

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the **COMMUNITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS SELECT COMMITTEE** held at 2.00 pm on 13 January 2025 at Council Chamber, Woodhatch Place 11 Cockshot Hill, Woodhatch, Reigate, RH2 8EF.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its meeting on Wednesday, 12 February 2025.

**Elected Members:**

- \* Catherine Baart
- John Beckett
- \* Luke Bennett
- \* Liz Bowes
- \* Stephen Cooksey
- \* Andy MacLeod
- \* Jan Mason
- Cameron McIntosh
- \* Lance Spencer (Vice-Chairman)
- Mark Sugden (Vice-Chairman)
- \* Richard Tear
- \* Buddhi Weerasinghe
- \* Keith Witham (Chairman)
  
- \* *present*

**1/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]**

Apologies were received from Councillor John Beckett (substituted by Councillor Steven McCormick), Councillor Cameron McIntosh (substituted by Councillor Robert Hughes), and Councillor Mark Sugden (substituted by Councillor Jeremy Webster).

**2/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 2]**

Councillor Stephen Cooksey declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is the leader of Mole Valley District Council and Mole Valley District Council is a participant within Joint Waste Solutions.

**3/25 CALL-IN: DECISION ON SURREY ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP AND JOINT WASTE SOLUTIONS [Item 3]**

**Witnesses:**

- Natalie Bramhall, Cabinet Member for Property, Waste and Infrastructure
- Simon Crowther, Interim Executive Director for Environment, Property & Growth
- Steven Foster, Director – Waste
- Andy Brown, Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director Resources (S.151 Officer)
- Tony Orzieri, Strategic Finance Business Partner

**Key points raised during the discussion:**

1. The Chairman introduced the background to the call-in and structure of the meeting, noting the decision of the Cabinet, purpose, and reasons for the call-in.
2. A member said that the basis for the call-in was due to the similarity of previous transfers from borough and districts to Surrey County Council (SCC), such as the parking services and vegetation cutting. He was also alerted by a local organisation that gave a number of reasons why the transfer was not a good decision. After reviewing the Part 2 information, he was concerned enough to initiate a call-in of the decision.

#### **4/25 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC [Item 4]**

The following motion was proposed by the Chairman to exclude the press and public for the remainder of the meeting.

“That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.”

The motion was put and it was **AGREED** by the Committee to exclude the press and public for the remainder of the meeting.

#### **5/25 CALL-IN: DECISION ON SURREY ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP AND JOINT WASTE SOLUTIONS [Item 5]**

The call-in decision was introduced by the Chairman. The Committee asked a number of questions. These were responded to by the Cabinet Member and officers present before the Committee.

At the conclusion of the debate, the Chairman invited the Committee to proceed with voting on the question: “Does this Committee wish to refer the in-principle decision to relocate the functions transferred to JWS back into SCC back to Cabinet for reconsideration?” A vote was taken. Voting was as follows:

There were 0 votes in favour, 11 votes against and 2 not voting.

The Chairman declared the question **FAILED**.

*NOTE: A full confidential minute of this item has also been prepared, containing the Committee’s conclusions. See Exempt Minute [E-25-01]*

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**RESOLVED**, The Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee

1. Upholds the in-principle decision taken by Cabinet on 17th December 2024.

#### **6/25 PUBLICITY FOR PART 2 ITEMS [Item 6]**

It was **AGREED** that the information in relation to the Part 2 items discussed at the meeting would remain exempt.

*NOTE: A full confidential minute of this item has also been prepared, containing the Committee's conclusions. See Exempt Minute [E-25-01]*

**7/25 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING [Item 7]**

The Committee **NOTED** its next meeting is scheduled to be held on 12 February 2025.

Meeting ended at: 3.16 pm

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**Chairman**