

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

Tuesday, 26th January, 2021

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 Richard Billington, Chris Blow, Angela Goodwin, Nigel Manning, Ramsey Nagaty, Maddy Redpath, Deborah Seabrook, 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 5 January 2021 were confirmed as a correct record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

4. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader extended thanks to Guildford residents for their continued observance of the lockdown guidance. Noting there had been some

isolated examples of poor behaviour, the vast majority of the Borough had followed the rules and consequently there had been a material drop in infection rates. It was stressed, however, that rates still remained high and it was important to continue to make the sacrifices necessary to protect each other and those in the NHS.

The vaccination programme continued to run at an accelerated pace. This week there would be three days pause at G Live as the NHS team finished vaccinating those in care homes and the housebound. The Leader noted significant progress in vaccination of the most vulnerable groups. Despite this good news, one in three people who had coronavirus had no symptoms, so if residents were in any doubt they should continue to act as if they had the virus.

The Leader highlighted a collaboration between Unigold, Guildford Philanthropy and Kings College. Fifty laptops had been provided to students within the space of one week enabling them to study remotely. The Leader thanked those involved in securing this arrangement.

The 2021 Mayor's Award for Service to the Community had been launched and would honour local residents and groups who had helped the Borough through the unprecedented year. The awards aimed to recognise the contribution of local people who had gone out of their way to improve the lives of others, foster good relationships and encourage a positive community spirit. This year, there was a new 'Community Heroes Award' to celebrate individuals and groups whose activities had supported residents affected by the pandemic. The Leader was pleased to announce that thirty nominations had already been received. The deadline for nominations was 5 February.

Finally, the Leader mentioned the Council's planning enforcement team and the work undertaken at Wanborough Fields in association with the Article 4 directions. Two appeals had been won and multiple notices issued and served on various plots of land within the article 4 area. The Leader thanked those officers involved and the local ward councillor for their hard work.

5. CAPITAL AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2021-22 TO 2025-26

Decision:

Victoria
Worsfold

Subject to Council approving the budget on 10 February:

- (1) That the following schemes be removed from the capital programme because the remit of the schemes, if they were to proceed, would be different to the business case that was originally approved in the programme:
 - Museum £18.26 million
 - Public realm £1.6 million
 - Bike Share £530,000
 - Town centre gateway regeneration £3.473 million
- (2) That should any of the schemes be moved forward in future, a new business case be presented to councillors.

(3) That the affordability limit for schemes to be funded by borrowing be set as per paragraph 4.32 in Appendix 1 to the report submitted to the Executive.

(4) That the following new capital bid referred to in Appendix 2 to the report:

- Guildford Economic Regeneration Programme

be added to the General Fund Capital programme provisional list and that this scheme, subject to the limits in the Financial Procedure Rules, be subject to a further report to the Executive, before being progressed.

Executive recommended to Council:

- (1) That the General Fund capital estimates, as shown in Appendices 3 and 4 (current approved and provisional schemes), as amended to include the new capital bid in respect of the Guildford Economic Regeneration Programme, Appendix 5 (schemes funded from reserves) and Appendix 6 (s106 schemes), be approved.
- (2) That the Minimum Revenue Provision policy, referred to in section 5 of the report be approved.
- (3) That the Capital and Investment Strategy be approved, specifically the Investment Strategy and Prudential Indicators contained within the report and in Appendix 1.

Reason(s):

- 1) To enable the Council to approve the Capital and Investment strategy for 2021-22 to 2024-25
- 2) To enable the Council, at its budget meeting on 10 February 2021 to approve the funding required for the new capital investment proposals

Other options considered and rejected by the Executive:

As set out in paragraph 17.2 of the report

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

None.

6. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2021-22

Decision:

Claire Morris

Subject to Council approving the budget on 10 February 2021:

- (1) That the projects forming the HRA major repairs and improvement programme, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report

submitted to the Executive, be approved.

(2) That the Director of Service Delivery be authorised, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Housing and Development Control:

(a) to reallocate funding between approved schemes to make best use of the available resources; and

(b) to set rents for new developments.

Executive recommended to Council:

(1) That the proposed HRA revenue budget for 2021-22, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

(2) That a rent increase of 1.8%, comprising the September 2020 CPI (0.8%) plus 1%, as required by the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016, be implemented.

(3) That the fees and charges for HRA services for 2021-22, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.

(4) That a 3.4% increase in garage rents be approved for 2021-22.

(5) That the Housing Investment Programme as shown in the amended Appendix 4 as set out in the Supplementary Information Sheet (current approved and provisional schemes), be approved.

Reason(s):

To enable the Council to set the rent charges for HRA property and associated fees and charges, along with authorising the necessary revenue and capital expenditure to implement a budget, this is consistent with the objectives outlined in the HRA Business Plan.

Other options considered and rejected by the Executive:

None.

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

None.

7. BUSINESS PLANNING - GENERAL FUND OUTLINE BUDGET 2021-22

Decision:

Claire Morris

(1) That the transfers to/from reserves as set out in Section 8 and Appendix 2 to the report submitted to the Executive be approved.

(2) That the growth and savings items included in the General Fund Summary at Appendix 2 and set out in detail in Appendix 3, be approved.

(3) That the financial risk register set out in Appendix 4 be approved

and that it be noted that the level of reserves are currently sufficient to meet the Council's risks.

- (4) That the findings of the consultation response set out in Appendix 5 be noted.

Executive recommended to Council:

- (1) That no changes be made to the Fees and Charges for General Fund services for 2021-22.
- (2) That the budget, as set out in the General Fund Summary in Appendix 2 be approved, and specifically that the Council Tax requirement for 2021-22 be set at £10,392,720.
- (3) That the Band D Council Tax for 2021-22 be set at £181.82, an increase of £5 (3.00%).

Reason(s):

To enable the Council to set the Council Tax requirement and council tax for the 2021-22 financial year.

Other options considered and rejected by the Executive:

None.

Details of any conflict of interest declared by the lead 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 Councilmay 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

- (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.