

In October we launched five consultations as part of our plans to deliver services more effectively to those that need them and make services more accessible to residents, all within the financial constraints we face along with councils around the country.

The consultations are part of our wider programme of change which is modernising the way we operate as a council. We need to improve services so they are more effective and produce better results for our residents. Changes, and a fresh approach to some services, are needed to ensure that our most vulnerable residents continue to receive the services that they need.

I'm pleased to say we had an excellent response to our consultations. More than 23,000 people have let us know their views on children's centres, concessionary fares on Surrey buses, special educational needs and disabilities, libraries and community recycling centres.

We've also had some very constructive responses from many of our partner organisations, including Surrey's district and borough councils as well as community and faith groups, who are keen to work with us to assist in maintaining vital services and ensure we help those who need it most.

I wanted to say thank you for your input and ideas which we will be working through over the coming weeks. We will then make recommendations to Cabinet and full Council on the changes we need to make, trying to make the services the best they can be using the money we have.