

From: Surrey Chief Executives and the Chief Constable

SURREY FIRST – THE NEXT STAGE

1. SUMMARY

This report sets out the key achievements arising from the Surrey First initiative. The intention is to show the significant progress that has been made over the first year, but, in particular, to highlight the work needed to meet the identified objectives and savings targets within the required timescales.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the report be noted and the content be used as the basis for the Joint Committee to convey its views on the direction of the future project work.

3. ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIRST YEAR

Work on the Surrey First initiative has been progressed by the Surrey Chief Executives' Group, including the Chief Constable, in preference to the use of consultants, initially reporting to an SLGA Member Task Group.

It is currently a 13 partner initiative that is accountable to the separately constituted Joint Committee. Various potential forms of governance have been considered and some key principles have been established that will underpin the Surrey First operations in the future. In summary these are:

- all partners will retain their separate identities and decision-making integrity.
- initiatives should be pursued through a "coalition of the willing".
- savings targets of around 15% on current costs should be pursued.
- involvement in Surrey First will not prevent or delay any alternative or additional partnership arrangements being pursued by any partner.

Six strategic objectives have been identified to focus the work of Surrey First as follows:

- Significant savings
- Increased resilience
- Efficiency and improved customer service
- Foster innovation
- Create opportunities for income generation
- Increase influence in South East Region and on Total Place agenda

Following a mapping of the partner's highest spend areas and a further assessment of "ease of implementation" against "benefits/savings", 5 core workstreams have been progressed, each with a CE Sponsor working through an established working group.

Workstream Chief Executive Sponsor

- Assets Karen Whelan
- Waste David Hill
- Procurement Julie Fisher / Paul Turrell
- ICT Stephen Weigel
- HR Mary Orton

At the core are the five largest value cross-cutting functions of interest to most/all partners, and with the greatest potential for meeting the six objectives. The initial project funding of £165,000 was established to provide a working budget financed by £100,000 from the Surrey Improvement Partnership and £5,000 from each of the participating public authorities in Surrey.

6. MOST RECENT PROGRESS

Most recently the Surrey First initiative has generated information which has provided a Surrey-wide context for medium term financial planning and workforce profiling. In addition, a compendium of existing partnerships and collaborative working initiatives has been compiled. This is included elsewhere on this agenda and will be further developed to capture the savings already arising from this joint working.

Core Workstreams

Detailed project proformas for each core workstream have been developed as the basis of reporting progress to the Joint Committee.

These are updated regularly by the project groups and the latest versions are attached as an appendix to this report.

Joint Committee Workshop

On 30 September Members of the Joint Committee attended a workshop with the aims of:

- Securing commitment to the concept of collaborative arrangements
- Sharing and exploring the limit of partner commitment to aspects of Surrey First

The event was well attended and the facilitator summarised the key points that emerged as follows:

- Support for an evolutionary Surrey First perhaps in clusters where there is a clear business case.
- Support for the 5 core workstreams – deliver on these before broadening the Surrey First remit.
- Expect cashable savings from each workstream, but recognise this will be at different rates in terms of timescale. However, some expected in 2011/12.

Following an extensive recruitment process, Lynne Martin has been appointed as the Surrey First Programme Manager and started work on 1st November. Her primary focus is to be the ambassador for the programme, developing linkages across and within all partner organisations to secure deeper commitment to collaborative projects. In addition, her support to the Chief Executive core workstream Sponsors and her accountability to the Joint Committee will bring renewed drive to the achievement of the programmes objectives.

Her initial familiarisation agenda will enable her to establish a clear understanding of the status of each workstream and bring forward recommended action to deliver against the agreed milestones.

Achievements So Far

Each core workstream now has established programmes of work, which are intended to either deliver significant savings or assist partners by cost avoidance. It is clear that the CSR makes this work even more important.

Project working groups have established milestones and timescales, and work is continuing to set out realistic savings targets for delivery from 2011/12 onwards.

To date the Surrey First partnership work has enabled the achievement of some key projects, which would not have otherwise been possible.

Specifically:

1. On-Street Car Parking Enforcement

Cross-county in-principle agreement to new partnership arrangements which will eliminate the current year on year deficit and move towards surplus to support park and ride and other highway improvements. It is almost certain that this arrangement would not have been possible in the absence of the Surrey First initiative.

2. Shared Surrey Data Centre

A key partnership initiative which will improve resilience, data sharing and environmental performance. The influence of Surrey First has ensured that all partners have signed up to enable the project to proceed on a tight timescale.

3. "Tell Us Once"

An information dissemination project securing customer and process benefits. Assisted by Surrey First by securing cross-partner sign up and addressing scepticism.

4. "Surreyi"

An information sharing/data warehouse project framed within the context of collaborative working from Surrey First.

5. Surrey Police Assets/Co-Location

The transformational changes in policing in Surrey have been assisted by the closer working relationships and the ethos of collaborative public service in Surrey engendered by the Surrey First programme.

In addition to these key achievements the Surrey First programme has provided mutual support in the face of CSR to enabling faster and more detailed analysis and response. The benefits arising from greater trust and confidence among partners arising from the focus on Surrey First, and the regularity of contact at Member and Officer levels, should not be underestimated.

Contact: Robert Moran – Chair, Surrey Chief Executives
Email: rmoran@elmbridge.gov.uk Tel: 01372 474380