

Audit & Governance Committee
12 March 2025

REFERRAL OF COUNTY COUNCIL MOTION (ITEM 11A)

Purpose of the report:

The Audit and Governance Committee is asked to consider the original motion as referred by the Council at its meeting on 4 February 2025.

Recommendations:

The Audit and Governance Committee is asked to consider the referred original motion by the Council on 4 February 2025 (Item 11A - Councillor Paul Follows).

Background:

1. At the Council meeting on 4 February 2025, Councillor Paul Follows moved a motion under Standing Order 11.6.
2. Under Standing Order 12.3, Councillor David Lewis (Cobham), the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources moved a proposal that the motion be referred to the Audit and Governance Committee for more detailed consideration.
3. The proposal to refer the motion was put to the vote and was carried. The Council RESOLVED that: The motion be referred to the Audit and Governance Committee for the purpose of consideration.
4. In line with Standing Order 12.5, Councillor Paul Follows will be invited to present his motion at the 12 March 2025 Audit and Governance Committee meeting with the motion seconder, Councillor Lance Spencer also being invited to speak.

Motion Detail:

This Council recognises that:

Continual improvement and external assurance are key components of best practice and good scrutiny for the Council as a whole and for individual councillors undertaking their duties.

Recognising the budget constraints of this Council, such reviews do not have to be undertaken by expensive consultants and can be procured through the Local Government Association (LGA) and associated bodies.

SOLACE (The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers) and Local Partnerships have indicated to Surrey County Council that these reviews would be carried out free of charge.

To validate the information for the 2025/26 budget and to support the creation of the 2026/27 budget, this Council resolves to:

- I. Commission 'SOLACE' to conduct a governance review of finance and governance processes of the Council.
- II. Commission 'Local Partnerships' to review the risk appetite, treasury management, capital strategy and transformation project forecasts of this Council.
- III. Aim to consider reports from the reviews under part 1 and 2 of this motion at the relevant select committee and to full Council by the end of September 2025, subject to the timetable for procurement of these reviews.

Next steps:

5. In line with Standing Order 12.6, the Audit and Governance Committee will report upon the motion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

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Sources/background papers:

- [Item 11A - ORIGINAL MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 11.6 - Council, 4 February 2025, supplementary agenda and minutes](#)

Annexes/Appendices:

None

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