

## SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Surrey Heath House  
Knoll Road  
Camberley  
Surrey  
GU15 3HD

Tuesday, 14 February 2023

To: The Members of the Surrey Heath Borough Council

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Surrey Heath Borough Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Surrey Heath House on Wednesday, 22 February 2023 at 7.00 pm. The business which it is proposed to transact at the meeting is set out below.

**Please note that this meeting will be recorded.**

Yours sincerely

Damian Roberts

Chief Executive

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### 1. **Apologies for Absence**

To report apologies for absence.

### 2. **Minutes**

To approve as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 December 2022.

### 3. **Mayor's Announcements**

### 4. **Leader's Announcements**

### 5. **Declarations of Interest**

Members are invited to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and non-pecuniary interests they may have with respect to matters which are to be considered at this meeting.

6. **Medium Term Financial Strategy and Annual Budget 2023/24** (Pages 7 - 94)
7. **Setting of Council Tax 2023/24** (Pages 95 - 100)
8. **Executive, Committees and Other Bodies**

To receive the open minutes of the following bodies (minutes reproduced in the Minute Book), to answer questions (if any) in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.5 and to consider the recommendations as set out below:

- (a) Executive – 17 January and 14 February 2023

At its meeting on 14 February 2023, the Executive will be asked to consider the following recommendations

**89/E Local Community Improvement Fund Bids**

The Executive will be advised to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that

- (i) **£6,410 be added to the Council's Capital Programme for the installation of an additional lamp and column and to replace the 3 lamp heads on the existing columns to LED at Southcote Park, Camberley; and**
- (ii) **£55,000 be added to the Council's Capital Programme for the resurfacing of damaged tarmac pathways at London Road Recreation Ground.**

**90/E Deanside Playground Refurbishment**

The Executive will be advised to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that

- (i) **permission be granted to draw down £94,000 from the Section 106 reserve for this development to refurbish the playground at Deanside to ensure the local children can continue to play in a safe and secure space;**
- (ii) **these funds be added to the capital programme; and**
- (iii) **authority to spend the contingency budget be delegated to the Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Customer Services.**

Note: the recommendations of the Executive at minute 86/E are dealt with at Agenda Item 6 – Medium Term Financial Strategy and Annual Budget 2023/24

- (b) Planning Applications Committee – 8 December 2022, 19 January and 9 February 2023
- (c) Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee – 5 January and 25 January 2023
- (d) Employment Committee – 26 January 2023

**21/EC Pay Policy Statement**

**RECOMMENDED to Full Council that the Pay Policy Statement 2022-24 be adopted, as set out at Annex A to the Employment Committee agenda report.**

- (e) Licensing Committee – 15 February 2023
- (f) Joint Staff Consultative Group – 12 January 2023

**9. Motions**

- a. Councillor Graham Alleway to move that

“this Council resolves to ask the Executive to review the policy for distribution of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding, taking into account the following recommendations:

- (i) each ward be allocated 45% of CIL generated from development in the ward, inclusive of the 15 or 25% statutory allocation to Parish Councils, and the current 15% non parished ward allocation established by this Council;
- (ii) the CIL balance above the amounts currently issued for parished or non parished wards be held by the Borough in ward CIL accounts;
- (iii) the consultation process to identify needs and improvements to infrastructure to deliver priorities reflected from consultations be reviewed, to include:
  - (a) a central role for ward councillors consulting with residents;
  - (b) Officers engaging appropriate authorities and agencies responsible for infrastructure and service provision to deliver the infrastructure;
  - (c) a central role for ward councillors engage with adjoining Ward Councillors to identify infrastructure concerns and opportunities to mitigate effects of development; and

- (iv) any unspent CIL money in the Ward accounts to be returned to the Borough general CIL fund if unspent in the statutory timescale.

b. Councillor Robin Perry to move that

“this Council

(i) notes that

(a) HMG awarded a new contract to audit local authority annual accounts to BDO, through Public Sector Audits Appointments (PSAA) in 2020;

(b) with the much publicised pressures across the whole Local Government Audit system that are the result of staffing and capacity issues within those audit firms, many Councils like Surrey Heath are experiencing significant delays in the completion of the audits on their accounts;

(c) having outstanding unaudited accounts, falsely and unnecessarily undermines confidence in the finances of all those Councils, including Surrey Heath;

(d) recognising that staff turnover issues in the finance team contributed in part to the initial delays in the process, despite subsequently expending many hours working with the Auditors, actively supporting them and responding to their queries as part of the standard audit process and receiving multiple re-start dates, disappointingly the 2019/20 audit has still not been completed by the current external auditor;

(e) despite having been prepared diligently and in a timely manner, the external auditor has yet to start work on the audit of accounts for 2020/21. This delay has also impacted the preparation of the 2021/22 accounts;

(f) it has already incurred significant expenditure retaining temporary staff with the historic knowledge and experience required to respond to queries relevant to the outstanding annual accounts; and

(ii) asks the Leader of the Council to write formally to the Secretary of State for Levelling-up Housing and Communities to seek his assistance in:

(a) enabling the PSAA to offer the Council the appointment of an alternative audit company that has the necessary capacity to complete the above audits, or

- (b) releasing the Council from the requirement to use the currently appointed auditors (BDO) under the existing national Public Sector Audits Appointments (PSAA) arrangement for the audit of its annual statement of accounts for financial years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 until the new PSAA arrangement commences from 1 April 2023, to allow the Council the option of securing new external auditors from PSAA or otherwise, that have the capacity and capability to complete the outstanding audit of accounts.”

**10. Governance Working Group (Pages 101 - 122)**

To consider the report of the Head of Legal & Democratic Services (attached).

**11. Questions from Members of the Public**

To answer questions, if any, received under Council Procedure Rule 10 (Paragraph 3 of the Public Speaking Procedure Rules).

**12. Questions from Councillors**

- (a) To deal with questions, if any, received under Council Procedure Rule 11.
- (b) The Leader to answer questions from Members in relation to the Executive functions under Council Procedure Rule 11A.