



COUNCIL

14 October 2021

To: The Mayor and Members of
WOKING BOROUGH COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO A MEETING

You are hereby summoned to attend an ORDINARY MEETING of the COUNCIL to be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Gloucester Square, Woking on THURSDAY, THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF OCTOBER 2021 at 7.00 pm to transact the business specified in the agenda overleaf

JULIE FISHER
Chief Executive

Civic Offices,
Woking

NOTE: Filming Council Meetings

Please note the meeting will be filmed and will be broadcast live and subsequently as an archive on the Council's website (www.woking.gov.uk). The images and sound recording will also be used for training purposes within the Council. Generally the public seating areas are not filmed. However by entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed.



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AGENDA

Prior to the commencement of business, Reverend Lucy Brierley, Minister of the United Reformed Church, Woking will say prayers.

1. MINUTES.

To approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 29 July 2021, as published.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

4. URGENT BUSINESS.

To consider any business which the Chairman rules may be dealt with under Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. (Pages 7 - 8)

- (i) To receive declarations of interest from Members and Officers in respect of any item to be considered at the meeting.
- (ii) In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor A Azad declares a non-pecuniary interest in any items concerning the companies of which she is a Council-appointed director. The companies are listed in the attached schedule. The interests are such that speaking and voting are permissible.
- (iii) In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor K M Davis declares a non-pecuniary interest in any items concerning the companies of which he is a Council-appointed director. The companies are listed in the attached schedule. The interests are such that speaking and voting are permissible.
- (iv) In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor D Harlow declares a non-pecuniary interest in any items concerning the companies of which she is a Council-appointed director. The companies are listed in the attached schedule. The interests are such that speaking and voting are permissible.
- (v) In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor C S Kemp declares a non-pecuniary interest in any items concerning the companies of which he is a Council-appointed director. The companies are listed in the attached schedule. The interests are such that speaking and voting are permissible.
- (vi) In accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Chief Executive, Julie Fisher, declares a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) in any items concerning the companies of which she is a Council-appointed director. The companies are listed in the attached schedule. The interests are such that Mrs Fisher may advise the Council on those items.
- (vii) In accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, Joanne McIntosh, declares a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) in any items concerning the companies of which she is a Council-appointed director. The companies are listed in the attached schedule. The interests are such that Mrs McIntosh may advise the Council on those items.

- (viii) In accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Director of Planning, Giorgio Framalocco, declares a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) in any items concerning the companies of which he is a Council-appointed director. The companies are listed in the attached schedule. The interests are such that Mr Framalocco may advise the Council on those items.
- (ix) In accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Director of Neighbourhood Services, Geoff McManus, declares a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) in any items concerning the companies of which he is a Council-appointed director. The companies are listed in the attached schedule. The interests are such that Mr McManus may advise the Council on those items.
- (x) In accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Director of Housing, Louise Strongitharm, declares a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) in any items concerning the companies of which she is a Council-appointed director. The companies are listed in the attached schedule. The interests are such that Mrs Strongitharm may advise the Council on those items.
- (xi) In accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Director of Finance, Leigh Clarke, declares a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) in any items concerning Woking Football Club and/or the GolDev Woking Limited development. The interest arises from her husband having a small shareholding in Woking Football Club. The interest is such that Mrs Clarke may advise the Council on those items.

6. QUESTIONS.

To deal with written questions submitted by Members under Standing Order 8.1. Copies of the questions and of the draft replies (which are subject to amendment by the Leader of the Council) will be laid upon the table.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES WBC21-034. (Pages 9 - 18)

To receive and consider recommendations from the Executive and Committees.

- 7a. Notice of Motion - Cllr A Kirby - Pollinator Plan for Woking EXE21-080
- 7b. Notice of Motion - Cllr A Kirby - Freedom to Vote by Post EXE21-081
- 7c. Review of the Infrastructure Capacity Study and Delivery Plan - East of the Borough and Borough-wide Study EXE21-062
- 7d. Review of Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) EXE21-069
- 7e. Woking Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) – the Inspector’s Final Report EXE21-147
- 7f. Review of Licensing Policy

8. STANDARDS HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEE - 29 SEPTEMBER 2021 WBC21-035. (Pages 19 - 22)

9. NOTICES OF MOTION WBC21-036. (Pages 23 - 24)

To deal with any motions received in accordance with Standing Order 5.0. Any motions received before the deadline has passed for the receipt of motions will be published and a copy of the list will be tabled at the meeting.

- 9a. Councillor W Forster - Location of Woking's rail aggregates yard
- 9b. Councillor S Ashall - Supporting the Caged Laying (Prohibition) Bill

AGENDA ENDS

Date Published - 6 October 2021

Note: At the close of the meeting the Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Liam Lyons, would like to invite the following to join him in the Boardroom:-

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor S Hussain, Councillors A Azad, T Aziz, A-M Barker, A Boote, J Brown, S Dorsett, A Kirby, R Leach, L Morales, E Nicholson, M I Raja, D Roberts, J Sanderson and Independent Co-opted Member, Claire Storey, together with Officers attending the meeting.

Agenda Item 5

Schedule Referred to in Declaration of Interests

Council-appointed directorships

Councillor A Azad	
Export House Limited	Thameswey Guest Houses Limited
Kingfield Community Sports Centre Limited	Thameswey Housing Limited
Rutland Woking (Carthouse Lane) Limited	Thameswey Limited
Rutland (Woking) Limited	Thameswey Maintenance Services Limited
Rutland Woking (Residential) Limited	Thameswey Solar Limited
Thameswey Central Milton Keynes Limited	Thameswey Sustainable Communities Limited
Thameswey Developments Limited	Victoria Square Residential Limited
Thameswey Energy Limited	VSW Hotel Limited
Victoria Square Woking Limited	

Councillor K M Davis	
Brookwood Cemetery Limited	LAC 2021 Limited
Brookwood Park Limited	Woking Necropolis and Mausoleum Limited

Councillor D Harlow	
Thameswey Guest Houses Limited	Thameswey Solar Limited
Thameswey Housing Limited	Thameswey Maintenance Services Limited
Thameswey Limited	Thameswey Sustainable Communities Limited

Councillor C S Kemp	
Kingfield Community Sports Centre Limited	Thameswey Guest Houses Limited
Thameswey Central Milton Keynes Limited	Thameswey Housing Limited
Thameswey Developments Limited	Thameswey Limited
Thameswey Energy Limited	Woking Shopping Limited

Julie Fisher, Chief Executive	
Thameswey Limited	Victoria Square Residential Limited
VSW Hotel Limited	Victoria Square Woking Limited

Joanne McIntosh, Director of Legal and Democratic Services	
Thameswey Developments Limited	Thameswey Housing Limited
Thameswey Guest Houses Limited	Thameswey Limited

Giorgio Framallicco, Director of Planning	
Brookwood Cemetery Limited	Thameswey Central Milton Keynes Limited
Brookwood Park Limited	Thameswey Energy Limited
Brunswick Road (Pirbright) Residents Company Limited	Thameswey Limited
Energy Centre for Sustainable Communities Limited	Thameswey Maintenance Services Limited
Export House Limited	Thameswey Solar Limited
Kingfield Community Sports Centre Limited	Thameswey Sustainable Communities Limited
Woking Necropolis and Mausoleum Limited	Woking Shopping Limited

Geoff McManus, Director of Neighbourhood Services	
Brookwood Cemetery Limited	Thameswey Energy Limited
Brookwood Park Limited	Thameswey Limited
Energy Centre for Sustainable Communities Limited	Thameswey Maintenance Services Limited
Export House Limited	Thameswey Solar Limited
Kingfield Community Sports Centre Limited	Thameswey Sustainable Communities Limited
LAC 2021 Limited	Woking Necropolis and Mausoleum Limited
Thameswey Central Milton Keynes Limited	Woking Shopping Limited

Louise Strongitharm, Director of Housing	
Rutland Woking (Carhouse Lane) Limited	Thameswey Developments Limited
Rutland Woking (Residential) Limited	Thameswey Guest Houses Limited
Rutland (Woking) Limited	Thameswey Housing Limited
Thameswey Limited	

COUNCIL – 14 OCTOBER 2021

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES

Executive Summary

The Council is invited to consider the recommendations from the meetings of the Executive held on 9 September and 7 October 2021, and the Licensing Committee held on 5 October 2021. The recommendations of the meetings are outlined below.

EXECUTIVE – 9 SEPTEMBER 2021

7A NOTICE OF MOTION - CLLR A KIRBY - POLLINATOR PLAN FOR WOKING EXE21-080

At its meeting on 29 July 2021, the Council referred the following Notice of Motion to the Executive.

Councillor A Kirby

“Pollinator Plan for Woking

This Council notes the systemic importance of pollinators to our food supply and economy, as well as their intrinsic value to nature in Woking Borough. This Council also notes the success and popularity elsewhere across the UK of the ‘No Mow May’ campaign, during which grass verges were left undisturbed by mowing during this critical month for flowers, wildlife and pollinators in particular.

The Council acknowledges the existing local work in this area of the ‘Planet Woking’, ‘Woking Environment Action Group’ and other voluntary organisations, in supporting bees and other pollinators through the sowing and planting of wildflowers. The Council recognises the importance of wild meadow spaces to the public realm, residents’ enjoyment of the Borough – and the benefits to the visual appeal of our communities.

The Council also acknowledges the success of its own existing wildflower strategies, which have so far been run on a more site-specific basis.

Accordingly, this Council resolves to instruct Officers to arrange for a broad and Borough-wide set of policies, classifying our grass cutting activities in each location according to the frequency of mowing required. This should result in a set of Borough-wide ‘wildness grades’ associated with different levels of mowing.

This system should be designed to achieve four key things:

- 1) Maximise the level of diverse wild flora and fauna in all council-maintained grassland, with the first assumption for maximum biodiversity
- 2) Continue to ensure public safety and amenity where essential (such as sports pitches or road verges)
- 3) Create an easily understandable set of ‘wildness grades’ to enable residents to understand and engage with the Council’s grass cutting policies

Recommendations of the Executive and Committees

- 4) Allow Council contractors to refocus on keeping public footpaths clear of vegetation

This Council resolves that the vast majority of grassland within this scheme will be left unmown during the entire period 1st May – 1st June, excluding only the most exceptional of locations within the 'least' wild category, as outlined for exceptional reasons of safety or public utility mentioned above. Beyond this initial distinction of inclusion in the 'No Mow May' principle, further grades of reduced cutting should be considered – up to and including a policy in some locations of cutting grass only once per year in August.

Council instructs Officers and the relevant Portfolio Holder to create a clear set of such 'wildness grades' for Woking grassland and to allocate all grassy areas maintained by Woking Borough Council to one of these 'grades' – with a preference for the most wild to suit each location.

Council also resolves that Officers should report back to Full Council at their earliest convenience with estimates of the potential net savings from such a systematic and organised policy of reduced grass-cutting, so that all Councillors can debate the best use of these savings for other purposes."

Councillor Kirby attended the meeting and spoke in support of the Motion. The Portfolio Holder for Climate Change Strategy, Councillor Davis, expressed disappointment at the Motion and was of the opinion that the issues raised by the Motion should have been discussed at the cross-party Climate Change Working Group beforehand. The Portfolio Holder drew attention to the Officer Comment to the Motion and the work that was already taking place regarding the delivery of wildflowers in suitable locations in the Borough. Councillor Howard, Chairman of the Climate Change Working Group, reported that the Council's Green Infrastructure Team was currently working on solutions to achieve biodiversity benefits and increase resident engagement, whilst striking a careful balance that respected the wide range of residents' views on the topic. Councillor Howard advised that the matter would be discussed at the Climate Change Working Group, at its meeting on 1 December 2021, and that the Group would make recommendations to the Executive. An amended Motion was proposed by Councillor Howard and agreed by the Executive. The amended Motion to read as follows:

"Council recognises the seriousness of the loss of wildflower meadows and the decline in the numbers of insect pollinators.

Officers will present a report to the December meeting of the Climate Change Working Group addressing these problems and incorporating such concepts as selective mowing and "No Mow May"."

RECOMMENDED to Council

That the Motion, as amended by the Executive, be supported.

7B. NOTICE OF MOTION - CLLR A KIRBY - FREEDOM TO VOTE BY POST EXE21-081

At its meeting on 29 July 2021, the Council referred the following Notice of Motion to the Executive.

Councillor A Kirby

"Freedom to vote by post

This Council believes that democracy is best secured by maximising electoral turnout and participation, as much as that democracy must start by more literally securing residents' votes.

Recommendations of the Executive and Committees

It is therefore with regret that this Council notes the proportion of people voting by post in the Borough did not rise between 2019 and 2021, despite this year's elections being the first to be held since the arrival of Covid-19. Despite the understandable caution from residents around in-person events – and for many even medically-advised isolation – the proportion of local people voting by post in fact fell.

In light of these facts, this Council recognises its responsibility to better uphold and inspire democratic participation through challenging times. This Council also recognises the importance and legal status of the fully independent Electoral Commission.

This Council notes that Woking Borough is an outlier in asking residents already on the electoral register for photo-identification in order to support their application for a postal vote, contrary to official guidance and legal requirements as set out by the Electoral Commission.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- 1) Reflect the latest exact wording used by the Electoral Commission on its own website, when describing the process of registering to vote by post, on all relevant communications whether in print, digital or in person.
- 2) Remove all other restrictions, suggestion of restriction, advice to follow legally unnecessary steps, or any other effective impediment created by the Council's advice or processes, on the ability of residents to register for a postal vote.
- 3) Proactively communicate this change to residents, via all Council-controlled media channels and to issue a public statement to all local media on behalf of this Full Council, clarifying the change and the exact contents of this motion."

Following the meeting of Council on 29 July 2021, Councillor Kirby requested some changes to the Motion (shown in bold in the revised Motion below) in order to reflect the importance of the Chief Executive's role as Electoral Registration Officer and the role's independence in light of the electoral law and Electoral Commission who are the legal source of authority on the existing rules.

Revised Motion:

Councillor A Kirby

"Freedom to vote by post

This Council believes that democracy is best secured by maximising electoral turnout and participation, as much as that democracy must start by more literally securing residents' votes.

It is therefore with regret that this Council notes the proportion of people voting by post in the Borough did not rise between 2019 and 2021, despite this year's elections being the first to be held since the arrival of Covid-19. Despite the understandable caution from residents around in-person events – and for many even medically-advised isolation – the proportion of local people voting by post in fact fell.

In light of these facts, this Council recognises its responsibility to better uphold and inspire democratic participation through challenging times.

This Council also recognises the importance and legal status of the fully independent Electoral Commission. **Equally this Council notes the importance of our independent Electoral Registration Officer, responsible for upholding the Electoral Commission's advice, and welcomes our new Chief Executive to this role.**

Recommendations of the Executive and Committees

This Council notes that Woking Borough is an outlier in asking residents already on the electoral register for photo-identification in order to support their application for a postal vote, contrary to official guidance and legal requirements as set out by the Electoral Commission.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- 1) **Support the Electoral Registration Officer in reflecting** the latest exact wording as **recommended** by the Electoral Commission on its own website, when describing the process of registering to vote by post, on all relevant communications whether in print, digital or in person.
- 2) Remove **from general council communications all other suggestion of restriction**, advice to follow legally unnecessary steps, or any other effective impediment created by the Council's advice or processes, on the ability of residents to register for a postal vote.
- 3) **Support the Electoral Registration Officer by proactively communicating the existing legal reality of postal registration** requirements to residents, via all Council-controlled media channels and to issue a public statement to all local media on behalf of this Full Council, **clarifying the exact contents of this motion.**"

Councillor Kirby spoke in support of the Motion. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Azad, advised that the matters raised by the Motion were the personal responsibility of the Returning Officer and that the Council was not able to determine or influence the process. The Executive was informed that the Returning Officer had undertaken a review of the practices and procedures in place and had concluded to no longer request electors to provide additional photo ID for applications to vote by post. Members were reminded that the extra steps had been adopted due to Woking being identified as an area where the risk of future allegations of electoral fraud was higher due to the previous confirmed case of proven fraud. The Executive was not supportive of Cllr Kirby's Motion in its current form but agreed that support for the actions taken by the Electoral Registration Officer be noted. It was therefore agreed to add to the Motion additional points 4) and 5), the amended Motion to read as follows:

"Freedom to vote by post

This Council believes that democracy is best secured by maximising electoral turnout and participation, as much as that democracy must start by more literally securing residents' votes.

It is therefore with regret that this Council notes the proportion of people voting by post in the Borough did not rise between 2019 and 2021, despite this year's elections being the first to be held since the arrival of Covid-19. Despite the understandable caution from residents around in-person events – and for many even medically-advised isolation – the proportion of local people voting by post in fact fell.

In light of these facts, this Council recognises its responsibility to better uphold and inspire democratic participation through challenging times.

This Council also recognises the importance and legal status of the fully independent Electoral Commission. Equally this Council notes the importance of our independent Electoral Registration Officer, responsible for upholding the Electoral Commission's advice, and welcomes our new Chief Executive to this role.

This Council notes that Woking Borough is an outlier in asking residents already on the electoral register for photo-identification in order to support their application for a postal vote, contrary to official guidance and legal requirements as set out by the Electoral Commission.

Recommendations of the Executive and Committees

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- 1) Support the Electoral Registration Officer in reflecting the latest exact wording as recommended by the Electoral Commission on its own website, when describing the process of registering to vote by post, on all relevant communications whether in print, digital or in person.
- 2) Remove from general council communications all other suggestion of restriction, advice to follow legally unnecessary steps, or any other effective impediment created by the Council's advice or processes, on the ability of residents to register for a postal vote.
- 3) Support the Electoral Registration Officer by proactively communicating the existing legal reality of postal registration requirements to residents, via all Council-controlled media channels and to issue a public statement to all local media on behalf of this Full Council, clarifying the exact contents of this motion.
- 4) Note the actions already taken by the Returning Officer in section 2 of her report to the Elections and Electoral Registration Panel dated 23 August 2021 in the matter of Absent Voter Registrations.
- 5) Continue to run elections with regard to the fundamental principles of elections open to all and free from fraud."

RECOMMENDED to Council

That the Motion, as amended by the Executive, be supported.

7C. REVIEW OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE CAPACITY STUDY AND DELIVERY PLAN - EAST OF THE BOROUGH AND BOROUGH-WIDE STUDY EXE21-062

Councillor Elson, Portfolio Holder for Planning Policy, introduced a report which recommended to Council the contents of the Infrastructure Capacity Study and Delivery Plan. It was noted that the Local Development Framework Working Group had considered the Plan at its meeting on 21 July 2021 and had been supportive. The Portfolio Holder explained that stakeholder involvement had been central to the preparation of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) and there had been ongoing involvement and partnership working with the relevant Infrastructure Providers.

The Executive was informed that the latest IDP was published in 2018 and that the revised IDP (2021) was intended to be published by the end of the year. It was noted that the IDP was a living document that would be regularly updated to take account of new information to ensure it continued to be robust in supporting the delivery of the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations DPD. It was explained that there was no action plan as there were no development proposals as yet.

It was suggested that Working Joint Committee's Infrastructure Task Group could be involved going forward.

Following a question regarding the Sheer House development in West Byfleet, the Executive was informed that Officers had been in discussion with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) about the impact on health resources.

RECOMMENDED to Council

That the contents of the Infrastructure Capacity Study and Delivery Plan be noted and approved.

Recommendations of the Executive and Committees

Reason: To ensure that there is an up to date IDP to enable the sustainable delivery of the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations DPD.

7D. REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT (DPD) EXE21-069

Councillor Elson, Portfolio Holder for Planning Policy, introduced a report which recommended to Council the approval of the review of the Development Management Policies DPD. The Executive was advised that the Council had a statutory duty to review its development plan documents at least once every five years. Councillor Elson reported that a review had been conducted and it was recommended that no immediate modification was required. Attention was drawn to paragraph 1.8 of the report which set out uncertainty caused by the Government's Planning White Paper and the 2021 Queen's Speech regarding laws to modernise the planning system. Officers would be monitoring the situation closely and would notify Members if the DPD needed to be modified in accordance with changes in national policy.

Discussion ensued on the consultation responses. It was noted that all the representations had been considered and many worthwhile comments had been received. However none of the responses had been significant enough to justify an immediate modification of the DPD.

Following a question regarding climate change, the Executive was informed that the Council had embarked upon a review of the Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and a draft of the SPD would be received by the Executive in due course.

RECOMMENDED to Council

- That (i) **the review of the Development Management Policies DPD, included in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;**
- (ii) **the Development Management Policies DPD continue to be up to date for the purposes of managing development across the Borough;**
- (iii) **the details of the review be published on the Council's website as soon as it is reasonable to do so after Council's approval; and**
- (iv) **authority be delegated to the Director of Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, to approve any minor changes to the review to reflect new information, including any national guidance before it is published.**

Reason: To enable the Council to meet its statutory duty to review the Development Management Policies Development Plan Document in accordance with paragraph 33 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

EXECUTIVE – 7 OCTOBER 2021

7E. WOKING SITE ALLOCATIONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT (DPD) – THE INSPECTOR’S FINAL REPORT

Set out below is an extract from the report before the Executive at its meeting on 7 October 2021. The draft minutes will be circulated once available after the meeting.

The Executive is requested to:

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That

- (i) the Local Development Framework (LDF) Working Group accepts that the Inspector’s Final Report is binding and that the Council has a binary choice to adopt the Inspector’s recommendations in full or not to adopt the DPD. Although in the main the DPD presents a sustainable way forward for the development of the borough taking into account housing requirements, elements of the Inspector’s Final Report are not what some Councillors and local residents would want. Notwithstanding this, it is clear that the failure to timely adopt the recommendations would result in a worse outcome for the borough as a whole. Taking into account the above and national planning policy, the Working Group recommends that the Inspector’s Final Report and the Main Modifications document be accepted by the Council in full;**
- (ii) subject to the Main Modifications recommended by the Inspector and the Council’s Additional Modifications, the Woking Site Allocations Development Plan Document and the Proposals Map be adopted in full for the purposes of development management and all other planning decisions;**
- (iii) the entire provisions of the Woking Site Allocations DPD (draft is in Appendix 4 to the report) and the Proposals Map (Appendix 3 to the report) should be given full weight for the purposes of development management and all other planning decisions;**
- (iv) delegated authority be given to the Director of Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, to make sure that the Inspector’s Main Modifications and the Council’s Additional Modifications are fully incorporated into the Site Allocations DPD. A draft of the DPD is in Appendix 4 to the report;**
- (v) delegated authority be given to the Director of Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, to oversee the preparation and publication of the post adoption Sustainability Appraisal Statement; and**
- (vi) delegated authority be given to the Director of Planning and Director of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, to ensure that the adoption process as set out in Section 8 (next stages) of the report is strictly followed.**

Reasons for Decision

Reason: To ensure the adoption of the Site Allocations DPD to provide the necessary framework for the sustainable distribution of development across the borough.

The Council has the authority to determine the recommendation(s) set out above.

LICENSING COMMITTEE – 5 OCTOBER 2021

7F. REVIEW OF LICENSING POLICY

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That

the Licensing Policy be adopted, as amended by the Licensing Committee at its meeting on 5 October 2021.

Background Papers: None.

Reporting Person: Julie Fisher, Chief Executive
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Giorgio Framalico, Director of Planning
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Geoff McManus, Director of Neighbourhood Services
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Joanne McIntosh, Director of Legal and Democratic Services
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Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ayesha Azad
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Councillor Debbie Harlow
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Recommendations of the Executive and Committees

Shadow Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ann-Marie Barker
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Councillor Ken Howard
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Councillor Deborah Hughes
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Date Published: 6 October 2021

COUNCIL – 14 OCTOBER 2021

STANDARDS HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEE – 29 SEPTEMBER 2021

Executive Summary

This report advises Council of a decision made by the Standards Hearings Sub-Committee on 29 September 2021.

Recommendations

The Council is requested to:

RESOLVE That the findings of the Standards Hearings Sub-Committee on 29 September 2021 be noted.

The Council has the authority to determine the recommendation set out above.

Background Papers: None.

Reporting Person: Joanne McIntosh, Monitoring Officer/Director of Legal and Democratic Services
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Contact Person: Joanne McIntosh, Monitoring Officer/Director of Legal and Democratic Services
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Portfolio Holder: Councillor A Azad
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Contact Person: Councillor A-M Barker
Email: cllrann-marie.barker@woking.gov.uk

Date Published: 6 October 2021

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report advises Council of a decision of the Standards Hearings Sub-Committee, on 29 September 2021, in respect of a complaint against David Bittleston during his time as a Councillor.

2.0 The Complaint

- 2.1 On 12 October 2020, Councillor Hughes submitted a complaint against Councillor Bittleston regarding the proceedings at the meeting of the Executive on 16 July 2020 and discourtesy towards the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and herself as Chairman of the Committee. The complaint was contained in an email to the Monitoring Officer.
- 2.2 In accordance with the Council's "Arrangements for Dealing with Standards Allegations under the Localism Act 2011" ("Arrangements"), on 26 October 2020, the Monitoring Officer considered that there was an arguable case that David Bittleston had breached the Members' Code of Conduct insofar as the proceedings at the meeting of the Executive on 16 July 2020 are concerned.
- 2.3 The Monitoring Officer considered that the "breach" merited a formal investigation under the Arrangements. The Monitoring Officer appointed Mr John Austin, an external investigator, to carry out the investigation.
- 2.4 Mr Austin concluded that David Bittleston had breached the Members' Code of Conduct.

3.0 Standards Hearings Sub-Committee

- 3.1 On 29 September 2021, the Council's Standards Hearings Sub-Committee conducted a local hearing to determine whether David Bittleston had breached the Members' Code of Conduct.
- 3.2 The Sub-Committee concluded that David Bittleston had failed to comply with the Members' Code of Conduct. The Sub-Committee decided to report its findings, for information, to Council at its meeting on 14 October 2021 and publish a notice in a local newspaper. The notice would read as follows:

"Following a complaint made by Councillor Hughes and a subsequent independent investigation, former leader of Woking Borough Council, David Bittleston was found at a local hearing of the Standards Hearings Sub-Committee to have breached the Council's Members Code of Conduct during a meeting of the Executive held on 16 July 2020 in that he failed to treat Councillor Hughes and the members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with respect contrary to paragraph 2.1 of the Code, and failed to maintain the high standards of conduct as set out in paragraph 1.3 of the Code in relation to integrity and leadership contrary to paragraph 2.2 of the Code.

Woking Borough Council takes breaches of the Code of Conduct seriously and in the interests of transparency the Standards Hearings Sub-Committee will report their findings to full Council."

REPORT ENDS

COUNCIL – 14 OCTOBER 2021

NOTICES OF MOTION

Executive Summary

The following Notices of Motion were received before the deadline following the publication of the Council agenda.

1. Councillor W Forster

“The Victoria Arch widening scheme has brought into focus that Woking's rail aggregates yard is in a completely unsuitable location.

The Council agrees to use its best endeavours to encourage Network Rail, Surrey County Council and other partners to move the aggregates yard to a more appropriate and non-residential location.”

2. Councillor S Ashall

“This Council recognises the profound suffering caused to laying hens through the use of cages in commercial egg production. It welcomes the Caged Laying (Prohibition) Bill - otherwise known as Beatrice's Bill - brought by Henry Smith MP to the House of Commons and resolves to write to Jonathan Lord MP to request his support for the Bill at its Second Reading on October 22.

“Furthermore, it recognises that in common with this Council's future ambitions for an Animal Welfare Policy agreed by the Executive in June and currently awaiting consultation, caged laying – and cages in general – should be included within this consultation and resulting debate.”

Background Papers: None.

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