



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **THURSDAY 19 JULY 2018 AT 7.30 PM**

Manjeet Gill
Interim Chief Executive
Published on 11 July 2018

This meeting will be filmed for inclusion on the Council's website.

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WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Our Vision

A great place to live, an even better place to do business

Our Priorities

Improve educational attainment and focus on every child achieving their potential

Invest in regenerating towns and villages, support social and economic prosperity, whilst encouraging business growth

Ensure strong sustainable communities that are vibrant and supported by well designed development

Tackle traffic congestion in specific areas of the Borough

Improve the customer experience when accessing Council services

The Underpinning Principles

Offer excellent value for your Council Tax

Provide affordable homes

Look after the vulnerable

Improve health, wellbeing and quality of life

Maintain and improve the waste collection, recycling and fuel efficiency

Deliver quality in all that we do

To: The Members of Wokingham Borough Council

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
16.		APOLOGIES	
		To receive any apologies for absence	
17.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	13 - 30
		To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 May 2018.	
18.		DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
		To receive any declarations of interest	
19.		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 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 www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions	
19.1	Emmbrook	Trevor Sleet has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:	
		Question:	
		I would like to ask a question regarding the loss of the lollipop lady in Murray Road.	
		Has a full risk assessment been carried out regarding the removal of this person at this specific location as the roads around these schools are used by commuters parking for the station and by drivers, often speeding and driving dangerously, using the Barkham and Finchampstead Roads to cut through to the Reading Road and visa versa.	
19.2	None Specific	Chris Wallace has asked the Executive Member for Housing the following question:	

Question

At the Executive meeting on 31st May, the 21cc report shows that the implementation of changes to the Housing Service began in June with over 60% of roles changing. Could the Executive for Housing give a summary of the changes occurring such as the actual number, how many staff promotions & redundancies and explain how those changes will benefit the tenants?

19.3 None Specific

Peter Humphreys has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

Question

Last year you appointed two Executive Member posts with "highways" in the title. With Councillor Lee's defeat at the recent election in May his position was not replaced. Does this mean strategic highways are no longer regarded as important or was this a post with no substance created to reward a loyal party member with an Executive title, what is colloquially known as a "job for the boys"?

19.4 None Specific

Richard Gregory has asked the Executive Member for Housing the following question:

Question:

With less than 2 years of its contract with Ocaso for buildings insurance for the councils part share properties left. How far along are the Council in finding a way to reduce the extortionate cost being incurred by its part share tenants for buildings insurance? For our 2 bed house we are being charged £508 (five hundred and eight pounds) for buildings insurance alone this year through the Council. We could buy on the open market a policy for one million pounds worth of buildings insurance for less than £100 (one hundred pounds).

19.5 None Specific

Diane Heyes has asked the Executive Member for Housing the following question:

Question:

In January of 2018 I had a meeting at my house with Mr Simon Price of the Council, where he said that he would ask the Council to ask of its legal advisers two questions? 1. Would it be possible for the Council to incorporate the part share properties into its buildings insurance that it has for its council house tenants, therefore reducing the cost of buildings insurance for its part share tenants? 2. Would it be possible to allow part share tenants to purchase their own

buildings insurance for their properties and then provide proof to the Council by the 1st April each year, thus reducing the cost of buildings insurance? It is now mid-July and I am surprised that I have not received an answer to either question. Could the Executive Member for Housing please tell me if the Council has asked the 2 questions of its legal advisers and if they have what the answers were?

20.

PETITIONS

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

21.

PETITION DEBATE

To debate a petition.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 3.5.4.2 a maximum period of 30 minutes will be allowed for petitions to be debated.

The process below will be followed at the meeting:

- a) the petition organiser(s) will be given five minutes to present the petition (if there is more than one petition organiser then they will share this time);
- b) the petition will then be debated by Councillors for a period not exceeding 30 minutes;
- c) the petition organiser(s) will have the right of reply of up to a maximum of three minutes;
- d) the Mayor will then ask for motions on how the Council wishes to respond to the Petition which may include;
 - i) taking the action or some of the action the petition requests;
 - ii) not taking the action the petition requests;
 - iii) referring the petition to another body for them to consider the matter and take the appropriate action;
- e) once a motion has been put forward it will be voted on without discussion or amendment;
- f) if the motion falls then the Mayor will ask for a further motion to be put forward;
- g) if the Mayor is of the opinion that a decision on how to respond to the petition cannot be

reached then he/she can decide, on behalf of the Council, not to take the action that the petition requests.

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| 21.1 | Coronation;
Emmbrook;
Loddon; Maiden
Erlegh; Norreys;
South Lake;
Twyford;
Wokingham
Without | Petition submitted by Annette Medhurst | 31 - 32 |
| | | A petition containing in excess of 1,500 signatures, which is the threshold to trigger a debate at Council, has been submitted relating to the removal of the school crossing patrol service:

<i>“We the undersigned petition Wokingham Borough Council to abandon its proposal to remove school crossing patrol services at seven locations across the Borough at the end of this academic year (July 2018)”</i>

A copy of the petition’s supporting statement is included in the agenda. | |
| 22. | | MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
To receive any announcements by the Mayor | |
| 23. | None Specific | SHARED DASS WITH ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD
To receive a report regarding the proposal for a shared Director of Adult Services with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council is recommended to appoint jointly with RBWM a Director to discharge the statutory duties of the Director of Adult Social Services under the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 conditional on a similar approval by RBWM passed at Employment Panel on the 16 July 2018 and subject to the approval of a supplementary estimate by Executive on 26 July, effective from 1 August 2018. | 33 - 36 |
| 24. | None Specific | STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR BERKSHIRE
To receive a report noting the appointment of Tessa Lindfield as Strategic Director of Public Health for Berkshire.

RECOMMENDATION: That it be noted that Tessa Lindfield has been appointed to the role of Strategic Director of Public Health and as this is a statutory post for the Council it be agreed that the formal statutory appointment letter from Public Health England be signed by Wokingham Borough Council. | 37 - 40 |

25.	None Specific	<p>HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18 To receive a report from the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board on the work undertaken by the Board in 2017-18.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That the report from the Health and Wellbeing Board 2017-18 be noted.</p>	41 - 52
26.	None Specific	<p>RE REVISED SYLLABUS To consider the RE Revised Syllabus.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That the Council adopt the revised RE Syllabus.</p>	53 - 66
27.	None Specific	<p>LOCALISM ACT PAY POLICY STATEMENT FOR 2018/2019 To receive a report regarding the Localism Act Pay Policy Statement for 2018/19.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That Council approve the attached Policy Pay Statement for 2018 for publication on the Council's website in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.</p>	67 - 86
28.	None Specific	<p>CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION To consider a report containing revisions regarding length of Members' Question Time at Council, Health and Wellbeing Board Partnership Groups, Individual Executive Member Decisions, Executive Member Portfolios, Responsibility for Local Choice Functions, Officers' Code of Conduct, Officer Employment Procedure Rules and Delegated Powers Relating to Staffing Matters.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That Council agree the following changes to the Constitution as recommended by the Constitution Review Working Group:</p> <p>1) that Rule 4.2.10.8 Length of [Member] Question Time be amended as follows:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>'The time allotted to questions submitted under Notice, including those relating to urgent issues, shall not exceed twenty 30 minutes for Full Council meetings and 20 minutes for all other committees. Any questions not answered within the allotted time shall be the subject of a written reply within seven working days to the questioner and the reply shall be recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting.'</i></p>	87 - 108

- 2) that Rule 4.4.44 Health and Wellbeing Board Partnership Groups be amended as follows:
 - d) **Wokingham Integrated Partnership**
- 3) that Rule 5.5.1 List of items delegated to Individual Executive Members be amended as follows:
 - d) *Writing off of irrecoverable amounts above ~~£20,000~~ £25,000'*
- 4) that Rule 5.2.12.24 Executive Member for Finance and Corporate Resources be amended as follows:

'To act as the primary press spokesman on all matters relating to the whole of the Finance, ~~21st Century Council, Internal Services and Human and Corporate Resources portfolio (including aspects that are delegated to the Deputy Executive Member for Finance and Corporate Resources).~~'
- 5) that Rule 11.2 Responsibility for Local Choice Functions be amended to reflect the appointment of the Assistant Director Governance as the Council's Data Protection Officer.
- 6) that Sections 11.4 Officers' Code of Conduct, 11.5 Officer Employment Procedure Rules and 11.6 Delegated Powers Relating to Staffing Matters be amended as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

29.

STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND DEPUTY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

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

30.

STATEMENTS 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.

31.

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

To answer any member questions

A period of 20 minutes will be allowed for Members to ask questions submitted under Notice. *[Please note that subject to agreement of the relevant recommendation in the Changes to the Constitution report this period may be extended to 30 minutes]*

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

31.1 None Specific

Gary Cowan has asked the Executive Member for Business, Economic Development and Strategic Planning the following question:

Question

Can the Executive Member for the new local plan update me on its current progress especially in relation to how many houses are being planned for and where might those houses possibly go?

31.2 None Specific

Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey has asked the Executive Member for Environment the following question:

Question

Residents are upset by the supposed wild areas in parks and verges being kept for supposed wildlife habitats. They seem messy and they are unable to use them for recreation with their families. Can the Member for the Environment please tell me what the exact species of animals or insects are present (other than rats, mice, rabbits, ticks and fleas) there and when they were last checked?

31.3 None Specific

Lindsay Ferris has asked the Executive Member for Environment the following question:

Question:

Vast areas of Wokingham Borough have been left uncut this year and where grass has been cut, it has only been done so when it had grown long. This has caused our area to look tatty and unkept. There was some improvement in 2017, but this year feels like 2016 again when implementation issues were given

as the reason for the problems that occurred. Now that similar problems are again occurring in 2018, implementation of the contract cannot now be the problem.

Does the Executive Member agree that it is time for a thorough review of this contract, to see how the performance in this area can be improved?

31.4 Wescott

Imogen Shepherd-DuBey has asked the Executive Member for Finance and Corporate Resources the following question:

Question:

Please can you advise exactly how much the Wokingham Town Council Market Place has cost so far, and could there be more cost to come?

31.5 Emmbrook;
Ewendons;
Norreys;
Wescott

Helen Power has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question:

Workers at Wokingham town centre businesses are struggling to find available spaces in affordable, conveniently located parking in the town centre. This is having a detrimental impact on the local businesses.

A very affordable and flexible local town centre staff parking scheme at for example, the Carnival Pool Multi Storey that you are promoting people use, could help to address this issue.

Will you create an affordable and flexible town centre worker parking rate scheme for the duration of all the Regeneration Programme works and beyond?

31.6 None Specific

Philip Mirfin has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question

With the opening of another section of the NDR and the assurance from council officers that the Northern Distributor Road and Southern Distributor Road will effectively be clearways with no parking on them, is this an opportunity to make them 40mph zones?

31.7 Bulmershe and
Whitegates

Carl Doran has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

Question:

Has the Council had any contact from Reading Borough Council on the subject of the East Reading

"Mass Rapid Transit" scheme which was refused by the Planning Committee on 25th June?

32. MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND WARD MATTERS

A period of 20 minutes will be allowed for Members to ask questions in relation to the latest circulated volume of Minutes of Meetings and Ward Matters

33. 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

33.1 Emmbrook;
Ewendons;
Norreys;
Wescott

Motion 404 submitted by Lindsay Ferris

This Council will use its discretionary powers to grant hardship relief from business rates for independent businesses whose income has been adversely affected by the ongoing works in Wokingham town centre related to the town centre regeneration or the Market Place project, and will take steps to advertise the existence of hardship relief to those businesses.

33.2 None Specific

Motion 405 submitted by Gary Cowan

This Council will evaluate its existing policies on trees to ensure its policies are fully open and transparent. The new policy recognises that many trees may be subject to some tree work and it is not practical to consult on all works undertaken. For example pruning works carried out is unlikely to cause significant public concern, however the felling of any trees can be contentious. Felling trees without prior consultation due to health and safety issues is understood but where the felling involves any loss of tree/s for any other reason whatsoever the public must be formally consulted on the proposed works and the reasons why it is necessary

The Council must maintain proper records of all trees felled. For trees which are to be felled including trees protected by TPOs, or those situated in Conservation Areas, or in association with development proposals and planning permissions this Council will put in place

a statutory consultation processes and current council policies will be amended to reflect these changes as soon as it practicable.

33.3

Motion 406 submitted by Richard Dolinski

On the 70th anniversary of the inception of the NHS, this Council welcomes the £20bn boost by central government to our Health Service funding. However, there remains a significant funding shortfall on the growing demands placed on local government and its statutory duties to deliver Adult Social Care. The Local Government Association estimates that local government faces a funding gap of £5.8 billion by 2020. £1 billion of this is attributable to Adult Social Care and includes only the unavoidable cost of demography, inflation and the National Living Wage. This figure excludes other significant pressures, including the potential historic liabilities and future costs, as well as any resources to address unmet need.

This Council calls on the Government to urgently work towards a realistic, workable funding solution for Adult Social Care. This Council supports the Executive in its efforts to lobby and work with the Government to provide such a solution; as such, this Council will set up a cross-party working group to produce a proposal that works for Wokingham Borough which the Executive can put to the Government.

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