

County Council Meeting – 23 May 2023

## REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 28 March 2023 and 25 April 2023.

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 20. 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 22 May 2023).

For members of the public all non-confidential reports are available on the web site ([www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://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 28 March 2023 Cabinet considered:

#### **A. A HOUSING, ACCOMMODATION AND HOMES STRATEGY FOR SURREY**

This report set out the Housing, Accommodation and Homes Strategy for Surrey.

#### ***It was AGREED:***

1. That Cabinet endorses the benefit of and approach taken to initiating and developing a county-wide strategy for Housing, Accommodation and Homes,
2. That Cabinet adopts the strategy and encourages others to do likewise in a spirit of collective endeavour to address the evidenced housing crisis in Surrey.
3. That Cabinet delegates authority to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Housing and Executive Director for Partnerships, Prosperity and Growth to make any necessary final amendments to the strategy following a period of public consultation.

#### **Reasons for decisions:**

The baseline assessment undertaken as part of the work of developing a strategy makes clear the challenges in housing, accommodation, and homes in Surrey, with advisors describing the situation as a crisis. While recognising the sovereign responsibilities and service responsibilities for Housing and Planning of other

organisations, the strategy sets out a 'Call to Government' and a 'Call to Action' to which everyone involved in housing in Surrey is encouraged to contribute.

## **B. RE-MODELLING THE STRATEGIC SHORT BREAKS OFFER FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES AND/OR AUTISM**

Cabinet was asked to approve the proposal to re-model the Council's Strategic Short Breaks offer by working with the market to ensure a more diverse Short Breaks offer. The Council's Short Breaks offer needed modernising to provide modern fit for purpose overnight accommodation for residents. Through modernising and remodelling the council will provide a more diverse offer of support in the community, ensuring equity of access for individuals with eligible needs and employing a strengths-based approach that promotes the independence of our residents.

### ***It was AGREED:***

1. That Cabinet approves the proposal to re-model the Council's Strategic Short Breaks offer by working with the market to ensure a more diverse Short Breaks offer.
2. That Cabinet grants approval to proceed with the design and construction of Short Breaks accommodation at two identified sites in Reigate and Banstead and Woking within the capital funding envelope set out in Part 2 of this paper. The sites are as follows:
  - Lakers, Denton Way, Goldsworth Park, Woking, GU21 3LG
  - The Squirrels, The Horseshoe, Banstead, SM7 2BQ
3. That Cabinet confirms approval to procure a developer to construct the new Short Breaks accommodation and delegates approval to award the contract, (including any associated changes related to the contract, once it has been awarded to ensure that it continues to meet the objectives related to this report) and manage the developments within the agreed capital funding envelope to:
  - The Director of Land and Property in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Property and Waste.
  - The Joint Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Integrated Commissioning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health.

### **Reasons for decisions:**

To promote Carers' wellbeing and enable them to have a break from their caring responsibility, but still be able to support the individual to live at home.

To enable residents with learning disabilities and/or autism who meet the Council's eligibility criteria for Adult Social Care (ASC) funding to have their need for overnight Short Breaks met in a modern, fit for purpose setting with all the necessary facilities and amenities.

To promote the independence of Surrey residents with learning disabilities and/or autism and enable them to remain in their family homes and connected to their local community.

To ensure that together with our partners we develop a range of options that improve outcomes and support for individuals and their families when offering a short break.

To make an essential contribution towards the Council's strategic objective to tackle health inequality, in line with the 2030 Community Vision for Surrey.

### **C. FUTURE BUS NETWORK REVIEW AND LOCAL BUS SERVICE INVESTMENT**

In considering the need to adapt and change certain bus services, planned investment to grow patronage and plans to expand Digital Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT), the Council completed a comprehensive consultation exercise that enabled residents and stakeholders to have their say on investment in infrastructure, maintaining or changing bus services to better reflect use and more DDRT services. The report set out the process and outcome of the consultation, with more than 2,600 responses received, which were used to shape the recommendations and way forward.

#### ***It was AGREED:***

1. That Cabinet notes the response to the public and stakeholder consultation.
2. That Cabinet agrees the proposed changes to the public bus network as set out in Annex B, with service changes to be implemented at the start of the new academic year in September 2023.
3. That Cabinet agrees the recommended priority areas for capital investment to support bus services and help grow bus patronage.
4. That Cabinet agrees the recommended areas for expansion of new Digital Demand Responsive Transport services in 2023 as set out in Annex C.
5. That Cabinet agrees the process and timescales for updating the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and Enhanced Partnership Scheme and agree that the approval and submission of the Bus Service Improvement Plan to Government be delegated to the Director of Highways and Transport in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth.
6. That Cabinet agrees that the decision to award contracts for local bus services and Digital Demand Responsive Transport services is delegated to the Director, Highways and Transport, following discussion with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth, and the Council's Section 151 Officer.

#### **Reasons for decisions:**

The public consultation has helped shape the bus service changes proposed in Annex B. These changes are necessary to ensure the network is financially sustainable and has responded to changed travel patterns, particularly in areas where passenger numbers are unlikely to ever recover to pre-pandemic levels. The financial review of bus services also meets the Department for Transport's (DfT) requirement for accessing the extension of Covid bus recovery funding. The Council is committed to supporting local bus services and has increased revenue

support for service delivery and capital investment to improve their operational effectiveness and efficiency.

The public consultation has also helped shape our proposed investment in bus infrastructure. It demonstrated that resident support for investment in buses is high, showing that people value bus services and that targeting investment will aid patronage growth.

The Council's previous Bus Service Improvement Plan, published in 2021, set out a desire to expand our Digital Demand Responsive Transport offer, learning from the successful Mole Valley Connect scheme funded from the DfT's Rural Mobility Fund. This report sets out proposals for new DDRT schemes shaped by consultation feedback, including the need to promote new schemes and the flexibility they offer residents.

All Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) are required to review their BSIPs annually. The DfT agreed that the Council's BSIP refresh could be undertaken once the public consultation was complete, enabling the views and suggestions of residents and stakeholders to be included in the BSIP review. This report sets out the BSIP refresh process, with a submission to date at the end of May 2023.

Following the Future Bus Network Review and the consideration of consultation responses, coupled with ongoing dialogue with bus operators, the Council needs to tender the services proposed for change, along with retender of a number of contracts that were extended during the pandemic. New contracts will be awarded following a procurement process in line with the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Procurement and Contracts Standing Orders.

**At its meeting on 25 April 2023 Cabinet considered:**

**D. TRANSFORMATION OF ACCOMMODATION WITH CARE AND SUPPORT FOR WORKING AGE ADULTS: DELIVERY STRATEGY FOR MODERNISING AND TRANSFORMING ACCOMMODATION WITH SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS**

Cabinet was asked to approve the delivery strategy for the Accommodation with Care and Support (AwCS) Programme for Mental Health and approve all five sites for new Supported Independent Living accommodation.

***It was AGREED:***

1. That Cabinet endorses the direction of travel for the Surrey County Council People Strategy 2023-2028.

**Reasons for decisions:**

Tackling health inequality and empowering our communities are two 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 misuse, unemployment, poor physical health, that create and/or worsen health inequality. The mental

health system in Surrey is under great stress and is struggling to manage the demands made upon it.

The mental health AwCS programme will contribute to tackling health inequality and empowering our communities by making sure no one is left behind. It will enable a strong focus on prevention and addressing services gaps, alongside improving outcomes for people with mental health needs. It will achieve this by focusing on three specific areas: a place to call home, support to recover, and short-term support.

The mental health AwCS programme will contribute to 'The Housing, Homes and Accommodation Strategy for Surrey' by ensuring that the council and partners are delivering the SIL needed for our residents.

Approving the sites in principle for mental health SIL, which are part of the council's current estate portfolio, will allow us to re-use or optimise existing freehold assets.

## **E. REIGATE FIRE STATION - REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

Cabinet was asked to approve the redevelopment of Reigate Fire Station to address and mitigate constraints to the service provided by the Surrey Fire Rescue Service (SFRS) and health and safety issues for SFRS operational crews and staff. Approving the investment and the proposal recommended in this report will allow SFRS to improve and enhance its service and ability to best protect the lives of Surrey residents.

### ***It was AGREED:***

1. That Cabinet approves capital funding from the pipeline to redevelop the Reigate SFRS site to design and construct a new fire station on the existing site. The capital funding required to develop the new facilities is commercially sensitive at this time and is set out in the Part 2 report.
2. That Cabinet approves procurement of appropriate supply chain partners to deliver the design, build and fit out of the new structures in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Standing Orders.
3. That Cabinet notes that, regarding the procurement of supply chain partners, the Executive Director for Resources and the Director of Land and Property are authorised to award such contracts, up to +5% of the budgetary tolerance level.

### **Reasons for Decisions:**

It is essential to redevelop Reigate Fire Station in order to:

- Address and mitigate constraints the current building presents to SFRS, its service and the personnel based in the fire station.
- House the new, larger fire appliances used by SFRS.

- Improve the health and safety provision and welfare facilities for SFRS staff.

## **F. GODSTONE DEPOT – REDEVELOPMENT**

Cabinet was asked to approve the redevelopment of Godstone Depot to ensure that Surrey County Council's Highways and Transport Service has fit for purpose, year-round facilities with a long-term operational lifespan to deliver its critical service maintaining Surrey's roads for safer travel across the county for residents, businesses and visitors.

### ***It was AGREED:***

1. That Cabinet approves capital funding from the pipeline to redevelop the Godstone Depot site to design and construct a new working and operational facilities on the existing site. The capital funding required to develop the new facilities is commercially sensitive at this time and is set out in the Part 2 report.
2. That Cabinet approves procurement of appropriate supply chain partners to deliver the design, build and fit out of the new structures in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Standing Orders.
3. That Cabinet notes that, regarding the procurement of supply chain partners, the Executive Director for Resources and the Director of Land and Property are authorised to award such contracts, up to +5% of the budgetary tolerance level.

### **Reasons for Decisions:**

It is essential to redevelop Godstone Depot in order to:

- Enable the Service to improve and enhance its critical front-line function, supporting the county's economy by enabling safer travel for Surrey's road users.
- Provide fit for purpose, long-term facilities for the Highways and Transport Service and its partners to deliver its critical services and statutory duties to maintain the county's roads, including gritting during winter weather.
- Improve the working, operational and health and safety environments for Highways and partner staff based at Godstone Depot.

## **G. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 4 February 2023 - 12 May 2023**

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.

***The Cabinet RECOMMENDS that the County Council notes that there have been NO urgent decisions in the last three months.***

**Tim Oliver, Leader of the Council  
12 May 2023**

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