



EPSOM AND EWELL

Minutes of the Meeting of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL held virtually on 21 July 2020

PRESENT -

The Mayor (Councillor Humphrey Reynolds); The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Peter O'Donovan); Councillors Arthur Abdulin, John Beckett, Steve Bridger, Kate Chinn, Christine Cleveland, 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

Absent: Councillor Monica Coleman

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

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

5 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 February 2020 were agreed as a true record and the Mayor was authorised to sign them.

6 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS/BUSINESS

The Mayor announced that he had chosen to support three charities during his mayoral year: Epsom and Ewell Community Fund, Love Me Love My Mind and Age Concern Epsom and Ewell.

The Mayor informed the Council of a number of noteworthy events in which he had participated during the past 2 months, despite the challenges posed by the current pandemic.

7 QUESTIONS

Three questions had been addressed to Committee Chairmen to which written answers had been provided and published.

Three supplementary questions were asked at the meeting and answers given by the relevant Committee Chairman.

8 CHAIRMEN'S STATEMENTS

Council received written statements from the Chairs of Environment and Safe Communities Committee, Community and Wellbeing Committee and Licensing and Planning Policy Committee.

9 THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Council received a report setting out the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic following a major incident being formally declared across Surrey on 19 March 2020.

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) **Note the significant action taken by the Council and its staff in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, including providing essential support to the most vulnerable in the local community and to local businesses and action to keep essential services running.**

10 FINANCIAL IMPACT OF COVID-19

Council received a report setting-out the financial impact of Covid-19 on the Council in the first quarter of 2020/21, and detailing funding sources to mitigate the impact.

Councillor Eber Kington **MOVED** the recommendations in the report.

Upon being put, the recommendations were **CARRIED** with a majority vote in favour.

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

- (1) **Note the projected £2.5m deficit caused by Covid-19 in the first quarter of 2020/21;**
- (2) **Support the continued lobbying of Central Government for further financial support.**

11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE IN SURREY

Council received a report from the Chief Legal Officer proposing the development of a response to Surrey County Council's statements on reorganising the local government structure in Surrey.

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 to:

- (1) **Agree this Council's strategic principles on the local government structure debate for Surrey, be:**
 - i. **local democratic accountability;**
 - ii. **devolving decision making to the lowest level commensurate with effective delivery;**
 - iii. **efficient and cost effective service delivery;**
 - iv. **a local authority's knowledge of people and place.**
- (2) **Authorise the Chief Executive to start discussions with all local authorities in Surrey to consider the future structure of local government in Surrey which respect the principles set out at recommendation 11 (1) above.**

12 MOTIONS

Council received three Motions submitted under FCR 14 of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

Motion1: "To Thank EEBC Members Staff for Their Work During the Covid-19 Emergency."

The Council resolved by a majority vote to consider this Motion at the meeting. In pursuance of the Council's Rules of Procedure, Councillor Eber Kington **MOVED** and Councillor Peter O'Donovan **SECONDED** the following Motion:

"This Council wishes to place on record its thanks and appreciation to Borough Council officers for their outstanding work in meeting the challenge of the strategic shift in the deployment of staff and resources during the Covid-19 emergency. Your work and the care shown, particularly in support of more vulnerable members of the community, has been both outstanding and inspiring.

This Council also wishes to acknowledge the vital roles paid by those Officers providing key support for services whilst working from home, and also those members of staff who have ensured that the Council's important basic services have continued to be provided to residents during the emergency. Your contributions have been hugely appreciated and have been crucial to the work of the council over the past few weeks.

Whatever your role, our thanks to you all”

An amendment to the motion was **MOVED** by Councillor Debbie Monksfield and **SECONDED** by Councillor Rob Geleit:

The proposed amendment was as follows:

“This Council wishes to place on record its thanks and appreciation to Borough Council officers for their outstanding work in meeting the challenge of the strategic shift in the deployment of staff and resources during the Covid-19 emergency. Your work and the care shown, particularly in support of more vulnerable members of the community, has been both outstanding and inspiring.

*This Council also wishes to acknowledge the vital roles paid by those Officers providing key support for services whilst working from home, and also those members of staff who have ensured that the Council’s important basic services have continued to be provided to residents during the emergency. **In addition this council will identify a scheme to reward council staff for their exceptional efforts during the emergency caused by Covid-19.***

Your contributions have been hugely appreciated and have been crucial to the work of the council over the past few weeks

Whatever your role, our thanks to you all.”

Upon being put the amendment was **LOST** with a majority vote against it.

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 wishes to place on record its thanks and appreciation to Borough Council officers for their outstanding work in meeting the challenge of the strategic shift in the deployment of staff and resources during the Covid-19 emergency. Your work and the care shown, particularly in support of more vulnerable members of the community, has been both outstanding and inspiring.

This Council also wishes to acknowledge the vital roles paid by those Officers providing key support for services whilst working from home, and also those members of staff who have ensured that the Council’s important basic services have continued to be provided to residents during the emergency. Your contributions have been hugely appreciated and have been crucial to the work of the council over the past few weeks.

Whatever your role, our thanks to you all

Motion 2: “Enforcement against cars idling.”

The Council resolved by a majority vote to refer this Motion to the Environment and Safe Communities Committee for consideration.

Motion 3: “To Support Action Promoting Community Cohesion, Anti-Racism, Equality and Justice”

The Council resolved by a majority vote to consider this Motion at the meeting. In pursuance of the Council’s Rules of Procedure, Councillor Alex Coley MOVED and Councillor Hannah Dalton SECONDED the following Motion:

“This Council notes and values the contribution that Epsom and Ewell communities and social media groups are making in support of community cohesion, anti- racism and calls for equality and justice

In support of these local initiatives, including the “We Stand Together” movement, the Borough Council will:

- I. Invite local schools to contribute to a Borough Council programme celebrating multiculturalism and the achievements of differing communities in the borough*
- II. Use the EEBC Business Newsletter, Business Breakfasts and our conversations with the BID to raise issues of racism and prejudice in the workplace and, leading by example, encourage equality in recruitment practices, investment in unconscious bias training and other active ways to create equality.*
- III. Use the Community Safety Partnership to encourage local people to use their voice and report hate crimes to the police, and to develop with our partners a system for monitoring the outcomes of such reporting.*
- IV. Continue our conversations with Community Leaders to better understand how the Borough Council can best manage its services to support those communities and best use its influence to make a positive difference.*
- V. Listen to our own staff about their experiences and create an environment where they can speak freely, and raise awareness among Officers and Members to ensure equal access to services”*

An amendment to the motion was **MOVED** by Councillor Kate Chinn and SECONDED by Councillor Debbie Monksfield:

The proposed amendment was as follows:

“This Council notes and values the contribution that Epsom and Ewell communities and social media groups are making in support of community cohesion, anti- racism and calls for equality and justice

In support of these local initiatives, including the “We Stand Together” movement, the Borough Council will:

- I. Invite local schools to contribute to a Borough Council programme celebrating multiculturalism and the achievements of differing communities in the borough*
- II. Use the EEBC Business Newsletter, Business Breakfasts and our conversations with the BID to raise issues of racism and prejudice in the workplace and, leading by example, encourage equality in recruitment practices, investment in unconscious bias training and other active ways to create equality.*
- III. Use the Community Safety Partnership to encourage local people to use their voice and report hate crimes to the police, and to develop with our partners a system for monitoring the outcomes of such reporting.*
- IV. Continue our conversations with Community Leaders to better understand how the Borough Council can best manage its services to support those communities and best use its influence to make a positive difference.*
- V. Listen to our own staff about their experiences and create an environment where they can speak freely, and raise awareness among Officers and Members to ensure equal access to services*
- VI. Commit to work with partners and lobby the government for immediate action to implement the recommendations on the recent PHE report on the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities.”**

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 notes and values the contribution that Epsom and Ewell communities and social media groups are making in support of community cohesion, anti- racism and calls for equality and justice

In support of these local initiatives, including the “We Stand Together” movement, the Borough Council will:

- I. Invite local schools to contribute to a Borough Council programme celebrating multiculturalism and the achievements of differing communities in the borough**
- II. Use the EEBC Business Newsletter, Business Breakfasts and our conversations with the BID to raise issues of racism and prejudice in the workplace and, leading by example, encourage equality in**

recruitment practices, investment in unconscious bias training and other active ways to create equality.

- III. Use the Community Safety Partnership to encourage local people to use their voice and report hate crimes to the police, and to develop with our partners a system for monitoring the outcomes of such reporting.**
- IV. Continue our conversations with Community Leaders to better understand how the Borough Council can best manage its services to support those communities and best use its influence to make a positive difference.**
- V. Listen to our own staff about their experiences and create an environment where they can speak freely, and raise awareness among Officers and Members to ensure equal access to services**
- VI. Commit to work with partners and lobby the government for immediate action to implement the recommendations on the recent PHE report on the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities.**

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 9.21 pm

COUNCILLOR HUMPHREY REYNOLDS
MAYOR