

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council – Decisions taken by the Strategy and Resources Committee on Thursday, 27 January 2022

This notice was published 31 January 2022.

Decisions will come into force, and may be implemented, on the expiry of 5 working days from the date of this notice unless called in by the Audit, Crime & Disorder 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.	Question Time	<p>The Committee received one written question from a member of the public and noted that the Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee had responded directly to the questioner. This response had also been published on the Council's website.</p> <p>One supplementary verbal question was asked during the meeting and a response was given.</p>
2.	Declarations of Interest	<p>The following declaration was made by a Councillor in respect of an item on the agenda.</p> <p>Local Council Tax Discount for Care Leavers Councillor Hannah Dalton, Other Interest: In the interests of openness and transparency, Councillor Hannah Dalton declared that her husband is the CEO of a charity organization but that she came to the meeting with an open mind and without predisposition or predetermination.</p>
3.	Minutes of Previous Meeting	<p>The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 16 November 2021 and were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.</p>
4.	External Audit Update	<p>Following consideration, the Committee resolved unanimously to:</p> <p>(1) Receive the Auditor's Annual Report;</p>

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		<p>(2) Note the management responses to the auditor’s recommendations at Appendix 1 to the report;</p> <p>(3) Confirm that the Auditor’s Annual Report be presented to Full Council.</p>
5.	Appointment of External Auditor from 2023/24	<p>Following consideration, the Committee resolved unanimously to:</p> <p>(1) Agree with Audit, Crime & Disorder and Scrutiny Committee’s decision, to recommend to Full Council that EEBC should accept Public Sector Audit Appointments’ invitation to opt into the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors to principal local government bodies for five financial years from 1 April 2023.</p>
6.	2022/23 Revenue Budget and Fees & Charges	<p>Following consideration, the Committee resolved unanimously to:</p> <p>(1) Recommend the 2022/23 service estimates for approval at the budget meeting of Full Council in February 2022;</p> <p>(2) Recommend the 2022/23 fees and charges, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report for approval at the budget meeting of Full Council in February 2022;</p> <p>(3) Confirm that the two new initiatives in section 5 of the report are supported;</p> <p>(4) Note that any supported initiatives from section 5 will only be progressed if a funding option can be identified during the year, in accordance with the Council’s</p>

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		<p>Financial Regulations and budget virement policy.</p> <p>(5) Agree the Council Tax Discount bands for 2022/23, as set-out in section 8 of the report.</p>
7.	Local Council Tax Discount for Care Leavers	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved:</p> <p>(1) To agree to introduce the Local Care Leavers Discount on Council Tax detailed in paragraph 3.1 of the report.</p>
8.	Funding for Planning Appeals	<p>Following consideration, the Committee resolved unanimously:</p> <p>(1) To allocate up to £150,000 to engage consultancy and barrister support to defend the two appeals which are currently with the Planning Inspectorate and a third anticipated appeal relating to 22-24 West Street, Epsom</p> <p>(2) That the budget of up to £150,000 be funded from the Corporate Projects Reserve.</p>
9.	Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Pay Policy Statement 2022/23	<p>Following consideration, the Committee resolved unanimously to:</p> <p>(1) Approve the draft Pay Statement for 2022/23</p> <p>(2) Agree that the draft Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 be referred to Full Council for approval.</p>

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10.	Annual Plan 2022-2023	<p>Following consideration, the Committee resolved unanimously to:</p> <p>(1) Approve the draft key objectives and deliverables identified within the Annual Plan for 2022 -2023 and recommend approval by Council subject to approval of the 2022/23 budget proposal.</p>
11.	Financial Regulations Review	<p>Following consideration, the Committee resolved unanimously to:</p> <p>(1) Consider the proposed changes to Financial Policy Panel's and other Committee responsibilities, as set out in sections 3 and 4 of the report;</p> <p>(2) Consider the proposed changes to Financial Regulations at Appendix 3 to the report;</p> <p>(3) Recommend that Full Council approve the proposed changes to the Financial Policy Panel's responsibilities and to the Financial Regulations, with effect from 1 April 2022.</p> <p>(4) Approve the proposed finance training for members, as set out in section 6 of the report.</p>
12.	Committee Terms of Reference Review	<p>Following consideration, the Committee resolved unanimously to:</p> <p>(1) Agree the amended Committee Terms of Reference and recommend approval by Council.</p>

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		(2) Agree the setting up of a cross-party working group to take forward the next phases of the Constitution review work, which will include but not be limited to: the number of members on committees, sub committees, the Constitution, standing orders and remaining Terms of Reference.
13.	Exclusion of Press and Public	Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Committee passed a resolution 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 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 outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.
14.	Commercial Tenant Update	The decision for this item is recorded in a separate (not for publication) restricted Decision Notice.