

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****TUESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2018****QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED UNDER THE PROVISIONS  
OF STANDING ORDER 10.1****LEADER OF THE COUNCIL****1. MR ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK:**

The Prime Minister announced recently 'the end of austerity'. Can the Leader enlighten us as to when these benefits will filter through to Surrey as it seems the contrary is happening, with more severe cuts in the pipeline?

**Reply:**

The Chancellor's autumn budget covered a wide area of public spending and its funding from taxation. I am delighted that many Surrey residents will see the positive impact of tax changes in their pockets from April next year.

For local government, there were three key areas of additional funding.

First, there was an additional £650 million nationally for social care from April 2019, of which £240 million will help relieve adult social care challenges centred on transfer of care. This is a continuation of the extra funding for this year and Surrey County Council expect to receive £4 million. Of the remaining £410 million, this will be available for more general adult and children social care demands. It is not yet confirmed what proportion Surrey will receive.

Second, an additional £45 million for the Disabled Facilities Grant for this year.

Third, £420m to fix pot holes, repair damaged roads and renew bridges and tunnels. Again, it is not yet confirmed what proportion Surrey will receive and whether it will be capital or revenue funding.

I expect the allocations to Surrey will be known in early December in the Provisional Local Government Financial Statement.

While this additional funding is welcome and will benefit Surrey residents, it will not be enough in itself to change the Council's financial position.

**CLARE CURRAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN****2. MR WILL FORSTER (WOKING SOUTH) TO ASK:**

Please could the Cabinet Member update Councillors on the latest situation with the care leavers' charter that was agreed by Full Council in March?

Please could the Cabinet Member also confirm how many borough/district councils in Surrey have taken action to take young care leavers out of Council Tax?

**Reply:**

Work is progressing well on the Charter for Looked after Children and Care Leavers. The Charter is predominately made up of three components: the Promise, the Core Offer for Looked after Children and Local Offer for Care leavers, and the Bursary Fund. We have completed the review of our promise with our Children in Care Council and this will come to County Council in December. We are currently working on the "Surrey Offer", which are the core things we believe we should provide to all our looked after children. The current thinking is this is likely to include things like birthday cards, access to leisure and something to help young people to be independent and active, for example a bike or scooter. We expect to have the final offer agreed and costed by the end of the year, ready to implement in 2019. Aligned to the offer we are reviewing the role and purpose of the Bursary Fund to ensure it has a real impact for children. This is likely to include enabling foster carers, not only social workers to support applications, follow up's to hear from young people about what difference the bursary made to them and greater publicity to ensure more young people will benefit.

In regards to the action taken by Surrey borough and district councils, some progress has been made, with one borough already agreeing the approach for their area, and a second close to agreeing. District and boroughs have been very engaged in wanting to strengthen their corporate parenting role and work continues with partners to look into this and our wider offer across all Surrey district and borough councils.

**MIKE GOODMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT**

**3. MRS HAZEL WATSON (DORKING HILLS) TO ASK:**

Is the Cabinet aware that some visitors to the Countryside Estate are now parking on residential roads in villages in the Surrey Hills instead of parking in the car parks on the Countryside Estate since parking charges were introduced in August and that this has exacerbated the problem of lack of parking for village residents? Did the Cabinet anticipate that this would happen as a result of car park charges? What action is the Cabinet Member planning to take to resolve the problem, which has been created in Surrey Hills villages as a result of the introduction of these charges?

**Reply:**

Prior to the implementation of car parking charges the issue of displaced parking was considered. Site visits were undertaken in partnership with officers from the Parking and Highway services to those sites where displacement parking was considered to be most likely. Where the risk was considered high, relevant mitigation measures were implemented which included yellow lines on Staple Hill, Chobham and bollards adjacent to Fetcham Roundabout car park to prevent vehicles parking nearby. All locations continue to be monitored and additional mitigation measures will be considered where issues arise.

**TIM OLIVER, CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR PEOPLE**

**4. MRS BARBARA THOMSON (EARLSWOOD AND REIGATE SOUTH) TO ASK:**

What can this Council do to help our communities who are constantly being targeted, and subsequently devastated, by the drug culture which is particularly affecting our children and young people and is sweeping our local communities? What drug awareness courses or education are provided through the County's schools, if any?

Surrey Police are doing what they can on this issue but what can we as Members do to help to make our communities much more resilient to this threat?

**Reply:**

Surrey's five year Substance Misuse Strategy (2015)<sup>1</sup> compliments the national drug strategies of 2010<sup>2</sup> and 2017<sup>3</sup> by focusing on three strands: prevention and early identification; building recovery; and safer and supportive communities. Public Health's commissioning of substance misuse services is based on approved processes to deliver:

- **Population wide and targeted prevention** including action on local drug markets, campaigns, building community resilience, prevention programmes targeted at vulnerable young people.
- **Harm reduction** including needle exchange, overdose prevention, vaccination, screening and testing for blood borne viruses.
- **Specialist treatment services** including care planned treatment that meets best practice guidance, is accessible and focused on achieving behaviour change, community and residential rehabilitation for those that need it, prescribed medications.
- **Support for sustained recovery** including referral to education, employment and training opportunities, support in finding and sustaining appropriate housing and the delivery of mutual aid support groups.

Reducing the demand of drug markets and building the resilience of our communities are key to addressing the reduction of drugs within our communities and requires a partnership approach. Surrey has a proactive Substance Misuse Partnership which involves partners from districts & boroughs, community safety, police, prisons, adult social care, children's services, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Jobcentre Plus, amongst others.

**Prevention and Early Identification** work is commissioned by Public Health through a number of programmes and in association with Children, Families and Learning (CFL). For example, the delivery of the Healthy School's programme (overseen by Babcock 4S on behalf of Public Health and CFL) is based on reducing risk-taking behaviours and building the resilience of young people and families. Although substance misuse is not a statutory component of Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE), unlike Relationship and Sex Education, support is provided by Babcock to ensure that Surrey County Council schools have an up-to-date substance misuse policy (including the use of appropriate sanctions) and deliver an approved scheme of work. This has been supported by Public Health's commissioning of Surrey's Drug Education (including alcohol, tobacco and other substances) Guidelines (2016) and the Key Stage 4 Substance Misuse Toolkit for secondary schools to deliver age-appropriate drug and alcohol education. Partner organisations, including Surrey Police, also support these schemes.

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<sup>1</sup> Surrey Substance Misuse Strategy 2015 <https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/your-health/substance-misuse/surrey-substance-misuse-strategy>

<sup>2</sup> Drug Strategy 2010, Home Office <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drug-strategy-2010>

<sup>3</sup> Drug Strategy 2017, Home Office <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drug-strategy-2017>

In addition to the work undertaken by Babcock, Catch 22 are commissioned by Public Health to work with young people (and their families) up to the age of 21 around substance misuse issues. This includes not only psychosocial and medical interventions for those who misuse substances but also the delivery of targeted interventions to prevent the escalation of substance misuse. Catch 22 also provide training to professionals (including social workers, teachers, health professionals, foster carers) in identifying substance misuse and the wider vulnerabilities, or Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which are often associated with substance misuse including child sexual exploitation (CSE), child criminal exploitation (CCE), exposure to domestic abuse, poor mental health and exclusion from school.

Young people experiencing substance misuse issues are most likely to be identified through their families, CFL services (schools including school nurses, youth offending and social care), primary care and accident and emergency services. Nationally, the number of young people requiring specialist treatment for substance misuse has fallen over the last few years, although there are signs of new and emerging drugs coming onto the market and Catch 22 work with partners to identify these trends and share information as necessary. In addition, the children of adults who are misusing substances are more at risk of misusing substances themselves. In addressing substance misuse within families, a trauma informed approach is needed in order to break the cyclical relationship between childhood experiences of, and exposure to, adult substance misuse, and subsequent misuse of substances in adolescence and adulthood<sup>4</sup>.

Ongoing funding and collaborative commissioning of evidence-based approaches across the wider Partnership are required to continue identifying and supporting our vulnerable families if we are to make our communities much more resilient to the threat of drug culture.

## **DENISE TURNER-STEWART, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **5. MR ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK: (2<sup>nd</sup> question)**

The London Fire Brigade has recently started to issue new and improved Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for firefighters, consisting of a whole new: tunic, over-trousers, boots, gloves and helmet. Does Surrey Fire and Rescue Service have plans to follow suit?

#### **Reply:**

In September 2018 Cabinet approved an eight year contract with Bristol Uniforms for the supply and fully managed service provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This was procured using a National framework, which has enabled the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service to reduce costs and provide higher quality PPE. The contract commences in January 2020.

London Fire Brigade has utilised the same framework and provider as we will be using, and therefore their PPE will be the same type as we will be issuing to our firefighters.

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<sup>4</sup> Addaction & Young Minds: Childhood Adversity, Substance Misuse and Young People's Mental Health

**COLIN KEMP, CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR PLACE**

**6. MRS HAZEL WATSON (DORKING HILLS) TO ASK:  
(2<sup>nd</sup> question)**

The Cabinet established a joint venture to manage public sector properties in Surrey, including those owned by the County Council, almost a year ago. What has the joint venture achieved in the last year?

**Reply:**

Further to Cabinet approval on 14 December 2017 to appoint a Joint Venture (JV) Development Partner, I am pleased to confirm that the Joint Venture partnership went "live" operationally on 6 September 2018 with Places for People.

Officers are working closely with the JV company, preparing the briefs for the first tranche of 14 identified sites and we would be expecting to see the business cases coming back for review towards the end February 2019.

As you can expect officers and the JV are ensuring that the right levels of due diligence is being undertaken to enable this first round of sites for redevelopment, to meet the requirements and needs of our residents and district and borough local plans.

**CHARLOTTE MORLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SUPPORT**

**7. MR ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK:  
(3<sup>rd</sup> question)**

In 2015 Surrey County Council became a Fair Trade Council. Can Members have an update on the progress and changes made to support this initiative?

**Reply:**

**Background**

On 5 December 2017 the Cabinet Member for Property and Business Services agreed to provide an update to the Council on an annual basis regarding the authority's progress to becoming a Fair Trade Council.

Surrey achieved Fairtrade County status in September 2015 following:

- Campaigning by local residents in a number of Fairtrade towns across the County (Addlestone, Cranleigh, Godalming, Guildford, Haslemere, Leatherhead, Lingfield & Dormansland, Tatsfield, Woking)
- Efforts of a Surrey Fairtrade Steering Group and
- A resolution in support of Fairtrade which was passed by Surrey County Council.

Surrey Fairtrade Steering Group, which was made up of volunteers, has since disbanded due to a lack of support and resources. Surrey no longer has official recognition as being a Fairtrade county. In some of the above mentioned towns individuals are working in local communities in order to maintain their Fairtrade town status.

In 2016 a proposal outlining the activities and costs involved in maintaining the Fairtrade County status was provided. The decision made was to promote Fair trade as part of business as usual without the required investment for the Council to maintain its Fairtrade county status.

### **Fair Trade & Surrey County Council Procurement**

The Council's commitment to ethical sourcing forms part of the Social Value Procurement Strategy developed in response to the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012. For tenders over £100k in value, Procurement, in agreement with budget holders, incorporate fair trade criteria into the procurement process whilst ensuring compliance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

To encourage and drive this culture of fair trade with suppliers and through the supply chain, the Council's Procurement Service has:

- Developed and published an Ethical Procurement Statement and Supplier Code of Conduct which can be viewed on the Council's website. In addition, guidance on Modern Slavery is also provided to suppliers to raise awareness and promote equality in relation to labour standards.
- Re-designed tender documents so they expressly state the Council's commitment to sustainability and social value and, where relevant, appropriate weighting is given to sustainable products in the tender process.
- Awarded contracts based on the most economically advantageous tender, which includes due consideration of both price and quality (includes social value). Where it represents value for money to Surrey taxpayers the Council continues to procure Fairtrade bananas and sugar as part of the ongoing commitment to supporting the motion to facilitate Fairtrade wherever possible.

### **The Council's Recognition for Ethical Sourcing**

- The Council's Commercial Services function continues to maintain its Gold accreditation for catering services (including all food supply) with Soil Association Food for Life (FFL). Applying for this accreditation requires the Council to submit evidence to demonstrate the inclusion of Fairtrade products. The FFL programme is about making good food the easy choice for everyone by making healthy, tasty and sustainable meals the norm for all to enjoy, as well as reconnecting people with where their food comes from, teaching them how it's grown, and championing the importance of well-sourced ingredients.
- Through its supply chain, Commercial Services provides fresh fruit and vegetables to 234 schools and six care homes in Surrey.