

**EXECUTIVE**

**WEDNESDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 2023**

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SHEET**

**Agenda No    Item**

10.    **Supplementary Information Sheet (Pages 1 - 4)**

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## Executive

22 February 2023

### Supplementary Information

#### **Procedure for the discharge of business at this meeting**

The Leader of the Council welcomes the attendance of members of the public and non-Executive councillors at this meeting.

The procedure for dealing with each item of business shall be as follows:

1. Lead Councillor to introduce report on the matter
2. Non-Executive councillors invited to ask a question or comment, for which they will have a maximum of **five** minutes each
3. Lead councillor to respond to any questions/comments
4. Executive debates the matter
5. Lead councillor to respond to any questions/comments
6. Executive to make decision on the matter

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: TO CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Pages 15 - 24)**

Lead Councillor: Councillor Julia McShane, Leader of the Council

Lead Officer: John Armstrong, Democratic Services & Elections Manager

There are no new recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Executive to consider.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE PEER REVIEW - FINDINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP (Pages 25 - 82)**

Lead Councillor: Councillor Tom Hunt, Lead Councillor for Planning Development, Legal and Democratic Services

Lead Officer: John Armstrong, Democratic Services and Elections Manager/  
Gilian MacInnes, Executive Head of Planning Development

Taking into consideration the recommendations of both the Planning Committee Review Working Group and the Planning Committee, which are set out in Appendix 2 to the report, the Lead Councillor proposes that the Executive recommends the following to the Council at its Extraordinary meeting this evening:

“That, taking into account the comments and recommendations made by the Planning Committee Review Working Group and the Planning Committee in response to the recommendations of the Planning Committee Peer Review undertaken by the Local Government Association with the Planning Advisory Service, the Council is recommended to agree the following actions:

- (1) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R1: (Provide greater certainty in planning process by ensuring decision making conforms with planning policies and material planning considerations acting on behalf of the whole Guildford community and ensuring that there is clear separation between ward level responsibilities and decision-making role on Committee)**, a regular (monthly) planning training programme, be reinstated via MS Teams, subject to the proviso that whilst the planning training programme would be regular, there might not on all occasions be training every month.
- (2) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R2: (Explore ways to rebuild trust and confidence between officers and Members. Consider running an independently facilitated workshop to be held between officers and Members, separate to the Planning Committee meeting, to better understand their roles, issues, and concerns)**, an Officer/Member Workshop be held following the elections in May 2023.
- (3) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R3: (Examine ways for Planning Committee and relevant officers to discuss and learn from appeal decisions to ensure that decisions on planning applications are undertaken, on behalf of the whole Guildford borough community, in a fair, impartial, and transparent way. The present system tagged onto the end of often long Planning Committees is not conducive to creating a learning atmosphere)**, quarterly appeal review sessions be held via MS Teams and facilitated by the Executive Head of Planning Development, noting that details of Appeal Decisions would continue to be included on Planning Committee agendas.
- (4) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R4: (Review Planning Committee reports to see if further explanation can be given on the weight to be afforded to the Local and Neighbourhood Plan policies as well as material planning considerations such as the National Planning Policy Framework)**, appropriate mechanisms were in place already through which councillors could query policy weight afforded to particular proposals, noting that weight to be afforded to Local and Neighbourhood Plans and other material planning considerations would be covered in the training programme.
- (5) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R5: (Ensure planning officers and Committee members are more aware of the impact of what a lack of housing delivery has on the weight given to Local Plan policies and kept appropriately updated on the work of the Housing Delivery Board)**, the topic of housing delivery be addressed as part of the planning committee training programme, which should include an overview of the Land Availability Assessment.
- (6) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R6: (Review the opportunity for further guidance in the form of a supplementary planning document to help guide new high quality and sustainable development)**, in view of the current progress being made with SPDs and DPDs, no further action in response to this recommendation is required.
- (7) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R7: (Review the Planning Committee referral system focusing particularly on the Member referral process (7-day procedure) and householder referral system to**

**ensure that applications are not unnecessarily delayed and Planning Committee can focus on the strategically more important applications),** the proposed process for Councillor Call-up (referral) to Planning Committee as set out in Appendix 3 to the report submitted to the Executive, be approved.

- (8) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R8: (Revisit the site visits protocol with particular emphasis on who attends and on ensuring a consistent approach of officers and conduct of members during the site visit)**, no changes be made to the current site visit protocol on the basis that councillors were aware of the need to ask for a site visit ahead of time rather than at the meeting itself which was noted to be useful for councillors in assessing the planning merits of a scheme.
- (9) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R9: (Review the member overturns process so that alternative motions are raised by Members and advice is provided by officers prior to the officer recommendation vote being made)**, the proposed procedure for councillors overturning officer recommendations at Committee, set out in Appendix 4 to the report submitted to the Executive, be approved.
- (10) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R10: (Undertake bespoke probity in planning and appeals training for members with a neutral facilitator, for example, someone who has direct experience of being a Planning Inspector)**, the Probity in Planning training be incorporated into the annual training programme.
- (11) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R11: (Review public speaking opportunities for Parish councils and special interest groups)**, the current public speaking arrangements be retained, but for the Chairman to retain the existing discretion to allow additional speaking slots for significant applications.
- (12) That paragraphs (1) to (5), and (10) above be implemented following the Borough Council Elections in May 2023, and paragraphs (7) and (9) above be implemented with immediate effect.
- (13) That the Executive Head of Planning Development be requested, in consultation with the relevant lead councillor and Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, to undertake a review of the processes and practices referred to above after 12 months' operation, or sooner if deemed necessary".

Reasons:

To modernise the operation of the Planning Committee and to review and update all associated processes and procedures.

Note: The Mayor has indicated that, following the debate at full Council on this matter, he intends to take a separate vote on each paragraph of the motion.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2023-2040 (Pages 83 - 254)**

Lead Councillor: Councillor John Redpath Lead Councillor for Customer & Commercial Services.

Lead Officer: Abi Lewis, Executive Head of Regeneration & Planning Policy

**AGENDA ITEM 8: THE TUMBLING BAY WEIR (Pages 255 - 288)**

Lead Councillor: Councillor John Rigg, Lead Councillor for Regeneration

Lead Officer: Abi Lewis, Executive Head of Regeneration & Planning Policy