

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

### Executive Summary

The Council is invited to consider the recommendations from the meeting of the Executive held on 12 September 2024. The extracts from the minutes of the meeting of the Executive are set out below.

### THE EXECUTIVE – 12 SEPTEMBER 2024

#### A. Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleaning Contract Re-tender EXE24-075

Before introducing the report as Portfolio Holder, Councillor Forster announced that he would be stepping down from both the Executive and as Deputy Leader of the Council in light of his new role as Member of Parliament for Woking.

Councillor Forster explained that the paper before the Executive recommended to Council that the contract for the provision of Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleaning Services be awarded to the highest scoring tenderer following a long procurement process. The Executive noted that the contract was one of the Council's largest services and included highways street cleaning, grounds maintenance and tree inspections, green spaces and play areas. A confidential report would be considered under Part II of the meeting which set out commercially sensitive information.

The Executive was informed that the Council's current contract was awarded to Serco in 2003 and would end on 31 March 2025, due to the maximum permitted extensions being reached. Changes to the contract had been made in recent years, such as the removal of highway trees and verges maintenance, and changes as part of the Council's savings review process. It was noted that Serco had not submitted a bid for the new contract due to changes to its business model. The Executive acknowledged how well Serco had performed over the length of the current contract, particularly on its response to tree issues around the Borough, and thanked Serco for its valuable service. It was highlighted that, going forward, tree inspections would be brought in-house and out of hours tree work would be part of the new contract.

The Executive welcomed the community work and online services included in the new contract. Following a question regarding sports pitches, it was confirmed that sports pitches would continue to be maintained to the relevant governing bodies standards.

The Executive agreed to recommend the proposals to Council, noting that there would be a 10-day standstill period between notification of the contract award decision and the contract award itself. The Executive thanked Officers for their work on the procurement.

#### **RECOMMENDED to Council**

**That (i) the contract for the provision of Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleaning Services be awarded to the highest scoring tenderer for an initial contract period of eight years and it be noted that the value of the contract is estimated to be £3m during 2025/26, subject to annual indexation thereafter; and**

- (ii) **authority be delegated to the Head of Environmental Services and Director of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to complete the necessary contract document exchanges.**

Reason: To secure arrangements for the provision of grounds maintenance and street cleaning services beyond the end of the current contract. This contract will enable the Council to continue to achieve its statutory duty in respect to cleaning standards and continue to provide safety critical works in respect to its sports, play and grounds facilities.

B. Climate Change Strategy EXE24-072

The Executive received a report which recommended to Council the adoption of the revised Climate Change Strategy which aimed to reduce both the Borough's and the Council's carbon footprint, enhance resilience to climate change impacts, and promote sustainable development. The Portfolio Holder, Councillor Forster, highlighted that the revised Strategy focussed on effective partnership working, for example working with Surrey County Council Highways to reduce transport emissions. In addition, the Strategy focussed on areas which the Council could directly control, such as energy use of Council-owned properties.

The Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee had considered the report at its meeting on 5 September 2024 under its remit for pre-decision scrutiny. A copy of the recommendations of the Committee were before the Executive. The first recommendation concerned the addition of a review date to be set 5 years from the start of the Government intervention. Although it was intended for the Strategy to be reviewed, the Executive was supportive of setting a specific date. The second recommendation concerned the addition of 'environment and climate change' to the implications section of committee reports. The Executive welcomed the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee and agreed to recommend both to Council.

It was highlighted that in the Revised Climate Change Strategy at Appendix 1 to the report, under 6 - Theme: Waste, the word 'Objections' should be replaced with 'Objectives'.

The Executive discussed flytipping, noting its impact on pride of place and on the environment. The Portfolio Holder highlighted that home composting was more efficient and the Council was looking to work with the County Council to encourage home composting for garden and food waste. Attention was drawn to recent flytipping prosecutions, and residents and businesses were reminded to check that those paid to remove waste were an accredited waste disposal company.

The Executive welcomed the important work of Woking Environment Action (WEAct) in the Borough, drawing attention to The Repair Café initiative which was run by volunteers in Woking and had repaired over 800 items.

The Executive was supportive of the revised Strategy, adoption of which would acknowledge the Council's commitment to climate change and how it planned to address climate change through the delivery of the Council's statutory services.

**RECOMMENDED to Council**

- That (i) the representations to the Climate Change Strategy consultation made between May – June 2023, attached at Appendix 2a – 2b to the report, be noted;**

## Recommendations of the Executive

- (ii) the revised Climate Change Strategy, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted and set a basis to how the Council will continue to factor in the impact of climate change within decision-making;
- (iii) upon adoption, the Council will embed the objectives of the Climate Change Strategy across all departments and service reviews;
- (iv) a review date be added to the Climate Change Strategy, to be set 5 years from the start of the Government intervention at Woking Borough Council; and
- (v) Officers be requested to amend the committee report template to include 'environment and climate change' as an implication.

Reason: To note the necessary revisions made to the Climate Change Strategy since public consultation and the issuing of the S114 notice which has changed how the Council operates.

### C. Housing Standards Enforcement Policy and Housing Standards Civil Penalty Notice Policy EXE24-078

The Executive received a report which recommended to Council the changes to the Housing Standards Enforcement Policy, and the adoption of the new Housing Standards Civil Penalty Notice Policy, in respect of private rented sector accommodation. The Executive welcomed the work by Officers to set a clear, consistent, proportionate and transparent approach to the enforcement of Housing Standards legislation.

#### **RECOMMENDED to Council**

- That (i) the changes to the Housing Standards Enforcement Policy in respect of private rented sector accommodation, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (ii) the new Housing Standards Civil Penalty Notice Policy in respect of private rented sector accommodation, as set out in the Appendix 2 to the report, be approved and adopted;
  - (iii) delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director - Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to approve minor modifications and updates to the Housing Standards Enforcement Policy and the Housing Standards Civil Penalty Notice (CPN) Policy;
  - (iv) delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director - Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to agree the inclusion of new legislation and duties relevant to Private Sector Housing imposed on the Council by the Government in the Housing Standards Enforcement Policy and the Housing Standards Civil Penalty Notice (CPN) Policy; and
  - (v) the above recommendations, if approved, will be implemented from the 27 September 2024.

## Recommendations of the Executive

Reason: To set a clear, consistent, proportionate and transparent approach to the enforcement of Housing Standards legislation and to enable minor amendments and the inclusion of new legislation and case law to be adopted expediently going forward.

**Background Papers:** None.

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