

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council – Decisions taken by the Environment Committee on Tuesday, 23 January 2024

This notice was published 25 January 2024.

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.	Questions and Statements from the Public	The Committee received one written question from a member of the public, to which a written response was provided.
2.	Declarations of Interest	<p>Tree Planting Fees and Charges</p> <p>Councillor Steven McCormick, Other Interest: Councillor Steven McCormick declared he was a member of the Tree Advisory Board. He stated it was a non-prejudicial interest.</p> <p>Fees and Charges 2024/25</p> <p>Councillor Julie Morris, Other Interest: Councillor Julie Morris declared that she held an allotment in the borough. She stated it was a non-prejudicial interest.</p> <p>Councillor Steven McCormick, Other Interest: Councillor Steven McCormick declared that he held an allotment in the borough. He stated it was a non-pecuniary interest.</p> <p>Chalk Pit</p> <p>Councillor John Beckett, Other Interest: Councillor John Beckett declared he is a County Councillor for the division in which Chalk pit is located.</p>

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		Councillor Steven McCormick, Other Interest: Councillor Steven McCormick declared he is a County Councillor for the division which borders the division in which Chalk Pit is located, and that he had been involved in previous discussions with Epsom Council, Surrey County Council and the Environment Agency, with respect to Chalk Pit.
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	The Committee confirmed as a true record the minutes and the restricted minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 October 2024 and authorised the Chair to sign them.
4.	Climate Change Action Plan - Progress Update	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:</p> <p>(1) Consider and note the progress made on the delivery of the Council’s Climate Change Action Plan over the past year.</p>
5.	Tree Planting Fees and Charges	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:</p> <p>(1) Agree and adopt the policy for determining single memorial tree planting applications to be implemented by the Council.</p> <p>(2) Agree and adopt the policy for determining third party tree planting applications/requests.</p> <p>Resolved (4 for, 2 against, 1 abstaining, and the Chair not voting) to:</p>

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		<p>(3) Agree the fees and charges for 2023/24 and 2024/25 as set out at paragraphs 1.12 and 1.23 of the report.</p> <p>Unanimously resolved to:</p> <p>(4) Delegate authority to determine application/requests for tree planting to the Director for Housing, Environment and Regeneration in accordance with the Policy.</p> <p>(5) Agree that the Policy at (1) and (2) above be finalised in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Environment Committee.</p> <p>(6) Agree that a report be brought back to Committee in 9 months' time reviewing the effectiveness of the Policy, providing a breakdown of the associated fees and charges, and providing a comparison of the associated fees and charges to those of similar policies adopted by neighbouring authorities.</p>
6.	Fees and Charges 2024/25	<p>Following consideration, the Committee resolved (6 for, 1 against, and the Chair not voting) to:</p> <p>(1) Agree the fees and charges for 2024/25 as set out at Appendices 1, 2, and 3 of the report.</p>

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7.	Capital Programme 2024/25	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:</p> <p>(1) Submit the capital programme for 2024/25 as identified in section 3 of the report to the Council for approval on 13 February 2024;</p> <p>(2) Note the provisional forecast of schemes for the capital programme for 2025/26 to 2028/29.</p>
8.	Urgent decisions	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:</p> <p>(1) To note the urgent decision taken and the reason for that decision.</p>
9.	Revenue Budget 2024/25	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:</p> <p>(1) Recommend the 2024/25 service estimates for approval at the budget meeting of Full Council in February 2024.</p> <p>(2) Support in principle the future savings as set out in section 5 of the report for inclusion in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>(3) Note that potential Chalk Pit investigation works are being considered, in full, by the Committee at separate Agenda Item 10 of the agenda.</p>

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10.	Chalk Pit	<p>Following consideration, the Committee resolved (6 for, 1 abstaining, and the Chair not voting) to:</p> <p>(1) To note the motion referred to this Committee by Full Council and, in light of the options set out at section 8.8 of the report, make no resolution or recommendation following a debate on that motion.</p> <p>(2) Submit a request to Strategy and Resources Committee that funding be allocated from limited Council reserves to instruct external noise consultants to conduct a fresh investigation based upon the activities on the site and that significant complaints continue despite the buildings being constructed and commissioned. It is anticipated that further investigations may require a substantial financial commitment of taxpayer's funds of up to £140,000, as set-out in section 10 of the report.</p>