



## Woking Borough Council

### Decisions taken by the Council on Thursday, 28 March 2024

The following decisions were made by Council on Thursday, 28 March 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](mailto:democratic.services@woking.gov.uk)

Agenda Item	Decisions Taken
<b>Part 1 – Items Considered in Public</b>	
<b>9a.</b>	The Improvement and Recovery Plan Progress - November 2023 to March 2024 EXE24-009
<b>9b.</b>	The third Improvement and Recovery Plan progress report to Commissioners, which outlined the progress achieved across the five themes of the Plan, was approved.
<b>10.</b>	Changes to the Constitution, necessary following the decision of the Executive to replace the Shareholder Advisory Group with the Shareholder Executive Committee, were agreed.
	Review of Council Meeting Structure WBC24-019
	The recommendations of the report proposing significant changes to the Council's Committee structure were agreed as follows:  (i) from 20 May 2024, the current Overview and Scrutiny Committee be disbanded and replaced by three, directorate specific Committees, each with responsibility for overview and scrutiny, namely the Resource and Finance Scrutiny Committee, the Communities and Housing Scrutiny Committee and the Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee;  (ii) Officers be instructed to draw up a Committee Responsibility Protocol for consideration

**Woking Borough Council – Decisions taken by the Council on Thursday, 28 March 2024**

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>at Council in the new Municipal Year;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(iii) from 20 May 2024, the Standards and Audit Committee be renamed the Audit and Governance Committee;</li> <li>(iv) annual training on audit and governance be made mandatory for the Members of the Committee;</li> <li>(v) the Audit and Governance Committee completes a review of its function by the end of each Municipal Year;</li> <li>(vi) an Employment Committee be constituted, to come into effect from 20 May 2024;</li> <li>(vii) Officers be instructed to draw up a protocol for the Group of Chairs for consideration at Council in the New Municipal Year;</li> <li>(viii) Officers be instructed to draw up a policy framework for decision-making for submission to Council in the new Municipal Year;</li> <li>(ix) from 20 May 2024, the Appeals Committee be disbanded;</li> <li>(x) the revised calendar of meetings for 2024/25, as set out in Annex 2 of the report, be adopted;</li> <li>(xi) the Working Groups and Panels as set out in Section 28 of the Annex 1 be disbanded from 1 May 2024;</li> <li>(xii) authority be delegated to the Strategic Director for Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, to determine any applications for Community Infrastructure</li> </ul>

**Woking Borough Council – Decisions taken by the Council on Thursday, 28 March 2024**

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>Levy funding below £10,000;</p> <p>(xiii) any outstanding pieces of work from the old Committee Structure, including Working Groups, be brought forward under the new arrangements;</p> <p>(xiv) a limit of four be placed on the total number of active task and finish groups operating at the Council at any one time unless exceptional circumstances exist as deemed by the Group of Chairs in consultation with Statutory Officers;</p> <p>(xv) the Monitoring Officer be instructed to make consequential amendments to the Constitution, the revised Constitution to be presented to Council on 20 May 2024; and</p> <p>(xvi) a joint Member-Officer review of the new structure be undertaken at the beginning of 2025, the outcomes to be reported to Council.</p>
11.	Annual Report by Council Representatives on Outside Bodies WBC24-015	The annual reports by those Councillors appointed to outside bodies on behalf of Woking Borough Council were noted.
12.	Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee WBC24-016.	The annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was noted.
13.	Annual Report of the Elections and Electoral Registration Review Panel WBC24-014.	The annual report of the Elections Panel, which set out the work carried out by Electoral Services including the annual canvas and the Borough elections held in May 2023, was received.
14.	Annual Report on Member Learning and Development WBC24-013.	The annual report on Elected Member training and development was agreed as follows:

**Woking Borough Council – Decisions taken by the Council on Thursday, 28 March 2024**

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Decision</b>
		<p>(i) the Elected Member learning and development activities of 2023/24 be noted; and</p> <p>(ii) the Policy for Elected Member Learning and Development, as set out in Appendix 2 to this report, be noted.</p>
<b>15.</b>	Pay Policy Statement 2024-25 WBC24-003.	The Council’s Pay Policy Statement, which covered a range of policies including the remuneration of chief officers and the lowest paid staff, was approved for publication.
<b>16a.</b>	Councillor P Graves - Climate and Ecology Bill.	<p>The motion submitted by Councillor Graves, subject to amendments raised at the meeting, was approved as follows:</p> <p>“This motion proposes that Woking Borough Council notes that:</p> <p>The Climate and Nature Bill was introduced in the House of Commons on 21 March 2024.</p> <p>The Bill is backed by cross-party MPs and Peers and local authorities.</p> <p>The Climate and Nature Bill requires the Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deliver an environmental plan for the climate and nature;</li> <li>2. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1.5°C to ensure emissions are reduced in line with the best chance of meeting the UK’s Paris Agreement obligations;</li> <li>3. Halt and reverse the decline in nature and set it measurably on the path to recovery by 2030;</li> <li>4. Take responsibility for our overseas carbon and industrial footprint</li> <li>5. Prioritise nature in decision-making and end fossil fuel production and imports as rapidly</li> </ol>

**Woking Borough Council – Decisions taken by the Council on Thursday, 28 March 2024**

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>as possible;</p> <p>6. Provide re-training for those people currently working in fossil fuel industries; and</p> <p>7. Give the British people a say in finding a fair way forward via a temporary, independent and representative Climate &amp; Nature Assembly, as part of creating consensus.</p> <p>And that Woking Council therefore resolves to:</p> <p>1. Support the Climate and Nature Bill;</p> <p>2. Inform residents and inform local media of this decision.</p> <p>3. Write to our MP to inform him that this motion has been passed, and urge him to sign up to support the Climate and Nature Bill;</p> <p>4. Write to Zero Hour, expressing WBC's support.”</p>

**Part 2 – Items Considered in Private**

No items were considered in private.