

CABINET MEMBER OF THE MONTH**NAME:** Matt Furniss**PORTFOLIO:** Transport & Infrastructure

Future Bus Network Consultation and Bus Fare – Our Future Bus Network consultation ran from 3 November to 6 January, receiving over 2,500 responses from the public and stakeholders. This is helping us shape what the future bus network will look like, including right sizing services where post-Covid travel patterns have fundamentally changed. It is also helping us to invest in the right initiatives and right places to grow patronage. Linked to this, on 1 January a £2 flat fare was launched across England to help tackle the cost-of-living crisis. This Government scheme runs until the end of March, with ten Surrey bus operators participating and all Council contracted services included.

Active travel – We have completed 6 active travel schemes from the recent government funding and creating new walking and cycling facilities across the county within a variety of communities. We had proposed to start the Burpham active travel scheme in January, but following community concerns over the traffic management arrangements, we have committed to further engagement including community workshops and exhibitions to ensure we delivery the scheme with the community.

We were recently scored by Active Travel England a level 2 authority for our ambition and capability to deliver LCWIP's behaviour change and political support which in turn unlocked £863k to develop these areas further to enable delivery of LCWIP schemes and liveable neighbours adding to our active travel infrastructure. Finally, we have been invited to bid for further funding from Tranche 4 funding focused on LCWIP schemes as well as liveable neighbourhoods.

Airports – Gatwick Airport Limited (GAL) carried out a further targeted statutory consultation in Summer 2022, mainly relating to updated road designs for their expansion plans. GAL are proposing to submit their Development Consent Order application for the Gatwick Northern Runway Project to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in March 2023.

Airports including Gatwick, Heathrow, Farnborough and Biggin Hill are continuing their work to deliver redesigned airspace structure and route networks as required by the national Airspace Modernisation Strategy. We are also continuing to make the case for a Southern Rail Link to Heathrow, recently presenting the findings of work commissioned on behalf of Heathrow Strategic Planning Group to the Heathrow Area Transport Forum Conference.

Surrey Infrastructure Plan – Cabinet recently approved the third phase of schemes to be progressed as part of Surrey's Infrastructure Plan (SIP). Adopted in February 2021 following its development with District and Borough Council's, the SIP provides for a rolling process of moving schemes from concept to design to implementation and ensures there is a healthy pipeline of schemes developed to a 'shovel ready' stage. At November Cabinet, schemes were approved for implementation including an electric bike hire scheme in Guildford, public realm works for Horley High Street, enhancements to Ewell Village, an update on bids for funding for Caterham and Sheerwater in Woking, amendments to the A320 improvement scheme and the 23/24 programme of flood alleviation schemes.

Planning update – The Planning Group continue to manage an increasing and complex workload across the teams. Ongoing recruitment in the priority areas of Enforcement and Reg 3 (the County's own) planning applications has resulted in the majority of posts being filled, with a full complement of staff expected from the beginning of March. This, in combination with the process review, should go a long way to offering an enhanced and speedier service fit for the future.

Transport Development Planning are now implementing the Healthy Streets for Surrey guidance in their review of planning applications. The Surrey Planning Officers Association has been made aware of this and has also been asked to consider adopting the guide as a Supplementary Planning Document or incorporating it into their own design codes.

The Government published a consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework before Christmas. The majority of amendments relate to housing provision through local plans, however some elements will impact on County matters. At this stage, an initial officer review indicates that nothing is proposed that would be contrary to County policy. There are future consultations expected however, including on National Development Management Policies, which will require member consideration and approval.

5G Rollout – Against the Government’s ambition of 85% gigabit capable coverage by the end of 2025 and ‘nationwide’ by 2030, Surrey’s fixed coverage is tracking well at nearly 76%. The Government’s Project Gigabit Programme has been set up to target gaps where there are no gigabit infrastructure plans by commercial providers with procurement timescales for Surrey yet to be confirmed. Alongside this, SCC is entering into agreements to enable installation of 4G/5G small cells on Highways assets to facilitate fast and reliable mobile coverage which will help provide the additional capacity needed in the coming years for things like smart devices, medical sensors and fitness trackers.

Economy & Growth (E&G) – Work continues across the E&G team’s ‘Plan for Growth’ programme, a One Surrey Growth Board meeting having been held on the 15 December and the ramping up of activities through the Innovation Working Group. The Innovation Working Group activities includes our cluster development programme (Cyber Security, Gaming, Createch Film & TV, Green tech, Space and Animal Health) and joint working with Surrey universities and businesses on various funding submissions (Launchpad (Innovate UK), CoSTAR (AHRC), Place Based Impact Acceleration (EPSCR)). If these funding bids are successful, this will help lever funding and resource into Surrey to support innovation and help increase the productivity of the Surrey economy.

The E&G team are leading on a place prioritisation exercise to identify the towns which present an opportunity for economic intervention, working in partnership with stakeholders. Work is also underway to consider how demand for commercial sites has been impacted by the pandemic and to consider how the Invest in Surrey, inward investment offer might be tailored based on current vacancies across Surrey.

Skills & Apprenticeships – On 10 November, SCC hosted the inaugural Surrey Skills Summit, bringing together local business leaders, employers, colleges, universities, skills providers and local government officials to help us take the next step in collaborating to create a more inclusive and dynamic skills system in Surrey. This event was also the backdrop for the launch of the Surrey Skills Plan, developed by Surrey County Council’s Skills Leadership Forum on behalf of the One Surrey Growth Board. The Plan sets out the actions needed to create a demand-driven skills system that will power economic growth. It leverages Surrey’s existing advantages in terms of talent, business base and geography while recognising the needs of all businesses and maximising inclusion. Our next steps are to take the priority ambitions and turn them into reality, focusing on key areas of greater business and education collaboration through a Festival of Skills, enhanced careers information and guidance and maximising the role we have as an organisation of scale and scope to positively impact skills and employment outcomes for our residents.

Apprenticeships – SCC’s internal Apprenticeships programme has so far created opportunities for over 800 employees to develop new skills and capabilities needed for the council to modernise and adapt to new technologies, support changing local needs and create

opportunities for young people to start their careers with the council. As well as internal skills growth, the council's Apprenticeship levy has been transferred to support local businesses and health partners to develop their workforce through Apprenticeships ranging from Early Years providers through to paramedics.

In response to the Surrey Skills Plan and to meet our ambitions to be a leading local employer in the Surrey's skills economy, our People and Change team, in collaboration with Economic Growth, have designed a refreshed and more strategically focused Apprenticeship programme with improved levy utilisation, transfers to priority local businesses and recruitment and retention of young employees at the heart of it. In the new approach career starter/entry apprenticeships at SCC will be part of an annual pipeline of Early Careers activity which connects work placements, internships, t-level placements, and apprenticeship opportunities to grow critical and new skills needed for future service delivery. This new approach to apprenticeships will be presented for approval at the Corporate Leadership Team on 24 January 2023 and subject to endorsement go live on 1 April 2023.

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