

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT - RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Executive Summary

The Council is invited to consider the recommendations from the meeting of the Executive held on 10 October 2019. The extracts from the draft minutes of the meeting of the Executive are set out below.

EXECUTIVE – 10 OCTOBER 2019

10a. NOTICE OF MOTION – CLLR I JOHNSON – HEATHROW RAIL LINK

At its meeting on 25 July 2019, the Council referred the following Notice of Motion to the Executive.

Councillor I Johnson

“That this Council:

- 1) Notes the UK Government’s invitation in May 2019 for market-led proposals for a new rail link connecting Heathrow Airport from the south and Waterloo and Surrey/Hampshire and this Council’s long-term aspiration for a direct rail link to Heathrow Airport;
- 2) supports action to benefit the environment by minimising traffic and pollution by transferring journeys from road to rail;
- 3) welcomes the initiative of Heathrow Southern Railway to propose a project involving a direct rail link from Woking to Heathrow Airport including significant sections via tunnels to minimise environmental impact; and
- 4) asks the Council to write to the Member of Parliament for Woking to press the Secretary of State for Transport to expedite the process of approving a project and selecting a preferred developer, and to advise members when this has been done.”

Councillor Johnson attended the meeting and spoke in support of the Motion. The Executive was supportive of the Motion with the exception of point (3) as it would be considered premature for the Council to declare support for a particular bidder until it had the opportunity to study the bid(s) in detail. The importance of achieving a new direct rail access to Heathrow that stopped at Woking, irrespective of the proposed Heathrow Airport expansion, was raised.

RECOMMENDED to Council

That the Motion, as amended by the Executive, be supported as set out below:

“That this Council:

- 1) **Notes the UK Government’s invitation in May 2019 for market-led proposals for a new rail link connecting Heathrow Airport from the south and Waterloo and Surrey/Hampshire and this Council’s long-term aspiration for a direct rail link to Heathrow Airport;**
- 2) **supports action to benefit the environment by minimising traffic and pollution by transferring journeys from road to rail; and**
- 3) **asks the Council to write to the Member of Parliament for Woking to press the Secretary of State for Transport to expedite the**

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process of approving a project and selecting a preferred developer, and to advise members when this has been done.”

10b. NOTICE OF MOTION – CLLR G CUNDY – INTRODUCE A PLANNING POLICY TO GREEN NEW DEVELOPMENT OVER 15 STOREYS

At its meeting on 25 July 2019, the Council referred the following Notice of Motion to the Executive.

Councillor G Cundy

“This Council should introduce a policy at the earliest opportunity whereby any new planning application for development over 15 storeys should have at least 20% of its total surface area as living wall, garden terrace or roof garden. Where the Council has ownership, control or interest this policy should be adopted prior to formal policy introduction as a matter of internal policy.”

Councillor Cundy spoke in support of the Motion and welcomed the Officer comment in response to the Motion. Attention was drawn to the Council’s commitment to improving the environment and ensuring sustainable development across the Borough, and the Council’s existing robust policy on green infrastructure. Councillor Cundy explained that the purpose of the Motion was to open up discussion and agreed with the Officer recommendation that the issues raised by the Motion be deferred to the next Core Strategy review in 2023.

RECOMMENDED to Council

That the Motion be deferred and considered as part of the future review of the Core Strategy.

10c. NOTICE OF MOTION – CLLR A-M BARKER – FIERY BIRD VENUE/PHOENIX CULTURAL CENTRE

At its meeting on 25 July 2019, the Council referred the following Notice of Motion to the Executive.

Councillor A-M Barker

“This Council supports the work of the Fiery Bird Venue/Phoenix Cultural Centre CIC and calls for a permanent space to be found for this project in Woking Town Centre.”

Councillor Hughes spoke in support of the Motion on behalf of Councillor Barker. The Executive confirmed that it would do all it could to support Fiery Bird in moving to a permanent location. The Portfolio Holder, Councillor Kemp, highlighted the work of the Town Centre Community Leisure Task Group and advised that the Council had been working for some time with all the music and community groups which used the HG Wells Conference and Events Centre.

RECOMMENDED to Council

That the Motion be supported and the Council notes that action was already in hand.

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10d. NOTICE OF MOTION – CLLR M ALI – CHAIRMANSHIP OF OVERSIGHT PANELS

At its meeting on 25 July 2019, the Council referred the following Notice of Motion to the Executive.

Councillor M Ali

“The democratic system works best with checks and balances and distributed decision making as opposed to centralized and single source authority. As such it’s important that the chairs of the oversight panels including but not limited to Victoria Square and Sheerwater are elected by the councillors who are the members of the respective panel and shall as a recommendation not be the relevant portfolio holders. This serves democratic practices best.

Following the approval of this motion immediate election for the chairs of the oversight panels shall be held for the current year (irrespective of any past decisions) and there after every year follow the same pattern as the rest of the committees of the council for election of the chair.

This shall apply to existing and future panels.

In view of the recent meeting of Victoria Square, I request that this motion be determined by the full council now and not referred to the executive.”

Councillor Ali attended the meeting and spoke in support of the Motion. The Executive was of the view that Chairmen of Oversight Panels should continue to be elected by the Members of the respective oversight panel. It was not considered appropriate for there to be a standing recommendation that Portfolio Holders were not elected as Chairmen of Oversight Panels as Panel Members should be free to elect the Member considered to be best suited to act as Chairman.

RECOMMENDED to Council

That the Motion be not supported.

10e. NOTICE OF MOTION – CLLR A-M BARKER – REVIEW OF KINGFIELD DEVELOPMENT STADIUM CAPACITIES

At its meeting on 25 July 2019, the Council referred the following Notice of Motion to the Executive.

Councillor A-M Barker

“Council notes that a capacity of 5000 is sufficient for a football team to compete in League Two.

Council calls on officers to assess the effect on current proposals for development at Kingfield of stadium capacities at various levels between 6000 and 8000.”

Councillor Hughes spoke in support of the Motion on behalf of Councillor Barker. Councillor Hughes explained that the Motion had been brought to the Executive mindful of concerns raised by local residents, some Members and some football supporters regarding the proposed development. Members discussed the Officer comment which stated that the drawings for the planning application showed a capacity of 9,026 in order to accommodate a pitch size that could be used for rugby matches. Officers confirmed that the 10,000 capacity came from Council policy at the time when the Council was supportive of the Football Club and was seeking the then criteria for entering the Football League. Regarding the reference to rugby, it was explained that the stadium could be used for a range of sporting events and activities consistent with the wider Council policy of supporting recreation. It was noted that a capacity

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of 9,026 would enable the grass pitch to be wider, however options for the ground to be smaller would be available to the Council when it was asked to make a decision.

RECOMMENDED to Council

That the Motion be supported.

10f. RECOMMENDATION FROM CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP – CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Following the Council's declaration of a 'climate emergency' at its meeting on 25 July 2019, Councillor Davis, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, introduced a report which set out recommendations from the Climate Change Working Group that were considered by the Group to be essential to monitoring progress in achieving the target of the Council's estate and operations becoming carbon neutral by 2030, and Borough-wide by 2050. Councillor Howard, Chairman of the Climate Change Working Group, commented that he had not had sight of the recommendations prior to publication and raised concern at recommendation (v) concerning zero or minimal parking provision in Woking Town Centre developments. Councillor Howard drew attention to the possible risk of excluding people who were dependent upon cars for work. The Chief Executive confirmed that the matter had been raised at the Working Group. The Working Group had discussed the conflict between the Council's approved policy and planning guidance regarding parking provision in Town Centre developments, and the behaviour at Planning Committee. It was noted that the Working Group had agreed to recommend to the Executive that the Planning Committee be asked to exercise its discretion to permit zero or minimal parking provision in Town Centre developments.

RECOMMENDED to Council

That (i) the Climate Change Working Group's recommended public definition of carbon neutrality, set out below, be adopted and published on the Council's website:

“On 25 July 2019, the Council pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030. It will reduce to zero any greenhouse emissions associated with its own estate and operations. Where any remaining emissions cannot be avoided, the Council will offset these through projects such as tree planting and maintain trade in renewable energy, thereby eliminating its contribution to climate change”;

(ii) the Climate Change Working Group's recommended definition of the Council's estate and operations - comprising all Council owned assets (as set out in paragraph 3.8 of the Climate Change Working Group Report at Appendix 1) - be adopted;

(iii) the Climate Change Working Group's recommended baseline year of 2018/19 for monitoring emissions be adopted;

(iv) in the longer term, the Council will develop plans for borough-wide emissions and adaptation actions to address the climate and ecological emergency, in so far as it is able to influence activities beyond its direct control, with the aim of carbon neutrality by 2050; and

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- (v) the Planning Committee, having regard to the Parking Standards Supplementary Document, be requested to exercise its discretion wherever possible to permit zero or minimal parking provision in Woking Town Centre developments.

Reason: The report outlines factors that are required to accurately measure the Council's continued progress towards carbon neutrality.

The Council has the authority to determine the recommendations set out above.

Background Papers: None.

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