

# EXECUTIVE

23 June 2020

- \* Councillor Caroline Reeves (Chairman)
- \* Councillor Joss Bigmore (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Tim Anderson  
\* Councillor Jan Harwood  
\* Councillor Julia McShane

\* Councillor John Redpath  
\* Councillor John Rigg  
\* Councillor James Steel

\*Present

Councillors Colin Cross, Graham Eyre, Angela Gunning, Ramsey Nagaty, Susan Park and Paul Spooner were in attendance.

## **EX10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Tim Anderson, Lead Councillor for Resources.

## **EX11 LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT - DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **EX12 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

## **EX13 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader of the Council announced that residents in Ash had raised several key questions around a number of infrastructure projects, particularly with regard to the involvement of Surrey County Council. It was decided that it would be premature to make a final decision on the projects until those issues had been fully investigated and until it was possible to give the public answers to those questions. Therefore, the decision on the future of the projects in Item 6 would not be made until there was clarity on those key questions. For simplicity, the whole agenda item had been withdrawn and a new, revised paper covering all of the topics would be published in due course.

## **EX14 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2019-20**

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 required the Council to prepare an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) that detailed the governance framework and procedures that had operated at the Council during the year, a review of their effectiveness, significant governance issues that had occurred and a statement of assurance.

The Executive was asked to consider a report outlining the background to the AGS and the draft AGS 2019-20. The report included the Head of Internal Audit's Annual Opinion Report April 2019 to March 2020.

The report was introduced by the Deputy Leader of the Council. The draft AGS would be included in the Council's audited statement of accounts for 2019-20. The AGS concluded that the Council was well run with good governance processes in place; however, there had been a

number of significant governance issues during the year, which were reported in Appendix 1 section 6.

The Corporate Governance and Standards Committee had also considered the AGS and had commended its adoption by the Executive, subject to a number of corrections and updates which were set out in the Supplementary Information Sheet which had been published before the Executive's meeting. The Supplementary information Sheet also contained an additional section describing the impact of COVID-19 on the delivery of good governance.

Having considered the AGS, the Executive

RESOLVED:

- (1) That, subject to paragraph (2) below, the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2019-20, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report submitted to the Executive, be approved subject to the corrections and updates reported to the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee at its meeting on 18 June 2020 and set out in the Executive's Supplementary Information Sheet.
- (2) That the Democratic Services and Elections Manager be authorised, in consultation with the Lead Councillor with responsibility for governance and the Director of Resources, to update and amend the Annual Governance Statement for 2019-20 prior to the date of publication of the audited accounts for 2019-20 to reflect the ongoing assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Council.

Reason

To comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Executive must prepare, approve, and publish an Annual Governance Statement.

**EX15 CORPORATE PROGRAMMES - COVID 19 PROJECTS REVIEW**

This item was deferred to allow for discussion with partner organisations to take place and would be resubmitted when there was a clearer picture of future funding.

The meeting finished at 7.24 pm

Signed .....

Chairman

Date .....