

**CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS****September 2017****(I) INVESTMENT BOARD****Details of Decision:**

The Board approved the proposed acquisition, and specifically-

1. Approved the provision of equity investment of a set amount as set out in the submitted report by Surrey County Council to its wholly owned property company, Halsey Garton Property Ltd (HGP).
2. Approved that Legal Services agree the contractual arrangements for the provision of financing on behalf of the council with funds to be released upon the completion of appropriate due-diligence in relation to the property acquisition.
3. Authorise HGP to acquire the freehold interest in the acquisition as set out in the submitted report.

**Reasons for Decisions:**

The provision of financing to the Council's property company to facilitate the proposed investment acquisition is in accordance with the Council's Investment Strategy and provides an asset that will contribute to the creation of a diversified portfolio over time to spread risk.

The investment will deliver an ongoing income to the Council, enhancing financial resilience in the longer term.

*(Decision taken by the Investment Board – 11 September 2017)*

**DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET LEAD FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY****(II) VICTORIA WAY, WOKING, SPEED LIMIT DECISION REVIEW****Details of decision:**

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Prosperity did not agree the recommendations included within the report and agreed to implement the Woking Joint Committee's decision that the speed limit on Victoria Way be reduced from 40mph to 30mph.

**Reasons for decision:**

This matter has been referred from the Joint Committee of Woking and Surrey County Council Members following a decision to refuse a reduction in speed on Victoria Way due to the Area Highways Manager opposing the recommendation. It therefore requires a Cabinet Member decision.

It directly relates to the Surrey 'Setting Local Speed Limits' – a County policy. As part of the policy under step 6 – if the Area Manager or the Police Safety Officer do not support the request it requires a decision by a Cabinet Member.

The Deputy Leader noted the report to the Joint Committee on 28 June by Louisa Calam, on attachment from Surrey to Woking.

The issue is to improve transport facilities and access to the town centre within a high quality, urban environment as part of the major public realm improvements to Guildford Town Centre.

Previously, lists of TROs in Woking Town Centre were brought to the March Woking Joint Committee. Following a number of planning applications, as a Joint Committee it has delegated authority to issue the TROs through Members and officers of the Committee, however, this proposed speed reduction did not form part of the original planning application regarding these improvements which then negates the delegated authority to the Joint Committee. Comments by the Area Manager indicate strong disagreement to this proposal.

Speed data was examined from 2012 covering the whole of Victoria Way and there is further data available only from ToysRus towards the railway bridge from 2016. The 85th percentile speeds range from 25.3 to 33.3mph. The threshold indicated in the policy means that if the existing mean speeds are below the threshold then the Council will allow a changed only lower speed limits without supporting measures. The police were consulted on this matter and agree that mean speeds are within the parameters allowed in the policy for this change to a 30mph limit.

The Deputy Leader has noted that the proposed reduction is supported by the Surrey Road Safety Team.

The Deputy Leader further noted that should the speed limit be reduced to 30mph all existing repeater signs would have to be removed which could influence people to increase their speed on this dual carriageway. However, the new bus lane being introduced shortly will also lead to a lower speed of transit along the A320.

All costs are to be met by Woking Borough Council and whilst a consultation hasn't taken place specifically on this item the Deputy Leader believes that all requisite considerations have been made. Following the implementation there will be a requirement to review the speeds of the vehicles on the A320 along Victoria Way and that information will be brought back to the Joint Committee.

It will also reduce the number of speed restrictions from the Six Crossroads roundabout to the 'Brook House' roundabout from a conglomeration of speed instructions which go from 50 to 40mph and then on to 30mph.

In light of these considerations, the Deputy Leader's felt it was appropriate to agree the request that the speed on Victoria Way be reduced from 40 to 30mph.

*(Decision taken by the Deputy Leader – 12 September 2017)*

## **LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

### **(III) MEMBERS' QUESTION**

#### **Details of decision:**

A question was submitted by Mr Eber Kington, County Councillor for Ewell Court, Auriol & Cuddington. The question and response are attached as Appendix 1.

**Reasons for decision:**

To respond to the question

*(Decision taken by the Leader of the Council – 12 September 2017)*

**(IV) WATTS GALLERY TRUST AND 4 YEAR REVENUE FUNDING AGREEMENT  
2018/19 TO 2021/22**

**Details of decision:**

The Leader of the Council agreed that:

- I. Surrey County Council will provide support of up to £400,000 – paid at a max of up to £100,000 per annum (pa) for each of four years - commencing April 2018, to the Watts Gallery Trust to enable the Trust to continue and further develop its work with schools and community, its learning programmes, and its programmes of work targeted to health and wellbeing outcomes where these are to the benefit of Surrey residents; and
- II. the Director of Legal, Democratic and Cultural Services will finalise the terms of an agreement with the Watts Gallery Trust to enable the provision of the funding.

**Reasons for decision:**

The Leader and Chief Executive have previously discussed with Watts Gallery Trust various strands of support to assist the development of the gallery as an increasingly high profile and nationally important gallery and heritage attraction within the county. This request is for time-limited revenue funding.

The contribution of the Artists' Village to artistic excellence, lifelong learning and public health and well-being, has led to its national recognition by the Arts Council as a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) (£100,000 per annum, from April 2018-2022). NPO funding will provide opportunities for the Artists' Village to develop predominantly new activities. However, at the same time, the Artists Village's funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) ends in March 20018. The HLF funding helped grow the Art for All learning programme from 2,000 to a predicted 20,000 learners in 2017/8. Without additional investment into its infrastructure the Trust will not be able to sustain its core activities and their benefit to local residents.

At this critical moment, there is an opportunity for further investment from the County Council through match funding of the NPO grant. This four year investment would enable Watts Gallery Trust to champion its Art for All programme; to grow the annual numbers of residents benefiting from learning, days out, open days, community events and job opportunities; and to further deliver the County Council's strategic goals.

Surrey County Council's investment in the Watts Gallery – Artists' Village has helped deliver considerable social and economic benefits for Surrey and Surrey residents, with a predicted 20,000 local learners in 2017/18 including in-depth learning programme with marginalised people such as NEETS, offenders and those with poor mental health.

Investment would also enable the Artists' Village to support place-making via its 65,000 annual visitors and to strengthen its leadership of the Arts and Crafts Consortium and its contribution to Surrey's cultural strategy to boost economic prosperity.

The benefits for Surrey residents will include increased learning opportunities and enhanced wellbeing including for vulnerable young people and other marginalised groups, increased employment and business opportunities, strengthened cultural experience for the public, including local people who might never have visited museums, and a boost to place-making and local tourism.

The Watts Gallery - Artists' Village will be Surrey's fourth NPO.

*(Decision taken by the Leader of the Council – 12 September 2017)*

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION**

### **(V) PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF DOWNS WAY SCHOOL AND ST. MARY'S C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL**

#### **Details of decision:**

The Cabinet Member for Education approved the publication of a statutory notice to:

1. close Downs Way School, effective from 31 August 2018;
2. alter the lower age limit of St. Mary's C of E Junior School, in order that the age range broadens from 7-11 to 4-11, effective from 1 September 2018; and
3. enlarge the formal capacity of this Primary School. From 360 places (i.e. the current capacity of St. Mary's C of E Junior School) to 660 places, effective from 1 September 2018.

#### **Reasons for decision:**

The schools serve the same geographic area and are on adjacent sites. The proposal will formalise existing partnership working; augment the cohesiveness of the school community; provide for more streamlined transitions between key stages; and allow for the most efficient allocation of resources. The proposal to expand the school is in response to the local demand for junior school places at this school and a basic need for more school places in the Oxted & Limpsfield area. In particular, as infant provision in the area has recently been expanded, through the enlargement of Downs Way, this amalgamation provides an appropriate opportunity to expand what would become corresponding junior provision in an amalgamated all-through primary school.

In line with this, Surrey County Council has undertaken the requisite first stage of informal consultation to inform the decision making process and a significant majority of respondents confirmed their agreement with the proposed alterations. For these reasons, it is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Education approves the publication of a Statutory Notice (appended to this report as Annex 1), formally proposing the necessary prescribed alterations.

*(Decision taken by the Cabinet Member for Education – 12 September 2017)*

**LEADER DECISIONS – 12 SEPTEMBER 2017****PROCEDURAL MATTERS****Members Questions****Question (1) Eber Kington (Ewell Court, Auriol & Cuddington):**

Whilst supporting the arts may well be a worthy project, SCC is currently facing severe funding pressures which are resulting in cuts to services across the council. For example streetlights have been switched off from midnight, local highway budgets have been severely cut, there are proposals for the withdrawal of Housing Support and potential cuts to services dealing with sexual health and HIV.

Given that the Watts Gallery Trust has total funds of £38.3m, receives support from a number of patrons and benefactors, generated income of £3.4m in the year ending 31st March 2016, and it has already received a £1million grant from SCC, does David Hodge agree with me that now is not the time to provide £400k of council taxpayers money to that organisation.

In the light of SCC's continuing budget deficit in this current financial year will David Hodge reject the Recommendation that Surrey County Council provides support of up to £400,000 to the Watts Gallery Trust, as both financially unaffordable and morally unacceptable at this time.

**Reply:**

Surrey County Council's investment in the Watts Gallery – Artists' Village has already helped deliver considerable social and economic benefits for Surrey and Surrey residents. The proposed funding for its learning and public programme will enable Watts to sustain and continue to develop Art for All. This outreach work with schools and in the community has a programmes of work targeted to health and wellbeing outcomes, including mental health. I suggest Mr Kington looks at the list of activities this funding will support – helpfully set out in paragraph 18 of the report. I certainly don't accept supporting programmes for disadvantaged and socially excluded members of our society is morally unacceptable and I am surprised and disappointed that he does.

**Mr David Hodge CBE**  
**Leader of the Council**  
**12 September 2017**

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