

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2020****QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED UNDER THE PROVISIONS
OF STANDING ORDER 10.1****MARK NUTI, DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER - SUPPORT FOR THE LEADER****1. MR EDWARD HAWKINS (HEATHERSIDE AND PARKSIDE) TO ASK:**

At a Divisional Question & Answer session I held this week, I was asked on a number of occasions about Surrey County Council's stated desire to reinvigorate its relationship with residents and give communities a greater say on matters that impact them and where they live. Could the Deputy Cabinet Member - Support for the Leader - please advise how Surrey County will ensure that arguably the most important aspect - the community - including all groups and businesses will be at the heart of those conversations?

RESPONSE:

The Council has recently agreed a refreshed Organisation Strategy and a key priority is to empower our communities; we want to 'Reinvigorate our relationship with residents, empowering communities to tackle local issues and support one another while making it easier for everyone to play an active role in the decisions that will shape Surrey's future'.

To support this priority, we want to improve and increase our conversations with our communities using a range of tools, both digital and physical, to reach a wider section of our residents and businesses. Members have already started some of these conversations in communities and these digital conversations have already resulted in connecting with a far wider group of people than our more traditional engagements; other Members have been polling their residents for views or holding local meetings within their divisions.

We will also be exploring the engagements we have planned around libraries or other key Surrey County Council activities in our communities and supporting these conversations with other tools such as Commonplace (our map based engagement tool which is already in use for Active Travel and Your Fund Surrey), to seek wider views on how we might develop the places where people live and building on our conversations as we go.

We want to understand the experiences residents have locally and use this to shape our policies and services. Working with our partners we aim to join up our conversations locally, listening to resident's ideas and issues, and working with communities to agree local priorities that become real projects on the ground that we can deliver together.

We have also launched Your Fund Surrey (YFS), a £100million capital fund, inviting communities to bid for monies to deliver local projects that make a big difference to local people. We have already seen over 250 project ideas on the Commonplace Your Fund Surrey map and over 18,000 visits to view the map. We will monitor the take-up of YFS to ensure we are reaching every community in Surrey, but this is already increasing the engagement we have with our communities and will build positive community led projects and connect people together in their communities.

We want to utilise both these initiatives to build our conversations, to grow mutual understanding and shared ambition for each community. Sharing the vision for the future of Surrey and discussing with communities what this might mean for their area, from planting trees to support a greener future, to developing ways to support people's mental health. We are kick starting the journey to empower our communities to take more control, get involved in shaping Surrey's future and making things happen in the places where they live.

TIM OLVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

2. MS BARBARA THOMSON (EARLSWOOD AND REIGATE SOUTH) TO ASK:

While many residents and businesses thrive in Surrey, not everyone has the same opportunities to flourish, so Surrey County Council is rightly focused on tackling inequality and ensuring no-one is left behind. Could the Leader provide an update on the valuable work the Council is doing to support people and businesses across Surrey to grow during the economic recovery and to re-prioritise infrastructure plans?

RESPONSE:

Throughout the pandemic, Surrey County Council has recognised the importance of ensuring that our businesses are aware of and able to take up the range of practical Government support available to them to support recovery from the negative economic impacts of the pandemic. Through our leadership of the local Covid-19 Recovery Co-ordinating Group (RCG), we have worked to ensure businesses are provided with or could access information when they needed it. We continue to provide a lead coordination role in relation to some of the medium term impacts identified through the Retail and Economy Sub-group, for example supporting our high street businesses to open and operate 'Covid-safely' and develop a better online presence.

We have sign-posted businesses to relevant local support networks so that they could receive help and guidance, such as Government grants channelled through District and Borough councils, business advice and support made available through LEP Growth Hubs, as well as through other business support intermediaries. We also made a direct grant award to the Surrey Chambers of Commerce and Federation of Small Businesses to support Surrey small businesses to gain valuable access to emergency advice and support, as well as continuing to give dedicated grant support to Surrey based social enterprises which provide a front-line business advice function.

The County Council set up and actively supports the Surrey Employment and Skills Board (ESB) as a proactive employer-led partnership dedicated to improving the skills and employment system within Surrey to the benefit of both employers and residents. The Board's work includes a targeted response to the Government's Plan for Jobs schemes, designed to maximise the awareness and uptake of schemes to benefit Surrey. These are led by senior representatives from local employers, such as McLaren Automotive and the Institute of Directors in Surrey, alongside providers including East Surrey College and the University of Surrey. Through this role, we are specifically supporting the delivery of Surrey's 'Kickstart' youth employment programme and the securing of over 500 Kickstart work placements for unemployed 16-24-year olds led by the Surrey Chamber of Commerce.

In conjunction with this, the Surrey ESB is involved in helping steer the development of employment youth hubs with funding from DWP. The hubs are expected to open across the county in 2021 and will provide young people with wrap-around employment support, guidance and connection with local employers over the next year.

This front-line response has been delivered with our partners, alongside a strategic response and the development of 'Surrey's Economic Future: Our 2030 Economic Strategy Statement' by the County Council. This framework for action builds from the work of the Surrey Economic Commission (Chaired by Lord Philip Hammond) and is underpinned by research undertaken by the University of Surrey; a post-COVID sectoral impact assessment from ARUP; and an insightful socio-economic evaluation of key emerging themes. It also includes an 'invitation to engage' – a call to key local stakeholders to come together to contribute to the development of the work and specifically to the identification and/or design of critical initiatives and interventions that will drive economic growth.

With regard to infrastructure, officers have been working with partners to develop the Surrey Infrastructure Plan (SIP) and will be bringing this to Cabinet in February 2021 for approval. As well as traditional infrastructure schemes associated with transport and highways, we will be looking to deliver a wider range of infrastructure that supports our objectives, including enhancements to digital, energy, active travel, new technology, flood defences and the environment. Importantly, schemes will contribute to the kind of balanced economic growth envisaged in our Surrey's Economic Future 2030 Strategy Statement, ensuring we align our infrastructure investment to a wider range of community benefits.

Alongside the SIP, our recently launched £100m Your Fund Surrey, will enable communities to develop infrastructure projects for their local areas that are important to them. We have specifically made clear our intention to ensure that this fund reaches those communities that need it the most, and will be working hard to encourage communities across Surrey to submit their ideas for Your Fund Surrey, the investment of which will complement our wider infrastructure programme.

SINEAD MOONEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS AND HEALTH

3. MRS TINA MOUNTAIN (EPSOM TOWN & DOWNS) TO ASK:

I note Surrey County Council's strong commitment to providing older people with the care and support they deserve, while promoting their privacy and independence. Could the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health provide an update on where the Council is on meeting its target of developing new extra care housing? How much of an impact does the Cabinet Member think the recently approved plans to provide more than 135 new homes in Surrey Heath and Epsom will have?

RESPONSE:

I would like to thank the County Councillor for Epsom Town and Downs for acknowledging our strategy to deliver accommodation with care and support by 2030 that will enable people to access the right health and social care at the right time in the right place; with appropriate housing for residents that helps them to remain independent, achieve their potential and ensures nobody is left behind. This will support Surrey County Council to achieve its Community Vision for 2030.

The Accommodation with Care and Support team has made good progress to deliver its target of 725 affordable units of Extra Care Housing. In total, across all the sites we have identified for Extra Care Housing, we have plans to deliver circa 310 units, which is 43% of our target. This is the progress we have made against our existing plans:

- We are in the process of finalising the Contract Award for a development and housing management strategic partner for the Pond Meadow tender.
- We plan to publish the Invitation to Tender for a development and housing management strategic partner for Brockhurst and Pinehurst in December.

- We plan to publish the Invitation to Tender for a development and housing management strategic partner for the two sites recently approved, Lakeside and Salisbury Road, in the new year.
- We continue to work with our Land and Property Service to identify the required sites to achieve our full target of 725 affordable units.

We are pleased that Cabinet approved the use of two further sites for Extra Care Housing in Surrey Heath and Epsom. This marks another positive step towards achieving our ambition to increase the availability of affordable Extra Care Housing by 725 units for Surrey's residents.

TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

4. MRS CLARE CURRAN (BOOKHAM AND FETCHAM WEST) TO ASK:

I note the recent Community Impact Assessment which explored how Surrey communities have been affected by Covid-19, what support residents need, and their priorities for recovery. Can the Leader confirm how Surrey County Council is responding to the risk that the pandemic will increase inequality between communities in the long term, particularly among the vulnerable groups? How does the County Council aim to engage its partners across Surrey to target resources and support towards those communities where there has been the greatest impact, and to ensure that no-one is left behind?

RESPONSE:

The Community Impact Assessment (CIA) is a key piece of research conducted by the Council to understand the impact of Covid-19 on residents of Surrey; to understand their priorities for the future and to ensure that we can target support towards residents and communities who will be most vulnerable going forward. The work aligns closely to our organisation strategy and four priority objectives and includes findings and recommendations around growing an inclusive economy, tackling health inequality, enabling a greener future and empowering communities.

The findings and recommendations are being used to inform strategy development across the Council and with partners; and the reports have been shared at various strategic forums such as the Health and Wellbeing Board, Surrey Heartlands ICS, Recovery Co-ordinating Group (RCG) and Health Inequalities group.

We come together with our partners in the Health and Wellbeing Board to work to deliver against the Surrey's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which has as an underpinning principle addressing health inequalities and ensuring no-one is left behind. Delivery of this strategy encompasses a great deal of partnership programmes within each of the three priorities areas, from domestic abuse to air quality to mental health. The recent reports on this work that were presented to the board are already showing how resources are being refocused within these areas. Each of the boards and groups responsible for taking forward the three priorities will be further reviewing the recommendations that have come out of the CIA process to identify what more can be done to further target this work.

The findings have also informed our immediate response during the second wave, helping to guide actions where Covid-19 rates are high. Specific groups have been identified as having been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and these findings are feeding into and are guiding specific recovery workstreams.

Some examples of where the CIA is informing our response are set out below:

- It has helped us to understand people's experiences of worse mental health during the pandemic and is informing outreach plans and decisions around restoration of services being led through the Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health Reference Group.
- To address issues identified around access to services for BAME communities and for specific communications to these groups through the BAME Population Steering Group. We are also working with voluntary sector partners to address the low levels of foodbank awareness among BAME communities.
- The Surrey Public Health team has taken a lead role in supporting the multi-agency response to homelessness. This has resulted in urgent action being taken with health and district and borough partners to ensure an effective response to the immediate impact of COVID-19. This is now an ongoing programme of work with longer term objectives.
- The insights derived from the needs assessment focused on the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) community and has led to formation of the GRT strategy group. The purpose of this group is to drive cultural and practice change across the strategic partnerships in Surrey to promote equality of access and outcomes.
- Work is underway to support staff engaged with under 25s affected by substance misuse and to explore alternative approaches to working virtually. A hardship fund is also being created to support young people with equipment/data allowances to help them maintain contact with keyworkers and engage with self-help groups online.
- The CIA has been informing our recovery work in mental health, with good discussions underway with the DWP, CAB and Richmond Fellowship to ensure people who recently lost their jobs can access emotional wellbeing and mental health support. A course on money and debt management is now being delivered by peer mentors and DWP through Recovery College.
- Our healthcare partners are using the CIA to inform and guide their system-wide recovery efforts as well as responding to the NHS Phase 3 Implementation requirements.
- The CIA findings are supporting the development of a Mass Vaccination Equality Impact Assessment and supplying insight to provide targeted support/action for our vulnerable communities, including culturally appropriate information.
- It has supported the identification of specific areas to pilot Population Health Management projects which focus on reducing health inequalities and targeting groups who are at risk of worse health outcomes.
- It has informed our portfolio of programmes around empowering communities, helping us to understand community dynamics during the pandemic and ensuring that we focus our pilot projects on places that have seen significant impacts from Covid-19.

There are many more such examples and the teams in the Council are continuing to share the insights with colleagues and partners and helping to shape strategic and operational decisions. This in turn will help to ensure that our response is as effective as possible, and that resources are targeted at vulnerable groups who are most at risk of being left behind.

Longer term the CIA will provide the basis for a new and refreshed joint strategic needs assessment, which is overseen by the partners on the Health and Wellbeing Board and will be used to ensure the issues that have been highlighted by this initial process can continue to be investigated and used to inform and underpin the wider delivery and commissioning of services over the coming years.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT

5. MR PETER SZANTO (EAST MOLESEY AND ESHER) TO ASK:

I am delighted that the Government recognises Surrey County Council's ambitious programme to support walking and cycling safely in the county and has allocated £6.4 million to the Council. Could the Cabinet Member for Transport please clarify how this additional funding will be used to support the roll-out of the active travel schemes, and encourage residents to reduce their car use?

RESPONSE:

Following our Tranche 2 funding bid, we received a funding award of £6,445,750 against our ten schemes with a value of £7.8m. We therefore have a shortfall of £1.35m. We are working up all ten schemes to concept design, which looks to prove the buildability, as well as detailing the route for the scheme.

After we reach concept design stage, we will consult with the communities affected as well as all key stakeholders for a period of around four weeks, commencing in early February.

After that, we will submit a report to Cabinet, which will consider all the consultation responses as well as the cost of each scheme. It is anticipated that Cabinet will make a decision in the spring on which schemes to fund.

We will start to deliver our chosen schemes in early June and complete all scheme delivery by March 2022.

In addition to the government funding, we are also developing a sustainable travel campaign to inform and encourage residents to consider alternative travel options, alongside a four year investment in active travel schemes, that will enhance our existing active travel infrastructure.

NATALIE BRAMHALL, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

6. MR MIKE GOODMAN (BAGSHOT, WINDLESHAM AND CHOBHAM) TO ASK:

I note Surrey County Council's ambitious goal of net zero carbon by 2050, along with the Council's aim of boosting the energy efficiency of Surrey houses, in turn improving the lives of many residents. Could the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change provide an update on the Green Jump Surrey project, and how it will help residents to save money on energy bills and to keep warm in their homes this winter?

RESPONSE:

In August 2020 the Government announced a £2 bn Green Homes Grant with the purpose of stimulating a green recovery through investment into the UK energy efficiency and low carbon sectors, significantly reducing carbon emissions (CO₂) from housing to mitigate climate change, as well as reducing instances of fuel poverty. Of this funding £200m was allocated to a Green Homes Local Authority Delivery (GH LAD) programme. This funding is targeted at low income households (with a total income of £30,000 p.a. or less), living in the most inefficient homes (homes with an Energy Performance Certificate EPC rating of E, F or G). The funding can be used for measures which improve the EPC rating of these homes, such as energy efficiency lighting, insulation, and renewable heat technologies, which reduce resident's fuel bills and also result in CO₂ reductions.

Surrey County Council, in partnership with Action Surrey and ten Boroughs and Districts, submitted a successful application to the fund in September this year and were awarded £6.2m. This funding is being used to deliver the Green Jump Surrey programme, enabling measures of up to £15,000 per property to be installed into approximately 600 low income households in the county. SCC has contributed £750,000 to the programme in order to secure the investment and unlock further cost prohibitive measures, such as solid wall insulation and heat pumps, which result in additional carbon savings and which otherwise might have fallen outside of the scope of the programme.

The Green Jump Surrey Programme was launched in October and will run until March 2021. To date, 185 eligible households have been identified by Action Surrey, of which 156 are looking to proceed to installation.

This programme aligns closely with our updated Organisation Strategy and in particular the Greener Futures priority objective within the strategy. This objective states that we will work to tackle emissions challenges to make sure we achieve our carbon reduction targets. Green Jump Surrey also links to the Tackling Health Inequality priority objective, as it focuses on tackling fuel poverty and reducing energy bills for our lowest income households. Fuel poverty occurs when a household cannot afford to keep adequately warm at a reasonable cost, given their income, and it is linked to health conditions, such as pneumonia as well as increased instances of falls in elderly and vulnerable people, both of which result in increased hospital admissions.

JULIE ILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR ALL-AGE LEARNING

7. MR TIM HALL (LEATHERHEAD AND FETCHAM EAST) TO ASK:

I welcome the Conservative Government's new £170m Covid Winter Grant Scheme to support children, families and the most vulnerable over winter. As Surrey County Council will receive over £2.1 million share of the scheme, can the Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning please confirm how the money will be effectively spent in order to best protect the hardest hit families and most disadvantaged children?

RESPONSE:

I would like to thank the County Councillor for Leatherhead and Fetcham East for highlighting the very welcome winter support scheme announced by the government on 8 November 2020. It is designed to directly help families and individuals who have been hardest hit by the pandemic, with the majority set aside to ensure children do not go hungry during the winter months.

We have been working very closely with school leaders and partners to identify means of distributing the funding effectively to families, not only during the school holidays, but also throughout the winter months. We know that families can struggle at any time and getting support when they need it most is vital.

Working with schools, we are using the funding to support all 17,000 children in the county eligible for free school meals. This will be done through food vouchers sent to the children's families throughout the Christmas holidays.

There will also be a winter grant to care leavers, and direct food vouchers for families of younger children eligible for the pupil premium.

A large amount of the funding – around £200,000 from the first tranche of money – will be given to the Surrey Crisis Fund and made available to any resident who is struggling through the winter. This money will provide support towards food costs and utility bills, and also emergencies such as replacing broken white goods, to guide people away from long lasting debt. I would encourage any resident who needs help this winter to contact the Surrey Crisis Fund for support. Full details are available on our website.

We know that many more people are struggling financially because of the pandemic and we are here to help.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT

8. MR WILL FORSTER (WOKING SOUTH) TO ASK:

As part of the first tranche of the Active Travel initiative, Surrey County Council installed bollards under Victoria Arch in Woking to temporarily widen the pavement.

Please can the Cabinet Member for Transport confirm:

- Whether the Council has analysed the impact of this scheme?
- What has been the cost of implementing the scheme?
- When will the Council remove the bollards?

RESPONSE:

The impact of this scheme has been assessed. Periodic observations have indicated that the additional space created for pedestrians has not been utilised, with pedestrians preferring to walk on the existing footway rather than on the carriageway surface. There have also been ongoing issues with the traffic management features in place being hit and requiring maintenance. This is due to the limited width of the carriageway and the A320 bearing a high volume of traffic and large vehicles. This scheme has been in place for approximately 12 weeks, but due to maintenance issues and lack of use, it has been decided to remove it from the network.

The total cost of implementing this scheme, including removal costs and daily site checks, is £11,910.

A date for removal is not yet available, but has been requested from our contracting partner Kiers. It is likely that the scheme will be removed in the week commencing 7 December 2020.

In the longer term, the Victoria Arch is to be replaced as part of a partnering project with Network Rail, Surrey County Council, and Woking Borough Council. As part of this replacement work, permanent enhanced pedestrian and cycling facilities will be provided.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT

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

In responding to 20s Plenty for Surrey, Matt Furniss, as Cabinet Member for Transport, recently stated: *“Within Surrey, decisions on speed limits are delegated to local committees of elected members within each District or Borough, along with a budget allocation for highway improvements. It is for local members to decide upon the priorities for highway improvements in their areas, and whether they would like to pursue 20 mph speed limit*

schemes as opposed to other highway improvements on the roads that they are responsible for.”

This appears, to use a famous quote from Alan Clark, to be being “economic with the actualite”.

The Mole Valley Local Committee budget for all locally approved highways schemes for next year is £76,667, which means that it is impossible for the Local Committee to commit to undertake the necessary speed surveys, the design work, and then implement the reduced speed limits. The decision not to proceed with such speed limits has thus been taken out of the hands of the Local Committee and has been made by the Cabinet through the refusal to delegate the necessary funding to the Local Committee to enable such reduced speed limits to be introduced.

In order to provide substance behind the Cabinet Member’s response to 20s Plenty for Surrey, will the Cabinet Member look again at the budgets delegated to the Local Committees for such highways improvements and increase the delegated budget so that Local Committees can actually make these decisions that he has stated they are delegated to take?

RESPONSE:

While I support 20mph speed limits in appropriate locations, as I have explained the decision for promoting speed limits currently sits with the Local and Joint Committees. Our speed limit policy (link below) indicates the circumstances necessary to ensure they can be successfully introduced:

[Speed limits - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](http://surreycc.gov.uk)

This year, the eleven Local and Joint Committees across Surrey have a total of over £3.6m council resources directly allocated under their control for maintenance and other improvements. Many Committees supplement this by investing income from parking surpluses and using CIL and S106 contributions. Mole Valley Joint Committee has resisted parking charges and their on-street parking account operates at a significant deficit. In 18/19 the loss was £66,096, we are waiting confirmation of accounts for 19/20 from the District Council but this is likely to be a deficient too. As the Cabinet Member I do not recognise the £76,667 figure quoted as this is how your Local Committee will have determined to allocate funds. I can though confirm that Mole Valley Local Committee will have access to resources greater than that sum in 21/22.

The table below details what was allocated in 20/21 and what will be allocated in 21/22:

	Elm	E&E	Gui	MV	R&B	Run	Spel	SH	Tan	Wav	Wok
Capital	£311k	£217k	£335k	£241k	£335k	£241k	£264k	£241k	£241k	£311k	£264k
Revenue	£67.5k	£37.5k	£75k	£45k	£75k	£45k	£52.5k	£45k	£45k	£67.5k	£52.5k
TOTAL	£378.5k	£254.5k	£410k	£286k	£410k	£286k	£316.5k	£286k	£286k	£378.5k	£316.5k

Note - the above is supplemented by parking surpluses and CIL / S106

I understand that there have been two 20mph schemes installed within Mole Valley in the last year (St Giles Infant School and Fetcham Village School / Oakfield Junior) and the Committee has identified a further eight other sites where you wish to look at speed limit

reductions. It is for your Local Committee to prioritise this work as the committee deems appropriate, balancing against other pressures.

DENISE TURNER-STEWART, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES

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

Can the Cabinet Member please confirm the number of FTE firefighters actively employed by SFRS, year on year since 2010?

RESPONSE:

In the past 10 years the landscape in which fire and rescue services operate, has transformed. There has been a considerable reduction in the number of fires across the country (fire incidents have reduced by 45% nationally and 30% in Surrey over the past decade). There is also much greater emphasis on prevention and protection activities; in response to which Surrey Fire and Rescue Service has just recruited 29 new staff members into its Prevention and Protection team.

The significant technological advances in the past decade have also enabled:

- improved safety equipment;
- more efficient working patterns, including the ability to pre-alert for incidents;
- the ability to respond dynamically to risk and incidents using live streamed data (rather than maintain old fashioned working practices like “station grounds”); and
- the reduction of crewing levels required per fire appliance in Surrey from 5 in 2010 to 4 with a consequent reduction in the number of response-based firefighters FTE required.

All of the above factors, as well as changes in culture and practice, allow for much more sophisticated workforce planning. This is all whilst maintaining, over the past decade, the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service’s response standard of 10 minutes for the first fire appliance at a critical incident and 15 minutes for the second. So far this year the service’s average response time for the first appliance is in fact 7 minutes and 16 seconds; well within the 10 minutes.

Every fire and rescue service in the country is required to have an Integrated Risk Management Plan. This plan looks at the risk in communities and then sets out what resource (including workforce) is needed by a fire and rescue service for public safety. In the case of Surrey, this is contained in the Making Surrey Safer Plan 2020-2023. Surrey Fire and Rescue’s plan is based on data that has been externally verified. The plan also takes into account matters such as changes in demographics and the impact of climate change in Surrey, as well as incident data. For example, the increased risk of wildfires has led to the creation of two new Rural Affairs Officers to work with landowners and farmers to prevent wildfires (as well as the need for animal rescue). In terms of responding to incidents (rather than the vital prevention and protection work that is also required for public safety), the Making Surrey Safer Plan sets out the minimum number of appliances required in Surrey to meet the risk. This is 16 fire appliances at night and 20 in the day. The Service will be at full establishment regarding the number of firefighters needed to crew these appliances when the plan is fully implemented in January 2021.

The number of FTE firefighters employed by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service from 2010 is set out in the table below:

Year	FTE Whole-Time firefighters	FTE On-Call firefighters
2010	622	104
2011	641	103
2012	619	93
2013	594	106
2014	590	104
2015	553	100
2016	524	94
2017	487	90
2018	469	89
2019	454	88
Nov-20	448	80

TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

11. MRS ANGELA GOODWIN (GUILDFORD NORTH) TO ASK:

A recent survey of councils across England by The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) shows that:

- 82% of adult social services directors report rising demand for help from people being discharged from hospital;
- 69% report an increase in cases of domestic abuse and safeguarding of vulnerable adults; and
- 63% report growing numbers of people seeking help because of the breakdown of unpaid carer arrangements through sickness or unavailability.

Given that even before the full impact of Covid-19 is seen across the Adult Social Services sector, Surrey County Council has been seeking to reduce its costs through wholesale transformation of the services it provides. Will the Leader commit the Council to leading on a Summit of key stakeholders and partners, in order to identify practical steps to tackle this pending crisis county-wide, while we await the long promised Government paper on Social Care reform?

RESPONSE:

I would like to thank the County Councillor for Guildford North for her question.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic certainly has emphasised the health inequalities we were already facing in Surrey and has also had a negative impact on our local economy. Fortunately, the County Council was already focussed on these issues and we will be working determinedly to reduce the pandemic's long term impact on Surrey.

We have responded to the immediate pressures outlined in the question, which of course have been evident in Surrey too. Our view is that the support the Government has offered local Councils, and through us to the wider care sector, has been sufficient to enable us to

respond to the specific additional costs associated with the pandemic and also to deal with the increased demands. The budget proposals we are putting forward for 2021/22 take account of the continuing impact of the pressures we have faced, which include the impact of hospital discharges and the strain on carers. We are working closely with partners to tackle the impact of domestic abuse and just as an example, have enabled additional refuge provision to be made available.

Because the Council is in a sound financial position overall, with more than adequate reserves, we are confident that we will be able to meet the care needs of Surrey's residents without there being a sense of crisis. I agree with the Member that a national solution to the problem of sustainably funding Adult Social Care is now long overdue.

NATALIE BRAMHALL, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Regarding the commissioning of gasification and anaerobic digestion plants at Charlton Lane, I understand the level of waste infrastructure grant paid to Surrey County Council was scheduled to increase on completion of hot commissioning, and then full service commencement of the gasification facility at the Charlton Lane site (see https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/621127/response/1531586/attach/3/20200120%20Second%20re%20profiling%20of%20Surrey%20WIG%20signed%20by%20LW%20Redacted.pdf?cookie_passthrough=1).

In light of this can the Cabinet Member please confirm:

- i) The deadline set by Defra for hot commissioning to be completed;
- ii) The total payments of Waste Infrastructure Grant from Defra to Surrey County Council to date and the amounts outstanding;
- iii) The cost implications to the Council of non-completion by that date with regard to payments from or returned to Defra; and
- iv) Whether the full commissioning of the Anaerobic Digestion plant at Charlton Lane impacts upon on payments to/from Defra.

RESPONSE:

- i) Defra have not imposed a deadline for the project to be completed. The project is under review from Defra who monitor construction progress given their financial commitment to the project.
- ii) At the end of September 2020, the Council had received Waste Infrastructure Grants totalling £142m with £63m outstanding.
- iii) Currently there is no Defra 'deadline' as per question i).
- iv) Yes, we do know that the release of the full remaining Defra payments will be linked with Acceptance of the gasifier and AD plants. Payments are currently made at a reduced rate prior to Acceptance (any agreement we can reach on AD plant payments is subject to further discussion).

NATALIE BRAMHALL, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

13. MRS HAZEL WATSON (DORKING HILLS) TO ASK: (2ND QUESTION)

In Mid-October I invited the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change to work with me in developing a proposal for an urban forest in Dorking, given that the County Council has both declared a Climate Emergency and has committed to plant 1.2million trees over the next few years.

The proposal is to plant an area of land which is currently owned by the County Council and which is held for “green purposes”, given that the area is landlocked and has no apparent potential alternative use having been withheld from The Ashcombe School as surplus land when the school became an academy. Furthermore, the land is completely separate from the school grounds, being separated from the school grounds by a public footpath, and over the last couple of years it has been left to grow wild with nettles and brambles causing the County Council to incur cost to maintain it and to prevent fly-tipping.

The Cabinet Member’s most recent responses to me are: “I do feel that in years to come the trees could prove difficult to manage in the school setting.” and “Shall we pick this up in the New Year.”

On the basis of this reply, can the Cabinet Member explain:

- a) How a piece of land separated from a school by a public footpath could prove difficult to manage in the school setting, especially as it has a separate maintenance access alongside the railway line from the public highway?
- b) How, given that we have declared a Climate Emergency, doing nothing from October to at least the following January is providing an adequate and timely response to an “emergency”?
- c) How ignoring such an opportunity assists the County Council in meeting its stated aim to plant 1.2million trees?
- d) How her inaction promotes the County Council, given that District Councillors from all parties representing Dorking and the surrounding villages, including her own party, are proposing the planting of an urban forest in the area?

Furthermore, will the Cabinet Member commit to working with me to develop this exciting proposal with a view to implementing it, if it is assessed as viable and feasible, during the calendar year 2021?

RESPONSE:

Surrey County Council is committed to facilitate the planting of 1.2 million trees by 2030, in order to sequester carbon emissions and provide a wealth of other benefits to our residents and local biodiversity. With competing demands on our resources it is necessary to follow the key principles set out within our New Tree Strategy, of planting the right tree in the right place and prioritising locations which are the most appropriate for tree planting. We are also working hard to ensure an equitable division of trees across the county, so that all of our residents can reap the benefits. It is therefore important that we prioritise tree planting in areas where the trees will serve the greatest benefit from a social, biodiversity or health perspective and also where larger volumes of trees can be planted most cost effectively.

It is inaccurate to suggest that nothing has happened during the period from October 20 to January 2021, when in fact we have created, and are continuing to create, numerous opportunities for tree planting. This includes the following activities;

- In the last few weeks we have given 540 free trees and hedge plants to 92 schools in Surrey, with every school given the opportunity to access a free tree and hedge. Schools that have benefitted include Powell Corderoy Primary, Surrey Hills All Saints and the Priory CofE school, in the Dorking area, as well as neighbouring schools in Capel, Redhill, Reigate and Horley. I have myself helped to plant 20 mature Silver Birch trees in Colesmead in Redhill in November 2020.
- We are in the process of planting 20,000 trees, creating new areas of woodland on Surrey land. This includes planting locations along the highway where trees have had to be removed due to ash die-back.
- The County Council is commissioning an assessment of all of our land, as well as land owned by ten of the Boroughs and Districts, to determine suitable sites for woodland planting in future years. This work will be completed early next year.
- We have created an Urban and Highways Tree Planting Fund, providing funding for trees planted at sites suggested by residents and community groups via their County Councillors. We have received a very positive response and tree planting is starting imminently on suitable sites.
- We have launched our Trees for Christmas campaign for the second year, in partnership with the Surrey Wildlife Trust, Squires Garden Centres and other Christmas Tree retailers, asking residents to donate £3 to plant a tree in Surrey when they purchase their Christmas Tree.
- We held a member seminar on 26 October 2020, focusing on tree planting to promote the above opportunities and answer questions regarding tree planting and maintenance.

With regards to the site in question, where you have specifically requested a Miyawaki Forest, which will need to be monitored for 3 years, I can assure you that officers will visit the site to assess it and determine whether it can be incorporated into our future planting programme. The decision will be based upon a number of factors, including the habitat value that it currently serves, the size of the site and the number of trees that it will sustain and the feasibility of maintaining the trees in the future. As you can imagine, tree and woodland planting is an agenda that raises a lot of interest, and we receive numerous questions and requests which officers do their best to respond to. This is a ten-year strategy and so we will certainly have many opportunities to plant more trees in coming years.

TIM OLIVER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

**14. MR ROBERT EVANS (STANWELL AND STANWELL MOOR) TO ASK:
(2ND QUESTION)**

What special measures is the Council considering, in cooperation with the County's eleven boroughs and districts, to ensure as many citizens as possible have the opportunity to participate in next year's local elections?

RESPONSE:

The County Council is working closely with the District and Borough Electoral Services Teams and the Electoral Commission to prepare for running the polls in May 2021. Regular meetings are taking place to discuss and agree project plans to ensure that electors are able to cast their vote safely, either by post or in person at a polling station. A countywide communications campaign will be launched in line with guidance from the Electoral Commission to encourage residents to use their vote and to reassure them that polling

stations will be safe places to visit. Further information on this will be shared with Members in due course.

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT

**15. MR JONATHAN ESSEX (REDHILL EAST) TO ASK
(2ND QUESTION)**

Regarding double yellow lines and road safety signage, my understanding from speaking to our local parking enforcement team, is that once a road marking, such as a double yellow line is faded away or has a break in it, it then becomes unenforceable, which has an impact on the effectiveness of the County Council's subcontracts to our districts and boroughs to carry out parking enforcement. There are a significant number of yellow lines on Surrey's highways that are currently unenforceable. Similarly, there are a significant number of missing or damaged road signs which have an impact on road safety. Please confirm what the priority time is to repaint defective road markings and replace road safety signage?

RESPONSE:

It is correct that parking restrictions cannot be enforced if they are not clearly and correctly marked or signed and we work in partnership with the district and borough council parking enforcement teams to ensure that these restrictions stay in good condition. Typically, the enforcement team will report areas in need of maintenance to us and we will then arrange for the road marking work to be carried out in our next 'ad hoc' works order. In some cases, when restrictions need to be replaced more urgently, this can be arranged.

All road markings on the main roads are refreshed as part of a 5-year cyclical maintenance programme, which includes all give-way markings and yellow lines. All other road markings are refreshed on an ad-hoc basis, with requests being batched up to maximise value for money efficiencies and taking around two months to complete, depending on weather conditions.

Road signs are inspected as part of the Highway Safety Inspection regime and any that are identified as unsafe (bent, twisted or projecting to an extent that the public is put at high risk, or missing junction signs (Give-way and Stop signs) will be repaired or made safe within 20 working days. Any other non-safety related sign defects can be raised by Members, residents and other members of the public through Surrey's reporting system. Replacement or repair can take between two to three months to complete depending on the type of sign and the traffic management required to safely undertake the work.

Highway signing and lining defects can be reported [via our web pages linked here](#).

MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT

**16. MR JONATHAN ESSEX (REDHILL EAST) TO ASK:
(3RD QUESTION)**

Regarding the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, the draft capital budget includes a significant item for Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans. Please confirm the timescale envisaged for completion of these plans for each of our boroughs and districts, and whether decisions on spending to implement these will be taken centrally or via our local and joint committees.

RESPONSE:

Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plans, known as LCWIPs, will provide a countywide network of routes and interventions aimed at increasing active travel and enhancing safety. A pilot LCWIP for Woking was completed earlier this year. We are now developing another ten LCWIPs across the county. Each LCWIP is broadly based on borough and district areas, although there will necessarily be some overlap to create strategic cycle area plans. LCWIPs will be developed with our district and borough partners, encompassing a concept stage followed by a feasibility and design stage. This methodology will provide the basis for strong business cases to be produced for funding bids, for example, to the Department for Transport. Similar to the approach used for sustainable transport packages such as the recently completed package in Redhill, once a programme of work is funded the proposed improvements would be taken through the local committee to provide the necessary scrutiny and local decision making.

We expect to complete both work stages for each of the ten remaining LCWIPS during the current and next two financial years.

These will be completed in batches of three or four LCWIPs at a time, with the first batch covering three areas:

1. Reigate & Banstead, which has recently started and should be complete by July 2021.
2. Elmbridge, which is due to start next month and will be complete by September 2021.
3. Runnymede, with a planned start date for February and completion by October 2021.

The second batch will be completed by quarter three of 2022/23 and the third batch by quarter two of 2023/24. We are working with our borough and district partners to agree which LCWIP is in each future batch.