



# **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 7.30 PM**

Manjeet Gill  
Interim Chief Executive  
Published on 12 September 2018

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.



# **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.
34.		<b>APOLOGIES</b> To receive any apologies for absence	
35.		<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19 July 2018.	15 - 46
36.		<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest	
37.		<b>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> To receive any announcements by the Mayor	
38.		<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>	
38.1	None Specific	Jenny Lissaman has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:  <b>Question</b> In the Wokingham District Local Plan 1996 - 2006 Policy WT 12: Additional Railway Stations states that: The Council will seek the provision of additional railway stations at Thames Valley Park, and other locations that can serve development and reduce car usage without resulting in net environmental degradation . Interchange facilities and car and cycle parking will be provided as appropriate to each location. Why was the principle of that policy dropped from WBC's 2010 Core Strategy?	

- 38.2 None Specific Petra Angel has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:
- Question**  
Please can the Council confirm what the current percentage of agency workers within Children's Services Dept are?
- Ms Lisa Humphreys was asked this question at a previous meeting but her response was that the national target was 80% permanent staff so Ms Humphreys avoided giving the desired answer. I understand that in 2015/16 the children's services were running at 37% agency staff usage which is 17% worse than national targets and that a commitment by Ms Felicity Budgen was given to the LGO to reduce this figure and focus on recruitment and training however I believe the situation has got much worse. It is taking 8 months to compile a basic child assessment with work load pressures blamed - this is a fact. It is vital that the council addresses this issue. It doesn't matter how good a social worker you are if you are having to undertake significantly more work because there are not enough staff then this increases the chances of making a mistake. Unfortunately some serious mistakes have been made and which has resulted in children being put at risk.
- 38.3 None Specific Paul Fishwick has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Leisure and Libraries the following question:
- Question**  
The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs launched a consultation during July and August 2018 related to the planned UK Clean Air Strategy and detailed National Air Pollution Control Programme that is due to be published in March 2019. Could you inform me what response Wokingham Borough Council gave to this consultation?
- 38.4 Bulmershe and Whitegates; Hawkedon; Hillside; Maiden Erlegh Andrew Mickleburgh has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:
- Question**  
Earley is blighted by illegal and anti-social parking, with all of the associated problems. Existing and additional signage is necessary, but not sufficient. The Civil Enforcement Officers who from time-to-time

patrol in Earley are effective, but unable to visit problem locations as often as required. Could a full time Civil Enforcement Officer be allocated exclusively and permanently to Earley to help tackle these serious parking problems?

38.5 Emmbrook;  
Ewendons

Rachel Bishop-Firth has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Leisure and Libraries the following question:

**Question**

There are no litter bins on Barkham Road between Wokingham railway station and the bus stop on Barkham Road. The bins at each end of this stretch – on the railway bridge and at the bus stop – are small and are hidden from view if you're walking away from the town. There are also no bins between Wellington Road and Barkham Road, for people taking this route out of town over the Tan Hill crossing.

As a result, we have a litter problem along both of these routes. The bins are often overflowing on a Monday morning, and people living along Barkham Road get fast food wrappers, bottles and cans in their gardens. There is a similar litter problem along the Tan Hill shortcut, with litter including broken glass being dropped on the bridge and in the Ormonde Road park.

I have sent some photos showing the problem to the Councillor. Can the Council commit to reviewing this problem and providing adequate litter bins?

38.6 Wescott

Sarah Kerr has asked the Executive Member for Regeneration the following question:

**Question**

How were the public consulted about the new layout of the Market Place, including the type and colour of stone, the disabled parking and loading layout, the lack of proper kerbs, the rather expensive looking golden studs, and in particular the use of the same colour paving stone for pedestrian crossings?

38.7 None Specific

Beth Rowland has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Leisure and Libraries the following question:

**Question**

Please will you tell me with a simple answer if the black boxes that are used throughout the Borough

are recyclable?

39.

**PETITIONS**

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

40.

None Specific

**PRESENTATION BY THE CHIEF CONSTABLE FRANCIS HABGOOD AND THE AREA COMMANDER SHAUN VIRTUE**

To receive a presentation from the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police Francis Habgood and the Area Commander Shaun Virtue.

This is expected to be approximately 20 minutes in duration after which there will be an opportunity for Member questions of no more than 15 minutes in duration.

41.

None Specific

**HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION TERM SERVICE CONTRACTS RENEWAL**

47 - 106

To receive a report from the Executive relating to the renewal of the Highways and Transportation Term Service Contracts.

**RECOMMENDATION** Council is requested to:

- 1) consider the procurement process which commenced with stakeholder engagement in 2016, soft market engagement with potential suppliers during 2017;
- 2) consider the formal procurement process which has been underway since January 2018 and proposals for mobilisation;
- 3) award the Professional Services Consultancy Contract to the organisation named in the Part 2 Papers to be operational from the 1st April 2019, for an initial term of seven years, extendable by a further period of up to 3 years, subject to satisfactory performance;
- 4) award the Maintenance and Construction Contract to the organisation named in the Part 2 Papers to be operational from the 1st April 2019, for an initial term of seven years, extendable by a further period of up to 3 years, subject to satisfactory performance.

42.

**EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Council may exclude the press and public in order to discuss the Part 2 sheets of Agenda Item 41 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended) as appropriate.

- |            |               |  |                  |
|------------|---------------|--|------------------|
| <b>43.</b> | None Specific | <b>TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2017-18</b><br>To receive a report containing the Treasury Management Outturn 2017-18 as recommended by the Executive.<br><br><b>RECOMMENDATION</b> Council is recommended to approve:<br><br><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2017/18; and</li><li>2) the actual 2017/18 prudential indicators within the report.</li></ol>  | <b>107 - 134</b> |
| <b>44.</b> | All Wards     | <b>APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b><br>To receive a report on the outcome of the recruitment process, carried out by Personnel Board, to appoint a permanent Statutory Director of Children's Services.<br><br><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> That Council approve Personnel Board's recommendation to appoint Carol Cammiss to the statutory role of Director of Children's Services on a date to be agreed.  | <b>135 - 136</b> |
| <b>45.</b> | None Specific | <b>REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES</b><br>To receive a report relating to the setting up of a formal review of Polling Districts and Polling Places in accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983.<br><br><b>RECOMMENDATION</b> That Council agrees:<br><br><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) to a formal review of all Polling Districts and Polling Places within the Borough;</li><li>2) that the decisions reached under this review will be implemented for all elections from the beginning of 2020;</li><li>3) to the setting up of a small Member/Officer</li></ol> | <b>137 - 150</b> |

working group to administer and review the responses received and that the composition of this group will be one Member from each of the political groups and the independent Member along with two Officers from the Electoral Services Team.

46. None Specific **STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY** 151 - 178  
To receive a revised Statement of Licensing Policy as recommended by the Licensing and Appeals Committee.  
**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council approves the revised Statement of Licensing Policy, attached at Annex A to the report.
47. None Specific **STATEMENT OF GAMBLING PRINCIPLES** 179 - 214  
To receive a revised Statement of Gambling Principles as recommended by the Licensing and Appeals Committee.  
**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council approves the revised Statement of Gambling Principles, attached at Annex A to the report.
48. **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
49. **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.
50. **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

50.1 None Specific

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

**Question**

In the light of the new NPPF announced by the Government this July does this Council by its actions to date on housing numbers agree with me that it has made a rod for its own and our residents backs?

50.2 Hillside

Chris Smith has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

**Question**

Can I have an update on the resurfacing of Redhatch Drive?

50.3 None Specific

Prue Bray has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

**Question**

Wokingham has its own process for applying for a blue badge online, which requires you to have an account on the council website and to fill out an enormous form. A number of people have reported issues with the form. There is a national process available on the gov.uk website which is far more straightforward to use. I have been told that at some stage Wokingham plans to stop having its own process and to use the government one instead.

How quickly can that be made to happen, so that people who need blue badges can have an easier time applying for them?

50.4 None Specific

Lindsay Ferris has asked the Executive Member for Finance and Corporate Resources the following question:

**Question**

I have grave concerns about how finances at Wokingham Borough Council have been managed over the last 12 months or so.

Do you think it is appropriate for a Council that is under financial pressure to have used an open ended contract which included no specific financial figures, to have forgotten the end date of a contract and continued to send/receive invoices for up to 6

months, to have used Section 106 monies which were destined for one part of the Borough (e.g. the Northern Parishes and used elsewhere in the Borough e.g. in Wokingham) without any reference to anyone and to have produced businesses cases which included inaccurate and incomplete information simply to make their case look better than it was?

50.5 None Specific

Clive Jones has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

**Question**

Will you join me in congratulating WBC staff and the local police on the professional way in which they dealt with recent traveller incursions across the Borough?

50.6 Hawkedon

David Hare has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

**Question**

In Hawkedon the roads are often gridlocked at rush hour. With the development of Winnersh and Shinfield, along with making the M4 a smart Motorway, this is only going to get worse. Are there any developmental plans to help this situation, in both the short and long term?

50.7 Wescott

Rachel Burgess has asked the Executive Member for Regeneration the following question:

**Question**

My residents have raised concerns with regard to the safety of the new pedestrian crossings in the town centre Market Place. The crossings themselves are the same colour as the surrounding pedestrian area. There are significant concerns that children will mistake the crossings for a pedestrian path, as the roadway is not sufficiently distinct from the pavement. Was the colour of the crossings raised as a safety risk during the design phase and, if so, what were deemed to be the mitigating factors before the designs were approved?

51.

**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

52.

## **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

52.1 None Specific

### **Motion 407 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.

52.2 None Specific

### **Motion 409 submitted by Pauline Jorgensen**

This Council believes that the successful operation of a public transport system in our area requires co-operation between neighbouring local authorities.

This Council believes that Reading Buses would benefit from an increased diversity of voices and oversight from neighbouring authorities to Reading Borough whose areas Reading Buses operate in. Therefore, this Council calls on Reading Buses to allow representatives from local authority areas (other than Reading Borough), in which the bus company operates, to attend board meetings of the company in an observer status – ensuring the views of residents

in areas including Wokingham Borough are heard and listened to.

52.3 None Specific

**Motion 410 submitted by Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey**

Wokingham Borough Council requires the correct installation of sprinkler systems in newly built schools and school buildings within Wokingham Borough.

WBC has recognised the importance of sprinklers in schools for many years and a previous motion passed by this Council required a risk assessment to be undertaken, but this opens the way for sprinklers not to be required, and needs to be strengthened.

School fires continue to occur and latest reports suggest they are getting bigger and more costly. The impact of these fires is significant not just in financial terms but also in terms of the devastating effect on the communities they serve, the environment and the disruption to students, teachers and families. The impact on children's education is not confined to lost coursework but often includes longer travelling times, disrupted social groups and poorer facilities. There is an additional effect of interrupting a child's education due to damage to their classrooms which may hinder their learning of essential skills.

There is a misconception that water systems often cause more damage than they prevent, but with modern technology sprinkler fire suppression systems are far smarter and only activate in the areas that require suppression and only for the time that the risk is evident. In respect of Sprinkler Installations Building Regulations, Regulatory Reform orders and insurers are increasingly calling for active fire suppression systems such as sprinklers as part of the design of new schools. DCSF BB100 sets out a risk assessment methodology which dictates the use of sprinklers in the majority of new school build.

WBC believes if sprinklers were considered at the design stage of new builds, costs could be kept to a minimum. Each year more than 1300 schools in the UK suffer fires large enough to be attended by Fire services, and over half are non-accidental.

Sprinklers reduce the impact of fires in schools on children, and the public by reducing the costs of insurance and of rebuilding, and most importantly by reducing the cost to the child's education and future.

For all these reasons this Council supports the installation of sprinklers in all new school buildings.

52.4 Emmbrook;  
Ewendons;  
Norreys;  
Wescott

### **Motion 411 submitted by Prue Bray**

The Constitution commits this council to ensuring that “the principles of efficiency, transparency and accountability are demonstrated throughout the decision making process and the delivery of services.”

The Wokingham town centre regeneration project has now been running for some years. It is the largest single project being undertaken by the council. No income and expenditure figures for the project as a whole have been published. Nor has any assessment of progress or variation from the original specification. This makes it extraordinarily difficult for both residents and councillors to find out how the project is going, and means that the council’s constitutional commitment to transparency and accountability is not being observed.

While ongoing spend and future commitments may be difficult to quantify, or may need to be kept confidential for commercial reasons, income and expenditure which has already happened in previous financial years must have been accounted for in the council’s accounts, which have all been properly signed off. In addition, any contracts entered into are required to be published by the Transparency Regulations. This means that all the information relating to past spend on the Wokingham town centre regeneration project should be readily identifiable and available to be pulled together into one document covering the whole project.

Therefore, in order to ensure the transparency and accountability to which it has committed itself, this council will by the end of October 2018 publish a report detailing

- The total income and expenditure from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2018 on all works associated with the regeneration of Wokingham town centre, including the Market Place joint project with Wokingham Town Council, broken down to show separately the figures for Peach Street phase 1, Peach Place, Elms Field, Carnival Pool, the Market Place and any other subprojects, and, for each project, broken down to the stages of the project, such as design, and construction

- The original budget and timetable for each of those elements
- An explanation of any variances between the original budget and actual income and expenditure and original timetable and actual progress
- The sources of the funding, with the amounts obtained from each separate source.

#### **CONTACT OFFICER**

**Anne Hunter**  
**Tel**  
**Email**  
**Postal Address**

Democratic & Electoral Services Lead Specialist  
0118 974 6051  
anne.hunter@wokingham.gov.uk  
Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1BN