

## TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### COUNTY DEAL WORKING GROUP

Minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held in the Lyndsay Narcisi Room on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at 3.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Bloore, Cooper, C.Farr, Gray, Langton, Pursehouse and Sayer.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Botten.

#### 1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2022/23**

Councillor Sayer was appointed Chair of the Working Group for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year.

#### 2. **SCC's INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR INCLUSION WITHIN A COUNTY DEAL FOR SURREY**

The Leader of Surrey County Council (SCC) (Councillor Tim Oliver) had invited Districts and Boroughs to submit proposals for potential inclusion within a 'Level 2 County Deal for Surrey' (i.e. in line with the 'Level 2' powers defined within the Levelling Up White Paper Devolution Framework, which would rely on effective partnership working between existing local authorities, with no change to the structure of local government throughout Surrey). The text of Councillor Oliver's letter of invitation is attached at Annex A.

The minutes of the 4th July Surrey Delivery Board meeting (attended by SCC and District / Borough Leaders and Chief Executives) relating to the County Deal initiative was also circulated. These confirmed that Districts and Boroughs were "*encouraged to engage in the process and bring forward suggestions for ways in which available funds could go further across the three tiers of local government. A formal proposal for a Level 2 Plus bid would be drawn up, despite the indications from the Government [that it would not consider such bids which would involve powers beyond those set out in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill] as there were other areas where opportunities existed ...*"

Councillor Sayer updated the Group regarding current dialogue with other Leaders.

Members discussed what they thought Tandridge District Council (TDC) should be seeking from a County Deal, both in terms of additional powers and the retention of control and influence over other things. At this stage, as far as TDC was concerned, the Group considered that the following elements should be reflected within a proposed County Deal submission to Government:

- (i) to be devolved from Surrey County Council to TDC :
  - power to set priorities for local highways projects within an agreed proportion of the total SCC highways budget (that reflects the District's total road mileage) and to commission the implementation of the prioritised highways work from SCC
  - power to determine planning applications for developments in the District relating to land and property owned by SCC;
- (ii) TDC to be able to influence:
  - the provision and co-ordination of SCC's public transport services within the District
  - decisions regarding changes of use or development of SCC owned land and assets within the District;
- (iii) TDC to retain:
  - access to funding which is currently allocated to Local Economic Partnerships and similar bodies to distribute
  - control and authority over:
    - housing and planning functions
    - the allocation of proceeds from the Community Infrastructure Levy or successor schemes
    - on-street parking enforcement.

### **3. NEXT MEETING\***

This was scheduled for Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> September at 4.00pm (Lyndsay Narcisi Room).

The meeting closed at 4.40 p.m.

\*The meeting referred to in item 3 above was subsequently cancelled.

**Text of a letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022 from Councillor Tim Oliver, Leader of Surrey County Council, to the Leaders of the eleven Surrey Districts / Boroughs**

Dear Leader,

Following our discussions at the last Surrey Delivery Board about delivering a County Deal for Surrey, I would like to invite district and borough councils to put forward their proposals for consideration and inclusion under a Level 2 County Deal for Surrey. I am sure you will appreciate the need for us to base our suggested proposals on the key challenges and opportunities we face within the county, and to align with the Levelling Up White Paper and Devolution Framework.

A County Deal for Surrey will deliver devolved powers/functions and has the potential to give us greater control and influence over some of the key decisions and resources that shape our county, to the benefit of our residents, our economy, our environment and our communities and ensure that no one is left behind. Crucially, it is an opportunity for local government and key stakeholders in Surrey to come together and develop collective and collaborative approaches and solutions that utilise the additional powers/functions we secure. My sincere hope is that through this process we can forge stronger and closer partnerships and more effectively deliver on the priorities of the residents we jointly serve.

We have some time in the coming months to consider and develop our ideas about how we might use newly devolved powers/functions under a Level 2 County Deal for Surrey. We are intending to bring a report to our Cabinet on 25th October setting out our initial draft proposals for a County Deal for Surrey. Further to our previous requests of you, which I fully appreciate you have needed some time to respond to, it would be extremely helpful if you could provide us with your suggestions and thoughts on initial proposals for consideration and inclusion in a County Deal for Surrey by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, which will enable us to take them into account. I would emphasise that at this stage, draft proposals will be just that, draft, and that as we look to enter into negotiations with Government, hopefully early next year, there will be opportunities to amend, refine and add to them.

I look forward to hearing from you on this critically important matter as we develop a suite of proposals that will deliver for the whole of Surrey.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Oliver

Leader of the [Surrey County] Council