

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

Thursday, 24th February, 2022

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)) *

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor Julia McShane ((Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing)) *

Councillor Tim Anderson, (Lead Councillor for Resources) *

Councillor Tom Hunt, (Lead Councillor for Development Management) *

Councillor John Redpath, (Lead Councillor for Economy) *

Councillor John Rigg, (Lead Councillor for Regeneration) *

Councillor James Steel, (Lead Councillor for Environment) *

Councillor Cait Taylor, (Lead Councillor for Climate Change) *

*Present

Councillor Deborah Seabrook was in attendance. Councillors Angela Goodwin, Tony Rooth, Fiona White and Catherine Young were also in remote 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 25 January 2022 were confirmed as a correct record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

4. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council paid tribute to officers who had participated in supporting residents and county council partners in responding to the impact of storm Eunice. Staff had given their time freely over the

weekend to make calls to check on the wellbeing of vulnerable residents, some of whom were without power or water and to assist with the clearance of debris, fallen trees and making areas safe. Throughout the council had maintain services including bin collections and meals on wheels. The few bins that were not collected on the Friday as the storm gathered were collected on the Saturday. Stoke Gardens had seen a wall collapse that had been made safe and the garden remained open. The Leader expressed regret at the loss of trees across the borough and other damage caused by the storm but was thankful that no one had been injured.

The Government had lifted all remaining Covid restrictions but the Leader was mindful that there were still Covid fatalities and urged residents to keep safe by getting vaccinated, get tested if experiencing symptoms and to consider wearing face coverings when in crowded places and to ventilate rooms. Those who were vulnerable were not always visible and it was important to keep them safe.

From April residents living in Council Tax Bands A to D were likely to receive £150 council tax rebate from the Government to help with the cost of living and energy price rises. The rebate was separate and would not appear on council tax bills. Those who paid by direct debit would receive the rebate directly into their accounts. For those who did not pay by direct debit there would be guidance to follow on how to claim.

The 2022 Guildford in Bloom competition had been launched with the main competition complemented by a schools' competition. The theme for this year would be the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

An event would be held on the 4 June which was the Jubilee weekend at Guildford Castle with a picnic, music and other entertainment in partnership with Guildford Fringe Festival and Experience Guildford.

There was a new display at Guildford Museum called 'Soldiers of Surrey – stories from the Queens Royal Regiment'.

Finally, the Leader thanked the departing Monitoring Officer, Diane Owens for her service to the council.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Abi Lewis

The standing agenda item was noted by the Executive. There were no further comments.

6. PETITION: MAKE GUILDFORD PESTICIDE-FREE *

Decision:

Hendryk Jurk

The Executive considered and approved the proposed chemical reduction measures in 2022 as set out in Appendix 6 of the report and to commit the Council to working with Surrey County Council (SCC) in developing a joint pesticide policy.

Reason:

To implement the resolution as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 7 December 2021

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.

7. NORTH STREET DEVELOPMENT SITE, GUILDFORD

Decision:

Andrew
Tyldesley

1. Agreed the working group's recommendation for the design and high-level specification for the refurbished bus interchange.
2. Agreed the working group's recommendation for the design and high-level specification for the proposed pedestrianisation of North Street.
3. Greed to move £150,000 from the 2022-23 provisional capital programme to the approved capital programme to fund the ongoing work on the North Street Project.

Reason:

To maintain progress with the North Street development project.

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.

8. USE OF RIGHT TO BUY RECEIPTS POLICY *

Decision:

Claire Morris

Approved the Use of Retained Right to Buy Receipts Policy

Reason:

To facilitate the delivery of affordable housing in the borough and try to mitigate the risk of repaying RTB receipts to government in the future

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.

9. GRANT OF LICENCES FOR AMENITY LAND ADJACENT TO BEEHCROFT DRIVE

Decision:

Abi Lewis

1. Authorised the Strategic Services Director, in consultation with the lead Councillor for Resources, to negotiate and enter into all property documentation required to grant licence agreements with the freeholders of Beechcroft Drive for less than best consideration.
2. Approved the allocation of £11,000 revenue to cover the Council's legal costs associated with the drafting and execution of the licences relating to Beechcroft Drive.

Reason:

This recommendation would provide the residents of Beechcroft Drive with an alternative access route to avoid having to enter/exit the residential street via the A3, as well as formalising the arrangement which relates to the Council's own land ownership.

Other options considered and rejected by the Executive:

Options 1 and 2.

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

None.

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Decision

That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of agenda item 10 on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the 1972 Act.

11. THE ACADEMY OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC AND THE RIVERSIDE CENTRE

Decision:

Dawn Hudd

The Executive approved the officer recommendation to enter into a deed of surrender on the lease for the Riverside Centre

Reason:

The ACM was a local education provider that brought students and

benefits into the Town Centre and which leased several properties from the Council.

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.

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

(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.