

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Executive
held on 16 January 2024**

+ Cllr Shaun Macdonald (Chair)

+ Cllr Alan Ashbery	- Cllr Morgan Rise
+ Cllr Kel Finan-Cooke	+ Cllr John Skipper
+ Cllr Lisa Finan-Cooke	+ Cllr Helen Whitcroft
+ Cllr Leanne MacIntyre	

+ Present

- Apologies for absence presented

In Attendance: Cllr Cliff Betton, Cllr Jonny Cope, Cllr Shaun Garrett, Cllr Julie Hoad, Cllr Sarbie Kang, Cllr Emma-Jane McGrath, Cllr Lewis Mears, Cllr David O'Mahoney, Cllr Murray Rowlands, Cllr Pat Tedder, Cllr Kevin Thompson, Cllr Josh Thorne, Cllr Victoria Wheeler, Cllr David Whitcroft, Cllr Valerie White and Cllr Richard Wilson

63/E Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 05 December 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

64/E Declarations of Interest

Councillor Shaun Garrett declared a non-pecuniary interest that he was a trustee of Surrey Heath Age Concern. Councillor Murray Rowlands declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was on the Executive of Camberley and District Job Club.

It was noted for the record that Cllr Shaun Macdonald declared that his family were monthly contributors to The Hope Hub and that his son had recently received support from Camberley and District Job Club. Moreover, it was also noted for the record that Councillor Victoria Wheeler declared that she owned and lived in a property which was currently part of the Local Heritage Asset List.

65/E Public Question Time

There were no questions received from members of the public under Part 4 Section E of the Constitution.

66/E Questions by Members

The Leader of the Council responded to questions relating to Executive functions in accordance with Part 4 Section B of the Constitution.

Questions related to flood protection measures in Pennypot, the recent Local Government Financial Settlement and previous assertions on the publication of the Council's draft financial statements. Moreover, following questions the Sustainable Transport & Planning Portfolio Holder advised that discussions were ongoing as to the replacement of the M3 Bagshot Heath footbridge with National and County

Highways, with an anticipated reopening in May 2025; and that a meeting had been requested with the Surrey County Council, Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways and Environment Decisions in respect of parking enforcement.

Resulting from further questions from Members, the Leader agreed to send Councillor Valerie White a summary of the background to the absence of a Mayor's Civic Service this municipal year. In addition, actions were undertaken to provide further detail on the future plans on the deployment of the Council's portable air quality monitor, and to explore options for Surrey Police staff parking at Surrey Heath House or in the Town Centre.

67/E Draft Local Heritage Asset List (Local List)

The Executive considered a report and the proposed Local list which had been developed in partnership with Surrey County Council in order to create a list of local heritage assets. The Local List comprised of buildings, structures, features, and spaces that were locally significant and would add to the cultural heritage and sense of place to the Borough.

A consultation had been undertaken in Autumn 2021 and sought nominations for inclusion on the updated list. The Executive considered a proposed final 6-week consultation on the draft Local List in order to collect comments on the proposed Local List from the public, property owners/occupiers of heritage assets, and other interested parties such as resident associations and conservation/heritage groups.

It was noted that once this list has been adopted that it would be used to guide the future use and development of local heritage assets, by enabling the significance of assets identified on the list to be fully understood and to be taken account of in the planning process, particularly in the assessment of planning applications.

Following questions by Members, it was confirmed that the consultation in respect of the original development of the list had been led by Surrey County Council, but strongly supported by this Council in the form of a number of social media posts, a press release, and consultation with groups including local residents' associations, history groups and the Council's Local Plan Working Group.

It was noted that there would be value to amending the list so that heritage assets would be ordered by Village rather than Borough Ward.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The Draft List of Local Heritage Assets (Local List) as set out in Annex 1 be approved for public consultation for a period of 6 weeks; and**
- (ii) If there are no significant changes arising from the consultation, authority be delegated to the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Transport and Planning, to adopt the List of Local Heritage Assets (Local List).**

68/E Revenue Grants 2024/25

The Executive considered a report which outlined the options for the Revenue Grant scheme for the 3rd Sector for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

The Council's non-ringfenced Revenue Grant recipient organisations had been advised in February 2023 that as a result of budget restrictions, the Council would not be able to provide financial support in the form of a revenue grant beyond 31st March 2024. Throughout the year, the Council had worked to assist the organisations to identify other funding sources and the recommendations within this paper are based on the identified funding sources.

The Executive considered a scheme of funding which took into account the recommendations and work of the External Partnerships Select Committee, which had considered and scrutinised the revenue grant holder organisations and their applications for funding for 2024/25, and the views of the Portfolio Holder with the aim of mitigating the impact of removal of revenue grants and to provide some transitional support to those organisations who will not be in receipt of a revenue grant in 2025/26.

Members expressed a desire for Revenue Grant recipients' Service Level Agreements (SLAs) to capture the equality and diversity objectives of the Council, and to promote a wide-spread impact across the borough. Moreover, Members indicated a wish to obtain further data from Voluntary Support North Surrey in respect of volunteer placements in order to better evaluate the organisation's value for money.

Following the Executive's discussions, the Chair proposed several amendments to the recommendations in the agenda report, with the aim of providing additional certainty to key voluntary partners where possible, as well as softening the transition for others.

RESOLVED that:

(i) The following revenue grants be awarded for 2024/25 to:

- a. Surrey Heath Citizens Advice - £95,000;**
- b. The Hope Hub - £40,000;**
- c. Voluntary Support North Surrey - £20,000;**
- d. Voluntary Support North Surrey – Time to Talk project - £7,000;**
- e. Camberley & Districts Job Club - £8,000;**
- f. Surrey Heath Age Concern - £10,000;**

(ii) The funding for Surrey Heath Citizens Advice and the Hope Hub be ringfenced for 4 years (subject to any significant changes to the Council's finances over that period);

- (iii) The funding for Voluntary Support North Surrey, and Surrey Heath Age Concern be ringfenced for 2 years (subject to any significant changes to the Council's finances over that period);**
- (iv) The funding for Voluntary Support North Surrey – Time to Talk project and Camberley and Districts Job Club be reviewed at the end of the 2024/25 financial year and formal notice be given to both organisations that funding may there not continue beyond 2024/25;**
- (v) The following organisations be advised in writing that revenue grant funding will not be awarded grant funding in 2024/25 financial year and that funding provided is in the form of a one off transitional payment to support the end of the revenue grant;**
 - a. Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership - £5,000**
 - b. Basingstoke Canal Authority - £5,000;**
- (vi) The Leader of the Council writes to Surrey County Council and Hampshire County Council in relation to the organisations in (v) in order to identify their plans to support the future sustainability of those organisations, and;**
- (vii) All grants be subject to service level agreements.**
- (viii) The Council continues to provide other in-kind benefits to local voluntary sector organisations as set out in Annex A of the report, and would be open to other requiring it.**

69/E Achieving Equity Strategy 2024-2027

The Executive considered the proposed Achieving Equity Strategy which aimed to exceed the Council's legal obligations and public sector equality duty and exceed compliance with the Equality Act 2010. Following adoption of the strategy it was anticipated that a baseline assessment would be followed with an action plan which would be included in the Council's Annual Plan for 2024-2025.

The existing strategy had been reviewed and updated to set out how the Council intended to meet and exceed the legal framework of the Equality Act 2010 and the additional Public Sector Equality Duty. Moreover, the Achieving Equity Strategy had been developed in consultation with a diverse group of community partners through the new 'Achieving Equity Forum' which aimed to meet quarterly to engage with the community around Equity issues. In addition, the strategy had been reviewed with the Joint Staff Consultative Committee and the Engaging Communities Working Group.

Following discussion, relating to page 15 of the proposed strategy, it was opined that in future Councillors, who did not wish to promote equality and human rights in their ward work for political reasons, may be elected. Thereby it was agreed to adjust the wording in the proposed policy in order to address the duty of Councillors to comply with Equality legislation together with wording to reflect

acknowledgement of freedom of speech. Moreover, there was recognition of the accidental omission of Easter of the Annual Diversity Calendar which would be added in due course.

RESOLVED that the Achieving Equity Strategy, as set out at Annex A to the agenda report , as amended, be adopted by the Council and that officers proceed to undertake a baseline assessment and develop an action plan which will be included as part of the Council's Annual Plan for 2024-25.

70/E Electricity Generation from PV on Places Leisure Camberley

The Executive considered a report which set out the options and recommended that the Council installed solar photovoltaic panels (PV) on Places Leisure Camberley for the purposes of generation of its own electricity.

Under the proposal the Council would fund the installation of the panels and sell the generated electricity to Places Leisure, and thereby generate an income for the Council and save 16.3 tonnes of carbon emissions during its first year.

Whilst installations of PVs over a certain size required Distribution Network Operator approval and were normally led by the installer, it was not anticipated that this would cause any significant risk or delays to commencement of the project. It was noted that this was because the proposed system was relatively small compared to the overall energy usage of the building and thereby would not entail export of electricity back to the grid. Moreover, Members were reassured that the length of the existing contract with Places Leisure and the life expectancy of the building was significantly longer than the life expectancy of the Solar Panels.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the installation of solar photovoltaic panels at Places Leisure Camberley be agreed;**
- (ii) the delivery of the project, including minor changes to the project plan or expenditure within the agreed budget, be delegated to the Strategic Director for Environment & Community in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Net Zero, Wellbeing & Environment and the Strategic Director for Finance and Customer Services; and**

RECOMMENDED to Full Council that a budget not exceeding the amount stated in the exempt Annex A to the agenda report be agreed for the installation of solar photovoltaic panels at Places Leisure, Camberley.

Chair