

County Council Meeting – 13 October 2020

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 21 July and 29 September 2020.

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 the meetings above have been included within the original agenda at item 14. 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 12 October 2020).

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS

There were no reports with recommendations for Council.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

At its meeting on 21 July 2020 Cabinet considered:

A. DECISION ON THE CHANGE OF ROUTE TO MARKET FOR TWO EXTRA CARE HOUSING SITES

This report sets out Surrey County Council's necessary and recommended change of delivery approach for two Council owned sites; the former Pinehurst Resource Centre (Camberley) and the former Brockhurst Care Home (Ottershaw). On 20 July 2020, the Council had gone live with the Pond Meadow (Guildford) tender. This had proven more difficult with the Pinehurst Resource Centre and Brockhurst Care Home and hence a decision to bring a paper to Cabinet to change the route to market for these two sites. The Cabinet Member urged colleagues to approve the recommendations with a view for the tenders for both sites to go live in a few weeks.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the recommended approach (Option 1) for the delivery of Extra Care Housing at the former Brockhurst Care Home and former Pinehurst Resource Centre sites be approved. The approach recommended is to tender for a development and housing management strategic partner(s) for Extra Care Housing schemes on Council owned land on a design, build, finance and operate (DBFO) basis with up to a 125 year lease.
2. That grants approval to procure in order to enable a full tender process to identify an Extra Care Housing development and housing management strategic partner(s) for the former Brockhurst Care Home and former Pinehurst Resource Centre sites set out in this paper be approved.

3. Work to review the feasibility of further sites owned by the Council for the development of Extra Care Housing be approved.

Reasons for decisions:

The development of Extra Care Housing on the two sites set out in this paper will represent a substantial contribution towards the Council's strategic objective to expand affordable Extra Care Housing provision by 2030.

The development of Extra Care Housing through this delivery model is in line with previous decisions made by Cabinet. In October 2019 Cabinet agreed to identify a strategic partner for the development and housing management of Extra Care Housing at the former Pond Meadow School site through a tender process.

This is consistent with our ASC vision for development of Extra Care Housing, which has been clearly communicated through market and stakeholder engagement.

Through developing Extra Care Housing via this delivery model, the Council will have evidence and experience with which to benchmark future developments against and make informed decisions regarding future sites and approaches.

The Council received positive feedback following its market engagement on the tender for Extra Care Housing at the former Pond Meadow School site. In their feedback, a number of providers sought clarification on whether further sites will be offered to the market through a tender.

A tender will be published in the Summer 2020 for an Extra Care Housing development and housing management strategic partner at the former Pond Meadow School site. This process will provide the Council with learning and a template to inform any future tenders for further Extra Care Housing schemes.

B. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PROPERTY PROJECTS - NEW CHILDREN'S HOMES AND SHAW FAMILY CENTRE

The report asked Cabinet to progress the delivery of two children's homes and the re-provision of the Shaw Family Contact Centre, in support of the Looked After and Adopted Children's (LAAC) Service strategy for children growing up in the care of the council. In order to improve outcomes for children and young people, the report would be seeking approval to transfer the capital of £5.5m from the pipeline budget for the 3 proposed schemes. The project was a key priority of the Corporate Parenting Board to ensure we provide comfortable and safe homes for children in care.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the transfer of £5.5m capital from the pipeline budget for the 3 proposed schemes be approved.
2. To develop/replace the Shaw Family Contact Centre and two new Community Children's Homes at the capital costs set out in the report be approved.
3. That the tender for the above projects, carried out by the service be approved.
4. That delegated authority to approve final capital spend on each project is given to the Cabinet Member for Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for

Children, Young People and Families, the Executive Director of Children, Families and Learning and the Executive Director for Resources.

Reasons for decisions:

To ensure the two new children's homes and the new Shaw Family Contact Centre can be delivered on time and within budget.

C. RECOVERY AND DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER: OPPORTUNITIES AND BENEFITS FOR SURREY

The Government has recently announced its intention to publish a Recovery and Devolution White Paper in the autumn, setting out its plans for the devolution of powers, freedoms and flexibilities alongside intentions to increase the number of unitary and combined authorities and elected Mayors. Given the new and growing challenges faced by Surrey, even before Covid-19, this presents a significant opportunity to better organise local government and local accountability and engagement with residents in Surrey, in a more effective and financially sustainable manner. Doing so will support the achievement of the 2030 Community Vision for Surrey as a uniquely special place, where enabling long term inclusive growth and tackling the inequalities that continue to exist in the county ensures everyone has a great start to life, people live healthy and fulfilling lives, are enabled to achieve their full potential and no one is left behind.

Cabinet AGREED:

That the preparations in hand to respond to the Government's anticipated Recovery and Devolution White Paper, due to be published in autumn 2020 be noted.

Reasons for Decisions:

To ensure Cabinet are aware of the preparations being made in readiness for the publication of the anticipated Recovery and Devolution White Paper in the autumn.

At its meeting on 29 September 2020 Cabinet considered:

D. SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL STRATEGIC RESET

Surrey, along with the rest of the UK faces an unprecedented future as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, bringing with it both significant challenges and opportunities. The pandemic has fundamentally shifted the strategic context in which the council is operating. There are opportunities to use lessons learned from the crisis to enhance or adapt the council's strategic approach to ensure the aims and ambitions of the Community Vision 2030 can continue to be realised. To do this the strategies, budgets and transformation programme set by the council for 2020/21 need to be reset so they reflect how priorities have changed as a result of the new environment.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the key themes emerging from the planning assumptions and evidence base that have informed the strategic reset be noted.
2. That the input of the Member Reference Group in informing the Strategic Reset paper be noted.

3. That the financial implications, impacts on the Transformation Programme, and the impacts on Directorate business plans be noted.
4. That the four emerging priority objectives (Tackling inequality and ensuring no one is left behind; Driving inclusive growth; Creating a greener future; and Enabling resilient and connected communities) that will form a new focus for the council and become the basis of a refreshed Organisation Strategy be approved.
5. The process being undertaken by Directorates to understand the implications for future years following the impact of Covid-19 on residents, communities and the council be noted.

Reasons for Decisions:

Through the council's response to Covid-19 a number of the council's organisational priorities have come into sharper focus, including themes such as a strong and prosperous economy; happy, healthy, connected and resilient communities; a greener future; and being a leading council. There is consensus that the 2030 Vision remains the right focus, but how we get there might need to change without losing the strong foundations that have been established over the past two years.

It is recommended that as part of the strategic reset a focus on these emerging priority areas will help the council to better prioritise its resources, refocus its transformation programme and ensure a stable provision of services going forward.

E. DEVELOPING LOCAL SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) PROVISION IN SURREY TO MEET DEMAND IN 2021/2022

As part of the Special Educational Needs and or Disability (SEND) Transformation Plan and SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2020-2025 which was approved by Cabinet on 29 January 2019, a recommendation was made to increase the specialist provision in mainstream specialist centres, special academies and maintained special schools in Surrey in order to reduce the reliance on Non-Maintained and Independent Specialist provision and out of county Independent provision. The recommendations are aligned with the local area's 2030 Community Vision which received Full Council unanimous approval to support the aspiration that everyone achieves their full potential, contributes to their community and no one is left behind so that children and young people who have SEND and Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) are educated in their nearest most appropriate setting and closer to home.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the use of SEND Capital Funding against the projects identified through the Expression of Interest (EOI) process with Surrey Schools for Phase 2 of the SEND Capital Programme to create 213 additional Specialist Planned Places in Surrey for academic year 2021-2022 be approved.
2. That the use of additional SEND Capital Funding of £6.4m required to complete the Freemantle's expansion, in addition to Phase 1 be approved.
3. That the transfer of £36m of Capital Budget to the SEND Capital Phase 1 and 2 Programmes be approved.

Reasons for Decisions:

Under Part 3 Section 21 of the Children & Families Act, 2014 the Local Authority and its partners have a statutory duty to keep special educational provision under review, including planning, commissioning and monitoring. In carrying out the duties in the Children & Families Act 2014, local authorities and others with responsibilities under that Act, are also covered by the Equality Act, 2010.

Developing and maintaining high quality specialist provision in Surrey is vital to ensure appropriate placements for the county's most vulnerable children and young people who have complex SEND and require specialist educational provision.

The proposed schemes ensure enough special school places are provided for secondary and Post 16 age children and young people who have Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs, Communication & Interaction needs and Cognition & Learning needs. These are the 3 need-types where long-term deficits in planned places have already been identified.

Increasing local specialist provision assures high quality teaching (through robust monitoring protocols) in Surrey's Good and Outstanding provision as graded by Ofsted, value for money at a more equitable cost per learner, the development of social value opportunities as well as employment in local communities.

F. COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUND

On 21 July 2020, Cabinet approved the development of the Community Projects Fund (CPF) – a unique and potentially transformative capital fund of £100m over five years designed to deliver place-making and place-changing projects led by residents and communities on a significant scale. At the time, Cabinet agreed to an initial phase of community co-design to test key aspects of the Fund prior to the formal launch of the Fund in the Autumn. The report sets out the findings from the co-design and resulting changes proposed to the Fund.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the key findings from the community co-design work be noted.
2. That the proposed updates to the process, criteria and framework for delivery of the Fund be approved.
3. The recruitment of the officer roles to manage the CPF process be noted.
4. The communications and engagement approach for the launch and delivery of the Fund be noted and the suggested timescales for the launch of the Fund and the opening of the first funding window be approved.

Reasons for Decisions:

The development of the Community Project Fund (CPF) represents a significant and exciting opportunity for Surrey County Council (SCC) to invest in a meaningful and lasting way in communities, and for communities to drive projects that will make a real difference to where they live. Crucially the Fund fills a unique gap in the market for

investment in truly resident and community-led projects to have a positive impact on the places in which they live.

The recommendations in this report will enable the Fund to be launched and to be delivered in a way that ensures the Fund is accessible to all, supports successful projects and that communities' benefit.

G. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 8 JULY – 12 OCTOBER 2020

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 special urgency arrangements set out in Standing Order 57 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), nor available 5 clear days before the meeting. Where a decision on such matters could not reasonably be delayed, the agreement of the Chairman of the appropriate Select Committee, or in his/her absence the Chairman of the Council, must be sought to enable the decision to be made.

At its meeting on 21 July 2020 Cabinet considered:

a) URGENT ITEM – RECOVERY AND DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER: OPPORTUNITIES AND BENEFITS FOR SURREY

This paper was presented under the General Exception Standing Order as it had not been possible to give 28 days' notice of the decisions to be taken.

The Government has recently announced its intention to publish a Recovery and Devolution White Paper in the autumn, setting out its plans for the devolution of powers, freedoms and flexibilities alongside intentions to increase the number of unitary and combined authorities and elected Mayors. Cabinet were asked to note the preparations in hand to respond to the Government's anticipated Recovery and Devolution White Paper, due to be published in autumn 2020.

Cabinet AGREED:

That the preparations in hand to respond to the Government's anticipated Recovery and Devolution White Paper, due to be published in autumn 2020 be noted.

Reasons for Decisions:

To ensure Cabinet are aware of the preparations being made in readiness for the publication of the anticipated Recovery and Devolution White Paper in the autumn.

The Cabinet RECOMMENDS that the County Council notes that there has been ONE urgent decision in the last three months.

**Mr Tim Oliver, Leader of the Council
13 October 2020**