specific projects at subsequent meetings.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet endorses the Freedom to Travel Strategy and approach to delivery.

Reasons for decisions:

"By 2030, all Surrey residents requiring travel assistance will have the freedom to travel to access opportunities that make their lives better so no-one is left behind."

In order to achieve this vision, a number of significant changes will need to be made in behaviours and expectations and a wider range of transport options be made available to our residents.

A review and change of approach to procurement, commissioning transport and travel, as well as collaborative partner working will offer better value for money, competition and choices within Surrey.

Commissioned transport comprises most of the costs for travel assistance services for SCC. These costs have continued to increase and will continue to do so in line with demand if no action is taken. These increasing demands are not financially sustainable long-term.

The strategic challenges and opportunities facing travel assistance services means there is a strong case for rethinking and redesigning the way we plan, commission and deliver travel assistance. The current model is unsustainable financially and environmentally.

The Freedom to Travel Strategy has been developed to address these challenges and enable the vision.

D. APPROVAL TO PROCURE INCREASED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY (EP) AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) SERVICE CAPACITY

Cabinet was asked to approve delegated authority for Educational Psychology and Special Educational Needs capacity to be expanded at pace, enabling the Education, Health and Care Plan timeliness to be improved to an acceptable level as quickly as possible.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet gives approval to procure additional Educational Psychology service capacity and Special Educational Needs service capacity up to the aggregate contract value of £15m over 3 years between 2023/24 and 2026/27.
2. That Cabinet approves the delegation of contract award decisions to the Executive Director for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources.

Reasons for decisions:

- The timely completion of Education, Health and Care needs assessments and annual reviews (collectively referred to as EHCP Timeliness throughout this report) makes an important contribution to ensuring that children and young people with additional needs and disabilities receive the right support, in the right place, at the right time.
- The EHCP Timeliness Recovery Plan is being accelerated to address the current significant delays and approvals are required to avoid delays in procuring services and allocating funding and resources. There is an urgent need to retain existing capacity and secure additional flexible capacity in the

Council's Educational Psychology (EP) and Special Educational Needs (SEN) services to improve the timeliness of these services at pace.

- Approval of the recommendations in this report will have multiple benefits, the most important being an improvement in the experience of families and outcomes of children and young people with additional needs and disabilities undergoing an EHC needs assessment or awaiting an annual review.

E. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 4 July 2023 - 2 October 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 TWO urgent decisions since the last Cabinet report to Council.

1. Approval to procure increased Educational Psychology and Special Educational Needs Service Capacity: Cabinet, 25 July 2023.
2. Proposal For Solar Rooftop and Building Decarbonisation Project: Cabinet Member for Environment Decisions, 25 July 2023.

**Tim Oliver, Leader of the Council
2 October 2023**