

Runnymede Borough Council

COUNCIL MEETING

18 May 2011

URGENT ITEMS

The Mayor has agreed that these reports be considered as a matter of urgency owing to the need to make decisions thereon prior to the next Council meeting.

SURREY LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (CE)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To approve a proposal to dissolve the Surrey Local Government Association and to agree that the assets and monies of the SLGA be transferred to a Surrey Leaders' Group on its formation.**

2. Background Information

- 2.1 The Surrey Local Government Association (SLGA) was established in 1997 with the aim "To protect and promote the interests of the people of Surrey through co-operation between the elected principal Councils on public services locally, and on representation on public issues at the regional, national and European levels".
- 2.2 The Association comprises all twelve principal authorities in Surrey and has twenty-two members – one member from each borough and district and eleven County Councillors.

3. The Proposal

- 3.1 There have been many changes in the political environment since the SLGA was formed. In the light of the current climate, the Association debated at its meeting on 3 March 2011 whether there was indeed a future role for the SLGA and what that might be.
- 3.2 Members were unanimous that there remained a clear need for a strong representative body for local Government in Surrey, to act as a forum for discussion of strategic issues, for relationship building and as a lobbying voice.
- 3.3 They did agree, however, that the time was right to change the nature of the SLGA and replace it with a new group better suited to fulfil this role. The group should comprise the Leaders (or equivalent) of all borough and district Councils and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the County Council, planning to meet approximately monthly. It would be called the *Surrey Leader's Group*. A draft constitution is attached.
- 3.4 The District Councils' representatives on the Surrey Leaders' Group would continue to determine nominations to represent all Surrey district Councils on outside bodies.
- 3.5 The constitution of the SLGA requires the approval of all its constituent authorities for any change to its Purpose, Objectives, Membership, Powers, Administrative and Technical Support, and Finance and Subscriptions. This report therefore requests the approval of Council for the dissolution of the SLGA.
- 3.6 Subject to the necessary agreements, the SLGA will be formally wound up on 30 June 2011 and assets and monies of the Association will be transferred to the Surrey Leaders' Group on 1 July 2011 or as soon as practicable thereafter.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Surrey Leaders' Group will be supported by a Secretariat which will be similar in size and structure to that which supports the SLGA, currently 1.8 fte staff. It is proposed that the costs of the secretariat will continue to be met by subscription from the constituent authorities.

- 4.2 At the end of the financial year 2010-11, there is a balance of some £52,329.27 uncommitted funds in the SLGA accounts. It is proposed that this should be transferred to the Surrey Leaders' Group together with any balances accrued after 31 March 2011. Closing accounts of the SLGA will be submitted to each of its constituent authorities.

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION that –

the Council is requested to:

- i) approve the dissolution of the Surrey Local Government Association;**
- ii) endorse the intention to establish a Surrey Leaders' Group in accordance with the draft constitution attached;**
- iii) agree that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, be authorised to agree any minor amendments to the constitution of the Surrey Leaders' Group that may arise following consideration by all Councils; and**
- iv) approve the transfer of the assets and monies of the SLGA to the Surrey Leaders' Group.**

(TO RESOLVE)

Background Papers

Constitution of SLGA

GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON BANK HOLIDAYS AND SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS (CE)

The Government, as part of its Tourism Strategy, published in March 2011, included a commitment to consult about possibly moving the May Day Bank Holiday to a new date at some other point in the year.

The Government is inviting suggestions for alternatives for a new date and occasion to possibly replace the May Day Bank Holiday.

The 800th Anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta will take place on 15 June 2015. The Trustees of the Magna Carta Trust support this date being a special international holiday and the support of this Council is requested.

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION that –

Council suggest to the Government that the 800th Anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta be designated a special international holiday.

(TO RESOLVE)

Background Papers

Government Tourism Strategy