

CABINET – 22 FEBRUARY 2022**PROCEDURAL MATTERS****Members Questions****Question (1) Jeffrey Gray (Caterham Valley):**

In last week's House of Lords debate on the Health and Care Bill, cross bencher Baroness Campbell said:

"Government amendments to the Care Act disproportionately affect working-age people, especially those with lifelong disabilities who draw on support for their day-to-day needs" and added "this Bill introduces a social care means test which drives disabled people into poverty and places a cap on aspiration."

Will the Cabinet member clarify how these proposals differ from the current arrangements for Surrey residents?

Is the Cabinet Member also concerned about the impact on disabled people in Surrey and will she commit to lobbying the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to abolish the social care charges for working age disabled people and cap increases for others?

Reply:

Social Care is means tested and will continue to be so under the proposed funding reforms due to come into effect on 1st October 2023. There are three key policy changes that will have a significant impact on Surrey residents and on the council.

- Currently, there is no limit on the amount that people who self-fund their own social care (that is people with more than £23,250 in capital or assets) must spend before they qualify for assistance from the council.
From 1st October 2023, it is proposed that a lifetime cap on "personal care costs" of £86,000 will be introduced. Once the cap is reached, the person will be eligible for financial assistance with their ongoing personal care costs. People in residential or nursing care will still be required to pay their own daily living costs, currently proposed nationally to be £200 per week.
- The capital threshold limits of £14,250 (lower limit below which capital is ignored in the means test) and £23,250 (upper limit) will increase to £20,000 and £100,000 respectively.
This will mean that people will get to keep more of their savings than under the current system and more people will be eligible for financial support from the council.
- Currently, if the person has more than £23,250 in savings or capital and needs residential or nursing care, they will often be required to make their own arrangements.

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From 1st October 2023, residents will be able to ask the council to commission care on their behalf, regardless of the level of assets.

These three changes mean that many more people will be eligible for financial support from the council and will have a significant impact on the Council's finances, the Adult Social workforce and the provider market. The council is pro-actively engaging about the reforms through a number of routes to positively influence and better understand policy proposals and will continue to lobby the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care for parity and fairness for all.

Sinead Mooney
Cabinet Member for Adults and Health
22 February 2022

Question (2) Will Forster (Woking South):

Will the Cabinet Member outline in detail how the £2.7 million the Council has received as part of the '[Social Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund](#)' is being spent to boost the pay of hard-working carers in Surrey?

Reply:

There are now two rounds of the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for Adult Social Care released by Government to Local Authorities. Round 1 was announced in November 2021 and Round 2 in December 2021. Both are intended to assist with recruitment and retention activity and address workforce capacity issues within Surrey's Adult Social Care sector up to 31st March 2022.

Round 1 – Total £2.7m

£2.3m (85%) is being paid to CQC registered Community Care providers in Surrey towards pay, recruitment and workforce costs for those providers.

£0.4m (15%) has been retained by Surrey County Council's Adult Social Care service towards:

- a Christmas working supplementary payment for those frontline care staff and frontline social work and assessment staff in care homes and hospitals employed by the council's Adult Social Care service who were required to work over the Christmas period (£250K).
- commissioning an organisation to undertake work in relation to workforce retention in Adult Social Care, a marketing campaign for ASC roles and other activities associated with recruitment to the council's ASC workforce (£145K).

Round 2 – Total £5m

£3.9m (78%) is being allocated equally across CQC registered Community Care Providers and Care Homes in Surrey towards further pay, recruitment and workforce costs for those providers.

£0.5m (10%) is being allocated to the Surrey Care Association to fund their Workforce Development Business Proposal (£280k), to Surrey Choices towards a reward and recognition payment for staff and recruitment costs (£170k) and to support retention payments for advocacy staff (£37k).

£0.6m (12%) has been retained by Surrey County Council's Adult Social Care service to enable a one-off payment to all frontline staff excluding the Leadership Team for working during the pandemic and commissioning an organisation to assist with designing more inclusive workplaces and working cultures.

An initial set of payments of Round 1 funding was made to community care providers in December 2021. Final Round 1 payments and the full amount of Round 2 funding due to each eligible provider that complies with the grant conditions will be paid in February 2022.

Sinead Mooney
Cabinet Member for Adults and Health
22 February 2022

Question (3) Will Forster (Woking South):

The County Councils Network's recent (CCN) analysis of the government's Spending Review document, summarised on its [website](#), has revealed a potential reduction of nearly £500m for county and rural councils on roads maintenance funding, compared to what they received two years ago. According to its research counties in the South-East stand to lose £87.1m, the equivalent of filling 2 million potholes.

The CCN also suggests that "With inflation adding an average of 7.8% to road maintenance costs alone, and with wider financial pressures facing county authorities, many will face little choice but to reduce investment: cancelling planned works and filling in less potholes – doing 'reputational damage' to both local and national government."

In light of the CCN's intervention in which they call on the government to find the means to reinstate this funding, will the Cabinet Member

1. Confirm the potential reduction in funding to Surrey County Council?
2. Advise whether such a reduction has already been factored into the Council's budget for 22/23?
3. Indicate the likely impact on Surrey's highway maintenance program?

Reply:

1. The Department for Transport have confirmed to us that our allocation for 2022/23 will be £25,690,000 which is the same as the allocation received in 2021/22, although 23% less than we received in 2020/21. Allocations for Highway Maintenance from government fluctuate significantly across years, with additional allocations sometimes being provided in year, for instance in response to issues such as severe flooding. For example, our allocation for 2019/20 was 27% less than our allocation for 2018/19, whereas our allocation for 2020/21 was 52% higher than it had been in 2019/20. To plan our programmes and gain the greatest efficiencies, it is of benefit that the Council sets budgets over a longer term than Government currently do.

2. The 2022/23 Council's budget has been set on the basis that the highway maintenance allocation from Government would be £25,690,000.
3. Therefore, the budget that the Council is spending on Highway Maintenance is not reducing from what has been planned; however, the increase in costs due to inflation has had an impact in recent years on the amount of work we are able to complete within available budgets. To mitigate impacts of such cost pressures, the service continually looks for more efficient ways of working and for innovations in materials and process that will provide longer lasting, more cost-effective solutions. The 2022/23 programme has been calculated based on the available budget and current costs, and the published programme (<https://surreycc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5591c90a85d94b9682398fd1485f323b>) is what officers have calculated will be possible to deliver in 2022/23.

Matt Furniss
Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure
22 February 2022

Question (4) Will Forster (Woking South):

In response to my question at the November's Cabinet meeting, the Cabinet Member advised that the installation of Pride crossings had been paused pending the outcome of a full Equality Impact Assessment, that would be carried out as soon as possible.

Will the Cabinet Member please confirm that officers have started the EIA process and give an indication as to how long it will take for the results to be published and installations recommenced?

Reply:

I can confirm that an EIA has been drafted, and that in addition we have commissioned research on similar pride crossings to gain evidence as to their use particularly by people with disabilities. We anticipate that this will be concluded by April 2022 when we will look to recommence the installation of the remaining crossings.

Finally, we are working with Transport for London who are carrying out a review of their colourful crossings which will be concluded in 12 months to inform their use.

Matt Furniss
Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure
22 February 2022

Question (5) Catherine Baart (Earlswood and Reigate South):

Please provide the current EPC ratings for the 17 properties in Halsey Garton commercial property portfolio. Please indicate if any of the properties are exempt under the MEES regulations. Please indicate any properties where fines have been payable under MEES regulations or other regulations addressing energy efficiency.

Reply:

EPC's are provided on a unit basis rather than property therefore EPC's cannot be provided at a property level for the 17 assets in the portfolio. Of all the units in the portfolio, 3 have an EPC rating below E and our advisors are regularly liaising with the tenants to ensure the units continue to be compliant in line with current regulations. We are advised that none of the properties are currently exempt and confirm no fines have been payable under the MEES or any other energy efficiency regulations.

Natalie Bramhall
Cabinet Member for Property and Waste
22 February 2022

Question (6) Catherine Baart (Earlswood and Reigate South):
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Please provide a response to each of the recommendations and next steps in the Travel Plan for Woodhatch Place (15 February 2021 by Atkins), especially those recommendations that also could also facilitate walking and cycling to the proposed new school at Woodhatch Place.

Reply:

The Travel Plan for Woodhatch Place, referenced in the question has been superseded by the Overarching Green Travel Strategy for Staff and the Green Travel Plan Strategy for SCC Staff Costing and Programming (December 2021), and Woodhatch Place is referenced with recommendations for staff travel including Active Travel.

Long/Short Stay Cycle Parking

Currently there is covered provision for 43 long stay cycles, but no provision for short stay/visitor cycle parking. Development of the cycle parking provision is integrated into the active travel recommendations and will form an integrated activity of the Travel Planning Officer. Also, as part of a wider review of sustainable mobility options, to facilitate staff mobility, a feasibility study will be commissioned to look at the provision of E-Bikes to improve active mobility and improving access to Woodhatch.

Vehicle Parking & EV Charging

At present, there are eight electric vehicle (EV) charging points available on site, serving 16 spaces. A Solar Carport and EV Charging project has been approved by Property Panel, with budget signoff and final planning approval expected week commencing 21/02. A Project Team is in place with an anticipated completion of the install for June 22. This will provide capacity for 33 active EV charging bays, with the option for additional bays to be commissioned as demand requires.

Improved Showers and Changing Facilities

The recommendation to redevelop the shower and changing facilities, to make them more inclusive and improved facilities, is referenced in the Green Travel Plan Strategy for SCC Staff Costing and Programming work. There is current work being led by the

Agile Working Group and Land and Property to assess where these improved facilities will be located within the building.

Enterprise Car Club Woodhatch

The Surrey Car Club forms an integrated mobility solution, both to staff and residents of Surrey, which is part of the implementation of the Staff Travel Plan. There is currently active engagement with Enterprise to roll out and expand the Car Club. As part of that engagement, 2 of the Carport EV charging spaces will be allocated to the Car Club.

Shuttle Bus Service

The shuttle is due to start on Mon 28 Feb, linking Woodhatch with Redhill & Reigate stations running broadly 7.30am - 6pm every half an hour.

Tim Oliver

Leader of the Council

22 February 2022