

EXECUTIVE

- * Councillor Julia McShane (Chairman)
- * Councillor Joss Bigmore (Vice-Chairman)

- * Councillor Tim Anderson
- * Councillor Tom Hunt
- * Councillor George Potter

Councillor John Redpath
Councillor John Rigg
Councillor James Steel

*Present

EX61 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Redpath, John Rigg and James Steel.

EX62 LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT - DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

EX63 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

'Warm hubs' were being opened across Surrey in local community spaces which were run by Surrey County Council (SCC). The hubs were drop-in centres where residents might have a hot drink, meet others and receive supportive information and advice about energy costs. A map showing the location of the hubs across Surrey was available on the SCC website. A list of the hubs in Guildford was available on the Council's website.

[Help with finding a warm hub - Guildford Borough Council](#)

There was a cold weather warning in place across Guildford and residents were asked to be prepared and to check in on vulnerable friends and neighbours.

Residents concerned for anyone sleeping 'rough' or outdoors could contact the Council's support team on 01483 302495.

Over the Christmas period there would be changes to bin collections and no garden waste collection for two weeks between 26 December and 6 January. A full list of the bin collection schedule was available on the Council's website.

[Changes to bin collection days over Christmas and New Year - Guildford Borough Council](#)

Events at Guildford Museum included 'A History of Guildford Football and the Beautiful Game' as well as the 'Twelve Days of Christmas Trail' which was suitable for children aged four and above. Entry to the museum and the Trail was free. The museum was open Wednesday – Saturday 12 Noon to 4:30pm (last entry 4:00pm).

EX64 GUILDFORD PARK ROAD REDEVELOPMENT - ACTION TO SECURE ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS AND CAPACITY FOR THE NEW DEVELOPMENT

The Council had been working with the appointed professional team to develop a new planning application for the Guildford Park site to deliver a residential scheme of circa 240 new homes. This work had progressed to RIBA stage 3 and the planning application would be submitted soon.

It had been established that there were electrical distribution network capacity issues in Guildford that could have significant consequences for the cost and deliverability of the redevelopment scheme in the future. The Council had the opportunity to act now to secure capacity for its development through early funding of the future electrical connections required for the scheme. The cost was £360,000 based upon the quotation received from UK Power Networks (UKPN). This cost had been budgeted for but was not expected to be incurred at this early stage of the project. Officers had no existing delegation to authorise payment in respect of this cost at this stage.

Given the urgency of the decision which, in compliance with the UKPN contractual arrangement, was to be taken no later than 15 December 2022 the special meeting of the Executive had been convened.

The Leader of the Council introduced the report and thanked the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for waiving the call-in procedure and the requirement to wait the 28-day period for a key decision.

It was explained that since the agenda had been published, legal advice had been received which considered that instructing UKPN to undertake all works, including those that were contestable, would not comply with procurement regulations unless an appropriate exemption was sought. Contestable works were the elements of the connections work which could be undertaken by others.

For the purposes of securing the capacity it was acceptable to instruct UKPN to undertake non-contestable works only. This work had been costed at £70,106.89. Non-contestable works were the elements of the connections work which must be completed by UKPN.

There was scope to instruct UKPN to undertake the contestable works at a later stage if it could be determined that this would provide best value for the project and an appropriate procurement exemption was sought. This information was set out in the Supplementary Information Sheet circulated at the meeting.

The UKPN quotation for the contestable works set out terms and conditions regarding timescales for take up but these were negotiable given the Council had entered into the agreement. If, in future, either the Council as developer or another party as developer required negotiations for contestable works this could be agreed alongside the non-contestable works.

UKPN would reimburse the Council should the work to develop the site not proceed, but the level of reimbursement would be subject to deductions dependent upon how much advance preparatory work had been undertaken by UKPN. Consequently, the Executive,

RESOLVED:

- (1) To authorise immediate payment of £70,106.89 to UK Power Networks (UKPN) to establish the capacity for, and cost of, the electrical connections that will be required for the Guildford Park Road Redevelopment scheme.
- (2) To authorise the Strategic Director: Place, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Resources, to enter into such agreements as are necessary with UKPN.
- (3) To agree that funding for this payment be brought forward into this financial year from the approved HRA capital programme budget for 2023/24 in respect of this project.
- (4) To agree that the call-in provisions of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16 (h) should not apply in respect of the decision in respect of this matter due to its urgency.

Reasons:

Officers consider that authorising this payment now will be of significant benefit to this project in the future. Making the payment will secure electrical capacity for the scheme and shield it from unquantified but potentially significant cost, programme and deliverability risk.

The meeting finished at 7.13 pm

Signed

Chairman

Date