



Woking Borough Council

Decisions taken by the Council on Thursday, 8 February 2024

The following decisions were made by Council on Thursday, 8 February 2024. This decision sheet is not intended to represent the formal record of the meeting. The formal minutes will be published in due course.

Should you have any questions about any decision that has been made, please email the Democratic Services Team at democratic.services@woking.gov.uk

Agenda Item	Decisions Taken
Part 1 – Items Considered in Public	
7.	<p>Petition - St Mary's Community Centre, Byfleet WBC24-010.</p> <p>The Council considered the following petition:</p> <p><i>“St Mary's Community Centre in Byfleet has been a haven for our elderly, frail, and vulnerable residents. The day care facilities include care and assistance from support staff, hot drinks and a hot midday meal, social and gentle exercise activities, and a return journey on the accessible Bustler bus.</i></p> <p><i>The services are vital in ensuring their well-being and social integration in our multigenerational community space. In addition, the community centre is more than just a facility; it represents familiarity and comfort for its users who have built relationships with staff members and other users of the building including families and children over the years.</i></p> <p><i>A sudden change in environment can be detrimental especially for those suffering from cognitive and physical impairments such as dementia and visual impairments. We, the undersigned, are opposed to the proposed relocation of the Elderly Day Centre Facilities away</i></p>

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		<p><i>from St Mary's Community Centre, Byfleet. We call on Woking Borough Council to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Reject the proposed plan to relocate the Elderly Day Care Facilities; and</i> 2. <i>Fully consult with local residents on any future proposals regarding to St Mary's Community Centre, Byfleet"</i> <p>Following the debate, the Council agreed that the petition should be welcomed and a proposal be brought to the meeting of Council on 4 March 2024 exploring the possibility of extending the services of St Mary's Centre beyond 31 March 2024 to provide additional time for local community organisations interested in providing future services at the Centre.</p>
9a.	Community Asset Transfer Policy EXE24-012.	The recommendation of the Executive for the adoption of the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Policy, which would enable local community organisations to run facilities which were not considered statutory services by the Government, was agreed.
9b.	General Fund Budget 2024-25 and Proposed Savings EXE24-001.	<p>The recommendations of the Executive in respect of the General Fund Budget for the coming year were debated and two additional recommendations were proposed as follows:</p> <p>“(iv) in accordance with paragraph 12.4, a hardship co-ordinator post is proposed. Subject to final agreement with Citizens Advice Woking the role will be employed by them. This post would be employed by CAW and funded by the Council. It would support the transition of CAW’s business model and create a network of support and advice, utilising the voluntary capacity in other charities and voluntary organisations across the borough. This will be funded to the value of £50,000 for 2024/25 from the provision made for hardship as a result of the level of Council Tax increase proposed.</p> <p>(v) this Council agrees to ask residents to voluntarily contribute to the Woking Community</p>

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		<p>Fund to support the Borough’s voluntary sector. The Woking Community Fund is managed independently by the Community Foundation for Surrey and works closely with the Council to understand resident needs. Residents will be asked to indicate whether their donation should go to particular priorities such as hardship advice, transport for the vulnerable or more general priorities.”</p> <p>The recommendations were agreed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the £8.4m of savings set out in Appendix 3b to the report be agreed; (ii) the Equality Impact Assessment and public consultation processes on the savings proposals that are summarised in Appendix 5 to the report, with detailed reports on each resident facing saving proposal, be noted as part of the decision-making process; (iii) it be noted a further report to Full Council on 4 March 2024 will receive a final report from the Director of Finance to finalise the treatment of the Council’s debt and Council Tax in 2024/25; (iv) in accordance with paragraph 12.4, a hardship co-ordinator post is proposed. Subject to final agreement with Citizens Advice Woking the role will be employed by them. This post would be employed by CAW and funded by the Council. It would support the transition of CAW’s business model and create a network of support and advice, utilising the voluntary capacity in other charities and voluntary organisations across the borough. This will be funded to the value of £50,000 for 2024/25 from the provision made for hardship as a result of the level of Council Tax increase proposed; and (v) this Council agrees to ask residents to voluntarily contribute to the Woking Community Fund to support the Borough’s voluntary sector. The Woking Community Fund is managed independently by the Community Foundation for Surrey and works closely with the Council to understand resident needs. Residents will be asked to indicate whether

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		<p>their donation should go to particular priorities such as hardship advice, transport for the vulnerable or more general priorities.</p>
<p>9c.</p>	<p>Housing Revenue Account Budgets 2024-25 EXE24-002.</p>	<p>The recommendations of the Executive in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budgets 2024-25 were agreed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Final Housing Revenue Account budgets for 2024- 25, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report received by the Executive, be agreed; and (ii) with effect from 1 April 2024, rents be increased by 7.7%.
<p>9d.</p>	<p>Capital Programme 2023-24 to 2027-28 EXE24-003.</p>	<p>The recommendations of the Executive in respect of the Capital Programme 2023-24 to 2027-28, setting out the investments required to deliver the Council’s key strategies and objectives over the period, were agreed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2027/28 be approved subject to reports on projects where appropriate; and (ii) the proposed financing arrangements be approved.
<p>9e.</p>	<p>Future of Brockhill EXE24-017.</p>	<p>The recommendations on the future of Brockhill Extra Care Housing, drawn up in view of the significant capital expenditure required on fire safety remedial works, a full heating system replacement and limited investment over the years, were agreed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the closure of Brockhill Extra Care Housing be agreed; (ii) the residents of Brockhill be offered suitable alternative accommodation which best meets their needs and preferences and be paid Statutory Home Loss and Disturbance

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		<p>payments, where eligible; and</p> <p>(iii) authority be delegated to the Strategic Director - Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, to make any further decisions required in respect of the closure.</p>
10.	Designation of Polling Place - Ward of Heathlands WBC24-009.	<p>The recommendations for changes to the designation of a polling place for the Barnsbury polling district (D5) in the Heathlands Ward were agreed as follows:</p> <p>(i) the Council's appreciation be expressed to The Lighthouse Barnsbury for its assistance in recent years; and</p> <p>(ii) the Woking Sportsbox be designated as the polling place for the Barnsbury polling district (D5) in the Heathlands Ward.</p>
11.	Appointment of Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer WBC24-004.	The Council agreed the appointment of Mr Stephen Fitzgerald as Strategic Director for Finance (Section 151 Officer).
12.	Appointment of Returning Officer WBC24-008.	<p>The Council agreed the appointment of a Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer, as follows:</p> <p>(i) Gareth John be appointed Electoral Registration Officer under Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 with effect from 9 February 2024; and</p> <p>(ii) Gareth John be appointed Returning Officer for local government elections under Section 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 with effect from 9 February 2024.</p>

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13.	Amendment to Calendar of Meetings WBC24-006.	It was agreed that the Calendar of meetings for 2024/25 would be amended with the removal of the Council meeting on 16 May 2024, with the items of business to be taken at the meeting on 20 May 2024, with the change to be incorporated in subsequent calendars of meetings.

Part 2 – Items Considered in Private

No items were considered in private.