



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in Council Chamber
- Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on
THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7.30 PM

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 14 February 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

The meeting can also be watched live using the following link:
<https://youtube.com/live/JsqLUjQhgM8?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.

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.
108.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.	
109.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 January 2024.	11 - 46
110.		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.	
111.		MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS To receive any announcements by the Mayor.	
112.		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	
112.1	None Specific	Paul Stevens has asked the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan the following question: Question: Residents are struggling to understand why the LPU (Local Plan Update) has still not been released, given that the public consultation on this proposal ended on the 24th January 2022, over two years ago. It has more recently been timetabled, by the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan, for publication in November 2023, yet we still have not seen it, nor do we have a new timetable for publication. When will	

see the updated LPU?

112.2 Norreys

Peter Humphreys has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways the following question:

Question:

The Coppid Beech P&R has been open for more than two months, I've passed it on at least two dozen occasions and am yet to see a single user. That's great in respect of carbon net zero but not so good for council finances. In fairness my wife did see a car in there, but it was a remote-controlled toy operated by a six-year-old – I suspect he didn't pay the parking fee.

Clearly the millions spent building the car park are lost but I'd like to know the full operating loss to date taking account of the budgeted income, actual income (if any) and running costs?

112.3 None Specific

John Sephton has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:

Question:

Why can't the preliminary schedule for road cleaning be posted on the web site, which would enable the public to provide feedback? The routes and frequency should all be in accordance with both the consultation results from last year and the 2024-2025 budget. Aspirations are hard to monitor.

113.

PETITIONS

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

114. 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.

114.1 None Specific

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2024/25

That Council consider the recommendations of the Executive in respect of the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2024/25.

47 - 56

RECOMMENDATION: That Council approve:

- 1) The Housing Revenue Account budget for 2024/25 (Appendix A);
- 2) Council house dwelling rents be increased by up to 7.7% effective from 1st April 2024 in line with the council's Rent Setting Policy that was approved by Executive on 26th October 2023.
- 3) Garage rents to be increased by 8.33% effective from April 2024;
- 4) Shared Equity Rents to be increased by 7.7% effective from April 2024;
- 5) Tenant Service Charges to be increased over the next three year to achieve full cost recovery effective from April 2024;
- 6) The Housing Major Repairs (capital) programme for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix B;
- 7) Sheltered room guest charges for 2024/25 remain unchanged at £9.50 per night per room.

114.2 None Specific

CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND STRATEGY 2024-2027

57 - 96

That Council consider the recommendations of the Executive in respect of the Capital Programme and Strategy 2024-2027.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council consider the recommendations of the Executive in respect of the Capital Programme and Strategy 2024-2027 and approve.

- 1) the Capital Strategy for 2024 - 2027 - Appendix A;
- 2) the three-year capital programme for 2024 - 2027 – Appendix B noting that approval is sought for 2024/25 schemes only.
- 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.

- 5) the Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) will exercise, where possible the flexible use of capital receipts policy, as issued by the Secretary of State under section 15(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2003.
- 6) approve delegation for the delivery (including awarding and signing of the contract) of the South Wokingham Distributor Road to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Place & Growth in agreement with Lead member for Finance and Lead Member for Highways subject to the scheme being fully funded from Homes England Grant and Developer Contributions.

114.3 None Specific **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2024-2027** **97 - 150**

That Council consider the recommendations of the Executive in respect of the Treasury Management Strategy 2024-2027.

RECOMMENDATION: Council is recommended to approve:

- 1) The Treasury Management Strategy as set out in Appendix A including the following additional appendices;
 - Prudential Indicators (Appendix B)
 - Annual Investment Strategy 2024/25 (Appendix C)
 - Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy (Appendix D)

114.4 None Specific **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2024-2027 INCLUDING REVENUE BUDGET SUBMISSION 2024/25** **151 - 294**

To receive the Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-2027 including Revenue Budget Submissions 2024/25.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- 1) Approve the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2024/27, including the budget submission for 2024/25 and the Summary of Budget Movements (SOBM);

2) Approve the statutory resolution that sets out the 2024/25 council tax levels (as set out in Appendix A to the report)

3) 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.

115. None Specific **COUNCIL PLAN EXTENSION 2024-25** **295 - 324**
To approve the Council Plan Extension 2024-25.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the Council Plan Extension 2024-25.

116. None Specific **ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE - THE BERKSHIRE PROSPERITY BOARD** **325 - 334**
To establish a Joint Committee – The Berkshire Prosperity Board.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves:

1. the establishment of a fully constituted Joint Committee (to be known as the Berkshire Prosperity Board) from May 2024 to deliver a Berkshire-wide vision for inclusive green and sustainable economic prosperity.
2. that the proposed constitution for the Joint Committee as set out in Appendix A -Functions and Procedure Rules for a Joint Committee, Appendix B - Responsibilities of the accountable body and Appendix C - Governance structure is approved subject to review by each member Council within 6 months.
3. that the Chief Executive be delegated to reach a legally binding Agreement between the member Authorities setting out the supporting arrangements and responsibilities between the Authorities, particularly that between the Lead Authority, known as the Accountable Body and the other member Authorities and go through the relevant democratic process if required. Such Agreement also to be

approved by the s151 Officer.

4. that Wokingham Borough Council act as the Accountable Body for the Prosperity Board.

117. None Specific

APPROVAL OF A PERIOD OF ABSENCE FROM MEETINGS BY COUNCILLOR GARY COWAN

335 - 336

To consider a proposal to approve a period of absence on the grounds of ill health for Councillor Gary Cowan.

RECOMMENDATION: Council is recommended to:

- 1) note that Councillor Gary Cowan has not been able to attend meetings in-person of the Council due to ill-health since his attendance at Council on 21 September 2023;
- 2) approve Councillor Gary Cowan's non-attendance at meetings of the Council due to ill-health until his current term of office ends in May 2024, pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

118. None Specific

RE-DESIGNATION OF POLLING PLACES

337 - 346

To consider proposals from the Returning Officer to re-designate two polling places for the elections on 2 May.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council agree that the following Polling Places are designated for the elections to be held on 2 May 2024:

- 1) St John's Church, Woodley be designated as the polling place for polling district KCEb and KDEb in Bulmershe & Coronation Ward instead of St John's Ambulance, HQ, Woodley;
- 2) Shinfield Players Theatre be designated as the polling place for polling district SAE2a in Shinfield Ward instead of White Knights Primary School
- 3) 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.

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