



## EPSOM AND EWELL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL held at the Council Chamber, Epsom Town Hall on 16 April 2024

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#### PRESENT -

The Mayor (Councillor Rob Geleit); The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Steve Bridger); Councillors Arthur Abdulin, Chris Ames, Christine Cleveland, Alex Coley, Hannah Dalton, Liz Frost, Bernice Froud, Tony Froud, Shanice Goldman, Christine Howells, Graham Jones, Alison Kelly, Rachel King, James Lawrence, Robert Leach, Jan Mason, Steven McCormick, Lucie McIntyre, Julie Morris, Bernie Muir, Phil Neale, Peter O'Donovan, Kieran Persand, Humphrey Reynolds, Kim Spickett, Darren Talbot, Chris Watson, Alan Williamson and Clive Woodbridge

Absent: Councillors John Beckett, Kate Chinn, Neil Dallen and Julian Freeman

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The Meeting was preceded by prayers led by Councillor Robert Leach

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#### 56 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

#### 57 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 14 February 2024 were agreed as a true record and the Mayor was authorised to sign them, subject to the following amendments:

- That Minute 49 (Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel) be amended to record the Council's gratitude to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

- That the first sentence Minute 55 (appointment of Section 151 Officer) be amended to read “The Council received a report requesting it to appoint Brendan Bradley as its Section 151 (s151) Officer on a permanent basis.”

## 58 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS/BUSINESS

The Mayor made a number of announcements relating to noteworthy recent and upcoming events.

## 59 CHAIRS' STATEMENTS

The Council received written statements from the Chair of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee and Chair of the Crime and Disorder Committee.

3 questions were asked relating to the statement of the Chair of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee and responded to by the Committee Chair.

## 60 URGENT DECISIONS

Council received a report setting out the decisions taken by the Chief Executive and Directors on the grounds of urgency, in compliance with Appendix 2 to the Constitution – The Scheme of Delegation paragraph 3.1.

Councillor Steven McCormick **MOVED** and Councillor Peter O'Donovan **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report.

Upon being put the recommendation was unanimously **CARRIED**.

Accordingly, it was resolved:

- (1) To note the urgent decision taken and the reason for that decision.**

## 61 MOTIONS

The Council received two Motions submitted under FCR 14 of Appendix 4 of the Constitution.

### **Motion 1**

The Council resolved by majority vote (27 votes for, 3 votes against and the Mayor not voting) to debate this Motion at the meeting.

In pursuance of the Council's Rules of Procedure, Councillor Julie Morris **MOVED** and Councillor Alison Kelly **SECONDED** the following Motion.

### **Motion**

“This council believes that maintaining public trust in the democratic process is essential. A key part of this is ensuring that decisions are made openly and are subject to public scrutiny. Council recognises the concern that there is about

the degree to which council, committee, briefing and working group discussions and decisions are being conducted in restricted session.

To help maintain public trust and ensure that residents can be fully informed about how decisions that affect them have been reached, this council is committed to a policy of 'transparency by default' by which all meetings and documentation will be placed in the public domain as standard, with information or discussions only being redacted or restricted very specifically in relation to those issues which fall within the exemptions in the Local Government Act.

To that end, committee reports will, in addition to identifying the relevant exemption in the Local Government Act, also set out a rationale as to why information or discussions are to be restricted, when this is the case. Officers will also bring forward guidelines in relation to all council, committee, briefing and working group discussions and decisions which will enable this approach, to ensure maximum transparency while adhering to legislative requirements, ultimately making this organisation an exemplar public body in terms of transparency and openness.”

Upon being put the motion was **LOST** with 6 votes for, 23 against, 1 abstention and the Mayor not voting.

## **Motion 2**

The Council unanimously resolved vote to debate this Motion at the meeting.

In pursuance of the Council's Rules of Procedure, Councillor James Lawrence **MOVED** and Councillor Julie Morris **SECONDED** the following Motion.

## **Motion**

“That this Council mandates that the Reg 19 Local Plan include a requirement for energy efficient housing, where all new housing achieves at least a level A of the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC).”

Upon being put the motion was **LOST** with 3 votes for, 23 against, 4 abstentions and the Mayor not voting.

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 8.50 pm

COUNCILLOR ROB GELEIT  
MAYOR