



# WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in Council Chamber  
- Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on  
**THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM**

Susan Parsonage  
Chief Executive  
Published on 13 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](mailto:Democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk)

The meeting can also be watched live using the following link:  
[https://youtube.com/live/Nopq9LO\\_ofQ?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/Nopq9LO_ofQ?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>

To: The Members of Wokingham Borough Council

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
36.		<b>APOLOGIES</b> To receive any apologies for absence.	
37.		<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2023 and of the extraordinary Council meeting on 24 July 2023.	13 - 36
38.		<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest.	
39.		<b>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> To receive any announcements by the Mayor.	
40.		<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 Council.  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>	
40.1	None Specific	Paul Stevens has asked the Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Resident Services the following question:  <b>Question:</b> In a recent bulletin from WBC on fighting climate change much was made of the impact "food miles" have on our "carbon footprint". I quote: "If you're looking for inspiration on how to reduce your food miles and lower your carbon footprint, look at these top sustainable tips: * Choose food with fewer food miles * Grow your own fruit, vegetables and herbs * Share surplus food with friends, family and the local community	

- \* Shop locally e.g. butchers, farmer's markets and local food stores
- \* Use refill shops to prevent plastic waste
- \* Only buy what you need to prevent food going to waste
- \* Turn leftover food into compost and use soil for growing your own food"

Have the Council also considered encouraging local farmers to grow local food on local farmland, to then be sold to local residents?

40.2 None Specific Tony Johnson has asked the Executive Member for Finance the following question:

**Question:**

Please will you explain how governance of investments, loans and debts actually works at Wokingham Borough Council?

40.3 None Specific Jim Frewin has asked the Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Resident Services the following question:

**Question:**

During the Jan 2023 Full council meeting the Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Resident Services made a statement to this chamber highlighting the issue of poor behaviour by Councillors. The statement indicated poor behaviour by Councillors plural towards officers and stated that 'Robust discussions are perfectly possible without descending into bullying and harassment'. Can she please provide an update on what actions have been taken to prevent such poor behaviour?

41.

**PETITIONS**

To receive any petitions which Members or members of the public wish to present.

42. None Specific

**THE TENANTS CHARTER - MODERNISING THE TENANT CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE WITHIN WOKINGHAM BOROUGH**

**37 - 48**

To update the Council on the progress of the work of the Tenant Volunteers, completed over the last year in partnership with Wokingham Borough Council.

**RECOMMENDATION**

To note the Tenant Involvement Strategy Draft Action Plan and to continue to work in partnership to

continue to achieve the aspirations of the Tenant Charter.

43.	None Specific	<p><b>WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL: CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN, FOURTH PROGRESS REPORT</b></p> <p>To note the progress made in the Climate Emergency Action Plan fourth progress report which covers the period May 2022 to May 2023.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p>That the Council notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) The progress made in the Climate Emergency Action Plan fourth progress report, which covers the period May 2022 to May 2023.</li><li>2) The new format of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, including significant design changes to make it a more effective engagement and communication tool.</li><li>3) That a more ambitious approach will be required in some areas going forward to enable Wokingham Borough Council to play as full a role as possible in achieving a carbon neutrality by 2030.</li><li>4) That this remains a live document and continues to be updated as more details become available to support decision making.</li></ol>	49 - 214
44.	None Specific	<p><b>PAY POLICY STATEMENT</b></p> <p>To receive a report on the annual Pay Policy statement.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p>Council is recommended to approve the Pay Policy statement.</p>	215 - 224
45.	None Specific	<p><b>PREVENTION &amp; YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE: YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p>That Council accept the Youth Justice Plan.</p>	225 - 264
46.	Finchampstead North; Finchampstead South;	<p><b>FINCHAMPSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN</b></p> <p>The approval of Council is sought to make (adopt) the Finchampstead Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the outcome of the referendum held on 7</p>	265 - 278

September 2023.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 1) Make (adopt) the Finchampstead Neighbourhood Plan so that it forms part of the statutory Development Plan, pursuant to Section 38A(4) of The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; and
- 2) Publish a Decision Statement (the form and content of which is set out at Enclosure 1) pursuant to Regulation 19 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) ("the Regulations") in order to give effect to the above recommendation.
- 3) Delegates to the Director of Place & Growth, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan and in agreement with the Qualifying Body, to make any spelling, grammatical, typographical or factual corrections to the plan and supporting documents.

**47.**      None Specific      **APPOINTMENT OF A PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**      **279 - 282**

To confirm the appointment of a Parish Council representative on the Standards Committee.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Councillor Jackie Jagger (Twyford Parish Council) be appointed as a Parish Council representative on the Standards Committee.

**48.**      None Specific      **AUTHORISATION OF PROCUREMENT STRATEGY OF THE AGENCY WORKER CONTRACT**      **283 - 296**

To agree the procurement strategy for the Temporary Agency Staffing Solutions contract.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council agree the procurement strategy for the Temporary Agency Staffing Solutions contract. This is to procure a new managed service contract for supply of agency workers through a national framework agreement (Managed Services for Temporary Agency Resources ("MSTAR") via the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) in the same service model as we have currently, for an

initial period of one year from 1st February 2024 with options to extend by one year for each of the following 3 years.

This is the best option to support the strategy proposed by Procurement and supported by Human Resources.

49.

#### **MEMBER QUESTION TIME**

To answer any member questions.

A period of 30 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.

49.1 Hawkedon

Andrew Mickleburgh has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways the following question:

#### **Question:**

The quite recently laid micro-asphalt in Kitwood Drive and roads off, in Lower Earley, has been very badly damaged in many places by, residents say, contractors working in the area. The area of damage is extensive, and I believe not unique to this particular locality. I believe, albeit as a lay person, that the damage in this and other instances is of sufficient severity to severely reduce the lifespan of the recently maintained road surface. What recourse does Wokingham Borough Council have to ensure that contractors found to be responsible for road damage such as this can be required to help rectify the damage?

49.2 Arborfield

Gary Cowan has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan the following question:

#### **Question:**

To determine the minimum number of homes needed, the National Planning Policy Framework implies that strategic policies should be informed by a local housing need assessment, conducted using the standard method.

The evolving Strategic Environmental Assessment must also take account of the infrastructure changes as a whole, which should be deliverable within the next local plan period.

Will that assessment deliver fully the infrastructure

requirements for the whole development of 4500 Houses at Hall Farm in the draft Local Plan Update.

49.3 None Specific

Peter Harper has asked the Deputy Leader of the Council and Children's Services the following question:

**Question:**

In light of the recent issue with RAAC panels in schools with the associated safety risk, what surveys have the council carried out on schools and other Wokingham Borough Council property to identify the existence of RAAC panels?

49.4 South Lake

Laura Blumenthal has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways the following question:

**Question**

I'm raising this in the chamber so my conscience is clear. There is an accident waiting to happen. In my ward there is a permanent line of cars parked on Fairwater Drive, at the junction with Highgate Road. This is where primary school children cross to get to school and cannot see over the cars. Despite near misses of vehicles pushed to one side of the road on a blind bend, the Council has decided that the area is safe and installing a formal crossing a low priority. Please can you ask officers to revisit their decision or at least can you meet with residents on site who are upset with the Council's lack of action?

49.5 None Specific

Michael Firmager has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport, and Leisure the following question:

**Question:**

Between 2011 and 2021 the population of Wokingham Borough grew by 15% according to the Office of National Statistics. On that basis don't you think Wokingham Borough needs more public litter bins, not fewer?

49.6 None Specific

Jackie Rance has asked the Executive Member for Equalities, Inclusion & Fighting Poverty the following question:

**Question**

Covid has been and gone, but the Liberal Democrats of Wokingham Borough Council clearly believe in allowing their employees to swap Office for the Lounge, at home. The Public Sector's most important



role should be delivering effective services for the taxpayer, not helping workers to have 'more' leisure time in their tracksuits. The Public should be receiving decent services, instead the Liberal Democrat Council have raised Council Tax, cancelled Bin Collections, cut down the grass cutting everywhere, put up Parking Charges, diminished School Bus Services and lost footfall in the town centres.

When will ALL Council staff be back at their office's desks serving residents, rather than enjoying a relaxed home atmosphere?

49.7 Bulmershe and Whitegates

Andy Croy has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways the following question:

**Question:**

Residents in my ward endure bad parking which blocks roads for residents and public services alike.

On 8<sup>th</sup> September, a bus had to reverse from that part of the London Road, which is a slip road, back onto the main A4 roundabout as its passage was blocked by cars parked in contravention of both permanent and temporary TROs.

To local residents, buses being forced to change their routes is not news anymore - it happens on a regular basis.

In total, for these roads in the Whitegates area of Earley (London Road, south side between Aisha Masjid and Shepherds Hill roundabout), The Drive and Erleigh Court Gardens), how many parking tickets have been issued by our Civil Enforcement Officers between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 and August 31<sup>st</sup> 2023?

49.8 None Specific

Abdul Loyes has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport, and Leisure the following question:

**Question:**

Residents have complained to me that public litter bins are full and need to be emptied more frequently not less. Has the Council considered the costly consequence of reducing litter bins such as increases in vermin, littering, dog fouling and fly tipping?

**50. MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND WARD MATTERS**

An opportunity for Members to ask questions in relation to the latest circulated volume of Minutes of Meetings and Ward Matters. 20 minutes is permitted for this item.

**51. STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

To receive any statements by the Leader of the Council and Executive Members.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.2.23 the total time allocated to this item shall not exceed 20 minutes, and no Member shall speak for more than 5 minutes.

**52. STATEMENT FROM COUNCIL OWNED COMPANIES**

To receive any statements from Directors of Council Owned Companies.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.2.24 the total time allocated to this item shall not exceed 10 minutes, and no Director, except with the consent of Council, shall speak for more than 3 minutes.

**53. MOTIONS**

To consider any motions.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.2.11.2 a maximum period of 30 minutes will be allowed for each Motion to be moved, seconded and debated, including dealing with any amendments. At the expiry of the 30-minute period debate will cease immediately, the mover of the Motion or amendment will have the right of reply before the Motion or amendment is put to the vote.

53.1 None Specific

Motion 506 submitted by Norman Jorgensen  
'The Council has announced that it will seek to make £600,000 of savings by removing some litter bins, reducing the number of times it sprays weeds, cleans areas around bottle banks, empties litter bins, and sweeps roads. This is despite Full Council having approved a budget in February 2023 which the Executive put forward to pay for services for 2023/24. The announcement has been made with no consultation with Members outside the administration,

nor Borough residents.

This Council instructs the Executive to:

1. Provide a report to October Full Council outlining a breakdown of the savings expected, the areas where services or bins will be reduced, and the estimated cost of achieving those savings, including the cost of removal of bins
2. Hold a consultation with residents to seek public views on this service reduction
3. Produce a report for presentation to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee outlining the results of the consultation and resulting decision, including the costs of each individual change and impact assessments
4. Take a report to the Executive following the presentation to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Proceed no further with the announced savings until 1-4 to have been completed.'

**Statement from the Chief Finance Officer:**

The direct financial implications associated with delaying these service efficiencies are approximately £5k per week.

54. None Specific

**MOTION 507 SUBMITTED BY PAULINE HELLIAR-SYMONS**

'While recognising concerns about clean air and congestion, there has to be a balance with supporting the local economy, therefore this Council is committed not to introduce ULEZ charges in any part of the Borough of Wokingham.'

**Statement from the Chief Finance Officer:**

There are no direct financial implications in supporting this motion.

**Exclusion of the Press & Public**

Council may exclude the press and public in order to discuss the exempt information contained in an Appendix of Agenda Item 48 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 and press 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 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any

particular person, including the authority holding that information) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended) as appropriate.

### **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