



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 18 March 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, Graham Jones, Alison Kelly, Rachel King, James Lawrence, Lucie McIntyre, Bernie Muir, Phil Neale, Peter O'Donovan, Kieran Persand, Humphrey Reynolds, Kim Spickett, Alan Williamson and Clive Woodbridge

Absent: Councillors Jan Mason, Steven McCormick, Julie Morris, Darren Talbot and Chris Watson

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

45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor highlighted that the Deputy Monitoring Officer had granted a dispensation on 12 March 2025 to all Members to participate in and vote on any items considered at any meeting of the Full Council or any committee which relate to Local Government Reorganisation in Surrey.

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

46 DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Council received a report presenting an initial submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on behalf of the 12 local authorities of Surrey in relation to Local Government Reorganisation.

Additionally, the report invited the Council to express an initial preference for the future structure of local government in the boundary of Surrey County Council.

Councillor Hannah Dalton **MOVED** and Councillor Clive Woodbridge **SECONDED** the motion.

An amendment to recommendation 2 was **MOVED** by Councillor Hannah Dalton and **SECONDED** by Councillor Clive Woodbridge. The proposed amendment was as follows:

“Replace the wording of recommendation 2 with the following:

2. This Council agrees that its preference for the future structure of local government in the boundary of Surrey County Council is to establish 3 unitary councils when the 12 current authorities demise.”

As the amendment was moved by the proposer of the original motion, it became part of the substantive motion under FCR 17.8 of Appendix 4 of the Council’s Constitution.

An amendment to recommendation 1 was **MOVED** by Councillor Alex Coley and **SECONDED** by Councillor James Lawrence. The proposed amendment was as follows:

“To change the wording of recommendation 1.

From: Council is asked to note the initial submission to MHCLG on behalf of the 12 Local Authorities of Surrey.

*To: Council is asked to **approve** the initial submission to MHCLG on behalf of the 12 Local Authorities of Surrey.”*

The amendment was not accepted by the proposer of the original motion and accordingly was debated by the Council. Upon being put to the vote the amendment was **CARRIED** with 21 votes for, 6 votes against, 2 abstentions and the Mayor not voting. Accordingly, it became part of the substantive motion.

In response to a request from a Member during the debate on the substantive motion, the Mayor invited the Principal Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer to provide the Council with his recommendation on whether the standing orders for debate should be suspended. The Principal Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer informed the Council that it was his recommendation that the standing orders for debate should not be suspended, but that it was a matter for the Mayor’s discretion.

Following debate the recommendations of the substantive motion were put to the vote. The recommendations were **CARRIED** as detailed below.

The Council resolved with 27 votes for, 2 votes against and the Mayor not voting to:

- (1) Approve the initial submission to MHCLG on behalf of the 12 Local Authorities of Surrey.**

The Council resolved with 26 votes for, 3 votes against and the Mayor not voting that:

- (2) This Council agrees that its preference for the future structure of local government in the boundary of Surrey County Council is to establish 3 unitary councils when the 12 current authorities demise.**

The meeting began at 7.33 pm and ended at 8.43 pm

COUNCILLOR STEVE BRIDGER
MAYOR

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