

STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Thursday 27 January 2022 at 7.30 pm

Place: Council Chamber, EpsomTown Hall

Link for public online access to this meeting:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8728031473928259599>

Webinar ID: 443-834-323

Telephone (listen-only): 020 3713 5022, Telephone Access code:128-565-751

The members listed below are summoned to attend the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

Councillor Colin Keane (Chair)
Councillor Hannah Dalton (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Kate Chinn
Councillor Bernice Froud
Councillor David Gulland

Councillor Graham Jones
Councillor Eber Kington
Councillor Lucie McIntyre
Councillor Clive Smitheram
Councillor Clive Woodbridge

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive

For further information, please contact Democratic Services, email: democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk or tel: 01372 732000

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

No emergency drill is planned to take place during the meeting. If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by council staff. It is vital that you follow their instructions.

- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building, but move to the assembly point at Dullshot Green and await further instructions; and
- Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so.

Public information

Please note that this meeting will be held at the Town Hall, Epsom and will be available to observe live on the internet

This meeting will be open to the press and public to attend as an observer using free GoToWebinar software, or by telephone.

A link to the online address for this meeting is provided on the first page of this agenda and on the Council's website. A telephone connection number is also provided on the front page of this agenda as a way to observe the meeting, and will relay the full audio from the meeting as an alternative to online connection. A limited number of seats will also be available in the public gallery at the Town Hall. For further information please contact Democratic Services, email: democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk, telephone: 01372 732000.

Information about the terms of reference and membership of this Committee are available on the [Council's website](#). The website also provides copies of agendas, reports and minutes.

Agendas, reports and minutes for the Committee are also available on the free Modern.Gov app for iPad, Android and Windows devices. For further information on how to access information regarding this Committee, please email us at Democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk.

Exclusion of the Press and the Public

There are matters scheduled to be discussed at this meeting that would appear to disclose confidential or exempt information under the provisions Schedule 12A of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985. The Committee is likely to resolve to exclude the press and public during discussion of these matters by virtue of the private nature of the business to be transacted.

Questions from the Public

Questions from the public are permitted at meetings of the Committee. Any person wishing to ask a question at a meeting of the Committee must register to do so, as set out below.

Up to 30 minutes will be set aside for written or oral questions from any member of the public who lives, works, attends an educational establishment or owns or leases land in the Borough on matters within the Terms of Reference of the Strategy and Resources Committee which may not include matters listed on a Committee Agenda.

All questions whether written or oral must consist of one question only, they cannot consist of multi parts or of a statement.

The question or topic may not relate to a specific planning application or decision under the Planning Acts, a specific application for a licence or permit of any kind, the personal affairs of an individual, or a matter which is exempt from disclosure or confidential under the Local Government Act 1972. Questions which in the view of the Chairman are vexatious or frivolous will not be accepted.

To register to ask a question at a meeting of the Committee, please contact Democratic Services, email: democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk, telephone: 01372 732000.

Written questions must be received by Democratic Services by noon on the tenth working day before the day of the meeting. For this meeting this is **Noon, 13 January 2022**

Registration for oral questions is open until noon on the second working day before the day of the meeting. For this meeting this is **Noon, 25 January 2022**

AGENDA

1. QUESTION TIME

To take any questions from members of the Public.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in respect of any item of business to be considered at the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 7 - 12)

The Committee is asked to confirm as a true record the Minutes of the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 16 November 2021 and to authorise the Chair to sign them.

4. EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE (Pages 13 - 36)

This report presents Grant Thornton's 2020/21 Annual Report to members.

5. APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR FROM 2023/24 (Pages 37 - 68)

This report sets out proposals for appointing the external auditor to the Council for the accounts for the five-year period from 2023/24.

6. 2022/23 REVENUE BUDGET AND FEES & CHARGES (Pages 69 - 84)

This report sets out estimates for income and expenditure on services in 2022/23.

7. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT FOR CARE LEAVERS (Pages 85 - 98)

This report provides information to enable Committee to make a decision on whether it wishes to introduce a local care leavers discount from 01 April 2022

8. FUNDING FOR PLANNING APPEALS (Pages 99 - 104)

Two appeals have been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of two major planning applications. In addition, following a decision to refuse planning permission for development at 24-28 West Street, Epsom the Council has been advised that the applicants are preparing to lodge a third appeal against this decision.

In order to provide a robust defence of the decision it is essential to submit a case to the planning inspectorate which has been prepared by an independent qualified planning consultant on an impartial basis to support the Council's reasons for refusal.

The Planning Department does not have a budget for defending planning appeals, so a financial provision is required to secure a planning consultant to prepare and submit the cases for the appeals.

9. EPSOM & EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022/23
(Pages 105 - 124)

This report introduces the draft Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 and seeks approval of the Statement prior to its presentation to Full Council and subsequent publication on the Council website

10. ANNUAL PLAN 2022-2023 (Pages 125 - 134)

This report sets out the Annual Plan 2022- 2023 outlining the key objectives to support the delivery of the Council's Four Year Plan 2020- 2024.

11. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS REVIEW (Pages 135 - 202)

Following the Local Government Association (LGA) Finance Peer Review, this report presents a review of the Council's financial decision-making procedures and recommends changes to the Financial Regulations for the Committee's consideration. The report also provides an update on the LGA Peer Review Action Plan.

12. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW (Pages 203 - 234)

This report presents the amended Terms of Reference for Committees for consideration by Members.

13. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (Pages 235 - 236)

The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to pass a resolution to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 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 outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

14. COMMERCIAL TENANT UPDATE (Pages 237 - 264)

This report has not been published because the meeting is likely to be closed to the press and public in view of the nature of the business to be transacted/nature of the proceedings. The report deals with information relating to the financial or business affairs of the Committee and third parties and the public interest in maintaining the exemption currently outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.