



## **OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)**

### **REIGATE AND BANSTEAD BOROUGH COUNCIL AND SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL DRAFT JOINT MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

**6 DECEMBER 2010**

#### **KEY ISSUE**

To inform the Local Committee of a draft Memorandum of Agreement between Surrey County Council and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, setting out a commitment to work together on shared priorities.

#### **SUMMARY**

The County Council is committed to improve relationships with Districts and Boroughs to both improve service outcomes and value for money. There has been good progress to date with several initiatives across the county. The national agenda promotes localism and the need for partners to work together to provide local services for communities. The draft Memorandum of Agreement is intended to formalise and build on some of the work already in place.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Local Committee (Reigate & Banstead) is asked to note the development of a Memorandum of Agreement as set out in this report and to consider its involvement in progressing this initiative.

## **1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The County Council is committed to improve relationships with partners to both improve service outcomes and value for money. Districts and Boroughs are recognised as key partners in improving places within the county.
- 1.2 Good progress has been made in this regard for example through the Surrey First initiative; joint work on waste arrangements; collaboration on parking enforcement; joint work on highways environmental work; the Public Value Review (PVR) of public sector assets and other Public Value Reviews of services; pilots in Mole Valley and Woking to strengthen localism.
- 1.3 The County Council's Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) has nominated a lead Director for each District and Borough. Trevor Pugh is the lead for Reigate and Banstead.

## **2 ANALYSIS**

- 2.1 The Surrey County Council Leadership Team has held meetings with all the District and Borough Management Teams during the course of the year to talk about local priorities, desired outcomes and to agree opportunities for joint working and collaboration.
- 2.2 Surrey County Council has agreed to work together with Districts and Boroughs to achieve particular objectives as a consequence of these meetings, but these agreements have not yet been formalised.
- 2.3 Reigate and Banstead Borough Council proposed a formalised Agreement for partnership working, which the County Council supports.
- 2.4 There have been discussions between officers and between the Leaders of the two organisations about the areas to include in the Agreement. A draft is attached as an annexe to this report.
- 2.5 It is intended that this agreement will direct the service plans and resource allocation of both organisations and will be overseen and driven by lead members and senior managers.

## **3 CONSULTATIONS**

- 3.1 The following people have been consulted about the Agreement: The Leader of Surrey County Council; Ian Lake and Tim Hall, Cabinet Members for Transport and Resources; the Surrey County Council Leadership Team – David McNulty, Susie Kemp, Julie Fisher, Sarah Mitchell, Yvonne Rees and Andy Roberts.

#### **4 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The joint working proposals are central to strategies to achieve better value for money. Where priorities are agreed, existing resources will be focussed to progress them.

#### **5 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The proposals for joint working and, in particular, rationalisation and sharing of buildings will reduce the carbon footprints of both organisations.

#### **6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The proposals focus on the priority places within the borough and, as such, will improve service accessibility for people in the most deprived areas.

#### **7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The proposals include outcomes to improve anti-social behaviour and to ensure that town centres are a safe, people-friendly and desirable place to be.

#### **8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The proposed Memorandum of Agreement is the opportunity to formalise agreement on partnership working between Surrey County Council and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council.
- 8.2 Once adopted it could be used as a model for all District and Boroughs to formalise priorities and determine desired outcomes from partnership working between them and the County Council.

#### **9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

- 9.1 The Memorandum is intended to be submitted to the Cabinets of both organisations early in the new year.
- 9.2 Officers from Surrey County Council and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council will develop an associated Action Plan to identify timescales and resources for specific pieces of work. This will take place following the Assets PVR and other major service reviews in the County Council in order for the County Council to take a countywide view of priorities and the resources necessary to progress them.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** RBB/SCC Draft Agreement – People and Places (attached)