



**OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

**KEY ISSUE/DECISION:**

The Leader has agreed changes to the Council's Scheme of Delegation. In accordance with Articles 5.02 and 6.04(d)(ii) of the Council's Constitution, the changes made by the Leader are being reported to Council.

**BACKGROUND:**

1. The Leader is responsible for maintaining a list in Part 3 of the Constitution setting out who will exercise executive functions. Any changes to this list are required to be reported to the next appropriate meeting of the County Council.

**Performing Arts Library Hours - Delegation to Portfolio Holder and officers**

2. Decisions to make changes to the opening hours of local libraries which represent an increase or decrease of more than 15% are delegated to Local Committees. The county's Performing Arts Library, based in Dorking, provides services on a countywide basis to all the local libraries. As a countywide service, it did not fall under the delegation arrangements which applied to local libraries.
3. Following consultation with the Local Committee Chairmen, who indicated support for this approach, the Leader agreed that significant changes to the opening hours of the Performing Arts Library be delegated to the relevant Portfolio Holder.
4. In addition, the existing officer delegation for the agreement of smaller changes in library hours has been updated to delegate the function to the Head of Cultural Services/Library Operations Manager, in consultation with the Local Committee Chairman for local libraries, and with the Portfolio Holder in respect of the Performing Arts Library.

5. The delegation ensures similar arrangements are in place for the Performing Arts Library as exist for the local libraries. The opening hours of the Performing Arts Library were improved and extended under delegation in April 2014 following a public consultation.

### **Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Statement of Assurance - Delegation to Portfolio Holder**

6. The Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Statement of Assurance is a statement of performance against governance, financial and operational objectives. The publication of this annual report enables Surrey residents to access clear and robust information about the effectiveness and value for money which Surrey Fire and Rescue Service provides.
7. The Leader of the Council has agreed that the authority for agreeing the timely publication of this information should rest with the Portfolio Holder. The decision to agree the Statement of Assurance for publication will therefore be taken each year by the relevant Cabinet Member at a public decision making meeting.
8. The Scheme of Delegation has been updated online to reflect the above changes and is available to view on the Council's website. Printed copies of the updated Scheme of Delegation pages will be circulated to replace the existing copies in Members' Constitutions.

<b><u>RECOMMENDATION:</u></b>
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It is recommended that the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation in relation to changes in the opening hours of the Performing Arts Library and publication of the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Statement of Assurance be noted.

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**Sources/background papers:**

The Council's Constitution

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