



## EPSOM AND EWELL

### **Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL held virtually on 14 July 2020**

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#### **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, Barry Nash, Phil Neale, David Reeve, Guy Robbins, Clive Smitheram, Alan Sursham, Chris Webb, Peter Webb and Clive Woodbridge

Absent: Councillors Bernie Muir

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

#### **1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

#### **2 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS/BUSINESS**

The Mayor announced the sad passing of Honorary Alderman Ruby Smith who was a former Mayor and Stoneleigh RA Councillor for over 15 years. The Council observed a minute's silence.

#### **3 ELECTORAL REVIEW**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Commission) had notified the Council of its intention to carry out an electoral review of the Council. The review would consider the total number of councillors on the

Council, and then review the numbers and boundaries of electoral divisions within the Council.

An Extraordinary meeting of the Council had been called to receive a presentation from the Commission regarding the electoral review process.

The Council received a presentation from Susan Johnson, Lead Commissioner and Mark Cooper, Review Officer as representatives of the Commission. The presentation included the following matters: The Commission's approach to the review; the reasons for the review; councillor numbers; warding patterns; timeline.

In response to questions from Members of the Council, the Commission representatives provided the following information:

- a) **Interpretation of neighbouring council sizes.** The Commission representatives informed Council that Appendix 4 of the briefing pack provided to Councillors provided data relating to council sizes within Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's CIPFA family group. The Commission representatives informed Council that this data was intended to be used as an indicator of the spectrum of council sizes locally, and it was not the Commission's aim to standardise Councils to the same size. In reviewing the Council's size, the Commission would consider the Council's view of its requirements for governance, scrutiny, committee membership and representation for electors.
- b) **Electorate.** The Commission representatives informed Council that legislation required that projected electorate figures for 5 years following the date of the review be used for the purposes of the review. This would be the projected electorate for 2027.
- c) **Review of Borough Boundary.** The Commission representatives informed Council that this review could not make changes to the Council's boundaries with other local authorities.
- d) **Potential changes to local government structure in Surrey.** The Commission representatives informed Council that potential changes to local government structure in Surrey would not affect the electoral review process unless formally agreed by the Secretary of State before the end of the electoral review process. In the event that changes to local government structure affecting the Borough of Epsom and Ewell were agreed prior to the completion of the review, the Commission would seek to pause the review process to identify the most appropriate future steps. The Commission representatives informed Council that the Commission would be very careful to communicate with residents that the electoral review process was separate to discussions about local government structure, and would not influence those discussions.

Following questions from Members of the Council and a statement from the Chairman of the Strategy and Resources Committee, the Mayor thanked the Commission representatives for their attendance and presentation.

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 8.36 pm

COUNCILLOR HUMPHREY REYNOLDS  
MAYOR

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