



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.00 PM**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Parsonage', with a long, sweeping tail stroke.

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 9 February 2022

Note: Although members of the public are entitled to attend the meeting in person, space is very limited due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. You can however participate in this meeting virtually, in line with the Council's Constitution. If you wish to participate either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams please contact Democratic Services. The meeting can also be watched live using the following link: <https://youtu.be/AuxJZtsC4Pg>

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.
83.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence	
84.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 January 2022.	13 - 44
85.		DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest	
86.		MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS To receive any announcements by the Mayor	
87.		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	
87.1	None Specific	Adrian Betteridge has asked the Executive Member for Resident Services, Communications and Emissions the following question: Question The sum of the commitments to reduce CO2 in the Transport Section of the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan is that, by 2030, vehicle traffic will be reduced by 40%, and levels of walking and cycling will be 250% and 450% respectively of their current levels. How confident is the Council in achieving this target based on the current actions and investment and what further actions does it intend to take to improve this confidence?	

87.2 Maiden Erlegh Rebecca Frazier has asked the Executive Member for Environment and Leisure the following question:

Question

Can you confirm that there will be a full public consultation for the proposal for 3G pitches to be built adjacent to the Maiden Erlegh nature reserve before any planning permission is put in?

87.3 Maiden Erlegh Julie Freak has asked the Executive Member for Environment and Leisure the following question:

Question

Please could you tell us why Laurel Park is being favoured as a site for a new 3G pitch when it is quite clearly the wrong location and is facing fierce opposition from many Lower Earley residents that use the park for all manner of recreation purposes, not just football?

87.4 Maiden Erlegh Antony Crouch has asked the Executive Member for Environment and Leisure the following question:

Question

Re Laurel Park 3G pitch proposal, If Laurel Park is the main focus, can you please highlight why this valuable park space (currently the main green area for the majority of the development) is being favoured?

87.5 Maiden Erlegh Debra Taylor has asked the Executive Member for Environment and Leisure the following question:

Question

Re Laurel Park 3G pitch proposal, there are existing sites in the very close locality (literally within walking distance of Laurel Park - no emissions) existing hard courts and floodlights in place. One is Reading FC (based outside Wokingham Borough) with state of the art training facilities at Bearwood, (inside the Borough) 1.6 miles from Laurel Park. A condition of the planning approval for that site was that it opened for community use. Yet, in the WBC letter to residents (received by very few residents), it stated that one of the groups that will use the 3G pitch will be Reading FC.

There is a 3G 1.8 miles and another 3G 3.4 miles from Laurel Park. We are told grass pitches are running at full capacity, yet you are intent on digging up four of these grass pitches. Grassroots, will Laurel

Park FC play their league games on a plastic pitch?

87.6 Maiden Erlegh

Chris Elliott has asked the Executive Member for Environment and Leisure the following question:

Question

Re Laurel Park 3G pitch proposal, has the usage profile been assessed - what that means is how is the facility used now, by whom and how often and what is the assessed profile going to change to afterwards?

87.7 None Specific

Louise Timlin has asked the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Communities the following question:

Question

At the WBC meeting on 20 January 2022, in response to a supplementary question from Councillor Kerr, Councillor Soane remarked that although the contract to provide support for domestic abuse victims was awarded to Cranstoun in July 2021, we need to “appreciate” that time would be needed to find an appropriate property for a refuge. I therefore conclude that WBC were aware it would take some time for Cranstoun to provide a refuge in Wokingham and ask why, in that case, was provision not made to continue to provide funds to Berkshire Women’s Aid in the interim period until Cranstoun have a refuge up and running?

87.8 Maiden Erlegh

Laura Taylor has asked the Executive Member for Environment and Leisure the following question:

Question

There are two 3G pitches, one 1.8 miles from Laurel Park and one 3.4 miles from Laurel Park, plus facilities with outdoor floodlit facilities in place at:

- London Valley Leisure Centre 0.8 miles from Laurel Park
- Maiden Erlegh School 0.9 miles from Laurel Park (where Laurel Park Winter train)
- Sol Jol Park 0.8 miles from Laurel Park
- Chalfont Park 1.4 miles from Laurel Park
- Reading FC training ground 1.6 miles from Laurel Park
- Reading University 1.6 miles from Laurel Park

Local players and members therefore do not have too far to travel for training (most of the above facilities are in fact within walking distance of Laurel Park or no more than a 5 minute drive.

My question is therefore why are WBC intent on digging up the only green space at Laurel Park, installing a 3G pitch which will increase congestion and emissions and when the majority of residents don't want nor need it?

88.

PETITIONS

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

89.

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.

89.1

None Specific

Housing Revenue Account Budget 2022/23

45 - 54

To consider the recommendations of the Executive in respect of the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2022/23.

RECOMMENDATION that Council approve:

- 1) The Housing Revenue Account budget for 2022/23 (Appendix A);
- 2) Council house dwelling rents be increased by up to 4.10% effective from 4 April 2022 in line with the council's Rent Setting Policy that was approved by Executive on 25 November 2021.
- 3) Garage rents to be increased by 3.80% effective from April 2022 in line with Council's general fees and charges;
- 4) Shared Equity Rents to be increased by 4.86% based on September RPI, effective from April 2022;
- 5) Tenant Service Charges to be set based on cost recovery;
- 6) The Housing Major Repairs (capital) programme for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix B;
- 7) Sheltered room guest charges for 2022/23 remain unchanged at £9.50 per night per room.

89.2	None Specific	<p>Capital Programme and Strategy 2022-2025 To consider the recommendations of the Executive in respect of the Capital Programme and Strategy 2022-2025.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION that Council approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the Capital Strategy for 2022 - 2025 - Appendix A; 2) the three-year capital programme for 2022 - 2025 –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. 	55 - 92
89.3	None Specific	<p>Treasury Management Strategy 2022-2025 To consider the recommendations of the Executive in respect of the Treasury Management Strategy 2022-2025.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) note the Treasury Management Strategy as set out in Appendix A including the following additional appendices; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prudential Indicators (Appendix B) • Annual Investment Strategy 2022/23 (Appendix C) • Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy (Appendix D) 2) note that the Audit Committee agreed the Treasury Management Strategy on 2 February 2022 and have recommended the report to Council for approval; 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 £42.70 per band D equivalent at end of 2022/23 and noting this credit increases to £62.47 at the end of 2024/25. 	93 - 138

89.4	None Specific	<p>Medium Term Financial Plan 2022-2025 Including Revenue Budget Submission 2022/23</p> <p>To consider the recommendations of the Executive in relation to the Medium Term Financial Plan 2022-2025 and the Budget submission and Council Tax for 2022/23.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION that Council approve the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2022/25, including the budget submission for 2022/23 and the Summary of Budget Movements (SOBM); 2) the statutory resolution that sets out the 2022/23 council tax levels (as set out in Appendix A to the report) (<i>to be provided on the day once all provisional figures are confirmed</i>); 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. 	139 - 142
90.	Hillside; Maiden Erlegh	<p>INTERIM POLLING PLACE REVIEW</p> <p>To consider proposals from the Returning Officer to re-designate two polling places which used to be sited in local primary schools.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: The Returning Officer for Wokingham has reviewed the polling districts and polling places and recommends that Council agree the following permanent re-designations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Hillside Ward: Lower Earley Library to be designated as the polling place for all elections for polling district EDW. 2) Maiden Erlegh Ward: Earley St Peters Church Hall to be designated as the polling place for all elections for polling districts EFW & EGW. 	143 - 154
91.	Coronation	<p>RE-DESIGNATION OF POLLING PLACES</p> <p>To consider a report setting out a proposed alternative to a Polling Place that is unavailable for the elections due to be held in May 2022.</p>	155 - 162

RECOMMENDATION That Council agree for any elections held in 2022 that:

- 1) 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;
- 2) 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.

92. None Specific **ELECTORAL REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS** **163 - 170**

To consider a proposal to set up a cross-party working group to compile the necessary submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and develop and recommend proposals to full Council.

RECOMMENDATION That Council:

- 1) note the arrangements for a review of electoral arrangements by the Local Government Boundary Review for England;
- 2) agree to setting up a cross-party, Member level Working Group on the basis set out in paragraphs 4.3-4.5 of the report; and
- 3) agree the Terms of Reference of the Electoral Review Working Group as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

93. None Specific **WHOLE COUNCIL ELECTIONS** **171 - 222**

To consider the recommendation of the Executive to launch a consultation to move to whole Council electoral cycle.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council launch a consultation with stakeholders on moving to a whole council (all-out) electoral cycle.

94. None Specific **CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION** **223 - 244**

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) the deadline for public and Member questions, that relate to items on the agenda or urgent matters, be amended, as set out in Paragraph 1 of the report;
- 2) that Section Rule 4.2.9.9 Written Answers, be amended as set out in Paragraph 2 of the report;
- 3) that Section 4.2.8.1 Consideration of motions and Section 4.2.11.3 Motion set out in Agenda be amended as set out in Paragraph 3 of the report;
- 4) that Section 4.2.11.3 Motion set out in Agenda, be amended as set out in Paragraph 4 of the report;
- 5) that Section 4.2.13.1 No Speeches Until Motion Seconded, be amended as set out in Paragraph 5 of the report;
- 6) that Section 4.2.13.13 Motions on Expenditure or Revenue, as set out in Paragraph 6 of the report, be added to the Constitution;
- 7) that Section 8.1 Planning Committee Terms of Reference be amended as set out in Paragraph 7 of the report;
- 8) that Sections 8.7.1 Function and Composition of School Transport Appeals Panel and 8.7.2 Meetings of the School Transport Appeals Panel, be amended as set out in Paragraph 8 of the report;
- 9) that Section 9.1.12 Process for Dealing with Misconduct Complaints be amended as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
- 10) amendments to various sections of the Constitution, put forward by the Head of Legal Services, and as set out in Paragraph 10 of the report be agreed.

95.	None Specific	<p>OPTALIS CONTRACT RENEWAL 2022</p> <p>To consider recommendations from the Executive to in respect of the renewal of the Optalis Contract.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION The Executive recommends Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) approve the attached procurement business case to renew the contract to Optalis; 2) delegate authority to the Director of Adult Services, in consultation with the Lead Member for Adult Services to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) approve and complete the contract with Optalis for £7.3mil – 2022-23; and b) undertake all activities required to complete the joint ownership arrangements between RBWM and the Council as set out under the heading ‘Future Arrangements’ below. 3) delegate jointly to the Director of Adult Services and the Director of Resources and Assets authority to add to and remove services within Optalis during the term of the contract provided that in each case, up to the total value of £500k: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the budget for the costs of the services has already been approved as part of the agreed Council Budget; b) the business case has been approved by both Directors; c) the Executive Member with responsibility for Adult Services and the Executive Member with responsibility for Finance have been consulted. 4) note the shareholders agreement. 	245 - 304
96.	None Specific	<p>CENTRAL AND EASTERN BERKSHIRE JOINT MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN: MAIN MODIFICATIONS CONSULTATION</p> <p>To consider the recommendations from the Executive in respect of the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan: Main Modifications Consultation.</p>	305 - 428

RECOMMENDATION Council is recommended by Executive to:

- 1) agree the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan: Main Modifications, set out in Enclosure 3 (February 2022) to the report, and supporting documentation for publication and public consultation;
- 2) authorise community engagement on the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan: Main Modifications and associated supporting documents to take place for at least 6 weeks from February 2022 onwards;
- 3) authorise the Director of Place and Growth, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Enforcement, to agree minor amendments necessary to the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan: Main Modifications and other supporting documents prior to consultation.

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