

EXECUTIVE

26 September 2017

- * Councillor Paul Spooner (Chairman)
- * Councillor Matt Furniss (Vice-Chairman)

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| * Councillor David Bilbé | Councillor Graham Ellwood |
| * Councillor Richard Billington | * Councillor Michael Illman |
| * Councillor Philip Brooker | * Councillor Nikki Nelson-Smith |
| * Councillor Geoff Davis | * Councillor Iseult Roche |

*Present

Councillors Angela Gunning, David Reeve and Caroline Reeves were also in attendance.

EX37 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Graham Ellwood.

EX38 LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT - DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

EX39 MINUTES

The Executive approved the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2017. The Chairman signed the minutes.

EX40 RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND FRAMEWORK 2017

The Executive considered a report on the draft Risk Management Strategy and Framework 2017. The Executive noted that the Strategy and Framework would be reported on an annual basis to the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee who had commended its adoption at their meeting on 27 July 2017. Effective risk management was an integral part of the Council's governance framework.

Having considered the report, the Executive therefore

RESOLVED:

That the Risk Management Strategy and Framework 2017 be adopted, subject to:

- (a) The inclusion in Step 8: Review, Report and Monitor of the requirement for an annual report to be presented to the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee reviewing progress on the management of risk within the Council generally and monitoring future progress against the Strategy and Framework;
- (b) The inclusion in the corporate report template of a separate section on "Risk Management Implications"

Reason for Decision:

To ensure that there is a system for effective monitoring, development and operation of risk management in the Council.

EX41 GUILDFORD BOROUGH PLANNING CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT UPDATE 2017

The Executive considered a report outlining the Guildford Borough Planning Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 2017 update, which had been prepared to supersede the Planning Contributions SPD 2011. The SPD would provide up-to-date advice and guidance on legislation that applies across government. The updated SPD also included minor changes to thresholds and obligations in relation to affordable housing, sustainable design and construction, open space, public art, SANG, CCTV and education. The Executive considered that the adoption of an updated Planning Contributions SPD would help increase transparency and certainty for people in making planning applications.

Having considered the report, the Executive therefore

RESOLVED:

That the Guildford Borough Planning Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) update 2017, as set out in Appendix 1, be adopted as an update and replacement for the 2011 SPD, which is hereby revoked.

Reason for Decision:

To provide up-to-date advice to applicants for planning permission in order to assist in securing supporting infrastructure and mitigate any harm arising from planned developments through determining planning applications or appeals.

EX42 TOWN TWINNING AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

The Executive considered a report recommending that the Council's existing twinning agreement with Freiburg was strengthened, that the Council's current twinning arrangement with Bar-le-Duc, in France was formally terminated and that new international relationships were sought with the French city of Versailles and Dongying in China.

The Executive received a verbal update from the Lead Councillor for Infrastructure and Governance on how the proposed twinning arrangements, specifically with Dongying and Versailles would build new international relationships for Guildford promoting technology, science, medicine, artificial intelligence, business and tourism. The Executive noted that these recommendations had derived from the cross-party Twinning Working Group established in September 2016.

Guildford was formally twinned with Freiberg in 1979. Whilst the Guildford-Freiburg Association has established good cultural relationships, it was felt that economic, tourism and the Council could more proactively seek business links.

The Executive noted that the twinning between Guildford and Bar-le-Duc, France established in 1958, was less well known and had not been pursued. To that end, it was therefore recommended that the twinning between the two towns be terminated.

The British Embassy had recommended that Guildford was twinned with Versailles to develop business links, tourism, to promote arts and culture and develop links between respective schools and universities.

The Executive recognised the global significance of China given its exponential economic growth in recent decades. Twinning with Dongying City, China would therefore provide an

opportunity for Guildford to develop cultural, business and tourism links with Dongying as well as between the University of Surrey.

The Executive considered concerns raised in relation to the fact that a recent press release had omitted reference to the Guildford-Mukono Link group, which had been established in 2003. The Lead Councillor for Infrastructure and Governance confirmed that it had not been referenced owing to the fact that the Guildford-Mukono Link was not a formal twinning and the need to keep press releases more concise. However, the Executive fully commended its continuation and the good work undertaken so far, delivering many successful projects for the Mukono community.

The Executive also considered concerns raised in relation to the formal twinning with Dongying, China, specifically;

- what Guildford had in common with such a vast city with a population of 200,000 and an industry driven by oil;

The Executive considered that there were many similarities between Guildford and Dongying, especially in terms of the pursuit of scientific and technological advancements in industry and business. Advancements in medical technology and the sharing of that knowledge would only be of benefit to Guildford residents and the known problems of an increasingly ageing population.

- How would the Council benefit and how would the return of investment be measured; Return of investment would be measured over time, would not be formally monitored by performance indicators, and had not been applied to other twinning's pursued by the Council.

- Would the Executive councillors be using any of their own monies for travelling to Dongying and;

The visit to Dongying was necessary to establish the working relationship moving forward and any travel costs had been kept to a minimum.

- Surrey County Council had withdrawn their funding of adult social care services and therefore would any spare monies be better spent on this?

The Executive did not comment on the decisions made by Surrey County Council in relation to the spending on the provision of Social Care Services.

In order to promote and forge new international relationships with Dongying and Versaille that will be of benefit to Guildford, the Executive

RESOLVED:

To recommend to Council (10 October 2017):

- (1) That proposed work to develop and strengthen our existing relationship with Freiburg, referred to in this report, be supported.
- (2) That the twinning arrangement with Bar-le-Duc be formally ended.
- (3) That discussions to progress the establishment of a new formal twinning agreement with Versailles be supported.
- (4) That the Leader and Managing Director be authorised to sign a proposed partnership agreement with Dongying, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Reason for Decision:

To develop new international relationships and enhance existing twinning arrangement to maximise the benefits for Guildford residents.
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EX43 TIMETABLE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2018-19

The Executive noted that the date previously scheduled for Executive on 3 January 2019 had been changed to 8 January 2019. In addition, the dates of Guildford Local Committee had not yet been fixed and would be slotted into the timetable as appropriate.

On that basis, the Executive

RESOLVED:

The Executive is asked to recommend that Council (10 October 2017) approves the proposed timetable of Council and Committee meetings for the 2018-19 municipal year, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

Reason for Decision:

To assist with the preparation of individual committee work programmes.

The meeting finished at 8.10 pm

Signed

Date

Chairman

EXECUTIVE

24 October 2017

- * Councillor Paul Spooner (Chairman)
- * Councillor Matt Furniss (Vice-Chairman)

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| * Councillor David Bilbé | * Councillor Graham Ellwood |
| * Councillor Richard Billington | * Councillor Michael Illman |
| * Councillor Philip Brooker | * Councillor Nikki Nelson-Smith |
| * Councillor Geoff Davis | * Councillor Iseult Roche |

*Present

Councillor Caroline Reeves was also in attendance.

EX44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

EX45 LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT - DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

EX46 MINUTES

The Executive approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2017. The Chairman signed the minutes.

EX47 PROPOSED SURREY BUSINESS RATES RETENTION PILOT

The Executive noted that, in the Spring of 2017, the leaders of all Surrey authorities wrote to government expressing an interest in becoming a pilot area for reform of local government finance and implementation of 100% Business Rates Retention. On 1 September 2017, the government issued its prospectus inviting all local authorities to group together as areas and make applications to become pilots for 100% Business Rates Retention (BRR) in 2018-19.

This Council had been working with the other District and Borough Councils in Surrey and Surrey County Council, to develop a bid for Surrey becoming a pilot area for 100% BRR in 2018-19. The lead authority for the bid was Surrey County Council.

The Executive was informed that business rate income to local authorities in Surrey was approximately £481million per year, and noted that even under the pilot, approximately £370million of that sum would still be paid to government as a tariff, to be redistributed around the Country. The amount that was retained 100%, only related to the amount by which the business rate income exceeded the government's target of business rate income for the area (known as the NDR Baseline).

The Chief Finance Officers of each Surrey local authority had worked together to model the impact of becoming a pilot. The modelling shows that there was a significant benefit to all Surrey authorities in becoming a pilot area. Applications to become a pilot had to be submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) by Friday 27 October 2017, and there was an expectation that the decision would be known within the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement, probably in December 2017.

A draft bid was being prepared for submission to DCLG to become a pilot. The Executive considered a report which sought approval for the Chief Finance Officer to sign the bid on behalf of the Council.

The Executive

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to sign the bid application for the Surrey 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot, on behalf of Guildford Borough Council.
- (2) That the call-in procedure under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 17 (h) shall not apply in respect of the decision referred to in paragraph (1) above.

Reasons for Decision:

- To seek additional resources from the business rates retention scheme by Surrey becoming a pilot area for 100% business rates retention in 2018-19.
- To ensure that the bid may be submitted by the 27 October 2017 deadline

The meeting finished at 7.04 pm

Signed

Chairman

Date