



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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To: All Members

COUNCIL - THURSDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER, 2022

SUPPLEMENTARY PAPER

Agenda No Item

77. **Petition Debate** (Pages 3 - 4)

AGENDA ITEM 77: Petition Debate on Car Parking Charges:

The following statement from the Chief Finance Officer is provided below and should be included within the consideration of this agenda item:

Statement from the Chief Finance Officer

The Council must act urgently to address its in year forecast overspend and set a balanced budget for next year. Options to reduce expenditure are constrained by the fact that approximately 80% of Council services are statutory. The 2023/24 budget presented to Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee shows a funding gap of just over £4m. This figure already takes into account cost reductions and income generating options across all Council Services, including the assumed increase in car parking charges in 2022/23. Avoiding the opportunity to generate additional income from car parking will increase the calculated budget gap for next year to in the region of £4.6m. The Council will be required to approve a balanced budget for 2023/24 when it meets in February 2023.

82. **Motions** (Pages 5 - 6)

AGENDA ITEM 82: Motions:

Note: The Council is asked to note that In accordance with paragraph 4.2.11.3 of the Council's Constitution, the Chief Finance Officer has provided a statement, setting out the financial implications of each proposal contained within the Motions listed in the agenda.

Where the Chief Finance Officer's statement sets out that additional funding would be required to implement a particular proposal, this item will be submitted to the next available Executive meeting for consideration with a report setting out all implications.

With the introduction of a new procedure following October Council for including the Chief Finance Officer's (CFO) comments against each motion, there was an oversight in that the comments published were not those signed off by the CFO. Procedures have been put in place to ensure this does not reoccur. Please find below the Chief Finance Officer's statements, which should replace the statements that were added to the original agenda.

Motion 493 submitted by Rebecca Margetts:

Council is asked to note the slight alteration to this Motion:

'Wokingham Borough Council congratulates the England Lionesses on their incredible achievement of becoming European Champions. Many of these women were not offered the opportunity as children to play football at school and the only reason for their success was they were prepared and able to travel great distances to pursue their dream. Wokingham Borough Council believes all children should be offered the opportunity at school to play football and calls on all primary schools in Wokingham Borough to ensure that football is offered to every child who wishes to play.'

Statement from the Chief Finance Officer

Where schools have the necessary facilities there may be no direct financial implications. However, where this is not the case, there may be considerable investment required, for example, as has already been reported to Executive, a 3G pitch would require capital funds of approximately £800k with associated running costs. A school by school analysis would need to be undertaken to properly understand the financial impact and the viability of provision.

The schools community is an eclectic mix including; Maintained Schools, Academies, Private Schools and Diocese, so funding and affordability would need to be considered in this context.

Motion 495 submitted by Charles Margetts:

'Residents who live of William Heelas Way in Wokingham have raised significant concerns with me about the speed of traffic and the lack of protection for parents and young children accessing Floreat Montague Park Primary School. The link road between London Road and the future Southern Relief Road has a 30mph speed limit and traffic levels which will only get busier when the Southern Relief Road opens. At the last council meeting residents handed in a petition signed by over 500 people calling for a 20 mph speed limit outside the school, the provision of barriers around the pavements and full reinstatement of a pedestrian crossing on William Heelas Way. Wokingham Borough Council believes it is of vital importance that

young children can travel to this school on foot or by bicycle in complete safety. To ensure children can walk and cycle safely to school Wokingham Borough Council agrees to meet the requests of the petition without further delay.'

Statement from the Chief Finance Officer

An advisory speed limit of 20mph along with signs and flashing warning lights has already been installed fronting the school. This is the same as all other schools within the Borough.

- (1) There are therefore no further financial implications associated with agreeing to this element of the motion;
- (2) Barriers around the pavements are understood to be counter to national government policy and would restrict the width of the footpath/cycleway, however depending on an alternative solution this could cost in the region of £100k;
- (3) It is understood the pedestrian crossing in question already complies fully with the planning consent granted. An upgrade from an uncontrolled crossing to a controlled crossing, would cost between £50-£100k.

Yours sincerely



Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive