

## **COUNCIL – 3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE**

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#### **BUILDING CONTROL SHARED SERVICE**

The Executive Member for Enforcement, Councillor J. Durrant, reported on the proposals to establish a shared building control service, involving Reigate and Banstead, Mole Valley and Tandridge Councils.

The Council faced a number of challenges within the building control service in delivering a high quality services whilst competing in a competitive market. As a result the Council struggled to attract staff, which was recognised to be a national challenge, it was considered to be more difficult in the south east due to higher levels of competition.

Councillor Durrant informed the Executive that it was proposed to formally launch the shared service in February 2017, with four aims:

- Improved value for customers;
- Great place to work;
- Efficient ways of working;
- Income generation.

The Reigate and Banstead building control staff would, under the proposals, transfer to Tandridge District Council employment which required formal and approval through the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) consultation processes. It was noted that the new service would offer a wider range of roles, with opportunities to develop and specialise, as well as a number of trainee / apprenticeship roles.

The shared service financial model had been developed by the Section 151 financial officers from all three councils to achieve the overriding financial principle of 'no authority being worse off'. It was anticipated that once the shared service was established, delivering quality services, it would progress to operating in the company model, as soon as was practicable, in order to allow the shared service to expand its services beyond its area.

The governance arrangements for the shared service would see the establishment of a Joint Partnership Board that would involve elected Members from each Council. Decisions regarding future budgets or changes to the direction of the service would remain with the constituent councils.

**RECOMMENDED that:**

- (i) the Head of Legal Services be authorised to implement any actions necessary to reflect the changes arising from this report, including changes to the Council's constitution;**
- (ii) the functions of the Council, within the remit of the Building Control service, be transferred to Tandridge District Council as Host Authority under the Agreement and be overseen by a newly constituted Joint Partnership Board to be established with Tandridge District Council, Mole Valley District Council and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council with effect from the date of the Agreement; and**
- (iii) once the Joint Partnership Board was constituted, the Executive Member for Enforcement be appointed as the Council's representative for the remainder of the 2016/17 Municipal Year, and that this appointment be incorporated into the appointments made at the Annual Council meeting for the future.**

**RESOLVED that:**

- (i) the proposal to create a new shared Building Control service with Tandridge District Council, Mole Valley District Council and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council be approved;**
- (ii) the Head of Corporate Policy & Performance be authorised to agree the detail of, and enter into, an Inter Authority Agreement under section 101 Local Government Act 1972 (and Regulations made thereunder) for the joint provision of a Building Control service with Tandridge District Council, Mole Valley District Council and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council;**
- (iii) the Head of Corporate Policy & Performance be authorised to agree other related issues for the shared service, including the detailed business plan; and**
- (iv) staff currently employed by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, wholly or mainly in the delivery of the Building Control service, transfer to the employment of Tandridge District Council at the start of the new shared service in accordance with the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (as amended) (TUPE) with effect from such date as the Agreement to carry out those service is entered into and that formal consultation pursuant to TUPE commence immediately.**

**Reasons for decision:**

The creation of a new shared service would provide greater resilience to enable the services of three councils to better compete with private sector competition. It would position the service better to maintain and increase market share as well as provide enhanced staff development opportunities. It would enable the shared service to position itself for the potential creation of a future company model.

**Alternative options:**

Maintain the existing Building Control service within Reigate & Banstead or request that further work be undertaken on the proposals.

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**POLICY ON STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING**

Councillor T. Schofield, Executive Member for Planning Policy and Finance, introduced a proposal to replace the existing outdated Street Naming and Numbering (SNN) Policy.

The Executive noted that the proposed new policy was based on national guidelines and good practice and would provide a sound framework for the consideration of all future SNN applications.

The new policy supported the Council's priorities in delivering a quality service that provided value for money. An example of that was how the corporate gazetteer was linked to many internal corporate systems, such as refuse collection and council tax, and was a key building block throughout the organisation. It was noted that the local gazetteer was also the basis of the National Land and Property Gazetteer, used by other local authorities, emergency services and private business.

The Executive Member emphasised that the adoption of the updated policy would confirm existing processes, avoid unnecessary confusion and delays to implement the complexities of the SNN function, providing a definitive guide for councillors and the public to utilise.

The Executive noted that GeoPlace (the public sector partnership that oversee national street naming and numbering) supported the new policy.

**RECOMMENDED that the Scheme of Delegation within the Constitution be amended to provide for minor amendments of the Street Naming and Numbering Policy being delegated to the appropriate Head of Service in consultation with the Executive Member responsible for Planning Policy.**

**RESOLVED** that the Street Naming and Numbering Policy set out at Annex 1 of the report presented by adopted.

**Reasons for decision:**

The existing Street Naming and Numbering (SNN) Policy was outdated and required additional operational guidelines to make it more useable by the public in terms of legality and guidance.

**Alternative options:** To maintain the existing SNN policy or alter the proposed policy.