



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 7.30 PM**

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive

Published on 13 September 2022

Note: Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting or participate in the 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/NES8bA47uE4>

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.

Our Vision
<i>A great place to live, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business</i>
Enriching Lives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion excellent 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 enable healthy choices for everyone. • Engage and empower our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity for the Borough which people feel part of. • Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.
Providing Safe and Strong Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people. • Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to reduce the need for long term care. • Nurture our communities: enabling them to thrive and families to flourish. • Ensure our Borough and communities remain safe for all.
Enjoying a Clean and Green Borough
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play as full a role as possible to achieve a carbon neutral Borough, sustainable for the future. • Protect our Borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas for people to enjoy. • Reduce our waste, promote re-use, increase recycling and improve biodiversity. • Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.
Delivering the Right Homes in the Right Places
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future. • Ensure the right infrastructure is in place, early, 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, where it is needed most, to live independently in their own homes.
Keeping the Borough Moving
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways. • Tackle traffic congestion and 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 in offering affordable, accessible public transport with good transport links.
Changing the Way We Work for You
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be relentlessly customer focussed. • Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around our customers. • Communicate better with customers, 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.
Be the Best We Can Be
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an organisation that values and invests in all our colleagues and is seen as an employer of choice. • Embed a culture that supports ambition, promotes empowerment and develops new ways of working. • Use our governance and scrutiny structures to support a learning and continuous improvement approach to the way we do business. • Be a commercial council that is innovative, whilst being inclusive, in its approach with a clear focus on being financially resilient. • Maximise opportunities to secure funding and investment for the Borough. • Establish a renewed vision for the Borough with clear aspirations.

To: The Members of Wokingham Borough Council

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
40.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence	
41.	None Specific	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 July 2022.	11 - 32
42.		DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest	
43.		MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS Following the sad passing of our monarch, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, the Mayor will be inviting the Council to pay tribute to the Queen.	
44.		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	
44.1	None Specific	Tony Johnson has asked the Leader of the Council the following question: Question In Wokingham Borough Council's Constitution of 21st July 2022, the " Timing and Order of Business " for Annual Council and Full Council both say "Except as provided by Rule 4.2.2.1, the order of business at the Annual Meeting will be:" - before going on to define the order for the respective meeting. As Rule 4.2.2.1 is itself the " Timing and Order of Business " for Full Council, should that reference	

really be to Rule 4.2.2.2 "**Change to Order of Business**" and has this reference been incorrect as far back as Wokingham Borough Council's Constitution of November 2015?

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| 44.2 | None Specific | <p>Alan Davis has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways the following question:</p> <p>Question</p> <p>In implementing its current policies and processes for road maintenance, which result in priority given to roads with high traffic density, how does the Council actively manage the risk of injury to pedestrians and other road users (including consequent compensation claims) in poorly maintained roads with low traffic density, like South Close?</p> |
| 45. | | <p>PETITIONS</p> <p>To receive any petitions which Members or members of the public wish to present.</p> |
| 46. | None Specific | <p>PRESENTATION BY THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, WAYNE BOWCOCK, ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE</p> <p>To receive a presentation from Wayne Bowcock, Chief Fire Officer, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service.</p> <p>The presentation is expected to be approximately 20 minutes in duration after which there will be an opportunity for Member questions of no more than 10 minutes in duration</p> |
| 47. | None Specific | <p>TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2021-22</p> <p>To receive the Treasury Management Outturn Report 2021-22.</p> |

RECOMMENDATION: That Council note:

- 1) that the Treasury Management Mid-Year report was considered and agreed by the Audit Committee at their meeting on Wednesday 27 July 2022; The Audit Committee approved recommendation 1) (“that all approved indicators set out in the treasury management strategy have been adhered to”) but wanted it noted that in fact the indicator for % of internal borrowing to CFR (29%) had not been met, with the outturn indicator at 44%. It was agreed this was in fact a positive reflecting a

reduction in required external borrowing (reprofiling of the capital programme) and increase in cashflow of grants received.

- 2) that all approved indicators set out in the Treasury Management Strategy have been adhered to;
- 3) the contents of "Table A", as set out in the report, which shows the net benefit per council tax band D equivalent, from the income generated less the financing costs on all borrowing to date equates to £22.25 per band D for 2021/22. This credit provides income to the Council to invest in its priority services.
- 4) as at the end of March 2022, the total external general fund debt was £196m, which reduces to £72m after taking into account cash balances (net indebtedness).
- 5) the Council's realisable asset value of approximately £443m, of which its commercial assets are estimated at approximately £249m.

48.	None Specific	CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2022 JULY To consider the Climate Emergency Action Plan Annual Progress Report 2022 July.	45 - 178
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RECOMMENDATION: That Council notes

- 1) The progress made in the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) third progress report;
- 2) The updates made from previous reports to demonstrate the expected trajectory that we calculate existing projects will deliver;
- 3) That a more ambitious approach will be required going forward to enable WBC to play as full a role as possible in achieving a net-zero carbon borough by 2030;
- 4) That this remains a live document and will continue to be updated as more details become available to support decision making.

49.	None Specific	SINGLE USE PLASTICS AND FOOD WASTE To receive a report regarding Single Use Plastics and Food Waste.	179 - 184
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RECOMMENDATION: That Council notes:

- a) The reasons for the call-in request by the seven Councillors made on 20 July;
- b) The withdrawal of the original officer decision that ceased the provision of single use plastics for food waste caddies; and
- c) The key decision report that will be considered by Executive at its meeting of the 29 September 2022.

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 Barkham

Michael Firmager has asked the Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Resident Services the following question:

Question

When he was Executive Member for Climate Emergency Councillor Murray following my introduction was working to provide Freely Fruity with land at the Barkham Solar Farm site to use as a permanent base for their fruit tree and vegetable growing charity. What will the new Executive Member do to ensure that Councillor Murray's commitment to this amazing charity is delivered on?

50.2 None Specific

Gary Cowan has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

Question

Can Wokingham Borough Council use a confidentiality clause or 'gagging clause' if an elected councillor is the whistleblower and if so can they legally stop the elected councillor from making a protected disclosure even if the Councils own constitution suggests it can?

50.3 None Specific

Laura Blumenthal has asked the Executive Member for Housing the following question:

Question

When Councillor John Kaiser held the housing

portfolio, he was exploring with officers to increase the percentage of social and affordable housing to 50% on all new sites. He was working towards including this as a policy amendment to the emerging Local Plan. This was to reflect the shortage of affordable homes in the Borough. Please can you share if you agree that this is a good idea to help tackle the housing crisis for those on lower income and will you be supporting this target yourself?

50.4 None Specific

Graham Howe has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question

In 2019 the Conservative administration started the Solar on Schools project. The economic rationale is that schools typically spend 84% of their budget on labour costs, 5% on standing costs and as at 2019, 5% on energy leaving only 6% for discretionary educational spend. By installing solar on schools the installations to date have shown savings which reduce energy to 3% of budget, therefore increase discretionary educational spend from 6% to 8%. Thanks to President Putin the world has changed. We must address ourselves to those things we can do something about. It is obvious the tripling in energy prices and no cap for schools, puts all schools into deficit. The council can do something about this by catalysing the solar on schools programme by adding batteries and monitoring systems to make greater utility energy savings.

On the premise of addressing our energies to things we can do something about, will the Lead Member for Children's Services make sure the current Solar on Schools programme is accelerated to a full programme on all our 66 schools for the benefit of our 22,000 children, with immediate effect and inform Ward members of the scheduling progress within their wards?

50.5 None Specific

Shahid Younis has asked the Executive Member for Finance the following question:

Question:

With inflation rocketing, will the administration commit to freezing or below inflation rent rises for the Council's social housing tenants?

50.6 None Specific Stuart Munro has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

Question:

At a recent meeting of the overview and scrutiny management committee you stated that the town centre regeneration programme did not make money and therefore did not benefit the whole Borough. Can you please clarify this as this statement is very clearly incorrect?

50.7 None Specific Keith Baker has asked the Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Resident Services, the following question:

Question:

In January, this Council unanimously passed the Anti Abuse Charter. The Motion said progress updates would go to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny panel twice a year. When will it go to Overview and Scrutiny?

50.8 Arborfield Jackie Rance has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

Question:

At the elections of 2022, the Leader of the Council campaigned vigorously against housing at Halls Farm, and the electorate believed him. Please could Mr. Jones assure everyone that there will indeed be no development ever at Halls Farm?

50.9 Finchampstead South Peter Harper has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways the following question:

Question:

Since the last consultation with the people of Finchampstead, the plans for the changes to California Crossroads have been changed and hence the results of that consultation are no longer valid.

Considering the length of time that has passed since the last consultation, will the Executive Member for Highways commit to carrying out a consultation on the proposed changes to the junction at California Crossroads?

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.

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

53.

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.

54.

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

54.1 None Specific

Motion 486 submitted by Norman Jorgensen

‘Wokingham Borough Council congratulates the England Lionesses on their incredible achievement of becoming European Champions. Many of these women were not offered the opportunity as children to play football at school and the only reason for their success was they were prepared and able to travel great distances to pursue their dream. Wokingham Borough Council believes all children should be offered the opportunity at school to play football and calls on all primary schools in Wokingham Borough to ensure that football is offered to every child who wishes to play.’

- 54.2 Wescott **Motion 487 submitted by Charles Margetts**
'Residents who live of William Heelas Way in Wokingham have raised significant concerns with me about the speed of traffic outside Floreat Montague Park Primary School. The link road between London Road and the future Southern Relief Road has a 30mph speed limit and traffic levels which will only get busier when the Southern Relief Road opens. Wokingham Borough Council believes it is of vital importance that young children can travel to school on foot or by bicycle in complete safety. To ensure children can walk and cycle safely to school Wokingham Borough Council will change the speed limit outside all primary schools to 20 mph.'
- 54.3 None Specific **Motion 488 submitted by Laura Blumenthal**
'At present, a Member taking parental leave in accordance with the policy could find themselves in breach of s85(1), Local Government Act 1972 ("if a member of a Local Authority fails, throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, to attend any meeting of the Authority they will, unless the failure was due to some good reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the Authority").
It is therefore proposed that this Council agrees the following Motion with the intention of introducing a Parental Leave Policy for Members in due course.

It is recommended that this Council resolves that:

The Inclusion Cross-Party Working Group be commissioned to draft a Parental Leave Policy for Members for approval by Council at the earliest opportunity.'

CONTACT OFFICER

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