

THE SURREY LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SLGA News - March 2010

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP: 2009/2010

Chairman:

Cllr. David Munro, Surrey CC

Vice Chairman:

Cllr. John Furey, Runnymede BC

Honorary Secretary:

Rob Moran, Elmbridge BC

For the full membership list please visit the SLGA website:

www.surreylocalgovernment.gov.uk

'SURREY FIRST'

The Surrey Local Government Association is committed to increasing efficiencies and improving services for Surrey's residents. All public services are faced with the prospect of operating under even tighter financial constraints, and the Association has recognised the need to further partnership working in order to deliver better services to residents with ever more stretched resources. A Member-led Task Group was established at the end of last year to begin work on a shared services project - known as 'Surrey First'.

The project is in the very early stages of development - all twelve councils, along with the Surrey Police, have agreed to form a Joint Committee to oversee work on developing shared services.

The Task Group has identified five key services to be at the core of the project; Waste, HR, ICT, Assets, and procurement.

There are lots of examples of joint working already in place, such as the Surrey Waste Partnership, and it is agreed that the Surrey First project must take account of established arrangements. The challenge now is to build on these existing partnerships for the future.

Councillor John Furey, SLGA Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Surrey First Task Group, explained that 'this work is absolutely vital to ensure local authorities are able to continue to provide for Surrey's residents. However, this work is not just about main-

taining the current level of provision but is also about improving and increasing services. I am very pleased with progress so far.'

SLGA Chairman Cllr Munro added 'the challenge now is to build on this momentum to ensure that efficiency savings can be realised as soon as possible.'

The Surrey First Task Group shall continue to meet until the formation of the Joint Committee early in the 2010/11 municipal year.

EUROPEAN MATTERS

On 18 March the SLGA hosted a seminar for Councillors and officers to provide more information on European matters affecting Local Government. Speakers included

officers from the Local Government Association (LGA) International and European Team, and Councillor Gordon Keymer who leads the UK delegation to the Committee of the Regions (CoR).

The LGA provided information on proposed changes to European legislation that would have an impact on local government. This included changes to late payment rules, new rules to guide shared services, and new regulations on waste and landfill. It was agreed that lobbying on the proposed changes to the Working Time Directive should be a priority as this was likely to have a significant impact on local communities in the UK.

For more information on issues discussed at the seminar please visit the SLGA website -

www.surreylocalgovernment.gov.uk.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Covering the Key Stories of the SLGA Meeting on 3 March 2010

◆ Last year the SLGA submitted a response to the DfT consultation recommending that the administrative duty for the Concessionary Fares scheme is moved to upper tier authorities. The DfT has now taken the decision to move the

responsibility to County Councils from April 2011. The Concessionary Fares Group will now work to make this transition.

◆ The Association agreed the appointment of Councillor Gail Kingerley (Runnymede BC) as the District/ Borough representative on the Active Surrey Sport Partnership.



Cllr Kingerley

◆ The Association also agreed to nominate Councillors Ben Tatham (Mole Valley DC), Tim Dodds (Surrey Heath BC), and Martin Fisher (Tandridge DC) as District/ Borough representatives on the Surrey CC Public Value Review (PVR) Estates Member Reference Group.

◆ The Association received information on future business items for the SSP. Members were supportive of Councillor Povey's desire to prioritise work on reducing the number of young people not in education, employment, or training in Surrey. It was also agreed that the installation of high speed broadband would be beneficial in ensuring the success of Surrey's businesses.

◆ The Surrey Waste Partnership has agreed a number of new projects to enhance joint working on waste. The new projects will tackle a range of waste issues including; garden waste, junk mail, food waste, composting, and Member and officer training.

◆ The Surrey Improvement Partnership has launched the new Neighbourhood Engagement Framework and Toolkit. The toolkit has been developed following consultation by the Neighbourhood Engagement project team and will be made available to all partners to enhance community engagement and partnership working. A copy of the toolkit is available to download from the SIP website -

www.surreyimprovement.info.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the SLGA shall be held on 23 June 2010, 2.00 pm at Waverley Borough Council offices. This is the AGM at which the Association will appoint a new chairman, approve the treasurer's report, and consider appointments to a number of outside bodies.