



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in Council Chamber
- Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on
THURSDAY 23 MAY 2024 AT 7.30 PM

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 15 May 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/Rnherbn4IO4?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.
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1.

ELECTION OF MAYOR

To elect a Mayor for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

The outgoing Mayor will address the Council for up to five minutes.

The outgoing Mayor will then call for nominations for the Office of Mayor for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

The outgoing Mayor will ask the Council to vote on the nomination(s).

At this point in the proceedings, the outgoing Mayor and the incoming Mayor may adjourn in order to place the Cloak and Chain of Office on the incoming Mayor.

The incoming Mayor will take the chair and make the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as required by Section 83(3) of the Local Government Act 1972. The Mayor to address the Council for up to five minutes.

The Mayor to present the Past Mayor's Badge to the outgoing Mayor.

2.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

To appoint a Deputy Mayor for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

The Mayor will call for nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

The Mayor will ask the Council to vote on the nomination(s).

The Deputy Mayor will make the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as required by Section 83(3) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

The Mayor will present the Deputy Mayor's badge of office to the Deputy Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor will address the Council for up to three minutes.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** 11 - 40
To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 March 2024.
4. **APOLOGIES**
To receive any apologies for absence.
5. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive any declarations of discloseable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and any non-registrable interests relevant to any matters to be considered at the meeting.
6. None Specific **RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT ON MAY 2024 ELECTIONS** 41 - 46
The Council's Assistant Director Governance, as Returning Officer, to report on the Borough elections held on 2 May 2024.
7. **MAYOR'S OR HEAD OF PAID SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**
To receive any urgent announcements by the Mayor or from the Head of Paid Service.
8. **STATEMENTS FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL/EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**
To receive notification from the Leader of his Deputy and the remainder of the Members appointed to the Executive; the scope of their respective portfolios; the terms of delegation to them; and Officers if applicable.

The Leader of Council/Executive Members will be permitted to speak for up to ten minutes in total.

The Leader of the Opposition will be permitted to speak for up to five minutes.
9. **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

9.1 None Specific

Andrew Mickleburgh has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:

Question:

Individuals and families move to and leave our Borough to settle elsewhere for many reasons. They are also very heterogeneous. For instance, some may have moved to or from another local authority. Others have moved from or to a different country. Many are children, some of whom have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). Some 'new arrivals' may already have an Education and Health Care Plan from their previous Local Authority. Those from abroad sometimes have a close equivalent, fully recognised by their previous country of origin. What processes are in place to ensure that families and children in both of the above categories who are now residents of our Borough can access uninterrupted SEND support that they had been assessed as necessary in their previous place of residence?

9.2 None Specific

Mike Smith has asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

Question:

In a lot of recent social, press and election media; various suggestions were made that Wokingham Borough Council could carry out, like rolling back of carpark charge increases, continuing with weekly bin collections and spending a great deal more on road repairs - Please could you tell me if any of these suggestions are deliverable and affordable?

9.3 None Specific

Tony Johnson has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways the following question:

Question:

During the election period, The Times published an article titled "Worst-performing councils in England revealed — where does yours rank?" based on information provided by the Office of Local Government (Oflog).

They rated councils for Finance, Waste, Roads, Social Care and Planning and Wokingham placed

34th overall out of England's 317 principal Councils - ahead of 12 of the 14 neighbouring councils within 20km (~12 miles).

Wokingham ranked 12th for Planning, 45th for Social Care and 275th for Roads.

Would the Executive Member with responsibilities for Roads like to make any observations as to that ranking of 275th out of 317?

10.

PETITIONS

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

11.

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.

11.1

None Specific

Rebecca Margetts has asked the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Services the following question:

Question:

With more than 2700 cases of Whooping cough reported across England so far in 2024, more than 3 times the amount recorded in the whole of last year, what are Wokingham Borough Council doing to highlight the importance of vaccinations and to make sure our residents know how to access their jabs?

11.2

Barkham and Arborfield

George Evans has asked the Executive Member for Planning and the Local Plan the following question:

Question:

My residents in Arborfield Green have been asking when they can expect to start to see facilities and amenities across the development such as the sports pavilion. Some are long overdue, and they are crucial to help form the community that residents were promised. Can you please provide me with an update on what steps the Council is taking to

ensure there are no more delays to delivery of promised infrastructure?

- 11.3 Barkham and Arborfield Joseph Barley has asked the Executive Member for Active Travel, Transport and Highways the following question:
- Question:**
The proposed pedestrian crossing at Biggs Lane would provide greater safety for students travelling to and from school in my ward, can you please update me if any progress has been made regarding this proposal?
- 11.4 Finchampstead Charles Margetts has asked the Executive Member for Children's Services the following question:
- Question:**
Can you update me on progress with the planned 6th form at Bohunt School. This is due to open in September and is being advertised on the school website.
- 11.5 None Specific Moses Iyengunmwena has asked the Executive Member for Environment, Sport and Leisure the following question:
- Question:**
In January the Guadian reported a 115% increase in people seeking professional help in dealing with rat infestations.
- Just last week there were articles in the Reading Chronicle and the Maidenhead Advertiser about problems with rats in those areas. The article in the Maidenhead Advertiser, said "The Royal Borough is unsure where responsibility lies for tackling rat problems on land it is responsible for."
- Can the Executive Member tell me what plans and procedures the Council has in place to deal with rodent infestations in areas the Council is responsible for such as car parks, parks, and Council owned properties?
12. None Specific **POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL AND ALLOCATION AND APPOINTMENT TO SEATS ON COMMITTEES AND BOARDS** 47 - 54
To receive a report on the political balance of the

Council and to appoint to Council Committees/Panels/Boards in accordance with the Groups' wishes as set out in Appendix 1.

(Appendix 1 to follow)

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

- 1) notes that the representation of the political groups on the Council, as advised to the Chief Executive, is 27 Liberal Democrat Group Members, 19 Conservative Group Members and 8 Labour Group members.
- 2) approves the appointment and composition of Committees and Boards as set out in Para 2.1.
- 3) approves the allocation of seats on Committees and Boards on the basis that, of the 95 seats (as set out in Para 3.4), 48 be allocated to the Liberal Democrat Group, 33 be allocated to the Conservative Group and 14 to the Labour Group.
- 4) approves the proposals submitted by the respective Group Leaders and that those Members be appointed to the Committees and Boards as set out in Appendix 1 (to follow);
- 5) notes that the Constitution states that the Chair of the Standards Committee will be appointed at Annual Council and agrees that as with all other committees the Chair will be appointed at the first meeting of the Standards Committee;
- 6) notes the appointment of the Independent Persons to assist the work of the Standards Committee and the co-opted Parish/Town Council Representatives as set out in Appendix 1;
- 7) notes the elected Member representatives on the Wokingham Borough Wellbeing Board, as set out in Appendix 1, as nominated by the Leader of Council in accordance with Section 194 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

13.

**APPOINTMENTS TO JOINT COMMITTEES,
PANELS, WORKING GROUPS AND OTHER
BODIES**

55 - 56

To receive a report on the appointments to Joint Committees, Panels, Working Groups and other Bodies in accordance with the Groups' wishes as set out in Appendix 2.

(Appendix 2 to follow.)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1) agrees that the principles of proportionality be applied where Members are appointed to Joint Committees, Panels, Working Groups or other bodies and approves the proposals submitted by the respective Group Leaders, of Members to be appointed to these bodies as set out in Appendix 2;
- 2) agree that the following exceptions apply to applying the principles of proportionality i) where either one or two members are sought for a particular body, that nominations are sought from each political group.

14. None Specific

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

57 - 58

To consider and approve the appointment of Members to serve on Outside Bodies in accordance with the Groups' wishes, as set out in Appendix 3.

(Appendix 3 to follow.)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the nominations to Outside Bodies as submitted by the respective Group Leaders as set out in Appendix 3.

CONTACT OFFICER

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