

**COMMUNITIES ENVIRONMENT HIGHWAYS  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
13 JANUARY 2025  
CALL-IN: DECISION ON SURREY  
ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP AND JOINT WASTE  
SOLUTIONS.**



**Purpose of report:** The Select Committee has called in the Cabinet decision from 17 December 2025 relating to the Surrey Environment Partnership and Joint Waste Solutions.

**Introduction:**

1. On 17 December 2024, Cabinet took an in principle decision for Surrey County Council (SCC) to bring back the functions and associated funding to SCC for the Surrey Environment Partnership and Joint Waste Solutions. These proposals were not subject to pre-decision scrutiny by the Select Committee.
2. Following concerns raised, the Vice-Chairman of the Select Committee decided to call-in the decision for reconsideration. The call-in form received by Democratic Services on 27 December 2024 is attached as Annex 2.

**Background**

3. Decision text:

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Cabinet agrees the principle of SCC bringing back the Functions and associated funding to SCC and to delegate authority to the Executive Director for Environment, Property & Growth in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Resources and the Director of Law and Governance to take such actions and decisions as are necessary to facilitate the manner and mechanisms through which this decision can be most suitably implemented.

**Reasons for Decisions:**

- Surrey County Council ('SCC') transferred several of its activities ("Functions"), to encourage better recycling, to the JWS team in 2018 through an Inter Authority Agreement. As part of the process, six full time employees of SCC staff were TUPE transferred to SHBC to undertake the Functions for JWS.

- JWS is the partnership organisation which manages a joint waste collection contract with Amey on behalf of Surrey Heath, Elmbridge, Mole Valley and Woking Councils. Surrey Heath Borough Council (“SHBC”) hosts JWS and provides line management and back-office functions (e.g. HR).
  - The Functions transferred include activities to encourage better recycling by Surrey residents: communications and website hosting; data gathering and interpretation; project administration and governance; processing of some payments; and encouragement of food waste collections.
  - The wider Surrey Environment Partnership (“SEP”) forum includes all eleven District and Boroughs (‘D&Bs’) as the Waste Collection Authorities (“WCA”) for Surrey, and the group comes together with SCC at a number of meetings over the year. These meetings are part of the Functions and will be organised by SCC going forward if this recommendation is approved.
  - The current arrangement is no longer felt suitable to meet the strategic needs of SCC in reducing its exposure to policy changes. Policy measures will have a disproportionate impact on SCC as the Waste Disposal Authority (“WDA”) as set out in paragraph below. To mitigate these, SCC needs to: engage with the public (communications, recycling behaviour); have access to data; and to have financial control on project expenditure.
  - SCC clearly supports the concept of partnership with the D&Bs and would like to see a closer and more effective relationship with all 11 Councils. However, SCC feels that as long as the Functions and SEP administration remains subsumed within JWS (and hosted by Surrey Heath BC) then the wider strategic needs of the SCC will not be met.
  - The recommendation to SCC members is to relocate the Functions back into SCC, noting that this could involve the transfer of affected staff under TUPE transfers and some reorganisation of the service. Officers believe this would allow JWS to focus on its needs, and for SCC to mitigate its exposure to potentially very costly waste policy changes.
4. A separate part 2 report containing information which is exempt from Access to Information Requirements by virtue of Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, paragraph 3, “Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information”) was also presented to Cabinet and this is not available to the public.
5. The following documents in relation to the decision made on 17 December 2024 are attached:
- **Annex 1** – Part 1 report considered by Cabinet on 17 December 2024
  - **Annex 2** – Call-in notice received by Democratic Services on 27 December 2024.

*And in Part 2:*

- **Annex 3** – Part 2 report considered by Cabinet on 17 December 2024 (confidential annex)

#### **The Call-In Process:**

6. The Select Committee is asked to consider the above evidence alongside any evidence presented by witnesses at the call-in meeting in order to review the decision taken by Cabinet.
7. The Select Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to refer the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration.
8. If the Select Committee decides to refer back to Cabinet, it must provide its reasons for doing so.

#### **Recommendations:**

That the Select Committee reviews the Cabinet decision taken on 17 December 2024 and concludes whether it wishes to refer this back to Cabinet for reconsideration.

#### **Next steps:**

Should the Select Committee decide to support the decision of Cabinet, the decision will be implemented.

Should the Select Committee refer the decision back, it will need to be reconsidered by Cabinet, where a final decision will be adopted.

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#### **Annexes:**

- **Annex 1** – Part 1 report considered by Cabinet on 17 December 2024
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