



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 11 February 2025**

PRESENT -

The Mayor (Councillor Steve Bridger); The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Robert Leach); Councillors Arthur Abdulin, Chris Ames, John Beckett, Kate Chinn, Christine Cleveland, Alex Coley, Neil Dallen, Hannah Dalton, Julian Freeman, Liz Frost, Bernice Froud, Tony Froud, Rob Geleit, Shanice Goldman, Christine Howells, Alison Kelly, Rachel King, James Lawrence, 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: Councillor Graham Jones

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

38 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

39 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 10 December 2024 were agreed as a true record and the Mayor was authorised to sign them.

40 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS/BUSINESS

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

41 BUDGET REPORT 2025/26

The Council gave consideration to its 2025/26 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, Licensing and Planning Policy and Strategy & Resources Committees (appertaining to fees and charges, the revenue budget and capital programme).

In moving the recommendations of the report, the Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee, Councillor Neil Dallen, made a statement to the Council on the budget for 2025/26 to which Councillors Alison Kelly, Kate Chinn and Bernie Muir responded.

Upon being put the motion to agree the recommendations of the report was CARRIED, there being 23 members in favour and 11 against as detailed below.

Accordingly, it was resolved:

- (1) That the following estimates recommended by the policy committees be approved:-**
 - a. The revenue estimates for 2025/26 (as included in Section 5 and Appendix 2 of the report)**
 - b. The capital programme for 2025/26 and the provisional programme for 2026/27 to 2029/30, as summarised in the capital strategy statement (as included in Section 8 and Appendix 10 of the report).**
- (2) That the fees and charges recommended by the policy committees be approved for 2025/26 as attached in Section 5 and Appendix 4 of the report.**
- (3) That it be noted that, under delegated powers, the Chief Finance Officer calculated the amount of the Council Tax Base as 33,846.93 (Band 'D' equivalent properties) for the year 2025/26, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act"). (as attached at Appendix 5 of the report)**
- (4) That the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2025/26 is £7,883,627 as attached in Section 12 and Appendix 5 of the report.**
- (5) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2025/26 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Act:**

- a. £59,065,553 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(2) of the Act.
 - b. £51,181,926 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - c. £7,883,627 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. £232.92 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.
- (6) 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	1,230.90	1,436.05	1,641.20	1,846.35	2,256.65	2,666.95	3,077.25	3,692.70

SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY - PROVISIONAL

Band:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount	224.75	262.20	299.66	337.12	412.04	486.95	561.87	674.24

- (7) 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 2025/26 for each of the categories of dwellings.

EPSOM AND EWELL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Band:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£

Amount	155.28	181.16	207.04	232.92	284.68	336.44	388.20	465.84
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AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS (FINAL BILL)

Band:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount	1,610.93	1,879.41	2,147.90	2,416.39	2,953.37	3,490.34	4,027.32	4,832.78

- (8) That members note the delay in receiving the final precept information from Surrey Police, expected at the end of February, and delegate authority to finalise the Budget Book and to make any amendments to the Council Tax demands as might prove necessary as the result of changes to the estimated demands issued by preceptors on the Council's Collection Fund to the Director of Corporate Services (Section 151 officer), once this information has been received.
- (9) That the Council agrees the Treasury Management Strategy and prudential indicators and authorised limits for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 11 of the report including:-
- Affordability prudential indicators;
 - The actual and estimated Capital Financing Requirement;
 - The estimated levels of borrowing and investment;
 - The authorised and operational limits for external debt;
 - The liability benchmark;
 - The treasury management prudential indicators.
- (10) That the Council receives the budget risk assessment at Appendix 12 of the report and notes the conclusion of the Chief Finance Officer in Appendix 13 of the report that these budget proposals are robust and sustainable as concluded in this report.
- (11) That the Council receives the Chief Finance Officer Statement on the Reserves as attached at Appendix 13 of the report.
- (12) That members note that decisions on how to fund any particular projects that relate to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Surrey may require the exercise of the urgent decision procedure in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of Appendix 2 to the Council's Constitution.

Budget Report 2025/26 recorded vote (Budget decision)	
Councillor Steve Bridger	For
Councillor Robert Leach	For
Councillor Arthur Abdulin	For
Councillor Chris Ames	Against
Councillor John Beckett	For
Councillor Kate Chinn	Against
Councillor Christine Cleveland	For
Councillor Alex Coley	Against
Councillor Neil Dallen MBE	For
Councillor Hannah Dalton	For
Councillor Julian Freeman	Against
Councillor Liz Frost	For
Councillor Bernice Froud	For
Councillor Tony Froud	For
Councillor Rob Geleit	Against
Councillor Shanice Goldman	For
Councillor Christine Howells	For
Councillor Alison Kelly	Against
Councillor Rachel King	For
Councillor James Lawrence	Against
Councillor Jan Mason	For
Councillor Steven McCormick	Against
Councillor Lucie McIntyre	For
Councillor Julie Morris	Against
Councillor Bernie Muir	Against
Councillor Phil Neale	For
Councillor Peter O'Donovan	For
Councillor Kieran Persand	Against
Councillor Humphrey Reynolds	For
Councillor Kim Spickett	For
Councillor Darren Talbot	For
Councillor Chris Watson	For
Councillor Alan Williamson	For
Councillor Clive Woodbridge	For
Carried	

42 POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW

Councillor Neil Dallen as Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee informed the Council that he would not move the committee's recommendations for this item, as the Council had been informed by Surrey County Council that any County Council by-elections held before May 2026 would use the existing division boundaries. Councillor Dallen recommended that this item be considered by the Council at an appropriate time in the future rather than at this meeting.

The Mayor informed the Council that accordingly, under FC14.12 of Appendix 4 of the Constitution this item was withdrawn.

43 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Mayor informed the Council that In accordance with section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 he had agreed to receive item 6 (Exclusion of Press and Public) and 7 (Staffing Update) of the agenda (items 43 and 44 of the Minutes) at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council passed a resolution by majority decision 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 1 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.

44 STAFFING UPDATE

The Council received a report inviting it to endorse the recommendation of the Appointment Panel to appoint Cagdas Canbolat as the Council's Section 151 Officer following the resignation of the current postholder.

Councillor Neil Dallen **MOVED** and Councillor Hannah Dalton **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report.

Upon being put the recommendations were **CARRIED** with 31 votes for and 3 abstentions.

Accordingly, the Council agreed to:

- (1) **Approve the appointment of Cagdas Canbolat as the Council's s151 Officer, on a permanent basis, effective as from 19th May 2025.**
- (2) **Delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee, the authority:**

To vary the effective date of appointment, should that be necessary, and

To appoint an Interim Section 151 Officer from one month prior to the leaving date of the current postholder and for them to remain in post until such time as a new permanent Director of Corporate Services/Section 151 Officer commences in post.

The meeting began at 7:30pm and ended at 9:02pm

COUNCILLOR STEVE BRIDGER
MAYOR

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