



Local Committee Protocol

Surrey County Council Local Committee (Guildford)

23 June 2010

Key issue

To agree any amendments to the Local Committee protocol.

Summary

The report summarises the framework and principles that govern how residents engage with the Local Committee. It also recommends changes to the protocol to increase public engagement.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- a) agree and adopt the revised protocol attached as Appendix A, including the reduction in the number of people required to sign a petition being presented to the Local Committee from 100 to 50.

Background

1. It is important that people who live and work in Guildford are able to influence what happens in the borough. A key aim of the Local Committee is to ensure that the aspirations and concerns of residents are taken into account when decisions are made about the local area.
2. Under Standing Order 41 of Surrey County Council's Constitution, Local Committees are allowed to agree their own rules setting out how residents can influence decisions and the services they receive. These include presenting a petition, asking a question about a local service and speaking for or against a Right of Way application.

3. The Local Committee Protocol was last amended in June 2009 to allow public speaking on Rights of Way applications (including those relating to Byways Open to all Traffic).

Review and analysis

4. In order to reflect the importance of public involvement in decision-making, this report is recommending reducing the number of people required to sign a petition being presented to the Local Committee from 100 to 50. This change would bring Guildford more in line with other local committees.
5. The revised protocol also reflects the change that as of the 17 June 2010, residents can now submit petitions electronically through the Surrey County Council website. It also incorporates the change announced by the Leader of Surrey County Council to allow businesses to present petitions and ask questions.

Consultations

6. As required by the Constitution, the Democratic Services Lead Manager has been consulted.

Implications (Financial, Equalities, Community Safety, Environmental)

7. The recommendations do not have significant financial implications. The protocol provides Guildford residents and businesses the opportunity to influence decisions made about local services, irrespective of their background.

Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

8. The changes in the revised protocol would allow the Local Committee to build on its success in attracting high levels of public interest, by providing residents and businesses greater opportunity to influence local decisions.

What happens next

9. The Local Partnerships Team will administer the Protocol in line with the decisions taken.

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