

# Public Document Pack

Legal and Democratic Services



**To: All Members of the Strategy and Resources Committee**

Dear Councillor

**STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - TUESDAY, 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2020 ,**  
**[HTTPS://ATTENDEE.GOTOWEBINAR.COM/REGISTER/1026203199036810251](https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/1026203199036810251)**

Please find attached the following document for the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee to be held on Tuesday, 22nd September, 2020.

1. **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: COMMITTEE PRESENTATION** (Pages 3 - 20)

The presentation to be given at the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee on 22 September 2020.

For further information, please contact Democratic Services, email: [democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk) or tel: 01372 732000

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Beldan'.

Chief Executive

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# Strategy & Resources Committee Meeting

22 September 2020

# Strategy & Resources Committee

- Cllr Eber Kington (Chairman)
- Cllr Clive Smitheram (Vice Chairman)
- Cllr Arthur Abdulin
- Cllr Steve Bridger
- Cllr Kate Chinn
- Cllr Nigel Collin
- Cllr Hannah Dalton
- Cllr David Gulland
- Cllr Colin Keane
- Cllr Barry Nash

## Reason for format of meeting & Access

- *The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020*, now allows a Local Authority to hold a Committee Meeting or a meeting of Council, remotely and for Members to be able to vote remotely
- The public and the press will be able hear the Committee on the live stream and see all the presentations being presented

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## Item 1

### Question Time

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## Item 2

# Declarations of Interest

## Item 3

### **2019-20 Statement of Accounts and Audit Findings**

This report presents the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts and Grant Thornton's Audit Findings report following the external audit.



## Item 3 Recommendations on 2019-20 Statement of Accounts and Audit Findings Report

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Approve the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020;
- (2) Agree the Annual Governance Statement included within the Statement of Accounts;
- (3) Receive the Audit Findings for 2019/20;
- (4) Agree the management action in response to the audit recommendations detailed at Appendix A of the Audit Findings report;
- (5) Agree that the Chairman or Vice Chairman of Strategy and Resources Committee and the Chief Finance Officer sign the Letter of Representation on behalf of the Council;
- (6) Delegate any further amendments to the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman of Strategy and Resources Committee.

## Item 4

### **2021/22 Budget Targets and Finance Update**

This report recommends budget targets for 2020/21 and provides an update on financial planning as recommended by Financial Policy Panel.

#### Item 4 Recommendations on 2021/22 Budget Targets and Finance Update Report

The Committee is asked to:

1. Note the recommendations of Financial Policy Panel held on 08 September 2020.
2. Agree the following overall budget targets for 2021/22:-
  - i. That estimates be prepared including the delivery of savings already identified in the Financial Plan for 2021/22 totalling £336,000.
  - ii. That estimates include options to reduce organisational costs by £1,290,000 subject to government grant announcement, in order to minimise the use of working balances and maintain a minimum working balance of £2.5 million in accordance with the medium term financial strategy.
  - iii. That at least £210,000 additional revenue is generated from an increase in discretionary fees and charges;
  - iv. That a provision for pay award is made of £408,000 that would allow for a 2% cost of living increase;
  - v. That a £950,000 contingency is provided for within the 2021/22 budget to mitigate the potential impact of Covid-19 on the Council's finances in 2021/22.
  - vi. That officers are tasked in delivering a list of costed options that can be implemented to address any budget shortfall for 2021/22.
3. Agree the budget reporting timetable as set out in section 10 of the report to Financial Policy Panel (Appendix 2).
4. Agree that 2020/21's projected deficit be funded as set-out at paragraph 6.7 of the report to Financial Policy Panel (Appendix 2).

## Item 5

### Local Government Structure in Surrey

The Surrey Borough and District Councils have agreed to investigate alternatives to a single unitary structure of Local Government in Surrey. They have also agreed to appoint a public relations firm to support a communications campaign. The report seeks approval of the Council financial contributions towards the joint fund.

## Item 5 Recommendations on Local Government Structure in Surrey report

The Committee is asked to:

1. Approve a contribution of up to £10,000 towards a joint Surrey Borough and Districts Councils fund to investigate alternatives to a single unitary structure of local government in Surrey, including the retention of Boroughs and Districts as a provision for preparatory consultancy work in developing or responding to options appraisals and business cases and/or propositions associated with submissions to Government;
2. Approve a contribution of up to £20,000 towards a joint Surrey Borough and District Councils fund towards the costs of communications, market research and public relations support on the future structure of local government in Surrey.

## Item 6

# Local Government Association Communications Review – Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's Communications & Engagement Strategy and Action Plan

This report provides details of the Communications & Engagement Strategy and Action Plan.

## **Item 6 Recommendations on Local Government Association Communications Review Action Plan report**

The Committee is asked to:

- 1. Approve the Communications & Engagement Strategy and Action Plan**

## Item 7

# Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Framework

This report provides details of the Council's working draft Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Framework.



## **Item 7 Recommendations on Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Framework report**

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Approve the working draft Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Framework.
- (2) Agree that the three themes can go out to public consultation.

## Item 9

### Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Committee is asked to confirm as a true record the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Committee held on 2 July 2020 and Meeting of the Committee held on 28 July 2020 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them.

## Item 10

# Exclusion of Press and Public



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## **Date of Next Meeting**

**17 November 2020 at 7.00pm**