

CABINET DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken by the Cabinet under the Special Urgency procedure on Wednesday, 8 January 2025 and will take effect on 09/01/2025.

In accordance with Standing Order 56.1 (Special Urgency), the Chairman of the Resources and Performance Select Committee has agreed that the decisions on this item cannot reasonably be deferred and therefore it is not subject to call in.

The following represents a summary of the decisions taken by the Cabinet. It is intended to represent the formal record of the decisions taken and to facilitate the call-in process. The minutes will be published in due course to site alongside this decision sheet.

Members wishing to request a call-in on any of these matters, should contact the Regulatory Business Manager or relevant Committee Manager.

The Cabinet at its meeting on Wednesday, 8 January 2025 considered the following matters and resolved:

- **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** (Item 1)
Apologies for absence were received from Marisa Heath.
- **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** (Item 2)
There were none.
- **RESPONSE TO THE ENGLISH DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER** (Item 3)

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet:

1. Agreed that the Leader should respond to the Government as outlined in the letter set out in Annex 2, as amended below:

“A postponement of the county elections will also allow time to give consideration in any business case to how we can best manage the unique, significant financial risk of the level of debt currently held across the Surrey local government footprint. Any proposals for local government reorganisation will need to adequately consider how to ensure the sustainable operation of any new authority/ies ~~in the absence of exceptional financial support from Government or a level of write-off~~ **and we will request the government to write off those debts.**”

Reasons for decisions:

The English Devolution White Paper presents an important opportunity for Surrey County Council to bring more expansive and flexible devolved powers and funding into the county for the benefit of residents. As such it is recommended that Cabinet agrees to respond to the Minister’s letter (Annex 1) requesting the postponement of the 2025 County Council elections to allow the Surrey County Council Leader time to work with district and borough Leaders to develop a proposal for local government reform that will unlock the benefits of further

devolution for Surrey.

The function of deciding whether and how to respond to the Minister's letter of 16 December 2024 is an executive function as set out in the Constitution under Responsibility for Executive Functions (Part 3), the Cabinet has the power to provide formal response to any Government White Paper "...likely to lead to policy changes or have impact upon service not otherwise delegated to officers" (Scheme of Delegation 8.2 (L)).

(In accordance with Standing Order 56.1 (Special Urgency), the Chairman of the Resources and Performance Select Committee has agreed that the decisions on this item cannot reasonably be deferred and therefore it is not subject to call in.)

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