

# APPENDIX K

## WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE – 5 JULY 2011

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#### Title:

#### **THE FUTURE OF THE SURREY LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Robert Knowles]

[Wards Affected: All]

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#### Summary and purpose:

The Surrey Local Government Association (SLGA) was established in 1997. It comprises all twelve principal authorities in Surrey and has twenty-two members – one member from each Borough and District and eleven County Councillors. At its last meeting members of the Association agreed that the time was right to change the nature of the SLGA and replace it with a new group called the Surrey Leaders' Group. This new group would comprise the Leaders of all the Boroughs and Districts and the Leader and Deputy Leader of Surrey County Council.

The constitution of the SLGA requires the approval of all its constituent authorities for any change to its purpose and objectives. The Executive is, therefore, asked to approve the proposal to dissolve the Surrey Local Government Association and to agree that the assets and monies of the SLGA be transferred to the Surrey Leaders' Group on its formation.

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#### How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

Improving communication between all principal Councils in Surrey can help achieve all of the Councils priorities.

#### Equality and Diversity Implications:

There are no direct Equality and Diversity implications arising from this report.

#### Resource/Value for Money implications:

Working together may offer opportunities for making savings. It is not yet clear what levels subscriptions will be set at.

#### Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

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## **Introduction**

1. All of the constituent Councils of the SLGA are required to approve this proposal to dissolve the SLGA and set up the new organisation.

## **Background**

2. 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”.

3. 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.

## **The Proposal**

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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. This 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 Leaders' Group*. A draft constitution is attached as Annexe 1.
7. The District Councils' representatives on the Surrey Leaders' Group would continue to determine nominations to represent all Surrey district councils on outside bodies.
8. 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 the Executive for the dissolution of the SLGA.

9. 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.
10. Proposed meeting dates for 2011/12 are attached as Annexe 2.

### **Financial Implications**

11. 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.
12. 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.

### **Recommendation**

The Executive is requested to:

1. approve the dissolution of the Surrey Local Government Association;
2. endorse the intention to establish a Surrey Leaders' Group in accordance with the draft constitution attached;
3. authorise the Chief Executive to agree any minor amendments to the constitution of the Surrey Leaders Group that may arise following consideration by all Councils;
4. approve the transfer of the assets and monies of the SLGA to the Surrey Leaders' Group; and
5. amend the schedule of approved duties in the Scheme of Members' Allowances to reflect this change.

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### **Background Papers**

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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