

**QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED UNDER THE PROVISIONS
OF FCR 12 OF THE CONSTITUTION**

QUESTION 1

Question from Councillor David Gulland to the Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee, Councillor Eber Kington.

In a note from the Member Recovery Cell, there was notification of a £71,062 grant to help enable safe trading to take place in public spaces.

What progress has been made in identifying suitable projects for use of these funds and will the Council confirm that it will be used in accordance with the requirements by the deadline of 31 March 2021?

Reply from Councillor Kington:

The Council has established a High Streets Task Force to assist with the progressive re-opening of our high streets and retail parades including supporting our shops, restaurants and other businesses to re-open and operate safely. The Task Force is chaired by the Council and includes representatives from major businesses, the Police, Surrey County Council and the Business Improvement District (BID) to ensure that the operational approach is properly coordinated.

To assist with this work, the Council is able to draw down up to £71,062 of European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) during this year.

Unfortunately the criteria for this ERDF funding places considerable limits on what it can be used for. For example, it can only be spent for revenue activities relevant to the remainder of this financial year and cannot fund capital items such as pedestrian flow barriers and other equipment which might offer longer-term benefits. It cannot be used to fund existing staff or work that is already underway. It cannot be used to help with cleaning activities, personal protective equipment such as face coverings or gloves, adaptations to buildings to enable safer access, grants to businesses, traffic management, or funding high street stewards to help encourage social distancing.

Officers have been in discussions with Councils across the wider Coast to Capital LEP area to discuss their approach to spending the funds given the restrictive criteria. In addition the lead MHCLG official has been lobbied about the really unhelpful restrictions associated with this funding, but we have been advised that MHCLG hands are tied because the nature of the funding is determined by EU requirements.

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Despite the constraints associated with this ERDF funding, it will be possible for the Council to claim back the costs of providing new information and sign-posting for both businesses and customers on how to keep safe, promote kind and considerate behaviour, particularly in relation to queuing and social distancing, and on promoting our high streets as safe and welcoming places for our residents and customers to visit and enjoy. The Council will be doing this for all relevant activities undertaken before the deadline of 31 March 2021.

By the Council taking a partnership approach and utilising the knowledge, expertise and resources of partner organisations, as well as practical assistance from Council staff on the ground, the re-opening of our high streets, shopping centres, shopping parades and Market Place, have been progressing well.

QUESTION 2

Question from Councillor Julie Morris to the Chair of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee, Councillor David Reeve.

We would like details on how we compare with the 10 other Surrey borough councils in terms of having an up to date Local Plan to work from. In particular:

- 1 – how do the dates of other Local Plans (or their equivalents) compare to ours?
- 2 - when did work on updating documentation from the existing Core Strategy begin,
- 3 - and when is completion of our Plan anticipated?

Reply from Councillor David Reeve:

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For information, the table below sets out the Surrey authorities current adopted plans and the programmed next stages.

It is difficult to make direct comparisons with other authorities. Local Plans can comprise of a single document or multiple documents for example Epsom and Ewell's current Local Plan comprises the Core Strategy, Development Management Policies and Plan E; elsewhere in Surrey, Surrey Heath has a single document comprising strategic and non-strategic policies adopted in 2012.

When comparing the dates of the adopted 'Core' Local Plan documents (containing strategic policies) Epsom and Ewell is the oldest Plan adopted in 2007, Runnymede is also 2007 but are in the process of adopting a new local plan imminently.

It is important to note the differences between timescales may be down a variety of reasons, geographies, complexities of issues in the different areas, changes in the planning system, staff turnover and resources.

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In addition to this, Planning is entering an uncertain period for a number of reasons,

- The impact of Covid-19 and the changes introduced as a result of the pandemic.
- New household projections have been published (2018 household projections), which indicate lower growth than previously projected. This coincides with the Government review of the standard method due to be published later this month.
- Announcement of significant planning reform are due to be published later this month in a Government White Paper. The extent of the reforms are unknown, but expected to be significant based on announcements from the Prime Minister of it being the 'most radical reform' to the planning system since 1945.

These issues affect all authorities and are likely to cause a delay to local plan programmes where new plans are being prepared. Officers from all Surrey Authorities continue to work together to consider the implications and actions, and share information where possible.

District/ Borough	Current adopted Local Plans	Scheduled Next stages
Elmbridge	<p>The Core Strategy 2011 This sets out the strategic vision and core policies up to 2026</p> <p>The Development Management Plan 2015 This comprises detailed policies against which planning applications are assessed.</p>	<p>Reg 18 (3rd) Local Plan – Creating our vision, objectives and the direction for our development management policies: January to March 2020</p> <p>Reg 19 – September to October 2020</p> <p>Submission – December 2020</p> <p>Examination – Spring/Summer 2021</p> <p>Adoption – Autumn 2021</p>
Epsom and Ewell	<p>The Core Strategy 2007 This sets out the strategic vision and core policies up to 2022</p> <p>Development Management Policies Document (2015) This comprises detailed policies against which planning applications are assessed, in order to deliver the spatial strategy.</p>	<p>Final Issues and Options (Regulation 18 Part 2) – May to July 2020</p> <p>Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Local Plan consultation – June to August 2021</p> <p>Examination – January 2022</p> <p>Adoption – December 2022</p>
Guildford	<p>Local Plan Strategy and sites (2015-2034) Adopted 2019</p> <p>This comprises overarching planning policies and allocates land for housing, employment, community facilities and other types of development.</p>	<p>Local Plan: Development Management Policies Document</p> <p>Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan Issues and Preferred Options consultation – 3 June to 22 July 2020</p>

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District/ Borough	Current adopted Local Plans	Scheduled Next stages
	Local Plan 2003 The extant policies remain relevant for the control of development and use of land in Guildford	Regulation 19 Draft Local Plan Pre-submission publication and consultation – March to April 2021
Mole Valley	Core Strategy: 2009 This sets out the strategic vision and core policies up to 2026 Local Plan: 2000 This comprises detailed policies against which planning applications are assessed, in order to deliver the spatial strategy.	Future Mole Valley Local Plan 2018-2033, including Policies Map Reg 18 Draft Local Plan consultation – 3 rd February to 23 rd March 2020 Submission version consultation – Autumn 2020 Submission – Winter 2020 Examination – Summer 2021 Adoption – Autumn 2021
Reigate and Banstead	Core Strategy 2014 This sets out the strategic vision and core policies up to 2027. Five-year review undertaken in 2019. Development Management Plan 2019 The DMP is used in decision-making on planning applications. The DMP policies replace a number of Borough Plan 2005 Policies and Core Strategy Policy CS15, with all other 2005 policies withdrawn.	New Local Plan Update not required
Runnymede	Local Plan 2007 This establishes a framework of detailed policies and specific proposals for the development and use of land and guides most day-to-day planning decision. Previously guided development up to 2006, with most policies saved for an interim period.	Runnymede 2030 Local Plan The council have received the Inspector's report and subject to main modifications, the Local Plan has been accepted as an appropriate basis for the planning of Runnymede. The Local Plan will now be considered at the Full Council on 16 July 2020. Adoption of the plan – July 2020
Spelthorne	Core Strategy and Policies Development Plan Document 2009 This sets out the strategic vision and core policies up to 2027. It also contains detailed policies against which planning applications are assessed. 2001 Local Plan	Spelthorne Local Plan Consultation on Publication Local Plan Regulation 19 – January to February 2021 Date for Submission – April 2021 Adoption – March 2022

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District/ Borough	Current adopted Local Plans	Scheduled Next stages
	Most of the 2001 Local Plan has been superseded by the Core Strategy and Policies DPD however, six of the policies were saved and continue to be used.	
Surrey Heath	Core Strategy & Development Management Policies 2011- 2028 This sets out the strategic vision and core policies up to 2028. It also contains detailed policies against which planning applications are assessed.	Draft Local Plan 2016-2032 Local Development Scheme to be reviewed in 2020. Regulation 18 Consultation Issues and Options – January 2020.
Tandridge	Core Strategy 2008 This sets out the strategic vision and core policies up to 2026. TLP Part 2: Detailed Policies 2014-2029	Local Plan 2013-2033 Adoption – TBC
Waverley	Local Plan Part 1: Strategic Policies and Sites This sets out the strategic vision and core policies up to 2032. Local Plan 2002 This comprises detailed policies against which planning applications are assessed. Some policies this Plan have been retained until the adoption of Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies.	Local Plan Part 2 Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Regulation 19 pre-submission plan – April 2020 Submission for Examination – TBC Adoption – TBC 2021
Woking	Core Strategy 2012 This sets out the strategic vision and core policies up to 2027. Development Management Policies DPD This comprises detailed policies against which planning applications are assessed.	Woking 2027 Site Allocations Development Plan Document Submitted to Secretary of State – 31 July 2019 Estimated date of pre-hearing meeting – Autumn 2019 Estimated date of examination – Winter 2019 Estimated date of adoption – Early 2020

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District/ Borough	Current adopted Local Plans	Scheduled Next stages
Surrey Minerals & Waste	Surrey Waste Plan 2008 The SWP sets out the planning framework for the development of waste management facilities in Surrey. Surrey Minerals Plan DPD 2011 The SMP provides strategic policies and site specific proposals for the extraction of silica sand and clay for the period to 2026.	Waste Plan SCC have received the Inspector's report on the Examination of our Waste Local Plan. Subject to main modifications, the Plan is sound and capable of being adopted. It will be considered for adoption at full council in July. Adoption – July 2020 Minerals Plan Adoption – spring/summer 2024

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Work on the new Local Plan started around 2016 with the publication of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2016 which calculated the Objectively Assessed Need for housing. An Issues and Options consultation was held in 2017. Since then, there have been significant changes in the Planning system (with more proposed). Officers have continued to progress work on the Local Plan by updating the evidence base to support the emerging policies. The timeline is summarised here

<https://www.epsom-ewell-localplan.co.uk/local-plan-timeline.html>

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At the moment, the current timetable looks for Adoption in December 2022

<https://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/residents/planning/planning-policy/Local%20Plan%20Programme%20v11%20January%202020.pdf>

QUESTION 3

Question from Councillor Peter O'Donovan to the Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee, Councillor Eber Kington.

Will the Chairman of S&R provide an update on the Leader of SCC's call and plans for a Unitary Authority in Surrey.

Reply from Councillor Eber Kington:

I thank Councillor O'Donovan for his question which, since he raised it, is partly addressed in the Report and the Recommendation to Council which now forms part on this Meeting's Agenda.

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As Councillor O'Donovan will probably know, councillors on most Borough and District Councils only became aware that the Leader of SCC was engaged in discussions with Government Ministers and undertaking research on Surrey's local government arrangements with an intention to move to unitary status following an article published in a national magazine.

Following that public revelation the Leader of SCC made a statement in July SCC Council Meeting confirming his position (as reported in the Agenda Report) and has expressed a desire to work with the Government to look at devolved powers and structural reform. He said that he will now engage with partners and confirmed that he will report back to a Council meeting on his plans in the autumn.

It is clear from his comments that the Leader of SCC has a clear agenda and well-formed timeline, that he has now begun to share.