



## OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

### FORMATION OF RUNNYMEDE JOINT COMMITTEE

#### **KEY ISSUE/DECISION:**

Building on the strong and enviable track record of 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 Runnymede Borough Council (RBC).

County Council agreement is required to establish a Runnymede JC to replace the current Local Committee (LC) arrangements; to delegate non-executive functions to the newly formed Runnymede JC; and to agree the Constitution and Standing Orders under which the newly formed committee will operate.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that Council:

1. Agrees to the establishment of the Runnymede Joint Committee.
2. Delegates the non-executive functions to the Runnymede Joint Committee.
3. Approves an addition to the Council's Scheme of Delegation (Annex A).
4. Approves the Constitution for Runnymede Joint Committee (Annex B).

#### **BACKGROUND:**

1. The creation of JCs is part of SCC's wider ambition for local authorities to work better together for our local communities and address issues of importance for residents.
2. JCs enable a more integrated approach to service delivery and planning. They provide a powerful demonstration of SCC's vision for services shaped around places and communities.
3. The creation of the Runnymede JC 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.
4. The Runnymede JC will operate in place of the current LC. It will be the third JC in the county, this approach having already proved successful in Woking and Spelthorne. To enable the establishment of the Runnymede JC an addition will be made to the SCC Scheme of Delegation, as set out in Annex A.
5. The new JC will simplify and speed-up local decision making processes. An important distinction from the current arrangements is that the JC will be able

to make decisions on both SCC and RBC 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.

6. The JC will put the needs of residents first and seek to increase resident engagement. Residents may not always be able differentiate between the services provided by SCC and RBC. The JC will streamline the ability of both councils to respond jointly to local issues thereby increasing accountability, improving outcomes for residents and strengthening local democracy. Both RBC and SCC will be proactive in bringing issues to the JC.
7. The Runnymede JC will have a wide remit. In addition to taking on the decision making functions of the existing Runnymede LC, the JC will support the close working of the two councils over a range of key policy areas including Family Support, Adult Services, Early Help, Educational Standards, Strategic Infrastructure and the Place agenda. The full functions of the Runnymede JC are set out in the Runnymede JC Constitution in Annex B.
8. Runnymede Borough Council and their Corporate Management Committee have approved the formation of the Runnymede JC. SCC Cabinet on the 24 April 2018 approved the establishment of the JC and delegated executive functions to it. Council approval is required to delegate the non-executive functions relating to public rights of way to the Runnymede JC as set out in Section 7.15 in Annex A. If Council approve the recommendations in this report, the Runnymede JC will be in place from the 18 June 2018 when it will hold its first meeting.
9. The Runnymede JC will be kept under review by both councils during the first 12 months of operation to ensure that it meets its stated aims. The JC could then be used as a platform to extend joint work across a wider range of services in the borough. For example once an adopted Local Plan is in place for Runnymede in 2019, it is anticipated that decisions around the use of the Community Infrastructure Levy will be added to the remit of the JC.
10. The Runnymede JC will help ensure services are delivered in the most efficient manner and make best use of public funds. The establishment of the JC will have no additional financial implications on SCC. The JC will work within SCCs established budget setting and financial processes, all funds will be held and administered by the originating authorities.
11. The establishment of the Runnymede JC is complementary to the work and remit of the cross party Local / Joint Committee Review Group, the Chairman of the Group, Cllr Mary Angell is also Chairman of the Runnymede LC and fully supportive of this approach.

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**Sources/background papers:**

- Cabinet Report on the formation of Runnymede Joint Committee 24 April 2018
- 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.