

County Council Meeting – 9 July 2024

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 25 June 2024.

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 meeting above have been included within the original agenda at Item 13. 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 8 July 2024).

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. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN (as set out in the Cabinet paper from 25 June 2024)

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet RECOMMENDS that the County Council approves the 2024/25 Youth Justice Plan.

Reasons for decisions:

An annual youth justice plan is a statutory requirement for local authorities. This plan has been prepared following national guidance from the Youth Justice Board. Annual youth justice plans are an opportunity to review performance and developments over the last twelve months and plan for the next year. This allows services to be able to respond to any changes that have taken place in the previous year, including new legislation, demographic changes, delivery of key performance indicators, and developments in service delivery. The planning and production of a youth justice plan is beneficial to partnership working and service delivery to ensure the best outcomes for children.

The overarching vision for Surrey County Council's Children, Families and Lifelong Learning directorate is 'to support families and enable children and young people to be and feel safe, healthy and make good choices about their wellbeing'. We aim to ensure that Surrey's children and families have access to a range of services that tackle inequalities, support independence and enhance lives. This ethos is the foundation for the youth justice plan, which also supports the Council's 'No One Left Behind' commitment to Surrey residents, the wider 'The Surrey Way' objectives, and the Council's strategy for children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health.

B. SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2024

It was AGREED:

- 1. That Cabinet RECOMMENDS that the County Council approves the School Organisation Plan 2024.

Reasons for decisions:

The School Organisation Plan is a key document used by schools and education stakeholders in considering medium- and long-term plans. Sufficiency of high-quality school places is a key statutory duty and underpins a great education for all and therefore, it is necessary to review the plan to ensure that the best and most up to date information is published for use in this process. This will encourage collaborative and collegiate planning and will provide greater transparency and understanding to local communities.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

At its meeting on 25 June 2024 Cabinet considered:

C. DELIVERING FOR SURREY THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

This report set out an overview of the strategic partnerships across Surrey and their governance, which drives, aligns and enables the delivery of the ambitions for people and place in Surrey, as set out in the Community Vision for Surrey 2030.

It was AGREED:

- 1. Note the convening and facilitating role Surrey County Council has played in developing co-ordinated, and aligned Surrey-wide, collaborative leadership to deliver the Community Vision for Surrey 2030.
- 2. Note the implications for strategic partnerships of the devolution of certain Government functions to the County Council through the County Deal framework, in particular in relation to the economy, skills and the environment.
- 3. Approve the proposed changes to the strategic partnerships’ governance arrangements set out and the ongoing role of the County Council in them.

Reasons for decisions:

In light of recent changes in national policies, including the devolution of functions and responsibilities to the County Council, it is proposed that a number of refinements are made to the county-wide strategic partnership boards. This report sets out those proposed changes and invites Cabinet to endorse them, in order that the boards can continue to play a key role in overseeing progress towards delivering the Community Vision for Surrey 2030 and ensuring the alignment of partners’ strategic priorities, decisions and resources.

D. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) AND ALTERNATIVE PROVISION (AP) CAPITAL PROGRAMMES AND SPECIALIST SUFFICIENCY TO 2031/32

Cabinet approval was sought to make changes to the planned use of the remaining total Capital Funding available, reaffirmed by Full Council in February 2024 budget setting and reflected as £189m approved budget allocations in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the Council's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Programme and the Alternative Provision (AP) Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2027/28.

It was AGREED:

1. Approves the reprofiling of the total Capital Funding approved by Full Council in February 2024 and reflected as a total of £189m budget in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the Council's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Programme and the Alternative Provision (AP) Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2027/28.
2. Agrees redirection of resources totalling £5.3m from the approved SEND budget allocation of £148.86m to the approved AP budget allocation of £40.09m for 2024/25 to 2027/28, thereby providing £143.6m for the SEND capital budget and £45.4m for the AP capital budget for 2024/25-2027/28 overall. This enables committed and planned SEND and AP programmes delivery within the approved budgets.
3. Approves withdrawal of six planned projects from the SEND Capital Programme which are not affordable within the 2024/25-2027/28 budget allocation for SEND capital.
4. Agrees to the acceptance of capital liabilities for the new 150 place Special Free School awarded to the Council by the Secretary of State for Education on 13 May 2024 to be funded and delivered by the Department for Education by 2028/29, and addition of four new 20 place specialist Resourced Provisions in maintained mainstream secondary schools and academies ('Centres') which are affordable within the 2024/25-2027/28 budget allocation for SEND capital.
5. Approves the delegation of authority to allocate resources from the approved SEND and AP Capital budgets required for individual projects to the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning, following Capital Property Panel's (CPP) financial scrutiny and endorsement. This is in line with Full Council approved amended Financial Regulations from March 2023.
6. Delegates authority to the Section 151 officer, in consultation with the Director of Land and Property, to finalise and approve the terms of all associated legal contracts and agreements to facilitate the recommendations in this paper and approves procurement of the supply chain for the delivery of all associated services required, in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Standing Orders.

Reasons for decisions:

- Continued investment in the Council's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Programme and the Alternative Provision (AP) Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2027/28 delivery tranches will generate a positive impact on outcomes for Surrey resident children with complex additional needs and disabilities, as well as improving the Council's financial sustainability. This is aligned with Surrey's partnership Inclusion and Additional Needs strategy, Safety Valve Agreement with the Department of Education and local area post-inspection improvement plans.
- The 33 remaining committed and planned SEND capital projects and five AP capital projects that are proposed to progress are business critical to ensure Surrey County Council (the Council) discharges its statutory duties under Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999, Sections 13 and 14 of the Education Act 1996 and Part 27 Section 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014.
- The additional capital liabilities for the proposed new special free school, four new mainstream secondary age specialist Centres and confirmed cost increases against 15 committed and planned SEND capital projects and five AP capital projects are affordable within the total Capital Funding approved by Full Council in February 2024 and reflected as a total of the £189m budget in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the Council's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Programme and the Alternative Provision (AP) Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2027/28.
- As all project budgets are above the current threshold for £1m, Cabinet's delegated authority is required to enable the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning to approve budgets and allocate resources from the approved Capital budget allocations for the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Programme and the Alternative Provision (AP) Capital Programme to individual projects following Capital Programme Panel (CPP) scrutiny and endorsement of financial business cases.
- To that end, agreement is sought for the proposed change to scope and use of defined resources to enable project progression against the Procurement Forward Plan, so that committed and planned capital projects' contracts can be awarded to facilitate target delivery timescales between 2024/25 and 2027/28.

E. 2023/24 OUTTURN FINANCIAL REPORT

This report set out Surrey County Council's 2023/24 financial performance for revenue and capital, including the year-end Treasury Management and debt outturn position.

It was AGREED:

1. That Cabinet notes the Council's revenue and capital positions for the year.
2. That Cabinet approves the drawdown of £2.8m from the Budget Equilisation Reserve to fund the overspend position and offset the impact on the General Fund Balance.
3. That Cabinet approves capital carry forwards of £39.2m. £15.9m is requested to be carried forward into the 24/25 capital programme, with the remaining £23.3m in 2025/26.

Reasons for decisions:

This report is to comply with the agreed policy of providing a monthly budget monitoring report to Cabinet for information and approval of any necessary actions.

F. QUARTERLY REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY ARRANGEMENTS: 14 May 2024 – 2 July 2024

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 has been no urgent decision since the last Cabinet report to Council.

**Tim Oliver OBE, Leader of the Council
2 July 2024**

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