



EPSOM AND EWELL

Minutes of the Meeting of the FULL COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL held at the Council Chamber, Epsom Town Hall on 9 December 2025

PRESENT -

The Mayor (Councillor Robert Leach); The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Lucie McIntyre); Councillors Arthur Abdulin, Chris Ames, John Beckett, Christine Cleveland, Alex Coley, Neil Dallen, Hannah Dalton, Julian Freeman, Liz Frost, Bernice Froud, Tony Froud, Rob Geleit, Christine Howells, Alison Kelly, Rachel King, James Lawrence, Steven McCormick, Julie Morris, Bernie Muir, Phil Neale, Peter O'Donovan, Kieran Persand, Humphrey Reynolds, Kim Spickett, Chris Watson, Alan Williamson and Clive Woodbridge

Absent: Councillor Steve Bridger, Councillor Kate Chinn, Councillor Shanice Goldman, Councillor Graham Jones, Councillor Jan Mason and Councillor Darren Talbot

The Meeting was preceded by prayers led by Reverend Joshva Raja.

20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 22 July 2025 were agreed as a true record and the Mayor was authorised to sign them.

22 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS/BUSINESS

The Mayor thanked Reverend Joshva Raja for acting as Chaplin at the meeting and at the Act of Remembrance the previous month. With sadness the Mayor informed the Council that his Chaplin, Margaret Marsh was on leave of absence following the recent passing of her husband. The Mayor expressed that he was aware that there were 3 Councillors present who had also suffered bereavements recently and expressed the Council's love and sympathy to all.

The Mayor made a number of announcements relating to noteworthy recent and upcoming events and invited Councillor Alex Coley to provide the Council with a statement on behalf of the former Mayor, Councillor Steve Bridger who was unable to attend the meeting. The statement updated the Council on the amount of money raised for the 3 charities selected during Councillor Bridger's Mayoral year.

23 LEADER AND CHAIRS' STATEMENTS

The Council received written statements from the Chair of the Environment Committee and Chair of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee.

2 questions were asked relating to the statements and responded to by the relevant Committee Chair.

24 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2026-2027

Council received a report presenting the Municipal Calendar of ordinary meetings from May 2026 to April 2027.

Councillor Neil Dallen **MOVED** and Councillor Hannah Dalton **SECONDED** the motion.

Following consideration, it was unanimously resolved to:

(1) Approve the Municipal Calendar of ordinary meetings for 2026-2027.

25 APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT COUNCILLOR CHAMPION

Council received a report requesting its approval for the appointment of Councillor Alan Williamson as the Alternative Transport Champion for the remainder of the 2025-26 Municipal Year, in accordance with Annex 2.1 of the Operating Framework.

Councillor John Beckett **MOVED** and Councillor Rachel King **SECONDED** the motion.

Councillor Chris Ames **MOVED** and Councillor Alex Coley **SECONDED** a nomination of Councillor Rob Geleit to the appointment. Following receipt of this nomination, the Mayor informed the Council that a ballot would be held.

The results of the ballot were as follows: Councillor Alan Williamson, 17 votes, Councillor Rob Geleit, 11 votes.

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

(1) Approve the appointment of Councillor Alan Williamson as the Alternative Transport Champion for the remainder of the 2025-26 Municipal Year.

26 COMMITTEE DECISIONS TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH URGENCY PROCEDURE

Council received a report providing it with notification of committee decisions taken in accordance with the urgency procedure contained in Annex 4.6 of the Operating Framework.

Councillor Neil Dallen **MOVED** and Councillor Hannah Dalton **SECONDED** the motion.

Following consideration, it was resolved with 22 votes for, 6 abstentions and the Mayor not voting to:

- (1) Note the decision of the Strategy and Resources Committee on 25 September 2025.**
- (2) Note the decision of the Environment Committee on 14 October 2025.**
- (3) Note the decision of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee on 25 November 2025.**

27 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2024-2025

Council received a report presenting the Annual Governance Statement 2024-25

Councillor Steven McCormick **MOVED** the recommendations in the report..

An amendment to the recommendations was **MOVED** by Councillor James Lawrence and **SECONDED** by Councillor Chris Ames. The proposed amendment was as follows:

“To add the following recommendation:

- Note that point G. of Core CIPFA governance principle be considered “Some development or areas for improvement”*

The amendment was not accepted by the proposer of the original motion and accordingly was debated by the Council. Upon being put to the vote the amendment was **LOST** with 9 votes for, 19 votes against and the Mayor not voting.

An amendment to the recommendations was **MOVED** by Councillor Chris Ames and **SECONDED** by Councillor Alex Coley. The proposed amendment was as follows:

“Add text:

- Note that the Statement is significantly different from the document approved by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee in July.*

- *Note that, although the Audit and Scrutiny Committee resolved at its July meeting to Approve the Statement before it, "noting the questions and comments raised by Audit and Scrutiny Members", the document at Appendix 1 does not reflect questions and comments made by committee members."*

The amendment was not accepted by the proposer of the original motion and accordingly was debated by the Council. Upon being put to the vote the amendment was **LOST** with 9 votes for, 19 votes against and the Mayor not voting.

Upon being put, the recommendations of the substantive motion were **CARRIED** as follows:

The Council agreed with 19 votes for, 9 votes against and the Mayor not voting to:

- (1) **Note the Annual Governance Statement 2024-2025 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.**

28 DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN SURREY - UPDATE

Council received a report outlining the latest developments and updates on Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) following the decision from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on 28 October 2025 to implement the 2 unitary proposal for Surrey. The report included a recommendation nominating Councillor Hannah Dalton to be appointed representative for Epsom & Ewell Borough Council on any relevant LGR Joint Committee.

Councillor John Beckett **MOVED** and Councillor Rachel King **SECONDED** the motion.

Councillor James Lawrence **MOVED** and Councillor Chris Ames **SECONDED** a nomination of Councillor Alex Coley to the appointment proposed in recommendation 5 of the report. Following receipt of this nomination, the Mayor informed the Council that a ballot would be held.

The results of the ballot were as follows: Councillor Hannah Dalton, 17 votes, Councillor Alex Coley, 11 votes.

Following consideration, it was resolved with 23 votes for, 4 abstentions and the Mayor not voting to:

- (1) **Note the updates for LGR in Surrey, particularly the decision and relevant information from MHCLG;**
- (2) **Agree to the establishment of the East Surrey Joint Committee on a voluntary basis, effective immediately, that shall be constituted and be established under the provisions of section 101(5) (arrangements**

for discharge of functions by local authorities) of the Local Government 1972 Act and pursuant to the requirements of the draft Surrey (Structural Changes) Order 2026.

- (3) Note that upon enactment of the Surrey (Structural Changes) Order 2026, the voluntary East Surrey Joint Committee shall become the Joint Committee required to be established under the provisions of that legislation and that this will be constituted and established under the provisions as set out above in Recommendation 2.
- (4) Agree and adopt the Terms of Reference and Terms of Procedure set out within Appendix 1 to the report for all forms of an East Surrey Joint Committee.
- (5) Delegate to the Chief Executive, Directors and Head of Legal any necessary authority to support the establishment, operation and decision making required by and in support of any relevant LGR Joint Committees (to include any informal working groups).

It was resolved in accordance with the ballot detailed in the Minutes above to:

- (6) Approve Cllr Dalton as the appointed representative for Epsom & Ewell Borough Council on any relevant LGR Joint Committee;

29 UPDATE TO THE CONSTITUTION

Council received a report proposing an update to the Council's Scheme of Delegation relevant to its Revenues and Benefits and Public Protection departments.

Councillor John Beckett **MOVED** and Councillor Rachel King **SECONDED** the motion.

Following consideration, it was resolved with 23 votes for, 4 abstentions and the Mayor not voting to:

- (1) Approve and adopt the updates to the Council's Constitution, as set out within Appendix 1 to the report

30 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - CREATION OF CIVIL PARISHES AND ASSOCIATED PARISH COUNCILS IN EPSOM & EWELL

Council received a report presenting the findings of the Community Governance Review's Phase 1 consultation regarding the creation of Civil Parishes and associated Parish Councils in the Borough of Epsom and Ewell. It also provided information related to the potential financial implications, including estimated precepts and the implications of the possible transfer of key community assets.

The report requested the Council to make a decision as to whether to proceed to the next stage of its Community Governance Review (CGR), or whether the CGR process is stopped following the completion of the Phase 1 consultation.

If the Council decided to proceed to the next stage, the report invited Members to consider what the recommendations should be that are consulted upon, based upon the outcome of the Phase 1 consultation and the further information contained within the report.

Councillor John Beckett **MOVED** and Councillor Rachel King **SECONDED** the motion.

An amendment to recommendation 2 was **MOVED** by Councillor Steven McCormick and **SECONDED** by Councillor Bernice Froud. The proposed amendment was as follows:

“Replace wording of Recommendation 2 (vii) with text as follows:

(2) (vii) Authorise the Chief Executive and Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Chair of Standards and Constitution Committee, to approve the Phase2 Consultation Questions and Terms of Reference once final typographical changes have been completed and to take all and any necessary action to progress the Community Governance Review(which for the avoidance of doubt, does not empower those named officers to make the final decision on whether to make a Reorganisation Order)”

The amendment was accepted by the proposer of the original motion and it became part of the substantive motion under FCR 17.8 of Appendix 4 of the Council's Constitution

Following debate the recommendations of the substantive motion were put to the vote. A recorded vote was requested by 8 members of the Council and in accordance with FCR4.6 was held for this item.

The recommendations of the report were CARRIED, as detailed below:

It was resolved with 17 votes in favour, 6 against and 6 abstentions to:

(1) Agree that the Community Governance Review should proceed to a Phase 2 consultation.

It was resolved with 17 votes in favour, 7 against and 5 abstentions to:

(2) Agree the recommendations to be subject to a further public consultation, as follows:

(i) Arrangements - The creation of two civil parishes for which there will be two parish councils (one for each parish), which would be responsible for the legal minimum (e.g. allotments) and could be responsible for more services in the future (where this is agreed with the new unitary East Surrey Council at some future date)

(ii) Names and style of the two parishes –

- a. The Community of Epsom, and
- b. The Community of Ewell

(iii) **Warding (and names of wards) – The external boundaries of the two parishes to be created shall be co-terminus with existing ward boundaries; existing borough wards will be adopted as will their existing names –**

- a. **Epsom Community – College, Court, Horton, Stamford, Town, Woodcote and Langley Vale**
- b. **Ewell Community – Auriol, Cuddington, Ewell Court, Ewell Village, Nonsuch, Ruxley, Stoneleigh, West Ewell**

(iv) **Proposed number of councillors – Two councillors per ward per newly created parish resulting in:**

- a. **Twelve councillors to be elected to Epsom Community Council (there are six wards) and**
- b. **Sixteen councillors to be elected to Ewell Community Council (there are eight wards).**

(v) **Agree to the establishment of a potential precept payable for the Council Tax Financial Year 2027-28, to support the general parish administration and running of services.**

(vi) **Agree and adopt the updated Terms of Reference, as set out in Appendix 8**

(vii) **Authorise the Chief Executive and Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Chair of Standards and Constitution Committee, to approve the Phase 2 Consultation Questions and Questionnaire of Reference once final typographical changes have been completed and to take all and any necessary action to progress the Community Governance Review**

Community Governance Review (Recommendation 1)	
Councillor Robert Leach	Abstain
Councillor Lucie McIntyre	For
Councillor Arthur Abdulin	For
Councillor Chris Ames	Against
Councillor John Beckett	For
Councillor Christine Cleveland	For
Councillor Alex Coley	Against
Councillor Neil Dallen MBE	For
Councillor Hannah Dalton	For
Councillor Julian Freeman	Against
Councillor Liz Frost	For

Councillor Bernice Froud	For
Councillor Tony Froud	Abstain
Councillor Rob Geleit	Against
Councillor Christine Howells	Abstain
Councillor Alison Kelly	Abstain
Councillor Rachel King	For
Councillor James Lawrence	Against
Councillor Steven McCormick	For
Councillor Julie Morris	Abstain
Councillor Bernie Muir	Against
Councillor Phil Neale	For
Councillor Peter O'Donovan	For
Councillor Kieran Persand	Abstain
Councillor Humphrey Reynolds	For
Councillor Kim Spickett	For
Councillor Chris Watson	For
Councillor Alan Williamson	For
Councillor Clive Woodbridge	For
Carried	

Community Governance Review (Recommendation 2)	
Councillor Robert Leach	Abstain
Councillor Lucie McIntyre	For
Councillor Arthur Abdulin	For
Councillor Chris Ames	Against
Councillor John Beckett	For
Councillor Christine Cleveland	For
Councillor Alex Coley	Against
Councillor Neil Dallen MBE	For
Councillor Hannah Dalton	For
Councillor Julian Freeman	Against
Councillor Liz Frost	For
Councillor Bernice Froud	For
Councillor Tony Froud	Abstain
Councillor Rob Geleit	Against
Councillor Christine Howells	Abstain
Councillor Alison Kelly	Abstain
Councillor Rachel King	For
Councillor James Lawrence	Against
Councillor Steven McCormick	For
Councillor Julie Morris	Abstain
Councillor Bernie Muir	Against
Councillor Phil Neale	For
Councillor Peter O'Donovan	For
Councillor Kieran Persand	Against
Councillor Humphrey Reynolds	For
Councillor Kim Spickett	For
Councillor Chris Watson	For
Councillor Alan Williamson	For
Councillor Clive Woodbridge	For
Carried	

31 STAFF PAY AWARD

Council received a report recommends to Council a pay award for Staff and introduction of Real Living Wage as considered and recommended by Strategy and Resources Committee.

Councillor Neil Dallen **MOVED** the recommendations in the report.

Following consideration, it was unanimously resolved to:

- (1) Agree a pay award for staff for 2026/27 of 3%; and**
- (2) make funding available through the budget process to support the implementation of the Real Living Wage from April 2026.**

32 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE AND MEMBER OF THE SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

The Mayor informed the Council that he had permitted the addition of this additional urgent item to the agenda in accordance with FCR 7.7 of Appendix 4 of the Constitution as it was necessary to inform Members of the matter at the earliest opportunity available.

The Council was requested to agree the appointment of the Chair of the Crime and Disorder Committee and representative on the Surrey Police and Crime Panel following the recent change of political group membership of the current Chair and representative.

Councillor John Beckett **MOVED** and Councillor Rachel King **SECONDED** the recommendations of the report.

Following consideration, it was resolved with 24 votes for, 4 against and the Mayor not voting to:

- (1) Agree to appoint Councillor Alan Williamson as the Chair of the Crime and Disorder Committee.**
- (2) Agree to appoint Councillor Alan Williamson as the Council's Representative on the Surrey Police and Crime Panel.**

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 9.40 pm

COUNCILLOR ROBERT LEACH
MAYOR