



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 15 February 2022

PRESENT -

The Mayor (Councillor Peter O'Donovan); Councillors Arthur Abdulin, John Beckett, Steve Bridger, Kate Chinn, Christine Cleveland, Monica Coleman, Alex Coley, Nigel Collin, Neil Dallen, Hannah Dalton, Chris Frost, Liz Frost, Bernice Froud, Rob Geleit, Luke Giles, David Gulland, Previn Jagutpal, Colin Keane, Eber Kington, Jan Mason, Steven McCormick, Debbie Monksfield, Julie Morris, Barry Nash, Phil Neale, David Reeve, Guy Robbins, Clive Smitheram, Alan Sursham and Chris Webb

Absent: The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Clive Woodbridge), Councillors Christine Howells, Graham Jones, Lucie McIntyre, Bernie Muir, Humphrey Reynolds and Peter Webb

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

36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

37 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 7 December 2021 were agreed as a true record and the Mayor was authorised to sign them.

38 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS/BUSINESS

The Mayor made a number of announcements relating to noteworthy virtual and in-person events which he had attended over the past 3 months.

39 BUDGET REPORT 2022 - 2023

The Council gave consideration to its 2022/23 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 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 Chairman of the Strategy and Resources Committee, Councillor Colin Keane, made a statement to the Council on the budget for 2022/23 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 26 members in favour, 3 against and 2 abstaining 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 33,251.43 (Band 'D' equivalent properties) for the year 2022/23, 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 2021/22 and the revenue estimates for 2022/23.
 - b. The capital programme for 2022/23 and the provisional programme for 2024 to 2027, as summarised in the capital strategy statement.
- (3) That the fees and charges recommended by the Policy Committees be approved for 2022/23.**
- (4) That the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2022/23 is £7,089,537.**

- (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 Prudential Indicators and Authorised Limits for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 11 to the report including:-
- Affordability Prudential Indicators.
 - The actual and estimated Capital Financing Requirement.
 - The estimated levels of borrowing and investment.
 - The authorised and operational limits for external debt.
 - The treasury management prudential indicators.
- (8) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2022/23 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
- £57,560,657 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(2) of the Act.
 - £50,471,120 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - £7,089,537 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.
 - £213.21 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	1,084.26	1,264.97	1,445.68	1,626.39	1,987.81	2,349.23	2,710.65	3,252.78

SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY

Band:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount	197.05	229.89	262.73	295.57	361.25	426.93	492.62	591.14

- (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 2022/23 for each of the categories of dwellings.

EPSOM AND EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Band:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount	142.14	165.83	189.52	213.21	260.59	307.97	355.35	426.42

AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS

Band:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount	1,423.45	1,660.69	1,897.93	2,135.17	2,609.65	3,084.13	3,558.62	4,270.34

Voting record:

Budget Report 2022 - 2023 (Budget decision)	
Councillor Peter O'Donovan	For
Councillor Arthur Abdulin	For
Councillor John Beckett	For
Councillor Steve Bridger	For
Councillor Kate Chinn	Against
Councillor Christine Cleveland	For
Councillor Monica Coleman	For
Councillor Alex Coley	For
Councillor Nigel Collin	For
Councillor Neil Dallen	For
Councillor Hannah Dalton	For
Councillor Chris Frost BSc	For
Councillor Liz Frost MSc	For
Councillor Bernice Froud	For
Councillor Rob Geleit	Against
Councillor Luke Giles	For
Councillor David Gulland	Abstain

Councillor Previn Jagutpal	For
Councillor Colin Keane	For
Councillor Eber Kington BA Cert Ed	For
Councillor Jan Mason	For
Councillor Steven McCormick	For
Councillor Debbie Monksfield	Against
Councillor Julie Morris	Abstain
Councillor Barry Nash	For
Councillor Phil Neale	For
Councillor David Reeve	For
Councillor Guy Robbins	For
Councillor Clive Smitheram	For
Councillor Alan Sursham	For
Councillor Chris Webb	For
Carried	

40 EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE

Council received a report presents Grant Thornton's 2020/21 Annual Report to members.

Councillor Colin Keane MOVED the recommendations in the report.

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

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

- (1) **Receive the Auditor's Annual Report;**
- (2) **Note the management responses to the auditor's recommendations at Appendix 1 to the report.**

41 APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR FROM 2023/24

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

Councillor Colin Keane MOVED the recommendations in the report.

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

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

- (1) **Agree with the recommendation, from both Audit, Crime & Disorder and Scrutiny Committee and Strategy & Resources Committee, 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.**

42 EEBC PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022-23

Council received a report seeking approval of the draft Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Pay Policy Statement 2022/23.

Councillor Colin Keane MOVED the recommendations in the report.

Upon being put the recommendations were **CARRIED** by a majority vote in favour, with 28 Members voting for and 3 Members abstaining.

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

- (1) Approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23

43 ANNUAL PLAN 2022-2023

Council received a report setting out the Annual Plan 2022-2023 outlining the key objectives to support the delivery of the Council's Four Year Plan 2020-2024. The plan had been approved by Strategy & Resources Committee on 27 January 2022.

Councillor Colin Keane MOVED the recommendations in the report.

During debate a Member raised a query regarding the date for key deliverable number 25 (Tree Planting Strategy) of the Annual Plan, and it was noted that the Chair of Environment and Safe Communities Committee would provide a response following the meeting.

Upon being put the recommendations were **CARRIED** by a majority vote in favour, with 29 Members voting for and 2 Members abstaining.

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

- (1) **Approve the draft key objectives and deliverables identified within the Annual Plan for 2022-2023**

44 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS REVIEW

Council received a report presenting a review of the Council's financial decision-making procedures and recommending changes to the Financial Regulations.

Councillor Colin Keane MOVED the recommendations in the report.

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

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

- (1) Agree with Strategy and Resources Committee's recommendation to approve the proposed changes to Financial Policy Panel's responsibilities and to the Financial Regulations as set-out in the report, with effect from 1 April 2022.**

45 COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Council received a report presenting amended Terms of Reference for Committees for approval.

Councillor Colin Keane MOVED the recommendations in the report.

Upon being put the recommendations were CARRIED by a majority vote in favour, with 30 Members voting for and 1 Member abstaining.

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

- (1) Agree the amended Committee Terms of Reference.**

The meeting began at 7.30 pm, ended at 8.57 pm and was adjourned between 8.25 pm and 8.35 pm.

COUNCILLOR PETER O'DONOVAN
MAYOR