

County Council Meeting – 13 July 2021

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 01 June and 29 June 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 12. Any Cabinet responses to Committee reports are included in or appended to the minutes. If any Member wishes to raise a question or make a statement on any of the matters in the minutes, notice must be given to Democratic Services by 12 noon on the last working day before the County Council meeting (Monday 12 July 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

A. VARIATION TO ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SURREY'S COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021 AND SEPTEMBER 2022

That Cabinet RECOMMENDS that the County Council approves the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and co-ordinated schemes (as set out in the Cabinet paper from 29 June 2021)

1. That, subject to the new School Admissions Code coming into force on 1 September, the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2021 and 2022 are varied to give top priority for children adopted from state care outside England, alongside looked after children and other previously looked after children.

Reasons for decisions:

- It will ensure the local authority complies with the new School Admissions Code that is due to come in to force on 1 September 2021.
- It will ensure that children adopted from state care outside England are given the same priority for admission as children adopted from state care in England.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

At its meeting on 01 June 2021 Cabinet considered:

B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN PUBLIC REPORT REGARDING THE END OF LIFE CARE PROVIDED BY A COMMISSIONED CARE HOME

This report concerns the findings of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman in response to a complaint concerning a Surrey funded care home and the end of life care received by the complainant Mrs X's late mother, Mrs Y. As the

Ombudsman has found maladministration causing injustice has occurred under Section 31 (2) of the Local Government Act 1974, the report must be laid before the authority concerned.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the Ombudsman's Report and the steps that have been taken by the Service to address the findings be noted.
2. That all actions listed under 'What Happens Next' are implemented.
3. That the report is brought to the attention of all Councillors by the Monitoring Officer.

Reasons for decisions:

There is a statutory requirement for the Monitoring Officer to bring to Members' attention any public report issued by the Ombudsman about the Council which identifies it is at fault and has caused injustice as a result.

C. PENDELL GYPSY ROMA TRAVELLER (GRT) CAMP, MERSTHAM

This report is asking Cabinet to approve capital programme funding for the development of ten transient pitches for the Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT) community at the south site of Pendell GRT Camp, Merstham.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That £1.2m of the £3.8m capital funding identified within the Capital Programme Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Pipeline allocation for GRT Transit Site/Pendell Camp for consultant design, planning fees and preparatory works to deliver the proposed transit pitches is approved. The remaining £2.6m allowance will remain in the MTFS pipeline for further GRT Transit Site projects/works subject to future Cabinet approvals.
2. That the procurement of appropriate supply chain partners for the delivery of all associated services required, in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Standing Orders is approved.
3. That regarding the procurement of supply chain partners, the Executive Director of Resources and the Director of Land and Property are authorised to award such contracts that are within the +/-5% budgetary tolerance level.

Reasons for decisions:

The decisions recommended in this report will contribute to enabling the Council to:

- i. Provide much-needed, suitable accommodation for transit GRT communities in Surrey.
- ii. Reduce repeated annual expenditure on resources associated with unauthorised seasonal transit encampments.

- iii. Make an essential contribution towards the Council's strategic objective to tackle health inequality, in line with the 2030 Community Vision to ensure no-one is left behind.
- iv. Support the partnership between the Council and District and Borough Councils to improve and provide accommodation and facilities for the transit GRT community.

At its meeting on 29 June 2021 Cabinet considered:

D. SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL STRATEGY AND DELIVERY – 2021 AND BEYOND

This report sets out the strategic intent and high-level delivery programme for the medium term to enable the Council to support residents and communities to thrive in the coming months and years as the country and our county emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic and we adjust to the effects it has had on our communities, localities and economy.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That Cabinet reaffirms and endorses the strategic direction of the Council, recognising the progress and achievements to date.
2. That Cabinet acknowledges the impact that Covid-19 has had on residents, communities and economy, and the changed context the Council now faces.
3. That Cabinet recognises the financial challenge that the organisation continues to face and endorses the twin-track approach to budget setting in the short and medium terms.
4. That the initial elements of a high-level strategic programme, to be developed further be approved to ensure the ambitions of the Community Vision 2030 and Organisation Strategy priorities are achieved.
5. That the indicative target operating model and workforce of the future for the Council, required to achieve our ambition and priority objectives be approved.

Reasons for decisions:

The challenges brought about by Covid-19 make it even more important that we achieve our ambitions to be an agile, flexible and responsive organisation that engages directly with communities and utilises innovations in digital and data to transform the way we design and deliver services.

Endorsing our current ambitions and strategic direction and setting out a high-level delivery programme for the medium term will help us to add more value, make greater impact and improve services so they deliver the best possible long-term outcomes for residents. As part of this, more radically transforming our organisation to reform its function, form, focus and culture will be key.

E. IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES, EXPERIENCES AND SERVICES IN SURREY

This report provides an overview of the work of the Mental Health Partnership Board on emotional wellbeing and mental health outcomes, experiences and services in Surrey and the resulting recommendations on how Surrey as a system needs to change to improve these. The recommendations have enabled the production of a high-level improvement programme to support the implementation of these changes.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That the work commissioned and undertaken by the Surrey Mental Health Partnership Board be acknowledged.
2. That the recommendations and implementation programme arising from that work, which will drive improvements across the mental health system are endorsed.
3. That the Council's role and contribution to emotional wellbeing and mental health outcomes, experiences and services in Surrey be acknowledged.

Reasons for decisions:

Tackling health inequality is one of the Council's four strategic priorities. Poor mental health is a key factor in a range of conditions and personal situations, such as substance abuse, unemployment, poor physical health, that create and/or worsen health inequality. The mental health system in Surrey is under great stress and struggling to manage the demands made upon it. This report and its recommendations, the work to date and the work proposed are intended to support the mental health system deal with the immediate demands and pressures as well as building an effective and sustainable improvement programme.

F. SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING - FEASIBILITY STUDY

The report asks Cabinet to approve capital programme funding to carry out a feasibility study to progress supported independent living schemes for accommodation units at four identified sites in Surrey.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That capital funding of £1.9m from the capital programme Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) pipeline allocation for Supported Independent Living for a feasibility study to progress supported independent living accommodation schemes at four identified sites up to full planning applications be approved.
2. That procurement of appropriate supply chain partners for the delivery of all associated services required, in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Standing Orders be approved.
3. Regarding the procurement of supply chain partners, that the Executive Director of Resources and the Director of Land and Property be authorised to award such contracts within the +/-5% budgetary tolerance level.

Reasons for decisions:

The decisions recommended in this report will contribute to enabling the Council to:

- Meet the need, identified by the Council's Adult Social Care (ASC) team, for supported independent living accommodation units in the four identified sites.
- Enable local residents with Learning Disabilities and/or autism to have their own accommodation to improve their independence and wellbeing.
- Make an essential contribution towards the Council's strategic objective to tackle health inequality, in line with the 2030 Community Vision to ensure no-one is left behind.

- Potentially release assets for alternative use or disposal, where identified as surplus to supported independent living requirements by the ASC team.

G. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 25 May 2021- 13 July 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 29 June 2021 Cabinet considered:

a) VARIATION TO ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SURREY'S COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021 AND SEPTEMBER 2022

This report was dealt with under the General Exception rule as it had not had the required 28 days' notice on the Forward Plan.

There is a requirement for Full Council formally to amend the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2021 and 2022 entry as a result of the DfE issuing a new School Admissions Code on 13 May 2021. Assuming the new Code passes Parliamentary procedure in July, it requires all admission authorities from September 2021 to give top priority to children adopted from state care outside England, alongside looked after and other previously looked after children. In order to implement this change for community and voluntary controlled schools, the local authority must formally agree a variation to its admission arrangements for 2021 and 2022.

Cabinet AGREED:

1. That, subject to the new School Admissions Code coming into force on 1 September, the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2021 and 2022 are varied to give top priority for children adopted from state care outside England, alongside looked after children and other previously looked after children.

Reasons for decisions:

- It will ensure the local authority complies with the new School Admissions Code that is due to come in to force on 1 September 2021.
- It will ensure that children adopted from state care outside England are given the same priority for admission as children adopted from state care in England.

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
13 July 2021