

County Council Meeting – 12 December 2023

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 31 October 2023 and 28 November 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 16. 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 11 December 2023).

For members of the public all non-confidential reports are available on the web site (www.surreycc.gov.uk) or on request from Democratic Services.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS

A. COORDINATED ADMISSIONS SCHEME FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 (as set out in the Cabinet paper from 28 November 2023)

1. That Cabinet RECOMMENDS that County Council approves the coordinated admissions scheme for 2025 in accordance with the requirements of the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Coordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations and the School Admissions Code at its meeting on 12 December 2023.

Reasons for decisions:

- The coordinated admissions scheme for 2025 is essentially the same as 2024 with dates updated
- There is just one point of clarification in paragraph 3 of the primary and secondary scheme (pages 3 and 9 of Annex 1), but this does not alter current practice
- The coordinated admissions scheme will enable the County Council to meet its statutory duties regarding school admissions
- The coordinated admissions scheme is working well
- The Local Authority has a statutory duty to publish its coordinated admissions scheme for 2025 by 1 January 2024
- The proposed scheme meets the statutory requirements of the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Coordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 and the School Admissions Code

At its meeting on 31 October 2023 Cabinet considered:

B. SURREY CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE STRATEGY

Cabinet was asked to approve the Surrey Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Strategy which would help Surrey County Council and partners manage climate impacts and risks in a more efficient and coordinated manner.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet approve the Surrey Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Strategy.

Reasons for decisions:

The impacts of climate change are already being felt across Surrey and will worsen in the coming years. The Surrey Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Strategy “Surrey Adapt” sets out Surrey’s collective approach to avoiding, reducing and adapting to these increasing risks. This includes planning for and adapting to: floods; droughts and water insecurity; heatwaves and prolonged changes in temperature extremes; wildfires; and other potential knock-on impacts of climate change on human health, disease burden, impacts on infrastructure and the natural environment.

C. LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP) INTEGRATION

From 1 April 2024, the Government will cease providing funding to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and the functions previously held by LEPs will transfer to Upper Tier Local Authorities. The report set out the key implications for the council, proposes a set of principles to guide the approach to LEP integration, and outlines the steps being taken to put the council in a strong position to take advantage of these new functions to deliver improved outcomes more effectively for local businesses and residents.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet welcome the announcement from government regarding the transition of LEP responsibilities; that will provide a single economic vision and enable the Surrey-wide provision of business support and economic growth activities and services.
2. That Cabinet approve the adoption and application of the proposed principles that will guide the council’s approach to the integration of LEP functions, as set out in paragraph 12.
3. That Cabinet approve the approach outlined for the LEP integration process and engagement with key partners and stakeholders.

4. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director responsible for Economic Growth to lead the negotiation and integration process, in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member.
5. That Cabinet receive a further report on the integration of LEP functions before 1 April 2024.

Reasons for decisions:

To bring the significant strategic decision of the government and its consequent implications and opportunities to the attention of Cabinet and to ensure a smooth and effective approach to the transfer and integration of LEP functions for Surrey into the County Council.

D. CONVERGENT SCREEN TECHNOLOGIES AND PERFORMANCE IN REALTIME (COSTAR): DRIVING INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY IN THE UK'S SCREEN AND PERFORMANCE INDUSTRIES - CAPITAL FUNDING APPROVAL

Cabinet was asked to approve a one-off £3m (plus a SCC held contingency of £0.3m) capital contribution to a successful CoSTAR (Convergent Screen Technologies and Performance in Realtime) National Lab grant application. This will co-fund a Satellite Studio and Incubator Space in Surrey.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet note the significant economic and social benefits of the CoSTAR Satellite Studio and Incubator Space as set out in the report, achieved through the County Council's proposed capital contribution,
2. That Cabinet approve the transfer of £3.3m from the CoSTAR pipeline to capital budget for a £3m contribution to the construction of the CoSTAR Satellite Studio and Incubator Space and a SCC held contingency of £0.3m.

Reasons for decisions:

The CoSTAR Satellite Studio and Incubator Space proposed to be co-funded by the County Council will directly contribute to achieving the Council's strategic priority of *Growing a Sustainable Economy from which everyone can benefit* through the economic outcomes it will deliver for Surrey. These include: c300 jobs created over 6 years with a 10-year NPV net GVA contribution of £29.6m (including construction jobs) to Surrey's economy; 200 businesses assisted including incorporating 10 new start-ups; 10 relocating businesses and 180 businesses supported through the CoSTAR programme. These outcomes have been agreed with Royal Holloway University of London (RHUL) and will be monitored through a benefits realisation project management process (see Risk Management Section below).

Other social and non-financial benefits arising from CoSTAR include practical application of immersive technologies in service provision that will enable wider participation, especially for hard-to-reach groups, which aligns with the Council's

underlying principle of *No One Left Behind*. For example, the potential to expand the libraries' service ongoing work to bring Virtual Reality into Surrey's libraries from Autumn 2023. CoSTAR will also contribute to Surrey's Skills Plan objectives, for example, enabling collaboration between skills providers, businesses, and anchor institutions and leveraging createch skills development through the Local Skills Improvement Fund and Skills Bootcamp funding opportunities.

At its meeting on 28 November 2023 Cabinet considered:

E. 2024/25 DRAFT BUDGET AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY TO 2028/29

The Council has a statutory duty to set a balanced budget in advance of each financial year. The report and the 2024/25 Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2028/29 set out progress towards delivering a balanced budget.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet note the 2024/25 Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2028/29, including progress to date in setting out spending pressures and efficiencies, as set out in Annex A.
2. That Cabinet note the provisional budget gap of £13.5m for 2024/25 and the next steps required to close the gap.
3. That Cabinet note the proposed Draft Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2028/29 of £1.9bn set out in Section 6 of the report and Annex B
4. That Cabinet note the summary of Resident Engagement and next steps set out in Section 9 of the report.

Reasons for decisions:

In January 2024, Cabinet will be asked to recommend a Final Budget for 2024/25 to full Council for approval in February. The draft budget sets out proposals to direct available resources to support the achievement of the Council's corporate priorities, balanced against a challenging financial environment, giving Cabinet the opportunity to comment on the proposals and next steps.

The draft budget also provides an update on the Council's SWITCH (Surrey Way, Innovation, Transformation and Change) programme, setting out the medium to long term portfolio of redesign and transformational change that will enable greater financial sustainability for the Council.

F. CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRESS ASSESSMENT 2022/23

The report set out the achievements that had been made in supporting residents and businesses to reduce their carbon emissions in line with the net zero 2050 target, as well as the progress made to date on the Council's net zero 2030 target, up to the end of March 2023.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet note the findings and approve the key areas of focus for next year as well as the approach to mitigate the evident shortfalls as set out in the conclusions.

Reasons for decisions:

Part of the council's net-zero commitments is to produce an annual report; synthesising a substantial amount of national and local data to ensure we understand if carbon emissions are reducing in line with the net-zero targets. Whilst the scope has not changed, the progress report identifies where we need to focus our attention to address the most challenging areas and ensure the Delivery Plan is as impactful and cost effective as possible.

G. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 3 October 2023 - 4 December 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 TWO urgent decisions since the last Cabinet report to Council.

1. SEND and AP Capital Programme project budgets: Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning Decisions, 28 November 2023.
2. Local Area SEND Inspection Report: Cabinet Special Meeting, 11 December 2023.

**Tim Oliver, Leader of the Council
4 December 2023**

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