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**All Surrey Members & Councillors
All Leaders of Districts & Boroughs
Partners of LRF Executive Group**

Dear Surrey Partners and Leaders,

I wanted to write to update you about the vital work being carried out by all partners in Surrey under the guidance of the Local Resilience Forum.

It has been over a week since we declared a Major Incident in Surrey - an event or situation with a range of serious consequences which requires special arrangements to be implemented by one or more emergency responder agency.

Since March 20th, the Surrey Local Resilience Forum, coordinated through Surrey County Council, Surrey Police and Surrey Fire & Rescue Service, has been leading the response to COVID-19 across the county, under our Major Incident protocol.

We have established a number of workstreams, that will evolve, grow and subside as the work develops. The main areas of focus are listed below.

- Welfare (Volunteers and Vulnerable People coordination)
- Excess Death Planning Group
- Key/Critical Workers
- Infrastructure (waste, water, power, critical infrastructure, roads and buildings etc)
- Multi-Information Group (communications)
- Staffing, Skills and Workforce Group
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Community Care Settings
- Surge Capacity (across the health and social care system)
- Recovery coordinating group (return to normality planning)

Each of these work streams has a dedicated project team working 24/7 made up of professionals across all partner organisations, with the support of the private sector, volunteers, central government department representatives and military planners from the Ministry of Defence. These workstreams feed into daily Tactical and Strategic coordination groups.

The Strategic Coordination Group for the LRF is being chaired in rotation by Joanna Killian, Chief Executive of Surrey County Council, and Chief Constable Gavin Stephens of Surrey Police.

It is essential that all our partners are coordinated and deliver activities through the structures and protocols of the Local Resilience Forum. By working closely together, utilising

our resources and workforce and uniting our efforts, targeting priority areas I am confident that we will get through this situation well together.

In the immediate term, I'm pleased to say that we have established our main welfare hub for the County at The Spectrum Leisure Centre in Guildford. Vital food and supplies will be distributed from there to our most vulnerable residents throughout this crisis. We also have our other hubs and coordination centres set up at Surrey Fire Brigade HQ in Reigate.

It is also important to note that from Thursday 26th March, new policing regulations were introduced to further strengthen national response plans. While enforcement is key to policing activity, our most effective power is our ability to engage with individuals and communities, to explain the importance of following and abiding to the Government advice and new rules, recognising this is a significant shift from normality for everyone.

The new regulations provide powers for Surrey Police, Trading Standards and Environmental Health Officers to require the closure of premises and businesses and to restrict movement and gatherings.

I thank you for your continued cooperation and leadership within your own organisation in these uncertain times. I must pay tribute to workers across all public services in Surrey who are dedicating themselves to this huge effort working alongside an army of volunteers. Together we must protect the resources of the National Health Service, keep our vital local services functioning, and protect our residents.

I will be sure to keep you updated as the work of the LRF develops.

Yours sincerely



Steve Owen-Hughes

Chair of Surrey Local Resilience Forum