



EPSOM AND EWELL

Minutes of the Meeting of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL held Virtually on 16 February 2021

PRESENT -

The Mayor (Councillor Humphrey Reynolds); The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Peter O'Donovan); Councillors Arthur Abdulin, John Beckett, Steve Bridger, Kate Chinn, Christine Cleveland, Monica Coleman, Alex Coley, Nigel Collin, Neil Dallen, Hannah Dalton, Robert Foote, Chris Frost, Liz Frost, Bernice Froud, Rob Geleit, Luke Giles, David Gulland, Christine Howells, Previn Jagutpal, Colin Keane, Eber Kington, Jan Mason, Steven McCormick, Lucie McIntyre, Debbie Monksfield, Julie Morris, Bernie Muir, Barry Nash, Phil Neale, David Reeve, Guy Robbins, Clive Smitheram, Alan Sursham, Chris Webb, Peter Webb and Clive Woodbridge

The Meeting was preceded by prayers led by the Mayor's Chaplain

19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

20 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 8 December 2020 were agreed as a true record and the Council authorised the Mayor to sign them.

21 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS/BUSINESS

The Mayor announced the sad passing of Captain Sir Tom Moore and paid tribute to his legacy and the part he played in bringing the nation together at a difficult time.

The Mayor also announced the sad passing of Rosemary Foote, wife of Councillor Robert Foote, and former Mayoress of the Borough in 2014/2015.

The Council observed a minute's silence.

The Mayor made a number of announcements relating to noteworthy events over the past two months.

22 EPSOM & EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL PAY POLICY STATEMENT

Council received a report seeking approval of the draft Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Pay Policy Statement 2021/2022.

Councillor Eber Kington MOVED the recommendation in the report.

Upon being put the recommendation was CARRIED with a majority vote in favour.

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

(1) That the Council approves the Pay Policy Statement for 2021/2022.

23 BUDGET REPORT 2021 - 2022

The Council gave consideration to its 2021/22 budget, comprising both revenue and capital expenditure plans and Council Tax amounts for each band of dwelling. The report took account of the recommendations of the Community & Wellbeing, Environment & Safe Communities and Strategy & Resources Committees (appertaining to fees and charges, the revenue budget and capital programme).

In moving the recommendations of the Chief Finance Officer, the Chairman of the Strategy and Resources Committee, Councillor Eber Kington, made a statement to the Council on the budget for 2021/22 to which Councillors Kate Chinn and David Gulland responded.

A proposal to consider recommendations 1,5,6,9 and 10 of the report separately was MOVED by Councillor David Gulland and SECONDED by Councillor Julie Morris. Upon being put, the proposal was LOST, there being a majority vote against.

Accordingly, the recommendations of the report were put to the Council for determination in a single vote. Upon being put the motion to agree the recommendations of the report was CARRIED, there being 32 members in favour and 6 against as detailed below.

Accordingly, it was resolved:

(1) That it be noted that, under delegated powers, the Chief Finance Officer calculated the amount of the Council Tax Base as 33,149.63 (Band 'D' equivalent properties) for the year 2021/22 calculated in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act").

- (2) That the following estimates recommended by the policy committees be approved:-**

 - a. The revised revenue estimates for the year 2020/21 and the revenue estimates for 2021/22.**
 - b. The capital programme for 2021/22 and the provisional programme for 2022 to 2024, as summarised in the capital strategy statement.**
- (3) That the fees and charges recommended by the Policy Committees be approved for 2021/22.**
- (4) That the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2021/22 is £6,903,742.**
- (5) That the Council receives the budget risk assessment at Appendix 6 and notes the conclusion of the Chief Finance Officer that these budget proposals are robust and sustainable as concluded in this report.**
- (6) That the Council receives the Chief Finance Officer Statement on the Reserves as attached at Appendix 8.**
- (7) That the Council agrees the Prudential Indicators and Authorised Limits for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 11 including:-**

 - a. Affordability Prudential Indicators.**
 - b. The actual and estimated Capital Financing Requirement.**
 - c. The estimated levels of borrowing and investment.**
 - d. The authorised and operational limits for external debt.**
 - e. The treasury management prudential indicators.**
- (8) That the following amounts be now calculated for the year 2021/22 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Act:**

 - a. £57,977,322 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(2) of the Act.**
 - b. £51,073,580 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(3) of the Act.**
 - c. £6,903,742 being the amount by which the aggregate at 8(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 8(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year.**
 - d. £208.26 being the amount at 8(c) above divided by the amount at 1. above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31(B) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.**

- (9) To note that Surrey County Council and Surrey Police Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below:-

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

| Band: | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Amount | 1,032.72 | 1,204.84 | 1,376.96 | 1,549.08 | 1,893.32 | 2,237.56 | 2,581.80 | 3,098.16 |

SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY

| Band: | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Amount | 190.38 | 222.11 | 253.84 | 285.57 | 349.03 | 412.49 | 475.95 | 571.14 |

- (10) That the Council, in accordance with Section 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2021/22 for each of the categories of dwellings.

EPSOM AND EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL

| Band: | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Amount | 138.84 | 161.98 | 185.12 | 208.26 | 254.54 | 300.82 | 347.10 | 416.52 |

AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS

| Band: | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Amount | 1,361.94 | 1,588.93 | 1,815.92 | 2,042.91 | 2,496.89 | 2,950.87 | 3,404.85 | 4,085.82 |

Voting on the recommendations of this item of the agenda was recorded as follows:

| Budget Report 2021 -2022 (Budget decision) | |
|---|-----|
| Councillor Humphrey Reynolds | For |
| Councillor Peter O'Donovan | For |
| Councillor Arthur Abdulin | For |

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Councillor John Beckett | For |
| Councillor Steve Bridger | For |
| Councillor Kate Chinn | Against |
| Councillor Christine Cleveland | For |
| Councillor Monica Coleman | For |
| Councillor Alex Coley | For |
| Councillor Nigel Collin | For |
| Councillor Neil Dallen | For |
| Councillor Hannah Dalton | For |
| Councillor Robert Foote | For |
| Councillor Chris Frost BSc | For |
| Councillor Liz Frost MSc FCOptom | For |
| Councillor Bernice Froud | For |
| Councillor Rob Geleit | Against |
| Councillor Luke Giles | For |
| Councillor David Gulland | Against |
| Councillor Christine Howells | For |
| Councillor Previn Jagutpal | For |
| Councillor Colin Keane | For |
| Councillor Eber Kington BA Cert Ed | For |
| Councillor Jan Mason | For |
| Councillor Steven McCormick | For |
| Councillor Lucie McIntyre | For |
| Councillor Debbie Monksfield | Against |
| Councillor Julie Morris | Against |
| Councillor Bernie Muir | Against |
| Councillor Barry Nash | For |
| Councillor Phil Neale | For |
| Councillor David Reeve | For |
| Councillor Guy Robbins | For |
| Councillor Clive Smitheram | For |
| Councillor Alan Sursham | For |
| Councillor Chris Webb | For |
| Councillor Peter Webb | For |
| Councillor Clive Woodbridge | For |
| Carried | |

24 MOTIONS

Council received one Motion submitted under FCR 14 of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

Motion1: "Digital Inclusion for the Borough of Epsom and Ewell"

The Council resolved by a majority vote to consider this Motion at the meeting. In pursuance of the Council's Rules of Procedure, Councillor Debbie Monksfield MOVED and Councillor Rob Geleit SECONDED the following Motion:

“The Labour Group believes that greater digital inclusion will assist the borough in its economic recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic, which has had a devastating impact throughout the borough, particularly for the most disadvantaged residents. We ask that the council develop a Digital Inclusion Strategy and accompanying Action Plan which sets out how the Council, other organisations and partners intend to tackle digital exclusion in the Borough.”

An amendment to the motion was MOVED by Councillor Eber Kington and SECONDED by Councillor Clive Smitheram:

The proposed amendment was as follows:

“This Council believes that greater digital inclusion will assist the borough in its economic recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic, which has had a devastating impact throughout the borough, particularly for the most disadvantaged residents. This Council further notes the steps already taken by the Council to support digital inclusion, including the provision of IT Training Sessions at the Community & Wellbeing Centre and the work currently being undertaken with Epsom BID to introduce free WIFI to the town centre. The Council therefore agrees to develop a Digital Inclusion Strategy and take action as part of the Council’s Build Back Better recovery plan for the Borough.”

Upon being put the amendment was CARRIED with a majority vote for it, and became the substantive motion.

Following the resolution of the amendment, the substantive motion was debated and put to a vote.

Upon being put the motion was CARRIED with a majority vote for it.

Accordingly, the Council resolved:

This Council believes that greater digital inclusion will assist the borough in its economic recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic, which has had a devastating impact throughout the borough, particularly for the most disadvantaged residents. This Council further notes the steps already taken by the Council to support digital inclusion, including the provision of IT Training Sessions at the Community & Wellbeing Centre and the work currently being undertaken with Epsom BID to introduce free WIFI to the town centre. The Council therefore agrees to develop a Digital Inclusion Strategy and take action as part of the Council’s Build Back Better recovery plan for the Borough.

25 INDEMNITIES

Council received a report from the Chief Legal Officer seeking delegated authority for the Monitoring Officer to indemnify a Member in the event the Council requires a Member to bring a Judicial Review against a decision of the Council.

Councillor Eber Kington MOVED the recommendation in the report.

Councillor Colin Keane SECONDED the recommendation in the report.

Upon being put the recommendation was CARRIED with a majority vote in favour.

Accordingly, it was resolved:

- (1) That any Member asked to bring a judicial review on behalf of the Council by the Council's Monitoring Officer be indemnified in respect of liabilities arising during the course of any such legal action and the granting of such indemnity be delegated to the Council's Monitoring Officer.**

26 ELECTION INDEMNITIES

Council received a report from the Chief Legal Officer recommending election indemnities for the Mayor as the Returning Officer for Parliamentary Elections and for the Chief Executive and her deputies, in her capacities as Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer or acting for the Returning Officer for a range of elections.

Councillor Eber Kington MOVED the recommendation in the report.

Councillor Clive Smitheram SECONDED the recommendation in the report.

Upon being put the recommendation was CARRIED with a majority vote in favour.

Accordingly, it was resolved:

- (1) To provide an indemnity to cover the legal costs of the Mayor as Returning Officer for Parliamentary elections in any proceedings arising from the conduct of this position, to the extent that liability falls upon the Mayor or on those the Mayor appoints, either:**
 - (i) because the scope of the authority's own insurance does not extend to cover such liability; or**
 - (ii) to the extent that such liability falls within the deductible applying to the authority's own insurance;**
- (2) to provide an indemnity to cover the legal costs of the Chief Executive (including her deputies) in her capacity as Registration Officer and Returning Officer in any proceedings arising from the conduct of these or related posts, to the extent that liability falls upon her, or on those she appoints, either:**
 - (i) because the scope of the authority's own insurance does not extend to cover such liability; or**
 - (ii) to the extent that such liability falls within the deductible applying to the authority's own insurance;**

- (3) that for this purpose the authority approves the Indemnity set out in para 2.7 to this report;**
- (4) that the decision as to whether to insure any potential liability arising out of the Indemnity should rest with the Chief Finance Officer.**

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 9.29 pm

COUNCILLOR HUMPHREY REYNOLDS
MAYOR