

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Tim Oliver on behalf of Colin Kemp

PORTFOLIO: Deputy Leader; Economy & Infrastructure

We are working with partners and Districts and Boroughs to support people and businesses across Surrey to grow during the economic recovery from Covid-19 and we are actively reviewing how our infrastructure can support our economic, climate and inclusion ambition to further our strategic priority of 'growing a sustainable economy so everyone can benefit'.

Recovery from Covid-19: Surrey's Community Impact Assessment highlights how the economic impact has been felt most acutely in those areas with a higher reliance on certain industries, such as aviation. The number of people claiming Universal Credit or Job Seeker's Allowance has increased by over 300% in some areas of Surrey. Throughout the second lockdown, the Economy and Growth Team has been working with District and Boroughs and business network organisations to direct Surrey businesses to Government and locally administered business grants and loans. For those facing unemployment, we have supported them to maximise the benefits of the Government's 'Plan for Jobs' through our engagement with the Surrey Employment and Skills Board and our partners such as Surrey Chambers of Commerce which has identified almost 500 local opportunities for the Governments proposed 'Kickstart' youth employment programme.

Surrey Business Leadership Forum: We have also set up a Business Leadership Forum as a recognised business engagement association for senior executives of larger and/or multi-national companies to network consider shared opportunities and challenges and promote the benefits of a Surrey location. The Forum includes representation from Pinewood Group, Philips, Maclaren, Hyundai, Pfizer, Jellyfish, Berkeley Group, Atkins Global, Sandoz, Capgemini and Wates Group and will meet for the second time in December. One of the primary areas of interest from the Forum is that of the 'Surrey Brand' and the need to promote Surrey as a place for business, this will become particularly important as we better understand our new relationship with London following the potential long-term structural impacts that we believe might emerge.

The One Surrey Growth Board: At its October meeting, the One Surrey Growth Board received recommendations from Lord Philip Hammond, on behalf of the Future Economic Surrey Commission, presenting a variety of actions that need to be considered to ensure swift economic recovery and support medium-term growth. At the next meeting in December, the Growth Board will build from these recommendations and consider next steps, including development of its Plan for Growth. The Board will also hear about 'Surrey's Economic Future: Our 2030 Economic Strategy Statement' and be invited to engage on the ambitions and delivery programmes that are emerging.

'Surrey's Economic Future: Our 2030 Economic Strategy Statement': This Strategy Statement will be presented to Cabinet on 15 December and is both a statement of SCC ambition and intent but also an 'Invitation to Engage' which is offered to wider stakeholders and partners. Through this approach we will be able to move to immediate delivery on identified interventions that SCC will deliver whilst, at the same time, working up larger-scale cross-cutting programmes of work for the medium – long term. Projects identified build tangible actions from the breadth of evidence and research that we have. Through the 2030 Strategy Statement we lay out our priorities for the next 10 years, providing a clear framework for action that will not only support the growth of Surrey's resilient, productive and high-value economy but also recognises and promotes the role that Surrey has in supporting the wealth of the wider sub-region and the whole of the UK.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Matthew Furniss

PORTFOLIO: Transport

Highway Contract Procurement: The first phase of the supplier selection is now complete. Positively, several significant market players have participated in this phase which demonstrates the attractiveness of our contract opportunity and gives us the reassurance of a good quality outcome when it comes to award. We now go into the next phase where we start to explore how the final four suppliers will introduce improvements and deliver our services in future. The selection process will continue through most of next year to identify the final successful supplier, with award anticipated in the Autumn of 2021 as previously advised.

Highway Tree Planting: Work has progressed to make it easier for residents and community groups to request new trees on the highway. A briefing session was held for all Members at the end of October, and the step by step process is now available on our website. Demand is considerable, and there have been 300 requests in the last three months which are all being assessed. Where it is safe and locally desired, officers will work to facilitate planting which will support our goal of enabling a greener future for residents.

Active Travel Award: The County Council has been awarded £6,445,750 in the second tranche of the "Active Travel" allocations from the Department for Transport. This is the third highest allocation in the Country, and testament to the quality bid this authority produced. There are ten potential schemes, and we are finalising how we ensure inclusive consultation on these proposals, so we can genuinely gauge levels of support amongst our residents. Further details can be found on our website. This is an exciting opportunity to improve our infrastructure and widen travel options for all of our residents, whilst furthering progress to tackle environmental challenges.

ULEV Bus Grant: On 24 November Cabinet agreed to invest £49m in cleaner buses and cleaner community transport vehicles. Core to this is the creation of a Surrey Ultra Low and Zero Emission Scheme that will go live early next year. The bus industry and community transport providers will be able to bid to the scheme to support the early transition to greener fleets, including a requirement for complementary investment. Our scheme will introduce up to 80 ultra-low or zero-emission buses and 50 community transport minibuses. Of the funding, £9m will be invested in bus priority measures to tackle identified points of delay; £1.4m will be invested in more real time passenger information; with over £32m for the new ultra-low and zero emission buses and over £6m for 'clean' electric community transport vehicles.

Lane Rental: After careful consideration of responses received from the close of consultation on 2 October, we submitted our Scheme Application to the Department for Transport (DfT) on Friday 30 October and are awaiting their final approval. Once DfT have approved our scheme they will recommend it to the Secretary of State, and we anticipate commencing the scheme in Spring 2021. We expect Surrey to be the first authority to get approval for a Lane Rental Scheme under the current guidance, so well done to all involved. This will be a fantastic step in empowering our communities and tackling issues that concern them.

LED Conversion: The upgrading of our streetlights is going to plan and making excellent process. To date, 16,674 columns have been upgraded and we are ahead of programme as our target was 10,500. The project is due to be completed by April 2023, but if we continue to make good progress, we should be able to reduce this by a few months. Once complete, 89,045 streetlights will have been converted to the latest LED technology and we expect to reduce energy consumption by 65%.

Highways Innovation: Eight Highways Inspectors vehicles have been equipped with sensors that use AI to detect and report potholes with the trial expected to complete in March 2021. In addition, two cameras that use AI to report on general road condition, white line degradation and street furniture assets are being installed onto vehicles this week to increase efficiency in road condition surveying. The first 8 of 25 road temperature sensors have been deployed to the road network and are being tested with the aim of increasing the accuracy of forecasts and driving efficiencies in the winter gritting service. The first phase of high-tech traffic survey sensors is expected to be deployed to the area around Frimley Park Hospital in mid-January. These use AI and edge-computing to measure and classify traffic movement across the area. Additional sensors are expected to be deployed across Surrey through January and February. Data from the cycling app Strava has been used to provide information about changes in behaviour in Farnham. It is expected that access will shortly be expanded to obtain live and historic traffic flow information from the sat-nav app Waze.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Natalie Bramhall

PORTFOLIO: Environment & Climate Change

Climate Change: I am pleased to update you with the progress we have made towards our Greener Futures organisational priority. The Low Carbon in the South East (LoCASE 3) programme, which will enable SME businesses to access 50% grants for energy efficiency and low carbon support, started on 24 November, and is expected to bring around £7m investment into Surrey over its 3-year running period. SCC and Elmbridge BC's entry to the LGA and Design Council's Design Challenge, which is to develop a Green Procurement policy and framework, has been accepted. On 16 November we held a member webinar with experts to help Districts and Boroughs identify funding and investment opportunities. We have launched the Green Jump Surrey programme in ten District and Borough areas, starting work to install insulation and low carbon heating in low income properties, funded by an SCC capital contribution and £6.2m Government GH LAD funding.

CRC: All community recycling centres are now operating normally with Covid safety measures. The range of materials offered at each site is now largely back to normal with the exception of glass, plastic bottles and cans as these materials are collected in kerbside collection services and the extra space helps with social distancing. Reuse shops at Shepperton, Earlswood and Leatherhead were temporarily closed during the November lockdown but are now open. A booking system trial at the Epsom CRC commenced on 5 November and the results have been positive in reducing queuing.

Countryside Improvement Programme: The countryside estate has now been rebranded and changes will be operational from mid-January 2021. Work at Newlands Corner to the Discovery Centre and the toilet refurbishment will begin in February 2021. We will install new information boards before the end of March. Plans continue for three car park upgrades, with new picnic spaces, natural play areas and mobile catering. A partnership with the Youth Offer Team means they have been able to continue operating at two outdoor locations at Norbury Park during lockdown. Licences for activities on the estate continue to be for filming during lockdown, but we have a full calendar of activities and events in 2021. Options appraisals for three sites at Norbury Park have begun and we begin a master planning process for the whole site with stakeholders early in the new year.

Flooding: A Member Seminar was held on 30 November to give an overview of our strategic approach to managing flood risk in Surrey. The Caterham on the Hill flooding scheme was approved at Cabinet in October. We are expecting confirmation from the Treasury that funding for the River Thames Scheme has been approved this month; we will then engage with residents and stakeholders and develop the Development Consent Order.

Tree Strategy: We have identified sites on council owned land where approximately 20,000 trees will be planted this season to create new areas of woodland. We held a Member tree planting webinar on 26 October, which was well received and through which we promoted our funding programme for highways and urban tree planting. Site suggestions have been received from Members and tree planting will be underway from December to February 2021. We are distributing free trees to Surrey's schools to plant during Tree Week in early December. 92 schools have taken up this offer and 300 trees and 240 hedge plants have been allocated. We are again running our Trees for Christmas campaign, in partnership with Squires Garden Centres and other Christmas tree retailers, encouraging residents to donate £3 when they purchase their Christmas trees which will be used to plant a new tree in Surrey.

Rights of Way: The public rights of way network has been heavily used during the Covid-19 restrictions, leading to a 400% increase in reports from the public this year. As a result of the Capital Funding programme the Countryside Access Team has continued to make significant improvements to the network including the replacement or repair of a backlog of closed bridges, replacement of missing finger posts and repair of unsafe path surfaces. Thirty-one footpath and bridleway bridges across the county have been replaced or repaired and 7,000m of surfacing completed so far this year. A further 16 bridges will be completed by the end of the year. Without the Capital Funding, some high-profile routes would have had to have been closed. We have replaced nearly 150 missing or damaged signs on the roadside network, this work will be completed by the end of March.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Julie Iles

PORTFOLIO: All-Age Learning

Progress since my last update to Council: As I discussed in my interview on BBC Radio Surrey on 19 November, the vast majority of schools are open across the county and attendance is above the national average. However, we do know that some schools have been impacted by staff shortages as teaching staff have needed to self-isolate. Schools, colleges and nurseries are communicating directly and promptly with families where they need to send children home to self-isolate. We continue to work very closely in partnership to keep settings open and support children and young people to attend right up to the Christmas holidays.

Economy, Employment and Skills: As of October 2020, Surrey had over 60,000 Universal Credit claimants; an increase of 250% on last year. Approximately 16% of claimants are under 25. As part of its core organisational priorities, the Council is focussing on growing a sustainable economy. Through the Surrey Employment and Skills Board (ESB), we are providing a proactive, employer-led response to the government's Plan for Jobs to maximise schemes such as Kickstart, in collaboration with the local Job Centre Plus branches. The Surrey Chamber of Commerce is a Kickstart Gateway organisation and is currently working with over 100 Surrey businesses to offer over 300 work placements to young people who are 18-24 and on Universal Credit. In addition, the ESB is providing a steer to the Department of Work and Pensions about local progression pathways for young people into apprenticeships and further education and training. The Council's Adult and Community Education service is working alongside the Economic Recovery Group to develop the availability of apprenticeships and training course. It will also review its provision, to ensure this better addresses skills gaps; enabling those who have recently lost their jobs to study for qualifications which increase their employability.

School Funding: Surrey County Council proposed to transfer £3.4m of school funding in 2021/22 to support the high needs block Dedicated Schools Grant deficit, which is currently projected to be £31.6m in 2020/21, a further £24m in 2021/22 and a cumulative total of £104m by March 2022. The proposed transfer was supported by 29% of schools in a consultation in September, but not supported by Schools Forum on 1 October. The Council is now submitting an appeal to the Secretary of State and the outcome is likely to be known in January. The Cabinet considered other proposals for schools funding in 2021/22 at its meeting on 24 November, mainly concerning funding rates for schools, and these were agreed, subject to review in January, when final data on pupil numbers will be available. At the time of writing, no details are yet available on the level of Surrey's Early Years funding for 2021/22.

Autism Strategy: Following the closure of the public consultation in September, work continues on analysing responses and planning for a series of workshops later this month. Working with London South Bank University, analysis has already highlighted several key themes which will form the basis of the final Strategy. These themes will be closely linked to our understanding of how autism is manifested in Surrey over time, with consideration given to how we can make a difference for children with autism and their families in the short, medium and longer-term. The final All Age Autism Strategy will be published on 1 April 2021. Prior to publication, work is being undertaken to promote 'Autism Friendly Communities' and 'Autism Friendly Schools', a key part of our core priorities to address health inequalities and empower communities in Surrey, as per our organisational strategy.

Virtual School Governing Board: Following a review of the existing Virtual School Governing Board (VSGB) by Ruth Murton (Director of Leadershipwise and National Governance expert), a proposal was submitted to the VSGB in November to reconstitute as the Education subgroup of the Corporate Parenting Board. The main reason for the change is the significant progress made by the Virtual School in improving all aspects of its practice, services and outcomes – as supported by the VSGB. In becoming a subgroup, the Corporate Parenting Board will be enhanced as an influential decision-making group, holding all services to account for the outcomes of children and young people.

Member Seminar– SEND Transformation: A virtual seminar on SEND Transformation was held on 2 December and I was pleased so many Members were able to attend, as this is such an important area of work for us. The seminar provided an update on how the Transformation Programme is making a difference for children, young people and their families. It also discussed the funding mechanism for SEND and the plan for achieving financial sustainability. As no new government funding has been announced for SEND in the spending review, I made the point that we will continue to make representation to national government for funding which reflects the increased demand and additional responsibilities for local authorities.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Mary Lewis

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families

Empowering Communities: One of my main priorities has been to ensure that the voices of children and young people are heard, recognised and heeded by services that seek to support them. This is in line with our wider council objective to empower communities, through a renewed relationship with residents, that places their concerns and needs at the fore of everything we do. Although the ongoing pandemic has challenged my engagement efforts, I am grateful that technology has helpfully filled the gap and allowed me and other Members of the Corporate Parenting Board to connect with this crucial group. We regularly spend time listening to the opinions and views of children and young people on Zoom/Teams prior to Corporate Parenting Board meetings. As Members are aware, we all have a responsibility as corporate parents. At a recent meeting with our Regional Improvement Organisation (SESLIP) it was highlighted that we could benefit from the support of opposition groups with their colleagues in the majority groups on three District and Borough councils which do not currently support a unified Care Leaver offer: Epsom and Ewell, Waverley and Tandridge. Fairness for LAC and Care Leavers across the county was an Ofsted inspection issue.

Care Leavers: In an effort to better understand the experiences of children and young people, Julie Iles, Becky Rush and I took part in the Reality Cheque Challenge in November, which challenges people to live on the average budget of a care leaver for five days. While not all care leavers have to manage such a small budget, the challenge provided us with an insight into some of the budget constraints faced by this group and how we need to support all children in care better with life skills, such as cooking and budgeting. We are pleased to report increasing support from across all Council services for children in care and care leavers: maintenance issues in care homes were acted on recently in response to a series of Member visits, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service have started to support care leavers with home fire safety visits, and the Chief Executive took on and completed an action for graduate trainees in the council to mentor Children in Care with career decisions and university applications.

New Executive Director for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning: I am delighted to welcome Rachael Wardell who has now officially joined the County Council as Executive Director for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning. Rachael joins us, following a successful tenure at the London Borough of Merton, which concluded with high praise from Ofsted last month, for the high quality of work done to keep local children safe during the pandemic. As she assumes her role, I would like to thank the interim leadership of this directorate and all staff, who have continued to do their very best work for children and young people since the death of Dave Hill. I am confident that in Rachael, Surrey has a talented and experienced leader, who will build upon Dave's legacy and lead us determinedly on our journey to Good and beyond.

Family Safeguarding Model: As part of our Improvement journey we have adopted the Family Safeguarding Model, which aims to provide comprehensive support to families, through integrated teams that span both children's safeguarding and more adult-focused services. Recently, I was encouraged to see Hertfordshire, which pioneered this model, receive praise from the Department of Education, which noted how the model had generated "greater impacts for children and families". As we continue to embed this system further across the county, we will benefit from the expertise of Rachael Wardell who led on Family Safeguarding in West Berkshire.

Single Point of Access: Following on from the successful launch of the Learners Single Point of Access (L-SPA), we are looking to merge this with the Children's Single Point of Access (C-SPA) early next year, in order to provide one place where families can share their story and access the necessary help. It is planned that both teams will be relocated in a larger workspace in Woking. Inevitably, Covid-19 has impacted on both C-SPA and L-SPA, increasing the amount of contacts and referrals that both have received. Moving forward, we will continue to work closely with our partners to tackle these difficulties, using a partnership approach to ensure the needs of our most vulnerable are best met.

Early Intervention: We are additionally preparing for the launch, in April 2021, of our new Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service, which I know will support our desire to focus on early intervention. The importance of this was further highlighted by the recent Mental Health summit, addressed by a young CAMHS service user. 2020 has been an unforgettable year for the directorate and challenges have been met with the indomitable spirit of our children, young people, foster carers and staff, who have always risen to the occasion. It is therefore apt, that later this month, our User Voice and Participation Team will hold the first virtual 'Recognising You' Awards, which have already received over 200 nominations. Social Workers will also be recognised in a special Social Care Awards.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Sinead Mooney

PORTFOLIO: Adults and Health

Covid-19 update: Following news of multiple vaccine candidates for Covid-19 and the authorisation by the MHRA for use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, we can say with much certainty, that there is light at the end of the tunnel and that a return to normality is within our grasp. The Surrey Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB) shall remain an instrumental public-facing board, continuing to provide strategic insight and direction, as we look to an eventual exit strategy. Public Health colleagues continue to work tirelessly with system partners to support our Covid response within the community and across all high-risk settings, including care homes, universities and other education settings. I am pleased that via central government, we have received further funding to support our testing, contract tracing and other prevention efforts throughout the Winter and early Spring.

In this season, we are stepping up our efforts to additionally house those without a home to isolate where they are COVID positive or showing symptoms, in line with our organisational strategy commitment to tackle health inequality. We are working with local agencies and local Housing teams to ensure that additional units, available from mid-December can be accessed. These also include winter provision to respond to a lack of winter shelters during the pandemic.

Domestic Abuse: We have also renewed our work with the Domestic Abuse partnership, and have re-established weekly calls to arising issues, refreshed our communications and worked closely with colleagues in Health and Police, to ensure both services are aware of how to identify the signs of domestic abuse and share information. In addition to this, it has been agreed by that we will recruit four independent domestic violence advisors (IDVAs) working across the county, to support victims of domestic abuse to become safer sooner. Funding opportunities for these key roles is being identified.

Adult Social Care: Over the next few months, ASC face several challenges that could impact service delivery, which we are working to mitigate against. As well as our ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are planning for seasonal pressures such as the flu, severe weather and the uncertainties related to the end of the EU transition period. The service is focussed on preparedness and resilience and I am pleased that all business continuity plans have been tested and updated. The service is also using this period to implement the new Hospital Discharge to Assess model. This will ensure people are safely discharged home, assisted with short-term support from our primary and community health services working collaboratively with our reablement teams.

With regards to technology enabled care, a pilot delivered in partnership with Mole Valley will commence in January 2021 to trial embedding technology as a key consideration when supporting people coming out of hospital into the reablement pathway. I look forward to sharing the results of this pilot later next year.

Supported Independent Living: In November Cabinet approved, in principle, the use of four sites for supported independent living. Business cases will be presented to confirm final approval for the development of these sites in the New Year. We continue to make progress on the Extra Care Housing Programme. We are close to appointing a development and housing management strategic partner for the Pond Meadow site. We are hosting a market engagement event for the upcoming tender on the Brockhurst and Pinehurst site and the Invitation to Tender will be published later this month.

Budget Forecasting: At the end of October, ASC was forecasting an underspend of £2m against its 2020/21 budget. This reflects a significant reduction in the number of care packages funded by the Council due to the pandemic. The Public Health (PH) service, as of the end of October 2020 was forecasting a balanced budget. Surrey's PH grant has increased by £2.4m in 2020/21, the first increase since 2014/15. The full £2.4m grant increase has been allocated to the PH service to cover the £0.8m cost of implementing the NHS Agenda for Change pay award for some PH commissioned services, with £1.6m remaining for investment in essential services.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Marisa Heath

PORTFOLIO: People

Update on Preparation for Adulthood: This has been lifted as a priority within the Transformation Programme to ensure a system wide, collaborative approach to improve the experiences of young people going through transitions at myriad stages of their lives. This is in line with our council objective, to empower communities and help our most vulnerable access the help and support needed to live empowered, independent lives. The Preparation for Adulthood task group has now been formed and met twice to agree its vision and approach. This task group brings senior teams from Children's and Adults Services together with Health representatives and the Transition manager.

Priority workstreams include children with disabilities (CWD) and early engagement, mental health pathways, continuing work on positive futures for those young people not eligible for ASC through employment, vocational options and continued learning, engagement with health partners through strong governance and joint training. We have expanded employment pathways this year and we are monitoring their success with a view to expanding this offer again in September 2021 and we are working on promoting and communicating this offer to parents and the young people themselves to ensure they are well informed about the choices in their lives. Through the Task group we will create a strong communication touchpoint that keeps users of the service informed in a clear and accessible way.

The Task group will meet every three weeks and will report to the Transformation Board. I will continue to report to Council and will engage elected Members in the work around the communication platform.

How the Registration is working under Covid-19: Birth registrations and notice of marriage/civil partnership appointments have continued face-to-face all through lockdown. The back log of birth registration has nearly been cleared with any remaining families being contacted to arrange appointments. There is an online booking system which we are improving regularly to get as many appointments in as possible. Death registrations continue to be carried out by telephone appointment.

Under the tier system, marriages and civil partnership ceremonies will be able to go ahead with a maximum of 15 people (the couple and up to 13 guests). Wedding receptions will be allowed in tier 1 and 2 but wedding receptions will not be allowed in tier 3. The Registration team has done a brilliant job in working to keep the system going and I would like to thank them for being able to set up the capacity to enable urgent weddings for those couples facing exceptional, and often very sad, circumstances where getting married is hugely important to them.

The team are planning for next year and thinking about the infrastructure and staff requirements as the situation around Covid-19 changes and the recovery of income will be a priority. A business case will come forward shortly outlining how we will operate in a more efficient way that better meets the needs of our residents.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Denise Turner-Stewart

PORTFOLIO: Communities

Trading Standards: Recent lockdown legislation has seen the Trading Standards Service very busy with advice to businesses and enforcement of the legislation relating to retail businesses. We continue to work with partners, particularly Environmental Health, in the Districts and Boroughs, to ensure we are tackling the issues efficiently. This lockdown saw different legislation to the spring lockdown and therefore much of our role has been to help businesses understand what they need to do. So far, all businesses that we have dealt with in Surrey have responded to the advice and guidance meaning we have not had to resort to Prohibition or Fixed Penalty Notices.

Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector: The Community Impact Assessment (CIA) work in collaboration with partners has been completed. This has been a hugely successful and useful compilation of a range of assessments into how communities are currently feeling and the impact of Covid. The findings from these analyses are being shared with partners and we will be bringing a focus group together in particular to look at some of the impacts on BAME communities. For example, the survey showed only 19% of BAME communities knew about the existence of foodbanks as opposed to 48% of the general population. In line with our organisational strategy to help all communities access help and support, we will explore with partners the reasons behind this and how this can be addressed.

As part of the 'Hidden in Plain Sight' research, the Community Foundation for Surrey hosted a series of webinars highlighting key findings. The latest one was on 'The Truth about Poverty' and we supported by presenting insights from the CIA and wider datasets, such as 16% of households in Surrey are classed as 'living in poverty'. Covid-19 means that many are receiving support for the first time with a 300% increase in new benefit claimants in some areas of Surrey. We will also be working with Binti, a charity focusing on Period Poverty, and running a 3-month pilot in the new year to equip all libraries with sanitary products for women, so everyone has equal access and to reduce the stigma associated with this. Products will initially be donated by the charity and over the 3 months we will assess both the usage and need and explore options for ongoing sustainability.

Community Safety Team: Monthly Prevent Channel panels are still being held virtually. The number of Prevent referrals reduced considerably during the initial lockdown with the closure of educational establishments, which historically have been the pathway for most referrals, however, a review of referral processes across our partners is now resulting in an increase in cases. Governance of Prevent through the Prevent Executive Group takes place on a quarterly basis. Work continues to implement a county wide plan to mitigate the risks of exploitation and radicalisation detailed in the Counter-Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP), and the implementation of a South East Counter-Terrorism Advisory Group.

Coroners' Service: Surrey Coroners' Service continue our transformation journey to becoming a first-class service; the two key aims being that the deceased should be treated with dignity and respect, and that the bereaved should be treated with care and compassion and their wishes for the deceased respected wherever possible. This includes establishing a long term, strategic business plan to deliver this vision and ensuring that appropriate systems are adopted to support a proper documentation process. Work also continues with Land & Property colleagues and in strategic partnership with Health, to address the long-term issue of mortuary provision, not only during the winter period where demand peaks, but to provide greater resilience all year round for the future.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Zully Grant-Duff

PORTFOLIO: Corporate Support

The Digital Transformation: This programme continues to build the Council's digital capability and capacity. Examples include the Surrey's Little Help Shop, a portal to improve early identification of a child's need, which is being developed by the Digital Design Team in partnership with Children's Services and is expected to be released to stakeholders in January 2021. Also, in partnership with Surrey Heartlands, Tech 4 You, a new service model deploying sensors at home to support our most vulnerable residents to remain independent; and the work on the Surrey Care Record for Children's Services, its data scope and access governance arrangements. Both these projects are aligned to our organisation priority to reduce health inequalities in the county.

Agile working practices: These continue to be developed across the Council and feedback from staff engagement shows a majority prefer a mixed office and home working arrangement. This new way of working will reduce staff travelling and help us realise our ambition for a greener future for Surrey by contributing to a reduction of our carbon emissions. Extensive engagement has taken place with teams due to move out of County Hall, including those relocating to Woodhatch, and specific plans are in place for teams heavily reliant upon an office environment including Business Operations, Customer Services and Legal team. The IT infrastructure at Woodhatch will be installed and live from January 2021.

Covid-19 Local Contact Tracing Partnership: This joint project with Public Health and Customer Services went live on 26 November with local tracing in Surrey utilising local expertise and knowledge to follow up on people who have tested positive for Covid-19 but whom NHS Test & Trace has been unable to reach. The initial pilot phase covers four District & Borough areas (Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Runnymede & Spelthorne), and will then expand to the whole of Surrey. The service is operating six days a week (Mon-Sat) and in the first 5 days received 75 contacts from NHS Test & Trace - 69% of which have been successfully contacted.

The Customer Experience Transformation: This programme has been refreshed with a renewed focus on managing enquiries in a more efficient, proactive and connected way and increasing the use of digital self-service and automation. Joint working with services such as Home to School Transport is underway to devise specific service improvements. A proof of concept trial for chatbot technology (called Sur-i) is now live on the school admissions web pages, as part of a joint project with IT & Digital, the Transformation Support Unit and School Admissions teams. Initial indications are that this will be a valuable self-service function. Customer usage of live web chat continues to grow, with over 1906 chats served in the period 1 September to 25 November, with a customer satisfaction level of 96.1%.

The Legal Team Covid-19 response: This has involved close working with Children's Services to meet the increased demand from children's safeguarding cases; this commitment has been recognised by the Local Family Justice Board. Bespoke remote training has been delivered to 130 Social Workers, 30 Independent Reviewing Officers, and Child Protection Conference Chairs. The team has been expanded to meet the significant and ongoing challenges. Work is ongoing with District and Borough Legal Teams and Public Health to support local Environmental Protection teams in the advice, support and enforcement of the increasingly complex Covid-19 regulatory regime and provide a single source of legal support to all districts and boroughs.

The Community Impact Assessment: This was published this month as a suite of intelligence products that explore the health, social and economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on communities across Surrey, also what support communities need and their priorities for recovery. Residents, people working in frontline services and partners took part in the research and had opportunity to suggest recommendations. The aim is for partners to use the intelligence to provide targeted support to impacted communities. The Data Insights transformation programme is supporting data-led design in the Libraries and Communities transformation programmes, work aligned to our organisation priority to empower local communities.

New corporate performance dashboards: These show key performance indicators have been developed utilising Tableau, an interactive data visualisation tool. Business intelligence teams across services have collaborated with the IT & Digital team in the production, with work in progress to fully automate the data collection and report preparation process. In the next phase we will focus the provision of business intelligence on performance reporting aligned against our four organisation priorities.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Mel Few
PORTFOLIO: Resources

Finance: Work continues with balancing the outturn for the current financial year, currently standing at the end of Period 6 (September) at a deficit of £3.5m. Pressures continue with the high needs block (SEND) due to higher placements since the reopening of schools. Pressures are also beginning to be felt with waste where higher volumes and lower recycling values are causing a budget gap to appear.

The favourable outlook for Adult Social Care, reflecting a saving against budget of £1.8m at this point in the financial year, is commendable. Work is ongoing to close the gap by period 12 which will enable the Council, for the second year, to end the financial year with a balanced budget without the need to use any of its reserves.

The Empty Homes proposal was passed by Cabinet on the 24 November to encourage a change by Districts and Boroughs to reduce vacant properties within authorities. At its meeting on the 24 November the Cabinet was also presented with a draft revenue budget, still to be balanced with a small gap of £18.3m. Since the Draft Budget was presented, the Government has announced:

- Funding for the next financial year, with the basic council tax of up to 1.99% and a precept for Adult Social Care of 3% for authorities like Surrey who have responsibility for looking after vulnerable adults.
- A new national £300m social care grant – no details on distribution at this time
- Additional COVID related funding to cover:
 - Grant for additional expenditure pressure,
 - Fund to support irrecoverable loss of council tax and business rates revenues in 2020-21, and
 - Sales, fees and charges (SFC) compensation scheme will be extended into the first 3 months of 2021-22.

Property: I was delighted with the appointment of Cllr Hawkins as Associate Cabinet Member for Property who, since his appointment, has actively engaged with the property team and is rapidly gaining an understanding of the various property projects currently being progressed.

The sale of County Hall continues with preliminary bids received on 23 November. The process of negotiating with each bidder to understand their respective bids will commence shortly. It is hoped that a successful sale can be completed before the end of January 2021. Work on readying Woodhatch for use by the Council should enable County Hall to be officially closed by the end of December - subject to COVID measures which might delay the closing.

During the period 23 residential properties were transferred to the County's residential company with a further 70 to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Becky Rush

PORTFOLIO: Resources

The focus for finance in the past 2 months has been the finalisation of the draft budget for Cabinet and the important scrutiny stage the week commencing 14 December (See Cllr Few's update for this detail).

Procurement: The Annual Procurement Forward Plan for 21/22 will be presented to Cabinet in December. This document is produced through collaboration with directorates to provide pre-approval (within parameters) for Business as Usual procurement for the coming financial year.

Internal Audit: The revised Internal Audit plan for 20/21 was approved by the Audit and Governance Committee in November. In the first lockdown Internal Audit was suspended due to necessary redeployment of staff to Covid front line services and deployment into services to work alongside in the redesign of procedures to enable services to continue to operate whilst adjusting to online operations. The knock-on effect is a compressed Internal Audit programme for the remainder of the financial year. The revised programme prioritises high risk areas and new processes arising as a result of Covid-19 and is designed to enable the legal statutory assurance required to be given.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Edward Hawkins

PORTFOLIO: Property

Following my appointment in October, I have been working with Members and Officers to obtain a greater understanding of the competing needs and wishes of the services and how these can be accommodated within the framework of a leaner and efficient property estate.

Visits and meetings: To help achieve delivery, I have visited a number of sites and locations; established a regular series of meetings and protocol with officers and agreed an initial list of priorities. These priorities are regularly reviewed to help achieve outcomes.

Next steps: Going forward, I would like to reinforce the existing cross services Property Team which will help ensure speedy delivery and eliminate potential blockages. I would like to ensure that our property estate adequately reflects the needs of the county and residents, contributing to our objective of empowering communities and prioritising the issues that matter to them.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Alison Griffiths

PORTFOLIO: Place

Suicide Prevention: I am pleased to be able to update you with the work I have been doing to increase focus on mental health, supporting our priority objective of tackling health inequality. The national suicide bereavement report was launched on Wednesday 18 November 2020. Over 7,000 people bereaved or affected by suicide participated in the survey, making it the largest suicide bereavement survey internationally. I am pleased that the survey will draw focus to addressing mental health issues, a key priority for SCC. Please click on the following link to download a copy <https://suicidebereavementuk.com/>

Carers Confident: With 1 in 7 people now juggling work with caring for someone who is older, ill or disabled, and our population ageing, carers are a growing reality in our workforce. Without the right support, 1 in 6 carers give up work or reduce working hours to care. But many will be our most skilled and experienced staff, the 45-64 year olds at the peak of their careers. Building a supportive workplace for all staff, including the growing numbers who are, or will become, carers is both good employment practice and good business sense. The Carer Confident benchmarking scheme, which is managed by Carers UK, assists employers across the UK to build a supportive and inclusive workplace for staff who are, or will become, carers and to make the most of the talents that carers bring to the workplace.

Carer Confident also seeks to recognise employers who achieve this, and to inspire others to follow suit. The certificate of achievement is presented to employers with a UK presence who have demonstrated that they have built an inclusive workplace where carers are recognised, respected and supported. Carer Confident employers recognise the importance of retaining valued members of staff, reducing absence and unnecessary recruitment costs, and increasing staff resilience, engagement and productivity. As part of our Carer Workforce task and finish group an application was constructed for the award and I am extremely pleased to announce that Surrey County Council has now been awarded the Carer Confident Kite Mark for three years. As our work continues with the carer workforce work stream we hope as a system we will be ready to submit a further application in 2022 for level 2 of the award.

HSJ Shortlisting: For 40 years, the HSJ Awards have been the most esteemed accolade of service excellence in the UK. Although mainly aimed at health care, as health and social care move closer together, these awards have more relevance to across system working. This year the team submitted an entry on our integrated and innovative approach to delivery of carer services. I am extremely pleased to announce that the Heartlands system has been shortlisted for the 2020 awards in the System Led Support for Carers Award category. Additionally, the team has been awarded the Armed Forces Champion award, which illustrates that our carers services are well respected as a benchmark for such services. However, we have more to do and I know the carers team continue to strive to develop services for carers such as carer contingency planning and carer passports, to improve health outcomes for residents.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL

NAME: Mark Nuti

PORTFOLIO: Support for the Leader - Libraries and Heritage/ Capital Budget/ Capital Project Fund

I am pleased to update you with the progress made across my portfolio to deliver on our priority objective of empowering communities.

Libraries: Whilst libraries have had to pause browsing throughout the four-week lockdown that commenced on 5 November 2020, I am pleased that we have been able to keep libraries open for click and collect, and essential PC use alongside our very popular digital services.

The pandemic has highlighted how important the library service is to our residents, both in providing information, and combatting the social isolation that lockdown can bring. We have had many positive comments from residents using the service: *“Loving how you’re going the extra mile to provide services at the moment. I felt proud to have a Surrey library card when I received your email yesterday!”*.

I am pleased to report that Surrey Arts has continued to provide activities throughout both lockdowns and utilised digital technology to ensure they were able to deliver services. The service developed a rich, diverse and inclusive offer for vulnerable children and young people during the pandemic and delivered programmes to approximately 200 young people.

Your Fund Surrey: Following Cabinet’s approval of the development of Your Fund Surrey (formerly known as the Community Projects Fund or CPF), the team have been busy finalising arrangements for the funds launch on the week commencing 16 November. We have been building our team and have already recruited a new member of staff to help manage the fund.

Since the launch of the fund, we have been asking communities to start thinking about ideas in order to take the first applications for funding in early 2021. We want to make it easier for everyone to play an active role in the decisions that will shape Surrey’s future. Since being launched there has already been activity taking place on CommonPlace and a number of enquiries to the Your Fund Surrey inbox showing the great amount of interest there is out there to start developing projects.

Our campaign is designed to grab attention, inspire people to think outside the box and stretch their imagination. We want it to be a campaign that will empower communities, enabling residents and community groups to own it and play an active role.

Capital Budget: Despite Covid-19 we continue to see strong delivery of the ambitious capital programme for 2020/21. Whilst some slippage has occurred within the original programme, due to the impact on of Covid on the practicalities of delivering schemes, this was identified early enough to bring other less affected works forward. Forecast delivery remains consistent with budget.

Progress towards developing a Programme Management Office and a pipeline of future schemes continues and November’s Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy sets out an ambition to invest at least £1.7bn in Surrey’s infrastructure over the next 5 years.