

**STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

Thursday, 4th January, 2024

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 16 and to Note (a) at the end of this document, shall have effect five working days after the day of the meeting. Details of any recommendations to Council are also included for completeness.

Members of the Executive

Chairman:

Councillor Julia McShane (Leader of the Council & Lead Councillor for Housing)

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor Tom Hunt (Deputy Leader of the Council & Lead Councillor for Regeneration) \*

Councillor Angela Goodwin, Lead Councillor for Engagement and Customer Services \*

Councillor Catherine Houston, Lead Councillor for Commercial Services \*

Councillor Richard Lucas, Lead Councillor for Finance and Property \*

Councillor Carla Morson, Lead Councillor for Community and Organisational Development \*

Councillor George Potter, Lead Councillor for Planning, Environment and Climate Change \*

Councillor Merel Rehorst-Smith, Lead Councillor for Regulatory and Democratic Services \*

\*Present

Councillors Fiona White and Patrick Oven were in attendance. Councillors Amanda Crease, Yves de Contades, Howard Smith and Joanne Shaw were also in remote attendance.

<b>Agenda Item No.</b>		<b>Officer(s) to action Item</b>
1.	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillor Julia McShane.</p>	
2.	<p><b>LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT - DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
3.	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2023 were confirmed as correct. The Chairman signed the minutes.</p>	
4.	<p><b>LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p> <p>The Deputy Leader noted that yesterday the council published its draft financial budget for 2024 to 2025. It proposed a balanced budget for the next financial year and provided an update on the Medium-Term Financial Plan position up to April 2027. All indications were that the council will not need to issue a section 114 notice. The draft budget would be reviewed at the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Joint Executive Advisory Board on 11 January 2024;</li> <li>• the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee on 18 January 2024;</li> <li>• the Executive on 25 January 2024; and to be finally approved by</li> <li>• Full Council on 7 February 2024</li> </ul> <p>Gratitude was expressed to the finance team for all their hard work towards addressing the council's financial situation. It was noted that work would continue to ensure the council's future financial position remained stable.</p> <p>The council was currently operating 22 bring sites of various sizes and locations across the borough. These were locations where residents could take unwanted textiles, shoes, bottles,</p>	

and cardboard for recycling. These sites were introduced before good kerbside recycling services were established. As the council now had a much better recycling service - where all the items that residents can take to a bring site could be collected through the usual kerbside recycling collection – the decision has been taken to close them. The bring sites would be closing the week commencing 22 January 2024. It was noted that the sites at Station Parade, East Horsley and Portsmouth Road, Guildford would be converted to recycling points for nearby flats. The council was in the process of letting our community know about this change (following its approval at Executive on the 23 November) in a number of ways:

- signage on the bring sites themselves.
- emails to the landowners affected by this change to our service.
- information [on our website](#) containing more detailed guidance as to [how to dispose of household rubbish](#)
- social media posts to keep our residents fully informed about the services available through their kerbside collection.

Further updates would be provided in the regular fortnightly councillor update.

Schools and parish councils could now create projects with Crowdfund Guildford. There was still up to £5,000 funding available for community projects in the Autumn round. The deadline to create a project was 31 January 2024

Suitable projects attracting support were those that:

- supported those in need.
- improved rural areas.
- enhanced green spaces.
- promoted wildlife and nature.
- enhanced wellbeing

Any community group or person with an idea was encouraged to connect with Crowdfund Guildford, where they could

support ongoing projects and bring their own to life.  
[Crowdfund Guildford website](#). Crowdfund Guildford was supported by UK Share Prosperity Fund.

Clean Air Night was happening for the first time on Wednesday, 24 January 2024. The council was participating in the Clean Air Night campaign in alliance with Global Action Plan. It was noted that new evidence had discovered that wood burning damaged health and the planet. Clean Air Night was a chance to learn more and to hear expert voices on the myths of wood burning. The council would be sharing posts on social media channels to support the campaign hashtag #CleanAirNight. More information about Clean Air Night could be found by visiting Global Action Plan's website: [www.cleanairhub.org.uk](http://www.cleanairhub.org.uk)

**5. SEND HILL DISUSED SANDPIT \***

Decision:

Damien  
Cannell

That, in line with the Land and Property Disposal Policy, the Executive authorises The Joint Executive Head, Assets and Property to negotiate terms for a disposal at best consideration and to subsequently enter into all relevant legal documentation required to complete the transaction of the Council owned land comprising Land West of Winds Ridge, Send Hill in return for a capital receipt.

Reason(s):

1. To facilitate the building of new homes in compliance with the local plan designation.
2. To generate Income (a capital receipt) and reduce revenue costs.

Other options considered and rejected by the Executive:

1. Do nothing – We can retain the land, keep it as amenity land and protect the biodiversity of the site. The council will continue to have revenue costs associated with maintenance and security. There is a risk of possible future claims if the made ground is disturbed. In addition,

the council would have to comply with the Occupiers Liability Act 1984 for members of the public using the land.

2. Pursue a joint development – This option has already been reviewed by senior officers and rejected due to a lack of in-house resources available and costs that the council would need to bear for remediation. The site is also not considered suitable for development by the HRA. The council's future development options will be extremely limited due to access issues.

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 Chief Executive 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 16 (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 and Elections 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.