



# WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held Virtually on  
**THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 8.00 PM**

Susan Parsonage  
Chief Executive  
Published on 10 February 2021

**Note:** The Council has made arrangements under the Coronavirus Act 2020 to hold this meeting virtually via Microsoft Teams. The meeting can be watched live using the following link: <https://youtu.be/Z4Se6Wm91-w>

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, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business***

### Enriching Lives

- Champion outstanding education and enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background.
- Support our residents to lead happy, healthy lives and provide access to good leisure facilities to complement an active lifestyle.
- Engage and involve our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity which people feel part of.
- Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.

### Safe, Strong, Communities

- Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people.
- Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to prevent the need for long term care.
- Nurture communities and help them to thrive.
- Ensure our borough and communities remain safe for all.

### A Clean and Green Borough

- Do all we can to become carbon neutral and sustainable for the future.
- Protect our borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas.
- Reduce our waste, improve biodiversity and increase recycling.
- Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.

### Right Homes, Right Places

- Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future.
- Build our fair share of housing with the right infrastructure to support and enable our borough to grow.
- Protect our unique places and preserve our natural environment.
- Help with your housing needs and support people to live independently in their own homes.

### Keeping the Borough Moving

- Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways.
- Tackle traffic congestion, minimise delays and disruptions.
- Enable safe and sustainable travel around the borough with good transport infrastructure.
- Promote healthy alternative travel options and support our partners to offer affordable, accessible public transport with good network links.

### Changing the Way We Work for You

- Be relentlessly customer focussed.
- Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around you.
- Communicate better with you, owning issues, updating on progress and responding appropriately as well as promoting what is happening in our Borough.
- Drive innovative digital ways of working that will connect our communities, businesses and customers to our services in a way that suits their needs.

To: The Members of Wokingham Borough Council

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
88.		<b>APOLOGIES</b> To receive any apologies for absence	
89.		<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 January 2021.	13 - 46
90.		<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest	
91.		<b>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> To receive any announcements by the Mayor	
92.		<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>	
92.1	None Specific	Alistair Neal has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:  <b>Question</b> This is a question about Settled Status for EU citizens.  The deadline for EU citizens to register for Settled Status is 30th June, 2021.  The September Council meeting passed a motion that called on officers to review the Council's plans with respect to EU Settled Status.  Other Councils are taking active steps to contact EU residents; e.g. Brighton & Hove City Council have	

delivered a postcard to all addresses in the city, with a friendly message on the front, "We want EU citizens to stay in Brighton & Hove", and information sources, including phone numbers, on the back.

There are 4,097 EU citizens in the Wokingham Borough according to the 2018 Electoral Roll, but there may be others, living in less formal circumstances such as sub-lets, HMOs or agricultural accommodation

Some EU citizens are working where they have no formal contact with employers and HR resources to tell them about the new rules, such as self-employed tradesmen workers in the app-based gig economy.

I'm sure that the Council would like all its EU citizens to continue to live their lives in the Borough.

With these points in mind, could the Council Leader give me an update on the review called for in the Council's September motion, and on its plan of action going forward for contacting Wokingham's EU citizens before July?

92.2      None Specific

Philip Cunnington has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

**Question**

What additional provision has been put in place to support the mental health and wellbeing of 15-18-year olds in the Borough whose education and exams have been particularly badly disrupted during the Covid lockdowns?

92.3      None Specific

Richard Tredgett has asked the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Services the following question:

**Question**

While I was pleased to see the Winter 2020 Wokingham Borough News includes an article on mental health and well-being during lockdown, I was disappointed that the new, excellent, and Council funded, Wokingham Recovery College was not mentioned. Can you assure me that the Recovery College will get a full page in the spring edition enabling residents to find out about and apply for the wide range of online courses, all designed to promote mental well-being?

- 92.4 Emmbrook Peter Humphreys has asked the Executive Member for Regeneration the following question:
- Question**  
Despite the many unoccupied units in Peach Place, the Council decided to press on with destroying Elms Field to create even more empty units. Whilst Covid hasn't helped, these units pre-date it and many created during the regeneration have been empty for well over two years. Yet, even during the pandemic, several new businesses, not including ones relocating a few hundred metres to take advantage of a rent free holiday, have opened in the Borough. Would you please state how much, if any, income has been generated by the shop units at Elms Field as a result of the regeneration, and how this compares with the original budget?
- 92.5 None Specific Frank Moore has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:
- Question**  
During the past few weeks the Council, through the Standards Committee and the Audit Committee, have been shown to be infringing the rules of the Council Constitution. As regards the Standards Committee this has been going on for nearly two years. These are serious breaches of the Wokingham Borough Council Constitution and reflect badly in the eyes of the public on our Council. As such, I would like to ask through the Leader of the Council for these serious shortcomings to be formally investigated through an independent person such as a retired QC or judge?
- 92.6 None Specific Beth Rowland has asked the Executive Member for Regeneration the following question:
- Question**  
Some years ago when I was a Borough Councillor and sat on the working party that dealt with the regeneration of Wokingham Town centre, the plan was that money generated by this would go to regenerate other town centres in the Borough.
- Please will you tell me how much has Wokingham's regeneration cost in total and how much in profit has it returned to date?
- 92.7 None Specific Anne Chadwick has asked the Executive Member for Resident Services, Communications and Emissions the following question:

**Question**

In July 2019 you announced that the Council were committing to energy efficiency upgrades and solar PV for the roofs of our schools. Can you give me an update on how many schools have had energy efficiency upgrades and solar installations so far and how many are planned for this year?

92.8 Wescott

Jane Davenport has asked the Executive Member for Environment and Leisure the following question:

**Question**

David Wilson Homes have destroyed Montague Park SANG for the last two consecutive years to plant a wildflower meadow so that Wokingham Council will adopt the site. The SANG is home to endangered species and species protected by law, namely Roe Deer and Hedgehogs. The SANG's plant life was killed by indiscriminately spraying glyphosate, a chemical described by the WHO as "probably carcinogenic to humans" and banned in countless countries around the world and many Boroughs in the UK. A chemical that when ingested by humans or animals can cause internal burns, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea, not to mention its links with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and the decline of our bee population. The SANG was further destroyed by ploughing, leaving huge furrows, turning it in to an unusable mud pit.

In view of the total failure by David Wilson Homes to plant a wildflower meadow in 2019, and, in the absence of wildlife survey data, residents themselves have demonstrated species inhabit this SANG that are protected by law, what have Wokingham Council done to ensure the 2020 attempt has been successfully carried out, because if this second attempt fails, the meadow cannot be destroyed in 2021 for a third consecutive year.

92.9 None Specific

Peter Dennis has asked the Executive Member for Highways and Transport the following question:

**Question**

With regards to the Coppid Beach Park and Ride, the Climate Emergency Action Plan states in outcomes a "10% increase in the number of Wokingham borough residents who use a train or park and ride at least once a week." But I contend that is a fallacy in that residents on that side of Wokingham do not need a place to park vehicles and residents from other parts of the town will have to drive past the town to get to it

(if used the town would then lose car park income).

Therefore, the use case is of people from outside of town using it (which leads to some interesting thoughts). This leads to a query about the sustainability and business case for this park and ride.

How will this park and ride contribute to the climate emergency action plan bearing in mind the continued need to monitor it to demonstrate its worth?

92.10 None Specific

Keith Kerr has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

**Question**

There is an ongoing covert campaign by right wing activists and political organisations to delegitimise the call for fairness, equality and justice that resonated in the UK and all over the world at the birth of the Black Lives Matter movement. Cllr Halsall, do you expect your commitments to equality, given in writing, on behalf of WBC to be honoured or is the Council's inaction and unwillingness to engage with concerned BME residents, part of your personal de-legitimation strategy?

93.

**PETITIONS**

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

94. None Specific

**MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND ASSOCIATED REPORTS**

The following Budget reports will be taken as one Agenda Item and a period of 1½ hours will be allowed to debate the item.

94.1 None Specific

**Housing Revenue Account Budget 2021/22**

To consider the recommendations of the Executive in respect of the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2021/22.

47 - 56

**RECOMMENDATION** that Council approve:

- 1) the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2021/22 (Appendix A);
- 2) Council house dwelling rents be increased by up to 1.50% effective from April 2021 in line with the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2015;
- 3) Garage rents to be increased by 1.16%

effective from April 2021 in line with Council's general fees and charges;

- 4) Shared Equity Rents to be increased by 1.13% based on September RPI, effective from April 2021;
- 5) Tenant Service Charges to be set based on cost recovery;
- 6) the Housing Major Repairs (capital) programme for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix B;
- 7) Sheltered room guest charges for 2021/22 remain unchanged at £9.50 per night per room.

94.2 None Specific

**Capital Programme and Strategy 2021-2024**

**57 - 96**

To consider the recommendations of the Executive in respect of the Capital Programme and Strategy 2021-2024.

**RECOMMENDATION** that Council approve:

- 1) the Capital Strategy for 2021 - 2024 - Appendix A;
- 2) the three-year capital programme for 2021 - 2024 – Appendix B;
- 3) the draft vision for capital investment over the next five years - Appendix C;
- 4) the use of developer contribution funding (s106 and CIL) for capital projects as set out in Appendix D. Approval is sought up to the project budget.

94.3 None Specific

**Treasury Management Strategy 2021-2024**

**97 - 142**

To consider the recommendations of the Executive in respect of the Treasury Management Strategy 2021-2024.

**RECOMMENDATION** that Council:

- 1) approve the Treasury Management Strategy as set out in Appendix A including the following additional Appendices;
  - Prudential Indicators (Appendix B)
  - Annual Investment Strategy 2021/22 (Appendix C)
  - Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy



(Appendix D)

- 2) note that the Audit Committee agreed the Treasury Management Strategy on 3 February 2021;
- 3) note the cumulative financial impact on the Council of its borrowing activities equates to a net credit to the general fund for the taxpayer of £13.64 per band D equivalent at end of 2021/22 and noting this credit increases to £62.86 at the end of 2023/24.

94.4      None Specific      **Medium Term Financial Plan 2021-2024 - Revenue Budget Submission 2021/22**      **143 - 146**

To consider the recommendations of the Executive in relation to the Medium Term Financial Plan 2021-2024 and the Budget submission and Council Tax for 2021/22.

**RECOMMENDATION** that Council approve the following:

- 1) the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2021/24, including the budget submission for 2021/22;
- 2) the statutory resolution that sets out the 2021/22 council tax levels (as set out in Appendix A to the report) (*to be provided on the day once all provisional figures are confirmed*);
- 3) that in the event that there are any changes to the provisional precept of the Fire Authority or parishes, arising from their precept setting meetings being held before the end of February, the Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) is delegated authority to enact all relevant changes to the MTFP, Statutory Resolution and council tax levels.

95.      None Specific      **TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2020-21**      **147 - 156**

To consider the mid-year Treasury Management report for 2020-21.

**RECOMMENDATION** that Council note:

- 1) Appendix A, the Treasury Management Mid-Year report which was agreed at Audit Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020;

- 2) that all approved indicators set out in the Treasury Management Strategy have been adhered to and that prudent and safe management has been maintained;
- 3) the table below which shows the net benefit per council tax payer, from the income generated less the financing costs on all borrowing to date equates to £7.20 which is 0.47% of the average band D council tax charge. This credit provides income to the Council to invest in its priority services.

96. Coronation;  
Hurst; Norreys;  
Remenham,  
Wargrave and  
Ruscombe;  
Shinfield South

### **RE-DESIGNATION OF POLLING PLACES**

157 - 166

To consider a report setting out proposed alternative Polling Places for those that are unavailable for the elections due to be held in 2021.

**RECOMMENDATION** that for any elections held in 2021 the following be agreed:

- 1) The Baptist Church Hall, Fairmead Road, Shinfield be designated as the polling place for polling district SCW in Shinfield South Ward instead of Shinfield Parish Hall;
- 2) Wargrave Pavilion be designated as the polling place for polling district RBM in Remenham, Wargrave and Ruscombe Ward instead of Hare Hatch Village Hall;
- 3) St John's Church, Woodley be designated as the polling place for polling district KCM in Coronation Ward instead of St John's Ambulance, HQ, Woodley;
- 4) Hurst Village Hall be designated as the polling place for Polling District HAM in Hurst Ward instead of the Mobile Unit at Warren Public House, Hurst;
- 5) The Cornerstone, Norreys Avenue Wokingham be designated as the polling place for polling districts WFW and WGW1 in Norreys Ward instead of Norreys Evangelical Church;
- 6) The Assistant Director Governance be delegated authority, in consultation with the relevant Ward Member(s), to re-designate any polling place in the Borough which becomes unavailable because of issues related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION**

To receive a report from the Monitoring Officer setting out proposed changes to the Constitution as considered by the Constitution Review Working Group.

**RECOMMENDATION** That Council agree the following changes to the Constitution, as recommended by the Monitoring Officer, via the Constitution Review Working Group:

- 1) that Section 5.1.11 Consideration of Other Matters Referred to the Executive be amended as set out in Paragraph 1 of the report;
- 2) that Sections 6.1.2, 6.2.1, 8.4.1, 8.6.1 8.7.1 and 9.1.1 be amended as set out in Paragraph 2 of the report;
- 3) that Sections 4.2.9.5 Scope of questions [Council – Public Questions], 4.2.10.5 Scope of questions [Council – Member Questions], 5.4.29 Scope of questions [Executive – Public Questions] and 5.4.37 Scope of questions [Executive – Member Questions] be amended as set out in Paragraph 3 of the report;
- 4) that Section 12 Financial Regulations Appendix A – Statement of Material Decisions, be amended as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
- 5) that amendments be made to Section 13 Procurement and Contract Rules and Procedures, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report;
- 6) that amendments be made to Section 13 Procurement and Contract Rules and Procedures, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report.

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