



# WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** will be held in David Hicks 1 - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.00 PM**

Susan Parsonage  
Chief Executive  
Published on 18 October 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](mailto:Democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk)

The meeting can also be watched live using the following link:  
<https://youtube.com/live/Warlx6pHP6E?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.

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

## 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.
55.		<b>APOLOGIES</b> To receive any apologies for absence.	
56.		<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> To confirm the Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 28 September 2023.	7 - 20
57.		<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b> 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.	
58.		<b>STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER</b>	
59.		<b>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b> 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 <a href="http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions">www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions</a>	
59.1	None Specific	Peter White has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport, and Leisure the following	

question:

**Question:**

The Berkshire Nature Recovery Strategy is made up of many "stakeholders", including the university of reading, Crown Estate, Environment Agency and others. We have delegated our future ecology to this group, something that affects us all. What is the democratic process here. How is the steering group accountable to the residents and what recourse is there if the process is seen to be unfairly apportioning biodiversity remediation to some areas of the county at the expense of others?

60.

**MEMBER QUESTION TIME**

To answer any member questions.

A period of 20 minutes will be allowed for Members to ask questions submitted under Notice.

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

60.1 None Specific

Councillor Gary Cowan has asked the Executive Member for Finance the following question:

**Question:**

Wokingham Borough Council claims it is facing an extremely challenging time and I agree with this.

The Borough Council maintains that as many councils have effectively gone bankrupt it is important that residents understand the need for savings and to achieve this the borough council must find savings or generate extra income of more than £12 million.

To date increasing car parking charges that is damaging local businesses while consulting on closing leisure facility outlets without any business appear to be phase I of the intended savings.

Phase II would appear to consist of cutting services such as Litter bins. Weed spraying. Bottle banks storage area cleaning. Town centre cleaning. Non-town centre cleaning. Road sweeping. Footpath cleaning. A329M and A33 cleaning and grass cutting? All without any business cases to date.

My question is how much of the £12 million savings needed will come from the above cuts on a one by one business case.

60.2 None Specific Councillor Phil Cunnington has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport, and Leisure the following question:

**Question:**

What reassurances can you give squash players about their future at St Crispin's Leisure Centre?

**Matters for Consideration**

61.	None Specific	<b>PROPOSED APPROACH FOR THE STREET SCENE AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICE REVIEW</b>	<b>21 - 60</b>
62.	None Specific	<b>CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE STRATEGY</b>	<b>61 - 88</b>
63.	None Specific	<b>AFFORDABLE HOUSING RENT SETTING POLICY</b>	<b>89 - 108</b>
64.	None Specific	<b>REVENUE MONITORING 2023-24 Q2</b>	<b>109 - 124</b>
65.	None Specific	<b>CAPITAL MONITORING 2023/24 - Q2</b>	<b>125 - 132</b>
66.	Remenham, Wargrave and Ruscombe	<b>RUSCOMBE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN</b>	<b>133 - 178</b>

A decision sheet will be available for inspection at the Council's offices and on the web site no later than two working days after the meeting.

**CONTACT OFFICER**

**Priya Patel**  
**Email**  
**Postal Address**

Head of Democratic and Electoral Services  
priya.patel@wokingham.gov.uk  
Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1BN