

**Minutes of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee  
20 January 2025**

**Present:**

Councillor J.R. Sexton (Chair)  
Councillor C. Bateson (Vice-Chair)

Councillors:

J.R. Boughtflower	K.M. Grant	S.C. Mooney
J. Button	K. Howkins	L. E. Nichols
S.M. Doran	N. Islam	H.R.D. Williams
M. Gibson	M.J. Lee	

**1/25 Apologies and Substitutes**

Apologies were received from Councillors Geach and Rybinski.

Councillor Attewell attended as substitute for Councillor Rybinski.

**2/25 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 09 December 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

**3/25 Disclosures of Interest**

Councillors Attewell, Mooney and Sexton declared that they were also Surrey County Councillors.

Councillor Nichols declared that he sat on the Knowle Green Estates board of directors.

**4/25 Questions from members of the Public**

There were no questions received from members of the public.

**5/25 Corporate Policy and Resources Draft Detailed budget for 2025/26**

The Committee considered the draft Detailed Budget for the Corporate Policy & Resources Committee.

The Committee requested that more commentary be provided within Appendix 1 to give members a better understanding of some of the figures quoted. Officers were asked to provide more information on Consultancy Fees, why some National Insurance contribution figures remained the same for 2025/26 and to provide figures for the overall staffing budgets for 2024/2025 and 2025/26. The Committee also asked that additional text be added to the report to explain what this budget would mean to the Council's residents, particularly in relation to the growth items. The impact from the proposed Surrey Local Government Reorganisation would also affect the budget, particularly in relation to the Spelthorne/Mole Valley Financial Partnership that would cease if the Council was placed in the first tranche. The Committee were advised that whilst a budget had been allocated for refurbishment works to be carried out at Stockley Park this would not be used if the negotiations with a potential tenant did not result in a new lease being granted. Any amendments or additions to the draft Detailed Budget would be reflected in the budget papers due to be presented again to this Committee on 10 February and Council on 27 February 2025.

The Committee **resolved** to:

Approve the Draft Detailed Budget for the Corporate Policy & Resources Committee before it was presented back to this Committee as part of the overall budget for this Council for 2025/26.

#### **6/25 Corporate Policy and Resources Draft Capital Programme for 2025/26**

The Committee considered the Corporate Policy & Resources Committee draft Capital Programme for 2025/26.

The Committee agreed that the proposed Surrey Local Government Reorganisation may impact on the Capital Programme for 2025/26 so work would be needed to agree the Council's priorities and the budget report would also need to be reviewed.

The Committee **resolved** to note the draft Capital Programme for 2025/26.

#### **7/25 Treasury Management Strategy Mid-Year Review**

The Committee considered a report on the performance of the Treasury Department during the first six months of 2024/25.

The Committee asked if officers could explain how the price list indicator worked and were advised that a response would be circulated to all Committee members.

The Committee **resolved** to note the performance of the Treasury Department during the first six months of 2024/25.

### **8/25 Treasury Management Draft Strategy 2025-26**

The Committee considered a report that sought a recommendation to Council.

The Committee were advised that the Council has a statutory duty to approve an Annual Treasury Management Strategy.

The figures shown in Table 2 within the report were queried as they differed from those quoted in the Corporate Policy & Resources Committee (CP&RC) Capital Programme Report. 2025/26. Members were advised that the figures quoted in the CP&RC Capital Programme Report only related to this Committee whilst those quoted in this report were for all committees. The Chief Finance Officer advised that he would send an email to all Committee Members to clarify why there was a difference in figures.

The Committee Members requested that the methodology used to determine a Council's credit rating also be sent to all Committee Members.

The Committee **resolved** to:

1. Recommend to Council that it approves the Treasury Management Strategy for 2025-26 as set out in the report; and
2. Advise Council that by approving the report, they will be agreeing to the Treasury Management Practices (TMP), MRP statement, Operational Boundary and Authorised Limits.

### **9/25 Refreshed Sinking Fund Model**

The Committee considered an interim report on the progress of 2025-26 to 2074-75 Sinking Fund Forecast Model.

The Committee asked for additional information to be provided on the proposed Sinking Fund Model and training to be given to all Committee Members before they agreed to note the report mid-February 2025. The Chair advised the Committee that un-redacted confidential versions of Appendices A and B would be shared with Committee members to enable members to understand the model ahead of any demonstrations so that they were informed and able to ask questions on any part of the proposed model that they wanted clarification on. Any demonstration would also be provided to members on the Commercial Assets Sub-Committee before the model is refined and brought back to this committee.

The Committee asked that a User Requirement Description be written so the members were fully informed with regard to what is expected of the Sinking Fund Forecast Model and how the Council would use it.

The Committee **resolved** to:

1. Note the progress on the Sinking Fund Model and that concerns raised by the Committee Members would be addressed; and
2. Subject to the demonstrations and further clarification provided to members, to decide whether this Sinking Fund Model should proceed in the current proposed format.

### **10/25 Revised Corporate Complaints Policy**

The Committee considered a report the sought adoption of a revised Corporate Complaints Policy that would align with the Ombudsman's Complaints Handling Code.

The Committee were advised that any revisions to the policy would not affect the current reporting procedures.

The Committee **resolved** to approve the adoption of the proposed revised Corporate Complaints Policy.

### **11/25 2023-24 Audited Accounts for KGE**

The Committee considered the audited financial statement for Knowle Green Estates for the year end 31 March 2024.

The Committee **resolved** to note the contents of the report and in particular the unqualified audit report.

### **12/25 Eclipse Leisure Centre Additional Spend**

The Committee considered a report that outlined additional spend on the Eclipse Leisure Centre that had been approved by the Community Wellbeing & Housing Committee on 07 January 2025.

The Corporate Policy & Resources Committee were asked to note the updated budget position for the construction of the Eclipse Leisure Centre.

Committee members were advised that negotiations were still being undertaken with Wilmot Dixon to finalise the accounts and that a more detailed analysis and costs would be brought back to this committee at a later date.

The Committee were advised that the original design met Building Control Standards and that some of the additional work was due to requests from the Leisure Centre Operator, Places Leisure. In addition to the amendments approved by the Community Wellbeing & Housing Committee, Officers were

asked to look at providing handrails to ensure that customers with disabilities or mobility issues would be able to enter and leave the centre safely.

The Chair advised officers that a list of all additional works and costings needed to be produced and brought to the committee so that additional funding would not be needed in the future.

The Committee requested that a more clear and concise report be brought back to this committee for them to consider the current budget position for the construction of the Eclipse Leisure Centre.

The Committee asked that all future reports in respect of the Eclipse Leisure Centre funding should come straight to the Corporate Policy & Resources Committee but for governance purposes the Terms of Reference for the Community Wellbeing & Housing Committee (CW&HC) would need to be considered when a decision was made as to whether a report needed to be considered by CW&HC before coming before this Committee..

The Committee **resolved** to reject the updated budget position for the construction of Eclipse Leisure Centre.

#### **13/25 Corporate Plan Progress Report**

The Committee were advised that this item had been deferred to the next meeting of the Committee on 10 February 2025.

#### **14/25 Terms of Reference for KGE Task & Finish Group**

The Committee **resolved** to agree the Terms of Reference for Knowle Green Estates Task & Finish Group.

#### **15/25 Terms of Reference for Reorganisation Board**

The Committee agreed that this item would be taken to the Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held on 06 February 2025.

#### **16/25 Urgent Actions**

The Committee were advised that no urgent actions had been taken since the last meeting of the committee on 09 December 2024.

#### **17/25 Forward Plan**

The Committee resolved to note the contents of the Forward Plan for this committee.

**The meeting concluded at 21.50**