



EPSOM AND EWELL

Minutes of the Meeting of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL held at the Council Chamber - Epsom Town Hall on 14 February 2023

PRESENT -

The Mayor (Councillor Clive Woodbridge); The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Rob Geleit); Councillors Arthur Abdulin, Steve Bridger, Kate Chinn, Christine Cleveland, Alex Coley, Nigel Collin, Neil Dallen, Hannah Dalton, Chris Frost, Liz Frost, Luke Giles, David Gulland, Christine Howells, Colin Keane, Eber Kington, Jan Mason, Steven McCormick, Debbie Monksfield, Julie Morris, Barry Nash, Phil Neale, Peter O'Donovan, David Reeve, Humphrey Reynolds, Alan Sursham, Peter Webb and Alan Williamson

Absent: Councillors John Beckett, Monica Coleman, Bernice Froud, Graham Jones, Lucie McIntyre, Bernie Muir, Guy Robbins and Chris Webb

The Meeting was preceded by prayers led by the Mayor's Chaplain

39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by Councillors regarding items on the agenda.

40 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6 December 2022 were agreed as a true record and the Mayor was authorised to sign them.

41 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS/BUSINESS

It was with sadness that the Mayor informed the Council of the death of Reverend Sue Bull, who had contributed greatly to the work of the 'Love Me, Love My Mind' charity within the Borough.

It was with sadness that the Mayor also informed the Council of the recent tragic news from Epsom College. The Mayor extended the Council's thoughts and best wishes to those affected by the tragedy, including the staff, parents, children and governors at the school.

The Mayor made a number of announcements relating to noteworthy events which he had attended over the past 2 months, and upcoming events.

42 COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

Council received a report presenting the recommendations of the Standards and Constitution Committee for the adoption of a revised constitution, along with the Council Operating Framework containing documents that have been reviewed and moved out of the core constitution.

Councillor Liz Frost **MOVED** the recommendations in the report.

An amendment to the recommendations was **MOVED** by Councillor Liz Frost and **SECONDED** by Councillor Hannah Dalton.

The proposed amendment was as follows:

“Page 15 of the agenda

Paragraph 3.9 add: “● Review the Petitions Scheme to recommend types of petitions and numbers of signatures required.”

Page 74 of the agenda

Terms of reference

Delete: “3. To establish sub-committees to progress work of the committee.”

Amend 5. to read: “The committee will normally meet twice during the course of the year.”

Areas of responsibility

Amend e. to read: “Make recommendations to Council for any items of expenditure.”

Page 11 & 12 of the agenda

Amended recommendations

(1) Approve that Appendix 1, an updated core constitution for the council, be adopted from 4 May 2023.

(5) Approve that Appendix 2, being the remaining documents from the constitution reviewed and updated and moved from the constitution, and not covered off by recommendations 2,3 and 4 above, be adopted as the Council's Operating Framework from 4 May 2023.

Additional recommendation

(10) Agree that the Chair of the Crime and Disorder Committee will receive a Special Responsibility Allowance of 30% of Basic Allowance, and that this is included within the Members Allowances Scheme from May 2023."

As the amendment was put by the proposer of the original motion, it became part of the substantive motion.

Upon being put the recommendations were **CARRIED** with 26 votes for, 2 abstentions and the Mayor not voting.

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

- (1) **Approve that Appendix 1 to the report, an updated core constitution for the council, be adopted 4 May 2023.***
- (2) **Approve moving the "Officers' Code of Conduct" from the constitution into officer employment policies.**
- (3) **Approve moving the "Whistleblowing Policy" from the constitution into officer employment policies.**
- (4) **Approve the removal of the "Recording, Photography and Use of Social Media Protocol and Guidance (Part 5, Section 10)" from the constitution.**
- (5) **Approve that Appendix 2 to the report, being the remaining documents from the constitution reviewed and updated and moved from the constitution, and not covered off by recommendations 2, 3 and 4 above, be adopted as the Council's Operating Framework 4 May 2023.**
- (6) **Approve the replacement of the "Crime and Disorder Sub-Committee" with a new "Crime and Disorder Policy Committee".**
- (7) **Agree that the Standards and Constitution Committee review items shown in 3.9 below as part of its work programme.**
- (8) **Agree to retain the existing officer and councillor indemnity scheme, for the present time.**

- (9) **Agree the proposed committee member numbers shown on Appendix 3 to the report.**
- (10) **Agree that the Chair of the Crime and Disorder Committee will receive a Special Responsibility Allowance of 30% of Basic Allowance, and that this is included within the Members Allowances Scheme from May 2023.**

*subject to the amendments to pages 15 and 74 detailed above.

Following the vote on this item, Councillor Julie Morris requested that the minutes of the meeting record that Councillor Julie Morris and Councillor David Gulland had abstained from the vote on this item.

43 PAY POLICY STATEMENT

Council received a report presenting the recommendations of the Strategy and Resources Committee in seeking the approval of the draft Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Pay Policy Statement 2023/24 prior to its publication on the Council's website. The report also sought the approval of the proposed increase to the Chief Executive pay scale.

Councillor Neil Dallen **MOVED** the recommendations in the report.

Upon being put the recommendation (1) was **CARRIED** with 23 votes for, 1 vote against, 4 abstentions and the Mayor not voting. Recommendation (2) was **CARRIED** with 20 votes for, 3 votes against, 5 abstentions and the Mayor not voting.

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

- (1) Approve the draft Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24.
- (2) Approve the proposed increase to the Chief Executive pay scale.

44 BUDGET REPORT 2023/24

The Council gave consideration to its 2023/24 budget, comprising both revenue and capital expenditure plans and Council Tax amounts for each band of dwelling. The report took account of the recommendations of the Community & Wellbeing, Environment & Safe Communities, Licensing and Planning Policy and Strategy & Resources Committees (appertaining to fees and charges, the revenue budget and capital programme).

In moving the recommendations of the Chief Finance Officer, the Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee, Councillor Neil Dallen, made a statement to

the Council on the budget for 2023/24 to which Councillors Kate Chinn and David Gulland responded.

Upon being put the motion to agree the recommendations of the report was **CARRIED**, there being 23 members in favour, 5 against and the Mayor not voting as detailed below.

Accordingly, it was resolved:

- (1) That it be noted that, under delegated powers, the Chief Finance Officer calculated the amount of the Council Tax Base as 33,521.16 (Band 'D' equivalent properties) for the year 2023/24, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act").
- (2) That the following estimates recommended by the policy committees be approved:-
 - a. *The revised revenue estimates for the year 2022/23 and the revenue estimates for 2023/24.*
 - b. *The capital programme for 2023/24 and the provisional programme for 2024/25 to 2027/28, as summarised in the capital strategy statement.*
- (3) That the fees and charges recommended by the policy committees be approved for 2023/24.
- (4) That the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2023/24 is £7,361,247.
- (5) That the Council receives the budget risk assessment at Appendix 6 to the report and notes the conclusion of the Chief Finance Officer that these budget proposals are robust and sustainable as concluded in this report.
- (6) That the Council receives the Chief Finance Officer Statement on the Reserves as attached at Appendix 8 to the report.
- (7) That the Council agrees the Treasury Management Strategy and prudential indicators and authorised limits for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 11 to the report including:-
 - a. *Affordability prudential indicators;*
 - b. *The actual and estimated Capital Financing Requirement;*
 - c. *The estimated levels of borrowing and investment;*
 - d. *The authorised and operational limits for external debt;*
 - e. *The liability benchmark;*
 - f. *The treasury management prudential indicators.*
- (8) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

- a. **£55,744,311 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(2) of the Act.**
- b. **£48,383,064 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(3) of the Act.**
- c. **£7,361,247 being the amount by which the aggregate at 8(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 8(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year.**
- d. **£219.60 being the amount at 8(c) above divided by the amount at 1. above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31(B) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.**
- (9) To note that Surrey County Council and Surrey Police Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below:-**

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Band:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount	1,116.72	1,302.84	1,488.96	1,675.08	2,047.32	2,419.56	2,791.80	3,350.16

SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY

Band:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount	207.05	241.55	276.06	310.57	379.59	448.60	517.62	621.14

- (10) That the Council, in accordance with Section 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of council tax for 2023/24 for each of the categories of dwellings.**

EPSOM AND EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Band:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount	146.40	170.80	195.20	219.60	268.40	317.20	366.00	439.20

AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS

Band:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount	1,470.17	1,715.19	1,960.22	2,205.25	2,695.31	3,185.36	3,675.42	4,410.50

Budget Report 2023/24 (Budget decision)	
Councillor Clive Woodbridge	Abstain
Councillor Rob Geleit	Against
Councillor Arthur Abdulin	For
Councillor Steve Bridger	For
Councillor Kate Chinn	Against
Councillor Christine Cleveland	For
Councillor Alex Coley	For
Councillor Nigel Collin	For
Councillor Neil Dallen MBE	For
Councillor Hannah Dalton	For
Councillor Chris Frost	For
Councillor Liz Frost	For
Councillor Luke Giles	For
Councillor David Gulland	Against
Councillor Christine Howells	For
Councillor Colin Keane	For
Councillor Eber Kington	For
Councillor Jan Mason	For
Councillor Steven McCormick	For
Councillor Debbie Monksfield	Against
Councillor Julie Morris	Against
Councillor Barry Nash	For
Councillor Phil Neale	For
Councillor Peter O'Donovan	For
Councillor David Reeve	For
Councillor Humphrey Reynolds	For
Councillor Alan Sursham	For
Councillor Peter Webb	For
Councillor Alan Williamson	For
Carried	

45 PROPERTY REVIEW

Council received a report presenting recommendations to set the strategic direction for the Council's potential relocation of the Town Hall.

Councillor Neil Dallen **MOVED** and Councillor Hannah Dalton **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report.

Upon being put the recommendation was **CARRIED** with 25 votes in favour, 2 against and the Mayor not voting.

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

- (1) **Agree the Council's strategic direction by identifying 70 East Street, Epsom as a potential relocation opportunity for the Council Offices.**
- (2) **Delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Strategy and Resources, the review of 70 East Street and progress feasibility of the relocation.**

- (3) **Approve a budget of up to £25,000 to cover the cost of the above work (including full business case to be brought back to Council), to be funded from the Property Income Equalisation Reserve.**

46 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council passed a resolution by majority decision (with 22 votes for, 5 votes against and the Mayor not voting) to exclude the public from the meeting for Part Two of the Agenda on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended) and that pursuant to paragraph 10 of Part 2 of the said Schedule 12A the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

47 ARRANGEMENTS TO APPOINT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER AND RETURNING OFFICER

Council received a report setting out the recommendations of the Appointments Panel, convened in accordance with the Constitution, regarding the appointment of a Chief Executive who also fulfils the roles of Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer.

Councillor Neil Dallen **MOVED** and Councillor Hannah Dalton **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report.

Upon being put the recommendation was **CARRIED** with 23 votes in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention and the Mayor not voting.

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

- (1) **Approve the appointment of Jackie King to the post of Chief Executive;**
- (2) **Agree that the appointment be made on terms which comply with the Council's Pay Policy Statement under section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 and that the Head of People & Organisational Development in consultation with the Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee be authorised to finalise all terms and conditions;**
- (3) **Agree that Jackie King be designated the Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer with effect from 15 February 2023 if the offer referred to in recommendation (1) is accepted;**

- (4) **Agree that Jackie King be appointed as the Head of Paid Service with effect from 15 February 2023 if the offer referred to in recommendation (1) is accepted;**
- (5) **Note that the Chief Executive will automatically serve as Clerk to Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators and Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee.**

48 APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER

Council received a report seeking authority for the appointment of a new monitoring officer.

Councillor Neil Dallen **MOVED** and Councillor Hannah Dalton **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report.

An amendment to the recommendations was **MOVED** by Councillor Neil Dallen and **SECONDED** by Councillor Hannah Dalton.

The proposed amendment was as follows:

“Page 265 of the agenda

Additional recommendation

(2) Agree to extend the current monitoring officer arrangements undertaken by Olwen Brown through Anthony Collins Solicitors until Mr Ionta commences work at the Council, anticipated to be 15 May 2023.”

As the amendment was put by the proposer of the original motion, it became part of the substantive motion.

Upon being put the recommendations were **CARRIED** unanimously.

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

- (1) **Approve the appointment of Piero Ionta as the Council’s Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer#**
- (2) **Agree to extend the current monitoring officer arrangements undertaken by Olwen Brown through Anthony Collins Solicitors until Mr Ionta commences work at the Council, anticipated to be 15 May 2023.**

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 9.57 pm

COUNCILLOR CLIVE WOODBRIDGE
MAYOR