



Briefing note on Surrey Future

Background

Surrey Future was set up in March 2012 by the Surrey Leaders group. The aim was to promote joint working between the 12 local authorities and business community to agree the investment priorities and establish a list of long-term infrastructure priorities to support the county's economy and manage planned growth sustainably over the next few decades both within Surrey and cross-border.

Council leaders and chief executives had agreed Surrey needed:

- A long-term programme of deliverable infrastructure investment that was fully integrated with spatial priorities for growth and supports existing and emerging plans and strategies.
- To be in a strong position to lobby for and bid effectively for funding to deliver infrastructure and other economic initiatives.
- For public bodies to demonstrate that they have met the requirements of the duty to co-operate as set out in the Localism Act 2011 on strategic priorities such as infrastructure.

Surrey Future would build from the planned growth identified in existing and emerging local plans to identify the main challenges and constraints to delivering sustainable economic development and planned growth, the strategic investment needed and to help lever in funding for key schemes and through lobbying Government and other relevant organisations and identifying other funding sources.

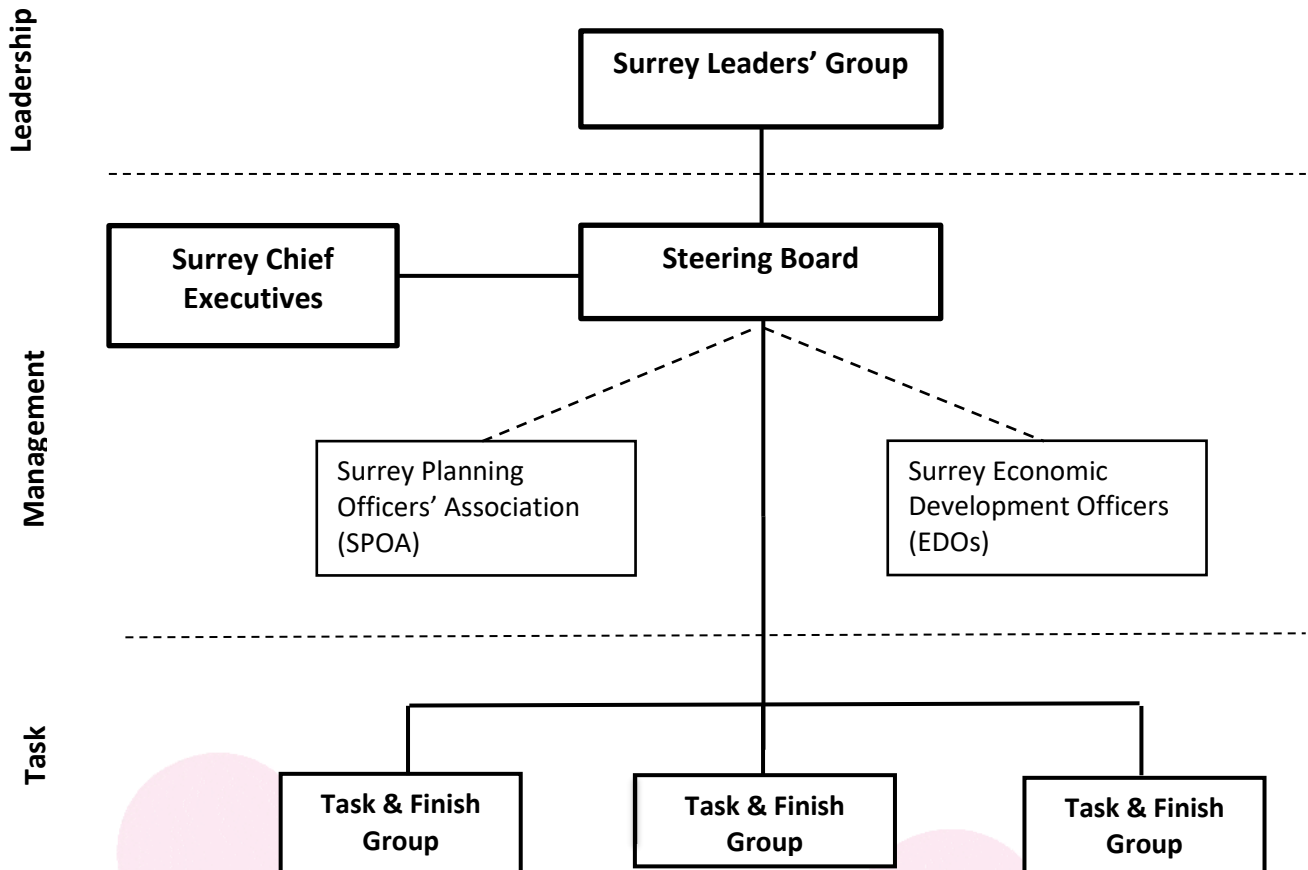
Governance

The Surrey Future Steering Board is chaired by Robert Moran, Elmbridge BC Chief Executive. Other Board members include (as at January 2022):

- District and Borough chief executives/senior officers - Damian Roberts (Chief Executive, Surrey Heath); Daniel Mouawad (Chief Executive, Spelthorne); Karen Brimacombe (Chief Executive, Mole Valley); Simon Bland (Economic Prosperity Programme Manager, Reigate and Banstead); Paul Turrell (Chief Executive, Runnymede); Clare Lawrence (Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration, Epsom and Ewell); Tom Horwood (Chief Executive, Guildford & Waverley); Georgio Framalitto (Chief Executive, Woking); David Ford (Chief Executive, Tandridge); Dawn Hudd (Strategic Services Director, Guildford).
- Other local authority representation – Zac Ellwood (Head of Planning and Economic Development, Waverley Borough Council and Surrey Planning Officers' Association representative); Michael Coughlin (Executive Director for Partnerships, Prosperity and Growth, SCC); Katie Stewart (Executive Director for Environment Transport and Infrastructure, SCC).
- Business representation – Kathy Slack (Executive Director, Enterprise M3 LEP); Kevin Travers (Transport Project Manager, Enterprise M3 LEP); Tony Middleton (Chief Operating Officer, Coast 2 Capital LEP); Jeff Alexander (Chief Executive, Gatwick Diamond Business).
- Other representation - Sarah Jane Chimbwandira (Director, Surrey Nature Partnership).



Surrey Future working arrangements

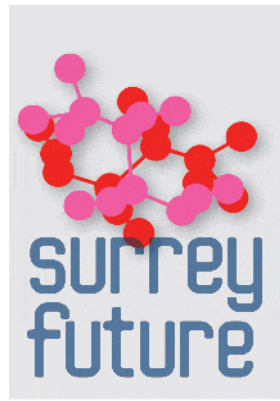


The role of the Steering Board is to:

- Set direction
- Promote effective partnerships and overcome barriers to joint working
- Agree priority issues for consideration and commit resources from the partners
- 'Commission' task and finish groups to study issues and prepare proposals
- Validate task group proposals and organise wider/political consultation.

It meets four times a year and oversees an annual Spring workshop/conference. The Board provides updates to Surrey Leaders and Surrey Chief Executives as needed.

Task and finish groups are convened on a project basis by either geographic area or cross-cutting theme. The groups research key issues and present proposals to the Steering Board. Examples are the Infrastructure Feasibility Fund Working Group, Surrey Place Ambition Task Group, Surrey Place Ambition Urban Strategy Task Group and the Steering Group for Phase 2 of the Surrey Infrastructure Plan. Participating councils offer officer time for this work. In some cases, existing partnerships or initiatives can take on the role.



SCC provides a small officer secretariat for Surrey Future and can offer some funds to commission external, expert consultancy.

Key workstreams

During early Surrey Future discussions districts and boroughs had similar and related concerns about transport infrastructure, particularly tackling congestion and improving the railway network. The first two workstreams, the Rail Strategy and Congestion Programme, responded to these concerns. Following consultation on the Congestion Programme and Rail Strategy a lobbying brochure was produced in 2013 to highlight five transport infrastructure priorities for the county: A3 corridor; a major transport schemes to tackle areas of significant congestion; improvements to the North Downs Line; Crossrail 2 regional route; improving journeys to Heathrow and Gatwick.

Between 2014 and 2016, Surrey Future's work focussed on: Progressing strategic transport infrastructure priorities through carrying out a number of studies and contributing to the four LEP and Surrey study on strategic infrastructure priorities; joint evidence to support responses to the Airports Commission, the Government's Airports National Policy Statement and the emerging proposals to expand Heathrow and Gatwick Airports; development of the Surrey Infrastructure Study, promoting investment in Surrey as a place to do business through showcasing opportunities at the MIPIM UK exhibition and conference event.

In 2017, work was undertaken to review the Surrey Infrastructure Study, develop an Infrastructure Feasibility Study Fund to support the development of schemes to better attract funding opportunities, contributing to the development of a Local Strategic Statement for Surrey, engaging with the new Sub-national Transport Body (Transport for the South East) on identifying major infrastructure priorities, addressing infrastructure needs relating to airport expansion, engaging with the Mayor's new London Plan and lobbying work with London on joint infrastructure priorities and work to promote the Invest in Surrey programme.

The 2018 Surrey Future workshop on planning for the future led to the setting up of the Surrey Place Ambition Task Group to establish a clear, collectively agreed, view of future development which can be used to inform LEP Local Industrial Strategies and be used in discussions with Government. Other work included supporting the development of bids to the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund and the transport majors project and continuing work on the infrastructure implications of airport expansion and Wider South East Collaboration with the Mayor of London.

The work of Surrey Future in 2019, 2020 and 2021 has seen the Surrey Place Ambition conference, production of Surrey's 2050 Place Ambition, development of the implementation framework and working with developers to set up the Surrey Development Forum. This has included ensuring Surrey authorities are engaged in the development of the LEP Local Industrial Strategies and their research work into high streets/town centres. Work has continued on developing a Surrey perspective for TfSE's transport strategy, the Infrastructure Feasibility Study has secured formal commitments from local authorities and is now operating, and the Steering Board has been closely involved with the development of the Surrey Infrastructure Plan.