



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in Council Chamber
- Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on
THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.30 PM

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 8 February 2023

This meeting will be filmed for inclusion on the Council's website.

Note: Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting or participate in the meeting virtually, in accordance 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://youtube.com/live/GSsgUJIWDXU?feature=share>

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.
102.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.	
103.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 January 2023.	9 - 46
104.		DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and any non-registrable interests relevant to any matters to be considered at the meeting.	
105.		MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS To receive any announcements from the Mayor.	
106.		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	
107.		PETITIONS To receive any petitions which Members or members of the public wish to present.	
108.	None Specific	MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND ASSOCIATED REPORTS The following budget reports will be taken as one agenda item and a period of 1.5 hours will be permitted to debate this item.	
108.1	None Specific	Housing Revenue Account Budget 2023/24 To consider the recommendations of the Executive in	47 - 56

respect of the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2023/24.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council approve:

- 1) The Housing Revenue Account budget for 2023/24 (Appendix A);
- 2) Council house dwelling rents be increased by up to 5.99% effective from 3rd April 2023 in line with the council's Rent Setting Policy that was approved by Executive on 27th October 2022.
- 3) Garage rents to be increased by 5.99% effective from April 2023;
- 4) Shared Equity Rents to be increased by 5.99% effective from April 2023;
- 5) Tenant Service Charges to be increased by 3.99% effective from April 2023;
- 6) The Housing Major Repairs (capital) programme for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix B;
- 7) Sheltered room guest charges for 2023/24 remain unchanged at £9.50 per night per room.

108.2 None Specific

Capital Programme and Strategy 2023-2026

57 - 88

To consider the recommendations of the Executive in respect of the Capital Programme and Strategy 2023-2026.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council approve:

- 1) the Capital Strategy for 2023 - 2026 - Appendix A;
- 2) the three-year capital programme for 2023 - 2026 – 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.

108.3	None Specific	Treasury Management Strategy 2023-2026 To consider the recommendations of the Executive in respect of the Treasury Management Strategy 2023-2026.	89 - 140
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RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- 1) Note the Treasury Management Strategy as set out in Appendix A including the following additional appendices;
 - Prudential Indicators (Appendix B)
 - Annual Investment Strategy 2023/24 (Appendix C)
 - Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy (Appendix D)
- 2) Note that the Audit Committee agreed the Treasury Management Strategy, including the change of minimum credit rating for investments, on 1 February 2023 and have recommended the report to Council.

108.4	None Specific	Medium Term Financial Plan 2023-2026 Including Revenue Budget Submission 2023/24 To consider the recommendations of the Executive in relation to the Medium Term Financial Plan 2023-2026 and the Budget submission and Council Tax for 2023/24.	141 - 264
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RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- 1) Approve the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2023/26, including the budget submission for 2023/24 and the Summary of Budget Movements (SOBM);
- 2) Note in relation to the capital programme, additional challenges have emerged in the secondary school places capital programme and are currently being worked through and will be reported to Executive in early 2023/24 to seek the necessary budget provision.
- 3) Approve the statutory resolution that sets out the 2023/24 council tax levels (as set out in Appendix A to the report)
- 4) Approve 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.

109.	None Specific	TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REPORT 2022-23	265 - 272
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To receive the Treasury Management Mid Year Report 2022-23.

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 30 November 2022;
- 2) that all approved indicators set out in the Treasury Management Strategy have been adhered to; with the exceptions of internal borrowing which is forecast to be higher than set out in the strategy and ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream – General Fund.
- 3) due to the current uncertainty in the interest rate market, the internal borrowing parameter is being reviewed with our external treasury management advisors and will be reported back as part of treasury management strategy.
- 4) 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 £15.29 per band D for 2022/23. This income is used by the Council to continue to provide priority services for the borough residents.
- 5) As at the end of September 2022, the forecast for the total external general fund debt was £112m at March’23, which reduces to £81m after taking into account cash balances (net indebtedness) reducing interests costs in the current economic climate.
- 6) The Executive agreed on 27th October 2022, recommendation 3 of the Capital Monitoring 2022/23 – Q2 report ‘note that due to the current uncertainty surrounding higher interest rates, as part of our financial management process, a review is to be undertaken to

determine what capital projects can be postponed this year, to minimise exposure to borrowing at high rates. Any postponement is to be agreed at Executive.'

110. None Specific

ENERGY CONTRACT PROCUREMENT

273 - 290

To consider the recommendations from the Executive in respect of the Energy Contract procurement.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- 1) Approve the procurement strategy set out in the Procurement Business case for the migration of the Councils energy buying strategy from the current framework provider (CCS – Crown Commercial Service) to the Laser framework;
- 2) Approve the Procurement Business case;
- 3) Note that an updated Procurement Business Case will be reported back to Executive and Council, with proposed contract terms and timescales for implementation.
- 4) Delegate authority to the Director of Resources and Assets, in consultation with the Executive Members for Finance and Contracts, to engage with framework suppliers and negotiate on future contract provision, in line with the approved procurement strategy.

111.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Council may exclude the press and public in order to discuss the exempt information contained in an Appendix of Agenda Item 110 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, including the authority holding that information) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended) as appropriate.

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