

Minutes of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee

19 January 2026

Present:

Councillor J.R. Sexton
Councillor C. Bateson
Councillor J.R. Boughtflower
Councillor M. Buck
Councillor J. Button
Councillor S.M. Doran
Councillor M. Gibson
Councillor M.J. Lee
Councillor S.C. Mooney
Councillor L. E. Nichols
Councillor H.R.D. Williams

1/26 Apologies and Substitutes

Apologies were received from Councillors Attewell and Turner.

Councillor Howkins was present as Councillor Attewell's substitute.

Councillor Dunn was present at Councillor Turner's substitute.

2/26 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

3/26 Disclosures of Interest

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

Councillor Nichols declared that he was a Director on the Knowle Green Estates Board.

4/26 Questions from members of the Public

There were no questions.

5/26 Tennis Court and Football Pitch Improvement Works

The Committee considered a report that sought approval for improvement works within the Council's parks and open spaces.

The Committee were advised that a tender process would be undertaken to appoint a contractor to undertake the works needed. Once the contract had been awarded, the Chair asked for dates to be provided with regard to the lifespan of each tennis courts' tarmacadam and when future repainting/recoating would be needed.

The Chair asked for details to be provided to Committee members with regard to who would be responsible for monitoring the tennis courts to ensure that they remained fit for purpose and how often they would be inspected.

The Committee requested that further information be provided to outline details of what money would be spent on the football pitches and what maintenance or improvements would be needed.

The Committee **resolved** to:

1. Agree to the tennis court and football pitch improvement works within the Council's parks and open spaces,
2. Authorise the Group Head Community Wellbeing, in consultation with the Chair of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee to select the chosen suppliers and award the contracts not exceeding the community infrastructure levy funding set out in this report,
3. Authorise the Group Head Corporate Governance to enter contracts with the chosen supplier; and
4. Recommend to Council a supplementary capital estimate of £260,000 for the gross cost of the capital works.

6/26 Social Value Strategy

The Committee considered a report that sought a recommendation for Council to approve the proposed Social Value Strategy for the Council's regeneration sites.

The Committee were advised that this report had been considered at a meeting of the Business, Infrastructure and Growth Committee in January and a recommendation was made to this Committee to agree the Social Value Strategy for the regeneration site disposals.

The Group Head Assets was asked to provide a list, to be circulated to all committee members, of all commercial properties within the Council's Portfolio.

The proposed strategy would ensure that an agreed set of parameters would be used to evaluate any offers as opposed to just accepting the highest offer. Prior to any site disposal Council will agree a minimum site value and attach weightings to individual criterium to aid decision making and to ensure that the Council consider the social value to the Borough’s residents.

Councillor Williams requested a recorded vote.

For	Councillors Sexton, Bateson, Button, S Doran, Dunn, Gibson, Mooney, Nichols, Williams – 9 votes
Against	0 votes
Abstain	Councillors Boughtflower, Buck, Howkins, Lee – 4 votes

The Committee **resolved** to:

1. Agree the Social Value Strategy for the regeneration site disposals and recommend to Council for approval; and
2. Note that by adopting the Strategy the relevant housing and regeneration sites will be marketed to include a requirement for third parties to provide social value provision within their offers, which may reduce the highest financial value being achieved.

7/26 Debt Write-Offs

The Committee considered a report that sought approval for a Sundry Debt write-off in the sum of £10,913.44.

The Group Head Commissioning and Transformation advised that since these debts had occurred an updated Corporate Debt Policy had been implemented and the Debt Recovery Team’s resources had been strengthened. Processes had now been put in place to monitor individual debts to ensure that they did not increase.

The Chair asked for details of the processes followed and which debts ran the risk of not being recoverable, to be sent to all Committee members.

The Committee requested details of available debt recovery measures and when they would be used.

The Committee **resolved** to approve the Sundry Debt write-offs set out amounting to £10,913.44 in total which relates to irrecoverable debts relating to:

- a. Hire costs for Staines Community Centre (£3,763.44) and
- b. A homelessness prevention loan (£7,150)

8/26 Governance Assurance Risk Management) Framework and Policy

The Committee considered a report that sought approval of the proposed new Governance Assurance Policy.

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that it was proposed to introduce this new policy from April 2026 following training for all Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees and officers to ensure that there was a comprehensive understanding.

The Committee **resolved** to:

- a. Approve the new Governance Assurance Policy and Framework (as outlined in Appendix a), which focuses on the Council's governance and control arrangements to ensure effective management of risks; and
- b. Authorise the Deputy Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Chair of the Audit Committee to make any adjustments to the Policy and Framework to ensure that it is updated to reflect any future changes in the Council's governance arrangements.

9/26 Determination of Council tax base for Council tax setting

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

The Committee queried how many properties within the Borough currently attracted a 200% and 300% levy for properties that were unoccupied and unfurnished for a period of 5 years to 10 years and 10 years and more respectively. The Interim Chief Executive advised that details would be circulated to the committee members.

The Committee **resolved** to recommend to Council that:

- a. The existing Council Tax Reduction Scheme is retained for 2026/27,
- b. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 the Council Tax Base for 2026/27 calculated as Band D equivalents, is determined at 41,276.13, an increase of 1.62%; and
- c. The estimated Council Tax surplus for 2025/26 is £6.478m, of which £0.614m relates to Spelthorne Borough Council (£5.515m of the surplus is a one-off and is due to an adjustment to the 2024/25 bad debt provision).

10/26 Forward Plan

The Committee **resolved** to agree the Forward Plan subject to some minor amendments being made.

11/26 Urgent Actions

There were none.