

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)**



**DATE: 13 JUNE 2018**

**LEAD OFFICER: JAMES PAINTER, PARTNERSHIP MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: FORMATION OF GUILDFORD JOINT COMMITTEE**

**DIVISION: ALL GUILDFORD DIVISIONS**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Building on the partnership working between the County Council and local authorities in Surrey, it is proposed to create a Joint Committee (JC) between Surrey County Council (SCC) and Guildford Borough Council (GBC).

Cabinet/Executive and Council approvals from both authorities are being sought in June and July 2018 to establish the JC. This report provides an update on the developments since the previous discussion with the local committee, and the constitution that is being considered by the Cabinet/Executive and Council meetings.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Local Committee (Guildford) is asked to comment on and note:**

- (i) the establishment of the Guildford Joint Committee in place of the current Local Committee arrangements to take effect from 19 September 2018.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The creation of the Guildford Joint Committee builds on a strong track record of joint and collaborative working between the two authorities and provides a platform on which future joint arrangements can be co-ordinated.

This approach has already proved successful in Woking and Spelthorne, where Joint Committees have been operating since June 2014 and January 2017 respectively and has been shown to improve partnership working. The first meeting of the Runnymede Joint Committee will be in July 2018.

The new Joint Committee will simplify and speed-up local decision making processes, enabling for the first time, all functions and budgets delegated to it to be jointly decided upon.

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 The Guildford JC will operate in place of the current LC. It will be the fourth JC in the county, this approach having already proved successful in Woking, Spelthorne and Runnymede. An important distinction from the current arrangements is that the JC will be able to make decisions on both SCC and

GBC delegated functions. For the first time all functions and budgets delegated to the JC will be decided upon jointly and all members will have full voting rights.

## **2. ANALYSIS:**

- 2.1 Discussions between GBC and SCC have revealed a shared aspiration for the councils to create a Joint Committee which would take the place of the current Surrey County Council Local Committee in Guildford.
- 2.2 The creation of the Guildford Joint Committee supports the Councils transformation programme by taking forward a place-based approach that will deliver strong outcomes focused on residents.
- 2.3 The new joint committee places SCC and GBC at the forefront of partnership activity by enabling a more integrated approach to service delivery and planning. Helping to secure community well-being and economic prosperity, the joint committee will also directly support the new vision for Surrey (which is currently being consulted upon).

## **3. OPTIONS:**

- 3.1 The Local Committee Guildford can be established as a Joint Committee or remain as a Local Committee.

## **4. CONSULTATIONS:**

- 4.1 The Leader and the Cabinet Member for Communities have been consulted and are supportive of further joint committees being established. The then 'Resident Experience Board' has been consulted on the development of joint committees.
- 4.2 The Leader, Corporate Management Team, Executive and Chief Executive of GBC have been driving the discussions relating to the development of the Joint Committee.

## **5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 5.1 There are no additional financial implications of establishing a Joint Committee in place of the current local committee arrangements.

## **6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed covering the options for change regarding Local Committees as part of the November 2012 Cabinet Report on the Public Value Review of the Community Partnership Team. A summary of the key impacts and actions was provided at this time and has been reviewed

[http://snet.surreycc.gov.uk/snet/core/sccwspages.nsf/LookupWebPagesByTITLE\\_RT/Equalities+impact+assessment+guidance?opendocument](http://snet.surreycc.gov.uk/snet/core/sccwspages.nsf/LookupWebPagesByTITLE_RT/Equalities+impact+assessment+guidance?opendocument).

**7. LOCALISM:**

- 7.1 The Guildford Joint Committee will help increase the involvement of residents, local communities, businesses and partners in local democracy.
- 7.2 By working together, the Joint Committee will provide the opportunity to identify local solutions and seek to jointly deliver local government service improvements for the residents, businesses and visitors to the borough of Guildford. Both councils will be proactive in bringing issues to the Joint Committee and seeking to deliver local priorities together.

**8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Consider the potential implications for the following council priorities and policy. Where the impact is potentially significant, set out a summary of the issues in detail below.

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

**9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:****9.1 The Local Committee (Guildford) is asked to comment on and note:**

the establishment of the Guildford Joint Committee in place of the current Local Committee arrangements to take effect from 19 September 2018.

**10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

- 10.1 Following Cabinet agreement (and endorsement where the decision is within the remit of the Council) of the recommendations, full Council approval will be sought for the establishment of Guildford Joint Committee, agreement of the Guildford Joint Committee Constitution and Scheme of Delegation.
- 10.2 Guildford Joint Committee would be formally constituted from the 19 September 2018, when the Joint Committee would hold its first meeting.
- 10.3 The Constitution of the Guildford Joint Committee will be reviewed after 12 months, and any recommended changes reported back through appropriate processes at SCC and GBC.

**Contact Officer:**

James Painter, Partnership Manager, Tel: 01372 832539.

**Consulted:**

Internal consultation: Cabinet Member for Communities; Leader, Surrey County Council, Guildford Local Committee, Deputy Strategic Director Environment and Infrastructure, Chairman of Local/ Joint Committee Review Group.

External consultation: Guildford Borough Council Leader, Guildford Borough Council Executive; and Guildford Borough Council Chief Executive and Senior Management Team

**Annexes:**

Draft Cabinet report - Formation of Guildford Joint Committee

**Sources/background papers:**

- Review of Woking Joint Committee, within the Community Engagement in the Local Decision Making Process report to the Resident Experience Board on 19 May 2016.