

**Minutes of the Meeting of the STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held on
5 May 2022**

PRESENT -

Councillor Colin Keane (Chair); Councillor Hannah Dalton (Vice-Chair); Councillors Kate Chinn, Bernice Froud, Chris Frost (as nominated substitute for Councillor Graham Jones), David Gulland, Eber Kington, Steven McCormick (as nominated substitute for Councillor Lucie McIntyre) and Humphrey Reynolds (as nominated substitute for Councillor Clive Woodbridge)

In Attendance:

Absent: Councillor Graham Jones, Councillor Lucie McIntyre and Councillor Clive Woodbridge

Officers present: Kathryn Beldon (Chief Executive), Clare Lawrence (Director of Environment, Housing & Regeneration), Brendan Bradley (Head of Finance), Victoria Potts (Head of Place Development), Mark Shephard (Head of Property and Regeneration), Sue Emmons (Chief Accountant), Prue Timms (Procurement and Contracts Manager) and Tim Richardson (Democratic Services Manager)

64 QUESTION TIME

No questions were asked by members of the public.

65 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declaration was made by a Councillor in respect of an item on the agenda:

Tree Maintenance and Inspection Programme; Contract Award

Councillor Steven McCormick, Other Interest: In the interests of openness and transparency, Councillor Steven McCormick declared that he is a member of the Epsom and Ewell Tree Advisory Board and Chairman of the Surrey Tree Warden Network.

66 HORTON CEMETERY

This item was withdrawn from the agenda and was not considered at the meeting.

67 COUNCILLOR CLIVE SMITHERAM

The Chair informed the Committee that Councillor Clive Smitheram had sadly died recently and paid tribute to his many achievements as a Councillor. The Committee stood in a minute's silence in remembrance of Councillor Smitheram.

68 TREE MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION PROGRAMME; CONTRACT AWARD

The Committee received a report seeking approval to award the Tree Maintenance and Inspection Programme contract to Advanced Tree Services Ltd (ATS).

The following matters were considered:

- a) **Ash Dieback.** Following a question from a Member, the Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration informed the Committee that the proposed contract sought to re-procure the current existing provisions of the Council's tree contract, and as such it did not include the management of Ash Dieback. Ash Dieback had been identified as a challenge for the wider Surrey area, but its implications for the Borough had not yet been defined in detail. Officers informed the Committee that if additional inspections or works in relation to Ash Dieback are required, these would have to be met within the contract, or further support procured.
- b) **Cost of contract and funding.** The Committee was informed that the cost of the contract was based on an estimated level of works, which could fluctuate up or down.

The Committee noted that the cost of the contract included an element of £39,500 attributable to growth items and service enhancements which was not included within the current budget. The Committee was informed that officers would seek to manage this cost through the contract where possible and also noted that recommendation 3 of the report requested approval for Officers to seek savings from within existing budgets to meet the budget shortfall if necessary.

Following consideration, the Committee resolved with 8 votes for and 1 vote against to:

- (1) **Agree to award a 3-year contract, with the option to extend for a further two periods of 3-years, to Advanced Tree Services Ltd (ATS) based on the commercially sensitive financial breakdown set out in Appendix 1 to the report.**
- (2) **Authorise the Head of Place Development, in consultation with the Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration and Chief Finance Officer, to progress and complete the legal documentation.**
- (3) **Agree that the Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and the relevant Committee Chair is tasked with identifying the £39,500 of savings from within existing budgets required to meet the budget shortfall.**

69 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Committee passed a resolution to exclude the public from the meeting for Part Two of the Agenda on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended) and that pursuant to paragraph 10 of Part 2 of the said Schedule 12A the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

70 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY UPDATE

The decision on this item is recorded in a separate (not for publication) restricted Minute.

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 8.26 am

COUNCILLOR COLIN KEANE (CHAIR)