

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council – Decisions taken by the Strategy and Resources Committee on Thursday, 25 January 2024

This notice was published 01 March 2024.

Decisions will come into force, and may be implemented, on the expiry of 5 clear working days from the date of this notice unless called in by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

NOTE: The following represents a summary of the decisions taken by the Committee. It is not intended to represent the formal record of the meeting (for which reference should be made to the minutes) but to facilitate the call-in process.

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
1.	Questions and Statements from the Public	<p>One question was received and delivered verbally at the meeting by a Member of the Public.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed they would receive a written response following the meeting.</p>
2.	Declarations of Interest	<p>The Chair acknowledged that there was an item on the agenda regarding Councillor Pay and it is taken as read that this interest is declared by all Members of the Committee.</p> <p>No declarations of interest were made in relation to any other items of business to be discussed at the meeting.</p>
3.	Minutes of Previous Meeting	<p>The Committee confirmed as a true record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 November 2023 and the Minutes and Restricted Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Committee held on 12 December 2023 and authorised the Chair to sign them.</p>
4.	Communications Strategy	<p>Following consideration, the Committee resolved to;</p> <p>(7 for, 1 against)</p>

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		(1) Agree that the 2024-28 Communications Strategy be adopted as a living document.
5.	Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Pay Policy Statement	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:</p> <p>(1) Approve the draft Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25.</p> <p>(2) Agree that the draft Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25 is referred to Full Council for approval.</p>
6.	Annual Plan 2024-2025	<p>Following consideration, the Committee resolved to;</p> <p>(6 for, 1 abstaining, and the Chair not voting)</p> <p>(1) Approve the Annual Plan 2024-2025 at Appendix 1.</p>
7.	Polling District and Polling Places Review	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:</p> <p>(1) Agree the location of the polling places and districts as set out in Appendix 1 for a five-year period from 1st March 2024, or until it is superseded by any subsequent review of any polling place or district; and</p> <p>(2) Delegate to the Chief Executive in their capacity as the Council’s Returning Officer any ongoing review or change of polling places during this period, to ensure that polling arrangements in the Borough remain fit for purpose for each election called.</p>

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8.	Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:</p> <p>(1) The report and recommendations of the IRP are noted.</p> <p>Resolved (5 for, 1 against, 1 abstaining, and the Chair not voting) to:</p> <p>(2) The Members Allowances Scheme be updated to accept Option B (as set out in para 2.6 and Appendix 1)</p> <p>(3) The SRA for the Chair of the Standards and Constitution Committee should be increased from 10% to 30% of the Basic Allowance from 1 April 2024.</p> <p>Resolved (4 for, 1 against, 2 abstaining, and the Chair not voting) to:</p> <p>(4) The SRA for the Vice Chair of the Standards and Constitution Committee should be increased from 5% to 15% of the Basic Allowance from 1 April 2024.</p> <p>Resolved (5 for, 2 abstaining, and the Chair not voting) to:</p> <p>(5) The SRA for Chair of Human Resources Panel should be withdrawn from the end of this municipal year.</p> <p>(6) The SRAs for 2024/25 to be in accordance with those listed in Appendix 1 of the IRP report.</p>

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		<p>Unanimously resolved to:</p> <p>(7) That the Council’s existing Dependants Carers Allowance continues without amendment.</p> <p>Resolved (5 for, 2 abstaining, and the Chair not voting) to:</p> <p>(8) The Annual Indexation of Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances in line with the ‘cost of living’ percentage increase in staff salaries should be implemented from 1 April 2024 /or 1 April 2025 for the next two financial years.</p> <p>Unanimously resolved to:</p> <p>(9) To fund any increases to the Members Allowances Scheme that arise from the above recommendations, officers will need to be tasked with identifying compensating savings/additional income within services.</p> <p>(10) The Panel be instructed to review the Scheme on or before December 2025, as to the following specific issues:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) A full review of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) be undertaken, in particular the ‘One SRA per Councillor’ rule;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) Explore awarding a SRA for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and</p>

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		<p>(c) To review and propose a policy for pre-approved payments for travel, subsistence and attendance at conferences, seminars and other official Council business outside of the borough, having reviewed how this should work in future.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2024/25</p>	<p>Following consideration, the Committee resolved to;</p> <p>(5 for, 2 abstaining, and Chair not voting)</p> <p>(1) Recommend the 2024/25 service estimates for approval at the budget meeting of Full Council in February 2024;</p> <p>(2) Recommend the 2024/25 fees and charges, as set-out in Appendix 1, for approval at the budget meeting of Full Council in February 2024;</p> <p>(3) Agree the Council Tax Discount bands for 2024/25, as set-out in section 9;</p> <p>(4) Support the future savings options as set out in 5.2 for inclusion in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>(5) Submit the capital programme for 2024/25 as identified in section 8 of this report to the Full Council for approval in February 2024;</p> <p>(6) Note the provisional forecast of schemes for the capital programme for 2025/26 to 2028/29.</p>

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Agenda Item No	Report Title	Decision
10.	Urgent Decisions	Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to: (1) Note the urgent decisions taken and the reasons for those decisions, since the last meeting of the Committee.