

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**TUESDAY 19 MARCH 2019****QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED UNDER THE PROVISIONS
OF STANDING ORDER 10.1****MARY LEWIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES****1. MRS BARBARA THOMSON (EARLSWOOD AND REIGATE SOUTH) TO ASK:**

Can I please ask, in light of the increase in drugs and associated violent crime across our divisions, what is the Council doing to educate our young people not to take this route? Is there any merit, as is happening in some London Boroughs quite successfully, in seeking the assistance of ex-offenders/gang members to talk to our young people in our schools to help educate and deter them from going into this very violent activity?

Reply:

Nationally, there is a rise in knife crime with injuries and fatalities now featuring in the media. The national data shows an increase of over 30% between 2017 and 2018, and this is knife crime committed by all ages. Surrey and the South East reports one of the lowest rates of knife crime out of the 10 national regions, four times lower than the rate in London.

For young people convicted of crimes with a knife or bladed article, Surrey has seen no increase between 2017 and 2018 but conviction rates increased from 24 to 65 between 2015 and 2018. The current picture is estimated to show a reduction this year, although we are only three months in.

However, we are hearing of young people carrying knives and are seeing evidence of this without it necessarily coming to conviction. It is also estimated that the police data alone accounts for only 40 % of the true amount of serious youth violence, including knife crime.

Surrey County Council is currently leading on a 'public health approach' to tackling serious youth violence and knife crime that uses the learning from the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit and the methodology that London is currently exploring. This approach considers violence as a disease that can be cured and prevented and clearly links partners and communities through a more holistic health and well-being stance to tackle the causal factors rather than react through enforcement alone. This is a partnership approach including community safety, police, schools, Children's Social Care and health colleagues.

The first phase is to overlap data from a variety of sources including police, ambulance call-out data, A&E attendance and community surveys in order to get a strong evidence base of the scale of the issue and target partnership resources accordingly.

There are a number of Surrey initiatives directed at school-age /post-16 children to tackle youth exploitation, gangs and violent crime and county lines. The County Council commissions services that work directly with children, schools and the partnership including working with ex-gang members:

- St Giles Trust – London Based Charity which specialises in direct work with young people wanting to exit gangs / criminality
- Get Connected – The Enthusiasm Trust
- Fearless (Crimestoppers) – schools and colleges (funded through PCC)
- Growing Against Violence (GAV) – primary /secondary schools

The new practice model in Children’s Services ‘effective Family Resilience’ includes a dedicated service for adolescents at levels 3 and 4 of our levels of need. This service will be pivotal to working with partners to support adolescents who are vulnerable to criminal exploitation.

MARY LEWIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

2. MR JONATHAN ESSEX (REDHILL EAST) TO ASK:

Surrey’s children’s centres were established with the intention to ensure that as many children as possible are ready to learn when they start school and minimise the impact of disadvantage.

Once Surrey County Council closes a significant number of the children’s centres across Surrey, does the council have any plans to measure the impact of the closures so that steps can be taken to try and minimise any adverse impact, including on educational outcomes? The council could do this, for example, by examining trends over time in Early Years Foundation Age (EYFS) baseline performance and the proportion of children reaching a good level of development (GLD) by the end of Year R as well as trends in other key indicators.

Reply:

The core purpose of children’s centres has been to improve outcomes for young children and their families and reduce inequalities between families in greatest need and their peers in:

- Child development and school readiness;
- Parenting aspirations and parenting skills; and
- Child and family health and life chances.

The new Family Centre model will ensure resources are focussed on the most vulnerable children and, although there will be fewer actual Family Centres in the new model, they will still meet the needs of vulnerable families through outreach. A key priority for the County Council is to improve family resilience and reduce the number of children and families that need statutory intervention by providing more effective targeted support.

A number of different data sources will be used to monitor the effectiveness and impact of the new Family Centre model including:

- The percentage of children entitled to free school meals (FSM) who are school ready.
- The number of families requiring statutory Children’s Services e.g. Child Protection plans and becoming looked after by the local authority.

- Re-referral rates.
- Needs analyses and evidence of impact by district and borough identified through family characteristics and outcomes.

MIKE GOODMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE

3. MR ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK:

The latest jet noise maps, published by Heathrow Airport Airspace and Future Operation Consultation, contrary to previous information, show that large swathes of Surrey could be seriously impacted by much higher levels of noise if Heathrow's third runway goes ahead.

Five councils, Windsor and Maidenhead, Richmond, Hillingdon, Wandsworth and Hammersmith and Fulham, are currently seeking a judicial review of Heathrow's expansion plans.

What recent discussions have taken place with these other councils on this matter? What do they know that Surrey doesn't?

Reply:

The legal challenge referenced was launched last August and is against the Government's Airports National Policy Statement (NPS), which endorses a new north-west runway at Heathrow. The defendant is therefore the Secretary of State for Transport. The local authorities involved all oppose the third runway. This council's position on Heathrow expansion is that it recognises the crucial role of the airport in supporting employment for Surrey residents, generating investment for the Surrey economy and attracting major businesses and is strongly of the view that the environmental and surface access issues associated with expansion are satisfactorily addressed.

Surrey County Council is a member of the Heathrow Strategic Planning Group (HSPG) along with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and eight other local authorities impacted by Heathrow expansion, including Elmbridge, Runnymede and Spelthorne in Surrey. The group was established in 2015 to lobby and be a collective voice on matters relating to expansion. As such the group produces responses to all Heathrow consultations as well as working collaboratively to hold Heathrow to account on the wide ranging areas of concern for local authorities in relation to the expansion plans.

Surrey County Council's response to the recent Heathrow Airspace and Future Operations consultation is available on our [website](#). The council comments on a number of areas within the response:

- Objection to the use of Independent Parallel Approaches which would see a worsening in overflight and associated noise impact for many local communities across north Surrey, particularly in the early morning period between 6am and 7am.
- That concentrated flight paths with no respite are not acceptable.

- That the consultation does not take account of flight paths, either current or future to or from other airports, meaning that the public are not able to assess what the 'in combination' noise impacts on them could be.
- Complexity of the consultation material, with no ability to compare with the current day situation in terms of overflights.
- The need for adequate compensation for those experiencing significant increases in overflight and noise disturbance.

MIKE GOODMAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE

4. MR ERNEST MALLETT (WEST MOLESEY) TO ASK:

You will be aware that the expected aircraft noise patterns for Heathrow with the proposed third runway have been issued.

You will also be aware that the Minister for Transport, MP Chris Grayling, promised that the third runway would not bring an increase in aircraft noise to new areas.

You will also be aware that the councils of Windsor & Maidenhead and Wandsworth, together with the Mayor of London, are seeking a judicial review with regard to the minister's previous statement and the new noise patterns.

You will also be aware that in Surrey these new noise patterns will occur over Chertsey and Epsom & Ewell.

Would you therefore be prepared to make a statement on behalf of the residents of Chertsey and Epsom & Ewell to the relevant High Court, in support of the actions now taking place by the above boroughs and the London Mayor?

Reply:

The response to the previous council question (Question 3) provides background to the current legal challenges against the Airports National Policy Statement. The hearing started on 11 March 2019 and will run until 22 March 2019. A timetable of proceedings is available to [view](#) and transcripts of proceedings will be made available by the courts. As Surrey County Council is not one of the claimants it is not possible to address the hearing.

The recent Heathrow Airspace and Future Operations consultation sets out broad design envelopes within which flight paths could be located. The County Council responded to this consultation and the response is available to view on our [website](#).

Following analysis of feedback, detailed flight path options will be developed. This will involve a long period of ongoing airspace design work and detailed flight path options will only be consulted on in 2022. This date is after the currently programmed date for a decision on the airport expansion Development Consent Order (2021), a situation that Surrey County Council has objected to through [responses](#) to the Airports National Policy Statement and Heathrow consultations. We have stressed that it will not be possible to assess the noise impact of the planned expansion on local communities due to the disconnect between the two processes.

**DENISE TURNER-STEWART, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY,
FIRE & RESILIENCE**

5. MRS FIONA WHITE (GUILDFORD WEST) TO ASK:

What efforts have been made to include the Surrey Fire & Rescue Service, especially frontline firefighters who will have to deliver any changes, in the production of the Community Safety Plan which is currently being consulted on?

Reply:

The service has led on the development of the 'Making Surrey Safer Plan'. The proposals contained within it are based on officers' analysis of the risk in Surrey, and ways in which these risks can be met. This has allowed an evidence-led approach to managing resources based on the different types of incidents and risks that the service responds to, so that we can better understand how to address these issues. This report helps us to identify the biggest risks for our incident types, as well as other factors, such as who is the most vulnerable. It also provides information about national threats and risks that could affect Surrey.

Further to this, the service has conducted comprehensive modelling of the distribution of resources based on the risks outlined, which was independently verified by Cadcorp, who specialise in the kind of geo-spatial software used by many emergency services, including our service. They have thoroughly scrutinised and verified officers' analysis.

The service is undertaking a significant engagement programme with Fire and Rescue colleagues which has seen members of the Senior Leadership Team visit all fire crews and all staff. This has been underway since February 2019. The staff engagement forums are an opportunity to learn more about the consultation proposals, their rationale, discuss the implications with staff directly and involve colleagues in shaping the future of the service. The issues raised at these visits are also informing the service's wider transformation activity and areas of focus.

We are also actively encouraging staff to register their views via the [consultation survey](#) to ensure these are formally captured and considered. Responses will be analysed after the consultation finishes on 26 May 2019 and reviewed by Cabinet for consideration on how to proceed in September 2019.

We will be undertaking further consultation with staff and representative bodies. Our aim is to work together to design how we deliver any changes and new ways of working. As part of this we will be considering individual circumstances and increasing opportunities for firefighters to work more flexibly. This will assist in our drive to attract a broader range of people to apply for the role of a firefighter and to create a more representative work force.

MARY LEWIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

6. MRS HAZEL WATSON (DORKING HILLS) TO ASK:

What plans are there for the future of the Youth Service and the County Council's Youth Centres? Can an assurance be given that no Youth Centres will be closed?

Reply:

The future of the Youth Centres will be reviewed as part of the 'Youth Offer' review that is currently taking place. Part of the review will look at what young people need and want, what provision is in place and identify any gaps. The existing Youth Centres are often already provided in partnership with the voluntary, community and faith sector and the districts and borough councils. Over the next two months we will be working with these key stakeholders to develop an effective youth offer going forward. This will include maximising the potential of the youth centre buildings wherever possible.

DENISE TURNER-STEWART, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, FIRE & RESILIENCE

**7. MR ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK:
(2nd question)**

Surrey Fire & Rescue Service has recently issued a document entitled 'Making Surrey Safer'. How are our residents being made 'safer' when fire cover is being reduced in many areas and increased in none?

Reply:

Surrey Fire & Rescue is focussed on providing the best service that it can to all residents. Following the recent Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services' (HMICFRS) report, it is clear that more work needs to be done to prevent emergencies from happening, whilst continuing to prioritise responding quickly to emergencies.

The plan outlines a commitment for the service to spend more time on community and business safety. This includes educating people and businesses about the risks of fire and other emergencies, and how to prevent them. This will include doing more Safe and Well visits for vulnerable people, visiting children in every Surrey school and development of a Life Long Learning Programme for people and businesses. People in Surrey will be safer because this work will prevent more emergencies occurring in the first place.

The [consultation proposals](#) are based on a detailed analysis of the risks that exist in Surrey – including understanding where the most vulnerable people are, when and where the risks are greater, and ensuring we have the fire cover we need to keep Surrey safe. The service has used modelling technology to work out the fire cover we need across Surrey based on risk, and this has been externally verified.

The modelling tells us we need 20 fire engines during the day and 16 at night to keep Surrey safe. Our proposal would mean we have more fire engines than this - 25 during the day and 23 at night. This additional capacity allows extra resilience for larger and longer emergencies as well as training and practice in the increasing variety of emergencies our firefighters now respond to. It also allows us to free up capacity to

spend more time on vital community and business safety work to prevent emergencies from happening.

By preventing more emergencies, making people and premises more resilient and better educated about risks and actions required in an emergency, we can save lives. We will however continue to prioritise responding quickly to emergencies.

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