

## Notice of Meeting

# Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety Decisions

**Date & time**

Tuesday, 28  
February 2023 at  
11.30 am

**Place**

Committee Room,  
Woodhatch Place,  
Reigate

**Contact**

Joss Butler  
joss.butler@surreycc.gov.uk

**Chief Executive**

Joanna Killian

**Elected Members**

Denise Turner-Stewart (Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety)

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## AGENDA

### 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members present are required to declare, at this point in the meeting or as soon as possible thereafter

- i. Any disclosable pecuniary interests and / or
- ii. Other interests arising under the Code of Conduct in respect of any item(s) of business being considered at this meeting

#### NOTES:

- Members are reminded that they must not participate in any item where they have a disclosable pecuniary interest
- As well as an interest of the Member, this includes any interest, of which the Member is aware, that relates to the Member's spouse or civil partner (or any person with whom the Member is living as a spouse or civil partner)
- Members with a significant personal interest may participate in the discussion and vote on that matter unless that interest could be reasonably regarded as prejudicial.

### 2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

#### a Members' Questions

The deadline for Members' questions is 12pm four working days before the meeting (22 February 2023).

#### b Public Questions

The deadline for public questions is seven days before the meeting (21 February 2023).

#### c Petitions

The deadline for petitions was 14 days before the meeting, and no petitions have been received.

### 3 SURREY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE - ADOPTION OF THE CHARTER FOR FAMILIES BEREAVED THROUGH PUBLIC TRAGEDY

(Pages 5  
- 16)

Current processes following major incidents can compound and prolong the impact of a tragic event on bereaved families and/or survivors.

**Joanna Killian**  
**Chief Executive**  
Published: 20 February 2023

### **MOBILE TECHNOLOGY AND FILMING – ACCEPTABLE USE**

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Anyone is permitted to film, record or take photographs at council meetings with the Chairman's consent. Please liaise with the council officer listed in the agenda prior to the start of the meeting so that the Chairman can grant permission and those attending the meeting can be made aware of any filming taking place.

Use of mobile devices, including for the purpose of recording or filming a meeting, is subject to no interruptions, distractions or interference being caused to the PA or Induction Loop systems, or any general disturbance to proceedings. The Chairman may ask for mobile devices to be switched off in these circumstances.

It is requested that if you are not using your mobile device for any of the activities outlined above, it be switched off or placed in silent mode during the meeting to prevent interruptions and interference with PA and Induction Loop systems.

*Thank you for your co-operation*

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**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND  
COMMUNITY SAFETY****DATE: 28 FEBRUARY 2023****LEAD OFFICER: DAN QUIN, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, SURREY FIRE AND  
RESCUE SERVICE****SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE CHARTER FOR FAMILIES BEREAVED  
THROUGH PUBLIC TRAGEDY****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Current processes following major incidents can compound and prolong the impact of a tragic event on bereaved families and/or survivors.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member approves the adoption of The Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Signing up to the Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy will provide additional assurance to our communities should an event happen within Surrey.

**DETAILS:****The need for a Charter:**

1. The need for the charter has arisen from Public Inquiries from recent major incidents, for example the Grenfell Tower tragedy and Manchester Arena Bombing, which are consistently suggesting that there is more that could be done to support families following large-scale tragedies or disasters, particularly where there is loss of life, or the distress caused to those affected is severe and likely to have a lifelong impact.
2. The framework that currently exists to investigate the tragic circumstances behind incidents such as the Hillsborough disaster and the Grenfell Tower fire, is complex and will often involve multiple agencies. Families can face an enormous challenge in understanding the roles of various agencies and to participate meaningfully in the numerous legal or investigative procedures. They must do this at the same time as coming to terms with what has happened to them. This is likely to be overwhelming and to add to the suffering of bereaved families and/or survivors.

3. A recurring theme from the feedback received from families during investigations, such as that into the Hillsborough disaster, is that without support and recognition from public sector bodies these processes can compound and prolong the impact of a tragic event.
4. Signing up to the Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy will provide additional assurance to our communities should a similar event happen within Surrey and ensures leaders of public bodies deliver the particular changes needed within their organisation to make the behaviours described in the charter a reality in practice.
5. Adoption of the charter will align Surrey Fire and Rescue Service with partner Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) within the 4F group (Kent, East and West Sussex FRSs), The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC), The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and other UK Fire and Rescue Services. The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) are recommending all FRSs across the UK adopt the charter.
6. When an organisation has signed up to the charter, it should declare this fact publicly.

#### **CONSULTATION:**

7. The Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy has been shared with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:**

8. There are no risks or implications associated with the content of this report

#### **Financial and Value for Money Implications**

9. There are no financial implications associated with the content of this report

#### **Section 151 Officer Commentary**

10. Although significant progress has been made to improve the Council's financial position, the financial environment remains challenging. The UK is experiencing the highest levels of inflation for decades, putting significant pressure on the cost of delivering our services. Coupled with continued increasing demand and fixed Government funding this requires an increased focus on financial management to ensure we can continue to deliver services within available funding.
11. In addition to these immediate challenges, the medium-term financial outlook beyond 2022/23 remains uncertain. With no clarity on central government funding in the medium term, our working assumption is that financial resources will continue to be constrained, as they have been for the majority

of the past decade. This places an onus on the Council to continue to consider issues of financial sustainability as a priority in order to ensure stable provision of services in the medium term.

12. There are no financial implications associated with adopting the Charter, and as such the Section 151 Officer supports the recommendation.

#### **Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer**

13. Whilst there is no legal obligation to sign up to the charter it demonstrates the organisational ambition to act at all times in the public interest.

#### **Equalities and Diversity**

14. There are no equality implications associated with the content of this report.

#### **Other Implications:**

15. The potential implications for the following Council priorities and policy areas have been considered. Where the impact is potentially significant a summary of the issues is set out in detail below.

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report.
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report.
Environmental sustainability	No significant implications arising from this report.
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report.

#### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

16. A signed copy of the Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy will be made available on Surrey Fire and Rescue Service's webpages.

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#### **Contact Officer:**

Tina Thorburn  
Business Manager  
07813 351428

#### **Consulted:**

Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety

#### **Annexes:**

Annex A – Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy

**Sources/background papers:**

Kerslake Arena Review - Progress report on the work of the independent panel –  
12th January 2018 <https://www.kerslakearenareview.co.uk/media/1020/kerslake-arena-review-progress-report.pdf>

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## **Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy**

In adopting this charter we commit to ensuring that Surrey Fire and Rescue Service learns the lessons of the Hillsborough disaster and its aftermath, so that the perspective of the bereaved families is not lost.

I commit to Surrey Fire and Rescue Service becoming an organisation which strives to:

- In the event of a public tragedy, activate its emergency plan and deploy its resources to rescue victims, to support the bereaved and to protect the vulnerable.
- Place the public interest above our own reputation.
- Approach forms of public scrutiny – including public inquiries and inquests – with candour, in an open, honest and transparent way, making full disclosure of relevant documents, material and facts. Our objective is to assist the search for the truth. We accept that we should learn from the findings of external scrutiny and from past mistakes.
- Avoid seeking to defend the indefensible or to dismiss or disparage those who may have suffered where we have fallen short.
- Ensure all members of staff treat members of the public and each other with mutual respect and with courtesy. Where we fall short, we should apologise straightforwardly and genuinely.
- Recognise that we are accountable and open to challenge. We will ensure that processes are in place to allow the public to hold us to account for the work we do and for the way in which we do it. We do not knowingly mislead the public or the media.

Signed

INSERT E-SIGNATURE

Dan Quin, Chief Fire Officer  
Surrey Fire and Rescue Service

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# Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy

# **SFRS adoption of the Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy**

**28 February 202**

# Background

The Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy comes from the Hillsborough Disaster and is about preventing a repeat of the problems that families faced during the Inquiry. The charter asks organisations to commit to learning lessons from Hillsborough and its aftermath to ensure the perspective of bereaved families is not lost in any future public tragedies.

This was reinforced during the Kerslake Arena Review following the Manchester Arena bombings in May 2017. A recommendation was made that the leaders of public bodies support the proposal contained in the Hillsborough report by signing up to a 'Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy.'

Wider adoption and application of the charter again featured in feedback from representatives for bereaved families during the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) are recommending all Fire and Rescue Services across the UK adopt the charter.

## The need for a Charter

The framework that currently exists to investigate the tragic circumstances behind incidents such as the Hillsborough disaster and the Grenfell Tower fire, is complex and will often involve multiple agencies. Families can face an enormous challenge in understanding the roles of various agencies and to participate meaningfully in the numerous legal or investigative procedures.

They must do this at the same time as coming to terms with what has happened to them. This is likely to be overwhelming and to add to the suffering of bereaved families and/or survivors.

## Aims of the Charter

Signing up to the Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy will provide additional assurance to our communities should a similar event happen within Surrey.

Adoption of the charter will align Surrey Fire and Rescue Service with partner Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) within the 4F group (Kent, East and West Sussex FRSs), The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC), The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and other UK Fire and Rescue Services. The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) are recommending all FRSs, across the UK, adopt the charter.

# The Charter


## Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy

In adopting this charter, we commit to ensuring that Surrey Fire and Rescue Service learns the lessons of the Hillsborough disaster and its aftermath, so that the perspective of the bereaved families is not lost.

I commit to Surrey Fire and Rescue Service becoming an organisation which strives to:

- In the event of a public tragedy, activate its emergency plan and deploy its resources to rescue victims, to support the bereaved and to protect the vulnerable.
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Signed



Dan Quin  
Chief Fire Officer  
Surrey Fire and Rescue Service  
28 February 2023

## Background papers

Kerslake Arena Review - Progress report on the work of the independent panel – 12th January 2018

<https://www.kerslakearenareview.co.uk/media/1020/kerslake-arena-review-progress-report.pdf>

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