



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of an **INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION** will be held in SF2 - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 2.00 PM**

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 22 September 2022

Note: Non-Committee Members and 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/RWw3IO-j8Ps>

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.

For consideration by

Lindsay Ferris, Executive Member for Planning and the Local Plan

Officers Present

Ian Jordan, Planning Business Support Manager

Callum Wernham, Democratic & Electoral Services Specialist

IMD NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	
IMD 2022/11	None Specific	DISTRICT LICENCE UPDATE TO LOCAL VALIDATION LIST	5 - 8

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Agenda Item IMD11

INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION REFERENCE IMD: 2022/11

TITLE	District Licence update to Local Validation List
DECISION TO BE MADE BY	Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan - Lindsay Ferris
DATE, MEETING ROOM and TIME	30 September 2022 SF2 at 2pm
WARD	None specific;
DIRECTOR / KEY OFFICER	Director, Place and Growth - Steve Moore

PURPOSE OF REPORT (Inc Strategic Outcomes)

To seek formal agreement for minor modifications of the existing Local Validation List so that it includes additional details in respect of the District Licensing Scheme now available to applicants for planning applications where the application site falls within protected species (Great Crested Newts) zones.

The scheme is offered as an alternative to provision of species protection mitigation reports & the associated licensing currently required – the applicants will be offered the choice to use the new licencing scheme as an alternative.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan approve the minor modifications to existing Local Validation List as outlined above.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

See purpose of the report above.

Background

The Planning Regulations require certain plans and documents to be submitted in order to make an application valid. The Regulations allow Local Authorities to require further supporting information provided it is set out on a “Local Validation List”. Wokingham Borough Council’s Local Validation List was last updated in 2021.

Great crested newts and their habitats are legally protected in the UK and must be considered as part of the planning application process. Unless it can be definitively demonstrated that there is no risk to great crested newts or their habitats, applicants need a licence to carry out development work where the species and or its protected habitats are present.

Wokingham Borough currently offers two licensing options, these are:

- applying directly to Natural England for a licence after you have received planning permission; or
- by working with a registered ecologist under the low impact class licence

The Council can now offer a third option for applicants whose sites are located within protected species zones;

- joining the District Licence Scheme authorised by the Council as part of the planning application process

Business Case (including Analysis of Issues)

No business case required – this report seeks to make minor modifications to the Council’s existing Local Validation List, there are no associated financial implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0	N/A	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0	N/A	N/A

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

Cross-Council Implications
There are no wider impacts – the modifications increase choice for our internal and external customers.

Public Sector Equality Duty
There are no impacts on equality as result of the proposed modifications and therefore no equalities impact assessment is required.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES	
Director – Resources and Assets	To be updated at the meeting.
Monitoring Officer	To be updated at the meeting.
Leader of the Council	To be updated at the meeting.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2
N/A

List of Background Papers
Draft amended Local Validation List

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