

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Executive
held at Surrey Heath House on 3
October 2017**

+ Cllr Moira Gibson (Chairman)

+ Cllr Richard Brooks	- Cllr Josephine Hawkins
- Cllr Mrs Vivienne Chapman	Cllr Alan McClafferty
+ Cllr Colin Dougan	+ Cllr Charlotte Morley
Cllr Craig Fennell	

+ Present
- Apologies for absence presented

In Attendance: Cllr Rodney Bates, Cllr Bill Chapman, Cllr David Mansfield, Cllr Pat Tedder and Cllr Victoria Wheeler

49/E Minutes

The open and exempt minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

50/E Community Fund Grant Applications

The Executive considered 6 grant applications to the Council's Community Fund Grant Scheme.

Members considered each application, noting the impact that each project would have and, where relevant, comparable funding provided by other authorities.

It was noted that an application from Oakleaf Enterprise to introduce a service for vocational training for those experiencing mental ill health had been recommended for refusal as the scheme was fully funded until March 2018; it was, however, recognised that if necessary a new application could be considered in December 2017.

Members were advised that the application from Camberley Lawn Tennis Club to excavate and construct a crate-based attenuation soakaway system to mitigate the flooding of the tennis courts was recommended for deferral as, following advice from the Council's drainage engineer, it was felt that alternative options and solutions should be explored.

RESOLVED

- (i) **that the following grants be awarded from the Council's Community Fund Grant Scheme, subject to any conditions set out in the agenda report:**

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Grant Award</u>
West End	To plant bulbs on the A322 grass	£300

Village Society	highway verges	
West End Bowls Club	To extend the existing clubhouse to meet increasing club membership numbers.	£5,000
Bagshot Playing Fields Association	To replace a dilapidated children's playground	£10,000
Old Dean Bowling Club	To install disabled toilet facilities and update the fire alarm system	£5,787

- (ii) **to refuse the application from Oakleaf Enterprise in Guildford to introduce a service for vocational training for those who are experiencing mental ill health, as the scheme is sufficiently funded until March 2018; and**
- (iii) **to defer the application from Camberley Lawn Tennis Court to install a new system to prevent flooding of the tennis courts in order to allow all options to be explored by the Council and the applicant.**

51/E Air Quality Feasibility Study

The Executive was informed that the National Air Quality Plan for Nitrogen Dioxide set out how the Government would ensure that compliance with air quality limits was achieved in the shortest time possible. A key part of the Plan was a requirement on some local authorities to undertake feasibility studies to explore a range of measures to improve air quality.

The Council had been named in the Plan as one of the authorities needing to undertake a feasibility study. Computer modelling had shown that along parts of the A331 concentrations of nitrogen dioxide were predicted to exceed the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide. As a result, the Council had been directed by the Secretary of State for the Environment to produce a feasibility study by March 2018 on options for ensuring compliance with the air quality objectives on the A331 in the shortest period possible.

The Government had allocated the Council an initial grant of £50,000 for the feasibility study which would be carried out in partnership with Rushmoor and Guildford Borough Councils. The funding would enable the Council to develop its feasibility study proposal as well as conduct local assessments to support its evidence and local understanding which will form part of the proposal. This funding represented one tranche of the funding required for the feasibility study and did not prejudice further bids. Any further funds required would be subject to the approval and submitted by the Council for review by Defra's Assurance Panel.

RESOLVED to

- (i) **undertake a feasibility study to explore a range of measures to ensure compliance with the air quality objectives in the shortest time possible, to be funded from a grant of £50,000 allocated by the Government; and**
- (ii) **note the 2017 Annual Air Quality Status report for Surrey Heath.**

52/E Review of Reserves and Provisions

The Executive considered a report detailing the Council's Reserves and Provisions. At 31 March 2017 the Council had £21.35m in useable reserves which were backed by cash. The report also made an estimate as to the level of reserves as at 31 March 2018 based on current knowledge, together with schedules showing what each reserve was for and the rules regarding expenditure.

RESOLVED to note the report.

53/E Response to the Local Government Settlement Technical Consultation

The Executive considered a response to the Government's consultation on the 2018/19 Local Government Finance Settlement.

Members considered the proposed response and agreed that the response to Question 2 should be amended to state that, if the Government intended to pursue a policy for linking a reduction in New Homes Bonus payments to applications approved on appeal, the deduction should only be made for applications granted on appeal where costs were awarded against the local authority.

It was also agreed that the letter should be signed by the Leader and the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED to

- (i) **agree the proposed Consultation response, as amended; and**
- (ii) **delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, the completion and submission of the final consultation response.**

54/E Surrey Business Rates Pilots

The Executive was reminded that the Council collected £35m in Business Rates per year, of which only a small proportion was retained by the Council.

Members considered the opportunity to participate in a Business Rates Pilot with the other Surrey Authorities. The pilot would enable 100% of growth in business rates to be retained within Surrey. In exchange, the Government would effectively not give any Rate Support Grant or Rural Services Grants; these would have to come out of the business rates retained. Work undertaken had indicated that

Surrey as an area could benefit significantly by becoming a pilot. The group of authorities in the pilot would be required to propose arrangements for splitting the additional monies and it had been suggested that there should be a minimum gain of at least £500k for each authority.

The Leader reported that the pilot had been discussed at Surrey Leaders Group and that participating in the pilot was currently supported by a majority of authorities. It was, however, recognised that all authorities would need to agree to participate in the pilot for the submission to be made.

RESOLVED to

- (i) note the implications of joining a Surrey Business Rates Pilot for 2018/19; and**
- (ii) delegate to the Executive Head of Finance, in consultation with the Leader and Chief Executive, the final terms of the pilot and the submission of the application.**

Chairman