



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** will be held virtually on
THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 2020 AT 7.00 PM

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 21 October 2020

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/P5qrKTjegMg>

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.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE

John Halsall	Leader of the Council
John Kaiser	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Housing
Parry Bath	Environment and Leisure
UllaKarin Clark	Children's Services
Charlotte Haitham Taylor	Regeneration
Pauline Jorgensen	Highways and Transport
Charles Margetts	Health, Wellbeing and Adult Services
Stuart Munro	Business and Economic Development
Gregor Murray	Resident Services, Communications and Emissions
Wayne Smith	Planning and Enforcement

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
33.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence	
34.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS To confirm the Minutes of the Executive Meeting and the Extraordinary Executive Meeting held on 24 September 2020.	9 - 30
35.		DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest	
36.		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 Executive 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	
36.1	None Specific	Keith Kerr has asked the Leader of the Council the following question: Question The Equalities Act 2010 subsection 149 Public Sector Equality Duty [in particular sub paragraphs 1,3,5,6 & 7], must be complied with;	

1. A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - A. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - B. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - C. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

As the Leader of a Public Authority you have recently made postings and statements on Black Lives Matter (BLM), do you believe you have complied with the letter or the spirit of the law?

36.2 None Specific

Ian Shenton has asked the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Services the following question:

Question

What specific challenges does the provision of mental health services in our Borough face so that they can respond to the outcomes of Covid-19 and all of its consequences, and what new and additional actions is WBC taking to bolster mental health provision to tackle these Covid-related challenges?

36.3 None Specific

Mike Smith has asked the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Services the following question:

Question

Prevention and treatment services for non-communicable diseases have been severely disrupted during the pandemic. In addition, many people have been skipping tests and check-ups as well as not contacting health services from fear of infection.

Are there any groups that WBC has identified that appear to be particularly 'hard to reach' with public health messaging about the importance of getting tests and treatments and, if so, what additional action could be taken to reach out to these vulnerable groups?

36.4 None Specific Philip Cunnington has asked the Executive Member for Resident Services, Communications and Emissions the following question:

Question

Recommendation 7 of the Climate Emergency Task and Finish Group calls on the Council to include progress of measures aimed at reducing Consumption Emissions coming into the Borough. Other than asking residents to buy less, what can be done to reduce emissions that seem to me to sit outside of the Council's control?

36.5 None Specific Anne Chadwick has asked the Executive Member for Resident Services, Communications and Emissions the following question:

Question

As part of the Council's commitment to planting 250,000 new trees, has Wokingham Borough Council considered applying for Tree Cities of the World status and cementing the roll of tree planting and maintenance in the Council's annual activities?

37.

MEMBER QUESTION TIME

To answer any member questions

A period of 20 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

37.1 None Specific Gary Cowan has asked the Executive Member for Finance and Housing the following question:

Question

I note that the forward plan for WBC's Executive calls for discussion on the Housing Strategy 2020-2024: and the notice of proposed decision was first published: 27th August 2019.

The reason for consideration: To approve the Council's Housing Strategy for the next 3 years.

I also notice that the decision was deferred from November Executive in order that additional data regarding specialist housing can be accommodated and the decision is now due on 29th October 2020 by Executive. Reference Number: WBC1087.

The document in question is the Housing Strategy 2019 - 2022 and although there are many references to previous housing strategies on the Councils website it would appear that the key document Housing Strategy 2019 - 2022 is not mentioned.

My question is as a three year housing strategy, 2019-2022 is a crucial document that will require considerable thought and deliberation by Members and the public at large. Why has the Council not put it on the Council website so one can have proper sight of it?

37.2 None Specific

Andrew Mickleburgh has asked the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Services the following question:

Question

Mental health issues do not discriminate. We are all potentially vulnerable. Yet, mental health issues remain a taboo subject for many people. There is the potential for this 'taboo' to become even more so as people cope with increasing and varied forms of hardship resulting from the pandemic. I applaud the initiatives taken by WBC with Citizens Advice to expand mental health supports. However, I am concerned that the cultural diversity, which is so important to our Borough, creates challenges when it comes to responding effectively to culturally specific mental health needs. Are there any specific concerns that WBC is particularly worried about regarding this matter and if so, how is WBC responding?

37.3 None Specific

Tahir Maher has asked the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Services the following question:

Question

A number of cities and towns, including Glasgow, Leeds and Cheshire, for example, have established 'Poverty Truth Commission'. Primarily, it empowers people living in poverty to work with local leaders to tackle poverty.

Ordinary people struggling with poverty are given a chance to relate their personal experiences by creating safe spaces for people to tell their stories and opportunities for those making and influencing decisions to listen.

With rising numbers of individuals and families in our Borough facing significant hardships as a consequence of the pandemic, which in some cases

has the potential to do irreversible harm, the need to examine all potentially helpful courses of action becomes all the more urgent.

Is Wokingham Borough Council prepared to participate in the Poverty Truth Commission to build on a principle of collective decision-making to create meaningful and longer-term solutions and tackle poverty between those people with lived experience of poverty and those in positions of influence?

37.4 None Specific

Caroline Smith has asked the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Services the following question:

Question

Covid-19 is unquestionably having widespread and significant impacts on mental health everywhere, through increased exposure to stressors, loss of coping mechanisms for many, and reduced access to supports.

Awful 'vicious circles' and downward spirals are all too evident. For instance, issues such as unemployment, unexpected financial hardship, housing concerns and for those in work changing work practices to cope with, are contributing to poor mental health.

In turn, practical issues such as these make it harder to improve mental health and can prevent those who need support from seeking help. This include people of all ages.

What age specific strategies and actions does WBC have in place to identify and support the pandemic related mental health needs of rising numbers of our residents?

37.5 None Specific

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

Question

Could the Executive Member for Highways and Transport give a brief summary of how the programme of road resurfacing in the Borough is progressing?

38.

TO CONSIDER ANY REPORTS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES
Officer Response to the Recommendations from the Climate Emergency Task and Finish Group

38.1 None Specific

Matters for Consideration

39.	None Specific	REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FY2020/21 - QUARTER 2	67 - 78
40.	None Specific	CAPITAL MONITORING 2020/21 - END OF SEPTEMBER 2020	79 - 88
41.	None Specific	DRAFT HOUSING STRATEGY 2020-2024	89 - 126
42.	None Specific	WBC CARERS STRATEGY 2020-2025	127 - 200

A decision sheet will be available for inspection at the Council's offices (in Democratic Services and the General Office) and on the web site no later than two working days after the meeting.

CONTACT OFFICER

Anne Hunter
Tel
Email
Postal Address

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