

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT WOODHATCH PLACE, 11 COCKSHOT HILL, REIGATE, SURREY, RH2 8EF, ON 21 MAY 2024 COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM, THE COUNCIL BEING CONSTITUTED AS FOLLOWS:

Saj Hussain (Chair)
Tim Hall (Vice-Chair)

Maureen Attewell	Eber Kington
Ayesha Azad	Rachael Lake BEM
Catherine Baart	Victor Lewanski
Steve Bax	David Lewis (Cobham)
John Beckett	David Lewis (Camberley West)
Jordan Beech	Scott Lewis
Luke Bennett	* Andy Lynch
* Amanda Boote	Andy MacLeod
Dennis Booth	Ernest Mallett MBE
Harry Boparai	r Michaela Martin
* Liz Bowes	Jan Mason
Natalie Bramhall	Steven McCormick
Helyn Clack	Cameron McIntosh
Stephen Cooksey	Julia McShane
Clare Curran	Sinead Mooney
Nick Darby	Carla Morson
Fiona Davidson	Bernie Muir
Paul Deach	Mark Nuti
Kevin Deanus	John O'Reilly
Jonathan Essex	Tim Oliver
Robert Evans OBE	Rebecca Paul
r Chris Farr	George Potter
Paul Follows	Catherine Powell
Will Forster	Penny Rivers
* John Furey	John Robini
Matt Furniss	* Becky Rush
Angela Goodwin	Joanne Sexton
Jeffrey Gray	Lance Spencer
David Harmer	Lesley Steeds
Nick Harrison	Mark Sugden
Edward Hawkins	Richard Tear
* Marisa Heath	Ashley Tilling
Trefor Hogg	Chris Townsend
Robert Hughes	* Liz Townsend
Jonathan Hulley	Denise Turner-Stewart
r Rebecca Jennings-Evans	Hazel Watson
* Frank Kelly	Jeremy Webster
Riasat Khan	Buddhi Weerasinghe
Robert King	Fiona White
	Keith Witham

*absent

r = Remote Attendance

31/24 CHAIR [Item 1]

Under the motion of Robert Evans OBE, seconded by Jonathan Essex, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED:

That Saj Hussain be elected Chair of the Council for the Council Year 2024/25.

STATUTORY DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:

Saj Hussain made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

The Chair expressed his thanks to the Members of the Council for electing him as Chair for a second year and gave a short speech.

32/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 2]

Apologies for absence were received from Amanda Boote, Liz Bowes, Chris Farr (remote), Marisa Heath, Rebecca Jennings-Evans (remote), Frank Kelly, Andy Lynch, Michaela Martin (remote), Liz Townsend.

33/24 MINUTES [Item 3]

The minutes of the meetings of the County Council held on 19 March 2024 and 9 April 2024 were submitted, confirmed and signed.

34/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 4]

There were none.

35/24 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS [Item 5]

The Chair:

- Informed Members of the deaths of Chris Norman, former Conservative county councillor for the Chertsey division, and Barbara Musgrave, formerly Councillor Pattman, former county councillor for the Shere division; and led the Council in a moment of reflection.
- Highlighted the recent Chair's Volunteers' Reception for volunteers nominated by Members, welcomed those nominations and noted that it was encouraging to see the number of volunteers that support the county.
- Noted that the rest of his announcements could be found in the agenda.

36/24 VICE-CHAIR [Item 6]

Under the motion of Clare Curran, seconded by Will Forster, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED:

That Tim Hall be elected Vice-Chair of the Council for the Council Year 2024/25.

STATUTORY DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:

Tim Hall made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

The Vice-Chair expressed his thanks to the Members of the Council for electing him as Vice-Chair for a second year and gave a short speech.

37/24 LEADER'S STATEMENT [Item 7]

The Leader of the Council made a detailed statement. A copy of the statement is attached as Appendix A.

Members raised the following topics:

- Endorsed the Leader's comments about Leigh Whitehouse, Interim Chief Executive, and Katie Stewart, Executive Director - Environment, Infrastructure and Growth, thanking them for their service to the Council.
- Noted that the Council appeared to be in limbo, with significant change in senior staff and a cancelled Cabinet meeting, that was not good enough for residents.
- Agreed with the need to renew, noting the significant work ahead for the permanent Chief Executive.
- Thanked officers in Children's Services for their work and dedication in ensuring continued improvement, however noted the two weaknesses identified by Ofsted in its recent report: the inconsistent standard in letters to vulnerable families, and the need to improve the consistency and quality of the Council's direct work with children and families across Surrey.
- Feared for the financial future of local government and the Council, councils' funding had been cut by 25% since 2016, further cuts would be detrimental just as they were dealing with increased inflation costs and service pressures.
- Noted that vulnerable residents in Surrey paid the price for governments not fixing social care, called on the Leader to continue to lobby for a proper solution.
- Reflected on the last year where there had been improvement, verges were being cut and mapped, although the quality of the cutting could be improved.
- Noted that there was progress on the backlog of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), with more educational psychologists, however MindWorks was closed to neurodiversity diagnoses leaving children and schools to struggle.
- Noted that the number of complaints their political group received on Children's Services remained high. Children's homes and extra care housing were being built and more Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) places were provided, yet that costed more than budgeted and took longer than planned.
- Noted the forthcoming changes to senior officers and a general election, it was the last year Members could work together before the 2025 local elections.
- Noted that the biggest challenge faced by the Council was setting a balanced budget by bridging the gap between 'no one left behind' and what is delivered, welcomed more Member engagement on the draft budget but there remained challenges still to be addressed with strained revenue and capital budgets.
- Noted the need to look at areas of high expenditure holistically, for example looking at the interdependencies with children's social care, seeking continuous improvement and early intervention and prevention were fundamental.
- Noted the need to maximise the support for foster carers, to attract and retain them to care for Surrey's children to the best of their ability.
- Noted that the management and scrutiny of the capital programmes that provide better outcomes for children and reduce revenue costs and a clear strategy for performance improvement were critical, SEND places must be of the right type and location.

- Stressed that the Council must spend taxpayers' money well, learning from the overspend from Unit4/MySurrey delivered eighteen months late.
- Noted that all must consider the Council's core values of being excellent, open, working together, respecting others; officers must draw on Members', residents' and the voluntary sector's knowledge to improve services.
- Noted that the MindWorks situation, Foster Carers' Charter roll out and letters to parents and carers about one point of contact did not fulfil those values.
- Referred to research which found that limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius could reduce economic costs of climate change by two thirds, a one degree Celsius rise could cause a 12% decline in Gross Domestic Product, Surrey's 5 million tonnes of emissions equated to £4.5 billion of annual damage.
- Noted that it was estimated that at half the cost of a national approach and delivering three times the benefits, council-led climate action would achieve net zero by 2050. Asked how the Leader would lobby the issue, scaling up Surrey's capital programme and to encourage other councils to do the same.
- Referred to research that Sure Start centres improved educational, physical and mental health outcomes, substantially reducing SEND and mental health costs and reducing hospitalisations. Queried what the impact was of closing family centres across Surrey and reducing support given to preschool children.
- Noted that when the MindWorks contract was recently scrutinised, the NHS reported that their medical model was no longer working and called for the support in moving to a social model.
- Noted that in 2011 the Council recognised the positive outcomes for young people from the former universal youth delivery service, especially for those most vulnerable, that preventative work reduced costly interventions.
- Asked whether the Leader would agree with the NHS about the need to recognise the links between universal children services, schools and the NHS, to be part of the Council's commitment to leaving no one behind.
- Asked whether the Leader would agree that the Council must lobby the Chancellor to increase funding to councils to provide universal youth services and to be able to lead in greater climate action.
- Noted that potholes and fly-tipping were an ongoing issue for many residents, called for the better monitoring of temporary traffic lights and noted that the frequency and quality of grass cutting needed to be addressed.
- Asked the Leader to use his influence to lobby National Highways to improve the traffic flow around Wisley, M25 junction 10/A3 Wisley interchange.
- Referred to the Ofsted report where the number of staff vacancies and overreliance on agency staff was highlighted, asked the Leader how he planned to address that.
- Asked the Leader whether he and his Cabinet would try to improve Surrey's relations with London through the Mayor of London.
- Noted that when they became a Member, there were nine officers paid over £100,000, that figure was now forty-two.
- Called for stopping the approach of resolving problems by appointing more directors. Under the new Chief Executive, the senior leadership team must be leaner and more targeted, focusing on the appointment of frontline officers where there were many vacancies and agency staff.
- Welcomed the new online grass cutting map for verges and decision to go back to contracting out the maintenance to the borough and district councils.
- Noted disappointment in verges without sight line implications to highways, that despite declaring a Climate Emergency and developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, the Council backtracked on reducing the amount of grass cuttings during summer with uncut grass being vital to wildlife and biodiversity.

38/24 CHANGES TO CABINET PORTFOLIOS [Item 8]

The Leader introduced the report noting the addition of Jonathan Hulley as the Deputy Member for Strategic Highways.

A Member requested that in such reports going forward, the Leader should highlight the specific changes to the portfolios compared to previous versions.

RESOLVED:

That Council noted the Leader's changes to Cabinet Portfolios.

39/24 ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY [Item 9]

The Chair referred to the report of the Monitoring Officer in the first supplementary agenda.

RESOLVED:

That Council adopted the scheme of proportionality as set out in Annex 1 to this report for the Council year 2024/25 (Appendix B).

40/24 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES [Item 10]

The Chair referred to the nominations as published in the first supplementary agenda and noted that he had been notified by the Conservative Group that they wished to add Tim Hall as an additional substitute to the Planning and Regulatory Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Council agreed: (Appendix C)

1. To appoint Members to serve on the Committees of the Council for the Council year 2024/25 in accordance with the wishes of political groups.
2. To authorise the Chief Executive to make changes to the membership of any of the Council's Committees as necessary during the Council year in accordance with the wishes of political groups.
3. To appoint the Council's representative to the Surrey Police and Crime Panel for the Council year 2024/25.
4. To appoint up to two Members to the Buckinghamshire County Council and Surrey County Council Joint Trading Standards Service Committee, one of whom must be a Cabinet Member; the other in an advisory non-voting role.
5. To note the Leader's appointments to the Council's Executive Committees.

41/24 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN [Item 11]

The Chair referred to the nominations in the first supplementary agenda.

RESOLVED:

That the Members listed (Appendix D) are duly elected as Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen respectively of the Select Committees and Regulatory Committees as shown for 2024/25.

42/24 APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM HEAD OF PAID SERVICE [Item 12]

The Leader as Chairman of the People, Performance and Development Committee, introduced the report noting that Michael Coughlin, Executive Director - Customer, Digital and Transformation, had kindly postponed his retirement from the Council to act as the Interim Head of Paid Service after Leigh Whitehouse, Interim Chief Executive, leaves and prior to Terence Herbert joining the Council as the permanent Chief Executive.

RESOLVED:

That the County Council appointed Michael Coughlin to act as Interim Head of Paid Service for Surrey County Council from 3 June 2024 until 18 August 2024.

43/24 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE [Item 13]

The Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee introduced the report, noting his thanks to the former Independent Member, Terry Price, who stood down after two years on the Committee; he brought a wealth of experience and expertise. He noted that following an interview process, the recruitment panel unanimously decided to offer the role to Matthew Woods, concluding that the candidate had the suitable breadth of experience and knowledge needed to fulfil the role.

RESOLVED:

That Council agreed to the appointment of Matthew Woods as the Independent Member of the Audit and Governance Committee for a period of four years.

44/24 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION [Item 14]

The Chair noted the proposed changes to Parts 3 and 6 of the Constitution.

RESOLVED:

1. Approved the amendment to Part 3, Section 3, Part 4 of the Constitution as set out in paragraph 3 of this report.
2. Approved the revised Officer Code of Conduct (Part 6(03)) as set out in Annex 1 to this report.
3. Noted the changes to Part 3, Section 2 of the Constitution (Scheme of Delegation) made by the Leader on 26 March 2024.

45/24 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME [Item 15]

Questions:

Notice of thirteen questions had been received. The questions and replies were published in the second supplementary agenda on 20 May 2024.

A number of supplementary questions were asked and a summary of the main points is set out below:

(Q1) Robert Evans OBE asked what discussions the Cabinet Member has had with the other councils, Heathrow Airport and other interested agencies. He asked whether he would encourage those responsible to review the schemes under consideration

and the more imaginative options from abroad. He asked for an update back to Council when the conclusions of the work become available in June.

The Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth noted that the matter had been debated for several years, hoped that a preferred route would be identified by June that all involved could support. Reiterated that the Council supported the southern rail link - currently the bus service - looking at enhancing that with Heathrow Airport and providing more stop points accessible off the M25 to avoid the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and the airport's parking charges.

(Q2) Catherine Powell noted that she was unclear what targeted provision was being provided to disadvantaged children and young people, and asked the Cabinet Member to provide the list of schools that had been prioritised for support.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning reiterated the work underway such as the extension of the early years entitlement targeted at children from a disadvantaged background. She explained that the Council did not have direct authority over schools, schools were the responsibility of school governors or trustees and headteachers. Delivering the Lifetime of Learning Strategy which included the closing of that attainment gap, must be done in partnership with those responsible including the Surrey Alliance for Excellence (SAfE) which oversees the improvement work in schools. Surrey had a large number of children who do less well than their peers in other counties, noted the work in London and the northern Powerhouse working in partnership to address the gap. Noted that she was happy to discuss the work of the education partnership with the Member.

(Q3) Jonathan Essex noting residents' concerns which included a major house fire on 12 May 2024 in Banstead, asked how Banstead Fire Station and its large Surrey Police owned setting could not be made fit for purpose. In the meantime, asked that the Council accepts the lease extension until 2026 offered by Surrey Police, enabling a consideration of the alternative options and any details shared in the supplementary response be shared on the consultation website.

Robert Evans OBE referred to the response to part d) paragraph 2 that the crews and equipment were moving and the services minimum availability of fire engines would not change. Asked whether the Cabinet Member was aware that a similar assurance was given in Spelthorne that despite the closure of two fire stations and reopening of another, the fire cover would not change; that cover reduced at night. Sought assurance that the fire cover provision would not change for Banstead and that there were no further closures of fire stations or reductions in service to come.

Rebecca Paul thanked the Cabinet Member for meeting with her and Councillor Luke Bennett last week to discuss their concerns around the proposed closure of Banstead Fire Station. As provided in the response regarding Banstead Village, requested the response times before and after the proposals to be provided for Tadworth, Walton, Kingswood, Burgh Heath, Chipstead and Woodmansterne.

Steven McCormick noted concern in the reduction in the number of appliances available at Epsom Fire Station, as an appliance was moved from there to Banstead Fire Station. Regarding the proposed closure of Banstead Fire Station, asked whether Epsom Fire Station would revert to two appliances, if not he asked what the plan was to provide Epsom and Ewell with adequate coverage and how that would be done.

Tim Hall (Vice-Chair) noted that it would be helpful if Members could have a better explanation of the mapping and why Whyteleafe was the preferred location. Asked

the Cabinet Member whether there could be a Member Development Session to explain the mapping and how the motorway links in.

Luke Bennett regarding the proposals to close Banstead Fire Station, asked whether it was a proper consultation, and if not what the key objectives of that consultation process were.

Jan Mason recalled that Epsom used to have three pumps, now it only had one. Noted the building of more houses and heavy traffic loads in the borough, sought to ensure that the provision in place for Epsom Fire Station was sufficient. She asked why she had not been informed of the proposals.

The Cabinet Member for Fire and Rescue, and Resilience responded to Jonathan Essex noting that the Surrey Police owned land where Banstead Fire Station was located, was likely to be sold. He noted that Banstead Fire Station was not fit for purpose: there was no yard for the crews to do their drills, there was nowhere to store their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when it was contaminated, and there were no facilities for different genders. He added that Banstead Fire Station did not match the risk of Surrey and where the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) should be. Responding to the Member's request, he would provide a written response.

Responding to Robert Evans OBE, the Cabinet Member noted that there were no plans to change the provision of twenty fire engines in the day and sixteen at night.

Responding to Rebecca Paul, the Cabinet Member noted that he was happy to provide some additional information, he reiterated that it was about risk and was not based on response times.

Responding to Steven McCormick, the Cabinet Member noted that there was no risk-based evidence to say a second vehicle was required at Epsom Fire Station; the level of risk was based across the county, not on individual areas.

Responding to Tim Hall (Vice-Chair), the Cabinet Member noted that the operation of the dynamic tool could be seen live at SFRS, which showed the location of the risks and how vehicles were moved across the county to manage those risks. He was happy for there to be a Member Development Session on the matter.

(Q4) Catherine Baart asked whether the Cabinet Member could provide more information about how the Council has established that most parents favour the current termly model.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning would provide that information.

(Q5) Fiona Davidson quoted from NHS England's national framework published in April 2023 about the importance of 'universal, equitable and timely access to autism assessment in every ICB (Integrated Care Board) is important.' The risk of poor life outcomes was increased when there were barriers to diagnosis. Asked whether the Cabinet Member would agree that the current MindWorks neurodiverse assessment and diagnosis process and practise, restricted and withheld access to an autism diagnosis.

(Q5) Trefor Hogg welcomed the recognition of the impact the backlogs and insufficient capacity were having on vulnerable children and their families. He asked

the Cabinet Member and Leader for their help to establish the effective governance of MindWorks that was required.

Fiona White asked whether the Cabinet Member would agree that failing to intervene before a child is in crisis would affect that child for the rest of their life. Referring to the evidence given at the joint select committee meeting, she asked whether the Cabinet Member would agree that the Council should be expected to demand that MindWorks provide an improved service. The service must be designed to meet children's needs, the Council should demand that central government properly funds that provision and anything less contradicts the Council's ambition of 'no one left behind'.

George Potter noted that one reason why an autism diagnosis was difficult was because many of the symptoms were indistinguishable from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), society overlooked a non-traumatised autistic person. Noted the failings in the education system and society to adapt to people who are different. He asked whether the Cabinet Member would agree that the service provided inflicted further trauma on children with autism by preventing them from getting the timely support needed.

Jonathan Essex sought assurance that the Council would raise the issue with the ICB about the rationing of access to mental health which must end, as it was inconsistent with the Council's ambition of leaving no one behind in Surrey.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning stressed that the matter was being prioritised by the directorate, working with system leaders across the health system and partners to resolve it. She agreed with the points made, noting the need to focus on resolving the issues at the earliest possible opportunity for children, young people and their families.

(Q6) Robert Evans OBE noted that since 2021 only around ten percent of the claims for pothole damage were successful, with £190,000 being paid out. Asked the Cabinet Member whether he considered the rejected ninety percent of claims to be fraudulent, and if he did not, asked what the criteria used to judge successful claims were.

George Potter highlighted that the current process for submitting a claim for compensation discouraged claimants as it was onerous, requiring multiple independent quotes, exact measurements of the damage to the vehicle, details of the precise time, the weather conditions and the direction of travel. He asked the Cabinet Member whether he would be reviewing the criteria for individuals to seek compensation to improve the rate of successful claims.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources responded to Robert Evans OBE noting that he did not believe that ninety percent of the claims were fraudulent, those claims did not meet the criteria. He noted that the Council has a duty to protect its finances and money raised largely from residents, there cannot be a process that pays out to every claim. The current system was fair, and the criteria were published on the Council's website, there were no plans to review those.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources responded to George Potter, noting that the issues were complex, the process was similar to submitting a claim to an insurance company. There were no plans to review the criteria for determining whether compensation would be paid.

(Q7) Catherine Powell stressed that the provision of the right places and the right type of places was important. Asked whether the Cabinet Member could provide the reports referenced in her written response.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning would share those reports.

(Q8) Jonathan Essex referred to question b) clarifying that he sought to understand the road maintenance deficit regarding the amount of money needed to restore the road network up to its current condition, the answer referred to defects. He noted that if it was not currently possible to provide that information broken down between concrete and tarmac roads, he asked for that information to be provided broken down by borough and district, to see the geographic spread. Asked whether the Cabinet Member would agree that it would be useful to create a record of where the concrete roads were across the county, using that information to compare the road maintenance deficit between concrete and flexible roads.

Keith Witham asked the Cabinet Member how there was a fine milling programme without the Council having a record of the concrete roads in Surrey to which it applied. The estimate of between five and ten percent of Surrey's roads being concrete, could equate to several hundred miles, and those were mainly in residential areas and had been tarmacked over which had since deteriorated. Asked whether the Cabinet Member would agree to review the matter, to provide Members with more information about the fine milling process, what was happening where and when, and to liaise with Members who have concrete roads in their division.

The Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth responded to Jonathan Essex, noting that he would look to get a breakdown of the cost of bringing all roads - concrete and flexible - up to standard by district and borough. He estimated that to cost between £300 and £600 million across the entire highway network and pavements. Improvements were being seen with the Council's investment of £76-£100 million a year, potholes and defects were decreasing. Noted that many roads were made of concrete in the north east of Surrey, it was a challenge where those had been tarmacked over. He noted that it was more costly to repair concrete roads and they were noisier, but those lasted longer compared to flexible roads.

Responding to Keith Witham, the Cabinet Member noted that the tarmacking over of concrete roads would be replaced by fine milling, he was happy to share information with Members on their known locations and was happy to schedule a Member Development Session on fine milling.

(Q9) Catherine Baart asked the Cabinet Member whether he could review the decision not to include utility works on minor roads in the Roadworks bulletin and for letters and advance warning signage to go out in every case regarding utility works on minor roads.

The Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth encouraged the Member and residents to sign up to one.network - a free service - to get an alert for all roadworks locally. Noted that the Roadworks bulletin did not include any roadworks which were unlikely to cause a level of disruption. There were over 110,000 permits issued on Surrey's 3,000 miles of road and of the works 70% were utility works, most of the works on minor roads related to broadband works on pavements.

(Q10) Catherine Powell asked the Cabinet Member whether she had any concerns that schools in deprived areas where parents and carers were unable to transport their children, were becoming vulnerable to closure. She also asked whether she was following up with central government regarding changes that might help the Council to support those areas.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning reiterated that the School Organisation Plan was being reviewed and work with schools was underway about the sustainability of small schools across Surrey. She had attended a seminar with the Executive Director - Children, Families and Lifelong Learning, by the Diocese of Guildford looking at the viability of small church schools. She noted that the viability of smaller schools was a national issue due to the falling birth rate. She noted that the South East region was looking at strategies to address the issue, working in partnership with schools. It was vital for the system to work together to protect small schools, which were valuable community assets particularly in rural areas.

(Q11) Catherine Baart asked the Cabinet Member whether it was possible to detail the cost of the places which were deemed to be prohibitive for families.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning noted that she would liaise with the service to see whether it would be prepared to share such information with families, noting that there might be commercial interests.

(Q12) Catherine Powell noted that she and the Cabinet Member received an email from the Surrey County Fostering Association (SCFA) overnight regarding the comparison of the contents of the Foster Carers' Charter published on the website than that presented at the Corporate Parenting Board, significant differences remained. She asked the Cabinet Member to commit to working with her and the Surrey County Fostering Association and the Fostering Service to resolve the inconsistency, as the Charter was critical to attract and retain foster carers.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning recognised the value that foster carers have to the Council and care system and thanked them for making a difference to children's lives. She had noted her apologies to the leadership of the SCFA for the unfortunate errors which meant that the published Charter had not been collectively endorsed. She would liaise with the service to resolve the issues for the re-published Charter, and to move forward positively with the SCFA. Emphasised the need to celebrate and champion the work of foster carers during Foster Care Fortnight and hoped Members were able to engage with the Fostering Service.

(Q13) Catherine Baart highlighted that the Council had been awarded Bronze Carbon Literate Organisation status and asked the Cabinet Member whether there was an ambition and plan for the Council to reach the Platinum level.

In the Cabinet Member for Environment's absence, the Leader noted that he would ask the Cabinet Member to provide a response. He believed that the Council has that ambition and would find out where it was on that journey.

46/24 STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS [Item 16]

Jonathan Hulley (Foxhills, Thorpe & Virginia Water) made a statement on thanking two officers: Melanie Hall and Amy Verrill, from the West Learning Disability and Autism Team. They worked tirelessly to find suitable supported living accommodation

for a constituent, making a better future and lasting difference for them and their family.

Steven McCormick (Epsom Town & Downs) made a statement on the need to reflect on the unintended consequences from decisions, exploring alternative solutions that do not degrade residents' health and quality of life. Since planning permission was granted to the Chalk Pit in Epsom, residents faced the consequences of continued noise and air pollution, and an increase in Heavy Goods Vehicles. That increase in traffic was a safety risk and accelerated the wear and tear of the roads.

47/24 REPORT OF THE CABINET [Item 17]

The Leader presented the report of the Cabinet meetings held on 26 March 2024 and 23 April 2024.

Recommendations on Policy Framework Documents:

There were no reports with recommendations for Council.

Reports for Information/Discussion

26 March 2024:

- A. Surrey Infrastructure Plan - Phase 5 Schemes
- B. Chennestone Primary School - Roof Replacement Works

23 April 2024:

- C. Kalima Gypsy Roma Traveller Camp, Woking
- D. Your Fund Surrey - The Haslemere Link Community Hub
- E. Ash Vale Community Wellbeing Meeting Place and New Scout Headquarters

- F. Quarterly Report on Decisions Taken Under Special Urgency Arrangements: 12 March 2024 - 13 May 2024

RESOLVED:

1. Noted that there had been one urgent decision since the last Cabinet report to Council: Chennestone Primary School - Roof Replacement Works: Cabinet, 26 March 2024.
2. Adopted the report of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 26 March 2024 and 23 April 2024.

48/24 MINUTES OF CABINET MEETINGS [Item 18]

No notification had been received by the deadline from Members wishing to raise a question or make a statement on any matters in the minutes.

[Meeting ended at: 12.05 pm]

Chair

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