

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

Thursday 5 October 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 16 and to Note (a) at the end of this document, shall have effect five working days after the day of 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 & Lead Councillor for Housing)

Vice-Chairman:

*Councillor Tom Hunt

(Deputy Leader of the Council & Lead Councillor for Regeneration)

*Councillor Angela Goodwin,

Lead Councillor for Engagement and Customer Services

*Councillor Catherine Houston,

Lead Councillor for Commercial Services

*Councillor Richard Lucas,

Lead Councillor for Finance and Property

*Councillor Carla Morson,

Lead Councillor for Community and Organisational Development

*Councillor George Potter

Lead Councillor for Planning, Environment and Climate Change

*Councillor Merel Rehorst-Smith

Lead Councillor for Regulatory and Democratic Services

*Present

Councillors Yves de Contades and Bob Hughes were in remote attendance.

Agenda Item No.		Officer(s) to action Item
1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>None.</p>	
2.	<p>LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT - DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST</p> <p>No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared.</p> <p>Councillor Richard Lucas declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Agenda Item 5 – Financial Recovery Plan – October Update Report, specifically the proposal to discontinue the Parish Councils Concurrent Functions Grants scheme. Councillor Lucas was a member of Ash Parish Council.</p> <p>Councillor Carla Morson declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Agenda Item 5 – Financial Recovery Plan – October Update Report, specifically the proposal to discontinue the Parish Councils Concurrent Functions Grants scheme. Councillor Morson was a member of Ash Parish Council.</p> <p>Councillor Merel Rehorst-Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Agenda Item 5 – Financial Recovery Plan – October Update Report, specifically the proposal to discontinue the Parish Councils Concurrent Functions Grants scheme. Councillor Rehorst-Smith was a member of Effingham Parish Council.</p>	
3.	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 24 August 2023 were confirmed as a correct record. The Chairman signed the minutes.</p>	
4.	<p>LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>New round of funding through Crowdfund Guildford</p> <p>The Leader announced that a new round of funding through</p>	

Crowdfund Guildford opened this week. To support our communities, the Council was offering up to £5,000 for community led projects that helped Guildford thrive. This funding was supported by the UK Share Prosperity Fund.

First Gold win in the RSPCA PawPrints Awards

The Leader congratulated the Licencing team for winning a Gold Animal Activity Licensing Award in the RSPCA PawPrints Awards. This award was a great reflection of the hard work of our officers, who ensured our standards remained high when it came to the welfare of animals in the borough.

Ash Road Bridge drop-in sessions

The Leader announced that over 400 people had visited the Ash Road Bridge drop-in sessions at the Ash Centre on 21 and 22 September. There had been a lot of interest in the new bridge and how the roads would look in future, as well as how the work was being carried out. Residents could find out more by searching for “Ash Road Bridge” on the Council’s website.

Electoral Registration - Annual Canvass

Last weekend our canvassers started following up on households that had not responded to our annual canvass emails and letters. The Leader noted that the quickest and easiest way for electors to update their details was online, but the paper forms could also be used.

Encouraging young people to register to vote

The Leader announced that the Electoral Services team had visited Guildford College and the University of Surrey to make sure students knew how to register to vote. The team were on hand to answer questions and explain that young people could register to vote from the age of 16.

Burpham Neighbourhood Area and Forum consultation

There was still time for residents to have their say about the proposed boundary changes and forum until midday on 12 October 2023. More information could be found in the newsroom on the Council’s website.

Turnaround in planning performance

Following intensive efforts to improve our planning

performance, the Leader was pleased to announce that The Minister of State for Housing and Planning would not designate the Council for its planning performance on non-major applications. The Leader thanked the Joint Executive Head of Planning Development and her team for all their hard work that had gone into achieving this.

The Lead Councillor for Planning, Environment and Climate Change, Councillor George Potter also thanked the team for this impressive turnaround in performance, which was entirely down to their hard work and dedication, and commented that there was still significant work to do to maintain and improve performance.

5. * FINANCIAL RECOVERY PLAN - OCTOBER UPDATE REPORT

Resolved:

That the Executive:

- (1) approves the second issue of the Financial Recovery Plan and recommends that it is endorsed by Council at its meeting on 10 October 2023;
- (2) approves the discontinuation of the Parish Councils Concurrent Functions Grants scheme from 1 April 2024; and
- (3) notes that the Interim s151 Officer has advised that sufficient progress has been made in the current financial year to avoid a s114 report being issued at this stage.

Richard
Bates

Reason for decision:

To enable the Council to protect the current level of reserves and to set a balanced budget and a robust Medium-Term Financial Plan.

Other options considered and rejected by the Executive:

None

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 Chief Executive and agreed by the Executive and Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be a matter of urgency for the reason indicated and, in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16 (h), such decision takes effect immediately and is therefore *not* subject to the call-in procedure.
- (b) The call-in procedure is as follows:
- (i) the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; or
 - (ii) a minimum of five members of the Council
- may require that a decision be referred to the Overview and 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 Democratic Services and Elections Manager. 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 Monitoring Officer will decide, in consultation with the chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, whether it is valid and will notify the councillors concerned accordingly.
- (e) In the case of a valid call-in, the decision shall be referred to a special Call-in meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which shall be held within 21 days of the decision on validity referred to in paragraph (d) above.
- (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.