

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

Thursday, 16th March, 2023

The decisions summarised below were taken by the Executive at the above-mentioned meeting and, subject to the call-in procedure referred to in Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 17 and to Note (a) at the end of this document, shall have effect 96 hours after the meeting. Details of any recommendations to Council are also included for completeness.

Members of the Executive

Chairman:

Councillor Julia McShane (Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Community and Housing) *

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor Joss Bigmore (Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Finance and Planning Policy) *

Councillor Tim Anderson, (Lead Councillor for Assets and Property)

Councillor Tom Hunt, (Lead Councillor for Planning Development, Legal and Democratic Services) *

Councillor George Potter, (Lead Councillor for Climate Change and Organisational Development) *

Councillor John Redpath, (Lead Councillor for Customer and Commercial Services) *

Councillor John Rigg, (Lead Councillor for Regeneration) *

Councillor James Steel, (Lead Councillor for Environment and Regulatory Services)

*Present

Councillor Fiona White was also in attendance. Councillors Ramsey Nagaty and Deborah Seabrook were in virtual attendance.

| Agenda Item No. | | Officer(s) to action Item |
|------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. | <p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tim Anderson, Lead Councillor for Assets and Property and James Steel, Lead Councillor for Environment and Regulatory Services.</p> | |
| 2. | <p>LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT - DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p> | |
| 3. | <p>MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2023 were agreed as correct. The Chairman signed the minutes.</p> | |
| 4. | <p>LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>The Leader deferred her announcements to the meeting of full Council.</p> | |
| 5. | <p>TO CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p> <p>There were no new recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider. The paper was noted.</p> | |
| 6. | <p>GUILDFORD PARK ROAD REDEVELOPMENT - APPROVAL TO PROCEED TO NEXT STAGE *</p> <p><u>Decision:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the Strategic Outline Business Case for the Guildford Park Road Redevelopment, attached as Appendix 1 to the report submitted to the Executive, and to endorse the recommended delivery strategy outlined within. 2. To endorse the revised planning strategy for the project. 3. To approve commencement of the procurement of a development partner to support the delivery of the | <p>Rachel Harper</p> |

Guildford Park Road housing project.

4. To approve the spend of up to £700,000, already allocated for the scheme within the Housing Revenue Account approved capital programme, to deliver the procurement activity.
5. To delegate to the Strategic Director of Place, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Housing and Community and Lead Councillor for Regeneration, authority to enter into such other contracts and legal agreements connected with the Guildford Park Road housing project as may be necessary in compliance with Procurement Procedure Rules and within the approved budget.

Reason(s):

1. The Guildford Park Road redevelopment is a key scheme within the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan that will deliver a significant number of additional homes in the town centre. Officers currently have no authority to initiate the delivery phase of the scheme, and this authority is now sought from the Executive.
2. The recommendation will support the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan (2021-2025) priorities by providing and facilitating housing that people can afford.

Other options considered and rejected by the Executive:

1. Do Minimum – Sell the site with no conditions attached
3. Do Most – The Council builds out the scheme directly and takes on all development risks

Details of any conflict of interest declared by the Leader or lead councillors and any dispensation granted:

None.

7. ASH ROAD BRIDGE SCHEME UPDATE AND BUDGET APPROVAL *

Decision:

Michael
Miles

1. To recommend that Full Council (at its extraordinary meeting on 16 March 2023) approves the budget and funding strategy as set out in Exempt Appendices 2 and 3 to the report, subject to the revisions to Appendix 3 as set out in the exempt Appendix 1 to the Supplementary Information Sheet circulated at this meeting.
2. To approve the transfer of the sum referred to in Paragraph 1 (Recommendations (Budget)) of the Exempt Appendix 2 to the report.
3. To delegate to the Strategic Director for Place, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Regeneration, and Lead Councillor for Finance and Planning Policy, authority to enter into such other contracts and legal agreements connected with the Ash Road Bridge Scheme as may be necessary in compliance with Procurement Procedure Rules and within the approved budget.

Reason(s):

This is a unique opportunity to utilise £23.9 million of central government funding towards the Ash Road Bridge Scheme to deliver an alternative road crossing of the North Downs railway line in close proximity to the Ash level crossing. The Ash Road Bridge Scheme forms a requirement of Policy A31 of the Council's Local Plan which allocates land for housing in Ash. Delivery of this scheme will also enable the closure of Ash level crossing to motor vehicles, which will improve safety for highway and rail users and significantly reduce traffic congestion on the A323 and the use of alternative local roads to avoid the Ash level crossing in Ash.

Other options considered and rejected by the Executive:

Option 2, to not proceed with the recommendations set out in the report.

Details of any conflict of interest declared by the Leader or

lead councillors and any dispensation granted:

None.

NOTES:

- (a) Any decision marked “#” means that the item was deemed by the Joint Chief Executive and agreed by the Executive and Chairman of the scrutiny committee to which the matter would be referred to be a matter of urgency for the reason indicated and, in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 17 (h), such decision takes effect immediately and is therefore *not* subject to the call-in procedure.

The call-in procedure is as follows:

- (i) the Chairman of a scrutiny committee; or
- (ii) a minimum of five members of the Council

may require that a decision be referred to the next available meeting of a scrutiny committee for review.

- (c) Councillors wishing to exercise their right to call-in a decision taken by the Executive must give notice in writing to the Joint Chief Executive. The reason for a councillor calling-in a decision shall accompany any such request and must meet one of the following criteria:
- (a) that there was insufficient, misleading or inaccurate information available to the decision-maker;
 - (b) that all the relevant facts had not been taken into account and/or properly assessed;
 - (c) that the decision is contrary to the budget and policy framework and is not covered by urgency provisions; or
 - (d) that the decision is not in accordance with the decision-making principles set out in the Constitution.

Such notice should be marked for the attention of John Armstrong who can be contacted by e-mail on john.armstrong@guildford.gov.uk

- (d) On receipt of a call-in request, the Joint Chief Executive, or his nominated deputy (John Armstrong) will decide, in consultation with the chairman of the scrutiny committee to which the matter would be

referred, whether it is valid and will notify the councillors concerned accordingly.

- (e) In the case of a valid call-in, the Joint Chief Executive shall refer the decision to the next available meeting of a scrutiny committee.
- (f) A decision marked with an asterisk denotes that the matter is a “Key Decision” which is defined in the Council’s Constitution as an executive decision:
 - (i) which is likely to result in significant expenditure or savings (of at least £200,000) having regard to the budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
 - (ii) which is likely to have a significant impact on two or more wards within the Borough.