

## Epsom & Ewell Borough Council – Decisions taken by the Strategy and Resources Committee on Tuesday, 22 September 2020

This notice was published 25 September 2020.

Decisions will come into force, and may be implemented, on the expiry of 5 working days from the date of this notice unless called in by the Audit, Crime & Disorder 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.	Question Time	No questions were asked or had been submitted by members of the public.
2.	Declarations of Interest	<p>The following declaration was made in relation to an item on the agenda:</p> <p>Local Government Structure in Surrey</p> <p>Councillor Hannah Dalton, Other Interest: Councillor Hannah Dalton declared that due to her involvement with the RASSU campaign, she would not participate in the debate on this item and would not vote upon it..</p>
3.	2019-20 Statement of Accounts and Audit Findings	<p>Following consideration, it was resolved that the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) <b>Approved the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020;</b></li><li>(2) <b>Agreed the Annual Governance Statement included within the Statement of Accounts;</b></li><li>(3) <b>Received the Audit Findings for 2019/20;</b></li><li>(4) <b>Agreed the management action in response to the audit recommendations detailed at Appendix A of the Audit Findings report;</b></li></ul>

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Agenda Item No	Report Title	Decision
		<p>(5) Agreed that the Chairman or Vice Chairman of Strategy and Resources Committee and the Chief Finance Officer sign the Letter of Representation on behalf of the Council;</p> <p>(6) Delegated any further amendments to the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman of Strategy and Resources Committee.</p>
4.	2021/22 Budget Targets and Finance Update	<p>Following consideration, it was resolved that the Committee:</p> <p>1. Noted the recommendations of Financial Policy Panel held on 08 September 2020.</p> <p>2. Agreed the following overall budget targets for 2021/22:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. That estimates be prepared including the delivery of savings already identified in the Financial Plan for 2021/22 totalling £336,000.</li> <li>ii. That estimates include options to reduce organisational costs by £1,290,000 subject to government grant announcement, in order to minimise the use of working balances and maintain a minimum working balance of £2.5 million in accordance with the medium term financial strategy.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. That at least £210,000 additional revenue is generated from an increase in discretionary fees and charges;</li> <li>iv. That a provision for pay award is made of £408,000 that would allow for a 2% cost of living increase;</li> <li>v. That a £950,000 contingency is provided for within the 2021/22 budget to mitigate the potential impact of Covid-19 on the Council's finances in 2021/22.</li> <li>vi. That officers are tasked in delivering a list of costed options that can be implemented to address any budget shortfall for 2021/22.</li> </ul> <p>3. Agreed the budget reporting timetable as set out in section 10 of the report to Financial Policy Panel (Appendix 2).</p> <p>4. Agreed that 2020/21's projected deficit be funded as set-out at paragraph 6.7 of the report to Financial Policy Panel (Appendix 2).</p>
5.	Local Government Structure in Surrey	<p>Following consideration, it was resolved that the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) approved a contribution of up to £10,000, funded from the Corporate Projects Reserve towards a joint Surrey Borough and Districts Councils fund to investigate future local government options which could include new ways of working post-pandemic, proposals for shared service</li> </ul>

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		<b>delivery at Borough and District level and enhanced two tier working.</b>
<b>6.</b>	Local Government Association Communications Review Action Plan	Following consideration, it was resolved that the Committee: <b>(1) Approved the Communications &amp; Engagement Strategy and Action Plan.</b>
<b>7.</b>	Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Framework	Following consideration, it was resolved that the Committee: <b>(1) Approved the working draft Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Framework.</b> <b>(2) Agreed that the three themes could go out to public consultation.</b>
<b>8.</b>	Minutes of Previous Meeting	The Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 2 July 2020, Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28 July 2020 and Restricted Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28 July 2020 were agreed as a true record, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.
<b>9.</b>	Exclusion of Press and Public	Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Committee passed a resolution to exclude the public from the meeting for Part Two 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.

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<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Decision</b>
<b>10.</b>	Support with reopening Leisure Services	The decision for this item is recorded in a separate (not for publication) restricted Decision Notice.