



OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

FORMATION OF GUILDFORD 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 Guildford Borough Council (GBC).

Full Council agreement is required to establish a Guildford JC to replace the current Local Committee (LC) arrangements; to delegate non-executive functions to the newly formed Guildford 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 Guildford Joint Committee.
2. Delegates the non-executive functions to the Guildford Joint Committee.
3. Approves an addition to the Council's Scheme of Delegation (Annex A).
4. Approves the Constitution for Guildford Joint Committee (Annex B).
5. Appoints the County Councillors representing divisions in the Guildford borough area to serve on the Guildford Joint Committee for the Council year 2018/19
6. Appoints Mike Goodman, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, as the SCC Cabinet Member to serve on the Guildford Joint Committee for the 2018/19 municipal year.

BACKGROUND:

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.

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.

The creation of the Guildford 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.

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 and Spelthorne, and recently established in Runnymede. To enable the

establishment of the Guildford JC an addition will be made to the SCC Scheme of Delegation, as set out in Annex A.

The regulations under which the Joint Committee is established require representation on the Committee of at least one Cabinet Member given that it will be dealing with executive functions. As there is no current SCC Cabinet Member with an electoral division in Guildford. Council authorisation is sought under recommendation 5, for the Chief Executive to appoint Mike Goodman, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, as the SCC Cabinet Member to serve on the Guildford Joint Committee for the 2018/19 municipal year.

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 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.

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 GBC. 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 GBC and SCC will be proactive in bringing issues to the JC.

The Guildford JC will have a wide remit. In addition to taking on the decision making functions of the existing Guildford 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 Joint Committee will also feature a number of Guildford Borough Council functions that have synergies with the current Guildford Local Committee functions such as Air Quality and agreeing a joint statement of priority for the delivery of infrastructure. This is detailed in the Constitution attached under Annex A. The full functions of the Guildford JC are set out in the Guildford JC Constitution in Annex B.

Guildford Borough Executive has endorsed the Joint Committee model and recommended to the Council the approval of the formation of the Guildford JC. SCC Cabinet on the 26 June 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 Guildford JC as set out in Section 7.20 in Annex A. If Council approve the recommendations in this report, the Guildford JC will be in place from the 19 September 2018 when it will hold its first meeting.

The Guildford 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.

The Guildford 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.

The establishment of the Guildford JC is complementary to the work and remit of the cross party Local / Joint Committee Review Group and the Chairman of the Group, Cllr Mary Angell, is supportive of this approach.

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Sources/background papers:

- Cabinet Report on the formation of Guildford 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.

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