

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

Thursday, 9th May, 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 Environment and Climate Change

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

Councillor Fiona White, Lead Councillor for Planning *

*Present

Councillors Vanessa King, Richard Lucas and Joanne Shaw were also in remote attendance.

**Agenda
Item
No.**

**Officer(s)
to action
Item**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors George

Potter and Richard Lucas.

2. Local Code of Conduct - Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2024 were approved. The Chairman signed the minutes.

4. Leader's Announcements

The Leader referred to the recently published SOLACE Reports that had set out a series of recommendations for the Council in regard to its governance, finance and landlord housing function. The Council had published its improvement plan that set out its response to those recommendations. The Leader set out a commitment to residents to implement the improvement plan in full. More information was available from the Council's newsroom [Guildford Borough Council News Room - Guildford Borough Council](#).

This week at the Annual Meeting Cllr Sallie Barker MBE was elected as The Mayor of Guildford and Cllr Howard Smith as Deputy Mayor. The Leader sent both best wishes for the year ahead.

The Council had announced its first ever Guildford Green Day, an initiative funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The event would take place on Sunday, 9 June 2024, from 11am to 4pm and would be a day to celebrate, learn and be part of a Greener Guildford. It would combine environmental, education and awareness activities. It was hoped as many people as possible would come along and get involved with the free activities on offer. [More information is available on the Visit Surrey website and searching for Guildford Green Day.](#)

Last weekend the bridge beams were installed over the railway at Ash Road Bridge. Over 200 people attended to watch the work in progress.

Seventeen 24 tonne beams and two 45 tonne beams were installed over the weekend using a 750-tonne mobile crane.

The good weather was an added bonus and meant that all beams were installed by 5pm on Saturday 4 May.

The Council was running consultations on two guidance documents that would help decision makers assess planning applications. The guidance covered open space and the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area. The consultations opened on 8th May and would run to midday 12 June 2024.

[Visit the Council's newsroom](#) or [planning portal](#) for more information.

The Leader was pleased to announce that Guildford Lido was open until 15 September. Season [tickets could be purchased online from the Freedom Leisure website](#).

Free bandstand concerts would take place in Guildford Castle grounds between May and September. There would be free live music every Sunday from 2pm to 4pm. Visitors could take a picnic.

[The full programme for the bandstand concerts](#) was on the Visit Surrey website.

5. Weyside Urban Village Development *

Decision:

Abi Lewis

1. Noted the current financial position of Weyside Urban Village programme at the Spring 2024 Financial Review, as set out in the report.
2. Noted the current forecasted eventual deficit - outlined in Exempt Appendix 1 - in 2033 (year 10 of the project delivery programme).
3. Delegated to the Strategic Director of Place, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Regeneration and Lead Councillor for Finance and Property, authority to enter into such other contracts and legal agreements connected with the Weyside Urban Village programme as may be necessary in compliance with Procurement Procedure Rules and within the approved budget.
4. Recommended to Full Council meeting on 13 May 2024

the approval of the transfer of £69.548 million from the provisional capital programme to the approved capital programme for payments which the Council is obliged to make to Thames Water Utilities Limited under the Thames Water Agreement for 2024/25, for costs necessary to meet the milestones set within the Homes England Housing Infrastructure Funding agreement and construction costs of phase 2 Infrastructure, Offsite Highways and the New Council Depot.

Reason(s):

1. To ensure that there is sufficient understanding of the projected financial forecast of the programme and outline the work underway to develop mitigation strategies to alleviate the forecast deficit.
2. To ensure that there is sufficient funding in the approved programme to cover construction of phase 2 Infrastructure, Offsite Highways and the new Council Depot and the payments which the Council is obliged to make to Thames Water Utilities Limited under the Thames Water Agreement for 2024/25.
3. To ensure that statutory service agreements and construction agreements can be entered into for the delivery of services and infrastructure for the development and to ensure that Homes England Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) milestones are achieved.
4. To support the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan (2021-2025) priorities, by supporting the high-quality development of a strategic site, creating employment opportunities through regeneration and facilitating affordable housing.

Other options considered and rejected by the Executive:

Option 1, not to approve the recommendations.

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.

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 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

- (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.