

## Epsom & Ewell Borough Council – Decisions taken by the Community and Wellbeing Committee on Tuesday, 8 October 2024

This notice was published 10 October 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	No questions or statements were received from members of the public.
2.	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or other registrable or non-registrable interests were made by Members with respect to any items to be considered at the meeting.
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	The Committee confirmed as a true record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 09 July 2024 and authorised the Chair to sign them.
4.	Nightly Paid Accommodation Expenditure Update 2024/25	Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:  <b>(1) Note the use of Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG) and reserves to cover the anticipated expenditure, for 2024/25, to enable the Council to meet its duties under the Housing Act 1996 and Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.</b>  <b>(2) Agree that a further update regarding nightly paid accommodation (NPA) expenditure be provided at the Community &amp; Wellbeing Committee in March 2025.</b>

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Agenda Item No	Report Title	Decision
5.	Community Engagement Update	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:</p> <p><b>(1) Endorse the approach taken to consultation.</b></p>
6.	2025/26 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 23 July 2024.</b></p> <p><b>(2) Support the changes to services and savings previously identified in Table 1 of the report and that those are included within the budget presented to this Committee in January 2025.</b></p> <p><b>(3) Consider how additional income or savings can be generated to address the projected Council wide funding gap of £573,000 in 2025/26, rising to £720,000 per annum by 2028/29.</b></p> <p><b>(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.</b></p>

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Agenda Item No	Report Title	Decision
7.	Urgent Decisions	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:</p> <p><b>(1) Note the urgent decision taken and the reasons for that decision, since the last meeting of the committee.</b></p>
8.	Housing reports from Strategy and Resources Committee	<p>Following consideration, it was resolved:</p> <p><b>(1) Note the two reports attached as Appendix 1 and Exempt Appendix 2 to the report.</b></p>
9.	Exclusion of the Press and Public	<p>Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Committee resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting for Part 2 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.</p>

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Agenda Item No	Report Title	Decision
10.	Contracting out of Homelessness Reviews Function	<p>Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="842 555 2080 663"><b>(1) Approve the award of a contract for the conduct of reviews of allocation and homelessness decisions to Housing Reviews Limited for a period of 1 year with an option to extend for a further period of 1 year and;</b></li> <li data-bbox="842 699 2080 879"><b>(2) Nominate and authorise to Housing Reviews Limited the Council’s statutory functions pursuant to the provisions of s166A(9) and s202 of the Housing Act 1996 to perform reviews of decisions made either regarding the suitability of accommodation offered s166A(9) or as the result of a decision upon a request for assistance as homeless s202.</b></li> </ol>