



# WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** will be held in David Hicks 1 - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **THURSDAY 25 JANUARY 2024 AT 7.00 PM**

Susan Parsonage  
Chief Executive  
Published on 17 January 2024

**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: [Democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk)

The meeting can also be watched live using the following link:  
<https://youtube.com/live/JWg60ZNYDAg?feature=share>

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.

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

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Stephen Conway        | Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Housing |
| Prue Bray             | Deputy Leader and Children's Services                  |
| Rachel Bishop-Firth   | Equalities, Inclusion and Fighting Poverty             |
| David Cornish         | Business and Economic Development                      |
| Lindsay Ferris        | Planning and Local Plan                                |
| Paul Fishwick         | Active Travel, Transport and Highways                  |
| David Hare            | Health and Wellbeing and Adult Services                |
| Ian Shenton           | Environment, Sport and Leisure                         |
| Imogen Shepherd-DuBey | Finance  |

| ITEM NO. | WARD | SUBJECT  | PAGE NO. |
|----------|------|--|----------|
| 78.      |      | <b>APOLOGIES</b><br>To receive any apologies for absence.  |          |
| 79.      |      | <b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b><br>To confirm the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 30 November 2023.  | 7 - 18   |
| 80.      |      | <b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b><br>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.  |          |
| 81.      |      | <b>STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER</b>   |          |
| 82.      |      | <b>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b><br>To answer any public questions.<br><br>A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions submitted under notice.<br><br>The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the work of the Executive.<br><br>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 <a href="http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions">www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions</a> |          |
| 82.1     |      | Colin Watts has asked the Executive Member for Planning and the Local Plan the following question:   |          |

**Question:**

In Michael Gove's speech to the RIBA conference on 19 December 2023 he presented the updated National Planning Policy Framework. Whilst the updated NPPF confirms that the standard method of calculating housing need remains in place, he went to great lengths to make clear that "Local authorities have the comfort of knowing that they need not re-draw the green belt or sacrifice protected landscapes to meet housing numbers".

Therefore, will you confirm that you will take advantage of the updated NPPF and produce an updated LPU with a significantly lower number of houses compared to the November 2021 version, reflecting that the standard method of calculating housing need has to be adjusted in order to provide greater protection for the green fields in Wokingham Borough.

82.2

Andy Bailey has asked the Executive Member for Planning and the Local Plan the following question:

**Question:**

Could the current land classification of Hall Farm site be clarified please. Is it Countryside and is it designated an area of Landscape Value and what protections does this afford ?

83.

**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.

83.1

Councillor Gary Cowan has asked the Executive Member for Planning and the Local Plan the following question:

**Question:**

It was clear from Cllr Ferris's answer to a resident's question at the last Executive meeting that Cllr Ferris has no clear understanding of the Core Strategy which is his key responsibility.

His reply to the resident's supplementary question was factually incorrect and so totally misleading.

His implication that that I was part of the Conservative Administration that put this current plan in place is a

complete lie as an Independent Councillor I was not involved in any administration in the evolution of the current LPU which is the responsibility now of the Lib Dem Administration.

Only they can honour their promise to the public of fighting housing numbers by declaring now they will not support any plans for housing beyond the 15 year plan period as laid down by the Government.

Does he owe myself and the residents a public apology?

### **Matters for Consideration**

|            |               |  |                  |
|------------|---------------|--|------------------|
| <b>84.</b> | None Specific | <b>UNREASONABLY PERSISTENT COMPLAINANTS POLICY</b> | <b>19 - 30</b>   |
| <b>85.</b> | None Specific | <b>REVENUE MONITORING 2022/23 Q3</b>               | <b>31 - 46</b>   |
| <b>86.</b> | None Specific | <b>CAPITAL MONITORING, QUARTER 3</b>               | <b>47 - 58</b>   |
| <b>87.</b> | None Specific | <b>CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT</b>              | <b>59 - 94</b>   |
| <b>88.</b> | None Specific | <b>SHAREHOLDERS MID-YEAR REPORT 2023-24</b>        | <b>95 - 100</b>  |
| <b>89.</b> | None Specific | <b>AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREAS</b>                | <b>101 - 246</b> |
| <b>90.</b> | None Specific | <b>ANNUAL HEALTH &amp; SAFETY REPORT 2022-23</b>   | <b>247 - 260</b> |

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**

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