

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET
HELD ON 30 JANUARY 2018 AT 2.00 PM
AT ASHCOMBE SUITE, COUNTY HALL, KINGSTON UPON THAMES,
SURREY KT1 2DN.**

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Cabinet at its next meeting.

Members:

*Mr David Hodge (Chairman)	*Mr Mike Goodman
*Mr John Furey (Vice-Chairman)	*Mrs Mary Lewis
*Mrs Helyn Clack	*Mr Colin Kemp
*Mrs Clare Curran	*Mr Tim Oliver
*Mr Mel Few	*Ms Denise Turner-Stewart

* = Present

Members in attendance:

Mr Jonathan Essex
Dr Zully Grant-Duff
Mrs Kay Hammond
Mr David Harmer
Mr Nick Harrison
Mr Graham Knight
Mrs Rachael Lake
Mrs Sinead Mooney
Ms Charlotte Morley
Dr Andrew Povey
Dr Peter Szanto
Mrs Hazel Watson

**PART ONE
IN PUBLIC**

230/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

No apologies were received.

231/18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: [Item 2]

The minutes from the meeting held on 14 December 2017 were agreed.

232/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

None received.

233/18 PROCEDURAL MATTERS [Item 4]

1 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS [Item 4a]

There were none.

234/18 PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 4b]

There were four questions received from members of the public. The questions and responses can be found at Appendix 1.

Members of the public asked the following supplementary questions:

Mr Beaman asked for reassurance from the Cabinet Member for Highways, that traffic from outside the county was also being considered as part of the consultation. The Cabinet Member replied that the business case would be based on the criteria set by the Department for Transport but that he was aware of the issues in Farnham and would keep these in mind.

Ms Blake referred to the Secretary of State's recent comments regarding designing a scheme to preserve the countryside with further details to be provided in a paper in the spring. She asked the Cabinet whether they agreed that they should reject the Pay and Conserve proposal until after the details of this scheme have been decided.

Mr Oliver stated that he felt that the works to the car park sites in the Pay and Conserve proposal would prevent or impede access to the countryside and asked that the Cabinet review this in line with the spirit of the law. For his second supplementary question he asked how the Council would know that the scale of the car parking charges was reasonable without having seen the final business plan for the Surrey Wildlife Trust.

Ms Brown referred to the consultation that had been conducted on the Pay and Conserve proposals and asked what the purpose of this had been if the views expressed within the results were not reflected in the proposals put forward. She also asked what the cost, including officer time, of running the consultation had been.

The Leader stated that the points raised would be dealt with under the Pay and Conserve item on the agenda (item 14).

235/18 PETITIONS [Item 4c]

None received.

236/18 REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED ON REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE [Item 4d]

There were none.

237/18 REPORTS FROM SCRUTINY BOARDS, TASK GROUPS, LOCAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL [Item 5]

A report was received from the Overview and Budget Scrutiny Committee relating to item 10 on the agenda. A response to this can be found at Appendix 2.

The Chairman of the Overview and Budget Scrutiny Committee introduced the report and thanked finance officers for producing comprehensive paperwork. She went on to say that the response the Cabinet had provided only referred to the budgetary issues and that it was generic with no

comments made to the work that the Select Committee had undertaken at its last meeting. She requested that in future she would like individual Cabinet Members to respond to the recommendations relating to their portfolio area and asked that a further report be provided on these in the future.

The Leader responded to the comments by stating that the budget papers were the best he had ever seen and a lot of effort had gone into producing information for Members. He confirmed that his response was on behalf of the Cabinet and that the current situation was to agree a budget envelope and further work would need to be done with select committees to produce the Medium Term Financial Plan.

238/18 SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2018 - 2027 [Item 6]

The Cabinet Member for Education introduced the report and set out that was asking the Cabinet to consider the Surrey School Organisation Plan covering the academic years from September 2018 - 2027 for publication.

She went onto say that the School Organisation Plan set out the policies and principles underpinning school organisation in Surrey. It highlighted the likely demand for school places projected over a 10 year period and set out any potential changes in school organisation that may be required in order to meet the statutory duty to provide sufficient places. It was explained that the Council use a piece of software to undertake forecasting and that the plan is produced using historical and future data.

Members were informed that the Council had created over 16,000 extra school places over the last five years and still need to provide many more and that government funding fell significantly short of the amount needed to create those places.

The Deputy Leader confirmed his support for the plan and thanked officers for the work that had been done.

RESOLVED:

That the School Organisation Plan 2018 - 2027 is approved for recommendation to Council to determine its publication.

Reasons for Decisions

The School Organisation Plan is a key document used by schools and education stakeholders in considering long term plans. It is necessary to review the plan to ensure that the best and most up to date information is published for use in this planning process.

239/18 ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS AND COORDINATED SCHEMES FOR SEPTEMBER 2019 [Item 7]

The Cabinet Member for Education explained that each year, Surrey County Council is responsible for processing approximately 29,000 applications for a school place from Surrey residents and coordinates offers for over 350 schools. The admission arrangements for each school determine which children can be offered a place and Surrey's coordinated admissions scheme

ensures that, as far as possible, no child receives an offer at more than one school.

It was explained that Surrey County Council was responsible for setting the admission arrangements for its community and voluntary controlled schools and the coordinated admission schemes. Academies, foundation, free, trust and voluntary aided schools have responsibility for setting their own admission arrangements and therefore their admission arrangements were not covered in the report.

Members were informed that there were seven recommendations within the report for endorsement and following statutory consultation on Surrey's admission arrangements for September 2019, Cabinet was asked to consider the responses set out in Enclosure 4 and make recommendations to the County Council on admission arrangements for Surrey's community and voluntary controlled infant, junior, primary and secondary schools and the coordinated schemes that would apply to all schools for September 2019.

The report covered the following areas in relation to school admissions:

- Cranmere Primary, Elmbridge – Recommendation 1
- William Cobbett Primary, Waverley – Recommendation 2
- The Dawnay School, Mole Valley – Recommendation 3
- Reigate Priory School, Reigate & Banstead – Recommendation 4
- Published Admission Numbers for other community and voluntary controlled schools – Recommendation 5
- Admission arrangements for which no change is proposed – Recommendation 6
- Primary and secondary coordinated admission schemes that will apply to all schools for 2019 – Recommendation 7

Members queried what the situation was with regards to academies and how this would impact on forecast planning and were informed that this was done by negotiation and through maintaining good relationships with all the schools in the family of Surrey schools. Officers were commended for the detailed work that they had done.

Cabinet Members commented on the amount of work undertaken and that the coordinated system was important for providing clarity and assurance for parents.

RESOLVED:

It is recommended that Cabinet make the following recommendations to the County Council:

Recommendation 1

That the published admissions number for Reception at Cranmere Primary School is decreased from 90 to 60 for September 2019.

Reasons for Decision

- It is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school, albeit they would have preferred a reduction in PAN to 30
- There would still be sufficient places for local children if the PAN is decreased
- It would help support other local schools in maintaining pupil numbers

- It would help the school plan its classes and resources
- It would have no impact on children who are currently on roll at the school

Recommendation 2

That the published admissions number for Reception at William Cobbett Primary School is decreased from 40 to 30 for September 2019.

Reasons for Decision

- It is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school
- There would still be sufficient places for local children if the PAN is decreased
- It would help support other local schools in maintaining pupil numbers
- It would make organisation of the school more effective
- It would make appeals easier to defend under Infant Class Size legislation
- It would have no impact on children who are currently on roll at the school

Recommendation 3

That a feeder link is introduced to The Dawnay School from Polesden Lacey Infant School at Year 3 for September 2019, as follows:

- a. Looked after and previously looked after children
- b. Exceptional social/medical need
- c. Siblings
- d. Children attending Polesden Lacey Infant School
- e. Children for whom The Dawnay School is the nearest school to their home address
- f. Any other children

Reasons for Decision

- There was overall support for this change
- It is supported by Governors at Polesden Lacey and The Dawnay schools
- It would align the arrangements for The Dawnay School with Eastwick Junior School so that both are seen as destination schools for children attending Polesden Lacey Infant School
- It would provide continuity and a clearer transition for parents, children and schools and would reduce anxiety for parents
- It would maximise the opportunity for families to keep children at schools with agreed links
- It is consistent with Surrey's planning principles set out in the School Organisation Plan
- Eligibility to transport is not linked to the admission criteria of a school and as such attendance at The Dawnay School would not confer an automatic right to transport to Polesden Lacey Infant School

Recommendation 4

That a feeder link is introduced to Reigate Priory School from Dovers Green and Holmesdale Community infant schools on a tiered basis for September 2019, as follows:

- a. Looked after and previously looked after children
- b. Exceptional social/medical need

- c. Siblings for whom Reigate Priory School is the nearest to their home address
- d. Children attending either Dovers Green or Holmesdale Community infant schools for whom Reigate Priory School is the nearest to their home address
- e. Other siblings
- f. Other children attending either Dovers Green or Holmesdale Community infant schools
- g. Any other children

Reasons for Decision

- There was overall support for this change
- It is supported by the Headteacher and Governors at Reigate Priory School and Dovers Green and Holmesdale Community infant schools
- It would introduce a feeder link for Dovers Green and Holmesdale Community infant schools where currently none exist
- It would provide continuity and a clearer transition for parents, children and schools and would reduce anxiety for parents
- It would maximise the opportunity for families to keep children at schools with agreed links
- Children would be less likely to be offered a place from other local primary schools, thus preventing unnecessary movement between schools and creating more stability in the area
- It is consistent with Surrey's planning principles set out in the School Organisation Plan
- Eligibility to transport is not linked to the admission criteria of a school and as such attendance at Dovers Green and Holmesdale Community infant schools would not confer an automatic right to transport to Reigate Priory School

Recommendation 5

That the Published Admission Numbers (PAN) for September 2019 for all other community and voluntary controlled schools are determined as they are set out in Appendix 1 of Enclosure 1 which includes the following change:

- i) Oakwood School – increase in Year 7 PAN from 270 to 300

Reasons for Decision

- Oakwood School is increasing its intake to respond to the need to create more school places
- Any increase to PAN would help meet parental preference
- All other PANs remain as determined for 2018 which enables parents to have some historical benchmark by which to make informed decisions about their school preferences
- The School Commissioning team supports the PANs

Recommendation 6

That the aspects of Surrey's admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2019, for which no change is proposed, are agreed as set out in Enclosure 1 and its appendices.

Reasons for Decision

- The existing arrangements are working well
- This would ensure stability and consistency for the majority of Surrey's parents, pupils and schools

- The arrangements enable parents to have some historical benchmark by which to make informed decisions about their school preferences
- The arrangements enable the majority of pupils to attend their nearest schools and in doing so reduces travel and supports Surrey's sustainability policies
- Changes highlighted in bold in sections 8 a) i), 11, 12, 13, and 15 of Enclosure 1 which have not otherwise been referenced in this report, have been made to add clarity to the admission arrangements
- Changes to the schools which will not be taken in to account in the assessment of nearest school, as set out in Appendix 3 of Enclosure 1, have been determined by the definition set out in paragraph 12 of Enclosure 1

NB Changes to PAN that are highlighted in bold in Appendix 1 of Enclosure 1 are referenced in Recommendations 1, 2 and 5

Recommendation 7

That the primary and secondary coordinated admission schemes that will apply to all schools for 2019 are agreed as set out in Enclosure 2.

Reasons for Decision

- The coordinated schemes for 2019 are essentially the same as 2018 with dates updated
- The coordinated schemes would enable the County Council to meet its statutory duties regarding school admissions
- The coordinated schemes are working well
- Changes highlighted in bold in Enclosure 2 add clarity and are in line with the schemes proposed by other local authorities participating in the Pan London coordinated admissions process

240/18 RE-COMMISSIONING SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN SURREY [Item 8]

The Cabinet Member for Children informed Members that the purpose of the Supported Accommodation commission was to ensure that sufficient high quality accommodation with support is available for young people that meets their needs, enable them to be safe and to achieve positive outcomes in relation to independent living, health, social wellbeing, education and employment. She said that the Council was committed to supporting young people at every stage in their lives and provide safe and secure homes. She went on to outline the groups of young people that this commission sought to help.

It was explained that this enabled Surrey County Council to fulfil its statutory duties in this area and was seeking to ensure that young people are able to remain in county and live near to their support networks.

Cabinet Members were informed that the Council had not had to place any young people in bed and breakfast accommodation for over a year and this was seen as a significant achievement.

The current supported accommodation framework would end on 31 March 2018 and work has been undertaken in partnership to look at the needs of young people and work with them to plan for their future. The Cabinet Member referred Members to the Equalities Impact Assessment and stated

that there were no negative factors identified in having a commissioned service.

The Cabinet Member for Health said that she was very moved by the report and that she had reviewed the needs analysis and felt that it was very important to spend money in this area to support children through difficult times.

The Cabinet Member for Education referred to looked after children and the importance of giving them the best start to adult life.

The Leader summarised by saying that he was extremely pleased that bed and breakfast accommodation had not been used and that this was a credit to the service and the officer involved. He went on to say that there were a significant number of young people in Surrey that required this support and the Council was committed to doing everything it can to help them.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that:

1. Cabinet approves the use of a Dynamic Purchasing System to commission and award contracts for up to £13.4 million of Supported Accommodation provision for young people in Surrey from April 2018 to March 2022.
2. The providers as listed in the Part 2 Annex of the submitted report are awarded a place on the new DPS as they have passed the Invitation to Tender (ITT) evaluation process, whilst recognising that further organisations will be able to apply throughout the duration of the DPS.

Reasons for Decisions

A Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) under the Light Touch Regime has been selected as the most appropriate route to market because:

- It enables robust control of the quality and cost of supported accommodation services for young people;
- It provides flexibility: this approach attracts a larger range of suppliers and allows providers to enter / exit from the list without having to re-open frameworks, which can be legally challenging and bureaucratic;
- It is responsive. It will enable us to ensure that the service providers who can meet the emergent needs of young people, especially those who are experiencing the greatest challenges, are able to join the list throughout the length of the commission;
- It demonstrates that we have listened to feedback and suggestions from the market and colleagues following the last tender process which was considered to be overly complicated. The approach was also too restrictive and led to spot purchasing with organisations that were not on the Framework as it was considered that only they were able to meet the needs of vulnerable young people.

241/18 CHERTSEY HIGH SCHOOL, RUNNYMEDE - ALL-WEATHER PITCH [Item 9]

The Cabinet Member for Education informed Members that Chertsey High School was a new 4 form of entry (120 places per year 600 places in total) Secondary School opened as part of the Free School Programme. She went on to say that the Council had provided the site of the former Runnymede Centre for the new school, with the Department of Education (DFE) providing the capital build costs and that an all-weather pitch was tied to the whole project.

Members were told that the school had the potential to rise to 900 places over time in line with demographic need and that the school opened in September 2017 for 120 year 7 pupils.

In order to establish the school the Council had undertaken detailed conversations with the current occupier of the sports ground at the site, Abby Rangers Football Club. To achieve joint use of the area for the new school and the existing community sports club the Council had proposed to joint fund with the DFE the installation of an all-weather sports pitch. This paper provided the Business Case for the relevant contribution towards that facility for Community and School use.

She summarised by saying that the provision and potential future expansion of the school was enabling Surrey County Council to meet the existing and forecast demand for secondary school places in Runnymede borough.

Cabinet Members commented that they felt that the business case that was good value for money and an excellent example of partnership working.

The Leader concluded the discussion on this item by informing Cabinet Members that the Ride London-Surrey event had also contributed towards the project.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information of the scheme as set out in Part 2 of the submitted report, the Cabinet approves the business case for the contribution of relevant sums towards the construction of an all weather sports pitch at Chertsey High School.

Reasons for Decisions

The proposal supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places to meet the needs of the population in Runnymede Borough enabling the provision of Year 7 places when and where they are needed.

242/18 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2018/19 TO 2020/21, CORPORATE STRATEGY AND KEY FINANCIAL STRATEGIES [Item 10]

The Leader introduced the report and began by saying that it contained some good news and some disappointments. He went on to say that the Council was very pleased to be selected to be a part of the business rates pilot and this demonstrated the good work undertaken between the districts and

boroughs and the county council. Members were informed that the change in the way that the council can use its capital receipts was also positive as these can now be used for transformation.

It was felt that linking social care to health care was a very positive move and it would be important for local government to contribute to the green paper on this when it was available.

The review of fairer funding was discussed and it was felt that this could take another two years. This meant that the funding gap needed to be plugged and Members were disappointed that transition funding would not be continuing.

The Leader informed the Cabinet that in the next year Surrey residents would pay £26m to subsidise services in other areas of the country and that he would continue to lobby the Secretary of State for fairer funding for Surrey.

He highlighted that Surrey had over 1000 adults with learning disabilities and that the government had reduced the funding provided to support them. He also said that Surrey also has the third highest number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children in the country.

Members were told that since 2010 the Government had taken £200m and that since that time the Council had saved £540m annually.

The Leader went on to say that it was with deep regret that there was no choice but to put up council tax and therefore the proposal would be to increase it by 3% for adult social care and for 3% for core funding. This would equate to an additional £1.53 per week for a band D property in 2018/19.

The Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee addressed the Cabinet to confirm his support for the revised Treasury Management Strategy following an in depth review of this at the previous Audit and Governance Committee meeting and that he was happy to recommend this to council for approval on 6 February.

Cabinet Members confirmed their support for the paper and provided comments on demand increases and pressure on services outstripping the income that the council could raise. They thanked officers for providing a clear and understandable report.

It was agreed that paragraph 104 of the submitted report regarding Local Highways Funding and Member Allocations should be a formal recommendation to be agreed by the Cabinet and this then became recommendation 21.

After the debate the Chairman called the recommendations, which included the council tax precept proposals, and the vote was taken.

The following members voted for:

Mr David Hodge CBE, Mr John Furey, Mrs Helyn Clack, Mrs Clare Curran, Mr Mel Few, Mr Mike Goodman, Mr Colin Kemp, Mrs Mary Lewis, Mr Tim Oliver and Ms Denise Turner-Stewart.

There were no votes against and no abstentions.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet makes the following recommendations to the Full County Council on 6 February 2018:

Cabinet recommendations to Full County Council to note the following important features of the revenue and capital budget

1. The Director of Finance's statutory conclusions that the council's budget is balanced for 2018/19 and is developing a major transformation programme to be able to set a balanced budget for 2019/20 and become sustainable over the medium to long term (Annex 1 of the submitted report).

Proposed budget: Cabinet recommendations to Full County Council for the revenue and capital budgets

2. Increase the level of the general council tax by 2.99% (paragraphs 101 and 102 of the submitted report).
3. Increase council tax by a further 3% for the adult social care precept, which will provide a further £20m to support the growth in demand for services (paragraph 102 of the submitted report).
4. Set the County Council precept for band D council tax at £1,411.29 which represents a 5.99% up-lift. This is a rise of £1.53 a week from 2017/18's precept of £1,331.55.
5. Approve the County Council's £1,705m gross revenue expenditure budget for 2018/19 (Table 9 of the submitted report).
6. Approve the application of up to £15m capital receipts to fund the revenue costs associated with transformation projects (paragraphs 34 to 37 and Appendix 3 of the submitted report)
7. Approve use of up to £24m of earmarked reserves to support the revenue budget (paragraph 109 of the submitted report).
8. Approve £316m three year capital programme, with £139m capital investment in 2018/19 (paragraph 124 and Appendix 7 of the submitted report).
9. Agree to support only capital schemes that do not require borrowing, unless the scheme has a compelling business case developed that demonstrates best value and a sustainable basis for funding borrowing costs (paragraph 135 of the submitted report).
10. Note that the detailed programme of schemes will be agreed ahead of implementation of the detailed budget (if necessary).
11. Require a robust business case to be prepared (and taken to the Investment Panel for review) before committing expenditure for the use of:

- all revenue 'invest to save' proposals, and
 - capital schemes (paragraph 120 of the submitted report).
12. To help ensure the council achieves its savings programme, require the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance to:
- continue to ensure delivery of existing MTFP efficiencies and service reductions for the remaining years of the MTFP 2018-21; and
 - continue to ensure services monitor their demand and cost pressures and develop plans to mitigate the impact of those pressures (paragraph 95 of the submitted report).
13. Require the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance to lead the development of a transformation programme to move the council to a sustainable position in 2019/20.

Corporate and key financial strategies: Cabinet recommendations to Full County Council on the revenue and capital budgets

14. Approve the refreshed Corporate Strategy for 2018/19 that Cabinet has endorsed (paragraphs 18 to 24 and Appendix 1 of the submitted report).
15. Approve the refreshed Financial Strategy for 2018/19 (paragraphs 30 to 32 and Appendix 2 of the submitted report).
16. Approve the Capital Strategy for 2018-22 (paragraphs 117 and 118 of the submitted report)
17. Approve the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy for 2018/19 (paragraphs 34 to 37 of the submitted report).

Treasury management and borrowing: Cabinet recommendations to Full County Council

18. Approve, with immediate effect, the Treasury Management Strategy for 2018/19 (Annex 2 of the submitted report), which includes:
- the investment strategy for short term cash balances;
 - the borrowing strategy for funding the capital programme;
 - the treasury management policy (Appendix 10 of the submitted report);
 - the prudential indicators (Appendix 11 of the submitted report);
 - the treasury management scheme of delegation (Appendix 12 of the submitted report);
 - the minimum revenue provision policy (Appendix 13 of the submitted report).

That the following decisions have been approved by Cabinet

19. That services will develop final detailed budgets and savings within budget for review by the council's Scrutiny function, ahead of approval by Cabinet on 27 March 2018 when the final MTFP 2018-21 will be presented.
20. That the draft MTFP for the financial years 2018-21 be approved, which includes:
 - to approve the Total Schools Budget of £505.8m (paragraphs 110 to 115 of the submitted report);
 - to approve overall cash limits for individual services for the 2018/19 budget (Table 9 of the submitted report).
21. That Cabinet approved allocation of a part of the additional funding from the additional 1% increase in council tax, and a change to the funding for the Members Allocations to provide the following to support Members' work in their local communities (paragraphs 104 and 105 of the submitted report):
 - a new Member Local Highways Fund;
 - a Revenue Highways Fund shared among Local Committees; and
 - revised Members Community Allocation

Reasons for Decisions

Full County Council will meet on 6 February 2018 to agree a budget and set the council tax precept for 2018/19. Cabinet will recommend a budget to Full County Council to consider at its meeting on 6 February 2018.

243/18 MONTHLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT [Item 11]

The Leader of the Council presented the budget monitoring report for period 31 December 2017 (month nine of 2017/18).

He stated that in February the council would set its budget for 2018/19 in the face of significant rising demand pressures, particularly in social care; falling Government funding and continuing restraint on the ability to raise funds locally. To balance 2017/18's budget the council had to make plans to deliver an unprecedented £104m of savings and that this significant challenge for the council came on top of already making over £450m savings since 2010.

Members were informed that within the £104m savings target, the council had agreed plans for £95m savings, with £9m savings yet to be identified and that after nine months of the financial year, services had already achieved £65m of savings with another £13m on track for delivery, and £1m faced potential barriers.

The Leader went on to state that at this stage, £16m savings were now thought to be unachievable in this year. The council's 2017/18 budget included significant demand and cost pressures, mostly in social care and in the first nine months of the year, demand had increased above that forecast even a short time ago.

He said that the combined impact of delivering lower savings than planned and demand rising faster than anticipated forecast a year end overspend of £11m for 2017/18. This was an £8m improvement on last month's forecast position mainly due to specific actions Orbis had taken to stop or reschedule work to deliver savings in 2017/18 and from identifying further reductions in interest payable.

This action in reducing the overall spending in 2017/18 was important because the Council would need to meet any overspends from its reserves. He referred Members to the 2018/19 budget report and stated that the Council plans to use £24m reserves to balance next year's budget which left the reserves at minimum safe levels.

It was reported that services had already taken action as part of the recovery plan to reduce costs and bring the forecast overspend down. However, all services needed to continue to take all appropriate action to manage spending within available resources by keeping costs down, managing vacancies, optimising income and being aware of the current financial position before committing additional future expenditure.

Other Cabinet Members were given the opportunity to highlight key points and issues from their portfolios.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet noted the following:

1. The forecast revenue budget outturn for 2017/18 was £11m overspend (Annex 1, paragraphs 1 and 8 to 43 of the submitted report). This included:
£9m savings to be identified,
£16m savings considered unachievable in 2017/18,
£13m service demand and cost pressures
less
£27m underspends, additional savings and income.
2. Significant risks to the revenue budget (Annex 1, paragraphs 44 to 46 of the submitted report) could add £8m to the forecast overspend, including: £7m in Children, Schools & Families and £1m in Adult Social Care.
3. Forecast planned savings for 2017/18 total £79m against £95m agreed savings and £104m target (Annex 1, paragraph 47 of the submitted report).
4. All services continue to take all appropriate action to keep costs down and optimise income (e.g. minimising spending, managing vacancies wherever possible etc.).

5. The Section 151 Officer's commentary and the Monitoring Officer's Legal Implications commentary in paragraphs 16 to 19 of the submitted report, state that the council has a duty to ensure its expenditure does not exceed resources available and move towards a sustainable budget for future years.

The Cabinet approved the following:

6. Reprofiting of £356,000 capital underspends on Superfast Broadband project from 2017/18 across 2018/19 to 2020/21 (Annex 1, paragraph 63 of the submitted report).

Reasons for Decisions

This report is presented to comply with the agreed policy of providing a monthly budget monitoring report to Cabinet for approval and action as necessary.

244/18 LEADERSHIP RISK REGISTER [Item 12]

The Cabinet Member for Property and Business Services introduced the report and informed Members that this was a quarterly update and presented the Leadership risk register as at 10 January 2018. He confirmed that the register was reviewed monthly and explained that there had been a few minor changes this month relating to safeguarding and new ways of working.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport stated that he felt that the document has improved over the years and that it was a good example of a working document.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the Surrey County Council Leadership risk register (Annex 1 of the submitted report) be noted and the control actions put in place by the Statutory Responsibilities Network be endorsed by the Cabinet.

Reasons for Decisions

To enable the Cabinet to keep Surrey County Council's strategic risks under review and to ensure that appropriate action is being taken to mitigate risks to a tolerable level in the most effective way.

245/18 CONVERTING STREET LIGHTS TO LED [Item 13]

The Cabinet Member for Highways informed Members that the Council currently spent £3.5 million each year on energy for street lighting. Recent projections indicated energy costs for street lighting would rise by between 5% and 14% over the next 10 years which could mean the annual cost increasing to nearly £15 million in that time and as high as £55 million per year in 20 years if prices rose by 14% each year. He went on to say that the Council had been looking into LED options for the 89,000 streetlights across the county and would be considering what new technologies are available. Members were informed that a 25 year agreement had been put in place in 2010 and that this would need to be revised in order to replace the street lights.

It was explained that by investing approximately £18.5 million over 3 years to convert the council's 89,000 street lights to LED it would reduce their consumption by around 60% saving approximately £2 million per year (at today's prices).

The Cabinet Member for Property and Business Services commended the report and stated that it was a very good idea with new and improved technology and stressed the importance of being innovative in order to attract funding to support the project and work with the PFI partner to ensure that the solution was right.

Members commented on how this would contribute to a reduction in emissions and this was welcomed.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet:

Approves in principle the conversion of the Council's street lighting assets to LED and delegates to the Head of Highways and Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, the authority to issue a change notice under the Street Lighting PFI contract to enable the development of a detailed proposal.

Take a decision on whether to proceed based on a final detailed business case, including a technical solution and implementation programme, in Autumn 2018.

Reasons for Decisions

Energy price inflation is increasing at a significant rate (5%-14%) and to ensure lights are operational when needed, there is little opportunity for the Council to control or reduce its energy costs.

LED technology in street lighting has matured significantly in recent years while the costs have reduced. Many Highway Authorities have either embarked on an LED conversion programme or are in the process of planning to commence one within the next 2-3 years.

Converting to LED will reduce energy consumption by 60% delivering £2 million per year energy savings at today's prices as well as reducing carbon impact by 6200 tonnes and avoiding the Carbon Reduction Commitment tax otherwise payable on the avoided consumption.

In addition to converting to LED street lighting and upgrading the Central Management System, Officers will be able to explore additional innovations now being used or being developed for use with street lighting such as:

- Motion sensor controls to turn lights on in residential areas when people or vehicles approach and, off once they have passed
- Providing real-time traffic movement data to help understand and ease congestion
- Environmental sensors to detect and monitor air quality

The potential for these innovations may be in direct relation to street lighting (e.g. motion sensor controls) or in providing a communications network for other areas of the Council (and extending to partners in District and Borough Councils) to connect equipment to improve the services and outcomes they deliver.

Furthermore, these innovations may present grant funding opportunities through central Government departments and the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) which would reduce the borrowing requirement for the Council.

The PFI contract allows for changes to the specification and service. As explained in paragraphs 18-22, once a change notice is issued the process of identifying an appropriate solution to meet the Council's needs begins which is expected to take 6-8 months to explore and agree before being presented back to Cabinet for approval, hence the reason for the 2 stage Cabinet approval.

246/18 PAY & CONSERVE, CAR PARK CHARGING ON THE COUNTRYSIDE ESTATE [Item 14]

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport began by addressing the comments made under the public questions item in relation to comments made by the Secretary of State regarding a 25 year study of the countryside. He informed Members that the council had now responded to over 400 questions in relation to Newlands Corner and the Pay and Conserve proposal.

He explained that the proposals to introduce car parking charges was necessary to ensure that income was coming into the council to protect and enhance the countryside. He went on to say that Kent, Hampshire, Essex and the National Trust introduced car parking charges many years ago.

He thanked those that had responded to the consultation that had been held as it had helped officers understand the estate. He confirmed that any income that would come out of the car parking charges would be ring fenced for the countryside and that this was covered under the relevant Local Government Acts.

The Environment and Infrastructure Select Committee were also thanked for the work that they had done to contribute to the proposals and as a result officers were looking at putting in cycle racks at the sites.

The Cabinet Member for Children confirmed that she had visited two of the car parks scheduled to have charging implemented and stated that as a motorist, she expected to have to pay to park wherever she travels both in her own division and in other areas of the country. She said that 87% of Surrey residents lived in urban areas and all of these people were currently having to pay for the upkeep of the countryside estate and that charging would be in line with organisations such as the National Trust.

The Cabinet Member for Education queried how much the annual parking permit would be and where this would be obtainable. She commented that it was important for the car parks to be maintained so that access was easy, particularly for those in wheelchairs. Members were informed that the annual

cost would be £60 and that this equated to 16p per day. The hourly cost was £1.30 and blue badge holders could park for free.

Members stated that due to financial pressures and increases in the number of vulnerable people in Surrey that required support there were difficult decisions to be made and that this proposal was a sustainable method to ensure that the countryside was maintained.

The Cabinet Member summarised by confirming that the council had the legal powers to impose car parking. He informed Members that there were ongoing discussions with districts and boroughs regarding enforcement of parking charges and that as a result of the charging proposals there would be further work to do to ensure potential vehicle displacement was addressed.

It was confirmed that the paragraph referencing in recommendation 3 was incorrect in the submitted report and this was revised to say paragraph 21 and then agreed.

RESOLVED:

The Cabinet agreed that:

1. Charging is introduced at 15 car parks across the 5 busiest sites as set out in Option 5 in paragraph 35 of the submitted report.
2. Income from car park charging is ring-fenced for the benefit of the Surrey Countryside Estate.
3. The tariffs are agreed as set out in paragraph 21 of the submitted report and thereafter forms part of the annual review process for fees and charges.

Reasons for Decisions

In order to ensure a secure future for the Countryside Estate in the stewardship of the County Council and Surrey Wildlife Trust, a steady revenue stream is critical. SWT are working with the County Council to develop a range of opportunities to produce that income and help to protect and enhance the Countryside Estate.

The Countryside Estate is greatly valued by the public, however it is coming under increasing pressure from reducing budgets. The best way to protect and enhance the countryside for the future is to make the Estate self-funding and better protected against declining public sector budgets. Paying for parking is an accepted cost of going to the countryside, demonstrated by the many sites that charge and are still very busy.

Without funding, the countryside will become more inaccessible, overgrown and littered. All car parks on the countryside estate need regular litter collection, management of trees and other vegetation, upkeep of signs and surfacing and car park resurfacing. Income from car park charges can help meet these costs and improve the biodiversity, landscape and access to this valuable asset.

The results of the consultation show us that the public would prefer not to pay to use the car parks however there is recognition that without a reliable income stream the result would be a deterioration in the quality of the estate and in access to the estate. Of the payment options available, cash would be the most acceptable to the public. However there are high operational costs and risks, for example theft and vandalism are more common where cash is collected in meters on remote sites. The National Trust are already reviewing their method of charging as a result of repeated vandalism. The next most popular payment option was by card (some 95% of adults in the UK now have bank cards).

Many countryside car parks in Surrey and other rural areas make charges. Following financial assessment, the analysis of the Pay and Conserve Public Consultation and recommendations from the Environment and Infrastructure Select Committee, it is felt that the most appropriate way of generating the necessary income is to introduce charging at the 5 busiest sites with card-only Pay and Display machines plus the option to pay by mobile phone or to purchase an annual parking permit. The cost of an annual permit is £60 this equates to a daily cost of 16p.

247/18 HIGHWAY ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE AGENCY AGREEMENTS

[Item 15]

The Cabinet Member for Highways stated that the County Council had operated agency agreements with ten of the Surrey District / Borough Councils and one consortium of Parish Councils, to undertake environmental maintenance. This included the management and maintenance of highway grass verges, routine weed control and some hedges and for Woking only this had also included highway trees.

Due to the financial pressures facing the County Council, there was a need to reduce expenditure for highway environmental maintenance and discussions had been held with the Districts and Boroughs as to the best method of achieving this.

It was explained that authorisation was sought to enter into agency agreements as detailed within this report, which would reflect the lower level of funding and associated service provision.

The Cabinet Member for Communities commended the report and said that it was a good example of collaboration and partnership working.

RESOLVED:

The Cabinet agreed that:

1. Authority be given for the Head of Highways & Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways to enter into formal agency agreements with the District and Borough Councils to undertake highway environmental maintenance works.
2. Funding levels, at the reduced rates be maintained for the duration of the initial four year agency agreements, with annual adjustment for inflation.

3. Where no agreement can be made with a District or Borough, the County Council will directly manage highways environmental maintenance for that area.

Reasons for Decisions

Agency agreements need to be established to ensure that the County Council can continue working with Districts and Boroughs so they can provide highway environmental maintenance activities on behalf of the County Council.

248/18 OPERATION OF ON-STREET CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT [Item 16]

The Cabinet Member for Highways introduced the report by explaining that the Council currently discharged the responsibility for parking enforcement to the district and borough councils. He went on to say that work had been undertaken with the 11 district and boroughs to set out how the County Council would manage the future enforcement and administration of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) within Surrey. He went on to say that the report recommended reducing the number of parking enforcement agencies from nine to four, with boroughs and districts grouped into clusters in the South-West, North-West, East and North East of the County. It was explained that three of the four clusters had developed viable operations which were set out in the report however the North-East cluster was yet to develop a proposal.

He summarised by stating that the report recommended entering into five-year on-street parking enforcement agency agreements with lead District and Borough authorities who would manage these clusters. In the event that any cluster was not ready to start operating from April 2018, it recommended entering into two-year agreements to allow time for any problems to be resolved, or for alternative arrangements to be put in place.

Members confirmed their support for the proposal and stated that they thanked officers and the districts and boroughs for the work that had been undertaken and they urged the Cabinet Member and officers to resolve the issue in the North-East cluster.

RESOLVED:

That the County Council enters into new Civil Parking Enforcement arrangements from 1 April 2018 as follows:

1. either;
 - a. Five-year agency agreements be introduced with each identified lead authority where a cluster is ready to be implemented,
 - b. Two-year agency agreements be introduced with individual borough/district councils where a cluster is not ready to be implemented,

in line with the terms specified within this report, including the split of any surplus as detailed in paragraph 18 of the submitted report.

2. the Head of Highways and Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways, be authorised to finalise details, including any necessary temporary arrangements, and implement agreements.
3. Local or Joint Committees continue to have an oversight and monitoring role for on-street parking enforcement within their area.

Reasons for Decisions

To ensure the County Council effectively, efficiently and consistently manages on-street parking in Surrey, so that the economy of our town centres is enhanced and congestion is reduced, to the benefit of our residents and businesses.

249/18 LEADER / DEPUTY LEADER / CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST CABINET MEETING [Item 17]

The annex set out the decisions taken by individual Cabinet Members since the last meeting of the Cabinet. Members were given the opportunity to comment on them.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet note the decisions taken by Cabinet Members since the last meeting as set out in Annex 1 of the submitted report.

Reasons for Decisions

To inform the Cabinet of decisions taken by Cabinet Members / Investment Board under delegated authority.

250/18 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC [Item 18]

RESOLVED: That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

251/18 RE-COMMISSIONING SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN SURREY [Item 19]

The Part 2 report contained information which was exempt from Access to Information requirements by virtue of paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including commercially sensitive information to the bidding companies).

The information contained in this report may not be published or circulated beyond this report and will remain sensitive for the length of the contract.

RESOLVED:

That the 16 providers as set out in the submitted report, be awarded a place on the DPS commencing 1 April 2018 because they met the required threshold (50%) in the ITT evaluation process.

Reasons for Decisions

This will enable Surrey County Council to purchase services on a spot basis from these organisations. Providers accepted onto the DPS will be invited to bid for block contracts through mini-competitions in February 2018.

252/18 CHERTSEY HIGH SCHOOL, RUNNYMEDE - ALL-WEATHER PITCH [Item 20]

This Part 2 report contained information which was exempt from Access to Information requirements by virtue of paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including commercially sensitive information to the bidding companies).

The information contained within may not be published or circulated beyond this report and will remain sensitive until the contract has been awarded.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that:

1. The business case for the project to contribute towards the cost of an all-weather pitch at this new secondary free school that will provide 600 additional school places, at a total cost as set out in the submitted report be approved.
2. The arrangements by which a variation of up to 10% of the total value may be agreed by the Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director for Children, Schools and Families in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education, the Cabinet Member for Property and Business Services and the Leader of the Council be agreed.
3. That the authority to approve the award of contracts for works be delegated to the Chief Property Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Education, Head of Procurement and Section 151 Officer when a competitive tender is procured through the new Orbis Construction Framework.

Reasons for Decisions

The proposal delivers and supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide necessary school places to meet the needs of the population in Runnymede Borough.

253/18 PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS - DISPOSAL [Item 21]

The Cabinet Member for Property and Business Services outlined the disposal plans and confirmed that a full consultation had been undertaken with all council services to confirm that this site is not required for use by the Council.

The Part 2 report contained information which was exempt from Access to Information requirements by virtue of paragraph 3 – Information relating to the

financial or business affairs of any particular person (including commercially sensitive information to the bidding companies).

RESOLVED:

That, following a marketing exercise, a property no longer considered suited to ongoing service delivery nor capable of generating significant income be disposed of.

Reasons for Decisions

The property is no longer considered suited to ongoing service delivery, nor capable of generating significant income. The capital receipt from the sale will contribute to the funding sources available to the council in support of its delivery of services to its residents.

254/18 PUBLICITY FOR PART 2 ITEMS [Item 22]

It was agreed that non-exempt information may be made available to the press and public, where appropriate.

Meeting closed at 5.05pm

Chairman

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CABINET – 30 January 2018

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Public Questions

Question 1: Mr David Beaman – Farnham Town Councillor, Castle Ward

On 23rd December the Department of Transport launched a 12 week consultation exercise on which roads to include in new Major Road Network in which funding would be available for projects of up to £100 million for upgrades and improvements. All the main roads serving Farnham potentially qualify and will SCC be using this opportunity to bid for funding for a relief road to bypass Farnham to reduce congestion, improve air quality and road safety?

Reply:

The consultation is on the establishment of a Major Roads Network (MRN), which would be established based on quantitative and qualitative criteria including traffic flow, linking economic centres, ensuring a coherent network and access to/resilience of the Strategic Road Network (SRN). The investment decisions are based on five objectives including reducing congestion, supporting economic growth and housing delivery, supporting all road users and the Strategic Road Network. We will be assessing all our roads against these criteria, including the roads around Farnham, and submitting evidence on which roads within Surrey meet the criteria for inclusion in the Network.

Mr Colin Kemp
Cabinet Member for Highways
30 January 2018

Question 2: Ms Sally Blake

The Cabinet is being asked to approve the introduction of car park charges of £1.30 an hour (max £5) at 15 countryside car parks at Chobham, Whitmoor, Rodborough, Witley and Ockham Commons, and Norbury Park.

The paper presented by Cllr Goodman indicates under proposed Option 5 (with payment by card and phone only) an average total revenue of £448,000 pa, with average expenditure (presumably to 'run the parking scheme') of £247,000 pa, and average net revenue (presumably to 'conserve the countryside') of £201,000 pa. These are averages over 15 years.

What is the Council's policy in approving this proposal, based on these figures, relating specifically to the following:

- Presently there are 446,000 cars visiting these car parks each year. Your own consultation, where people were not even told the proposed high level of the charges, showed 54% of people would avoid coming in future and 16% would come less often. The average total revenue of £448,000 pa looks extraordinarily high.
- The financial impact on your social care budget, by reducing access to the countryside for the elderly and less well-off, has not been assessed and included in

the figures. Substantial expert evidence has been provided to support the negative impact of reduced public access to green spaces and the natural environment.

- The cost of 'running the parking scheme' and the amount going to 'conserve the countryside' must be considered separately as they are only permitted under two separate Acts of Parliament. The parking charges must be 'reasonable' and must not make a profit. The charges to 'conserve the countryside' must, over a number of years, equate to the amount being spent on that service. The proposed charges are extremely high for natural countryside car parks with no facilities and may not be considered reasonable.
- Your own figures show that only £201,000 pa, 45% of the total revenue, would be going towards 'conserving the countryside'. This amount could be considerably lower if the total revenue is less, as the cost of 'running the parking scheme' will be fixed. The value of carrying out this project at all, particularly as your consultation results showed 75% public opposition, must be very questionable.

Reply:

This proposal is put forward on a basis that the investment would allow the charging scheme to generate enough income to cover the borrowing costs, cover the operating cost and help improve, maintain and enhance the countryside sites.

It is important that the car parks are maintained so that they remain available to the public to access them for health and wellbeing.

There may have been a misunderstanding here, because the charges are for parking and there is no proposal to make separate charges for maintenance of the countryside estate.

The parking charges are not set to generate a surplus. It should be noted that, since the parking here is ancillary to the countryside service, the 'cost of the service' for these purposes is the cost of providing the countryside service, and not just the parking. Although the income will make a contribution to the cost of maintaining the countryside estate, it is not expected to exceed the costs of provision of the service. Charges at other car parking sites in the area have also been taken in to account as a relevant factor in determining whether the proposals are reasonable, which is in line with the legislation.

Mr Mike Goodman
Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
30 January 2018

Question 3: Mr John Oliver

Mr Chairman, Cabinet Members have received a copy of my correspondence concerning legal issues relating to the placing of parking charge infrastructure, and introducing charges, at the Pay and Conserve sites. I am not alone in believing that the infrastructure needs consent from the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and I have set out the legal arguments to support this. Cllr Goodman has not set out the Council's legal arguments to support not making an application for consent – in fact his paper gives no mention to this contentious issue whatsoever. Even Lord Gardiner, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs, gave no support to Cllr Goodman's approach to him to have the PINS guidance

relaxed. This is yet another example of a policy paper failing to set out the legal background to proposals.

Do you agree that Cllr Goodman should be asked to fully investigate, with the Council's legal team, the need to apply for consent and provide the Cabinet with a full and proper explanation of the legal position before a decision is made on his proposals and, if not, why not?

Reply:

The correspondence with DEFRA that you refer to confirmed that there are no plans to make any changes to the current legislation in respect of consent for works which might prevent or impede access to commons.

In addition, it confirmed that it is for the person proposing to carry out works on common land to come to a view on whether those works would impede access to the common. If that person considers that they do not, there would be no need, on the face of it, to apply for consent.

The Council's view is that an application is not necessary in these circumstances because the work involved in installing pay and display equipment at the car parks is intended to facilitate the maintenance of the car parks and the common to an appropriate standard and thus access to the common, particularly for those visiting from further afield.

In addition, if the works are so small and or of such short duration that they do not impede access then we do not consider an application necessary. Both criteria are used by the Planning Inspectorate in drawing up the list of works which they consider to fall outside the scope of s38, contained in their Common Land Guidance Sheet 1b. This list is not exhaustive and we consider that it is a guide.

Mr Mike Goodman
Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
30 January 2018

Question 4: Mr John Oliver

Mr Chairman the equalities impact assessment accompanying the policy paper 'Pay and Conserve, car park charging on the Countryside Estate' states "This is on the basis that the parking charges should be set at a reasonable level in comparison to other countryside sites". Section 43 of the Countryside Act 1968 states that charges should be "reasonable", not "reasonable in comparison to other countryside sites".

Legislation dealing with local authority charges stresses that charges should be set to cover the cost of providing the service and not to generate surpluses. "Reasonable" should be viewed in that context and not on what the market can stand, and certainly not in comparison with other, commercially-orientated, organisations.

Do you agree, therefore, that Cllr Goodman and Mr Russell should be asked to revisit the scale of charges based on what the legislation intends, rather than on what others charge and, if not, why not?

Reply:

I have answered this point in my reply to question 2, above.

Mr Mike Goodman
Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
30 January 2018

Question 5: Ms Julie Brown

The proposed parking charge policy for the Pay and Conserve sites sets out only one charge, but this is in fact, made up of two legally separate charges; one for the countryside management and the other for parking. They should be discussed and shown separately in the policy proposal for the benefit of Cabinet members. The charge for countryside management can only be made if the receiver of the service agrees to it.

Given that it is well known that many people visit sites, but stay in the car park for a variety of reasons, for example due to infirmity or to have lunch or a period of quiet contemplation, they will not need to access the countryside. Could you please confirm:

- What the charge would be for each of the two services
- How the receivers of the services will be told this and how they will agree it with the council
- People will be able to turn down the countryside management charge and pay only the parking charge if they stay in the car park

In addition, the accompanying paragraph 14 of the policy proposal states, "SCC and SWT will use some of the income to improve access by cycle or foot to sites where appropriate.

In addition, public transport access is also being looked at as an option". Please could you explain:

- What authority the Council has to raise surpluses from charging for the management of the Countryside Estate, supposedly to be ring-fenced, and to use them on different services, i.e. the highway service and the public transport service
- What steps are under way to look at the provision of public transport, which sites does this involve, when will this consideration be reported upon and to whom and when and how will the public be told about it?

Reply:

I have explained, in my answer to question 2 above, that there is no proposal for two separate charges. By parking and paying the charges, a visitor will have agreed to the provision of the service.

On your second set of points we are looking at access to the countryside sites by foot and on bike via the existing rights of way network or possible with some upgrading of that network and providing bike stands where appropriate.

With public transport we will explore the possibility of providing stopping points on existing public transport routes.

Mr Mike Goodman
Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
30 January 2018

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CABINET RESPONSE TO OVERVIEW AND BUDGET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**FINAL BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS****(Considered by the Overview and Budget Scrutiny Committee on 26 January 2018)****COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:****Corporate Services Select Committee**

- a) There should be a clear five-year strategy in place to deliver savings through improved energy efficiency across the whole of the Council's estate, including an awareness campaign to influence staff behaviour in relation to lighting and heating, replacement of existing lighting with LED bulbs, installation of passive infrared detectors, and effective management of energy contracts.
- b) The Select Committee was informed that relatively little of the existing £4.2M invest-to-save reserve had been used to date to deliver the savings so far in Orbis. Consideration should be given to whether the objectives of Orbis could be achieved without spending all of the allocated reserve, allowing this money to be used to reduce the budget shortfall in 2018/2019.
- c) The Audit & Governance Committee to be asked to review the existing procurement governance arrangements, to ensure that contracts are implemented in a timely manner and managed in an efficient and cost-effective way.
- d) Additional resources to be provided in Property Services to enable a separation between those officers supporting maintenance of the Council's existing property portfolio and those identifying new opportunities for investments which support modern service delivery: this will ensure that projects in other services which will achieve savings and/or relieve service pressure can be progressed in a more timely manner.
- e) The policy of using capital investment to achieve revenue savings by bringing services back in-house (for example SEN and extra care housing) should be prioritised.

Adults and Health Select Committee

- f) The Council to work with healthcare partners to reduce the number of disputed Continuing Healthcare Cases particularly those that are not with Surrey's six CCGs, to enable resources spent on administering these cases can be put back into the frontline.
- g) Increased priority to be given to the provision of Extra Care services, in order to achieve a significant improvement in the level of delivery.
- h) The Adult Social Care Directorate develop robust digital and assistive technology strategies in order to reduce demand on the service in the short and medium term.
- i) Proposals to increase charges for the provision of adult social care services to be supported; this to be done in a sustainable way to ensure that it doesn't lead to more individuals being unable to pay for the costs of their care.

- j) Cabinet continues to argue the case for fairer funding with Central Government in respect of Surrey's Public Health allocation.
- k) The Council moves towards a targeted approach to the delivery of Public Health services to ensure that they reach those most in need of support.
- l) Cabinet remains alert to the Council being too liberal in its interpretation of those initiatives that can be shadowed funded through the Public Health budget and is alert to the danger of the shadow-funding target leading to money being taken out of Public Health that would be better spent on the delivery of services actively commissioned by Public Health.
- m) Officers investigate opportunities for collaborating with the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector in the planning and delivery of services commissioned by Public Health.

Communities Select Committee

- n) Encourages the Library Service to progress its development of community supported libraries.
- o) Recommends that the Library Service undertakes appropriate public consultation regarding future changes to libraries in early 2018.
- p) Recommends that Surrey Fire and Rescue Service investigates using a portion of its overtime budget to employ permanent, full-time staff to mitigate risks related staff resilience.
- q) Encourages a more proactive approach to collaborating with East and West Sussex fire authorities as detailed in Surrey Fire & Rescue Service's Public Safety Plan to deliver on potential savings that can be achieved through effective collaboration.

Cross Service

- r) A Cabinet Member is given responsibility for the delivery of the transformation projects outlined in the Revenue and Capital Budget for 2018/19 to 2017/18 complemented by a similar role for a specific Officer.
- s) The Council's travel policy to be reviewed and updated as necessary to ensure that it supports the aim of minimising costs by:
 - Influencing staff behaviour (for example, encouraging the use of video conferencing, discouraging unnecessary travel and identifying whether lower cost alternatives are available), and
 - Encouraging services to review operational arrangements (for example the frequency and level of attendance by fire crews in response to automatic alarms).

RESPONSE:

The cabinet would like to thank the Overview and Budget Scrutiny Committee for their recommendations on the budget, and for their work and all the scrutiny boards in reviewing the savings for the financial year.

The cabinet recognise that in order to balance the budget for 2018/19 the council needs to use reserves, as further savings beyond the £66m identified are not considered achievable in 2018/19. As a part of future years' budget planning the cabinet will look to replenish these reserves as a part of a strategy to ensure a sustainable budget.

The strategy to develop and ensure sustainable services and finances will include a major programme of transformation on how we deliver services to our residents. The cabinet recognise that to achieve such a change, the council cannot act alone. It will work even more closely with residents and our partners, whether they be district and borough councils, health, police and importantly, the voluntary, community and faith organisations across Surrey to achieve this transformation. It will be challenging but discussions on taking a more place-based approach are progressing well. I hope that the scrutiny committees will also play an active part in looking at how and where we need to transform to meet residents' needs

Since 2010 the council, under this administration, has saved a total of £540m. Most of this has been through improving efficiencies and the way we deliver services. Although efficiencies are increasingly hard to find, we will still search for them, wherever they are in our organisation, to make sure that the council gets the best value for our residents.

Mr David Hodge CBE
Leader of the Council
30 January 2018

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