

# CABINET MEMBER DECISION

## **Decision:**

### BASINGSTOKE CANAL

#### **(i) Details of decision**

The Leader of the Council:

1. Approved the changes in the governance model of the Basingstoke Canal Authority (BCA) as detailed in the report.
2. Approved the removal of the BCA's Joint management Committee from Surrey County Council's constitution.
3. Delegated authority to the Executive Director of Environment, Infrastructure and Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Head of Legal Services, to agree and enter into the necessary Memorandums of Understanding, Memorandums of Agreement, Agreements and arrangements with partners to deliver the updated governance.
4. Delegated authority, subject to the usual limits on officer decision making authority, to the Executive Director of Environment, Infrastructure and Growth in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment to exercise all functions in relation to the management and maintenance of the Basingstoke Canal as an environmental navigational asset and the balancing of the interests of all users of the Basingstoke Canal and the conservation of the natural environment

This decision is made in the context of Surrey County Council's role as one of two landowning authorities for the Basingstoke Canal (alongside Hampshire County Council) and following the approval of a parallel decision by the Executive Member of Hampshire County Council these changes shall come into effect from 1st April 2024.

#### **(ii) Reasons for decision**

The current operation of the Basingstoke Canal is not financially sustainable, and existing governance and operating arrangements do not allow for either of the landowning authorities responsible for the Canal (Surrey County Council and Hampshire County Council), to take action to make the operation sustainable. The recommendations in this report to review and revise the governance model to facilitate good decision making is the first stage to enabling both authorities to address issues in relation to financial sustainability.

#### **(iii) Details of any alternative options considered and rejected**

None,

#### **(iv) Details of any consultation and representations received not included in the published report**

Paul Deach, Deputy Cabinet Member to the Leader of the Council, attended the meeting. The Deputy Cabinet Member spoke briefly on the benefits of the Basingstoke Canal and noted his role as Vice-Chairman of the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee.

**Conflicts of Interest and any Dispensations Granted**

**(Any conflict of interest declared by any other Cabinet Member consulted in relation to the decision to be recorded and any dispensations granted by the Audit and Governance Committee)**

None.

**Decision taken by:**

- (i) Name: Tim Oliver**
- (ii) Portfolio: Leader of the Council**

**Date of Decision: 26 March 2024**

**Date of Publication of Record of Decision: 27 March 2024**

**Date decision effective (i.e. 5 working days after date of publication of record of decision unless subject to call-in by the relevant Select Committee): 4 April 2024**