

## **Summary of Keith Witham's WPC Report October 2019**

### **Relocation of County Hall**

County Hall (CH) should be moving out of Kingston starting early-to mid-next year, with CH to be vacated by end of 2020 to be sold. Substantial financial savings in having modern offices, and Council Tax will be paid in Surrey rather than to a London Borough.

### **Policing**

Residents may recall that a small part of this year's Council Tax increase was to fund 100 extra police officers and police operational staff.

That comprised reversing the cut of 25 police officers, planned by the Police and Crime Commissioner, and then recruiting to an increased establishment of 75. In fact, 4 more that could be afforded with the extra funds, bringing the number up to 79 - plus the 25 saved - means that we will have 104 more police than if no action had been taken. Some are already deployed and "out there", others are still in training, but will be in post by the end of March 2020.

This is before the recent plan to recruit an extra 20,000 police officers nationally. So, it's good to report that what this means for Surrey will be an extra 78 Police Officers - new and in addition to those currently in post and the 104 extra.

### **Schools funding**

Surrey County Council has welcomed extra Government funding for schools in Surrey which will rise by 4.62% per pupil from April 2020 (new financial year) ensuring that per-pupil funding for all schools can rise at least in line with inflation. Every secondary school will receive a minimum of £5,000 per pupil next year while every primary school will get a minimum of £4,000 per pupil from 2021-22

### **New Older people Care Units**

Over 700 new care units for older people have been agreed by Surrey County Council. The 1st phase will include 65 at Ponds Meadow, Guildford in the next two years.

### **Flooding**

Surrey County Council has agreed £270 million of funding for long term flood risk schemes across Surrey towards a total of £640 million, the largest investment in flood risk in the UK to date.

This is mainly for the River Thames Scheme, to protect the 15,000 properties and tens of thousands of people living and working near the Thames (following the floods of 2014) but the funding also includes £33 million to spend over 10 years on other local flood alleviation projects across Surrey.

### **S106 Funding**

I asked WPC if it would consider supporting S106 funding for a new access road from Aldershot Road to the rear of Worplesdon Primary School.