



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** will be held in David Hicks 1 - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.00 PM**

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 20 September 2023

Note: Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting or participate in the meeting virtually, in accordance with the Council's Constitution. If you wish to participate either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams please contact Democratic Services. Democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

The meeting can also be watched live using the following link:
<https://youtube.com/live/r93DJkuu-pc?feature=share>

This meeting will be filmed for inclusion on the Council's website. Please note that other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting. The use of these images or recordings is not under the Council's control.

Our Vision
<i>A great place to live, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business</i>
Enriching Lives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion excellent education and enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background. • Support our residents to lead happy, healthy lives and provide access to good leisure facilities to enable healthy choices for everyone. • Engage and empower our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity for the Borough which people feel part of. • Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.
Providing Safe and Strong Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people. • Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to reduce the need for long term care. • Nurture our communities: enabling them to thrive and families to flourish. • Ensure our Borough and communities remain safe for all.
Enjoying a Clean and Green Borough
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play as full a role as possible to achieve a carbon neutral Borough, sustainable for the future. • Protect our Borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas for people to enjoy. • Reduce our waste, promote re-use, increase recycling and improve biodiversity. • Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.
Delivering the Right Homes in the Right Places
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future. • Ensure the right infrastructure is in place, early, to support and enable our Borough to grow. • Protect our unique places and preserve our natural environment. • Help with your housing needs and support people, where it is needed most, to live independently in their own homes.
Keeping the Borough Moving
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways. • Tackle traffic congestion and minimise delays and disruptions. • Enable safe and sustainable travel around the Borough with good transport infrastructure. • Promote healthy alternative travel options and support our partners in offering affordable, accessible public transport with good transport links.
Changing the Way We Work for You
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be relentlessly customer focussed. • Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around our customers. • Communicate better with customers, owning issues, updating on progress and responding appropriately as well as promoting what is happening in our Borough. • Drive innovative, digital ways of working that will connect our communities, businesses and customers to our services in a way that suits their needs.
Be the Best We Can Be
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an organisation that values and invests in all our colleagues and is seen as an employer of choice. • Embed a culture that supports ambition, promotes empowerment and develops new ways of working. • Use our governance and scrutiny structures to support a learning and continuous improvement approach to the way we do business. • Be a commercial council that is innovative, whilst being inclusive, in its approach with a clear focus on being financially resilient. • Maximise opportunities to secure funding and investment for the Borough. • Establish a renewed vision for the Borough with clear aspirations.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE

Stephen Conway	Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Housing
Prue Bray	Deputy Leader and Children's Services
Rachel Bishop-Firth	Equalities, Inclusion and Fighting Poverty
Lindsay Ferris	Planning and Local Plan
Paul Fishwick	Active Travel, Transport and Highways
David Hare	Health and Wellbeing and Adult Services
Sarah Kerr	Climate Emergency and Resident Services
Clive Jones	Business and Economic Development
Ian Shenton	Environment, Sport and Leisure
Imogen Shepherd-DuBey	Finance

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
41.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.	
42.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 27 July 2023 and the extraordinary Executive meeting on 24 August 2023.	9 - 32
43.		DECLARATION OF INTERESTS To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and any non-registrable interests relevant to any matters to be considered at the meeting.	
44.		STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER	
45.		PUBLIC QUESTION TIME To answer any public questions. A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions submitted under notice. The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the work of the Executive. Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to general issues concerned with the work of the Council or an item which is on the Agenda for this meeting. For full details of the procedure for submitting questions please contact the Democratic Services Section on the numbers given below or go to www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions	
45.1	None Specific	Colin Watts has asked the Executive Member for Planning and the Local Plan the following question:	

Question:

The Executive Member for Planning and the Local Plan has repeatedly outlined a strategy as regards the Local Plan Update that is based on the housing target for Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) being reduced as a result of government changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), specifically a reduction to the housing target to take into account historic over provision of housing in Wokingham. No changes to the NPPF have yet been published by the government, yet now WBC has stated that it will publish a Proposed Submission Plan in November.

Given the absence of changes to the NPPF, should we therefore assume that the revised plan to be published in November will be based on the existing housing target of 768 dwellings per annum?

45.2 None Specific

Peter White has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport, and Leisure the following question:

Question:

Biodiversity net gain legislation is soon to be introduced. Can Wokingham Borough Council confirm that this legislation and the need for developers to make good on their destruction of local habitats for profit are at the forefront of the new Local Plan, and remediation will be local to the area of development, not “offsite” to an already more biodiverse area of the borough.

45.3 None Specific

Gregor Murray has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport, and Leisure the following question:

Question:

You have launched a consultation on the future of St Crispin’s Leisure centre. Given that your Exec member for Finance said on social media that Finance was not the issue please can you explain what the problem is?

46.

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

To answer any Member questions.

A period of 20 minutes is permitted for Members to ask questions submitted under Notice.

Any questions not dealt with within the allotted time will be provided with a written reply.

46.1 Arborfield

Councillor Gary Cowan has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

Question:

Cllr Clive Jones as Leader of the Lib Dems publicly campaigned with local residents against the proposed Conservative supported development of 4500 houses at Hall Farm.

Fighting the Hall Farm 4500 houses in public worked to very good effect as the recent election results shows enabling the Dems to take control of the Council after over 20 years of past Conservative Control.

The Conservative's plan is to build 2300 houses in the next 15 years as part of the Governments Housing requirements. The site is in the countryside on the side of the Loddon river which floods and in a climate emergency environment.

In addition to that the Conservative plan is for another 2200 houses to be built on Hall Farm from 2040 to 2055. These 2200 extra houses are not required in the governments mandatory and legally binding housing numbers.

When the Lib Dems took control, they could have easily removed the 2200 houses but they just sat on the fence and did nothing.

The Lib Dem leader fought the Hall Farm housing development in public but when the opportunity came their way to do something he did nothing.

46.2 None Specific

Was this this just a cynical ploy to get votes?

Councillor Charles Margetts has asked the Executive Member for Finance the following question:

Question:

The council owns significant amounts of offices and retail space in Wokingham which are either empty or let at minimal / zero rent to charities. What plans does the council have to get maximum value for the taxpayer from these assets?

46.3 Arborfield

Councillor Rebecca Margetts has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

Question:

The previous administration had been in discussion with local groups about the running of the community centre in the new Arborfield Green village centre.

I have not heard any progress with these discussions or if the groups previously interested are still involved.

Please can you give me an update on when the full community centre will open.

46.4 None Specific

Councillor Alison Swaddle has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways the following question:

Question:

The Liberal Democrat led administration seems determined to deter drivers from visiting our towns.

Local business owners already fear for the future as customers choose to go elsewhere to avoid paying the highly increased car park charges in our towns. Several are close to shutting and some already have citing lack of foot fall brought about by the large parking charge increases as a major contributor to their demise.

We understand that Liberal Democrat councillors are well advanced in putting together proposals to implement on street parking charges in Wokingham town centre, including identifying sites for the kerbside payment machines.

Will you carry out a full consultation with residents before you make a decision on such proposals?

46.5 None Specific

Councillor Graham Howe has asked the Executive Member for Planning and the Local Plan the following question:

Question:

Following the vast amount of rhetoric the ruling administration has made in the local press and their campaigning publications, and the promise of an invitation to a round table discussion, would the Executive member stop sitting on the fence, and would he now explain in clear concrete terms what we can convey to Wokingham's residents as to exactly what will be in their Draft Local Plan and when will it be published for consultation?

Matters for Consideration

47.	None Specific	RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY AND GUIDANCE	33 - 68
48.	None Specific	TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT	69 - 78

49.	None Specific	RESIDENTIAL LEASEHOLD INSURANCE RENEWAL	79 - 84
50.	None Specific	ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP	85 - 166
51.	None Specific	WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL FUTURE OFFICE PROVISION	167 - 180
52.	None Specific	VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS STRATEGY 2023-26	181 - 204
53.	None Specific	BOHUNT WOKINGHAM SCHOOL 6TH FORM: OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	205 - 214
54.	None Specific	PROMOTION OF WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL ASSETS	215 - 228

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Executive may exclude the press and public in order to discuss the Part 2 sheets of Agenda Item 54 above and to do so it must pass a resolution in the following terms:

That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended) as appropriate.

A decision sheet will be available for inspection at the Council's offices (in Democratic Services and the General Office) and on the web site no later than two working days after the meeting.

CONTACT OFFICER

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