

MINUTES
OF A MEETING OF THE
BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WOKING

held on 22 May 2023

Present:

Cllr M I Raja (Chairman)
Cllr L Morales (Vice-Chair)

Cllr H Akberali	Cllr I Johnson
Cllr T Aziz	Cllr A Kirby
Cllr A-M Barker	Cllr R Leach
Cllr A Boote	Cllr L Lyons
Cllr J Brown	Cllr C Martin
Cllr A Caulfield	Cllr J Morley
Cllr G Cosnahan	Cllr S Mukherjee
Cllr K Davis	Cllr E Nicholson
Cllr S Dorsett	Cllr S Oades
Cllr W Forster	Cllr L Rice
Cllr P Graves	Cllr D Roberts
Cllr S Greentree	Cllr T Spenser
Cllr A Javaid	Cllr M Sullivan

Also Present: Claire Storey, Independent Co-Opted Member

Absent: Councillors S Hussain and D Jordan.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Hussain and Councillor Jordan.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

In accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Chief Executive, Julie Fisher, declared a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) in any items concerning the companies of which she was a Council-appointed director. The companies were listed in an attached schedule. The interests were such that Mrs Fisher could advise on those items.

In accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Strategic Director - Corporate Resources, Kevin Foster declared a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) in any items concerning the companies of which he was a Council-appointed director. The companies were listed in an attached schedule. The interests were such that Mr Foster could advise on those items.

In accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Strategic Director - Communities, Louise Strongitharm, declared a disclosable personal interest (non-pecuniary) in any items concerning the companies of which she was a Council-appointed

director. The companies were listed in an attached schedule. The interests were such that Mrs Strongitharm could advise on those items.

3. URGENT BUSINESS.

No items of Urgent Business were considered.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor reported that, following his election as Mayor on 18 May 2023, he had attended his first engagement on the weekend at Christ Church to see the work of the Turning Point Trust. The Trust supported vulnerable families and children living in Kibera in Kenya.

The Mayor referred to forthcoming engagements including the American Armed Forces Day at Brookwood Cemetery on 28 May, a dinner at the Chobham Golf Club and the funeral of Paul Russell, former Chief Executive of Woking Borough Council.

5. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT.

The Leader, Councillor Barker, made a statement on her approach for the forthcoming year and advised that the Executive for 2023/24 would comprise Councillor Forster as Deputy Leader, and Councillors Graves, Johnson, Lyons, Nicholson and Roberts.

Councillor Davis, Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Aziz, Leader of the Labour Group, and Councillor Boote, Leader of the Independent Group, were given the opportunity to respond to Councillor Barker's statement.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND/OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

No announcements were received.

7. POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL 2023/24 WBC23-022.

Formal notices had been received which had the effect of dividing the Council into political groups. The composition of the Council was as follows:

Liberal Democrat	20
Conservative	4
Labour	3
Independent	3

In addition, notification had been received of the Members to act as Group Leader and Deputy Group Leader of each political group as follows:-

	Group Leader	Deputy Group Leader
Liberal Democrat	Councillor Barker	Councillor Forster
Conservative	Councillor Davies	Councillor Brown
Labour	Councillor T Aziz	Councillor Javaid
Independent	Councillor A Boote	Councillor D Jordan

RESOLVED

That the report be received.

8. SELECTION PANEL WBC23-021.

The Committee received a report which set out the recommendations from Selection Panel which had met on 16 May 2023.

RESOLVED

That (i) the proportions for each Committee and Sub-Committee be settled as follows:

Committee	Lib Dem	Con	Lab	Ind
Appeals (3)	2	0	1	0
Licensing (10)	7	1	1	1
Overview and Scrutiny (10)	6	2	1	1
Planning (10)	7	1	1	1
Standards and Audit (6)	4	1	0	1

Sub-Committee	Lib Dem	Con	Lab	Ind
Licensing Sub-Cttee A (3)	2	1	0	0
Licensing Sub-Cttee B (3)	2	0	1	0
Taxi Licensing Sub-Cttee (6)	4	1	1	0
Standards Panel (4)	3	0	0	1

(ii) the HIF Housing Outputs Panel be disbanded;

- (iii) the membership of the Military Covenant Advisory Panel be increased by 1, creating a Panel of 7 Members;
- (iv) the proportions for each Group be settled as follows:

Working Groups Under the Remit of Council

Working Group	Lib Dem	Con	Lab	Ind
Appointments Panel (5)	3	1	1	0
Corporate Governance WG (3)	2	1	0	0
Freedom of the Borough WG (6)	5	0	0	1
Military Covenant Adv. Panel (7)	4	1	1	1
Sheerwater Regen. Delivery and Oversight Board (7)	4	1	1	1

Working Groups Under the Remit of the Executive

Working Group	Lib Dem	Con	Lab	Ind
Greener Woking WG (8)	5	2	1	0
Joint Infrastructure WG (7)	4	1	1	1
Leisure Partnership Board (5)	4	1	0	0
Local Dev. Framework WG (7)	4	1	1	1
Neighbourhood CIL WG (6)	3	1	1	1
Safer Woking Partnership (4)	3	0	0	1
UK Shared Prosperity Fund (2)	2	0	0	0
Woking Wellbeing Group (4)	3	0	0	1

Working Groups Under the Remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Working Group	Lib Dem	Con	Lab	Ind
Economic Development WG (7)	5	1	1	0
Finance WG (7)	4	1	1	1
HIF WG (7)	5	1	0	1
Housing Working Group (7)	4	1	1	1

(v) the proportions for each appointment be settled as follows:

		Lib Dem	Con	Lab	Ind
Ashford & St Peters Hospital NHS Trust (3 years to 2025)	1 rep	1			
Basingstoke Canal Jt Management Cttee (1 year)	2 reps	1	1		
	2 subs	1			1
Countryside Partnership Board. Sub appointed to the Local Liaison Group (1 year)	1 rep	1			
	1 sub		1		
Fairoaks Airport Consultative Cttee (1 year).	1 rep	1			
	1 sub	1			
Farnborough Airport Consultative Cttee (1 year).	1 rep	1			
	1 sub	1			

Friends of Woking Palace (1 year)	1 rep	1			
Maybury Centre Trust (4 years to 2026 and 2027 respectively)	2 reps	1 (2026)		1 (2027)	
Nat. Parking Adjud. Service Jt Cttee (2 years to 2025)	1 rep	1			
	1 sub	1			
Police & Crime Panel (1 year)	1 rep	1			
ShopMobility (1 year)	1 rep	1			
	1 sub				1
SE Employers (1 year)	1 rep	1			
	1 sub		1		
Sport Woking (1 year)	2 reps	1		1	
Surrey County Playing Fields Assoc. (1 year)	1 rep	1			
Sutton Green Village Hall Man. Cttee (1 year)	2 reps inc. 1 Ward Cllr	1	1		
Woking Access Group (1 year)	2 reps	1		1	
Woking Cty	2 observers	1		1	

Transport (1 year)					
Working People of Faith (5 years to 2026)	1 rep	1			
Working Youth Council (1 year)	2 reps	1	1		
	1 sub				1

(vi) Councillor Guy Cosnahan be appointed the Council's Armed Forces Champion for the 2023/24 Municipal Year; and

(vii) Councillor Amanda Boote be appointed the substitute member for the Armed Forces Champion for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

9. CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES 2023/24 WBC23-023.

The Council had before it a document setting out the proposed memberships of the Committees for the coming year.

RESOLVED

That Membership of the Committees for 2023/24, as set out below, be agreed.

Appeals Committee	Cllr Aziz Cllr Morley	Cllr Caulfield
Licensing Committee	Cllr Caulfield Cllr Hussain Cllr Javaid Cllr Jordan Cllr Leach	Cllr Martin Cllr Morley Cllr Rice Cllr Spenser Cllr Sullivan
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Akberali Cllr Brown Cllr Caulfield Cllr Davis Cllr Javaid	Cllr Kirby Cllr Leach Cllr Morley Cllr Rice Cllr Sullivan
Planning Committee	Cllr Aziz Cllr Cosnahan Cllr Dorsett Cllr Greentree Cllr Jordan	Cllr Martin Cllr Morales Cllr Mukherjee Cllr Oades Cllr Spenser

Standards and Audit Committee	Cllr Akberali Cllr Brown Cllr Caulfield Mrs C Storey, Independent Co-Opted Member	Cllr Cosnahan Cllr Greentree Cllr Oades
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10. APPOINTMENTS TO WORKING GROUPS 2023/24 WBC23-024.

The Council had before it a document setting out the proposed memberships of the Working Groups under the remit of Council for the coming year.

RESOLVED

That membership of the Working Groups for 2023/24, as set out below, be agreed.

Appointments Panel	Cllr Aziz Cllr Barker Cllr Davis	Cllr Forster Cllr Roberts
Corporate Governance Working Group	Cllr Caulfield Cllr Davis	Cllr Greentree
Freedom of the Borough Working Group	Cllr Boote Cllr Forster Cllr Johnson	Cllr Leach Cllr Lyons Cllr Sullivan
Military Covenant Advisory Panel	Cllr Boote Cllr Cosnahan Cllr Hussain Cllr Martin	Cllr Raja Cllr Spenser Cllr Sullivan
Sheerwater Regeneration Delivery and Oversight Panel	Cllr Boote Cllr Dorsett Cllr Forster Cllr Javaid	Cllr Johnson Cllr Lyons Cllr Sullivan

11. APPOINTMENTS TO AD HOC BODIES AND EX OFFICIO POSITIONS 2023/24 WBC23-025.

The Council was asked to agree the appointments to Ad Hoc Bodies and to receive the list of Ex Officio appointments. In respect of the appointments available through the Surrey Leaders' Group, the Council noted that three nominations had been received.

RESOLVED

That (i) appointments to Ad Hoc Bodies as set out below be agreed;

Ashford & St Peters Hospital NHS Trust (1 rep, 3	Cllr Nicholson (2025)
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years to 2025)	
Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Cttee (2 reps, 1 year plus 2 subs, 1 year)	Cllr Davis Cllr Leach (Cllr Jordan) (Cllr Mukherjee)
Countryside Partnership Board (1 rep, 1 year plus 1 sub, 1 year). Substitute appointed to the Local Liaison Group.	Cllr Graves (Cllr Davis)
Fairoaks Airport Consultative Cttee (1 rep, 1 year plus 1 sub, 1 year).	Cllr Morley (Cllr Sullivan)
Farnborough Airport Consultative Cttee (1 rep, 1 year plus 1 sub, 1 year)	Cllr Barker (Cllr Sullivan)
Friends of Woking Palace (1 rep, 1 year)	Cllr Barker
Maybury Centre (2 reps, four years to 2026 and 2023 respectively)	Cllr Graves (2026) Cllr Aziz (2027)
National Parking Adjudications Service Joint Cttee (1 rep, 2 years, plus 1 sub, 2 years to 2023)	Cllr Barker (2025) (Cllr Roberts) (2025)
Police and Crime Panel (1 rep, 1 year)	Cllr Nicholson
ShopMobility (1 rep, 1 year plus 1 sub, 1 year)	Cllr Barker (Cllr Jordan)
South East Employers (1 rep, 1 year plus 1 sub, 1 year)	Cllr Barker (Cllr Davis)
Sport Woking (formerly Woking Sports Council) (2 reps, 1 year)	Cllr Aziz Cllr Martin
Surrey County Playing Fields Association (1 rep, 1 year)	Cllr Nicholson
Sutton Green Village Hall Management Cttee (2 reps, 1 year, 1 to be local Ward Cllr, 1 to be a Member of WBC)	Cllr Davis Cllr Rice
Woking Access Group (2 reps, 1 year)	Cllr Barker Cllr Javaid
Woking Community Transport (2 observers, 1 year)	Cllr Rice Cllr Aziz
Woking People of Faith (1 rep, 5 years to 2026)	Cllr Morales (2026)
Woking Youth Council (2 reps, 1 year plus 1	Cllr Brown Cllr Leach

substitute, 1 year)	(Cllr Akberali)
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- (ii) the schedule of Ex Officio appointments as set out below be noted; and

Allotments Consultation Group Deputy Mayor to act as judge at the Annual Allotments Competition.
Asset Management – Lead Member Portfolio Holder for Asset Management.
Children & Young People – Lead Member Portfolio Holder for Cultural and Community Development.
Elected Member Development – Lead Member Appropriate Portfolio Holder.
Elections Panel Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders and Independent Co-Opted Member.
Joint Cttee for Oversight of Delivery of Surrey Public Authority Services Leader of the Council or their nominee.
Ostensible Authority Standing Panel Leader of the Council and two nominees.
Resident Engagement – Lead Member Appropriate Portfolio Holder.
Safeguarding – Lead Member Appropriate Portfolio Holder.
Selection Panel Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders.
Shareholder Advisory Group Members of the Executive & Independent Co-Opted Member. Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee invited to attend as an observer.
Sheerwater Regeneration – Lead Member Appropriate Portfolio Holder.
Surrey Climate Change Partnership Members Group

Portfolio Holder for Climate Change.
Surrey Waste Partnership Portfolio Holder for Waste and Recycling.
Surrey Waste Partnership – Joint Waste Collection Services Cttee Portfolio Holder for Waste and Recycling.
Transport – Lead Member Appropriate Portfolio Holder.
Woking Chamber of Commerce Leader of the Council or their nominee.
Woking Community Fund Panel Portfolio Holder for the Voluntary Sector.
Woking Palace Consultative Panel Ward Members for Hoe Valley & Portfolio Holder for Planning.
Woking Place Board Leader of the Council.
Woking Strategic Partnership Board Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition.

- (iii) the nominations for appointments available through the Surrey Leaders' Group be supported as follows:

Countryside Access Forum (3 years to June 2026.)	Cllr Graves
Surrey & Borders Part. NHS Foundation Trust (3 years to June 2026.)	Cllr Barker
Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Part. (3 years to June 2026.)	Cllr Barker

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and ended at 8.00 pm

Chairman: _____

Date: _____