



EPSOM AND EWELL

Minutes of the Meeting of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL held at the Town Hall, Epsom on 14 February 2017

PRESENT -

The Mayor (Councillor George Crawford); The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Liz Frost); Councillors Michael Arthur, Tony Axelrod, Richard Baker, Rekha Bansil, John Beckett, Steve Bridger, Kate Chinn, Alex Clarke, Graham Dudley, Robert Foote, Chris Frost, Rob Geleit, Eber Kington, Omer Kokou-Tchri, Jan Mason, Tina Mountain, Barry Nash, Peter O'Donovan, Martin Olney, David Reeve, Humphrey Reynolds, Guy Robbins, Vince Romagnuolo, Clive Smitheram, Jean Steer, Mike Teasdale, Peter Webb, David Wood, Clive Woodbridge and Tella Wormington

Absent: Councillors Lucie Dallen, Neil Dallen, Hannah Dalton, Keith Partridge, Jane Race and Alan Sursham

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

38 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

39 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 December 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

40 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS/BUSINESS

The press being in attendance, the Mayor reminded councillors that the meeting might be recorded and that the press might be taking photographs but that they had been asked to be mindful not to disrupt proceedings.

The Mayor also reminded members that they would shortly be receiving an email from the Democratic Services Manager regarding any Related Party

Transactions they were required to declare for audit purposes in relation to the closing of the Council's final accounts.

41 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Four questions had been addressed to Committee Chairmen, and written answers had been provided and published.

42 APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

(Note: Kathryn Beldon left the Chamber during consideration of this item).

Council received a report from the Head of HR and Organisational Development regarding the appointment of an interim Chief Executive and associated matters.

Councillor Eber Kington **PROPOSED** and Councillor Clive Woodbridge **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report. Upon being put, the recommendations were **CARRIED** (Unanimously).

Accordingly, it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (1) **Kathryn Beldon be appointed as Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer (and other associated roles) with immediate effect.**
- (2) **Kathryn Beldon be appointed as the interim Chief Executive to take effect from the last date of the current Chief Executive's contract of employment until such point as a new permanent Chief Executive's appointment takes effect following the recruitment process due to take place in February 2017 (should this be necessary).**
- (3) **The Head of HR & Organisational Development be authorised to issue an interim contract of employment to Kathryn Beldon for the role of Chief Executive in line with the Council's terms and conditions of employment for the role of Chief Executive.**
- (4) **The Council notes that the interim Chief Executive will automatically serve as Clerk to Epsom & Walton Downs Conservators and Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee.**
- (5) **Lee Duffy be appointed as Acting Director of Finance & Resources until such a point as when a new permanent Chief Executive is appointed.**
- (6) **The Head of HR & Organisational Development be authorised to issue an acting contract of employment to Lee Duffy for the role of Director of Finance & Resources in line with the Council's terms and conditions of employment for the role of Director of Finance & Resources**

43 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2017/18 - AMENDED FOLLOWING SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL DECISION ON PRECEPT

(Note: Kathryn Beldon returned to the Chamber for the remainder of the meeting)

The Council gave consideration to its 2016/17 budget, comprising both revenue and capital expenditure plans and Council Tax amounts for each band of dwelling which took account of recommendations of the Community & Wellbeing, Environment and Strategy and Resources Committees (appertaining to fees and charges, the revenue budget and capital programme).

An amended report had been issued on 9 February 2017, following, on 7 February 2017, the decision of Surrey County Council regarding its precept. The amended report was based on a recommended increase of £4.95 per annum (for Band D properties) in Council Tax reflecting the final settlement which had allowed District Councils to increase council tax by up to £5 or 2% whichever provided the higher increase in income.

In moving the recommendations of the Director of Finance and Resources, the Chairman of the Strategy and Resources Committee, Councillor Eber Kington, made a statement to the Council on the budget for 2016/17 to which Councillors Alexander Clarke and Vince Romanguolo responded.

Upon being put, the **MOTION** was **CARRIED**, there being 26 members in favour and 6 against as follows:

For the Motion (26)	Against the Motion (6)	Not voting (0)
Michael Arthur	Kate Chinn	
Tony Axelrod	Alex Clarke	
Richard Baker	Rob Geleit	
Rekha Bansil	Omer Kokou-Tchri	
John Beckett	Tina Mountain	
Steve Bridger	Vince Romagnuolo	
The Mayor		
Graham Dudley		
Robert Foote		
Chris Frost		
The Deputy Mayor		
Eber Kington		
Jan Mason		
Barry Nash		
Peter O'Donovan		
Martin Olney		
David Reeve		
Humphrey Reynolds		
Guy Robbins		
Clive Smitheram		
Jean Steer		
Mike Teasdale		
Peter Webb		

David Wood
Clive Woodbridge
Tella Wormington

Accordingly, it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (1) it be noted that, under delegated powers, the Director of Finance and Resources calculated the amount of the Council Tax Base as 32,324.01 (Band 'D' equivalent properties) for the year 2017/18 calculated in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act");
- (2) the following estimates recommended by the policy committees be approved:-
 - a) The revised revenue estimates for the year 2016/17 and the revenue estimates for 2017/18;
 - b) The capital programme for 2017/18 and the provisional programme for 2018 to 2020, as summarised in the capital strategy statement;
- (3) the fees and charges recommended by the policy committees be approved for 2017/18.
- (4) the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2017/18 is £6,045,236;
- (5) the budget risk assessment at Appendix 6 be received and the conclusion of the Director of Finance and Resources that these budget proposals are robust and sustainable as concluded in this report be noted;
- (6) the Director of Finance & Resources' Statement on the Reserves as attached at Appendix 8 be received.
- (7) the Prudential Indicators and Authorised Limits for 2017/18 as set out in Appendix 11 be approved including:-
 - c) Affordability Prudential Indicators
 - d) The actual and estimated Capital Financing Requirement
 - e) The estimated levels of borrowing and investment
 - f) The authorised and operational limits for external debt
 - g) The treasury management prudential indicators
- (8) the following amounts be now calculated for the year 2017/18 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

- a) £53,806,686 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(2) of the Act
 - b) £47,761,450 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31(A)3 of the Act
 - c) £6,045,236 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) £187.02 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) that it be noted that Surrey County Council and Surrey Police Authority had 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	887.70	1,035.65	1,183.60	1,331.55	1,627.45	1,923.35	2,219.25	2,663.10

SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY

Band:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount	149.71	174.67	199.62	224.57	274.47	324.38	374.28	449.14

- (10) in accordance with Section 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2017/18 for each of the categories of dwellings.

EPSOM AND EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Band:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount	124.68	145.46	166.24	187.02	228.58	270.14	311.70	374.04

AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS

Band:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount	1,162.09	1,355.78	1,549.46	1,743.14	2,130.50	2,517.87	2,905.23	3,486.28

44 INCREASING THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION FUND

Council received a report from the Chief Executive regarding increasing the Commercial Property Acquisition Fund.

Councillor Eber Kington **PROPOSED** and Councillor Clive Woodbridge **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report. Upon being put, the recommendations were **CARRIED**, there being 27 members for and 3 members against.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that:

- (1) an increase to the Commercial Property Acquisition Fund of a further £60m to be funded by Prudential Borrowing be approved;
- (2) a supplementary capital expenditure estimate of £60m for the financial year 2017/18 for (1) above for economic and social wellbeing purposes and to generate on-going revenue streams be approved;
- (3) the revision of the Council's Prudential Indicators to reflect the additional £60m of Prudential Borrowing limits be approved;
- (4) a mid-year appraisal update report be made to Strategy & Resources Committee on the strategy, portfolio performance and status of acquisitions made from the Commercial Property Acquisition Fund;
- (5) a new regular update report be made to the Financial Policy Panel on the financial status of the commercial property investment portfolio and rental income profile.

45 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Council received a report from the Head of Place Development regarding the adoption of a Statement of Community Involvement in planning policy and development management.

Councillor Graham Dudley **PROPOSED** and Councillor David Wood **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report. Upon being put, the recommendation was **CARRIED** (Unanimously).

Accordingly, it was **RESOLVED** that:

the revised Statement of Community Involvement be approved and adopted.

46 MOTIONS TO COUNCIL

No notice of any motions had been received by the deadline of 5.00pm on 1 February 2017 (17.00 hours on the eighth clear working day before the meeting)

47 VOTE OF THANKS

The Mayor led a vote of thanks to the Chief Executive, Frances Rutter, who was leaving the Council to take up her appointment as the Chief Executive of NEScot at the beginning of April. The Mayor stated that her excellent stewardship of the Council would be sadly missed and wished her well. These sentiments were echoed by Councillors Vince Romagnuolo, Tina Mountain and Clive Woodbridge on behalf of their respective political groups.

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 8.44 pm

GEORGE CRAWFORD
MAYOR