

County Council Meeting – 19 March 2019

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 26 February 2019.

In accordance with the Constitution, Members can ask questions of the appropriate Cabinet Member, seek clarification or make a statement on any of these issues without giving notice.

The minutes containing the individual decisions for 26 February meeting is included within the agenda at item 12. Any Cabinet responses to Committee reports are included in or appended to the minutes. If any Member wishes to raise a question or make a statement on any of the matters in the minutes, notice must be given to Democratic Services by 12 noon on the last working day before the County Council meeting (Monday 18 March 2019).

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

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A. SURREY PERFORMING ARTS LIBRARY- EVALUATION OF NEWSPAL BUSINESS PLAN

The Cabinet considered a report that summarised the NewSPAL business plan evaluation and the reasons for the recommendations. Surrey Performing Arts Library (SPAL) was a specialist and non-statutory service. The collection, developed over several decades, played a significant role in supporting the cultural life of the county. As such, the Council must exercise due diligence and have regard to its future well-being.

It had previously been identified that full savings from SPAL and additional benefits could potentially be delivered if the SPAL collection and its operation were transferred to a new charity, NewSPAL. NewSPAL was developed by interested users and stakeholders (such as Making Music and Friends of SPAL) as a distinct organisation and registered with the Charity Commission in January 2018. The charity has no connection with Surrey County Council. The new form of governance would enable the organisation to develop its own clear identity and attract funding and support that would not be possible if the SPAL remained part of the Council.

The Cabinet AGREED:

1. That NewSPAL use the current SPAL collection and equipment, to offer a Performing Arts Library service to the public be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Director of Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture in consultation with the Cabinet Member for All Age Learning to finalise the phased transfer of the collection and equipment on a conditional basis for a transitional period in anticipation of a final unconditional transfer and gifting of the collection and equipment.

3. That the responsible officer agree a set of performance measures with NewSPAL throughout the transition period in order to evaluate progress and performance and inform the final decision by the Council on the transfer.
4. That approval be given for officers to report on progress to the Cabinet Member for All Age Learning and set a deadline for completion of the lease negotiations between NewSPAL and Woking Borough Council that is appropriate with the transition period.
5. That approval is given to the responsible officer to report annually on progress towards the final transfer to the Cabinet Member for All Age Learning.
6. That Cabinet will review progress in the Summer of 2021 with the final decision on unconditional transfer and gifting of the collection and equipment to be taken by the Cabinet at the end of the transitional period.

B. SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL PREPARATIONS FOR EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION (BREXIT)

The Cabinet considered an update report on the ongoing work the Council was undertaking to prepare for all eventualities of Brexit. The council's preparations aimed to mitigate any potential implications for the county – particularly in the immediate and short term – and support residents, communities and organisations. Using the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government preparedness checklist as a framework, the report detailed the work that has been undertaken by the Council. It also showed the partnership work that had taken place with central government, neighbouring counties, boroughs and districts, health partners, local enterprise partnerships and the chamber of commerce. A further update would be provided in March or April depending on the outcome of Brexit.

Full details are contained within the published agenda report and annex.

The Cabinet AGREED:

That the current position of the council's preparations, including the plans and preparations that were expected to be implemented by Friday 29 March 2019 (expected date for Britain's formal withdrawal from the European Union) was endorsed.

**Mr Tim Oliver, Leader of the Council
26 February 2019**