

## STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

Tuesday, 27th October, 2020

The decisions summarised below were taken by the Executive at the above-mentioned meeting and, subject to the call-in procedure referred to in Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 17 and to the Notes at the end of this document, shall have effect five working days after the meeting. Details of any recommendations to Council are also included for completeness.

### Members of the Executive

Chairman:

Councillor Joss Bigmore (Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Service Delivery)\*

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor Caroline Reeves (Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Housing & Development Control)\*

Councillor Tim Anderson, (Lead Councillor for Resources)\*  
Councillor Jan Harwood, (Lead Councillor for Climate Change)\*  
Councillor Julia McShane, (Lead Councillor for Community)\*  
Councillor John Redpath, (Lead Councillor for Economy)\*  
Councillor John Rigg, (Lead Councillor for Regeneration)\*  
Councillor James Steel, (Lead Councillor for Environment)\*

\*Present

Councillors Angela Gunning, Ramsey Nagaty, Paul Spooner and Catherine Young were also in attendance.

### Agenda Item No.

### Officer(s) to action Item

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT - DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2020 were confirmed as a correct record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

**4. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader informed the meeting that the Mayor, Councillor Richard Billington had left hospital on Monday, that his operation had gone well and that he was now at home where he would continue his recovery

from what had been serious surgery. The Mayor and Mayoress were very grateful for all the messages of support they had received.

The Leader commented that the issue of child hunger during school holidays had rightly dominated the news over the past few days. He noted that in Guildford Borough there would be children who, without support, could go without meals that would be normally provided at schools.

However, the Leader observed that we were fortunate in Guildford because the community had stood up along with local businesses to work with this Council to combat food poverty. The Council had continued to provide food parcels to the most vulnerable even after Central Government funding for this ceased during the summer. The Council would extend this support by coordination with its community services team to ensure that families with children at home continued to receive the support they needed. The Council's efforts had been complimented by its partnership with voluntary organisations, the private sector, and the schools themselves. The Leader thanked everyone that had offered help, including the University, Kings School, Foodwise, Stoke Community Support, The Ash, Ash Vale and Ash Green Coronavirus Support Group as well as Mandira's Kitchen donating 250 meals, Pho Restaurant and Love Brownies in Tunsgate offering packed lunches and the Bench Bar at the Sports Park providing hot meals, together with many others. The Leader was investigating setting up a Civic accreditation such that those that had given selflessly throughout the crisis were recognised officially.

The Leader observed there had been much talk about the amount of financial support that came from Westminster including the tranche of £100,000 that had been announced in the previous week. In consideration, the Leader set out the Council's latest estimates for the impact of COVID to its finances and the support it had received.

For the full year it was estimated that the pandemic would have caused £4.5 million in extra expenditure. Principally, this covered looking after the homeless, the cost of providing personal protective equipment (PPE) and subsidising the Council's leisure facilities. The Leader estimated lower incomes of £8.2 million which in the most part was loss of parking income, but also represented reduced income from sports and community facilities. The total impact to the Council's budget was £12.7 million. So far, the Council had received a total of £1.9 million from Central Government, leaving a shortfall of £10.8 million. The Leader explained the Council might expect to receive a further £5 million through the Sales, Fees and Charges scheme whereby the Council was compensated for around 70% of some of its revenues; however, the claims submitted were still being assessed. The best possible scenario for the Council was to have to fund £5.8 million from reserves.

The Leader noted the forecast a gap of nearly £3 million in the Council's budget for next year which would mean further inroads into increasingly scarce reserves, cuts to some of the services or projects to deliver higher revenues. The Council would be starting the formal budget process shortly, which would involve consultation with residents in order to properly inform us as to what the community thinks are priorities, which was important when making difficult decisions about the Council's

future service provision.

## 5. TENANCY STRATEGY

### Decision:

To adopt the revised Tenancy Strategy.

### Reasons:

1. There is a legal requirement under the Localism Act 2011 for the Council to prepare and publish a tenancy strategy and to review that strategy periodically, which this report addresses. In line with this statutory requirement, all of the social landlords operating in Guildford must consider the Council's over-arching strategy, as set out in the appendices to this report, which has been circulated as a consultation document to each social landlord operating in the Borough, as well as being available online for all stakeholders.
2. Flexible and other tenancies assist as tools in the efficient management of social housing stock in Guildford, which is valued by the Council's social landlord services' function and other social landlords operating in the borough.

### Other options considered and rejected by the Executive

None.

### Details of any conflict of interest declared by the Leader or lead councillors and any dispensation granted:

None

## 6. INTRODUCING CHARGES FOR RAT AND MICE TREATMENTS

### Decision:

To adopt Option 2 - Continue to offer a contracted-out Pest Control treatment service but introduce charges for rodent treatments with a 100% concession for users in receipt of qualifying benefits.

Justine Fuller

### Reason:

In order to ensure the Council had fully considered recommendations for introducing charges for rats and mice treatments for residents.

### Other options that were considered and rejected by the Executive

Option 1 - Continue to offer a contracted-out Pest Control treatment service with free rodent treatments for all residents in the Borough.

Option 3 – Continue to offer a contracted-out Pest Control treatment service but introduce charges for all pest control services including rodent treatments without any concessions.

Option 4 – Discontinue the pest control treatment service at the end of the current contract on 30 June 2021.

### Details of any conflict of interest declared by the Leader or lead councillors and any dispensation granted:

None

### NOTES:

- (a) Any decision marked “#” means that the item was deemed by the Managing Director and agreed by the Executive and Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be a matter of urgency for the

reason indicated and, in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 17 (h), such decision takes effect immediately and is therefore *not* subject to the call-in procedure.

(b) The call-in procedure is as follows:

- (i) the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; or
- (ii) a minimum of five members of the Council

may require that a decision be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for review.

(c) Councillors wishing to exercise their right to call-in a decision taken by the Executive must give notice in writing to the Democratic Services Manager. The reason for a councillor calling-in a decision shall accompany any such request and must meet one of the following criteria:

- (a) that there was insufficient, misleading or inaccurate information available to the decision-maker;
- (b) that all the relevant facts had not been taken into account and/or properly assessed;
- (c) that the decision is contrary to the budget and policy framework and is not covered by urgency provisions; or
- (d) that the decision is not in accordance with the decision-making principles set out in the Constitution.

Such notice should be marked for the attention of John Armstrong who can be contacted by e-mail on [john.armstrong@guildford.gov.uk](mailto:john.armstrong@guildford.gov.uk)

(d) On receipt of a call-in request, the Monitoring Officer will decide, in consultation with the chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, whether it is valid and will notify the councillors concerned accordingly.

(e) In the case of a valid call-in, the decision shall be referred to a special Call-in meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which shall be held within 21 days of the decision on validity referred to in paragraph (d) above.

(f) A decision marked with an asterisk denotes that the matter is a "Key Decision" which is defined in the Council's Constitution as an executive decision:

- (i) which is likely to result in significant expenditure or savings (of at least £200,000) having regard to the budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (ii) which is likely to have a significant impact on two or more wards within the Borough.