

County Council Meeting – 18 March 2025

## **REPORT OF THE CABINET**

The Cabinet met on 25 February 2025.

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 19. 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 (17 March 2025).

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

### **RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS**

There are none.

### **REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION**

**At its meeting on 25 February 2025 Cabinet considered:**

#### **A. THE COUNCIL'S ECONOMIC GROWTH LEADERSHIP ROLE AND REFRESHING SURREY'S ECONOMIC STRATEGY**

The Cabinet report provided an update on the LEP transition arrangements since the last report to Cabinet on this matter in February 2024; it set out the reframed priorities of the local economic growth strategy; and outlines a proposal for the long-term strategic funding framework to oversee investments made through legacy LEP funding and any other funds that support local growth, skills, and workforce development initiatives, such as UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

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

1. That Cabinet notes the progress made in establishing the Council as Surrey's strategic economic leader including the taking on of LEP functions and assets from Government.
2. That Cabinet notes the use of delegated officer powers to approve the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement with Hampshire County Council, which formally sets out how ongoing governance will be undertaken, and how assets and liabilities will be split between both local authorities.
3. That Cabinet approves the vision and priorities in the refreshed economic growth strategy following the endorsement by the One Surrey Growth Board and the Surrey

Business Leaders Forum. These interconnected updated priorities are reinforced by the evidence review that has been carried out.

4. That Cabinet approves the creation of the Economic Growth Funding Framework and related funding rounds for 2025/26, through which investments will be made to realise initiatives that support the agreed priorities. This includes approximately £4 million towards capital initiatives, £2 million towards revenue initiatives and £1 million towards an SME business grant scheme.
5. That Cabinet approves funding thresholds for the Interim Executive Director for Environment, Property & Growth in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure, and Growth and the Section 151 Officer (up to £100,000), and the Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure, and Growth (between £100,000-£500,000), with Cabinet responsible for approving any investments over £500,000.

**Reasons for decisions:**

To bring the significant strategic decision of approving the refreshed county-wide economic growth strategy and strategic funding framework to Cabinet, which will help give direction to local economic initiatives and enable greater coordination of local institutions with an ability to deliver.

**B. A LAND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND POLICY FOR SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL OWNED LAND**

Cabinet was asked to approve the Land Management Framework approach and the Draft Land Management Policy. The Framework and Policy will support Surrey County Council to make evidence-based decisions on the use and management of SCC land-based assets: to support environmental outcomes alongside financial, commercial, social and economic outcomes.

**It was AGREED:**

1. That Cabinet notes the Land Management Framework approach.
2. That Cabinet approves the draft Land Management Policy.

**Reasons for decisions:**

There is a pressing need to understand our land-based assets from an opportunity as well as risk and liability perspective which in some cases is considerable. This Framework and Policy will enable informed business cases to be developed so these assets can be effectively managed and decisions made about how they are used to maximise value and control costs and risks, and where appropriate disposed of.

**C. SURREY MATERIALS RECYCLING FACILITY, TRUMPS FARM**

The report recommended that Cabinet give approval for a full procurement exercise to be conducted to underpin the development of a Full Business Case for a Materials Recycling Facility in Surrey, to manage and separate dry recycling produced by Surrey households.

## **It was AGREED:**

1. That Cabinet approves a procurement exercise for a new Materials Recycling Facility (“MRF”) initiating support from legal, financial and technical advisors, including developing the Full Business Case for the facility.
2. That Cabinet approves any legal agreements that are required to secure planning permission, approval is sought for the same, subject to the oversight of any such agreement by the Director of Law and Governance.
3. That Cabinet delegates authority to the Interim Executive Director for Environment, Property and Growth Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Property, Infrastructure and Waste and the Executive Director for Resources to approve the finalised Procurement Strategy and commence the procurement exercise once the planning application for the MRF has been approved.

## **Reasons for decisions:**

- In 2023, the Resources and Circular Economy Team (“RCE”) had a Strategic Waste Infrastructure Plan approved by Cabinet. This plan highlighted the lack of dry mixed recycling (“DMR”) treatment infrastructure available locally and noted the strain on the existing infrastructure. Since then, the team has been working on the recommendations within that report.
- Surrey County Council’s (“SCC”) current waste infrastructure capacity is under significant pressure. Use of third-party sites to manage and separate recyclable materials collected by the District and Boroughs on SCC’s behalf has shown to be increasingly expensive and the service has no control over costs or the separation processes (Appendix 1).
- Imminent waste legislative changes will dramatically alter the risk profile of SCC (as the Waste Disposal Authority (“WDA”)) and requires whole system thinking. The changes will result in SCC’s infrastructure capacity coming under greater pressure as will third-party Materials Recycling Facilities (“MRF”) which will further increase potential SCC costs. Liability for additional costs will fall to SCC, of which SCC would have no control. SCC will need greater control over its supply chain and associated infrastructure.
- SCC are proposing the development of a MRF on SCC owned land at Trumps Farm, Chertsey. An outline planning permission application has been submitted and an Outline Business Case (“OBC”), presented herein has been developed. Determination is anticipated for May 2025.
- The OBC outlined the key drivers for the development, which are:
  - Legislative changes in the waste sector will dramatically alter the risk profile of SCC as the WDA. The amount and type of recycling materials collected will both increase and change over time.
  - The need to be able to adapt and respond accordingly to this changing legislation.
  - The need to build resilience and self-sufficiency within SCC’s waste infrastructure network.

- Limited infrastructure capacity within the existing SCC network and the region as detailed in Strategic Waste Infrastructure Plan (Cabinet April 2023)<sup>1</sup>.
- Budgetary pressures and the need to extract greater value for money from our services.
- The need for whole system and frictionless working with the District and Borough (“D&B”) Waste Collection Authorities (“WCA”) to drive efficiencies and improve performance.
- Reducing the carbon impact of the service, by managing Surrey’s dry recycling where it is generated, rather than sending it to treatment outlets across the country.
- Supported by pre-market engagement SCC proposes the development of a MRF that will:
  - process all dry recycling SCC is currently responsible for (c.90,000 tonnes), with the ability to take additional districts’ material;
  - not require any changes to the current District and Borough collection regimes, unless stipulated by legislative changes;
  - use greater technological processes, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) to increase the quality of material and recycle more, as well as futureproofing the facility by giving it greater flexibility in its operations;
  - likely seek a Design, Build, Finance, Operate, (DBFO) and Collaborate/Partner delivery mechanism, to provide SCC with the control needed to mitigate the changing waste landscape. Interface risks will be the responsibility of the supplier;
  - reduce SCC’s revenue costs as compared to the third-party offtake contracts.
  - be coterminous and available from the end date of the existing contracts.
- A full procurement strategy will be developed once approval to go ahead with the project has been granted. This will be supported by further market engagement including interviews with interested parties to ensure a full understanding of what the market can offer. Delegation is requested to approve this strategy prior to commencing the procurement exercise.
- Therefore, the recommendation to Members is to approve the procurement exercise for a Surrey MRF, including the development of the Full Business Case (“FBC”).
- Further, it is important for SCC, to secure planning permission as soon as possible to inform the costs and liability consequences to be assessed in the FBC and as such Cabinet is asked to approve SCC entering into any legal agreement which may be needed to secure that permission subject to oversight by the Director of Law and Governance.
- Following completion of the procurement exercise, the Full Business Case will be required to return to Cabinet, for a decision to progress the project further.

**D. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 1 February 2025 - 10 March 2025**

The Cabinet is required under the Constitution to report to Council on a quarterly basis the details of decisions taken by the Cabinet and Cabinet Members under the special urgency arrangements set out in Standing Order 57 of the Constitution. This occurs where a decision is required on a matter that is not contained within the Leader's Forward Plan (Notice of Decisions), nor available 5 clear days before the meeting. Where a decision on such matters could not reasonably be delayed, the agreement of the Chairman of the appropriate Select Committee, or in his/her absence the Chairman of the Council, must be sought to enable the decision to be made.

***The Cabinet RECOMMENDS that the County Council notes that there have been no urgent decisions since the last Cabinet report to Council.***

**Tim Oliver OBE, Leader of the Council  
10 March 2025**

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