

## Epsom & Ewell Borough Council – Decisions taken by the Community and Wellbeing Committee on Tuesday, 10 October 2023

This notice was published 11 October 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 the Public.
2.	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in respect of any item of business to be considered at the meeting were made by Members.
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	The Committee confirmed as a true record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 22 June 2023 and authorised the Chair to sign them.
4.	Private Sector Housing Grants Assistance Policy	Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:  <b>(1) Approve and adopt the revised Private Sector Housing Grants Assistance Policy as set out in Appendix 1, in response to central government guidance to utilise grant funding more flexibly and to proactively assist more households.</b>
5.	Housing Allocation Policy Review	Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:  <b>(1) Adopt the changes to the Housing Allocation Policy and Choice Based</b>

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		<b>Letting Scheme.</b>
<b>6.</b>	Homelessness: Half year update	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:</p> <p><b>(1) Note the actions which have been taken to manage homelessness over the past 6-12 months.</b></p> <p><b>(2) Agree to utilise Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG) and homelessness grant reserves to cover the anticipated increase in expenditure to enable the Council to meet its duties under the Housing Act 1996 and Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.</b></p> <p><b>(3) Note that a further update will be provided at the Community &amp; Wellbeing Committee in March 2024.</b></p>
<b>7.</b>	Arts, Heritage, and Cultural Strategy	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:</p> <p><b>(1) Adopt the Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy.</b></p> <p><b>(2) Note that as part of implementing the strategy and action plan officers will:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>i) establish a Cultural Stakeholder Group,</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>ii) plan, lead and deliver council-led projects and activities set out within the current and future action plans, and support and facilitate the</b></p>

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		<p style="text-align: center;">activities of partners in delivering the strategy,</p> <p>iii) identify new arts, heritage and cultural partners and stakeholders and work on feasibility studies for future projects and initiatives as resources allow,</p> <p>iv) write and submit any grant funding requests that will support delivery of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy.</p>
8.	Playing Out Scheme	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:</p> <p><b>(1) To approve the introduction of the Playing Out scheme as detailed in the report below.</b></p>
9.	2024/25 Budget Targets	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:</p> <p><b>(1) Note the implications of the budget targets presented to Strategy &amp; Resources Committee on 13 July 2023.</b></p> <p><b>(2) Support the changes to services and savings previously identified in Table 1 of this report and that these are included within the budget presented to this Committee in January 2024.</b></p> <p><b>(3) Consider how additional income or savings can be generated to address</b></p>

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		<p>the projected Council wide funding gap of £1.1m in 2024/25, rising to £2.5m by 2027/28.</p> <p>(4) Note that owing to the Council’s projected budget deficit, any additional new revenue growth items (i.e. service enhancements resulting in increased net expenditure) supported by Policy Committees will need to be fully funded from existing budgets.</p>