

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Denise Turner-Stewart

**PORTFOLIO:** Deputy Leader, Communities and Community Safety

As we head into winter 2023/24 our priority is to support residents by anticipating challenges and taking preventative measures. Resident feedback indicates that they like seeing SCC on the ground, listening, and growing connections at a time when Cost of Living and budget challenges are increasing need.

**Your Fund Surrey:** YFS Large Fund has now awarded almost £15m, and £850,000 has been allocated from the two smaller schemes; Small Projects Fund and Your Councillor Community Fund, this year. These projects are supporting our prevention agenda by empowering communities. £50,000 for St Saviour's in Woking to replace their kitchen has enabled them to teach basic cookery skills, and £5,000 to purchase equipment for Lingfield Youth Hub means young people have a safe space to socialise, as well as mentoring and training opportunities.

**Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS):** SCC's investment in Citizens Advice charities to increase the welfare support available to communities has provided £580,000 this year increasing outreach in community settings and in the last quarter supporting an additional 800 residents, resulting in £300,000 in client income gains. This has improved the health and wellbeing of people supported, and prevented evictions and further debt.

**Communities & Prevention:** Cabinet approved the £6m procurement of the vanguard Individual Placement and Support in Primary Care (IPSPC) employment support programme for people with long term conditions and disabilities, which goes live in October. 174 residents with lived experience engaged in designing local places and services including launching Banstead as a dementia friendly community and opening the second 'Pit Stop' in Surrey to support men's mental health. 39 community champions are promoting health and wellbeing messages in their communities in 7 different languages. 74 residents took part in the First Step volunteering programme to help look after green spaces and 62 adult social care clients have been connected with community-based support, helping them to stay healthy and independent for as long as possible.

**Partnership working in Communities:** Our joint work with partners including districts and boroughs, the NHS and VCFS, is progressing well. Community Link Officers (CLOs) continue to grow connections at the community level. In Reigate, Stuart, the CLO has been working with Reigate and Banstead BC around the Merstham Community Hub. In Runnymede, CLO Carys has been working to develop skills and connections for residents to improve their mental health to creating a Community Hub in partnership with Tesco, connecting with Royal Holloway, local businesses and SCC Library staff to support a range of activities. In specific key neighbourhoods Local Area Coordinator roles provide 1:1 early preventative support to people who are struggling in life for various reasons.

Following matched funding from the NHS, these partnership roles are being extended into Bellfields (Guildford) and Goldsworth Park (Woking) and recruitment is in progress in Stanwell (Spelthorne) and Upper Hale (Waverley), increasing coverage to eight key neighbourhoods. Meanwhile, our towns partnership approach is progressing specific opportunities in each of the current five focus towns: Leatherhead (wider regeneration); Sunbury (Sunbury Hub development); Ashford (town centre car park redevelopment), Addlestone (better coordination of planned infrastructure schemes), and Chertsey (shared town priorities).

**Fire & Rescue (SFRS):** On 13 September 2023, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) published their latest report on SFRS which outlines areas where the service has done well and areas for improvement. An improvement plan will be presented to the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee on 4 December 2023. SFRS new Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) will launch in 2025, taking over from the Making Surrey Safer Plan 2020-2024, and proposals are currently being developed. The CRMP is driven by the needs and risks in our communities and from ideas generated by staff. Community engagement has taken place via a community survey and targeted focus groups. SFRS are working with ethnic minority groups across Surrey to ensure equality of access to the proposals and feedback mechanisms, as well as creating pathways for further engagement.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** David Lewis

**PORTFOLIO:** Finance and Resources

**Council Finances:** Although the current financial year is challenging, with challenges set to continue over the medium-term, the Council is in a strong and stable financial position, with robust financial management and reserves to support financial sustainability, to continue delivering quality services for Surrey residents.

**Budget monitoring position:** At the end of August, the Council is forecasting an overspend of £24.4m against the 2023/24 revenue budget approved by Council in February 2023. Overspend relates mainly to price inflation in Social Care placements in CFLL, demand pressures in Area Care and Care Leavers, additional price pressures in Home to Schools Travel Assistance, and demand and market pressures in care packages in ASC. A capital budget reset has taken place for month 5, to ensure that the budget provides a more accurate position. The revised budget is £268.4m. This is an overall net reduction of £58.1m compared to the M4 budget.

**Budget and MTFs Strategy:** The 2024/25 revenue and capital budget setting process and development of the MTFs to 2028/29 continues to be the focus of much work given the challenging financial environment.

**Statement of Accounts:** Draft 2022/23 Statement of Accounts for the Council, the Group, and the Pension Fund have been published on the Council's website. External Auditors, Grant Thornton, have commenced audit of the accounts. An agreement has been reached with the external auditors on the ongoing national issue in respect of the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts. These are expected to be signed within two weeks.

**Internal Audit:** The Orbis Internal Audit plan is being delivered as expected as the end of Q2 approaches.

**DB&I/MySurrey:** A new, fortnightly Steering Group has been established to support transition from the DBI Programme to BAU, ensuring issues are dealt with on a cross-cutting basis. Corporate payroll is working well, but there were significant issues with Schools' payroll in September, with many new starters or teachers moving role not paid. Emergency payments were made, where necessary, to those affected.

**Procurement:** Procurement have started to develop the next iteration of the Annual Procurement Forward Plan (AFPF) which will be submitted to Cabinet for approval on 19 Dec 2023.

**IT&D:** The team has been working with Emergency Planning to self-assess SCC against the National Cyber Security Centre Cyber Assessment Framework. Objectives and outputs will bolster preparedness in the event of a Cyber incursion. There is a significant volume of IT project demand with a current total of 105 projects. Highlights include the Vulnerable People Reporting System which is nearing Go Live. Discovery continues into the Members' portal with user research underway. The SCC app pivoted as research indicated most residents consulted would not use an app, preferring other channels. We are now looking into a revised problem statement, to see how this fits with the programme's roadmap and priority.

**Risk Management:** The annual review of the Risk Management Strategy was completed with changes approved by the Audit & Governance Committee which now has delegated authority to approve the RMS.

**Transformation & Boards:** Work has taken place to review, rationalise and replace the existing strategic governance boards relating to transformation and improvement work at senior leadership level. The new governance structure consists of an overall Strategic Transformation and Improvement Assurance Board (replacing the previous Transformation Assurance Board) which will sit above four thematic boards: Place and Communities, Children's, Adult and Health, and Cross Cutting.

**Legal & Governance:** The Childrens' Safeguarding Legal Team is now at full strength with capacity to meet the needs of all care proceedings. Recruitment in Property, Highways and Procurement has been more mixed. Three new trainee Solicitors were appointed in September in our continued drive to "grow our own". Work has been completed on a more resilient wired microphones system, with improvements to powered desks, in the Council Chamber. Vicky Hibbert has been appointed Assistant Director - Governance and Democratic Services, to lead on all aspects of Member decision making, governance, and Member support.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Natalie Bramhall

**PORTFOLIO:** Property and Waste

**Waste:** In September, the Council entered into a contract variation with SUEZ to end our dispute over the delivery of the Eco Park. SUEZ will continue to run the Eco Park, the 4 waste transfer stations, and associated community recycling centres until 2029. SCC has the option to reprocur other parts of the service after September 2024. Discussions with Defra on the Waste Infrastructure Grant have also concluded positively.

Procurement of merchant energy from waste capacity for approx.150,000 tonnes a year of residual waste not dealt with at the Eco Park is progressing in time for commencement of new contracts in 2024. Following Cabinet approval of a strategic waste infrastructure plan, work has commenced on the development of new waste infrastructure, including new waste transfer stations and an additional recyclable materials processing facility to reduce the impact of hauling our recyclable material over large distances.

Work has also commenced on improving our reuse offering including developing a reuse and recycling hub at Shepperton. The success of reuse shops has meant we have been able to donate a proportion of profits to good causes. After a bidding process, £10,624 was awarded between 4 local organisations: Mayford Village Hall, The Lucy Rayner Foundation, Waverley Hoppa Community Transport, and Holme Farm. On 29 August, I made the decision to amend policy to allow small amounts of construction waste from residents' DIY activities, free of charge at community recycling centres. This followed a government announcement in June amending the law. This came into effect on 1 September 2023.

### Capital Projects – Delivery:

- **Corporate Parenting:** Children's homes at Epsom and Walton have been completed and handed over, as has the new Shaw Family Contact Centre in Woking.
- **SBN:** Oakwood Secondary School in Horley - we have delivered 8 permanent classes providing 150 new places. At St Andrews in Leatherhead, the secondary expansion has delivered 300 places.
- **SEND:** Project delivery in 2023 provides 234 additional specialist school places for local children with additional needs and disabilities.
- **SFRS:** Fire House & Training Facility Wray Park - public engagement events held with positive feedback received. Chobham and Lingfield submitted for planning.
- **ASC:** Short breaks at Lakers (Woking) providing 8 beds for respite stays has received planning permission as has Bentley Day Care Centre in Banstead.
- **Hubs: Sunbury and Weybridge:** Planning applications awaiting determination.

### Disposals – Surplus Declarations / Core Disposals:

- **Coxbridge Farm, Farnham:** Parties are working to secure an early exchange of contracts with the final headline receipt now estimated at net £30.5m.
- **Marketing activity: Consort House, Redhill:** The disposal would remain subject to a Cabinet decision once any terms finalised.
- **Dormers in Caterham:** Approval to support the sale at below best consideration to Tandridge DC was approved by Property Panel and remained subject to detailed ground condition surveys. Ongoing negotiations with the district council.
- **Karibu Epsom:** Significant levels of bids received and sale approved at Cabinet.
- **Former Hillside/Portesbery Camberley:** Agents appointed and site subject to ecology reports being secured to enable marketing launch.
- **Lovell Road Ham:** Solicitors instructed on sale (over 20 viewings in less than one month).
- **Lakeside Primary Academy** has been relocated to Mindenhurst with the former school site being subject to a transfer agreement to Department for Education subject to them securing satisfactory consent for a new SEMH Special School (to be built out by the DfE).
- **The Edge Leisure Centre, Haslemere:** Ongoing challenges over viability and delivery models supporting both school provision and potential for out of school hours community use.
- Ongoing targeted review of lower value assets to declare surplus and pass to new frameworks agents and auctioneers.

### Acquisitions:

- **Woking- NW Hub:** Due diligence in hand and business case for Cabinet decision due in October.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Matthew Furniss

**PORTFOLIO:** Transport, Infrastructure and Growth

**Transport:** The Surrey LINK Card launched in July with data showing there are c5,000 LINK Card holders: 3,300 under 21 years to age 16; plus 1,700 for those under 16. We continue to promote the offer to maximise take up, along with introducing a LINK Card discount on the Government's flat fare scheme of £2.50 from 1 November, giving a fare of £1.25 to LINK Card holders in Surrey.

The Future Bus Network Review completed earlier this year asked residents and stakeholders for views on introducing more Digital Demand Responsive Transport services (DDRT), which offer greater flexibility with travel times and destinations, with increased operational hours. On 4 September we launched the first expansion of DDRT services in West Guildford, Tandridge, Farnham, Cranleigh and Longcross. More EV minibuses continue to come in to service and by the end 2023/24 we will have introduced 12 EV minibuses onto DDRT, another 12 on community transport, with a further 24 arriving next year. Patronage is growing with work planned to promote each service. Some schemes are operating with electric minibuses, with all services to be electrified in the coming months. Subject to funding being agreed, more DDRT services will follow in 2024.

**Infrastructure- A320 North of Woking HIF Project:** Ongoing discussions with the Contractor to conclude all matters to complete Contract signature. Contract will commence with pre-construction planning workshops followed by main works in Spring 2024. Land acquisition ongoing through negotiated purchase; decision is expected from the Department for Transport (DfT) on CPO by the end of October, expected to be positive. Advance statutory undertakers' diversionary works ongoing since Sept 2022 and are now concluded on those areas of available public highway. Remainder of utilities works to be included in main Contract Works programme. With the final outstanding planning application at Green Lane/Holloway Hill now approved, SCC are progressing with the preparation and submission of pre-commencement conditions for both this junction and Ottershaw, including the approvals and letting of three landscaping contracts. Engagement ran from July to September for the Ottershaw junction landscaping.

**A308 Corridor:** Construction at Black Dog junction has commenced. Shears Road Junction detailed design progressing. Automatic Number Plate Recognition camera works complete, with CCTV and Variable Message Signs continuing.

**Surrey Electric Vehicle Charging Delivery Programme Phase 2:** Charging socket installations standing at 78 live sockets out of 110 target. TRO process and DNO connection lead times have pushed final completion dates.

**Future Phases:** Agreement reached on delivery elements such as design, consultation, and operational processes. Discussions continue between SCC and Connected Kerb around the business case for LEVI funding, impacting schedule. LEVI funding business case submission deadline is 17 November 2023.

**Domestic Kerbside EV Chargepoints:** Project launched to the public with 50 Chargers and 30 cable gullies installations agreed for the first year.

**Guildford E-Bike Share Scheme:** Final revisions to Invitation to Tender underway for procurement of supplier contract, discussions being held with GBC regarding approach to planning permission on non-highway sites. Design in association with the complimentary infrastructure measures has commenced. Scheme proposed to launch in Spring 2024. Funding previously identified from University of Surrey has been retracted. Mitigation discussions in place on how to address shortfall, including seeking funding from other sources or rescoping scheme.

**Farnham Infrastructure Programme:** 20mph Town Centre & Weydon Lane zones to be delivered in October 2023, subject to network availability and permits.

**Wayfinding:** 11 of 15 totems installed, maintenance agreement drafted. 2 totems to be installed at Farnham Station in September, final 2 delayed due to housing development (Brightwells); to be delivered as part of the Town Centre scheme. Borelli Walk Bridge redesign negotiations with Crest are ongoing. Whilst the cycleway design can progress, until there is a resolution on the final structure design, the overall scheme design cannot be completed. Detailed design, surveys, and modelling work on Water Lane Roundabout progressing. Construction planned to start in Feb 24, and will complete within original overall timescales.

**Town Centre:** Preparation of business cases for WBC CIL 23/24 bidding cycle is underway. Internal business case to be presented for capital funding. Overall budget dependent on successful CIL bid. Preparation for detailed design.

**A31 Corridor:** Scheme has gone through DfT Investment Panel. DfT and Active Travel have positively promoted the scheme to Treasury recommending funding. Awaiting decision from Treasury as are considering overall roads funding position.

**Economic growth:** Government announced they will cease funding Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) from April 2024, so work is in hand with key partners (Enterprise M3 LEP, Coast to Capital LEP, and their Accountable Bodies) to transfer their functions to the Council. The E&G team are working with local businesses on sector cluster identification, formation, and investment, including supporting the Surrey Cyber Security Cluster for 10 major video game studios and a creative business/FE/HE workshop. A review of Business Support provision across Surrey is in progress to help define a future Surrey Growth Hub delivery model. Delivery of the Surrey Careers Hub began on 1 September, taking on responsibility from Enterprise M3 and Coast to Capital; a Careers Hub strategic plan will be developed by 16 October. Activities to respond to local need continue, including a £1.8m funding bid confirmed for joint Hampshire and Surrey Skills Bootcamps (with a focus on retrofit & construction, cyber and digital/ marketing sectors).

Partnership working remains a priority, with a recent Surrey Civic agreement meeting held and a Memorandum of Understanding signed regarding collaboration and closer partnership working with University of Surrey. Similar discussions are taking place with Royal Holloway. The delivery of (economic) town partnerships continue in Horley, Leatherhead, and Chertsey, in partnership with the relevant district and borough councils.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Kevin Deanus

**PORTFOLIO:** Highways and Community Resilience

**Highways Winter Readiness:** Surrey Highways (SCC & Ringway) have been preparing for the start of winter service standby, beginning 6 October and continues to 26 April 2024. Some key highlights of our preparations for winter are:

- A brand-new gritting vehicle fleet is being used this year.
- All our salt barns are fully stocked and our ~1800 grit bins were inspected between May and July and the refilling of 640 empty bins is nearly complete. Defective grit bins replacement is underway to be completed mid-October.
- The Cold Weather Policy and web pages are being updated to be live for the start of the winter period.
- Salt deliveries to Districts & Boroughs, farmers and third-party contractors have been arranged where needed.

**Emergency Planning:** Emergency Management & Resilience Team (EMRT) have begun Winter readiness planning within the Council and are feeding into the Surrey Local Resilience Forum (SLRF) planning. A long-range forecast from the Met Office is awaited, but planning assumptions at this time, based on a recent DLUHC Winter Health Webinar, suggest a warmer than normal Autumn and a potentially wetter and milder Winter. Within the Council's Corporate Resilience Group (CRG), services have been asked to identify specific risks in their areas and further work will take place with the Corporate Risk and Resilience Forum (CRRF) to prepare for these as required at an operational level, with a further review at the October meeting of CRG. The power resilience picture has improved this Winter and will continue to be monitored and any changes communicated with services.

EMRT are also focused currently on:

- Ensuring a 24-hour coordinated response for a major incident in line with our responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. A pool of loggists have been identified and trained on a rota basis to provide resilience to responding and providing the administration support required during an incident- this went live end of August 2023.
- Delivering the Vulnerable People Reporting System (VPRS) project and providing the relevant onboarding and training for SCC staff and SLRF partners to complete vulnerable people checks- due to complete in October 2023.
- Coordinating and responding to the COVID-19 Public Inquiry Rule 9 requests as they are received.
- Reviewing the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) and Events process and engaging with stakeholders to implement changes to ensure the process is more robust.

**Military Covenant:** The Armed Forces Act, which places a legal duty on local authorities (and other public bodies) to have 'due regard' for the Armed Forces community in the areas of education, health and housing will have been in place for a year at the end of November 2023. To ensure the council continues to meet this duty, training sessions continue to be provided by the Armed Forces Team to the County Council, as well as district and borough councils, health, Police and the VCSE. To date, over 1,000 people in Surrey have been trained, including the Chairman of SCC and councillor Armed Forces Champions within all Surrey local authorities. This training, along with the Forces Connect App, enables colleagues to support and signpost the Armed Forces community to relevant and specific help and advice, and where they are unsure, they can forward them to the Armed Forces Team who can assist.

The Armed Forces Act was a key theme of the National Armed Forces Conference in September where Surrey best practice was highlighted through a presentation from the headteacher of Kings International School in Camberley, with SCC leading a workshop on implementing the education element of the Act. A recent meeting of key officers with Army Unit Welfare Officers covered support available for our 1,224 service children in relation to school admissions and transport to help ensure smooth transitions for them on relocation, as well as support available for parents around early years and childcare. The issue of suicide prevention for serving members and veterans was also explored as part of our work to recognise and highlight the Armed Forces community within the Surrey Suicide Prevention Strategy. Work has also recently started with the Youth Offer Team to see how ex-service personnel could work alongside officers to expand the offer for the benefit of young people we support, as well as the service leaver/veterans themselves who will be able to act as mentors and make use of the wonderful facilities that the Youth Offer Team have access to.

## DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Jordan Beech

**PORTFOLIO:** Highways

**Street Works:** SCC, utility companies, and other organisations (National Rail and National Highways) have more work than ever to carry out on Surrey's highway network to improve roads and other essential infrastructure. Given the huge volume of works, including the significant A3/M25 Junction 10 improvement works, there will be more disruption than usual on the road network for the foreseeable future. Surrey's Streetworks Team is working with various organisations to coordinate works and minimise disruption. The team are contributing to the Department for Transport working groups, looking at revisions to statutory codes of practices to improve how Streetworks are managed. Given the volume of works, we need to ask for collective patience and understanding of everyone involved, as the changes to codes of practice are developed and works to improve and maintain essential infrastructure in and on the highways takes place.

**Road Safety and 20mph Speed Limit Policy:** We are considering our future approach for a new 20mph speed limit policy which will include applying the principles of a more flexible approach, appropriateness of any new limit to the local highway and the demonstrable requirement for local support. Cabinet will consider a draft new Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy, incorporating a new 20mph speed limit policy on 19 December. A public and stakeholder consultation will follow, the results of which and a final revised strategy/policy to be presented to Cabinet on 28 May 2024.

**Parking and Enforcement:** The new Parking Enforcement Service has been up and running for six months with significant increases in the number of enforcement patrols and PCNs issued. There are 55 Civil Enforcement Officers and supervisors split between three operating bases in Guildford, Esher and Redhill. Deployment levels and operational hours were extended in September to 9pm (Thurs-Sat) and 7pm (Mon-Wed). During Autumn the Parking Team will be attending member briefings covering each district/borough area and more specific information will be provided regarding school enforcement and other enforcement activity. We are also planning to carry out a six-week consultation about using cameras to enforce school keep clear markings, a required part of the process for traffic camera enforcement.

**Asset Planning:** As part of the work to encourage Active Travel, Surrey's Asset Planning Team were one of the first in the country to undertake an innovative survey over the summer to collect inventory and condition data on our 700km network of cycle lanes/tracks, greenways and signed advisory routes. The survey was undertaken by a group of school cycle proficiency instructors who had equipment fitted to their cycles capturing footage of the routes within a system called RoadAI which we already use to capture road condition data. This enabled the automatic capture of information on cycle routes including location and condition. A Bluetooth button enabled the instructors to highlight points of note such as locations of cycle parking facilities or obstructions. The data is now being analysed to help us to make decisions on maintenance of the cycle network.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Marisa Heath  
**PORTFOLIO:** Environment

**Climate Change Mitigation – Local Authority Emissions:** SCC is on track to meet its 2030 net zero carbon target, achieving 34% reduction against the baseline. We have reduced carbon by 1,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e through estate rationalisation and 6,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e through decarbonisation measures, delivered £2.5m annual bill savings, produced 0.3MW of solar power and brought in nearly £5m of grant funding. Cabinet approved the Council's Green Finance Strategy, which set out the principles and approach required to ensure that the costs of achieving the 2030 target would be covered by the savings and income generation achieved by the measures. A pilot scheme selling electricity generated by Council owned solar to three schools is underway, generating savings for the school and a good return on investment for SCC, and could be extended if successful. Work is ongoing to determine the grid connection feasibility of six potential solar farms on SCC land. Surrey's twelve local authorities are on track to achieve the 2030 net zero carbon target. Over the last three years carbon emissions have reduced by 20% where a 13% reduction was required to stay on track of the target.

**Climate Change Mitigation – County wide emissions:** SCC's net zero target is on track but has a high risk of going off track next year due to the scale and pace of action needed and lack of sufficient resource and policy which is outside of Local Authority control. Despite this, Local Authority led projects have delivered tangible benefits - 20,000tCO<sub>2</sub>e saved, £63m of grant funding has been leveraged for decarbonisation schemes, £8m of energy bill savings have been achieved (mostly for low income, fuel poor households and SME businesses) and 10MW of solar has been achieved through the Solar Together scheme. Officers are currently delivering a Home Upgrade Grant scheme for low-income households in off-gas areas, offering grants up to £20k per household for solar and decarbonisation measures. Officers are developing several schemes for which grant funding has been obtained including a One Stop Shop for domestic retrofit coupled with a potential loan scheme for homeowners, a loan scheme for SME businesses, and feasibility assessments for heat networks. Phase 2 of the Solar Together programme is progressing with a record number of acceptances.

**Ecology and Nature Recovery:** SCC is continuing to lead on developing the new Local Nature Recovery Strategy working alongside the Surrey Nature Partnership, Surrey Wildlife Trust, and major landowners and farm cluster representatives. We are preparing for the new Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) statutory requirement, where all major developments requiring planning consent need to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand. Developers can achieve BNG through the creation of habitats on/off site or purchasing credits from a BNG habitat bank provider. SCC is currently procuring a consultant to assess and prepare owned land by the Council, and districts and boroughs for BNG, as there is potential for SCC to develop credits for our own developments and sell credits to developers that are unable to achieve BNG on their own sites, using the investment to improve the biodiversity of our land.

**River Thames Scheme (RTS):** RTS will reduce flood risk to communities and deliver environmental benefits; access to new green open space, increased biodiversity, and new opportunities for active travel. The Spelthorne section of the flood alleviation channel will be created by connecting the existing lakes (the design principle for many years) as it reduces construction, carbon and creates a more natural looking environment. Open water swimmers have raised concerns of Ferris Meadow Lake and the RTS have agreed to carry out a feasibility study to determine if an alternative alignment, either completely or partially bypassing Ferris Meadow Lake, is feasible. Technical specialists are looking at the feasibility of alternatives and are aiming to deliver consultation in early 2024, with stakeholder engagement to follow.



## DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Paul Deach

**PORTFOLIO:** Environment

**Countryside:** Over the last six months the Natural Capital Team have engaged experts from across the Council, including Highways, Public Health, and Land and Property, to propose the key policies for land management on SCC owned / managed land. A draft Land Management Policy was presented to the Greener Futures Reference Group and will be socialised with Cabinet and Select Committee this autumn, external consultation with stakeholders and tenants is expected in early 2024. Land-based assets owned by SCC are being identified to form the basis of an asset management plan, setting out how the policy could be delivered over the next 20 years, the benefits and potential external investment we can deliver from our land. SCC have launched a new approach on managing its agricultural holdings with the agreement to let a farm south of Reigate on a new tenancy. Occupancy of the site begins this month with an accompanying regenerative farming management plan, setting out how its natural assets will be replenished and optimised. A first networking session for our farming tenants is running this month at Woodhatch, including speakers on grants for tree planting and environmental improvements.

Ash Dieback works recommence this month, aiming to complete all felling before the end of February. Engagement talks and site visits were held with residents, ecologists, and stakeholders at the four main sites where works will be undertaken this winter. SCC continue to work with HCC on a review of Basingstoke Canal's management and a financially sustainable model. Proposals for operational and governance changes will be presented to the Canal's Joint Management Committee in November for implementation in 2024. A workshop took place this summer to explore how Tongham Pools could benefit from adjacent areas and their biodiversity and access, funded by potential gains from planning applications. Tongham Pools is located next to Tice's Meadow, a new site acquired by SCC in partnership two years ago. Newlands Corner structural improvements are complete, and content displayed is being developed. Puttenham Common main carpark plans are being developed with the Hampton Estate to include new outdoor play.

**Greener Futures Communications:** In the last four months we have started to circulate regular updates to members and community stakeholders through our new Greener Futures mailing list and have recently sent out a one-off Greener Futures member update. We have continued to issue our resident focussed Greener Matters e-newsletter which provides updates on what the Council is doing, how residents can get involved and grant funding opportunities. In mid-September Surrey Matters (the Council's monthly resident e-newsletter) ran a travel special which highlighted active and sustainable travel options to help reduce car journeys. Officers are developing asset toolkits for Members with information on key projects that require resident engagement. The toolkits will contain images, infographics, and suggested copy to share on social media, providing great opportunity to show our commitment to emissions reduction and boost engagement with green projects.

**Greener Futures Engagement:** Officers are developing several engagement opportunities including:

- **Local Energy Advice Demonstrator** - Training begins in two weeks for community groups running in-person energy advice and thermal imaging surveys, helping residents to save energy in their homes. The training includes messaging and how to drive further behaviour change.
- **Parish Climate Action Plans** – Officers have developed a climate action toolkit for Parish Councils which is currently being trialled in two areas with the ambition of being made available to all Parish and Town Councils in future.
- **Urban Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAS)** - Set out how Surrey's urban areas can be made greener and ensure nature networks and connectivity is achieved to support nature recovery. A pilot approach is being delivered by SCC and partners in Guildford, with a business engagement event scheduled in October.
- **Your Fund Surrey Toolkits** – Officers continue to develop community-led toolkits to support the use of YFS and YFS small fund for projects which support the Council's four strategic priorities including Greener Futures.

**Norbury Park:** SCC are working with a Biodiversity Advisory Group for Norbury Park to enable the land management plan for the site to put biodiversity first. The Group will be reconvening this autumn to consider a draft land management plan for presentation to the Norbury Park Forum in December.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Mark Nuti

**PORTFOLIO:** Adults and Health

**Mental Health Investment Fund:** Successful Round 1 schemes are now all mobilised and underway. A reporting schedule has been established and highlight reports are reviewed on a quarterly basis to oversee effective delivery against outcomes. Round 2 applications closed on 11 July 2023 and there was significant interest in this funding round. The evaluation and moderation of the bids by the Mental Health Advisory Panel took place in August. The MHIF team are in the process of completing final due diligence and internal governance with a view to processing successful awards by the end of September. The aim is that these schemes will be mobilised by the end of the year.

**Smoke-Free Strategy:** Smoking continues to be one of the biggest causes of ill health and driver of health inequalities nationally and in Surrey. The refresh of the Surrey smoke-free strategy will be launched in October alongside the national 'Stoptober' smoking cessation campaign. The strategy has been updated in line with current data, new national and local policy, and emerging themes, such as vaping, and sets out our ambition for Surrey to become smoke free by 2026. The strategy has also undergone a wide consultation with partners in primary care, education, the environment, trading standard, and NHS Trusts, amongst others. The strategy will be focused around four priorities: supporting all tobacco users to quit, providing evidence-based education, local regulation and enforcement, and creating smokefree environments.

Key to the delivery of the strategy and the ambition to eliminate tobacco use in Surrey is partnership working and a wider system approach to help deliver our ambitious aim. A comprehensive action plan has been written to go alongside the strategy to be delivered by the Surrey Tobacco and Alcohol Alliance.

**Supporting our residents to live their best lives:** A new campaign is being launched to raise awareness of the importance of planning for future care needs, understanding the costs of social care and connecting people to local support. Working in partnership with Age UK Surrey, we hope to encourage residents to have early discussions about their future care and support preferences, options and financial planning and help prevent them having to make decisions at times of crisis. We want to help people understand the different options available, how to connect to support locally to stay independent, and how to access information at the right time and place to make informed decisions. Overall, we hope to improve residents' confidence to navigate the local health and social care environment which can be complex. Many people are not aware of what services are available, who provides them and how to access them. We aim to make this easier.

As part of the initiative, we have developed a planning for care checklist to help people understand the key things they need to consider when planning for a time when they are not as able or as well as they are now. A series of local events will be arranged with a marketplace for key local organisations to tell people about the support they can provide. Our Public Health team, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, and Mole Valley Life will be among them.

Members are asked to please help spread the word about this initiative and look out for our updates and details of events and signposting. Please also support us to promote Connect to Support Surrey which will shortly replace Surrey Information Point as our online countywide directory of local support and services, such as home meal deliveries, transport options, help to stay active or feel less isolated, home care agencies, support for carers and much more.

**Delivering the Accommodation with Care and Support Strategy:** Work continues to deliver affordable Extra Care Housing at Pond Meadow, Guildford (Phase 1a). Full planning approval has been granted by Guildford Borough Council and the Section 106 agreement is being finalised. Once finalised the Planning decision notice will be released. The appointed strategic delivery partner (Pond Meadow Limited) is mobilising the design team to complete detailed design and are working towards commencing construction onsite this calendar year.

We have secured Outline Planning approval to deliver affordable Extra Care Housing at the former Bentley Day Centre in Banstead. At Cabinet in July 2023 a further three sites were allocated to affordable Extra Care Housing. The three sites are Birchlands in Runnymede, Orchard Court in Tandridge and Colebrook in Reigate and Banstead.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Clare Curran

**PORTFOLIO:** Education and Learning

**Area SEND Inspection:** A three-week Joint Ofsted/CQC multi-agency Local Area Inspection into Surrey's services for children with Additional Needs and Disabilities (AND) took place during September. The Area SEND Inspection evaluated the quality of provision for children with AND from the Surrey AND partnership. Inspectors met with multi-agency partners, particularly Family Voice Surrey, as the essential voice of our residents; education colleagues including schools and other education settings, and partners in health organisations. A full written report will be published around two months after the inspection finishes.

**Capital Programme update:** More than 230 new specialist school places have been created for Surrey's children with Additional Needs and Disabilities for September 2023. This is part of our £260m Capital Programme investment to expand maintained specialist educational provision in Surrey and so improve the experience of children. This ambitious programme aims to deliver 2,440 new specialist school places in Surrey between 2019-2026 creating capacity for 5,760 planned places by 2030/31. By academic year 2023/24, Surrey's specialist estate has been increased by 890 places, from 3,320 in 2019 when the Capital Programme started, to some 4,210 places now. The Capital Programme is on track to deliver 7 more projects in 2023/24 bringing 960 more new Surrey specialist school places onstream at a cost of £71m.

**Home to School Travel Assistance (H2STA):** Following the significant issues with H2STA last year, an action plan was put in place following a major service review. I am pleased that this has led to a substantial service improvement this year and the team deserve our thanks for their hard work in implementing new processes and ways of working. Things can improve still further, and the team still faces the challenges of inflationary pressures and driver shortages. The key improvements include:

### **Transport for academic Year 2023:**

- 99.3% of under-16 transport was in place for the start of term. The remainder were complex cases needing specialist medical intervention, delaying the setting up of transport or otherwise where the team was awaiting information from SEN service.
- By 3 September, the team reported 9938 student travel plans in place and confirmed in writing.
- All ITA/PTBs set up for payment at the end of September a month earlier than in previous years following feedback from families.
- All bus/train passes sent out in readiness for the start of term. The timely completion of mainstream assessment, eligibility and delivery was a great team success this year.

All applications received during August assessed and interim ITAs given until transport put in place.

**Complaints & Appeals:** Complaints have been dealt with through an Early Resolution / Enquiry Stage - communicating and updating parents / MPs / Councillors earlier and avoiding the need to escalate to a Stage 1 complaint. This was successful, leading to a 95% reduction in the amount of all types of complaints during August / September 2023 compared to the same period last year. In the April-June quarter there was a reduced number of complaints, with 100% being responded to within timescale. Improvements have also been made in both the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Appeal process. 99% of appeals have been dealt with in timescale. The Stage 2 Panel process has been much improved with a focus on training and communication with Members.

**Contact Centre:** Analysis of call volumes to the Contact Centre shows a 24% reduction in calls during August/ September 2023 compared to the same period last year. Call numbers for the week ending 22 September were close to 'normal' term time levels.

**School Admissions:** Parents with children who will turn 11 between 1 September 2023 and 31 August 2024, have until 31 October 2023 to apply for their secondary school place for September 2024. From 30 October 2023, parents with children who were born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 will be able to apply for a primary school place for September 2024. The closing date for primary applications will be 15 January 2024. This deadline also applies for parents whose children are due to leave an infant school in July 2024 and so need to apply for a new school place for September 2024. Information on how to apply for a school place and how applications will be considered is available on Surrey's website at [Schools Admissions](#). Councillors are asked to share this information within the local community to ensure parents apply on time.

## CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Sinead Mooney

**PORTFOLIO:** Children and Families

**Intensive Family Support Service (IFSS):** In May 2023 a proposal to develop an inhouse IFSS was presented to the Children, Families and Lifelong Learning (CFL) Leadership Team. It was agreed that a Business Case should be developed to help inform decision makers on whether to pursue this initiative. Unlike many other Local Authorities SCC does not have an IFSS within their CFL Directorates. This service would build capacity in the Early Help System and would bridge the gap between statutory social care teams and the Family Support Programme (FSP) to increase meaningful impact. It builds on the foundations of feedback from the joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to children and families who need help. Consideration of whether SCC should develop the IFSS needs to be taken within the context of the government's payment by results Supporting Families Programme, 'Supporting Families 2021 to 2022 and beyond'. The government has provided Local Authorities (LAs) with new stretch targets that will significantly increase the number of families LAs are expected to support from April 2023-2025.

The financial model sets out the investment requirements to mobilise four IFSS teams. The investment captures the incremental costs of the new teams, including pay inflation applied for 2023/24. Benefits are realised from maximising Payment by Results claims which would have been missed under current performance. A reduction in statutory casework from both stepping down work that no longer requires social worker intervention and avoidance of step up into the statutory social work teams, as well as avoidance of placements from reduced numbers of Looked After Children have been incorporated into costings.

The investment provides an in-year return in 2025/26 and pays back on investment in 2026/27 with a 5.4% return on investment. The investment requires the equivalent to £2.1m per annum to meet the costs and associated costs of the new teams. However, given the timescales for approval and expected timescales to recruit to the teams, it is only expected to see the full teams recruited and functioning by June 2024. Investment in an Intensive Family Support Service will help to fill a gap in the continuum of service provision in Surrey and is essential to providing support to families where needs are escalating but cannot be met through The Family Support Programme or the commissioned Family Centres, parenting and mentoring services. The work is expected to realise maximum benefits from the supporting families grant, realising an increase in payment by results funding of £336k in 2024/25 to offset the costs of investment.

Once fully resourced, the teams are expected to be able to work with up to 864 children at any given point in time. The teams are expected to be able to deliver capacity to step down 220 cases from social work where currently there is insufficient provision to be able to step these cases down. This frees up the capacity of social workers to deliver better outcomes. The work is also expected to avoid escalation of needs and cases moving into social work. In time this is expected to be able to reduce demands on social work to such an extent that a reduction in numbers of social workers can be attained. It is hoped that this will remove the reliance on the use of agency workers to fill gaps in staffing and lead to more permanent staff being retained and improving on our ratios of perm to agency staff. It should be noted that this assumes a level of steady state for demand on social work. There is, however, a risk that demands could increase, for example because of the extra pressure being put on families due to increases in the cost of living.

I hope that Members will welcome this investment in providing early help to families, which should help to prevent the need for more intensive services and more costly services at a later stage, as well as ensuring that families receive the support they need as soon as issues are identified.

**National Fostering Recruitment Campaign:** In Surrey, there are just over 1,000 children in care and SCC has just under 380 foster families in the county. This means there is a shortage of foster carers for children in Surrey, meaning many of Surrey's looked after children are living outside of county, far away from friends, family, and our good schools, and this is why we need more foster carers. On 28 September, I had a fantastic morning with foster carers and councillors marking the launch of 'Any of Us', our new fostering recruitment video. 'Any of Us...' is the message at the heart of video which explains that anyone can become a [foster carer](#) and change the life of a child. Jointly funded by over 80 councils across England, the video aims to raise awareness of fostering, dispel common myths, and relieve any doubts. We desperately need to increase the number of foster families in Surrey so that we can ensure all children are able to stay connected to their local communities, giving them the best possible opportunities in life. I encourage anyone who has ever thought about fostering to take that first step and find out more.

## DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER BRIEFING TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**NAME:** Maureen Attewell

**PORTFOLIO:** Children and Families

**Celebration Fund:** Members at Surrey County Council are committed to being good corporate parents and to encourage and support children and young people in care and leaving care, to achieve their full potential. To help with this there is a small, discretionary fund that all Members are asked to contribute to, which as corporate parents we set aside to:

- Support a child/ young person pursue a hobby or interest
- Participate in a one-off activity that will really benefit a child/young person's overall wellbeing
- Provide a child/young person with some additional 'equipment' to help be independent/achieve a goal
- Go on a visit, trip, or excursion (e.g., School trips)
- Celebrate achievements

In 2022/23 the Celebration Fund received 264 applications, of which 206 applicants received funding totalling £33,638.22. This amount included contributions from 20 Members totalling £6,632 and an additional end of year donation from the Leader of £12,396.60 from the Members Community Allocation Fund.

So far for 2023/24 we have received £5,500 from 20 Members and 56 applications have been received. 28 awards were made in June with a total of £5759.84 awarded and the remainder will be considered in October.

The Key spending themes have been:

- 31 holidays or day trips,
- 50 pieces of equipment to support with hobbies,
- 39 lessons or training sessions and
- 13 electronic items.

Feedback from our young people includes: "It has positively motivated me in my life to achieve my goals", "I am motivated to do more - improve my music making skills such as writing lyrics and rapping", "I like going to the gym, I am happy".

We have also been working with Active Surrey who have contributed funding towards bicycles for the Surrey Bike Scheme and to support requests relevant to healthy living. In addition, Waitrose & Partners donated £2,000 as part of the cost-of-living campaign to support the purchase of air fryers for care leavers. Thank you to everyone involved for their contributions and we are dedicated to ensuring this fund continues to make a positive difference to children and young people within Surrey.

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