

Minutes of the Meeting of the STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held on 13 May 2021

PRESENT -

Councillor Eber Kington (Chairman); Councillor Clive Smitheram (Vice-Chairman);
Councillors Steve Bridger, Kate Chinn, Nigel Collin, Hannah Dalton, David Gulland,
Colin Keane and Barry Nash

Absent: Councillor Arthur Abdulin

Officers present: Kathryn Beldon (Chief Executive), Lee Duffy (Chief Finance Officer),
Amardip Healy (Chief Legal Officer), Brendan Bradley (Chief Accountant) and Tim
Richardson (Committee Administrator)

92 QUESTION TIME

No questions were submitted or asked by members of the public.

93 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made in relation to items of business to be
discussed at the meeting.

94 PROVISION OF A GYPSY TRAVELLER TRANSIT SITE IN SURREY

The Committee received a report seeking approval for the capital funding
necessary for the construction of a gypsy and traveller transit site together with
an ongoing revenue contribution towards the maintenance of the site. Each of
the Surrey district and borough councils had been asked to make a financial
contribution towards the site, with the exception of the host borough.

The following matters were raised by the Committee:

- a) **Contribution:** Following a question from a Member, the Officer confirmed
that contributions had been agreed from the 10 other Surrey districts and
boroughs, and that Epsom and Ewell are the last to consider.
- b) **Costs incurred over the years:** Members highlighted the costs incurred
from travellers over the years, including both monetary costs from
injunctions and physical costs such as disruption to residents, Officer
resourcing, clear-ups and time going to court. The Officer noted that a
calculation of such monetary costs could be calculated after the meeting
and circulated to Members.

- c) **Deposits for Transit Site:** Members noted that it would be expected for visitors of the Transit Site to pay a deposit in advance of their stay, which would be returned providing that they depart the site leaving it in good fashion.

Following consideration, the Committee resolved with 8 Members voting for, 1 Member against and the Chairman not voting, to:

- (1) **Agree a capital contribution of £127,000 towards the construction of a gypsy traveller transit site.**
- (2) **Agree an annual revenue contribution of £7,500 towards the maintenance of the site.**

95 LGA FINANCE PEER REVIEW

This Committee received a report presenting the findings of the Local Government Association's (LGA) Finance Peer Review, and the Council's arising Action Plan.

Following consideration, the Committee resolved unanimously to:

- (1) **Receive the LGA peers' feedback report (Appendix 1)**
- (2) **Approve the Council's Action Plan (Appendix 2).**

96 COVID 19 RECOVERY PLAN: PROPOSED NEW OPERATING MODEL

The Committee received a report setting out proposed changes to the staffing structure of the Council that would realign the organisational structure to position its workforce to deliver the corporate priorities. The proposed changes sought to capitalise on the new ways of engaging and working with residents, partners, stakeholders and businesses established during the pandemic, address current areas of duplication and overlap of roles, bring together related functions, and more importantly provide additional capacity and resilience where it is needed most.

To facilitate the realignment of staffing resources towards delivery of corporate priorities the report sought agreement to the one off costs associated with moving to the new structure.

The following matters were raised by the Committee:

- a) **Timescale:** Members noted the proposed timescale for the new organisational structure to come into place. The Officer confirmed that the new structure should be operational by 1 September, although some post-holders may be receiving training past this time.
- b) **Proposed revisions:** Following a question from a Member, the Officer confirmed that staff would be notified of proposed revisions on Monday 17 May. The Consultation has been extended to 1 June to allow staff

feedback on these proposals, at the request of the Union and the Staff Consultative Group.

Following consideration, the Committee resolved with 8 Members voting in favour, 1 member abstaining and the Chairman not voting, to:

- (1) Note the proposed changes to the officer structure aligned to the delivery of Council priorities as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.**
- (2) Approve funding the one-off costs associated with moving to the new structure as detailed in the confidential supplementary Appendix 2 to the report.**

97 VOTE OF THANKS

The Committee noted that this was its final meeting prior to the Full Council meeting in May 2021.

The Chairman thanked all the Officers who had supported the Committee over the past two years during his Chairmanship, highlighting a number of the achievements made and challenges managed with their support and hard work, particularly throughout the Coronavirus pandemic. He also thanked the Vice-Chairman and all members of the Committee for their assistance throughout the same period.

The Committee thanked the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for their hard work on its behalf.

The meeting began at 7.00 pm and ended at 7.43 pm

COUNCILLOR EBER KINGTON (CHAIRMAN)

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