

County Council Meeting – 25 May 2021

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 30 March and 27 April 2021.

In accordance with the Constitution, Members can ask questions of the appropriate Cabinet Member, seek clarification or make a statement on any of these issues without giving notice.

The minutes containing the individual decisions for the meetings above have been included within the original agenda at Item 16. Any Cabinet responses to Committee reports are included in or appended to the minutes. If any Member wishes to raise a question or make a statement on any of the matters in the minutes, notice must be given to Democratic Services by 12 noon on the last working day before the County Council meeting (Monday 24 May 2021).

For members of the public all non-confidential reports are available on the web site (www.surreycc.gov.uk) or on request from Democratic Services.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS

There were no reports with recommendations for Council.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

At its meeting on 30 March 2021 Cabinet considered:

A. ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM PATHWAYS AND REINTEGRATION SUPPORT

The report sought endorsement of the strategic direction for Alternative Provision and to enable the work on renewing the Pupil Referral Unit estate.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the vision and principles of the Alternative Provision strategy are endorsed,
2. That the developments in the previously agreed capital works to upgrade the county's Pupil Referral Units are noted,
3. That delegated authority to agree individual projects and resources is given to the Cabinet Member for All Age Learning and Cabinet Member for Resources and Corporate Support, subject to a detailed business case for each scheme passing through Property Panel and Capital Programme Panel is approved,
4. That an amount of £0.5m is transferred from the current pipeline budget to begin the development of more detailed plans for individual sites.

Reasons for decisions:

The proposed strategy will provide a shared ambition for children, vision, and a set of principles to develop a consistent high-quality countywide AP offer. The implementation of these proposals will provide an integrated system of alternative

provision focussed on supporting children and young people at an earlier stage and enabling them to remain more often in their local school provision with their friends and siblings. The systemic approach will drive improvements in outcomes for children and young people accessing alternative provision, returning them more quickly and successfully to full time education. The investment proposals will ensure that all facilities meet the minimum standards required and go further to provide environments that ensure children feel valued, support children with a broad curriculum and ensure that their emotional health and wellbeing is a priority.

B. MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT OF HGV WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS- 'HGV WATCH'

Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) weight restriction orders are made by the council as part of Surrey's network management responsibilities. This report set out the challenges involved with the current enforcement process and seeks agreement for a new HGV Weight Restriction Enforcement Policy 'HGV Watch' that will empower local communities and make the best use of the resources available for this task within the police and council services.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the HGV Weight Restriction Enforcement Policy in the form of the 'Surrey HGV watch' is adopted;
2. That agreement of the detailed operational policy is delegated to the Director for Highways and Transport in consultation with Surrey Police and the Cabinet Member for Highways;
3. That twice yearly progress reports are provided to the Cabinet Member for Highways;
4. That support for a change in Government policy to allow councils outside London to enforce moving traffic offences by camera to help improve road safety, reduce congestion and protect the environment is endorsed.

Reasons for decisions:

The recommendations above will enable the council to help achieve some of its Community Vision 2030 objectives, including that:

- Residents live in clean, safe and green communities, where people and organisations embrace their environmental responsibilities; and
- Journeys across the county are easier, more predictable and safer.

In addition, as part of our organisational strategy, Surrey County Council wants to work in partnership with residents, businesses, partners and communities to collectively meet challenges and grasp opportunities. A new HGV Watch policy that helps enforce HGV weight restrictions could encourage residents to be proactive in their local areas in working with the council and the police in tackling the environmental impacts that inappropriate HGV movements have on our communities.

An HGV watch scheme will help focus the resources available to the police and council for the enforcement of HGV restrictions in the most effective way and in a way that will have the greatest impact on driver awareness and potentially compliance.

C. A NEW RAIL STRATEGY FOR SURREY 2021

The report presented the 'New Rail Strategy for Surrey', setting out the council's future ambition and priorities for rail across the county. It updates the original Rail Strategy published in 2013 and the partial update of 2016.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the New Rail Strategy for Surrey is adopted and the strategic aims, strategic responses and the future priorities identified are welcomed;
2. That the New Rail Strategy for Surrey is used as a framework to support local economic and spatial development decisions and as an advocacy document to lobby Government, the rail industry and others to assist in delivering the strategic aims;
3. That the development of a future work programme that will set out the council's involvement in the interventions identified in New Rail Strategy for Surrey, led by the Cabinet Member for Highways, the objective being to create an implementation plan that is integrated with the emerging Surrey Local Transport Plan 4 and the Surrey Infrastructure Plan is agreed.

Reasons for decisions:

Good rail services with supporting infrastructure are vital for maintaining and growing Surrey's economy. They provide efficient and sustainable links to jobs, education and leisure, they reduce the number of car journeys on our roads and they support our climate change agenda. The rail network is also a key factor in the decisions made by business and residents choosing to live and work in the county. Although uncertainties around the long-term economic impacts of Covid19 remain, particularly in terms of how businesses will respond and how commuting patterns will adapt, the importance of rail in Surrey will remain high.

Therefore, whilst the council has no statutory role in planning or delivering rail services or projects, we must continue to actively engage with the rail industry and Government to ensure that our priorities are reflected in rail service delivery, infrastructure investment and in planning for the future.

To ensure we succeed in doing so, it is crucial that the council has a relevant and coherent rail strategy, which can be used as an advocacy document and to support partnership work and future investment with the rail industry. The New Rail Strategy for Surrey encompasses a clear set of strategic aims, strategic responses and the future priorities. It will provide a platform to deliver our ambitions in rail. Moreover, our New Rail Strategy for Surrey will enable the council to take advantage of other opportunities as they arise to support our 2030 Community Vision and our 2050 Place Ambition.

At its meeting on 27 April 2021 Cabinet considered:

D. SURREY'S ECONOMIC FUTURE: PROGRESS UPDATE

The report set out the emerging priority actions within the Delivery Programme, highlights areas where action has already begun and proposes a further update in six months. Recognising that the strategy is being developed in an uncertain and changeable economic environment, it has been designed to be adaptive, ensuring that it is able to accommodate the economic circumstances and national policy changes which are out-with the Council's control.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the progress being made in delivering on the ambitions of Surrey's Economic Future Strategy be noted.
2. That a progress update be received in six months.

Reason for decision:

Work to deliver on Surrey's economic ambitions is underway and progress is central to Surrey's economic recovery as we emerge from the constraints and impacts of the COVID 19 Pandemic. The actions being taken will drive economic recovery and embed resilience for Surrey businesses and residents, with a particular emphasis on ensuring that everyone is able to benefit from economic growth and therefore it is important that Cabinet have oversight of progress.

E. ACQUISITION OF LAND IN SUPPORT OF THE RIVER THAMES SCHEME

The report asked Cabinet for approval to acquire freehold lands off Chertsey Road in Spelthorne for the purposes of the River Thames Scheme which is being jointly promoted by the Environment Agency and Surrey County Council. The purchase will safeguard the land required for construction of a length of the proposed flood channel and provide additional land to support habitat creation in accordance with the Council's wider green agenda.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the freehold purchase of land off Chertsey Road, Shepperton, as outlined in the Part 2 of this paper for the purposes of the River Thames Scheme be approved.

Reason for decision:

The decision recommended by this report will contribute to enabling the Council, in partnership with the Environment Agency, to progress the River Thames Scheme – a major infrastructure project that will reduce the risk of flooding from the Thames for communities in Runnymede and Spelthorne. It will achieve this through the construction of two new channel sections to divert water away from the Thames and additional capacity improvements to Sunbury, Molesey and Teddington weirs.

To construct the channel sections, it will be necessary to purchase land and to formalise agreements with third party landowners.

A forward purchase of land, in advance of submission of a Development Consent Order (DCO) application provides the opportunity for Surrey County Council and the Environment Agency to obtain land through agreement for the scheme. Forward purchasing also averts the risk of land disposal by current landowners possibly into small parcels that would make future purchase potentially more complex and expensive.

In addition, the purchase of this land provides an opportunity to provide green infrastructure for the enjoyment of residents in Spelthorne, which is underserved by the Council's Countryside Estate which provides 10,000 acres of high-quality landscape and recreational space across the county but in Spelthorne, is limited to Sheepwalk Lake. The area known as Chertsey Meads on the opposite side of the river, complements the site linked on both sides to the Thames Path, a 184 mile long national walking trail, which provides an opportunity for a circular route within the site and an additional attraction for visitors to explore along the river.

Since the landscape quality of the site is currently low, there is a high net biodiversity value to be gained from managing the site to maximise value delivered by new wetland, woodland and grasslands.

Approving the purchase of the land will allow Surrey County Council to support both the River Thames Scheme project and the Greener Futures priority objective.

F. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 17 March 2021- 25 May 2021

The Cabinet is required under the Constitution to report to Council on a quarterly basis the details of decisions taken by the Cabinet and Cabinet Members under the special urgency arrangements set out in Standing Order 57 of the Constitution. This occurs where a decision is required on a matter that is not contained within the Leader's Forward Plan (Notice of Decisions), nor available 5 clear days before the meeting. Where a decision on such matters could not reasonably be delayed, the agreement of the Chairman of the appropriate Select Committee, or in his/her absence the Chairman of the Council, must be sought to enable the decision to be made.

At its meeting on 30 March 2021 Cabinet considered:

a) COVID- 19: DELEGATED AND URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN: Introduction of Additional Waste Materials at Bagshot, Warlingham, Dorking and Cranleigh Community Recycling Centres

This report was dealt with under the Special Urgency procedure (SO56) as it had not had the required 28 days' notice on the Forward Plan.

Cabinet was asked to decide whether to re-introduce containers for non-recyclable waste at Bagshot, Warlingham, Dorking and Cranleigh community recycling centres for a twelve- month period with immediate effect.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the reintroduction of services for non-recyclable wastes at Bagshot, Warlingham, Cranleigh and Dorking community recycling centres for a twelve month period be agreed and delegated authority be given to the Cabinet

Member for Environment and Climate Change in consultation with the Leader to decide on when to reintroduce the exclusion of non- recyclable materials at these sites following the removal of COVID controls.

Reason for decision:

To mitigate issues of queuing on the highway as a result of reduced throughput at our community recycling centres caused by the introduction of controls to make the sites COVID secure. The reason for urgency is to enable changes to be put in place as soon as possible over the busy Easter period. The changes should reduce overall queuing times and provide a more convenient service for residents.

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

**Mr Tim Oliver, Leader of the Council
25 May 2021**