

CABINET MEMBER DECISION

Decision:

LOCAL AND JOINT COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

(i) Details of decision

1. That the transfer of the remaining Local and Joint Committee Executive Functions delegated by the Leader with effect from 11 October 2022 be agreed.
2. That the approval of changes to library opening hours are delegated to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety, or to officers where appropriate, with effect from 11 October 2022 be agreed.
3. That the executive functions previously delegated by the Leader to Local and Joint Committees relating to Community Safety and Youth Provision are incorporated within the general service delegations to officers, and advisory functions are removed, due to service, commissioning and policy changes, to bring the constitution into line with current practice, with effect from 11 October 2022 be agreed.
4. That the Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, make the relevant changes to the Council's Constitution including to the Executive and Officer Scheme of delegation as set out within this report.
5. It was noted that a report will be put to full Council on 11 October 2022 recommending transferring the non-executive functions of Public Rights of Way (PROW), the ceasing of the Local Committees, and serving notice of Council's intention to withdraw from the Joint Committees.
6. That the Director of Law and Governance be requested to work in conjunction with Democratic Services officers from Guildford, Runnymede, Woking, and Spelthorne Borough Councils regarding the notice and in updating their respective constitutions.

(ii) Reasons for decision

The removal of executive decision making from Local Committee/Joint Committees will contribute directly to Council's Empowering Communities priority by helping Surrey County Council (SCC) withdraw from the committees as part of the process of introducing a new approach to engagement including a greater variety of engagement options. It will help clarify decision making channels and contribute towards improved opportunities for our residents to be involved in setting their own local priorities.

This is consistent with residents' expressed expectations and wishes to be more involved in what the Council is doing through more informal channels and simpler processes.

Residents locally will benefit from the introduction of the Council's new engagement model through the ability to draw on a range of engagement methods and tools, thereby widening local resident involvement and encouraging more open conversations.

This change is evidenced by research in the past year which has shown that far more residents have been able to communicate with the Council through a wider range of mechanisms than has been the case historically using traditional local and joint committee processes. For instance, in 2021/22, 11 online engagement sessions reached over 50,000 members of the public, whilst in comparison only 650 residents attended Local Committee/Joint Committees between 2019 and 2021.

The clarification of executive Community Safety, Youth Provision and advisory Local Committee/Joint Committee functions will also bring the constitution into line with current working practices, following recent service, commissioning and policy changes.

(iii) Details of any alternative options considered and rejected

n/a

(iv) Details of any consultation and representations received not included in the published report

n/a

Conflicts of Interest and any Dispensations Granted

(Any conflict of interest declared by any other Cabinet Member consulted in relation to the decision to be recorded and any dispensations granted by the Audit and Governance Committee).

N/A

Decision taken by:

- (i) Name: Tim Oliver**
- (ii) Portfolio: Leader of the Council**

Date of Decision: 27 September 2022

Date of Publication of Record of Decision: 27 September 2022

**Date decision effective (i.e. 5 working days after date of publication of record of decision unless subject to call-in by the Resources & Performance Select Committee):
4 October 2022**