

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET****DATE: 24 SEPTEMBER 2013****REPORT OF: MR PETER MARTIN, DEPUTY LEADER****LEAD OFFICER: JULIE FISHER, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR BUSINESS SERVICES****SUBJECT: GUILDFORD SURREY BOARD****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To support the progress of the strategic collaboration with Guildford Borough Council as exemplified by the memorandum of understanding, and agree the establishment of the Guildford Surrey Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Approves the establishment of a Guildford Surrey Board comprising of representatives of the County Council, Guildford Borough Council and other relevant service agencies to progress shared strategic priorities.
2. Agrees the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council, as set out in Annex 1 to this report, including the shared priorities for the new Board.
3. Authorises the Strategic Director for Business Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Business Services, to agree memoranda of understanding with other relevant public service agencies where applicable.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The above recommendations will improve strategic collaboration between Surrey County Council, Guildford Borough Council and other public service agencies in Guildford.

DETAILS:**Background**

1. The County Council is committed to improve relationships with partners to both improve service outcomes and value for money. Districts and Boroughs are recognised as key partners in improving places within the county.
2. There have been a number of examples where joint working is progressing well with partners such as the Reigate and Banstead Public Service Board and the Woking Strategic Partnership Board both of which involve representation from both the District and Borough and the County Council.

Memorandum of Understanding

3. The MoU is attached at Annex 1. It is a non-binding agreement setting out the areas of partnership activity that the two Councils will focus on in Guildford over the next few years.
4. The MoU will provide the framework for joint activity and influence the planning and resources in both organisations.

Governance Arrangements

5. The MoU proposes the creation of a Joint Public Service Board to oversee the delivery of the agreement.
6. Officers from both Councils will support the Joint Board. Guildford Borough Council will provide the secretariat support.
7. It is initially proposed that the Board will meet every two months.
8. Initially, the board will focus on the partnership between Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council. It is envisaged that this will expand to include other public sector partners with future memoranda of understanding with them.

CONSULTATION:

9. The following people have been consulted on the MoU: the Surrey County Council Leadership Team; the Cabinet Member for Business Services; Guildford Borough Council Executive.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

10. There are no financial risks associated with the MoU, as existing resources will be allocated to delivering outcomes.
11. The MoU is a non-binding document and, as such, any party with membership on the Guildford Surrey Board can withdraw from the MoU without any liability. The only risk to withdrawing from the MoU would be to the ability of either organisation to drive forward improvements in partnership within the Borough of Guildford.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

- 12 The joint working proposals are central to strategies to achieve better value for money. Where priorities are agreed, existing resources will be focussed to progress them. There are no new financial commitments within the MoU itself and proposals arising from it will require the relevant approvals from each respective authority.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

- 13 The Section 151 Officer confirms that there are no financial implications arising as a result of the recommendations. Specific proposals arising from the Board will require approvals in accordance with existing governance arrangements within each authority.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

- 14 The MoU is not a legally binding document. It provides a framework based on the shared objectives of Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council for improvements to the area to improve the quality of life for residents.
- 15 The purpose of the board is to provide an oversight and co-ordination role with no specific delegated authority being given to members of the board to make any decision on behalf of Surrey County Council which will continue being dealt with in accordance with the scheme of delegation.

Equalities and Diversity

- 16 The proposals will focus on the improving outcomes for residents within the Borough. Specific initiatives, where applicable, will be subject to Equality Impact Assessments to ensure all potential impacts have been captured and addressed.

Other Implications:

- 17 Working in collaboration with Districts and Boroughs is an important strategic priority for the County Council to achieve better outcomes for residents across a number of council priority and policy areas.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 18 Officers from Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council will work together to develop work to address areas for joint working which have been identified in the MoU and develop action plans.
- 19 Other organisations to be invited into an extended membership will include University of Surrey, Royal Surrey County Hospital and Guildford College.

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Consulted:

Denise Le Gal, Cabinet Member for Business Services
Surrey County Council Corporate Leadership Team
Guildford Borough Council Executive

Annexes:

Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council Memorandum of Understanding

Sources/background papers:

- Report to Guildford Borough Council Executive, September 2013.
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