

*County Council Meeting – 10 December 2019***REPORT OF THE CABINET**

The Cabinet met on 29 October and 26 November 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 29 October and 26 November meetings are included within the agenda at Item 13. 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, 9 December 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 DECISION

A. MOVING CLOSER TO RESIDENTS: DELIVERING OUR AMBITION

At its meeting on 26 November Cabinet discussed the attached report (Appendix A) that sets out details of the Moving Closer to Residents Programme and which names Midas House, Woking as the best option for the 'Civic Heart'. The report sets out the reasons and terms for acquiring Midas House which Cabinet agreed unanimously. Endorsement is sought from full Council that acquirement of Midas House is sought on the terms as set out in the report.

The Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the importance of this programme to our successful transformation plans and delivery of the Community Vision 2030 and Organisation Strategy be noted.
2. That, subject to Council approval, the acquisition of Midas House, Woking on the terms set out in this report as the County Council's new Civic Heart be approved.
3. That subject to full Council approval of the acquisition of Midas House, Woking on the terms set out in the submitted report, authority be delegated for the completion of the requisite legal processes and documentation relating to the acquisition of Midas House, in accordance with the Heads of terms set out to the Executive Director for Transformation, Partnerships and Prosperity, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.
4. That the establishment of a Member Task Group to support the planning and design of Civic spaces and functions, including for full Council meetings and associated Member facilities be approved.
5. That a design and build contractor for fitting out the new Civic Heart in order to facilitate modern, agile working practices be procured.
6. That the importance of supporting staff through the implementation of more agile working practices and move from County Hall, Kingston to a Civic Heart in Woking and the need for a change management programme to ensure a

positive outcome for them, with a similar programme tailored to Members' was acknowledged.

7. That the investment in the information and digital technology required to effectively support agile working, as contained in the capital programme, with a roadmap for implementation presented to Cabinet in February 2019 be endorsed.

Cabinet RECOMMENDS that Council:

Approve the acquisition of Midas House, Woking on the terms set out in the attached report as the County Council's new Civic Heart.

Reason for Decision:

The council had a commitment to being closer to residents in all that it does and to enable new, modern ways of working for the council. The Moving Closer to Residents (MCTR) programme of rolling out agile working across the council was underpinned and advanced by confirmation of a new Civic Heart premises at Midas House, Woking. The MCTR work was not simply about acquiring a building and making a value for money judgement on the associated costs, alone. The programme will deliver on a range of other benefits – including demonstrable productivity improvements from better use of technology, reduced travel costs, new talent pools and attracting new staff, contributing to our carbon neutral ambitions; plus a number of important non-quantifiable benefits, including advancing the shift in organisational culture.

B. ORGANISATION STRATEGY 2020-2025 AND THE NEXT PHASE OF TRANSFORMATION

At its meeting on 29 October Cabinet discussed a report that described how the Council had a substantial and significant role in supporting the Community Vision for Surrey in 2030. The Organisation Strategy, originally agreed by Cabinet in October 2018, defined how the council would contribute to the Vision, but the strategic environment had continued to shift over the last 12 months. Therefore, the refreshed Organisation Strategy has been updated to amplify the actions taken to address new challenges and opportunities that have emerged over the last 12 months, and previews thinking on how the next phase of transformation supported this.

Cabinet AGREED:

To make the following recommendation to Council.

Cabinet RECOMMENDS that Council:

Approve the Surrey County Council Organisation Strategy 2020-2025 (as reported at Item 9 on Council agenda).

Reason for Decision:

The refreshed Organisation Strategy reaffirms our commitment to the Community Vision for Surrey in 2030. It also sets out a roadmap for our audaciously ambitious agenda and how we will respond the complex and rapidly changing context we are working in with renewed energy and optimism. Delivering on these ambitions

and priorities will in part be through the next phase of our forward-looking and ambitious transformation programme.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

At its meeting on 26 November, Cabinet considered the following:-

C. Review of Charges for Parking in Countryside Estate Car Parks

Cabinet discussed a report that reviewed the introduction of car park charging at the five busiest country sites, equating to 15 of the 30 car parks across the countryside estate to generate new investment in Surrey's countryside. This review had shown that despite making a small surplus the first year of operations had not delivered the significant contribution as expected. The motivation for the decision made in 2017 to charge was to make income for the management of the countryside estate. However, the council now had more flexibility and there was a real desire to promote the health and wellbeing of residents. It was emphasised that Newlands Corner was outside of this report as it was privately owned.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the removal of all charges relating to parking at all Countryside Estate car parks currently managed under lease by Surrey Wildlife Trust, with effect from 1 April 2020 be agreed.
2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Highways, Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Fire and Resilience, the development and implementation of a plan to deliver recommendation 1.
3. That proposals be developed for the introduction of a voluntary payment scheme be agreed.

D. Libraries: Our Next Phase

Cabinet considered a report that sought approval of a new strategy for Libraries and Cultural Services and a new model for library services following a comprehensive consultation in early 2019. Initially, a programme of co-design would take place at a local level with stakeholders including district and borough councils, other partners and local people. This would identify the opportunities to modernise library services in the places that they are delivered, and in line with the new library model. The specific proposals that would be developed through this process would then be, where necessary, consulted upon to ensure that the full impact of any proposed change was understood, and the perspective of local people taken into account before any final decision for change was taken. It was also confirmed that a good appointment had been made to the post of Head of Library Service.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the Library and Cultural Services strategy and future model for the library service was approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Children, Life Long Learning and Culture to work with the Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning to proceed to consultation where necessary over the next 12 – 18 months, as

and when the specific proposals for each area become clearer following a process of co-design with local people and key stakeholders.

E. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 29 JUNE to 27 SEPTEMBER 2019

The Cabinet is required under the Constitution to report to Council on a quarterly basis the details of decisions taken by the Cabinet and Cabinet Members under the general exception arrangements set out in Standing Order 55 of the Constitution. This occurs where a decision is required on a matter that is not contained within the Leader's Forward Plan (Notice of Decisions). Where a decision on such matters could not reasonably be delayed, the Chairman of the appropriate Select Committee must be notified.

The Cabinet RECOMMENDS that the County Council notes that there has been no urgent decision in this quarter.

**Mr Tim Oliver, Leader of the Council
29 November 2019**