

## COUNTY COUNCIL

### COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING –6 MARCH 2007

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of the County Council held at the County Hall, Kingston upon Thames on Tuesday 6 March 2007 commencing at 10:00am, the Council being constituted as follows:

Mr David Davis – Chairman  
Mrs Angela Fraser DL – Vice-Chairman

- |   |                                |   |                                    |
|---|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| * | Mr Victor Agarwal              | * | Mr R A N Lowther                   |
|   | Mrs Mary Angell (left 10.55am) |   | Mr Ernest Mallett                  |
|   | Mr Timothy Ashton              |   | Mrs Sally Ann B Marks              |
|   | Mr Cyril Baily                 |   | Mr Geoff Marlow                    |
|   | Mr W D Barker OBE              |   | Mr Peter Martin                    |
|   | Ian Beardsmore                 |   | Mrs Jan Mason                      |
|   | Mr Mike Bennison               |   | Mrs D M Mitchell                   |
|   | Mr Laurie Burrell              |   | Mrs Marsha J Moseley               |
|   | Mr Fred Chipperfield           |   | Mr D J Munro                       |
|   | Mrs Helyn Clack                |   | Marian Myland                      |
|   | Mrs Carol Ann Coleman          |   | Mr Maurice D Neighbour             |
|   | Mrs Elizabeth Compton          |   | Mike Nevins                        |
| * | Mr Stephen Cooksey             | * | Tim Oliver                         |
|   | Mr Andrew Crisp                | * | Eddie Owen                         |
|   | Frank Davies                   |   | Mr Alan Peirce                     |
|   | Sarah Jane Di Caprio           |   | Mr Nigel Petrie MBE                |
|   | Mr Terry Dicks                 |   | Mr Tom Phelps-Perry                |
|   | Mr John Doran                  |   | Chris Pitt                         |
|   | Mr John Farmer                 |   | Dr Andrew Povey                    |
|   | Mr Chris Frost                 |   | Mr Kenneth Rimington               |
| * | Mrs Pat Frost                  |   | Mr Tony Rooth                      |
|   | Mr David Goodwin               |   | Mrs Dorothy Ross-Tomlin            |
|   | Mr Michael Gosling             |   | Mrs Denise Saliagopoulos           |
|   | Dr Lynne Hack                  |   | Mrs Lavinia Sealy                  |
|   | Tim Hall                       |   | Mrs Pauline Searle                 |
|   | Mrs K Hammond                  |   | Mr N W Skellett                    |
|   | Mr Simon Harding               |   | Chris Slyfield                     |
|   | Mr David Harmer                |   | Mrs Diana Smith                    |
|   | Mr Nick Harrison               |   | Mr James E Smith OBE               |
|   | Ms Marisa Heath                |   | Jean Smith                         |
|   | Mr Peter Hickman               |   | Mrs Christine Stevens              |
|   | Mrs M A Hicks                  |   | Mr Shamas Tabrez                   |
|   | Mr David Hodge                 |   | Mr Roy Taylor (left 3pm)           |
|   | Mr David Ivison                |   | Mr Colin Taylor                    |
|   | Mr Daniel Kee (left 2.45pm)    |   | Mrs Val Tinney                     |
|   | Frances King                   | * | Denise Turner                      |
|   | Mr Ian R Lake                  |   | Mrs Hazel V A Watson               |
|   | Mr Peter Langham               |   | Mrs Fiona White                    |
|   | Yvonna Lay                     |   | Mrs Elise S Whiteley (left 2.20pm) |

\*absent

19/07 **MINUTES (ITEM 1)**

The Minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 6 February 2007 were submitted, confirmed and signed.

20/07 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM 2)**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Agarwal, Mr Cooksey, Mrs Frost, Mr Lowther, Mr Owen, Mrs Turner and Mrs Stevens.

21/07 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (ITEM 3)**

The Chairman informed Members that there would be a seminar on the Policy & Performance policy development programme on the rising of Council.

22/07 **DECLARATION OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS (ITEM 4)**

- (a) Mrs Coleman declared a personal interest in Surrey's Admissions Arrangements for September 2008 for County & Voluntary Controlled Schools (item 11) because her son would be transferring to secondary school in September 2008 and she was also a member of the Admissions Forum.
- (b) Mrs Compton declared a personal interest in Surrey's Admissions Arrangements for September 2008 for County & Voluntary Controlled Schools (item 11) because she was a governor of Park School.
- (c) Ms Heath declared a personal interest in Surrey's Admissions Arrangements for September 2008 for County & Voluntary Controlled Schools (item 11) because she was a governor of Englefield Green Infants School.
- (d) Mr Munro declared a personal interest in Surrey's Admissions Arrangements for September 2008 for County & Voluntary Controlled Schools (item 11) because he was a governor of Weydon School.
- (e) Dr Povey declared a personal interest in the original motion (item 9) because he was a director of a company that supplied care staff under contract to Surrey County Council.
- (f) Mr Rimington declared a personal interest in Surrey's Admissions Arrangements for September 2008 for County & Voluntary Controlled Schools (item 11) because he was a governor of both Lingfield Primary and Oxted Schools.

- (g) Mrs Searle declared a personal interest in Surrey's Admissions Arrangements for September 2008 for County & Voluntary Controlled Schools (item 11) because she was a governor of Christ's College.
- (h) Mr Skellett declared a personal interest in Surrey's Admissions Arrangements for September 2008 for County & Voluntary Controlled Schools (item 11) because he was a governor of Oxted School.
- (i) Mrs Watson declared a personal interest in Surrey's Admissions Arrangements for September 2008 for County & Voluntary Controlled Schools (item 11) because she was a governor of Ashcombe School.
- (j) Mrs White declared a personal interest in Surrey's Admissions Arrangements for September 2008 for County & Voluntary Controlled Schools (item 11) because she was a governor of King's College, Guildford.
- (k) Mr Martin declared a personal interest in the Report of the Executive – paragraph A – The Future Strategy for the Delivery of Adult & Community Learning (item 10) because he had recently become a member of the Learning & Skills Council.
- (l) Mr Baily declared a personal interest in questions 1 & 2 to the Surrey Police Authority (item 6) because he was the Chairman of his local Police Community Partnership Group.

23/07 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (ITEM 5)**

Notice of 16 questions had been received. The questions and replies are attached as Appendix A.

A number of supplementary questions were asked and a summary of the main points is set out below:

**(Q3) Mrs Watson** asked the Executive Member for the Environment for a breakdown of the £96,962,324 PFI credits received to date and whether this money had been used by the council for waste related activities only. She was promised a written response to this query.

**(Q4) Mr Beardsmore** asked the Executive Member for the Environment for both the total spend to date and the end date for employing consultants who represented the County Council at the recent Examination in Public of the Surrey Waste Plan. He was advised that he would receive a written response to his question.

**(Q6) Mr Ashton** asked the Executive Member for Transport whether EDF would replace all damaged lamp columns in Ashtead. He was advised, by the Executive Member that she was committed to improving working relations with EDF which she would report to Council in due course, together with an update on the PFI Street Lighting contract. She also informed Mr Ashton that it was not EDF that replaced lamp columns.

**(Also, Q6) Mr J Smith** requested that the contractors provided a target date for removal of old lamp columns.

**(Also, Q6) Mr C Taylor** asked whether similar criteria applied to lamp columns on footways or paths because he had a problem in his division. The Executive Member for Transport agreed to investigate further when she received the exact details from Mr Taylor.

**(Q7) Mrs Diana Smith** asked the Executive Member for Transport who had authorised the press release on flooding and was informed that it had been authorised by the Executive Member.

**(Q10) Mr Phelps-Penry** asked the Executive Member for Transport, who was not prepared to say until the decision concerning the Coway Sale junction was finalised, whether 'interested parties' included residents and the people who represent them.

**(Also, Q10) Mrs Hicks** expressed concern that the funds allocated by the Regional Transport Board for Walton Bridge may be lost if agreement to the revised proposals required for the scheme were not obtained as a matter of urgency.

**(Also, Q10) Mr Lake** asked for clarification from the Executive Member for Transport, who confirmed, that it was only the design of the approaches to the Bridge and not the actual Bridge design that were being revised.

**(Q11 & Q12) Mr Goodwin** considered that 54 vacancies within the Transportation Service was high and said that he considered that 3 re-organisations of the service within 2 years was one of the contributory factors to its current problems. He asked the Executive Member for Transport if she could assure him that there would be no further re-organisations of this service. She said that she would continue to work to improve the service so could not give an undertaking that there would be no future changes.

**(Also, Q11) Dr Povey** requested that the Executive Member for Transport circulated monthly updates on staffing levels in the

Transportation Service to all Local Committee Chairmen – she agreed.

**(Also, Q11) Mrs Hicks** asked the Executive Member for Transport why the PFI Street Lighting contract was not finalised and was informed that the Government was responsible for the delay.

**(Also, Q11) Mr Hodge** asked the Executive Member for Transport why there were still 22 posts yet to be advertised when assurances had been given last November that the service would recruit up to its establishment number. The Executive Member for Transport responded by stating that the Leader of the Council would make a statement on Highways Issues later in the meeting, which would hopefully address Mr Hodge's query.

**(Q14) Mrs Watson** asked the Executive Member for Support Services what action was being taken to reduce the number of agency staff employed by the council for more 8 months. She was informed that, over the last 12 months, the number had reduced significantly and in some cases employing agency staff could be cost effective because no on-costs were incurred.

**(Q15) Mrs Searle** said that she had reports of staff working in excess of 350 hours over the contracted hours last year and asked the Executive Member for Support Services whether there was any monitoring of working excessive hours. She was informed that this issue was taken seriously and the Council appreciated the dedication of staff and that managers were trained to manage their staff sensitively.

**(Q16) Mr Petrie** asked the Executive Member for Support Services whether it was fair that consultants, who have been widely employed, were deciding the future of sensitive land without any consultation with Members or local residents. He was advised that he would receive a reply outside the meeting.

**(Also, Q16) Mrs Jean Smith** asked for assurance that Grafton Stables, Worcester Park and North Looe, Ewell would be protected in the same way as Northey Estate. The Executive Member for the Environment confirmed that the County Council would continue to seek to protect the Green Belt.

## 24/07 **SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY (ITEM 6)**

Notice of 3 questions had been received for the Police Authority. The questions and replies are attached as Appendix A.

A number of supplementary questions were asked and a summary of the main points is set out below:

**(Q1&Q2) Dr Povey** asked the Chairman of the Police Authority to confirm that the termination of the Police Community Partnership Groups was not a funding issue and also asked how the County Council would be involved in any new arrangements.

**(Also, Q1&Q2) Mr Harrison** asked for assurance that the changes would be fully communicated to both Members and the public.

**(Q3) Dr Povey** did not consider that he had received a reply to his question and asked the Chairman of the Police Authority to provide the number and percentage of recorded incidents that are not recorded as a crime. He was promised this information outside the meeting.

**[Note: As there was a large amount of public interest in the Statement from Members (Item 8) and Surrey's Admissions Arrangements for September 2008 for County & Voluntary Controlled Schools (item 11), these items were taken next.]**

25/07      **STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS (ITEM 8)**

Notice of two statements had been received from Members:

- Mr Barker – on current and future issues regarding how children are allocated places in his division.
- Mr Farmer – on Waverley Alzheimers

26/07      **SURREY'S ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2008 FOR COUNTY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS (ITEM 11)**

The views and recommendations of the Executive on Surrey's Admission Arrangements for September 2008, for County and Voluntary Controlled Schools, arising from its meeting on 27 February 2007 were circulated as a supplementary report on 1 March 2007. This report is attached at Appendix B to these minutes.

The Executive Member for Schools, Children and Youth Services introduced the report. He also updated Members on the current situation for Admissions to Schools for September 2007.

He informed Members that he was proposing an amendment to the last paragraph of the recommendations of the Executive. This amendment was formally seconded by Mr Skellett and was circulated at the meeting.

The amendment was:

To delete: 'in September 2007' and replace with: 'and Waverley in time for the September 2008 admissions process'

The last paragraph of the recommendation to now read:

'Undertake a review of local arrangements in Tandridge and Waverley in time for the September 2008 admissions process, utilising data from the first full year of operation and involving Headteachers and Chairs of Governors from all schools involved in local arrangements.'

After a short debate on this amendment, in which 5 Members spoke, Members agreed to support this amendment.

Mrs Diana Smith also proposed an amendment to the fifth point of the recommendations of the Executive. This amendment was seconded by Mrs Watson and was circulated at the meeting.

This amendment proposed including, after 'Schools should adhere to their PAN', the following words:

'unless exceptional circumstances apply or as part of in year 'fair access' protocols or a closing school'

The fifth point of the recommendations would then read:

'Schools should adhere to their PAN unless exceptional circumstances apply or as par year 'fair access' protocols or a closing school'

After the debate on this amendment, in which 12 Members spoke, this amendment was put to the vote with only 12 Members voting for it. It was clearly LOST.

Mr Barker proposed that the report be referred back to the Executive for further consideration. However, the Executive Member for Schools, Children and Youth Services gave an assurance that, in the light of this year's experience, there would be a review of the Admissions arrangements for September 2008 entry and the proposal to refer the item back to the Executive was withdrawn.

Returning to the main debate, a further 15 Members spoke, prior to the recommendations, including the agreed amendment to the last paragraph, being put to the vote, with 47 Members voting for, no Members voting against. 23 Members abstained.

Therefore, it was:

## **RESOLVED:**

That Surrey County Council's admission arrangements for September 2008 are as follows:

The operation of an Equal Preference System, with admissions criteria for the majority of oversubscribed schools as follows:

1. Looked After Children
2. Exceptional Arrangements
3. Siblings
4. Children for whom the school is the nearest
5. Any other applicant

Change to measuring Home to School distances radially/by straight line.

Keep Surrey's Relevant Area as agreed in 2005 unchanged.

Schools should adhere to their PAN

Maintain waiting lists for more than one academic year

Discontinue the pilot scheme for the Acorns and Brockham Schools in Mole Valley.

Keep the Local Admissions Arrangements for Waverley and Tandridge, subject to the points below:

Extend the 'feeder school' criterion to other Waverley schools in the Weyside Confederation to include the following:

Farnham Heath End School  
William Cobbett Junior School  
Hale Primary School  
Potters Gate CE Primary School  
Folly Hill Infant School  
Weybourne Infant School  
Badshot Lea Village Infant School

Extend the Local Arrangements in Tandridge to allow Hamsey Green Infant School to be a 'feeder school' for Hamsey Green Junior School

Undertake a review of the Local Arrangements in Tandridge and Waverley in time for the September 2008 admissions process, utilising data from the first full year of operation and involving Head teachers and Chairs of Governors from all schools involved in the Local Arrangements.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.40pm and resumed at 2.00pm with all those present who had been in attendance in the morning session except for Mr Barker, Mr Bennison, Mr Davies, Mr Dicks, Mrs Hammond, Mrs Moseley, Mr Nevins, Mr Oliver, Mr Petrie, Mr Phelps-Penry, Mr Rooth, Mrs Saliagopoulos and Mr Slyfield.

### **27/07 STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY (ITEM 7)**

A written statement on the work of the Police Authority had been included in the agenda.

### **28/07 NOTICES OF MOTION (ITEM 9)**

Under Standing Order 13.1(a), Mrs Watson moved the notice of the motion standing in her name, which was formally seconded by Mrs Searle, as follows:

‘That the Council takes note that it is incurring high levels of expenditure on agency staff and has high vacancy rates in some frontline services, which is adversely affecting services.’

Mr Burrell proposed an amendment, standing in the name of Mrs Angell, (circulated at the meeting) and formally seconded by Mr Crisp, which was as follows:

The Council takes note that:

- (a) it is incurring expenditure on agency staff and has vacancies in some front line services;
- (b) the Executive is already taking action to reduce the cost of agency staff and, where possible, to replace agency staff with permanent employees;
- (c) without agency staff currently filling vacant positions, service standards would be under threat;
- (d) our staff continue to be dedicated and committed to delivering high quality services for the people of Surrey.

After the debate on the amendment in which 14 Members spoke, the amendment was put to the vote with only 7 Members voting against it. It was clearly carried.

The amendment became the substantive motion and was put to the vote with 7 Members voting against it.

Therefore, it was:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Council takes note that:

- (a) it is incurring expenditure on agency staff and has vacancies in some front line services;
- (b) the Executive is already taking action to reduce the cost of agency staff and, where possible, to replace agency staff with permanent employees;
- (c) without agency staff currently filling vacant positions, service standards would be under threat;
- (d) our staff continue to be dedicated and committed to delivering high quality services for the people of Surrey.

29/07 **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE (ITEM 10)**

Mr Skellett presented the report of the Executive's meetings held on 16 and 30 January 2007.

**(1) Statements/updates from Members**

The Leader of the Council made 2 statements:

- County Champions – a copy of this statement was circulated at the meeting. (Appendix C)
- Highways Services – a copy of this statement was circulated to all Members after the meeting. (Appendix D)

Executive Member for Safer & Stronger Communities - on the Future Strategy for Adult & Community Learning. (This statement was circulated to all Members prior to the meeting, with a covering letter on 1 March 2006 – Appendix E)

**(2) Reports for Information/Discussion**

The following paragraph was received and noted:

- Future Strategy for the Delivery of Adult & Community Learning.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report of the meetings of the Executive held on 16 and 30 January 2007 be adopted.

30/07 **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE (Item 12)**

Mrs Di Caprio gave notice and spoke on the Reports from Select Committees – the Barker Review of Land Use Planning (minute 35/07).

[The meeting ended at 3.15pm]

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Chairman