

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES

Executive Summary

The Council is invited to consider the recommendations from the meeting of the Standards and Audit Committee held on 7 March 2019 and the Executive held 28 March 2019. The recommendations as set out in the minutes of the Standards and Audit Committee are set out below, together with the extracts from the reports to be considered by the Executive. The minutes of the Executive will be tabled at the meeting of Council.

STANDARDS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 7 MARCH 2019

8a. MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT – PROTOCOL FOR COMPLAINTS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS STA19-001

Peter Bryant, Head of Democratic and Legal Services, introduced the report which recommended that the Council adopt a Protocol that provided for Members' complaints against other Members to be confidential to the Members concerned and the limited number of persons who received notification under the Council's arrangements for dealing with Standards allegations under the Localism Act 2011. The Protocol had been raised at the meeting of the Committee on 20 September 2018, following which consultation had taken place with the Councillors, the Independent Co-opted Member / Chairman of the Standards and Audit Committee and the Independent Person.

It was noted that the Protocol only covered Members complaints and the wider area of Social Media Policy would be subject to a report to the Executive during the year ahead. In the event that a Member breached the Protocol by speaking with the press or commenting on social media, a provision could be included in the Social Media Policy to ensure that any breaches of the Protocol were subject to the Members Code of Conduct.

Following questions, it was clarified that when a complaint was received the relevant Group Leader was advised, along with the Chairman of the Standards and Audit Committee and the Chief Executive. In addition, all Group Leaders were advised that a complaint was being considered for investigation by the Monitoring Officer.

Councillor Bond expressed concern that the Policy would limit Councillors in their work and prevent openness in the Council, and would not apply to members of the public. Peter Bryant stated that a higher standard of behaviour would be expected from Members of the Council and there had been occasion where details of a Members complaint had been available in the press before having been submitted to the Monitoring Officer, which necessitated the need for the Protocol.

The recommendations in the report were put to a vote, which was carried by three votes in favour to one vote against.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL That

- (i) the draft Protocol appended to the report be adopted; and
- (ii) the adopted Protocol be subject to Paragraph 2.6 of the Members' Code of Conduct.

Recommendations of the Executive and Committees

EXECUTIVE – 28 MARCH 2019

8b. NOTICE OF MOTION – CLLR M ALI – INSTALLATION OF SECURITY CAMERAS EXE19-028

The Executive has been asked to consider the following Notice of Motion from Councillor Ali.

Installation of Security Cameras

“Our ambitions for the town and the plans are noble. But with huge problems on fly tipping and drugs we will never be able to have the town we aspire for. We know due to unnecessary cuts the police are overstretched. Residents contact the police but they are not able to help them. I have residents coming with evidence of shady affairs in their streets but we are helpless.

So I propose that as part of the monies allocated for developments we install security cameras later on to be managed and maintained by residents. We consider cameras especially in areas:

- a. Grove
- b. Walton road alleys
- c. Princess road shops
- d. Few spots in sheerwater
- e. Other such ‘popular’ spots”

8c. NOTICE OF MOTION – CLLR M ALI – RENTS AND BUILDING INSURANCE FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES EXE19-002

The Executive has been asked to consider the following Notice of Motion from Councillor Ali.

Rents and Building Insurance for Local Businesses

“Increased rents for local business – despite our promises and pledges and claims of supporting local business we have seen many shut and now we have seen their rents and insurances gone up. As an example I have been informed by some council tenants that:

- a. The building insurance has been forced upon them which normally a landlord pays. But WBC has put it on them with no option to shop around and the cost is as much as approximately £800/ year
- b. The rent in some cases was increased by approximately 31% when the lease was renewed! This is exorbitant! Small business can’t afford this. For some this means they must have almost 30 extra customers / month to enable them to pay for this. How can they cope? So in line with our claims let’s review these increases and bring them in line with CPI.”

8d. CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY EXE19-013

The Executive is requested to:

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That

the Contaminated Land Strategy (2019-2024), attached at Appendix A to the report, be approved.

Reasons for Decision

Recommendations of the Executive and Committees

Reason: To ensure compliance with the Council's obligations as set out in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and accompanying statutory guidance.

8e. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY EXE19-024

The Executive is requested to:

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That

- (i) the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) report be approved; and
- (ii) subject to appropriate due diligence Brookwood Cemetery be acquired by the Council to be operated as a direct Council service.

Reasons for Decision

Reason: The decision is sought to agree the framework for Officers to develop further proposals for consideration, in due course, by the Council to ensure the medium term financial stability of the Council in the context of its objective to support growth and to maintain services for local people.

Background Papers: None.

Reporting Person: Douglas Spinks, Deputy Chief Executive
Email: douglas.spinks@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3440

Contact Person: Frank Jeffrey, Democratic Services Manager
Email: frank.jeffrey@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3012

Date Published: 27 March 2019

REPORT ENDS