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EPSOM & EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLEASE NOTE: this will be a 'virtual meeting'.

The link to the meeting is: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7883237100153101584>
Webinar ID: 835-021-707

Telephone (listen-only): 020 3713 5022, Telephone Access code:568-708-482

12 April 2021

SIR OR MADAM

I hereby summon you to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Epsom and Ewell which will be held virtually on **TUESDAY, 20TH APRIL, 2021** at **7.30 pm**. The business to be transacted at the Meeting is set out on the Agenda overleaf. A link to the meeting is provided above.

Prayers will be said by the Mayor's Chaplain prior to the start of the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Beldan".

Chief Executive

Public information

Please note that this meeting will be a ‘virtual meeting’

This meeting will be held online and is open to the press and public to attend as an observer using free GoToWebinar software, or by telephone.

A link to the online address for this meeting is provided on the first page of this agenda and on the Council’s website. A telephone connection number is also provided on the front page of this agenda as a way to observe the meeting, and will relay the full audio from the meeting as an alternative to online connection.

Information about the membership of the Council is available on the [Council’s website](#). The website also provides copies of agendas, reports and minutes.

Agendas, reports and minutes for the Council are also available on the free Modern.Gov app for iPad, Android and Windows devices. For further information on how to access information regarding this Committee, please email us at Democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk.

Exclusion of the Press and the Public

There are no matters scheduled to be discussed at this meeting that would appear to disclose confidential or exempt information under the provisions Schedule 12A of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985. Should any such matters arise during the course of discussion of the below items or should the Mayor agree to discuss any other such matters on the grounds of urgency, the Council will wish to resolve to exclude the press and public by virtue of the private nature of the business to be transacted.

Questions from the Public

Questions from the public are not permitted at meetings of the Council. [Part 4 of the Council’s Constitution](#) sets out which Committees are able to receive public questions, and the procedure for doing so.

COUNCIL

Tuesday 20 April 2021

7.30 pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7883237100153101584>

For further information, please contact Democratic Services, democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk or tel: 01372 732000

AGENDA

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations of the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests from Members in respect of any item to be considered at the meeting.

2. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 14)

To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16 February 2021 and Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 25 March 2021.

3. MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS/BUSINESS

To receive such communications or deal with such business as the Mayor may decide to lay before the Council.

4. QUESTIONS (Pages 15 - 20)

This report sets out the questions submitted which have been accepted under FCR 12, Part 4 Rules of Procedure, of the Constitution.

5. CHAIRS/CHAIRMEN'S STATEMENTS (Pages 21 - 30)

To receive statements from the Chairs/Chairmen of the Council's Policy Committees, briefing Members on current events and issues relating to the relevant Committee's area of work.

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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 and10 of the report separately was MOVED by Councillor David Gulland and SECONDED by Councillor Julie Morris. Upon being put, the proposal was 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



EPSOM AND EWELL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND
EWELL held virtually on 25 March 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, Colin Keane, Eber Kington, Jan Mason, Steven McCormick, Debbie Monksfield, Julie Morris, Bernie Muir, Barry Nash, Phil Neale, David Reeve, Guy Robbins, Clive Smitheram, Chris Webb, Peter Webb and Clive Woodbridge

Absent: Councillors Previn Jagutpal, Lucie McIntyre and Alan Sursham

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

27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

28 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS/BUSINESS

The Mayor announced the sad passing of former Councillor and Mayor Madeleine Catmur. Madeleine had served as a Councillor for Woodcote Ward for 18 years from 1973 to 1991. Madeleine was Mayor in 1985. The Council observed a minute's silence in remembrance.

The Mayor made a number of announcements relating to noteworthy virtual and in person events which he had attended over the past four months and to forthcoming Christmas events.

29 SUBMISSION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND ON COUNCIL SIZE

The Council received a report requesting it approve the submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on Council size.

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) **Approve the submission on Council Size, as set out in Appendix 1;**
- (2) **Delegate to the Chief Legal Officer in consultation with the Chairman of Strategy and Resources and the Chairman of the Electoral Review Task and Finish Group any final changes to the Council Size Submission as may be necessary;**
- (3) **Authorise the Chief Executive to submit the Council's Submission on Council Size to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.**

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 8.08 pm

COUNCILLOR HUMPHREY REYNOLDS
MAYOR

QUESTIONS

Head of Service:	Amardip Healy, Chief Legal Officer
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	no
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1: Question and Reply

Summary

This report sets out the questions submitted which have been accepted under FCR 12, Part 4 Rules of Procedure, of the Constitution.

Recommendation (s)

The Council is asked to:

- (1) consider the Question in accordance with Standing Orders.

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Notice of a question has been given in writing and delivered to the Chief Legal Officer.

2 Background

- 2.1 Standing orders set out a process for questions to be put by its Members to the Mayor or the Chairman of any committee, sub-committee or advisory panel. The question must be relevant to some matter on which the Council has statutory powers or duties, or which affects the Borough or its inhabitants.
- 2.2 The process and procedure for debate is set out in Part 4 of the Constitution. FCR 12.8 sets 30 minutes and their replies. A member asking a Question is allowed to ask one supplementary question, which must arise from the reply given.
- 2.3 The table below sets out the question submitted and accepted under FCR12:

Question & Reply	Title	Member	Committee
Question	Exemption from Council Tax for Care Leavers	Cllr B Muir	Strategy & Resources
Reply		Cllr E Kington	Chairman of Strategy & Resources

2.4 A written response has been provided by the Chairman of Strategy & Resources Committee, which is included in the papers.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Impact Assessment

3.1.1 No comments are provided on Questions.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 No comments are provided on Questions.

3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 No comments are provided on Questions.

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 No comments are provided on Questions.

3.5 Other

3.5.1 No comments are provided on Questions.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 No comments are provided on Questions.

4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** No comments are provided on Questions.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 No comments are provided on Questions.

5.2 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** No comments are provided on Questions.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:
No comments are provided on Questions.

6.2 **Service Plans:** No comments are provided on Questions.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** No comments are provided on Questions.

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** No comments are provided on Questions.

6.5 **Partnerships:** No comments are provided on Questions.

7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- None

Other papers:

- Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Constitution

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Question & Reply

QUESTION

Question from Councillor Bernie Muir to the Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee, Councillor Eber Kington.

Housing in Surrey is expensive and Care Leavers have to become independent and pay for their own housing much earlier than other young people.

Helping them by exempting them from Council tax is a way that Local Authorities at all levels can show that they are fulfilling their statutory duty to 'Apply Corporate Parenting Principles to Looked after Children and Care Leavers.' The guidance on this was published in 2018.

8 out of 11 Boroughs and Districts in Surrey and the County Council have all agreed to exempt care leavers from paying Council Tax up to the age of 25.

The three remaining Boroughs and Districts are Epsom and Ewell, Tandridge and Waverley.

In January, Rachael Wardell the Director of Children's Services wrote the Chief Executives and Leaders of the three councils to ask them once again to exempt Care Leavers. This follows up on the letter that Dave Hill sent last year to all 500+ elected councillors in Surrey.

On 13th January this year, the Local Taxation Division of the MHCLG wrote to the Council Tax Section of all Local Authorities pointing out the guidance on Applying Corporate Parenting Principles and informing the council that 'Many local authorities offer a council tax reduction for care leavers in their area to provide immediate financial assistance and to help reduce the risk of debt.' There is a clear expectation that other LAs will follow suit.

The question is "What have the Officers at Epsom and Ewell have done to look into this and when they will recommend that the Council adopt such a policy?"

Given how significance that this would be for Care Leavers and ultimately, when single discounts etc are deducted, this is a small amount of money for the Borough surely this causes great reputational damage to the Council, this having been raised repeatedly at the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board , Corporate Parenting Board, Surrey Safeguarding Children Executive and Partnership and Full Council, not to mention with the public.

Reply from Councillor Kington, Chairman of Strategy & Resources Committee:

I can confirm that Officers have put together a paper on this issue and a Report will go to a future Strategy and Resources Committee Meeting. However, changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme of whatever nature are implemented at the start of the new council tax year.

CHAIRS/CHAIRMEN'S STATEMENTS

Head of Service:	Amardip Healy, Chief Legal Officer
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	no
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 –Statements from Chairs/Chairmen

Summary

To receive statements from the Chairs/Chairmen of the Council's Policy Committees, briefing Members on current events and issues relating to the relevant Committee's area of work.

Recommendation (s)

The Council is asked to:

- (1) consider the Statements from the Chairs/Chairmen of the Policy Committees in accordance with Standing Orders.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Part 4 of the Council's Constitution (Rules of Procedure, FCR 11) sets out that the Chair/Chairman of each of the Policy Committees is able to submit a statement to be included as a standard item on the agenda for each meeting (excluding the Annual meeting and budget meeting). The statement will brief members on the current events and issues relating to the relevant committee's area of work.

2 Background

- 2.1 The following statements have been submitted for inclusion on the agenda for this meeting, and are attached at Appendix 1:

- 2.1.1 Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Committee, Councillor Barry Nash

2.1.2 Chair of the Environment and Safe Communities Committee,
Councillor Neil Dallen

2.1.3 Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee, Councillor Eber
Kington

2.2 The procedure of questions on Chairs/Chairmen's Statements is as
follows:

2.2.1 Each Chair/Chairman in the order listed on the agenda presents
their Statements to the meeting;

2.2.2 At the conclusion of all the Chairs/ Chairmen's statements, 15
minutes will be set aside for Members to ask questions on the
statement of any Chair/ Chairman.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Impact Assessment

3.1.1 No comments are provided on Chairs/Chairmen's Statements.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 No comments are provided on Chairs/Chairmen's Statements.

3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 No comments are provided on Chairs/Chairmen's Statements.

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 No comments are provided on Chairs/Chairmen's Statements.

3.5 Other

3.5.1 No comments are provided on Chairs/Chairmen's Statements.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 No comments are provided on Chairs/Chairmen's Statements.

4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** No comments are provided on
Chairs/Chairmen's Statements.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 No comments are provided on Chairs/Chairmen's Statements.

5.2 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** No comments are provided on Chairs/Chairmen's Statements.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

No comments are provided on Chairs/Chairmen's Statements.

6.2 **Service Plans:** No comments are provided on Chairs/Chairmen's Statements.

6.1 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** No comments are provided on Chairs/Chairmen's Statements.

6.2 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** No comments are provided on Chairs/Chairmen's Statements.

6.3 **Partnerships:** No comments are provided on Chairs/Chairmen's Statements.

7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- None

Other papers:

- Constitution of Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

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CHAIR/CHAIRMEN'S STATEMENTS TO COUNCIL

Councillor Barry Nash

Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Committee

During this last year COVID has impacted significantly on the work of Community & Wellbeing. The implications and impact of COVID goes to the heart of what Community & Wellbeing does; supporting our communities.

This disruption resulted in cancelling the June 2020 Committee, as the Council focused on rising to the critical challenge of supporting our residents, particularly those who were shielding and most vulnerable during what were possibly the darkest days of the pandemic. It is important to recognise the significant role of all council staff and Members during these challenging times in supporting our most vulnerable residents.

Local hospitals and local voluntary organisations

Following NHS public consultation at the October 2020 meeting, the Committee had the opportunity to consider the eventual decision made by the NHS Trust to build a new multi-million pound acute hospital close to this borough in Sutton, to serve our residents. The Committee also noted that 85% of existing services would continue to be provided locally at Epsom Hospital and that Epsom Hospital would also benefit from a major investment, ensuring the hospital continued to serve our residents for many years to come.

At the recent meeting of the Health Liaison Panel it became clear that other services will continue on top of the 85% discussed in October 2020.

In March 2021 the Committee recognised the fantastic work done by local voluntary organisations in supporting our vulnerable residents during the pandemic. The Committee agreed the continued support to these voluntary organisations and recognised their invaluable work for our residents through ongoing financial grants for another year.

COVID impacts

In November 2020 the committee also had to make difficult decisions about keeping Council commercial venues closed due to the pandemic restrictions. These included The Playhouse, Ewell Court House and Bourne Hall. In addition, it was agreed that due to the circumstances, the Surrey Youth Games in 2021 were unviable and that we, along with the other Surrey District & Borough Councils, would have to defer our participation until 2022.

Parks and Open Spaces

The borough parks and open spaces have provided a crucial outlet for our residents supporting both physical and mental wellbeing during the pandemic, which has highlighted the importance of our green spaces.

As a result of the increased usage of our open spaces during COVID, we have seen an increase in anti-social behaviour. We have endeavoured to work quickly with our partners to address these issues as quickly as possible. One example of this is the recent installation of kissing gates at the Hook Road Arena entrance points, to prevent further ASB incidents from quad bikers.

Also, there has been additional emptying of litter bins and increased litter picking, as well as an awareness campaign around the dangers of Nitrous Oxide canisters. Not only do they cause a serious harm to health, they also require an extensive clean-up operation.

Lastly, the High Street Task Force has been redirected to support our parks and open spaces, helping to keep them safe places to visit which has been a valuable resource during these challenging times.

Homelessness

During COVID there has been a concerted effort to reduce rough sleeping across the country including the Government's "Everyone In" programme. Whilst this has been successful and has saved lives, it has also increased the already high numbers of homeless households within the borough. As the pandemic continues the ongoing threats from COVID remain, including the risk of significant increases in unemployment, particularly amongst our young residents across the borough.

Given that many new people presenting as homeless are single, the Council has successfully applied for government funding to create a new specialist role in our Housing Services Team, focussed exclusively on helping our single homeless residents out of temporary accommodation and into suitable "move-on" accommodation.

The Council has also responded to this increase in homelessness by acquiring 24 units of new temporary accommodation from Sanctuary Housing at Defoe Court in East Street Epsom. This new accommodation will be used flexibly to accommodate households of differing sizes within the borough, so that they are close to support networks, transport and able to access employment.

Skills Hub

Building on the success of the recently launched Skills Hub, the Council has also submitted an application to the Department of Work and Pensions for funding to set up a Youth Hub to address rising numbers of young Universal Credit claimants within the borough and to actively prevent even higher levels of unemployment and homelessness.

Councillor Neil Dallen

Chair of the Environment and Safe Communities Committee

Climate Change

We are now in the second year of the Climate Change Action Plan and despite Covid we are progressing largely to plan and I would like to record my congratulations and thanks to the officers concerned.

In the first year of the plan we achieved completion of 22 out of 35 actions and partially achieved another 8. The remaining 5 actions along with the partially completed ones have been moved to this year's actions.

An updated report is due to come to Environment and Safe Communities committee next month.

Waste and Recycling

The government has published a long awaited second consultation on DRS (Deposit Return Scheme) and "Extended Producer Responsibility" proposals. The DRS consultation states that it is unlikely to be enacted until late 2024 at the earliest.

Safe Communities

The Epsom and Ewell Community Safety Partnership is now set up and picking up its responsibilities including reviewing JAGs (Joint Action Groups) and Community Triggers.

It brings together a number of agencies including the Police, Fire Service, Rosebery Housing, Business Improvement District (BID), Surrey Heartlands, relevant voluntary group representatives along with Borough and County Council officers.

The Joint Enforcement Team (JET) approach has considerably improved the level and co-ordination of enforcement among partners. It has helped get results from JAGs as well as assisting in the Covid challenges with Covid marshals in the High Street and visits to various businesses to advise and/or enforce.

Mobile CCTV

The new mobile CCTV units are now operational and have already had some success with capturing images of suspected drug activity. These have been passed on to Surrey Police.

Councillor Eber Kington
Chairman of the Strategy and Resources Committee

Covid 19 Response

Once again I must begin my Statement with thanks to all our staff for their continued work for the community during these extraordinary times. Although the Government's recent announcements in regard to its Road Map point to a continually improving situation, as a Council we still have an important role in supporting vulnerable residents, encouraging compliance with the Covid-19 regulations and supporting local businesses as they recover from the financial challenges of the lockdowns.

Most members of staff are now undertaking their normal duties, but many are still working from home whilst others are working in the community, observing covid safe practices to ensure they, and our residents, stay safe. In addition, some members of staff continue to have important roles in support of the local and national work being undertaken to get us all through the pandemic.

Going forward, members of staff will have key roles in supporting our Build Back Better plans for the Council and the Borough. My thanks to you all, for your work over the past 12 months and for your on-going support for what needs to be done in the future.

I would also like to thank our residents, many of whom have taken on volunteering roles to support local voluntary groups, or have been part of the community effort to ensure that we all stay safe and that our environment is protected. There are many examples of individuals checking on neighbours, supporting the work of Age Concern and the Food Bank for example, setting up local support networks, undertaking individual and regular litter picking, and supporting the local vaccination programme. Collectively those selfless acts of support and action have made a real difference to our community's response to the pandemic. Again, my thanks to you all.

Town Centre Celebratory Art Work

Over the next few months the Epsom Market Place will be enhanced by two new art works celebrating Epsom's history.

Emily Davison is a key figure in the campaign for women's right to vote and the statue by sculptor Christine Charlesworth commemorates, not just her tragic death at the 1913 Derby, but also her intelligence, courage and dedication in serving the cause of women's rights. The Borough Council has contributed to the installation of the statue with both funding and Officer support for the legal and installation negotiations and paperwork. A covid-secure unveiling of the statue is planned for the summer.

The Horse Racing industry is a key part of Epsom's History, and a Derby Hall of Fame will also be installed in the Market Place this summer. Starting from the Evocation of Speed, it will consist of two lines of brass roundels celebrating some of the key horses, jockeys and trainers associated with the Epsom Derby since its beginning. The list has been compiled with the support of the local racing community and starts, of course, with Lord Derby.

Welcome Back Fund

The Government has announced a new Welcome Back Fund to help councils boost tourism, improve green spaces and provide more outdoor seating areas, markets and food stall pop-ups, giving people more, safer options to reunite with friends and relatives. The Borough Council has been awarded £71,063 which will be used in some of the following ways.

- Investing in street planting, parks, green spaces and seating areas to make high streets as beautiful and welcoming as possible.
- Publicity campaigns and holding street markets and festivals to support local businesses.
- Installing signage and floor markings to encourage social distancing and safety.
- Environmental clean-ups and removing graffiti.

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