

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council – Decisions taken by the Strategy and Resources Committee on Thursday, 13 July 2023

This notice was published 17 July 2023.

Decisions will come into force, and may be implemented, on the expiry of 5 clear working days from the date of this notice unless called in by the Audit 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 and Statements from the Public	No questions or statements were received from members of the public.
2.	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were made in relation to items of business to be discussed at the meeting.
3.	Minutes of Previous Meeting	The Minutes and Restricted Minutes of the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 28 March 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.
4.	Planning Development Management – Resources	Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to: (1) Agree to procure consultancy support to clear the backlog of tree and planning-related applications. (2) Approve the allocation of up to £60,000 from the Corporate Projects Reserve to the Development Management Service budget to enable the additional resource. (3) Note that when the outcome of government’s proposed planning fees

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Agenda Item No	Report Title	Decision
		increase is known, a further report will be produced to consider the impact on planning resourcing and budgets.
5.	2022-23 Provisional Financial Outturn	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:</p> <p>(1) Receive the report on provisional financial outturn for 2022/23;</p> <p>(2) Approve the carry forward £2.19m budget for capital schemes to be added to the 2023/24 capital programme.</p> <p>(3) Note that the provisional outturn position is subject to external audit. Should any material changes arise from the audit, these will be reported back to members.</p>
6.	2024-25 Strategic Financial Planning	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to agree:</p> <p>(1) The proposed approach to be taken to 2024/25 budget setting and the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-28, as set out in the report;</p> <p>(2) That officers should work with Policy Committee Chairs, as set out in section 7 of the report, to produce specific income generation and savings options, in addition to savings already targeted, to meet the initial projected deficit of £2.5m per annum by 2027/28;</p> <p>(3) That owing to the Council’s projected budget deficit, any additional new revenue growth items (i.e. service enhancements resulting in increased net</p>

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		<p>expenditure) supported by Policy Committees will need to be fully funded from existing budgets;</p> <p>(4) That the emerging annual / business plan and the budget process are aligned to ensure that any commitments are affordable;</p> <p>(5) The budget reporting timetable in Appendix 1 to the report.</p>
7.	Land Availability For The Local Plan	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:</p> <p>(1) Authorise the Head of Property & Regeneration to submit the following Council owned sites to the LPA for consideration as part of the Local Plan process:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) Scotts Farm Road</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b) Richard’s Field Car Park</p>
8.	Town Hall Site	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:</p> <p>(2) Agree the procurement of specialist regeneration and development consultancy support as detailed in the report.</p> <p>(3) Agree a budget of up to £150,000 to be funded from the Corporate Projects Reserve.</p>

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		<p>(4) Delegate to the Acting Director of Environment, Housing & Regeneration and the Head of Property & Regeneration in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, to commission the work.</p> <p>(5) Note a report would be brought back to Committee at the earliest opportunity following completion of the work.</p>
9.	Appointment of Members and Chair of the Shareholder Sub-Committee	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:</p> <p>(6) Appoint Members and a Chair for the Shareholder Sub Committee as required by its Terms of Reference, and set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report.</p>