



## EPSOM AND EWELL

### Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL held at the Council Chamber, Epsom Town Hall on 22 March 2023

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#### PRESENT -

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

Absent: Councillors Arthur Abdulin, Monica Coleman, Bernice Froud, Luke Giles, Colin Keane, Lucie McIntyre, David Reeve, Guy Robbins, Alan Sursham and Chris Webb

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

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#### 49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

#### 50 MOTION

Council received one Motion submitted under FCR 14 of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

##### Motion 1

The Council resolved by with 25 votes for, 1 abstention and the Mayor not voting to consider this Motion at the meeting. In pursuance of the Council's Rules of

Procedure, Eber Kington MOVED and Councillor Christine Howells SECONDED the following Motion:

“This Council notes that:

- (1) Extensive green areas, especially the green belt, and the absence of high-level development in our urban areas makes Epsom and Ewell a distinctive, green and an excellent place to live.
- (2) Under the existing legislation Local Planning Authorities are being required to draft Local Plans on the basis of out of date, 2014, data that does not reflect Epsom and Ewell’s housing need, as shown in more recently available 2018 data.
- (3) The Government’s recently proposed legislative changes to the planning process, whilst welcome in several aspects, are not yet enacted and the current legal position has not changed.

These factors suggest that a pause in progressing the Draft Local Plan in its current form would provide an opportunity to assess the Government’s draft proposals as well as the 2018 data on housing need in the borough.

This Council therefore agrees that:

- i. Other than for the purpose of analysing the responses of the public consultation to capture residents’ views and any new information, the Local Plan process be paused to enable:
  - a) further work on brown field sites, including information arising out of the Regulation 18 consultation
  - b) further options to be considered that do not include green belt sites
  - c) an analysis of Epsom and Ewell’s required future housing numbers based on 2018 data
  - d) a clearer understanding of the Government’s legislative intentions in regard to protections for the green belt and the current mandatory target for housing numbers.
- ii. Write to the MP for Epsom and Ewell calling on him to use his influence to get the Government to abandon its use of 2014 data to calculate housing need and accept that all planning and housing policies must reflect the latest data if they are to be effective as well command the respect of the people they affect.”

Upon being put the motion was CARRIED with 20 votes for, 4 votes against, 1 abstention and the Mayor not voting.

Accordingly the Council resolved to agree to the following Motion:

**This Council notes that:**

- (1) Extensive green areas, especially the green belt, and the absence of high-level development in our urban areas makes Epsom and Ewell a distinctive, green and an excellent place to live.**
- (2) Under the existing legislation Local Planning Authorities are being required to draft Local Plans on the basis of out of date, 2014, data that does not reflect Epsom and Ewell's housing need, as shown in more recently available 2018 data.**
- (3) The Government's recently proposed legislative changes to the planning process, whilst welcome in several aspects, are not yet enacted and the current legal position has not changed.**

**These factors suggest that a pause in progressing the Draft Local Plan in its current form would provide an opportunity to assess the Government's draft proposals as well as the 2018 data on housing need in the borough.**

**This Council therefore agrees that:**

- i. Other than for the purpose of analysing the responses of the public consultation to capture residents' views and any new information, the Local Plan process be paused to enable:**
  - a) further work on brown field sites, including information arising out of the Regulation 18 consultation**
  - b) further options to be considered that do not include green belt sites**
  - c) an analysis of Epsom and Ewell's required future housing numbers based on 2018 data**
  - d) a clearer understanding of the Government's legislative intentions in regard to protections for the green belt and the current mandatory target for housing numbers.**
- ii. Write to the MP for Epsom and Ewell calling on him to use his influence to get the Government to abandon its use of 2014 data to calculate housing need and accept that all planning and housing policies must reflect the latest data if they are to be effective as well command the respect of the people they affect.**

*Note: Councillor Alex Coley left the meeting during the debate on this item and did not participate in the vote on the Motion.*

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 8.28 pm

COUNCILLOR CLIVE WOODBRIDGE  
MAYOR