

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12th February 2019 at Pippbrook, Dorking from 7.00pm to 10.03pm

Present: Councillors Raj Haque (Chairman), Mary Huggins (Vice Chairman), Tim Ashton, Simon Budd, John Chandler, Margaret Cooksey, Stephen Cooksey, Mary Cooper, Joe Crome, Elizabeth Daly, Rosemary Dickson, David Draper, Simon Edge, James Friend, David Harper, David Hawksworth, Chris Hunt, Metin Huseyin, Duncan Irvine, Tracy Keeley, Paul Kennedy, Tim Loretto, Claire Malcomson, Vivienne Michael, David Mir, Wayne Monkman, Richard Moyse, John Muggeridge, Paul Newman, Corinna Osborne-Patterson, Alan Reilly, Garry Stansfield, Michelle Watson, Clayton Wellman, Patricia Wiltshire and Charles Yarwood.

47. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

48. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lynne Brooks, Paul Elderton, Bridget Kendrick, Malcolm Ladell and Emma Norman.

49. Disclosure of Interests

With regard to item 7: the 2019/20 Budget and Council Tax Resolution, recommendation 9: Members allowances, the Council's Monitoring Officer had delegated authority, in consultation with the Independent Person to grant a dispensation where so many Members of the decision-making body had a disclosable pecuniary interest in the matter that it would otherwise "impede the transaction of the business.

The Council's Independent Person had concurred that a dispensation be granted by the Monitoring Officer to all Council Members for the consideration of this matter.

Councillor Margaret Cooksey declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 as the Amber Foundation as this had been her chosen charity when Chairman of the Council.

Councillors Edge, Moyse, Chandler, Kennedy, Daly declared non-pecuniary interests in agenda item 5 as both signatories to the petition and members of the Bookham Residents Association.

Councillor Friend declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 as a trustee of the Westcott Sports Club.

Councillor Stephen Cooksey declared a non-pecuniary interest in motions 12/2019, 13/2019 and 14/2019 as member of Surrey County Council.

50. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised that since the last Council meeting he had attended a number of events throughout the District.

Of particular note, were numerous festive events including meeting the staff at the Royal Mail sorting office in Leatherhead, a Carol Service at Dorking Hospital and a Christmas event at the All Saints Coffee Shop run by the Leatherhead Youth Project.

The Chairman hosted the Council's Long Service Awards, recognising the dedication of several staff reaching the milestone of officers reaching 20, 30 or 40 years' service to Mole Valley.

One of the recent highlights of the Civic year was a visit to Sinalunga in Tuscany with the Dorking Town Twinning Association where the Chairman signed the declaration twinning our towns.

51. PETITION RECEIVED FROM MR GRANT WOODHAMS OF LITTLE BOOKHAM

The Chairman introduced this item and advised that a petition had been received with 641 signatures in the following terms:

“Royal Mail are willing to conduct a consultation with residents to add 'Great' or 'Little' to the relevant Bookham KT23 postcodes so that our addresses are correct. MVDC have to give their approval for this consultation to take place, and have asked me to create a petition to gauge the level of support for this. Please sign if you support our village being addressed correctly by Royal Mail as 'Great Bookham' and 'Little Bookham'.”

Mr Woodham was in attendance and addressed the Council to explain the reasoning behind the petition.

Councillor Chris Hunt, Cabinet Member for Planning Services and Housing was invited to respond to the petition and gave the following response:

“Thank you Chairman and thank you very much Mr Woodham for both presenting the petition formally to us and for the very informative way in which you have done so. I'm sure we have all learned something about the history and character of the two villages. As I believe you know the Council does have a process that we do have to follow to consider your petition and therefore it will be referred to the scrutiny committee to look at the implications in terms of any logistics and capital expenditure as a result of any changes and then will be referred to the cabinet to make a decision which would then, if in the affirmative, lead to the consultation that you have referred to which would be undertaken by the Post Office. Again thank you very much I understand that your processes obviously obtained a wide number of signatures and I've noted that these are from the populations of the villages so there is obviously a feeling across the two villages on this and I assure you it will be dealt with fairly and efficiently.”

52. POLITICAL BALANCES / FORMATION OF POLITICAL GROUPS / COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS 2018/19

The Chairman of the Council proposed the resolution on pages 2 and 3 of the agenda regarding the amendments to committee memberships as detailed in the previously circulated report, pages 9-10 of the agenda refer. This was seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Vivienne Michael.

It was noted that Councillor Michelle Watson was listed as an independent substitute for the Standards Committee. This would be discussed with Group Leaders and the schedule would be updated accordingly after the meeting.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) that the membership of the political groups on the Council of a Conservative Group of 21, a Liberal Democrat Group of 14 and an informal Independent Group of 6 be noted
- (2) the allocation of seats to the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and informal Independent Groups be on the basis that 25 seats are allocated to the Conservative Group, 16 seats are allocated to the Liberal Democrat Group and 7 seats to the informal Independent Group.
- (3) the proposals submitted by the Leaders of the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and informal Independent Group as shown on pages 9 and 10 of the agenda be approved.

- (4) the principles of proportionality be applied to Committees at such time as they might appoint time limited Sub-Committees and Joint Committees.

53. MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGY 2019-2024

Councillor Charles Yarwood, Cabinet Member for Strategy and Assets, introduced the report on pages 183 to 199 of the agenda and proposed the recommendation. This was seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Vivienne Michael.

It was noted that the report had been considered by the Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet. In response to comments received on the proposed strategy at these committees Councillor Yarwood advised Council that with specific reference to the priority relating to the Environment as set out on page 191 of the report, the second bullet should be amended to read 'promote sustainable development that takes into account social, economic and environmental factors, including **protection** of the Greenbelt.

The Leader advised that as there had been no policy change regarding greenbelt land, it was right to retain the wording from the 2014-2019 strategy.

RESOLVED that: the Mole Valley District Council Strategy 2019-2024 be approved.

54. 2019/20 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

The Council considered the Cabinet's recommendations with regards to the 2018/19 Budget and Council Tax resolution.

Councillor Metin Huseyin proposed and Councillor Vivienne Michael seconded the recommendations as set out on pages 3 and 4 of the agenda.

It was noted that on page CL38 of the agenda, the date of the assessment for the Equalities Impact Assessment should read January 2019.

The Council debated the recommendations in full. A recorded vote was taken in accordance with Standing Order 26.6.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the proposed Budget for 2019/20, as outlined in Appendix A, be set at £9,533,000.
- (ii) That the MVDC element of Band D Council Tax for 2019/20 be set at £178.56, representing a 2.9% increase on 2018/19, in line with the Government announcement that Council Tax can be increased, without triggering a referendum, by up to 3.0%.
- (iii) That the proposed Capital Programme, as outlined in Appendix B, be approved.
- (iv) That the capital grants outlined in Appendix D, Tables 3, and 4 be approved for 2019/20.
- (v) That the budget allocation of the Small Grants Community Fund outlined in Appendix D Table 2 be approved.
- (vi) That the scope of the Small Grants Community Fund be expanded to accept applications for improvements to community buildings up to £5,000.
- (vii) That the Concurrent Service Payments for 2019/20 be noted.
- (viii) That the Section 151 Officer's statement concerning the 2019/20 budget and the medium term financial outlook for the Council be noted.

- (ix) That the level of Members' Allowances increase in-line with the Local Pay Award for Local Government Staff, as recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

N.B. Recorded vote

In favour –36:

Councillors, Tim Ashton, Simon Budd, John Chandler, Margaret Cooksey, Stephen Cooksey, Mary Cooper, Joe Crome, Elizabeth Daly, Rosemary Dickson, David Draper, Simon Edge, James Friend, Raj Haque, David Harper, David Hawsworth, Mary Huggins, Chris Hunt, Metin Huseyin, Duncan Irvine, Tracey Keeley, Paul Kennedy, Tim Loretto, Claire Malcomson, Vivienne Michael, David Mir, Wayne Monkman, Richard Moyse, John Muggeridge, Paul Newman, Corinna Osborne-Patterson, Alan Reilly, Garry Stansfield, Michelle Watson, Clayton Wellman, Patricia Wiltshire and Charles Yarwood

Against – 0

Abstentions – 0

55. MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL PAY POLICY STATEMENT FOR 2018-19 AND GENDER PAY GAP REPORT

Councillor Corinna Osborne-Patterson, Cabinet Member for People and Rural Mole Valley, introduced the report and proposed the recommendations. These were seconded by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Vivienne Michael.

RESOLVED that:

1. the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2018/19 be approved
2. the figures which are to be reported under the Gender Pay Gap legislation be noted.

56. RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE

- (a) Audit Committee: 7th February 2019 - Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20 to 2021/22

Councillor Paul Kennedy, Chairman of the Audit Committee introduced the report and proposed the recommendations.

It was noted that there was a small typographical error within the table headed "Prudential Indicator 4" on page 85 of the agenda. At the bottom of the table, in the left hand column of numbers, headed "2017/18 Actual", the figure should read £5.885 million (not -£5.885 million). The Council noted that the adjustment did not affect the recommendations to Council.

RESOLVED: that

- (i) the Prudential Indicators for 2019/20 to 2021/22 contained within Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 to the main report, and paragraphs 10.8 to 10.9 of Annexe B, (Asset Investment Strategy) be approved;
- (ii) the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement contained within Appendix 2 be approved;
- (iii) the 2019/20 Investment Policy contained in the Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix 3) and the detailed criteria included in Appendix 4 be approved;
- (iv) the Capital Strategy set out at Annexe A be approved;
- (v) the implementation of the Asset Investment Strategy, and the future management arrangements for the property portfolio arising from it, set out at Annexe B be noted.

57. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS

Councillor Metin Huseyin, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Risk, introduced the report and proposed the recommendations.

This was seconded by Councillor Simon Edge, Cabinet Member for Prosperity.

RESOLVED that: the revised Contract Standing Orders set out at Appendix 1 be agreed

58. PROCESS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS 2019-2023

The Chairman of the Council introduced the report and proposed the recommendation. This was seconded by the Vice Chairman of the Council.

RESOLVED that: the process for the appointment of Independent Persons under Section 28(7) of the Localism Act, 2011, for a four year term of office expiring in May 2023 be noted.

59. Leader's Statement

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Vivienne Michael made the following statement:

“We spend a lot of time as Members dealing with those occasions when things go wrong for our residents or the Council's performance is not what it should be – and, of course, it's right that we do that. But it's just as important to acknowledge what we are doing well and those areas in which performance is improving and that's why I want to draw your attention to the recently published Month 9 Performance Indicators. They show:

- Major planning permissions processed within time – up on last year
- Percentage of telecare calls answered within 60 seconds – up on last year
- Households in temporary accommodation – reduced since last year
- Cases of homelessness prevented – up on last year
- Food premises scoring 3 or above on scores on the doors – up on last year
- Satisfaction among day care users – up on last year
- The annual cost of our services – down on last year from £110 per person to £104 per person.

None of this happens by accident – it's the result of lot of hard work by a lot of people and I want to take this opportunity of thanking the officers and teams responsible. But hard work alone isn't enough, particularly in challenging and uncertain times and, as has been referred to during the Budget debate, this Council's willingness to embrace partnership working and innovation have also been key to our success in maintaining and improving services in the face of significant reductions in funding.

The Joint Waste Partnership, shared Environmental Health and the award winning Southern Building Control Partnership are the most high profile examples but joint working is now increasingly common across the Council.

For example, Mole Valley Life is working with the health and voluntary sectors to test new technologies. These include travel training technology to help young adults with learning disabilities become more independent and virtual reality technology that helps reduce stress levels in people with dementia and other disabilities.

Providing efficient and seamless services to our residents is going to rely more and more on this sort of collaboration in the future.

That's why we are now working closely with County and health services on the development of Surrey's new Health and Wellbeing Strategy. At t both officer and Member level we want to ensure that our strengths and our service offer are better understood.

Districts are not formally responsible for public health and we receive no direct public health funding but we are providers of key services with a direct impact on health such as housing, leisure and environmental health. Indeed, three years ago, a report by the King's Fund went so far as to describe districts as the 'sleeping giants of public health'.

In Surrey as elsewhere, this really hasn't been appreciated before but I'm pleased to say that things are changing. Poor housing conditions alone cost the NHS £1.4 billion every year and physical inactivity costs it £7 billion a year, so there's a growing realisation that Mole Valley and other Districts can do a great deal to reduce demand on pressurised services.

The recent "Shaping Healthy Places" report from the District Councils' Network gives some inspiring examples of what Districts are doing to improve their communities' health and wellbeing and I've asked officers to make it available to all Members via Moss.

There will be more collaborative working over the coming months when, supported by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, we launch our Joint Enforcement Team. We will also be working with a range of partners to explore how we can use public land more effectively to create new community facilities to better serve the community in North Leatherhead.

In a Council with Mole Valley's political balance, I believe that delivering the services our residents deserve and expect is going to rely on genuine cross party co-operation too.

Re-equipping the Kingston Road playground; improving the Swan Centre car park; opening a landmark community and football facility in Dorking – these are just some of the things that this coalition Cabinet has been able to achieve because we have put the interests of our residents before politics and there are more listed on the website along with our objectives for the future.

When this Council meets again we will be facing one of our greatest challenges, making critical decisions about our Local Plan. I have said before that, as their democratically elected local representatives, we owe it to our residents to work together responsibly to ensure that these decisions, difficult as they may be, remain in our hands. I think it's worth repeating that message tonight because, make no mistake, the risks of having those decisions taken from us are very real.

Our enhanced programme of engagement means that Members should be well informed about the proposed policies and the different choices before them but that won't be enough – producing a credible Local Plan will also require Members to look at what's happening outside of Mole Valley and be willing to work collaboratively in the interests of the District as a whole. This is about shaping Mole Valley for years to come and, if like me you believe that is best achieved at local level, my theme tonight – working together – will be key.

60. Reports of Cabinet Members

Councillor Corinna Osborne-Patterson (Cabinet Member for People and Rural Mole Valley)

Councillor Corinna Osborne-Patterson updated Council Members as follows:

Rural Summit 2019

The 2019 Mole Valley Rural Summit will be held on the 26th February at Hartsfield Manor, Betchworth. Behind the scenes a flurry of activity has been taking place to make this event a success and provide an opportunity for the community and businesses to network, share ideas and discuss some of the challenges rural mole valley faces. Nicholas Owen will be facilitating the Q & A session promoting debate and discussion.

Businesses and community representatives are coming together from all over Mole Valley to participate ensuring the summit will deliver a thought provoking day. Ticket availability is now limited with the majority of seats having been taken up within the first few weeks.

We want to ensure that the Summit is an inspirational event with some practical learning points and we have secured a number of key speakers who will share their experiences and provide an insight into their success.

The outputs from the Summit will inform service plans going forward, ensuring Mole Valley's services reflect the feedback we receive from our communities and businesses.

Customer Service Strategy update

The new Customer Service Strategy is one of Mole Valley's key strategies looking at improving the experience our residents have when they contact us, promoting digital channels and providing better, more effective and efficient engagement with residents to deliver a better service.

We recently ran an extensive consultation exercise with our residents, customers and communities, engaging and consulting using a range of media channels. We held a drop in session for residents to come and talk to us, visited Parish Councils to talk about customer service and what was important to them, and ran a social media communications exercise to consult across Mole Valley. Residents told us they wanted on line payment facilities that were available at a time of their choice, that services in general should be available to self-serve and that they wanted to receive timely feedback. They also wanted to ensure that, where it was needed, residents could use the phone or come into the offices. The Strategy is due to be launched in April 2019 and includes the implementation of a new CRM system (Customer Relationship System) which will enhance the user experience for our customers, residents and businesses.

New facilities will be provided, which will allow photos and documents to be uploaded; so if a resident spots fly tipping or an abandoned car they can take a photo, upload it to the MV website and a case file will be automatically created. The resident can then choose to be kept updated or not. There are many more new features of the system which will be rolled out over the coming year creating a much better user experience for our residents and enabling the council to run much more efficient services, ultimately leading to cost efficiencies without any cuts in the service residents receive.

Councillor Chris Hunt (Cabinet Member for Planning)

Councillor Chris Hunt updated Council Members as follows:

Benefits

Universal Credit full service rolled out in Mole Valley in October 2018. The Housing Benefits team is working closely with any claimants who need to make new claims or have changes in their circumstances to make sure that they understand the changes and whether they now need to claim Universal Credit rather than Housing Benefit. This however has proved to be more difficult than first expected due to rule changes and exemptions that continue to be introduced, sometimes at short notice, stopping claims for the new benefit.

Day to day the Benefit service continues to provide a quick and efficient service with current performance indicators remaining strong despite the added complexities of Universal Credit. The team continue to support those affected by the wider Welfare Reforms and for the most vulnerable have so far this year paid some £70,000 in the form of Discretionary Housing Payments with a further £18,000 committed until the end of the financial year.

Street Naming and Numbering (SNN) and Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG); Geographical Information System (GIS)

The Planning Support Team's responsibility for these functions is now bedded in and has been absorbed by the Planning Support Deputy Manager successfully taking on the SNN and LLPG

aspects of the role, whilst maintaining his support for the Development Management Technical role. The team has also successfully incorporated the GIS function.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

CIL continues to function very well and we have currently collected £1,921,551.77.

Land Charges

We are currently receiving approximately 15% less Official Local Land Charges searches (fee paying property searches) compared to the same period 12 months ago (a drop of 5% from the last update). Personal searches (who do not pay us a fee for our property data and make up approaching 50% of all searches) are at approximately the same volume as a year ago. We continue to believe that the on-going uncertainty over Brexit is one of the main causes for the slowing down of activity in the property market. The projected Land Charges income for this year is currently £210,000 against a budget of £250,000 (a drop of £10,000 from the last update).

Microfiche Project

The microfiche project to digitise historic planning application files is continuing. Over 90% of the scans have been returned electronically, and more than 60% are now available on the website. This should rise to over 80% by the end of February. There are a number of applications (about 15%) that will need further work due to historic issues with our database, which will be ongoing work. At the end of the project the full planning register (all planning applications from 1948) will be available online, although documents may be available on request only initially due to GDPR concerns.

Building Control (BC)

We have paused work on inputting BC applications into our system as we have found issues with the correlation of data fields being provided by Southern Building Control Partnership. We will soon be meeting with Southern Building Control Partnership (SBCP) to discuss the problems and to stress our requirement that the Partnership must maintain the integrity of its database and to agree how this will be achieved.

61. Questions to Members of the Cabinet

(1) The following question was submitted by Councillor James Friend:

“In late October 2018, through Westcott Village Association, Westcott residents provided the feedback requested by The Council on the two land owner proposed “Modest Extensions” setting out that fewer than a quarter of residents supported development in either site and highlighting that “The Council should exhaust all possible “Brownfield” sites before removing land from the Greenbelt”.

When will Westcott residents be told that their views have been listened to and these two proposals are not being taken forward or included in any future consultations by The Council?”

Councillor David Harper, Cabinet Member for Planning Policy responded as follows:

In its preparation of a new Local Plan, the Council discussed with all rural villages an opportunity for modest expansions, to contribute to sustaining village shops, pubs and community activities. Many villages have lost these facilities and are actively engaging with the Council to modestly extend their village. In general, there are two trends which affect the population of a village:-

- Firstly the average age of the population is gradually getting higher, which reduces the number of dwellings with children.
- Secondly a percentage of dwellings have only one surviving adult.

When both of these are true, the total number of people living in a fixed number of dwellings reduces, closing schools, pubs, village shops and community activities.

Mole Valley upholds the protection of the Green Belt as prescribed by the National Planning Policy Framework, but we also respond to concerns from residents and we want our villages to thrive. With this in mind, the villages were offered an opportunity to expand their villages modestly with appropriate housing.

A number of ideas to enable modest development in Westcott were discussed with Westcott Village Association. We have now received their views, which are published on the Future Mole Valley website, and which will be considered along with other parishes and village associations' views in taking forward the preferred options on modest additions to rural villages. Initial discussions with Local Parish Councils and Village Associations have been illuminating. Many have responded positively but others have expressed concerns about the proposals and we will continue to work with local communities to better understand their concerns and the options available. The Modest Extensions sites will be considered by Members for inclusion in the preferred options consultation in June. Those changes that Members wish to support will be included in the draft Local Plan and published for consultation in late June 2019, in accordance with the Council's agreed timetable.

Councillor James Friend asked a supplemental question as follows, "I note in the response that Councillor Harper hasn't actually answered the question about when Residents' Associations will be told but I think in view of time available this evening we will move on".

Councillor David Harper responded follows, "in late June 2019 Residents' Associations will know, as a result of members deciding, which sites will be included in the consultation documents."

(2) The following question was submitted by Councillor Michelle Watson:

"Section 15 of the revised NPPF now gives greater protection to England's ancient woodlands, such as Great Turners Wood in Beare Green. Please can you tell me how this protection will be incorporated into the local plan and will MVDC be updating its policies to ensure that this greater protection is reflected in our policies?"

Councillor David Harper, Cabinet Member for Planning Policy responded as follows:

"Protection for ancient woodland will be incorporated into the Local Plan through updated policies and land designations that recognise valued habitats and promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of ecological networks."

(3) The following question was submitted by Councillor Stephen Cooksey:

"Towards the end of last year the government launched a £675 million Future High Streets Fund to 'co-fund innovative proposals around transport, housing and public services to help improve infrastructure and access to high streets, put historic buildings back to use and make town centres fit for the future'. What action is the Cabinet taking to access resources from this fund to improve high streets in Mole Valley?"

Councillor Simon Edge, Cabinet Member for Prosperity, responded as follows:

"The question refers to high streets, plural. Mole Valley District Council is only able to nominate one town centre for inclusion in the Future High Streets Fund, the details of which were announced on 26th December 2018. The decision as to which town centre was taken at a meeting of Cabinet on Tuesday 5th February, where Cabinet resolved that Leatherhead should be nominated in the first funding round for the reasons set out in the report to Cabinet. The key factor in favour of Leatherhead was the existence of the Transform Leatherhead Masterplan which squarely fits with the Fund's objectives and evaluation criteria. The Fund operates via a competitive two-stage bidding process, it is expected to be heavily oversubscribed and there is no guarantee that the bid

will be successful. However, community support is one of the key criteria and we are actively seeking and would welcome letters and expressions of support for Leatherhead's inclusion in the Fund from residents, key stakeholders and partner organisations alike.

£55 million of the £675 million Fund has been allocated to the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, in partnership with Historic England and the Architectural Heritage Fund. We understand that £40 million will be allocated to regenerate historic high streets by extending Historic England's Heritage Action Zone initiative. Historic England will work with local authorities, Business Improvement Districts, Chambers of Commerce and others to deliver a four-year programme of physical improvements and cultural activities in historic high streets and town centres around the country. The Heritage Action Zones initiative will run alongside the Transforming Places through a 'Heritage programme' whereby Architectural Heritage Fund advisors will support community schemes to deliver new uses for historic buildings on high streets. We are waiting for further details to be announced."

Councillor Stephen Cooksey asked a supplemental question as follows, "during debate at Cabinet the Cabinet Member indicated that he was contemplating the development of a system to organise a masterplan for Dorking. Wonder if he could tell us who would be involved in that when would it begin and what officer support will be allocated to it."

Councillor Simon Edge replied as follows, "The work has already begun I have had an initial meeting with the Executive Head responsible and as I did outline to SC this morning but I appreciate he has got the question here in front of the other members, we will be talking to all interested groups that we can find within Dorking and its surrounds, that includes local members, the Business Improvement District, Dorking Town Centre Forum, Chamber of Commerce, Local Schools, Clarion Housing Association and any organisation that we feel has a contribution to make to create what we are referring to as a map of opportunity. This will enable us to plot what is out there, what is currently going on, how this interrelates with the council plans and in turn with the plans of others and how we then turn that into something that we can present for consultation to the people of Dorking to get their views on that sort of appetite there is for change. As with the Future High Street Funding, one of the main requirements is to establish that there is an appetite for transformational change."

"Officers from the Asset and Investment team and the Legal Services Team will be assisting me in developing this piece of work and we provisionally have a meeting scheduled for, I think, the 6th March to look at initial feedback. Members will be updated on progress as this work develops but it is currently in the very formative stages."

(4) The following question was submitted by Councillor Stephen Cooksey:

"The government has recently launched a Town Centre Task Force to provide 'expert advice' on improving high streets. Does the Cabinet have any plans to take advantage of this resource and if not why not?"

Councillor Simon Edge, Cabinet Member for Prosperity, responded as follows:

"According to the Future High Streets Fund prospectus, access to the High Streets Task Force has been established to provide support to those town centres which are successful at the Expression of Interest stage of the Future High Streets Fund bidding process. Officers will continue to monitor other opportunities to access these resources."

62. Motions

Motion 11/2018

COUNCIL TAX FOR CARE LEAVERS

Further to the motion previously submitted by Councillor Joe Crome and seconded by Councillor

Claire Malcomson at the Council meeting held on 4th December 2018, Council noted that this matter has been considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 5th February 2019. In light of the Cabinet's recommendations to Council it was:-

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the notice of Motion be agreed;
- (2) the scheme would come into effect on 1 April 2019; and
- (3) the rules of implementation as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report were approved.

Motion 12/2019

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Vivienne Michael and seconded by Councillor Simon Edge:

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S MULTIPLE SERVICE CONSULTATIONS

"This Council

Notes:

1. that Surrey County Council (SCC) has, alongside many other councils, had to reduce its overall budget by a significant amount. SCC's Medium Term Financial Strategy (published in March 2018) shows that between 2010 and 2018 it made £540m savings and efficiencies. It states that SCC needs to make further savings of £133m between 2018 and 2021. SCC's budgeted revenue expenditure for 2018/19 is £1,513m;
2. that SCC has recently consulted on further cost reductions and service reconfigurations affecting Children's Centres, Community Recycling Centres, Concessionary Bus Travel, Library and Cultural Services and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Further consultations are planned on other key service areas;
3. that since 2008/9 Mole Valley District Council has found innovative ways of improving service efficiency and reduced its budget by £10m with its budgeted revenue expenditure for 2018/19 being just over £9m. Importantly MVDC has achieved this reduction without reducing service levels. MVDC services have received a number of national awards and accreditations including 8 services receiving customer service excellence accreditation, and its housing service being awarded the National Practitioner support services Gold standard for homelessness. MVDC is proud of this achievement;
4. that MVDC has already resolved to write to its MPs requesting their support for a proper local government funding settlement for Surrey which reduces the need for unsustainable cuts in services.

Recognises:

1. the importance to members of the public of retaining essential SCC services such as those listed above at the levels of service currently provided;
2. that in many cases these services support the most vulnerable and in-need members of our community;
3. that while MVDC will support members of its community where it can, it has neither the legal powers nor the finances to compensate for SCC service cuts across Mole Valley.

Resolves in relation to SCC proposals relating to the services listed above, and future proposals, to:

1. continue to work with and support SCC where SCC's cost reductions and service reconfigurations can be seen to provide the same or better services to the people of Mole Valley;

2. not to support SCC's cost reductions and service reconfigurations where they can be seen to result in its withdrawal from or providing a lower level of services to the people of Mole Valley;
3. inform SCC, and local MPs that this Council will continue to lobby against any future withdrawal from service provision by SCC or reductions in SCC services to the people of Mole Valley."

The Council resolved to take the motion on the night.

Councillors Vivienne Michael and Simon Edge agreed to incorporate the amendments to the motion proposed by Councillor David Draper, as set out in bold below.

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S MULTIPLE SERVICE CONSULTATIONS

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Notes:

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2. that SCC has recently consulted on further cost reductions and service reconfigurations affecting Children's Centres, Community Recycling Centres, Concessionary Bus Travel, Library and Cultural Services and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Further consultations are planned on other key service areas;
3. that since 2008/9 Mole Valley District Council has found innovative ways of improving service efficiency and reduced its budget by £10m with its budgeted revenue expenditure for 2018/19 being just over £9m. Importantly MVDC has achieved this reduction without reducing service levels. MVDC services have received a number of national awards and accreditations including 8 services receiving customer service excellence accreditation, and its housing service being awarded the National Practitioner support services Gold standard for homelessness. MVDC is proud of this achievement;
4. that MVDC has already resolved to write to its MPs requesting their support for a proper local government funding settlement for Surrey which reduces the need for unsustainable cuts in services.
5. **With regret, that Surrey County Council has chosen to ignore the unanimously expressed views of this Council with regard to the consultation on the future of Children's Centres as set out in our response to the consultation; and**
6. **That the Council welcomes the opportunity afforded by the County Council's decision to defer the closure of the Dorking CRC until 1st October 2019 in order to seek ways of keeping the site open beyond that date;**

Recognises:

1. the importance to members of the public of retaining essential SCC services such as those listed above at the levels of service currently provided;
2. that in many cases these services support the most vulnerable and in-need members of our community;

3. that while MVDC will support members of its community where it can, it has neither **appropriate** legal powers nor the finances to compensate for SCC service cuts across Mole Valley.

Resolves in relation to SCC proposals relating to the services listed above, and future proposals, to:

1. continue to work with and support SCC where SCC's cost reductions and service reconfigurations can be seen to provide the same or better services to the people of Mole Valley;
2. not to support SCC's cost reductions and service reconfigurations where they can be seen to result in its withdrawal from or providing a lower level of services to the people of Mole Valley;
3. inform SCC, and local MPs that this Council will continue to lobby against any future withdrawal from service provision by SCC or reductions in SCC services to the people of Mole Valley;
4. **urgently undertake further discussion with the County Council to try to seek ways in which Mole Valley District Council, the County and other appropriate organisations might work together to save the Children's Centre in Leatherhead and the Community Recycling Centre in Dorking from closure; and**
5. **if necessary, to help to locate funding and resources to assist in achieving this objective.**

Members debated this motion in full, with unanimous support from all Councillors.

The Council voted on the motion, and it was carried.

(NB. Counted votes on motion: 34 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions)

RESOLVED: that the substantive motion detailed above be approved.

Motion 13/2019

This motion was withdrawn.

Motion 14/2019

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Claire Malcomson and seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Daly:

COUNTY COUNCIL MOVES

This Council:

Notes

1. that in December 2018 Surrey County Council announced that it intended to leave County Hall in Kingston for a new location in Surrey; that location to be identified as quickly as possible;
2. that a number of Boroughs and Districts within Surrey are actively recommending and promoting sites for the new County headquarters;
3. that as a consequence of permitted development regulations and commercial decisions Mole Valley has lost a significant number of businesses in recent years in Dorking and Leatherhead which has affected employment opportunities and the economy of both town centres;

4. that Mole Valley is ideally located in the centre of Surrey with potentially available sites in good locations with excellent rail and road communications.

Resolves

that the Mole Valley administration make a determined, serious and urgent effort to develop an effective strategy to invite and encourage the County Council to consider relocating its headquarters in Mole Valley on a site close to the centre of Dorking or Leatherhead.

The Council resolved to take the motion on the night.

Members debated the motion and Councillor Vivienne Michael proposed an amendment to the resolution as set out in bold below.

Resolves

that the Mole Valley administration **continues to** make a determined, serious and urgent effort to develop an effective strategy to invite and encourage the County Council to consider relocating its headquarters in Mole Valley on a site close to the centre of Dorking or Leatherhead.

Councillor Claire Malcomson agreed with the proposed amendment. Members debated this motion in full, with unanimous support from all Councillors.

The Council voted on the motion, and it was carried.

(NB. Counted votes on motion: 34 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions)

RESOLVED: that the substantive motion detailed above be approved.

Motion 15/2019

The following amended motion was proposed by Councillor Duncan Irvine and seconded by Councillor Metin Huseyin:

This Council:

Notes that institutional investors have a key role to play in reducing climate change, by directing the funds which they manage away from businesses which cause high levels of pollution.

Welcomes:

- the opportunity, via its influence over the Surrey Pension Fund, to participate in the direction of investment away from polluting businesses and towards sustainable enterprise; and
- the agreement of the Surrey Pensions Fund to the Border to Coast Pensions Partnership responsible investment policy, and the audit of the carbon footprint of the fund.

Recognises that notwithstanding environmental concerns, the Surrey Pension Fund must continue to generate returns which are sufficient to meet its obligations to those people whose retirement it provides for; and

Resolves to:

Write to the chairman of the Surrey Pensions Fund, to:

- Emphasise that whilst progress already made is most welcome, the Council sees this as the starting point of an ongoing strategy and looks forward to seeing further divestment from polluting businesses during the next municipal year, and that the Council does not see the carbon footprint audit as a one-off analysis, but requests the Surrey Pension Fund to permanently include meaningful data on this subject within its Key Performance Indicators; and
- Invite representatives of the Surrey Pension Fund to attend a meeting of the External Scrutiny Committee, within the next municipal year, to outline how their commitment to the

'Responsible Investment Policy' is demonstrated through their choice of investments, particularly with respect to climate change, and to present the findings of the audit of the Fund's carbon footprint.

The Council resolved to take the motion on the night.

Members debated this motion in full, with unanimous support from all Councillors.

The Council voted on the motion, and it was carried.

(NB. Counted votes on motion: 34 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions)

RESOLVED: that the substantive motion detailed above be approved.

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Chairman of the Council
21 May 2019