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**SOCIETY, ENVIRONMENT, AND COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT
EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD**

19 October 2017

* Councillor Adrian Chandler (Chairman)
* Councillor Pauline Searle (Vice-Chairman)

* Councillor Angela Gunning	* Councillor Dennis Paul
* Councillor Christian Holliday	* Councillor Tony Phillips
* Councillor Gordon Jackson	* Councillor David Quelch
* Councillor Jennifer Jordan	* Councillor David Reeve
Councillor Sheila Kirkland	* Councillor David Wright

*Present

Councillors Philip Brooker, Lead Councillor for Housing and Environment, Nikki Nelson-Smith, Lead Councillor for Social Welfare, Heritage and the Arts, and Caroline Reeves were also in attendance.

S21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Sheila Kirkland submitted apologies for absence.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 23(j), Councillor Jo Randall attended as a substitute on behalf of Councillor Sheila Kirkland.

**S22 LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE
PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Councillor Philip Brooker declared a potential issue of bias as Chairman of Guildford Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Councillor Gordon Jackson declared a personal interest as Chairman of Ash Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Councillor Jennifer Jordan declared a personal interest as a volunteer at TALK and at Canterbury Care Centre.

Councillor Caroline Reeves declared a personal interest as a trustee of Guildford Action.

Councillor Angela Gunning declared a personal interest as her husband is in a care home.

S23 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 07 September 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

S24 ART DEVELOPMENT DRAFT STRATEGY

The Lead Councillor for Social Welfare, Heritage and the Arts explained that the arts development strategy sought to increase participation by highlighting the importance of art, and helping this Council to identify and secure resources. The budget for arts development was limited, and meant that partnership working was essential. A consultation exercise looked at how to maximise reach by identifying gaps in provision, considering what

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prevented people from taking part, and identifying ways to maximise resources. This Council was keen to support local artists, particularly with networking and information sharing, but also with their development. Guildford had a vibrant arts community, but there was still scope to provide additional support for developing opportunities for young people, and ensuring opportunities reached across communities throughout the borough.

The Arts Officer reported that a cross-party Project Board had been responsible for the development of the draft strategy. Public consultation took place between 23 June and 28 July 2017 using a flexible approach to engage with as many people as possible. The aim of the strategy was to encourage more people to take part in activities, and highlight barriers to people taking part. The Arts Officer gave examples of projects, including FISH (fun in the school holidays), which involved around 300 young people each year, and The Big Draw, which had involved ten different partners, with workshops in Ash, Bellfields and Newlands Corner, as well as Guildford town centre. Officers had also been working with Oakleaf and Waverley Borough Council to provide singing sessions for people with mental health issues.

Key findings from the consultation were that respondents thought that this Council led on all arts within the borough, but did not understand the work of the arts officers. An action was included within the draft strategy to remedy this. The consultation also showed that there was an appetite for partnership working. The draft strategy was due to be launched in January 2018.

The Board complimented officers on their achievements and commended the strategy to the Executive.

S25 STRATEGY FOR THE ELDERLY/LATER LIFE

The Head of Health and Community Care Services provided an update on the current financial and demographic environment in relation to elderly services, and an overview of key issues.

The Board heard that the elderly population in Guildford was projected to increase substantially over the next decade, and services would need to be planned around this. The Board received an overview of the roles and responsibilities of this Council in terms of the delivery of services to the elderly, the framework for which was outlined in the Later Life Strategy, approved by this Council in 2010. Services to the community, including the elderly, were also provided through the voluntary sector, and private providers. The Head of Health and Community Care Services informed the Board that the Surrey Heartlands Sustainability Transformation Plan Board had responsibility for ensuring that services to improve the health and care of the local population were integrated, and the Better Care Fund was designed to facilitate changes to the way health and social care were delivered.

The Board was provided with details of the this Council's services for the elderly, and heard that regular service reviews were undertaken to ensure efficiency. Services were designed around local need, and were held in high regard. They also compared well against services provided across other boroughs in Surrey. A database of vulnerable residents was held by this Council, but it was predicated on residents who were in receipt of services. The Board suggested that parish councils and community wardens be consulted as they may be able to provide information on other vulnerable elderly residents, particularly those in rural areas who were not connected into systems, so were not necessarily receiving services such as meals on wheels.

The Head of Health and Community Care Services suggested some issues that the Board may wish to consider. These included future funding and services, service changes,

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partners, customer expectations, technology development, the development of community resilience, and the merits of a trading company for the delivery of services.

The Head of Health and Community Care Services confirmed that officers had sought feedback from customers, and would continue to do so. Information came from different sources, including clients, relatives and professionals. Issues could be addressed through regular meetings with Surrey County Council.

The Board heard that a corporate review of voluntary grants was under way, and it was likely that this would result in some changes to the way that services to the elderly were organised. Charging for services was an option for consideration, but it was important to ensure that the future viability of services was not jeopardised as a result. Likewise, a trading company could be set up, but the benefits of doing so would be dependent on how it was structured, and if it required subsidising, it might not save any money. More work was required on this, with a further report and discussion following the review of grants process.

The Board's attention was drawn to a recently launched report from the Local Government Association. The report, "The impact of homelessness on health", suggested that older homelessness was a growing, but largely hidden issue that needed greater understanding, and that the rising number of older homeless would create significant extra pressures for councils. Although the age profile of people accessing services had increased, the Head of Health and Community Care was not aware of any increase in homelessness amongst the elderly in Guildford.

The Board was cognisant that over the next 15 years the number of residents aged over 80 would increase by more than 50% and plans would need to be put in place to mitigate against this, at a time when this Council was facing significant financial pressures. One way to alleviate this might be to charge people who could afford to pay for services.

The Board recognised that charities were facing difficulties as grants had been frozen over a number of years. It would be possible to analyse which charities received funding from this Council and what services they provided, as this information was already collected as part of the application process. Some charities were very dependent on grant funding, and cuts to their allocations might cause an increased demand for council services, and may not be cost effective in the longer term. Nevertheless, it was important to determine how efficiently charities were operating and that they were providing value for money, which might require some research into best practice.

The Head of Health and Community Care Services informed the Board that the community alarm service routinely looked at what was being developed in terms of technology to support residents, and that the NHS was looking at digital health technology to monitor people's wellbeing, so that district nurses or medical teams could be deployed to prevent health problems. The Board agreed that further discussion was required on technology for later life.

The Board was informed that the Local Plan had taken account of local projections of the numbers of elderly residents who might require residential care in the future. The Board suggested that residents in their 40s and 50s should be surveyed to ascertain how they thought that care in their later life should be managed.

The Board recommended that the topic should be taken forward as a scrutiny item, with a view to setting up a task and finish group. The Board also recommended that the topic be listed as an unscheduled item on its work programme to allow for further discussion at a later stage.

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S26 AIR QUALITY STRATEGY

The Lead Councillor for Housing and Environment informed the Board that the air quality strategy had been developed by the air quality task and finish group, and an action plan to support the strategy had been produced in collaboration with the group. The strategy was ambitious, but realistic, and its implementation would be monitored annually through the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Finances and resources had been allocated for all current activities within the strategy, and key performance indicators had been agreed.

The Environmental Health Manager informed the Board that a local monitoring network was in place to measure air quality. Exceedances had been recorded at Compton, and some work had already been done in connection with this, including research into traffic volume and source apportionment. This Council had a memorandum of understanding with its planning department to allow effective use of planning conditions to improve air quality. Green scheme parking fees had been introduced in council car parks for electric vehicles, and a parking app had been developed to direct users to the closest and cheapest spaces. Community wardens were providing education in communities to change behaviours, and services were being taken out into communities to reduce car journeys to Millmead. This Council had been working with partners to produce air quality modelling of Surrey for PM10, PM2.5, NO2, and to comply with nitrogen dioxide air quality limits on the A331. In addition, this Council was working with other local authorities, land managers, and highway authorities to develop a framework to monitor forecast improvements in roadside air quality around the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area to confirm that forecast improvements were being delivered and, if required, to identify and deliver supplementary measures.

The Environmental Health Manager outlined some of the projects this Council would be looking at over the short term to improve air quality. These included the adoption of the air quality strategy, and the declaration of an air quality management area in Compton. Home, mobile, remote and flexible working would be facilitated and promoted for this Council's officers, and alternative travel methods promoted amongst its workforce. This Council also planned to participate in a University of Surrey European project to raise citizen awareness about air quality and the impact of green infrastructure to reduce air pollution and improve health and well-being. This Council was also exploring ways to discourage drivers from keeping their engines running whilst waiting at level crossings.

The Environmental Health Manager informed the Board that over the medium term, this Council would be looking to set a positive example through its lease car policy and fleet vehicle procurement process. A policy would be created to cover officers' travel to meetings, seminars and training courses and there would be a service delivery review to further reduce public journeys to this Council's properties where appropriate. An electric vehicle charging strategy would be adopted, and other employers would be encouraged to introduce travel plans. This Council also planned to work in partnership with local bus companies to bid for funding from the Low Emissions Bus Scheme or the Clean Bus Technology Fund for ultra-low emission buses in Guildford.

The Board heard that, over the long term, there were plans to improve sustainable transport opportunities in line with the Guildford Borough Transport Strategy. As technologies developed, the taxi and private hire licensing policy would be reviewed, and green scheme parking revised to introduce differential charging and extend the policy to on-street parking permits. Freight and delivery companies would be encouraged to introduce travel plans, and road configuration best practice researched. The aim would be to keep up to date with best practice, and ensure it was implemented in this Council's policies.

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The Board was positive about the number of actions planned to tackle air quality, but cautioned about the unintended consequences of dissuading people from using their cars, which could lead to loneliness unless regular, cheap, accessible public transport was available.

The Board commended the strategy to the Executive.

S27 PROGRESS WITH ITEMS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE EAB

The update report was noted.

S28 EAB WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was noted by the Board.

The meeting finished at 9.13 pm

Signed

Date

Chairman