

MINUTES
OF A MEETING OF THE
BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WOKING

held on 13 February 2020

Present:

Cllr Mrs B A Hunwicks (Chair)
Cllr S Hussain (Vice-Chair)

Cllr M Ali	Cllr K Howard
Cllr S Ashall	Cllr D E Hughes
Cllr A Azad	Cllr I Johnson
Cllr T Aziz	Cllr C S Kemp
Cllr A-M Barker	Cllr R N Leach
Cllr D J Bittleston	Cllr L S Lyons
Cllr J E Bond	Cllr N Martin
Cllr A J Boote	Cllr R Mohammed
Cllr M A Bridgeman	Cllr L M N Morales
Cllr G G Chrystie	Cllr M I Raja
Cllr G S Cundy	Cllr C Rana
Cllr K M Davis	Cllr J R Sanderson
Cllr G W Elson	Cllr M A Whitehand
Cllr D Harlow	

Absent: Councillor W P Forster

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 5 December 2019 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor W Forster.

3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

The Mayor reported on the recent engagements she had attended, including school assemblies, the Holocaust Memorial Day, a production of Sister Act by the Winston Churchill School at the Rhoda McGaw Theatre, a new year party at The Vyne Centre, the opening of the new Welcome Church building, the awards ceremony for Best Bar None and local networking events.

4. URGENT BUSINESS.

No items of Urgent Business were considered.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, the Leader of the Council, Councillor D J Bittleston, Councillor A Azad, Councillor D Harlow and Councillor C S Kemp declared a non-pecuniary interest in any items under which the Thameswey Group of Companies was discussed, arising from their positions as Directors of the Thameswey Group of Companies. The interest was such that speaking and voting were permissible.

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor D J Bittleston declared a non-pecuniary interest in any items under which the Victoria Square Development was discussed, arising from his position as a Director of Victoria Square Woking Limited. The interest was such that speaking and voting were permissible.

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor D J Bittleston declared a non-pecuniary interest in any items under which Rutland Woking Limited was discussed, arising from his position as a Director of Rutland Woking Limited. The interest was such that speaking and voting were permissible.

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor G S Cundy declared a non-pecuniary interest in any items under which the Brookwood Cemetery was discussed, arising from his position as a Director of Woking Necropolis and Mausoleum Limited, Brookwood Park Limited and Brookwood Cemetery Limited. The interest was such that speaking and voting were permissible.

In accordance with Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Chief Executive, Ray Morgan, the Deputy Chief Executive, Douglas Spinks, the Head of Democratic and Legal Services, Peter Bryant, and the Director of Housing, Louise Strongitharm, declared a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) in any items under which the Thameswey Group of Companies was discussed, arising from their positions as Directors of the Thameswey Group of Companies. The interest was such that speaking was permissible.

In accordance with Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Chief Executive, Ray Morgan, declared a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) in any items under which the Victoria Square Development was discussed, arising from his position as a Director of Victoria Square Woking Limited. The interest is such that speaking was permissible.

In accordance with Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Chief Executive, Ray Morgan, and the Deputy Chief Executive, Douglas Spinks, declared a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) in any items under which Export House was discussed, arising from their positions as Directors of Export House Limited. The interest was such that speaking was permissible.

In accordance with Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Deputy Chief Executive, Douglas Spinks, and Head of Democratic and Legal Services, Peter Bryant, declared a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) in any items under which Brookwood Cemetery was discussed, arising from their positions as Directors of Woking Necropolis and Mausoleum Limited, Brookwood Park Limited and Brookwood Cemetery Limited. The interest was such that speaking was permissible.

In accordance with Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Head of Democratic and Legal Services, Peter Bryant, and the Finance Director, Leigh Clarke, declared a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) in any items under which Dukes Court was discussed, arising from their positions as Directors of Dukes Court Owner T S a r l. The interest was such that speaking was permissible.

In accordance with Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Head of Democratic and Legal Services, Peter Bryant, declared a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) in any items under which Rutland Woking Limited was discussed, arising from his position as Council appointed alternate Director of Rutland Woking Limited. The interest was such that speaking was permissible.

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor I Johnson declared an interest in respect of the Item 7 – Council Tax 2020-21 and Item 8 – Recommendations of the Executive insofar as references were made to Woking Football Club in the Investment Programme 2019-20 to 2023-24 and the Capital, Investment and Treasury Management Strategies. The interest arose from his wife's position as Chairman of Woking Football Club and was such that Councillor Johnson intended to leave the Chamber during the determination of the items. [NB. Due to the Council determining the recommendation before it "en-bloc" and without referring to Woking Football Club, it was not necessary for Councillor Johnson to leave the Chamber.]

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor D Hughes declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11 – Notices of Motion – Provision of Walk-in Health Service Provision in Woking – arising from her position on the Stakeholder Group. The interest was such that speaking and voting were permissible.

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor A-M Barker declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9 – Sheerwater Regeneration – arising from references to EY in the report and a family member's employment by EY. The interest was such that speaking and voting were permissible.

6. QUESTIONS.

Copies of questions submitted under Standing Order 8.1 together with draft replies were laid upon the table. The replies were confirmed by Members of the Executive, supplementary questions were asked and replies given.

7. COUNCIL TAX 2020/21 - WBC20-003.

The Mayor set out the procedure to be adopted in determining the Council Tax for 2020-21 and the Recommendations of the Executive. The Mayor would take the report on Council Tax first, together with the recommendations of the Executive on 6 February 2020 relating to the General Fund, Service Plans, Budgets and Prudential Indicators, Housing Revenue Account Budgets, the Investment Programme and the Capital, Investment and Treasury Management Strategies.

The remaining recommendations from the meeting of the Executive on 6 February 2020 would be considered once the Council Tax for 2020-21 had been determined. A procedure note had been prepared which clearly set out all the recommendations before the Council.

Councillor D J Bittleston moved and Councillor A Azad seconded the reception and adoption of the report and recommendations of the meeting of the Executive held on 6 February 2020.

GENERAL FUND, SERVICES PLANS, BUDGETS AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2020-21, HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGETS 2020-21, INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2019-20 TO 2023-24, CAPITAL, INVESTMENT AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND COUNCIL TAX 2020-21

The Council had before it the recommendations of the Executive for the General Fund, Service Plans, Budgets and Prudential Indicators 2020-21, Housing Revenue Account Budgets 2020-21, Investment Programme 2019-20 to 2023-24, and Capital, Investment and Treasury Management Strategies. A report on the 2020-21 Council Tax was also before the Council.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor D J Bittleston, made a statement on the Budget for 2020-21. Councillor A-M Barker, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor T Aziz, Leader of the Labour Group, and Councillor J Bond, Leader of the Independent Group, were invited to respond to the budget statement.

The recommendations before the Council were agreed unanimously.

GENERAL FUND, SERVICE PLANS, BUDGETS AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2020-21

RESOLVED

- That (i) the Revenue Estimates and Human Resource requirements for 2020/21 be approved;
- (ii) a Band D Council Tax for the Borough of Woking for 2020/21 of £245.46 be approved;
- (iii) the charge for overnight car parking in the town centre car parks be amended to apply from 6pm from 1 April 2020;
- (iv) a long-term empty premium of 200% be added to the Council Tax payable for properties empty and substantially unfurnished for between 5 and 10 years from April 2020, and of 300% to be added to the Council Tax payable for properties empty and substantially unfurnished for over 10 years from April 2021;
- (v) the Prudential Indicators at Appendix 3 to the report be approved, subject to any changes arising from consideration of the Investment Programme, revenue budgets and Final Government Settlement;
- (vi) the Service Plans for 2020/21 at Appendix 4 to the report be approved; and
- (vii) the Food Safety Plan and Health and Safety Plan at Appendix 4a and 4b to the report be approved.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGETS 2020-21

RESOLVED

- That (i) the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved; and
- (ii) with effect from 6 April 2020, rents be increased by 2.7%.

INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2019-20 TO 2023-24

RESOLVED

- That (i) the Investment Programme 2019/20 to 2023/24 be approved subject to reports on projects where appropriate;
- (ii) the proposed financing arrangements be approved;
- (iii) additional loan facility of £500,000 to Thamesway Energy Ltd be approved on the same basis as previous loans; and
- (iv) capital and revenue grants for Brookwood Cemetery for 2021/22 be approved.

CAPITAL, INVESTMENT AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

RESOLVED

- That (i) the Capital and Investment Strategies for 2020/21 be approved; and
- (ii) the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators set out in table 1 of Section 4 of the Treasury Management Strategy and the MRP policy set out in Appendix A be approved, subject to any changes arising from consideration of the Investment Programme, revenue budgets and Revenue Support Grant Settlement.

COUNCIL TAX 2020-21

RESOLVED

- That (i) the revenue estimates for 2020/21, as submitted, be approved.
- (ii) it be noted that the Chief Financial Officer, in accordance with the terms of his delegated authority, has calculated the following amount for the year 2020/21 in accordance with regulations made under Section 31B (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended (the Act) as:-

- a) 41,579.79 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax base for the year;
- (iii) the Council calculates that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2020/21 is £10,206,334.
- (iv) the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2020/21 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:-
- a) £158,729,706 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act;
- b) £148,523,372 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act;
- c) £10,206,334 being the amount by which the aggregate at 4 a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4 b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year;
- d) £245.46 being the amount at 4 c) above divided by the amount at 2 a) 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;
- (v) it be noted for the year 2020/21 Surrey County Council and Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner have issued precepts to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings in the Council's area as shown in the table below.
- (vi) the Council, in accordance with Section 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of council tax for the year 2020/21 for its area and for each of the categories of dwellings :-

Valuation Band	Surrey County Council Basic £	Adult Social Care £	Total Surrey County Council £	Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner £	Woking Borough Council £	Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements £
A	920.00	87.64	1,007.64	180.38	163.64	1,351.66
B	1,073.33	102.25	1,175.58	210.44	190.91	1,576.93
C	1,226.67	116.85	1,343.52	240.51	218.19	1,802.22
D	1,380.00	131.46	1,511.46	270.57	245.46	2,027.49
E	1,686.67	160.67	1,847.34	330.70	300.01	2,478.05
F	1,993.33	189.89	2,183.22	390.82	354.55	2,928.59
G	2,300.00	219.10	2,519.10	450.95	409.10	3,379.15
H	2,760.00	262.92	3,022.92	541.14	490.92	4,054.98

- (vii) the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2020/21 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52 ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE - WBC20-004.

The remaining recommendations from the Executive held on 7 February 2019, aside from those considered as part of the Council Tax 2020-21 recommendations, were before the Council.

EXECUTIVE – 6 FEBRUARY 2020

RECOMMENDATION FROM CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP – CLIMATE EMERGENCY – PLANNING FOR CARBON NEUTRALITY

Councillor Davis, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, introduced the recommendations from the Climate Change Working Group to accelerate the existing Working 2050 Strategy and work towards achieving carbon neutrality across the Council's estate and operations by 2030. The proposals were welcomed by the Council and it was

RESOLVED

- That (i) officers be authorised to implement initial actions for 2019/20 and 2020/21 as recommended in the report; and
- (ii) delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director (Place) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and Shadow Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability to agree new actions as they are identified.

HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY

Councillor Harlow, Portfolio Holder for Housing, introduced the recommendations of the Executive which proposed the adoption of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2024. The joint working on the development of the Strategy was noted and the proposals were welcomed by the Council.

RESOLVED

- That (i) the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2024 be approved; and
- (ii) the Director of Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, be delegated authority to make minor amendments to the Strategy and to update the action plan as required.

HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND – FUNDING ALLOCATION OF £95MILLION TO WOKING TOWN CENTRE

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Bittleston, introduced the recommendations of the Executive which had been drawn up following the successful Housing Infrastructure Fund bid made by Surrey County Council in conjunction with Woking Borough Council. The recommendations proposed that the £95m grant awarded to the Borough Council by Homes England should be accepted. This would require the Council to enter into a contract with Homes England and be bound by its obligations.

Councillor Lyons drew attention to recommendation (v) and advised that he would not be supporting the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders on a matter of principle. Councillor Morales moved and Councillor Aziz seconded an amendment to delete the wording “and land required for development sites as outlined in the bid, if not brought forward by current owners” from recommendation (v), resulting in a revised recommendation (v) as follows:

“the Council commits to use reasonable endeavours, including use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers, to acquire the Triangle site, land required for the replacement of Victoria Arch, land required for widening of the A320;”

Councillor Morales explained that she was concerned the proposal would place a requirement on Woking Borough Council to purchase the sites, resulting in significant future debts for the Authority. The Chief Executive explained that all costs associated with the sites would be met by developers, not Woking Borough Council, and that the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders would only be considered in the event the developers were unable to secure the purchase of the sites from the existing owners. Furthermore, it was made clear to the Council that the proposed amendment would result in the loss of the £95m funding offered by Homes England.

Following clarification by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, and in accordance with Standing Order 10.8, the names of Members voting for and against the amendment were recorded.

In favour: Councillors M Ali, T Aziz, L Morales and M I Raja.

Total in favour: 4

Against: Councillors S Ashall, A Azad, A-M Barker, D Bittleston, J Bond, A Boote, M Bridgeman, G Chrystie, G Cundy, K Davis, G Elson, D Harlow, K Howard, D Hughes, S Hussain, I Johnson, C Kemp, R Leach, N Martin, R Mohammed, C Rana, J Sanderson and M Whitehand.

Total against: 23

Present not voting: Councillor L Lyons

Total present not voting: 1

The amendment was therefore lost by 4 votes in favour to 23 votes against.

The Council was directed to recommendation (v) as set out in the report before them and in accordance with Standing Order 10.8, the names of Members voting for and against recommendation (v) were recorded.

In favour: Councillors S Ashall, A Azad, D Bittleston, J Bond, A Boote, M Bridgeman, G Chrystie, G Cundy, K Davis, G Elson, D Harlow, K Howard, D Hughes, S Hussain, I Johnson, C Kemp, R Leach, N Martin, R Mohammed, C Rana, J Sanderson and M Whitehand.

Total in favour: 22

Against: Councillors M Ali, T Aziz, L Lyons, L Morales and M I Raja.

Total against: 5.

Present not voting: Councillor A-M Barker.

Total present not voting: 1

The recommendation was therefore carried by 22 votes in favour to 5 votes against.

RESOLVED

That (v) the Council commits to use reasonable endeavours, including use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers, to acquire the Triangle site, land required for the replacement of Victoria Arch, land required for widening of the A320, and land required for development sites as outlined in the bid, if not brought forward by current owners;

The remaining recommendations before the Council, (i) to (iv) and (vi) to (viii) were then put to the Council and agreed nem con.

RESOLVED

That (i) the £95m grant awarded to the Council by Homes England be accepted, and that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to agree the terms of the contract in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder, and to undertake necessary prerequisite work to develop the project;

(ii) the Council accepts that it will be responsible for any project cost overruns;

(iii) any underspend of the grant award, and/or any surplus funds from the sale of the Triangle site, will be made available to fund project cost overruns, with any balance to be reinvested into local infrastructure that supports housing delivery;

(iv) the Council authorises advance funding of £10m, in the form of a 15 year annuity loan from the PWLB for the scheme, to be recovered from a proportion of Community Infrastructure Levy and from site specific S.106 tariffs, over the next 15 years;

(vi) the Council commits to the delivery of homes, as outlined in the bid, on the sites owned by it or its subsidiary Thamesway;

(vii) the Council approves the Recovery Strategy set out at Appendix 7 to the report; and

(viii) the Deputy Chief Executive be authorised to undertake a review of Community Infrastructure Levy and to establish a Section 106 Tariff for town centre infrastructure associated with the HIF project.

9. SHEERWATER REGENERATION - WBC20-001.

The Council had before it a report on the Sheerwater Regeneration scheme. The report sought the Council's approval of four matters concerning the scheme, namely:

- the funding of the scheme;
- the giving of an undertaking in respect of the affordable housing forming part of the scheme;
- an update on progress towards making the proposed Compulsory Purchase Order and confirmation of the Council's commitment to make the Order; and
- the authorisation of the Housing Director, in consultation with the Housing Portfolio Holder and Head of Democratic and Legal Services, to seek possession of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) properties when required for the scheme.

A supplementary report on the Executive Undertakings relating to the development had been circulated following the publication of the agenda. The supplementary report set out amended recommendations to include the Executive Undertakings.

Following the introduction of the report by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Barker moved and Councillor Aziz seconded an amendment to the recommendations, namely to include an additional recommendation (ii) as follows:

- “a. financial performance to be reviewed by the Sheerwater Regeneration Oversight Panel at each phase;
- b. a mid-project assessment to be carried out. This will look at market conditions and performance to-date on the project to inform the final stages, be reported to the Sheerwater Regeneration Oversight Panel and agreed by Council; and
- c. no reduction in the proportion of social affordable homes without Council agreement.”

The amendment was agreed nem con following which the Council was invited to agree the recommendations set out in the supplementary report. The remaining recommendations were agreed nem con.

RESOLVED

That (i) the Loan Finance for the delivery of the Sheerwater Regeneration scheme, as summarised below, be approved;

	Facility £m	Term	Type	Rate	Arrangement fee
Thameswey Developments	115	Up to 5	Maturity	relevant	No

Ltd (during construction)		years		PWLB rate	
Thamesway Housing Ltd (until construction complete)	290	Up to 5 years	Maturity	relevant PWLB rate	No
Thamesway Housing Ltd Operational	290	50 years	Annuity	relevant PWLB rate	No
Thamesway Housing Ltd Revolving Loan facility	116	Up to 30 years	Maturity	relevant PWLB rate	No
Thamesway Energy Ltd	5.25	20 years	Annuity	relevant PWLB rate	No

- (ii) (a) financial performance to be reviewed by the Sheerwater Regeneration Oversight Panel at each phase;
- (b) a mid-project assessment to be carried out. This will look at market conditions and performance to-date on the project to inform the final stages, be reported to the Sheerwater Regeneration Oversight Panel and agreed by Council; and
- (c) no reduction in the proportion of social affordable homes without Council agreement.”
- (iii) following consideration of the matters contained in this report relating to the proposed compulsory purchase order:-
 - (a) Council re-affirms its commitment to using its compulsory purchase powers as set out in Section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to compulsorily purchase the Order Land, and
 - (b) authority is delegated to the Head of Democratic and Legal Services to settle the final form and content of the Order and all associated documentation so that a final decision on the making of the Order can be made at the Council meeting on 2 April 2020.
- (iv) authority is delegated to the Director of Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and the Head of Democratic and Legal Services to seek, at the appropriate time, possession (under the Housing Act 1985) of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) properties within the Sheerwater Regeneration Area;
- (v) Council shall procure that the affordable housing Executive Undertakings in respect of the Sheerwater Regeneration Scheme, as set out in paragraph 1.4 of the supplementary report to Council dated 13 February 2020, are complied with, and

- (vi) authority is delegated to the Chief Executive to give an Executive Undertaking if the Planning Committee requires changes to the Executive Undertakings set out in paragraph 1.4 of the supplementary report to Council dated 13 February 2020.

10. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2020-21 AND GENDER PAY GAP DATA - WBC20-002.

Councillor Bittleston introduced the report on the Pay Policy Statement for 2020/21 and the gender pay gap data, noting that the gender pay gap data was based on the snap-shot date of 31 March 2019.

RESOLVED

- That (i) the Pay Policy Statement be approved for publication;
- (ii) the Gender Pay Gap data be approved for publication; and
- (iii) the Ethnicity Pay Gap data be noted.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION.

Councillor A-M Barker

Councillor Barker moved and Councillor Morales seconded the following motion, proposing that the Motion should be determined on the night rather than referred to the next meeting of the Executive in accordance with Standing Order 5.7.

“Provision of Walk in health service provision in Woking

Council notes that

- Woking Walk in Centre is a much valued local health facility.
- North West Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group is currently reviewing provision of urgent care and walk in facilities across the area.
- NHS England policy is towards a model of GP led services at Urgent Treatment Centres.
- A number of options for walk in health provision are under consideration for North West Surrey but in several scenarios Woking would no longer have a Walk in facility in the borough.

Council understands that

- No decisions on future walk in provision have been made
- Consultation will take place before any changes are made to local walk in provision

Council instructs

The Chief Executive to write to North West Surrey CCG highlighting:

- The huge value this Council and local residents place on the Walk in Centre.
- The number of new properties being built or planned in the town centre that will put additional pressure on existing GP services.
- The need to fully involve the Council and local residents in any proposals to change current walk in provision for the borough.”

In receiving the Notice of Motion, the Mayor drew the Council’s attention to a supplementary report which had been tabled at the meeting. The Supplementary Report advised that, in view of the public interest in the matter, the Executive had at its meeting on 6 February 2020 agreed that the Leader of the Council would write to the North West Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group. A copy of the letter, together with the reply from the CCG, was attached to the report.

Councillor Barker spoke in support of the motion and confirmed that the proposal for the Chief Executive to write to the CCG highlighting the concerns of the Council should stand. Following discussion of the motion, it was agreed that the motion should be supported and that the action taken by the Leader of the Council noted.

RESOLVED

- That (i) the motion be supported; and
- (ii) the action taken in respect of the future of the Walk In Centre be noted.

Councillor A-M Barker

The following motion was moved by Councillor Barker and seconded by Councillor Leach and referred to the Executive on 26 March 2020 in accordance with Standing Order 5.7.

“Fireworks

A number of councillors have been contacted by residents in relation to the RSPCA initiative to reduce the impact of fireworks and Sky Lanterns on animals, and have asked their Council to support a motion to support measures which will help ensure people can enjoy fireworks responsibly whilst minimising the risk to animal welfare, horses, farm animals and wildlife and residents.

Woking Council can play its part in this by direct action or by lobbying other Government departments and retailers to play their part. Accordingly, the Council resolves to:

- Request all publicly organised firework displays within the Woking area to be advertised on the Woking Council website in advance of the event, so that everyone can enjoy the celebrations and residents are able to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.
- Actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.
- Write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private display.

- Encourage trading standards to enforce more rigorously the regulations of the selling of fireworks both in terms of age appropriateness, licencing and CE markings.”

Councillor G G Chrystie

The following motion was moved by Councillor Chrystie and seconded by Councillor Hughes and referred to the Executive on 26 March 2020 in accordance with Standing Order 5.7.

“Confidential Reporting at Council & Committees

Following upon various issues arising recently and current apparent paucity of member involvement it is proposed that adjustments are made to the current classification practice as follows :

1. Member input is vital and the Monitoring Officer must consult the Council Leader and Leader of the Opposition prior to making a decision upon a Part 2 designation.
2. In all cases where there is a statutory requirement for confidentiality then the Monitoring Officer’s recommendation shall be automatically endorsed by the said 2 Councillors.
3. The principle guiding Part 2 designations must be transparency is required unless there is a substantial material commercial reason for confidentiality.
4. All matters deemed subject to Part 2 must be regularly reviewed and as soon as possible an item must be declassified (unless there is a statutory bar on declassification).

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Mayor advised that the recommendations in respect of the Housing Infrastructure Fund had been determined earlier in the meeting, and that it would therefore not be necessary to hold any discussions under Part II of the agenda (press and public excluded).

13. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE - HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND – FUNDING ALLOCATION OF £95MILLION TO WOKING TOWN CENTRE - WBC20-004.

This item had been included on the agenda to enable any Members of the Council, should they wish, to discuss information set out in the confidential supporting information on the Housing Infrastructure Fund - Funding Allocation of £95Million to Woking Town Centre which was considered by the Executive at its meeting on 6 February 2020.

No requests to discuss the confidential supporting information were received and accordingly no discussion took place under Part II of the agenda.

14. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2020/21

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor A-M Barker, announced the intention to nominate Councillor Liam Lyons as Deputy Mayor for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

The meeting commenced at 7pm
and ended at 10.45

Chairman: _____

Date: _____