

Executive

Councillor Julia McShane (Chairperson)

* Councillor Tom Hunt (Vice-Chair)

* Councillor Angela Goodwin

* Councillor Carla Morson

* Councillor Catherine Houston

* Councillor George Potter

* Councillor Richard Lucas

* Councillor Merel Rehorst-Smith

*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.

EX41 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Julia McShane.

EX42 Local Code of Conduct - Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

EX43 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2023 were confirmed as correct. The Chairman signed the minutes.

EX44 Leader's Announcements

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:

- the Joint Executive Advisory Board on 11 January 2024;
- the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee on 18 January 2024;
- the Executive on 25 January 2024; and to be finally approved by
- Full Council on 7 February 2024

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.

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, 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

EX45 Send Hill Disused Sandpit

The Executive considered a report recommending that the council-owned land known as Send Hill Disused Sandpit, be disposed of at best consideration. The land was an old landfill site that was surplus amenity and was used for the purposes of public recreation. It was identified in the Local Plan as development land for housing. The site was not considered appropriate for development by the council's Housing Revenue Account due to remediation costs and resource implications.

The Lead Councillor for Finance and Property introduced the report and advised that Executive authority was required for the disposal to proceed due to the size of the site and the anticipated value of the sale. It was noted that the matter had been before the Executive on a previous occasion when authority was given to undertake a contaminated land survey.

The Executive noted that the public comments set out in the report were generally opposed to the sale of the land. Public feedback questioned if the land would be suitable for development, suggested a potential impact for wildlife and that it was valued as a recreational area for local dog walkers. The Executive observed that any loss of amenity would be a matter for the Planning Committee and planning policy should any future application be submitted. A Right of Way immediately behind the site was noted and that public accessibility could be a consideration for any future planning application. It was commented that the Send Neighbourhood Plan had not, apparently, sought to designate the site as Green Space.

Whilst there was sympathy for those local residents opposing the sale, the site had been removed from the Green Belt and been listed for development in the Local Plan. The capital receipt received from the sale would be positively utilised by the council to protect and deliver services. Consequently, the Executive,

RESOLVED:

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.

The meeting finished at 6.15 pm

Signed

Date

Chairman