

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Becky Rush

PORTFOLIO: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

2021/22 Financial Update (at Month 2, May): On 9 February 2021, Council approved a revenue budget of £1,003.6m. Progress towards delivering a balanced outturn position is monitored monthly and at M2, Directorates are forecasting a full year £15.9m deficit against the budget. The budget included contingencies augmented by the 2020/21 outturn position, which at M2 exceed the forecast deficit and so a balanced outturn is expected. However, it is still the expectation that Directorates manage the overspend within their budget envelopes. This will continue to be monitored monthly and corrective action taken where necessary. The Council approved a capital budget for 2021/22 of £184.9m. The M2 capital forecast shows forecast spend of £184.2m, a net reduction of £0.7m. The forecast will continue to be reviewed monthly and schemes may be accelerated where appropriate to offset slippage to make effective use of the budget.

Stronger Future – our Financial Strategy (Twin Track): Work is underway to refresh our Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Our focus is on delivering the Community Vision for 2030 and achieving the ambition, strategic priorities and outcomes set out in our Organisation Strategy 2021–26 within the framework of constrained funding and increasing demand for services. Existing service focused approaches have been successful in delivering efficiencies but will be largely exhausted by 2022/23. We will therefore take a ‘twin track’ approach, running the 2022/23 budget setting process whilst simultaneously developing a new approach to 2023/24 onwards.

We are proposing a horizontal approach across the whole council to deliver efficiencies and invest in the activities that support delivery of our strategic priorities. We are developing a series of lines of enquiry that could deliver at the scale required to tackle the medium-term challenge and help put the Council on a stable financial footing over the medium term. It will set in train a fundamentally more ambitious transformation programme, ensuring we’re in the best possible position to deliver outcomes for residents. We will develop the twin track approach with staff, members (including scrutiny), partners and residents. We have started to lay the initial foundations for this new approach alongside the operating model for the council, which will feature increasingly in the transformation programme for 2022/23 onward.

Transformation: There are currently 31 transformation programmes in flight. These are categorised as our big delivery programmes (e.g. SEND, Libraries and Learning Disabilities & Autism), supporting our strategic priorities (e.g. Greener Futures, & Empowering Communities), and programmes that will contribute to a new operating model (e.g. Agile Organisation, Digital, & Customer Experience). The overall transformation budget in 2021/22 is £19.4m with an efficiency target of £14.8m. This investment will also contribute to further efficiencies of £61m over the period of the MTFS.

COVID Local Support Grant: On 21 June 2021, the government announced a further extension of the COVID Local Support Grant. Over the period of the grant, Surrey County Council has been allocated £3.4m and this latest extension provides a further £2m. The funding has been used to support vulnerable families and individuals across the county, with the majority of the spend focused on provision of food vouchers during school holidays to those children entitled to free school meals during term time and 2-4 year olds from low income families. This has supported in excess of 20,000 children over the Christmas, Easter, February and May half term holidays and this latest extension will enable us to continue this support through the upcoming summer holidays.

Digital: Throughout this first quarter the Digital Programme has been focused, not only on successful delivery, but promotion and engagement. This includes working to create a Data Strategy for the organisation, collaborating with partners to define the future roadmap for Surrey Family Help Hub, and further exploring the use of new opportunities including bidding process, Customer Relationship management systems and Chatbots.

Internal Audit: On the 18 June the Audit and Governance Committee was presented with the Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion for 2020/21. The Chief Internal Auditor was able to provide Reasonable Assurance that Surrey County Council has in place an adequate and effective framework of governance, risk management and internal control. Summary of the key messages from the latest pulse survey 25% of staff were invited to complete the first pulse survey and the results were generally very positive. Areas for improvement identified include the experience of BAME colleagues, acting fairly with regards to career progression and the opportunity to contribute ideas before decisions are made. The results will feed directly into the council’s Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Change Group.

NAME: Steve Bax

PORTFOLIO: Deputy Cabinet Member to the Leader

Performance Management: My role is to assist the Leader of the Council with projects and functions he wishes to delegate. For example, the portfolio includes political oversight and responsibility for Performance Management Reporting, Data Analytics and Business Intelligence. Data is a key enabler and critical to the success of our organisation. It helps us measure the impact of the services we provide to residents and whether we are managing our resources effectively. If we are falling down in key areas, the data acts as our early warning system and allows us to make course corrections.

I met with the Director of Insight, Analytics and Intelligence, and key members of the Insight Analytics Intelligence (IAI) team to get a better understanding of the work they are doing. I was given a demonstration of our online tools, including the Tableau system. I will continue to meet regularly with the team. We're working to build a high-quality data analytics and research capability across the council, enabling us to create an organisational culture that values data and insight, and is evidence led in its decision making. We are refreshing the Surrey Office of Data Analytics (SODA) – a coalition of agencies across Surrey collaborating on data sharing and analytics.

By sharing with partner stakeholders, we can build up a rich picture of our residents and their needs. For example, collaborating with the Districts and Boroughs would enable us to correlate their data around benefits with our social care data to identify pockets of need. I've been interested to learn that there are many other applications for the data, including even being able to predict areas that are more prone to fire or flood emergencies. We need to be creating conditions where we can safely share data between ourselves, District and Boroughs, Surrey Heartlands and Surrey Police, building a 'Surrey data warehouse'.

IAI is a small team, and recruitment and retention are constant pressures as roles such as data scientists can earn considerably more in the private sector. These pressures are also felt in other data and analytics teams embedded within directorates. We have benchmarked ourselves against other councils and we are paying competitive salaries for the South East. This is an area I am keen to keep an eye on. The team has an intern from the University of Surrey and is looking to strengthen our ties with the university as a possible source of keen new talent.

Communications & Branding: My background is journalism and communications. I was a newspaper reporter in Surrey for many years and I am keen to use that expertise to encourage the Cabinet to take a leading role in raising awareness of the achievements of this Council. Our residents tend to think of 'the Council' as being their Districts and Boroughs, or Parish. In fact, Surrey County Council services are all around: from the roads we use to the streetlights, libraries, buses, social services, waste disposal, fire and rescue and more. We need to get better at building our brand awareness and this means putting our best foot forward.

So, I also met recently with our Communications department to get a feel for the transformative work being done there. We have reviewed our branding and focused on building a strong reputation for the council as a trusted voice. Covid has shown the potential of the team in putting out timely, relevant information to various audiences in a live and rapidly changing situation. The challenge will be to take those methods and adapt them to 'business as usual'.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Marisa Heath
PORTFOLIO: Environment

Climate Change: In June, Cabinet approved the principles behind the Greener Futures Climate Change Delivery Plan (CCDP) for 2021 - 2025. The CCDP is scheduled to go to Cabinet for a decision in October. The CCDP focuses on five high level programmes; one net zero public estate, Energy Positive Communities, Renewable Energy Generation, Solar Surrey Plus, Surrey's Transport Plan, and Natural Capital and Land Use Management, and will set out how the Council will achieve our 2030 organisational net zero target.

It also includes areas such as community engagement and behaviour change, creating a fairer Surrey and harvesting green skills and jobs to grow Surrey's green economy. Engagement with stakeholders including Districts and Boroughs will take place over the next three months to further develop and garner support for the CCDP. This will include a series of events and roadshows with residents, meetings with Surrey businesses, and the summer launch of a Community Energy Pathway programme to support community groups to develop local energy projects.

More information about the Council's climate change activities can be found in our [Greener Futures newsletter](#).

Rethinking Waste: We have continued to see elevated levels of all wastes collected from households in Surrey as people continue to work at home. When comparing tonnages collected at the kerbside in 2020/21 compared with 2019/20, we dealt with 8.9% more residual waste, 11.7% more food waste, 8% more garden waste and 14.4% more dry mixed recyclables. Driving down waste will be a part of our wider work around climate change. Our Rethinking Waste Transformation project is progressing well with baseline data being gathered to inform the process of re-procuring our waste contract which comes to an end in September 2024. We are also working on a programme for hand-back of the facilities from the existing contractor. Work is also progressing on an infrastructure needs assessment which will set out what facilities may be required to deal with waste in the future having regard to the anticipated changes that will be brought about by the implementation of the National Resources and Waste Strategy.

Countryside: Work is progressing well in the Countryside Estate; the Discovery Centre and toilets at Newlands Corner are due to be completed next month, new natural play equipment has been installed at Chinthurst Hill with more to come at Young Street in Norbury Park this summer to name a few. The Norbury Park Community Forum has reconvened, and Officers are developing a vision for Norbury Park which supports the Council's aims to support conservation and recreation at the site. A paper to Cabinet is anticipated in December and will include plans to support woodland crafts and visitor services at the old sawmill site. Over 235,000 trees were planted in Surrey last year and Officers are working with consultants to develop the tree-planting programme for this autumn. Again, we will be looking at how to increase biodiversity through the climate change work.

Flood and Climate Resilience: The approval of the River Thames Scheme's Outline Business Case announced on June 10 unlocked £60m of central government funding to complete technical design work and get the approvals needed for construction. Surrey County Council is investing £237 million towards the £501m River Thames Scheme. Alongside this, work continues on the Surrey Flood Alleviation Programme projects reducing risk across the county. The Caterham Hill Scheme, a £1.9 million to assess suitability for Property Flood Resilience measures, is currently in progress. The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is being updated to align with the national Flood Risk Management strategy and the action plans are being developed in accordance with member input. Priority catchments have been identified and activities are being planned and recorded and will be linked to the wider objectives of the Climate Change, Tree and Environment Strategies.

Emergency Management Planning: As we are progressing through the Government Road Map to the final lifting of restrictions the Surrey County Council Corporate Resilience Group is working to ensure that council services continue adapt as society reopens. The Emergency Management Team have completed a debrief with SCC Service leads to capture the areas of the response that worked well and areas where we can improve the arrangements to better support residents in future incidents. As a member of Surrey Local Resilience Forum (LRF) there is work to ensure that this learning is articulated to the LRF too.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Matt Furniss

PORTFOLIO: Transport and Infrastructure

Highways Procurement: We are into the last stages of the Future Highways contract procurement with final submissions due in over the next few weeks. After this point, the evaluation will be completed, and our preferred supplier will finally be identified. The three bidders Amey, Kier, and Ringway remain keen to come and join us in Surrey and bring their expertise and new ideas for the future contract. I look forward to sharing the outcome with you all in the Autumn and sharing how the Service will operate when the new contract goes live (Spring 2022).

Lane Rental: Surrey County Council's new Lane Rental Scheme commenced on 1 April, whereby daily charges of up to £2500 can be applied for any works adversely affecting traffic flow on our busiest streets at the busiest times. The Scheme's transitional arrangements meant that no actual charges were levied for works in April, although works promoters still received warnings of potential future liabilities. Whilst still at an early stage, we have already seen some promising changes to the planning and execution of some works types in order to avoid or minimise Lane Rental Charges.

Number of trees planted on Highway: Building on the launch in 2020 of our new Highway Tree Planting & Verge enhancement guidance, the County Council remains committed to increasing the number of trees on the network. In the last 12 months the team have installed over 300 street trees and a further 3000 whips (smaller trees).

LTP4 – a new Surrey Transport Plan: In June, Cabinet gave approval to consult on our new Surrey Transport Plan. The new Surrey Transport Plan sets out our future transport vision, objectives, and desired outcomes. It advocates the principles of 'Avoid, Shift and Improve' in terms of the approach to, and the need to travel. It also proposes a sustainable travel hierarchy, prioritising walking, cycling and public transport above other modes. To prioritise sustainable travel, we are developing a 'Surrey Streets Family Framework'. This allocates streets and places to categories based on local community needs and traffic movement. The framework will help determine the types of sustainable transport measures that can be implemented to help achieve net zero emissions and encourage economic regeneration. The consultation went live on 5 July and runs to 24 October.

New innovation in material or works: Hydrorock is a smart solution for ecological water management. Surrey County Council have installed the product in a major flooding wet spot, Tilford St in Farnham in one of the first projects in the UK to use this innovative solution. The result is a significantly reduced chance of flooding. Rainwater is separated from the drainage system, buffers under the existing infrastructure and infiltrates into the surrounding soil. The blocks ensure gradual infiltration to the surrounding soil and a water buffer is created that considerably reduces the risk of flooding.

In terms of pothole repairs, we are trialling the use of some "cold lay" materials. These materials can be used in all weathers and could provide a number of benefits when compared to traditional materials. Potential benefits include increased safety, more environmentally sustainable material and processes, increased efficiency, and more first-time permanent repairs.

Infrastructure update: Following the adoption of the Surrey Infrastructure Prioritisation framework by Cabinet in February, officers have been meeting with all the District and Boroughs, both Local Enterprise Partnerships, and strategic partners to identify shared infrastructure priorities. The framework has been used to assess all known major schemes across the county against a wide range of outcomes and the schemes deliverability. Partners have been asked to respond to this and a shortlist of infrastructure priorities will be produced during the summer with a recommendation on which schemes should be progressed to delivery, or for further feasibility and development work or those that aren't directly delivered by SCC but require lobbying to promote action by our partners such as Network Rail or Highways England. Beyond this the council continues to explore opportunities for other infrastructure schemes including economic, digital, green, and community, and will bring forward proposals as they are developed.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Natalie Bramhall

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development and Property

Economic Development: We continue to deliver against priority areas in the 'Surrey's Economic Future' strategic statement and the emerging activities contained in the One Surrey Growth Plan. This work is overseen and co-ordinated by the multi-agency 'One Surrey Growth Board' (chaired by Tim Oliver), with four priority themes:

- *Growing the leading edge:* Activity to attract inward investment includes sector focused online events, redesigning the 'Invest in Surrey' website, and targeted business engagement activities focusing on post COVID recovery.
- *Whole place approach to growing quality places:* With Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, we submitted a £350k Community Renewal Fund (CRF) bid to introduce a locality-based, community-led model for economic, social, and cultural renewal of Horley.
- *Maximising future employment opportunities in Surrey:* In the context of a post pandemic environment, with employment forecast to be severely challenged, future skills demand in high employment generating sectors of the future, are being assessed. The results will inform the development of a Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), which will support colleges, universities, employers, and training providers to better shape Surrey's future skills provision.
- *Enabling Economic Infrastructure:* A strategic programme of work to improve digital infrastructure provision across the county informed by the national picture, Government (through BDUK) and private sector agents' involvement, the strategy builds on the comparative success in rolling out Broadband across Surrey, and aims to attract more private sector investment in digital infrastructure and accelerate the pace of delivery.

Surrey Adult Learning Service (SALC): In the last few months SALC has provided teacher assessed grades for GCSE English and Mathematics for over 250 learners and supported over 5,000 learning remotely. We have developed a strategic plan to complement Surrey's Economic Statement and the region's skills strategies, as well as the local Community Vision and are establishing a county lifelong learning partnership with the post 16 education sector to improve the reskilling and upskilling of learners.

Property Asset Management: The property management team has continued its new integrated approach to supporting the transformation of Services across the Council with notable focus on Library provision, Children's Homes, and Youth Centres. Across all services this work has allowed us to review current activity and needs to develop a more strategic programme approach. Recent notable progress includes:

- A collaboration agreement between the blue light Fire and Police on the joint repair centre at Crawley Down and Relocation of the Fire service HQ and Gold Command to shared offices at Woodhatch.
- Development of a new Transit site provision to support better facilities and management for the GRT community, a collaborative and jointly funded effort between SCC, Police and D&Bs.
- Central Government approval for SCC's role as the One Public Estate (OPE) administrator for Surrey, enabling us to encourage collaboration with a cross section of the public and private sector.
- Development of a Corporate Office Estate strategy to deliver year on year savings, support investment, and ensure SCC staff have the modern, safe agile space to best operate in.
- A facility service review to help set out a future direction that improves how the council's building standard can continue to enhance its delivery to be fit for service purpose.
- Health estates are a joint programme with Surrey Heartlands ICS, the current focus is the development of a strategy and ensuring the underlying information and data is available to inform key decision making.
- A review of the council's investment portfolio was undertaken by external advisors, we have good levels of diversity within the portfolio and, despite recent market challenges, the level of return is broadly within the second to third quartile of comparable local authority and institutional fund holdings.

Capital Delivery A delivery strategy at the start of 2021 set out immediate priorities of the Capital Programme with an emphasis on projects targeted to start in the following 18 months, and delivery of more efficient procurement routes - 58 projects have been identified covering both schools and non-school's projects. Cabinet approved several projects for the Resources, Children's Families and Lifelong Learning and Health and Wellbeing Directorates, and delivery of those projects has proceeded at pace. The project list has since grown to 112 projects. In June Cabinet approved £1.9m capital funding to progress supported independent living schemes for accommodation at four sites in Surrey. This will deliver 82 units providing appropriate housing to meet a range of needs and offer choice and control for individuals over support they receive.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Edward Hawkins

PORTFOLIO: Property

I continue to work with Members of the Land & Property team in support of Cllr Natalie Bramhall, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Property, and other Cabinet Members. My current focus is on Land & Property's work in Transformation and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Transformation - New system replacement (Planon): The current Property Asset Management system (PAMs) is unsupported from 01/04/2023. Land & Property are modernising the system and building data sets which will support SCC's strategic objectives and decision making e.g. service information, building costs, building emissions. In Q1 of 2021/22: Phase 1 - Facility Management modules were being implemented including training staff and contractors to ensure all data and projects are in Planon. All interfacing and testing work has been successful.

Facilities Management: In Q1, first stage discovery work was completed across contracts, processes, structure, data and contractor relationships. Staff input engagement is also complete. The next steps are to share operating options with senior stakeholders.

Financial Improvement Plan: In liaison with Corporate Finance, the intention is to deliver accurate forecasting, address audit concerns, and guarantee budget delivery. The project and training plan is now complete. Discovery workshops have commenced to ascertain the best capital monitoring tools which will link to the new SCC Unit 4 financial monitoring/project management system.

People Plan: Staff forums and audit workshops have been completed across Facilities Management teams. Risk culture sessions with teams and stakeholders are ongoing. The People Plan is in draft, linked to the SCC Transformation team. Next steps will include the implementation of a stakeholder and staff communication plan.

SEND: The provision of delivery of school places for SEND continues between the Capital Delivery Team and the Facilities Management Team, with collaboration on the various types of projects with a target of 286 places for September 2021. Projects are closely monitored by both teams and work closely with the SEND Capital Programme & Specialist Place Planning team. Future phases and essential works are under planning with the newly appointed Project Manager/Cost Consultant/Contract Administrator team at Turner & Townsend, to streamline future procurement and delivery stages.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Mark Nuti

PORTFOLIO: Communities

Active Surrey: They have been awarded a certificate from the Lord Lieutenant's Office for services to resident's health and wellbeing during Covid. The team continues to work on mental health support for young people with our primary aged Wellbeing Warriors programme and new teens wellbeing training - Be your Best. Bookings are going well for the Holiday Activity and Food programme Club4 and we have just been awarded an additional £25k in social media spend to attract children from disadvantaged backgrounds to our various summer activity schemes.

Arts Service: The service has been recovering well with over 4700 students receiving face-to-face or online lessons in the summer term. The service has continued to develop online resources and visits to the Surrey Arts YouTube channel have increased by over 2000% from pre-Covid. Youth Music have secured funding of £45k which will support our Syrian Youth Ensemble (Together at Home) and Music Connects. Surrey Open Artist Studio programme ran in June with 286 participating artists, over 14,000 visitors and £360,000 of artwork sold.

Heritage: Surrey History Centre is now open four days a week to pre-booked researchers. Public enquiries and orders for digital copies are currently running 1,200 ahead of 2020 Q1 and downloads of our digitised records on Ancestry and FindmyPast remain. The archaeological unit has created a series of popular guided audio walks and won a grant of £125,000 to work on the National Trust's Runnymede Explored Project.

Libraries: All libraries have been open since April and are now offering meeting rooms and study space, alongside public computers and book borrowing, and also provide spaces for pop up lateral flow tests as part of the COVID response. Events and activities will shortly be starting with a busy summer schedule of events for children and families. Between April and June there were over 323,000 ebooks, eaudio or emagazines borrowed and there were 677,208 twitter impressions, over 9000 hours of views to our You Tube channel, as well as 19,529 PC sessions taking place in libraries across the network.

Registration and Nationality Service: The first National Day of recognition for Registrars to say thank you was held on 1 July. The service has been carefully managing registration appointment availability amid continuing high demand for birth and notice of marriage/ civil partnership appointments and ongoing national system performance issues. The legal limit of attendees at weddings was lifted and over 350 weddings have taken place across Surrey since April, with a further 550 due to take place in July. New legislation introduced in May has enabled all marriages to be registered in an electronic register for the first time since 1837.

Customer Services: The number of cases to our local Covid-19 tracing service has risen sharply, reflecting increased transmission rates in the county. To date, the team has contacted 8,664 positive cases with a 95% success rate and the Community Helpline has taken 15,864 calls from residents needing support. Customer Services have been selected as finalists in the UK Customer Satisfaction Awards 2021, run by the Institute of Customer Services.

Your Fund Surrey: The second phase went live on 1 March 2021 with the official opening of the online application portal. Currently there are over 1200 ideas pinned and almost 120,000 people have visited the commonplace map, we have almost 8,500 people receiving regular newsletter updates and we have 11 projects currently working on full submission and seeking community support through the second instance of commonplace (Commonplace B).

Community Engagement: We are developing a cohesive approach to community engagement, including work with health, police, D&Bs, and VCFS colleagues. We are looking at digital engagement tools to provide multiple ways for residents to engage, working closely with our Communications and research colleagues as well as all our SCC services. Last year we trialled virtual engagement activities alongside Local and Joint Committees with 8 events reaching over 40,000 residents. We are undertaking focused work in Horley & Caterham, joining up with GPs who are planning to engage on health in the community.

VCFS: We have used the Winter Grant Scheme to support vulnerable families through the provision of grants to foodbanks. Grants have been essential in helping foodbanks meet the increased demand and on average 5,500 families and individuals have been supported each quarter since December. We also partnered with the charity Binti International to launch Period Dignity Surrey in March to provide free period products to anyone that may need them and are the first County Council working to eradicate the stigma related to periods.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Kevin Deanus

PORTFOLIO: Communities

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS): Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services have completed their second inspection of SFRS. The first inspection, in 2018, highlighted that the service was inadequate in some areas, and that we could do more regarding the 'people' element of the service. Since then, the service has been working tirelessly to transform and modernise to meet its public purpose, which are the outcomes in the Making Surrey Safer Plan. This plan focuses on rebalancing our resources better between response, prevention, and protection. The inspectors met with over 130 staff, Members, and partners.

The report is due in October, but the initial debrief indicated that all of the previous areas of concern have been addressed. Members and the public will be updated once the results are known, although no new causes of concern have been raised so far.

Corporate Health and Safety: The health and safety centre of excellence has been in place since 1 April 2021, bringing together expertise from across the council. The centre will establish and promote best practice, create greater resilience, and support all directorates to meet our shared responsibilities for health and safety for employees, service users and residents.

Armed Forces: National Armed Forces Week, which provides the opportunity to show support to our Armed Forces community, ran from 20-26 June. During the week our newly appointed Armed Forces Champion, Chairman Helyn Clack attended the Armed Forces Day Flag raising ceremony at Guildford Cathedral with the Lord-Lieutenant and High Sheriff, and our own flag was raised at Woodhatch Place to mark the occasion. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all past and serving military personnel and their families.

The week also saw the opening of two new veteran hubs, one at Fordbridge Fire Station and the second in Ashted. We hope that these hubs, along with the other five in operation in Surrey will be a valuable asset for our veterans and ex-service personnel for years to come.

Community Resilience: Surrey Prepared are due to meet with members of the Surrey Communications Group who led the MIG (Multi-agency Information Group) during the COVID-19 major incident. The aim is to help contribute to partnerships and provide a 'peacetime MIG' for Surrey-wide communications. Communications professionals will then feed into the monthly toolkits to ensure consistent campaigns and messaging.

Trading Standards: The Team have stopped over 4,000 unsafe and illegal products entering the marketplace and seized illicit goods at several locations during town centre operations. Trading Standards are working in partnership with Surrey Police and Public Health to try to identify the source of supply what look like sweets, but in fact contain levels of cannabis, and to inform schools and parents about the potential hazards of such items.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that our Trading Standards Team Manager Michele Manson has received a recognition award from the Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) for her leadership and contribution to the local regulatory landscape, particularly during COVID-19. Michele stepped forward as a leader to support the OPSS regulatory networks, working with a number of different government departments to provide real insight into the reality of enforcing COVID-19 restrictions and helping drive policy decisions that have a real benefit for people and businesses across the Country. I am sure all Councillors will join me in congratulating Michele on this excellent achievement.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Denise Turner-Stewart

PORTFOLIO: Education and Learning

Resilience of Children, Young People, Parents, Carers and our School Communities: As we come to the end of the school year, I would like to open my first update to Council as Cabinet Member for Education and Learning by recognising the tremendous resilience shown by our children, their families and Surrey's education leaders and staff during what has been another very challenging academic year. I hope all are able to have some rest over the summer and that the roadmap to recovery means we begin again in September in a circumstances that are more normal.

Helping our children to thrive over the summer: We are launching a new campaign in mid-July aimed at parents of 0-5-year olds. The campaign was created in response to concerns from school, early years leaders and national research that demonstrates that the last two lockdowns have had a negative impact on young children's language skills. The campaign will raise awareness of five simple things parents or carers can do at home to help their child thrive such as singing and reading together. There will be short videos shared through social media, early years resources, and materials available on our and partners' websites to support parents. The resources will be distributed across libraries, family centres and partner channels. We are also running two initiatives with our libraries this summer to encourage reading amongst primary aged children. Surrey Countryside will deliver 'Surrey Nature Explorer' aimed at children aged 4-12. The Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge, who have partnered with the World Wildlife Fund, are delivering 'Wild World Heroes' a celebration of reading that will inspire children to stand up for the future of the planet.

Club4 – Surrey's Holiday Activity and Food programme: Following a successful virtual launch over the Easter holidays, Surrey's holiday activity and food programme is rolling out in physical locations across the county this summer. Backed by Department for Education funding and branded as 'Club4', the programme offers 55,000 places over the summer holidays to children and young people who receive free school meals. Active Surrey is working on our behalf with 70 providers, many from the voluntary and community sector, to offer holiday camps with a range of enriching activities, a minimum of 1 hour's physical activity and a meal. To complement the camp provision, the virtual offer which ran at Easter has been enhanced with new online content for dance, yoga and meditation classes including for children with additional needs. Active Surrey will also deliver six virtual parent workshops over the summer holidays to increase parents' understanding of healthy living topics such as hydration, sleep, and screen time.

Mental Health and Wellbeing support for children in schools: We know that the pandemic has had a significant impact on the children's mental health, with increasing requests to children's emotional wellbeing and mental health services. A crucial part of Surrey's new Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health contract which started on 1st April is support for schools. This new model is being co-produced with local schools and in each there will be a named school lead with access to a menu of interventions and support to develop a whole school approach. Recruitment has already started for two additional Mental Health Support teams to be in place for September, taking our Surrey offer to 13 teams by 2023/24. Co-production work has started with our special schools to develop the offer for children and young people in special schools, as well as in mainstream schools who have pupils with additional needs.

Capital programme progressing at scale and pace: Across Surrey, there is a continued need for additional school places as a result of population growth and an increasing number of children with additional educational needs. Both our mainstream and our specialist provision are expanding at scale and pace due to significant capital investment by the Council. For September 2021, we are on target to provide 750 new secondary places, with an investment of £16.8 million, and 480 new primary places for £13 million. Further expansion is planned for September 2022 and beyond based on forecast needs. Additionally, the Council has invested £79.6 million to provide an additional 1600 specialist school places so that children with special educational needs can be educated closer to home. More than 280 new places have been created for September 2021, with a similar number in delivery from approved projects for September 2022. We continue to work closely with the Department for Education to support the opening of two specialist free schools – Fox Grove Academy and Betchwood Vale Academy.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Sinead Mooney

PORTFOLIO: Adults

Accommodation with Care and Support: This programme continues to make good progress in delivering our ambition to improve the health and wellbeing of Surrey's residents. Last month, Cabinet agreed the necessary capital funding to complete the feasibility assessments for the four Supported Independent Living schemes. This decision ensures the necessary funding to develop business cases for Cabinet to approve delivery models and will signify another stride forward towards delivering our ambition. We have also been working closely with our Adult Social Care (ASC) locality colleagues to develop our approach to the future design and allocation processes for our Extra Care Housing. We continue to work with our District and Borough Council Housing partners to ensure that we have effective and efficient nominations policies in place to ensure we work together to make these schemes a success for Surrey's residents.

Transitions: I am delighted to now have responsibility for transitions, which shall be a key priority area for me moving forward. The Preparation for Adulthood programme has been refreshed to focus on the experiences of young people with complex physical health, mental health, and disabilities. This offers us an exciting opportunity to take a truly joint approach with health, adults and children's social care and education. At present, we are piloting a collaborative effort, working with families and young people to plan for adulthood at 16 rather than 18 and are finding that this better equips young people with the resilience and independence needed for life. I am also pleased to report a 13% increase in young people with disabilities participating on supported and pre-supported internship programmes over the past academic year. We shall look to expand this provision, starting with the creation of an SCC-run apprenticeship scheme, which launches this September.

Mental Health: Our Mental Health transformation programme is split into two phases, with the first phase leading to the transfer of 1,400 cases and around 190 members of staff from Surrey and Borders Partnership to Surrey County Council. We have now moved onto the second phase, which is focused on a review and redesign of our existing structures and wider service model, to better deliver our ambitions for ASC mental health.

ASC Budget: A balanced budget was forecast for ASC's 2021/22 net expenditure budget of £377.2m at the end of April. While it is too early in the financial year to identify any confirmed budget variances, we will likely experience challenges in managing expenditure within ASC's budgeted resources. There are also risks to achieving a balanced budget in 2021/22, with demand for ASC services funded by the Council likely to rise again – influenced by the impact of the full unwinding of temporary NHS funding of care packages following hospital discharge in 2020/21, and cost pressures due to increasing acuity of care needs heightened by the pandemic. The Adults Leadership Team continues to closely monitor the financial position to ensure risks and pressures are known as early as possible so that plans to mitigate them can be developed and implemented.

Technology Enabled Care (TEC): Earlier this year, we launched a pilot to test enhanced technology enabled care (TEC) solutions, including unobtrusive monitoring and reporting systems, and the use of sensors to monitor activity and progress towards greater independence. The pilots have report good initial findings and have already been expanded – with a second phase planned.

Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB): Over the last year, the Surrey Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB) has provided political direction for our outbreak response, ensuring that our residents and partners are best consulted and engaged with, as we seek to support efforts to suppress the virus. As the nation moves towards an irreversible lifting of restrictions, this Board continues diligently with its work and will continue to support the delivery of our county-wide vaccination programme, to prevent further county surges and outbreaks, and shall look to further roll out our COVID Champions scheme – which will ensure residents are empowered to share up-to-date advice and guidance with their networks.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Luke Bennett

PORTFOLIO: Health

Covid-19 response: I am honoured to have been asked to serve as Cabinet Member for Health, at this critical moment of pandemic recovery. The last seventeen months have been difficult for us *all*, as we have complied with restrictions and forgone *many* of our normal social interactions - to suppress the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the NHS.

First and foremost, I would like to acknowledge and thank the courage and commitment of our NHS and Social Care staff, the emergency services, our broader frontline workforces, Surrey County Council colleagues, strategic partners and *all* the community-spirited volunteers who have made such an important contribution, during this pandemic. Thank you *all* for everything that you have done.

I would also like acknowledge and thank both; Cllr Sinead Mooney *and* the Leader; Cllr Tim Oliver, following their collective work as custodians of Surrey's Health portfolio. Thanks also to Rosy Beer (Cabinet Support Officer) and Vincent Anane-Nimoh (Cabinet Policy Manager); both of whom are sadly leaving SCC in the coming days. Thank you all for your help and support over the last few weeks.

With the prospect of restrictions being ended from July 19, we must now take the opportunity to move forward at *pace* with our *broader* health agenda, i.e. grasping and delivering on how we can further improve the *overall* health and wellbeing of our residents, whilst being ambitious in addressing and mitigating the *wider* determinants of health that collectively exacerbate health inequalities and lead to *some* communities and people being left behind. We must also *urgently* address the substantial 'backlog' and waiting lists for medical procedures, we must ensure that patients can access face to face diagnostic and general check-up consultations when needed – and as we further embrace the options for virtual / online consultations, we must ensure that *no one* is technologically excluded.

Covid-19 Vaccinations: By way of an update on our local COVID-19 vaccine programme (and in advance of a separate report to follow); I am pleased to inform Council that since December 2020, over 1.8 million vaccinations have been administered within the county (many of which at County Hall here in Reigate). Additionally, pop-up '*grab a jab*' facilities have been provided across Surrey, to make it as accessible as possible for all residents.

Covid-19 Vaccinations: On July 19, when national restrictions are scheduled to be removed, our Public Health team will continue to have a leading role in monitoring overall case rates across the county. Utilising lessons learnt over the last seventeen months, the council is both ready *and* well prepared to take all necessary steps required, to mitigate against future outbreaks - between now and the end of the year.

ICS Coterminosity: Last month, the council submitted a report to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, outlining why Surrey Heartlands ICS and Surrey County Council's borders should be coterminous, alongside a business case as to why Frimley ICS (i.e. Surrey Heath and Farnham) should be repatriated to Surrey Heartlands ICS. A decision on this is anticipated later this month and will take effect from April 2022.

NHS Seacole Centre: I am delighted to inform Council of the recent commendation by the Health Service Journal (HSJ), in recognition of both the partnership working *and* the environmental 'consciousness' of the NHS Seacole Centre at Headley Court. This important facility (*named in honour of the pioneering nurse; Mary Seacole*), provided specialist rehabilitation care for Covid-19 patients.

Work to tackle health inequalities continues and is *embedded* within the strategy of the new ICS. We are working with NHS partners to ensure that our ICS objectives are aligned with the ambitions of the Growth board *and* Surrey's Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB), i.e. an inclusive economy that supports *all* Surrey residents to fulfil their full potential.

In the spirit of truly collaborative working, I look forward to working with our Select Committees *and* Health Boards (on lessons learnt *and* opportunities for further improvement). I also look forward to hearing from *all* members (via scheduled drop-in surgeries or independently), on how our health services are performing in *your* respective divisions *and* how we can directly *or* indirectly improve health outcomes - thus *further* reducing health inequalities *and* ensuring that **no one is left behind**.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Clare Curran

PORTFOLIO: Children and Families

Priorities: This is my first update as Cabinet Member for Children and Families since my return to Cabinet and I am determined to continue with and accelerate the great work that my predecessor was leading, and to uphold the unwavering commitment to improving outcomes for Surrey's children. I will be a passionate champion for those in our care and for the responsibility placed on all of us as their corporate parents.

My priorities for the coming months are ensuring preparedness for the service's upcoming Ofsted inspection; supporting our continued and critical service improvement journey; and working on a systemic response to child poverty in Surrey. I am ambitious for our children and families and welcome your support, challenge, and interest. I look forward to meeting with you either in my monthly drop-in sessions - the first one is next week on 22 July, or elsewhere.

Ofsted Focused Visit: In March 2021, Ofsted carried out a Focused Visit of our Children's Services. The inspection team spent their time on case sampling, interviews with practitioners and managers, gaining feedback from foster carers, schools, the judiciary, and other partner agencies. While this visit was not a judgement inspection, meaning that no grading has been given, I was reassured to read some positive conclusions in their published report; that the service had responded well to increased demand due to COVID-19, that our Family Resilience model is enabling effective family interventions and strong multi-agency information sharing and that the quality of social work practice has led to positive experiences for those in our care. This visit did also highlight areas of improvement – namely on strengthening practice in the Children with Disability service; improving the recognition of and response to children experiencing long-term neglect; and improving record keeping. We have priority action plans in place for driving improvement in these areas.

Child Poverty: The Council's December motion on Child Poverty was key in our journey to ensure that No-one is Left Behind. Since then, there has been a collective effort across the system to understand the causes, symptoms, and impact of relative poverty, to ensure that sometimes-overlooked children, young people, families, older people, and carers can access the same life chances as their peers in Surrey. To do this, we must start to use all sources of data available to us - as an example we can see an 122% increase in emergency food parcels being issued – with a particular focus on families with children.

We must all keep the interests of families with children at the forefront of our minds in developing the delivery plans for economic growth and a greener future. While we can point to many initiatives running across the county, our services need to be more joined-up with those of other partners, such as our District and Borough colleagues and other work to reduce health inequalities. The work is being led by and overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board and collectively we have bold ambitions to tackle this issue. We are looking to best practice around the country. I am working with officers on our plans and look forward to discussing these with Cabinet colleagues before bringing details forward to the next meeting of this council.

DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Maureen Attewell

PORTFOLIO: Children and Lifelong Learning

Youth Services: The main priorities for the last 12 months have been to ensure that the most vulnerable young people in Surrey have access to high quality provision that enables them to achieve positive outcomes; to implement the decision made in August 2020 to invite Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector organisations to take on leases for youth centres to enable them to deliver open access youth work; to proceed with the restructure of the workforce to implement the decision made in August 2020 that SCC youth workers will exclusively deliver targeted youth work and to continue with the transformation and improvement of the Youth Offending Service

The service has seen many successes during this time. The Youth Offer has delivered 42,000 hours of direct contact with young people between April 2020 and March 2021, with face-to-face contact being delivered throughout the full lockdown periods for high priority young people. The team has been at the forefront of co-production-based approaches in part due to the ESF funded IMAGINE project.

Surrey Youth Offending Service (YOS): The Youth Justice Board have removed the YOS from their priority list for intervention: they can see the trajectory for development and are satisfied with progress made. Moreover, all of the children who come into contact with the YOS now have a full health pre-assessment to ensure their needs are recognised and met at an early stage without the need for lengthy referrals.

The ENGAGE project: Youth workers have worked closely with the Emergency Duty Team which has improved outcomes for children and families, and generated savings for Surrey County Council by preventing family breakdown. The ENGAGE project has been established and has supported 134 young people between December 2020 and March '21. Young people are met whilst in police custody and supported throughout the 200 days it can take to achieve an outcome through court. This support has had a dramatic impact on re-offending: only 3 young people have gone on to further offend.

Developing Skills: The successful development of the Skill Mill and additional guaranteed interviews and training with the global KIER group have enabled vulnerable young people to progress into employment. The move online has enabled youth workers to keep in contact and run youth work sessions and projects. Additionally, there were 205 separate engagements with young people on the Community Reparation programme from January to March. There were no breaches of engagement within this time.

Our priorities for the future will continue to drive the transformation of the Youth Offer and Youth Offending Service forward to ensure positive outcomes for children and young people in Surrey. We will finalise the restructure and launch the new targeted youth offer service for Surrey's vulnerable young people.

Finally, we will complete the transfer of youth centres to the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector organisations and work with providers to ensure young people have access to high quality provision within their communities that meets their needs and enables them to progress.

This page is intentionally left blank