

Addendum Council



Dear Councillor,

Council - Thursday, 2 December 2021, 7.30 pm

I enclose, for consideration at the meeting of the Council to be held on Thursday, 2 December 2021 at 7.30 pm, the following reports which were unavailable when the agenda was published.

Mari Roberts-Wood
Interim Head of Paid Service

6. Questions by Members (Pages 3 - 10)

To consider any questions received from Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 14.

7. Recommendations (Pages 11 - 12)

To receive and consider the recommendations of the Council's Executive, committees and sub-committees.

- i) To receive a recommendation from the Audit Committee meeting of 25 November 2021 concerning External Audit Contract Agreements 2023-2028, for adoption.

11. Constitution Review (Pages 13 - 14)

To receive a report of the Monitoring Officer on a Review of the Council's Constitution.

For enquiries regarding this addendum;

Contact: 01737 276182

Email: democratic@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

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Reigate and Banstead Borough Council

Meeting of Council 2 December 2021

Questions by Members

	Question by	To be answered by	Subject
1	Cllr Sinden	Executive Member for Corporate Policy and Resources, Cllr Lewanski	Electric Car Charging Points
2	Cllr Essex	Executive Member for Housing and Support, Cllr Neame	Household Support Grant
3	Cllr Stevens	Executive Member for Leisure and Culture, Cllr Sachdeva	The Harlequin
4	Cllr Chandler	Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, Cllr Bramhall	New Pond Farm
5	Cllr Chandler	Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, Cllr Bramhall	Allotments at New Pond Farm <i>(to be answered in writing)</i>
6	Cllr McKenna	Executive Member for Planning Policy and Place Delivery, Cllr Biggs	Marketfield Way
7	Cllr Ritter	Executive Member for Planning Policy and Place Delivery, Cllr Biggs	Job Creation from New Developments

Agenda Item 6

Councillor Sinden will ask the **Executive Member for Corporate Policy and Resources, Cllr Lewanski** the following question:

Question 1: Electric Car Charging Points

Please can you provide details of the accessibility of the borough's current electric car charging points to those with disability, including those in council car parks, and overall plans for increasing charging points in the future?

Agenda Item 6

Councillor Essex will ask the **Executive Member for Housing and Support, Cllr Neame**, the following question:

Question 2: Household Support Grant

The loss of the £20 Universal Credit uplift will have negatively affected around 9,000 people in Reigate and Banstead (source www.surrey.org.uk). Instead the government allocated the Household Support Grant to county councils to provide financial support for vulnerable households. Surrey County Council allocated £2.8 million of this to borough and district councils and most of the rest will be used to provide free school meals through the school holidays. Please can you confirm the amount received by Reigate and Banstead and how this is planned to support those most in need, including those with less income due to the cut in Universal Credit.

Agenda Item 6

Councillor Stevens will ask the **Executive Member for Leisure and Culture, Cllr Sachdeva** the following question:

Question 3: The Harlequin

Almost 20 years ago, the Harlequin theatre hosted regular Metal and Punk gigs under the name of the "Redhill Takeover". These events proved extremely popular and if I recall, nearly always had a full house on the night. It was great for the local economy and also supported many young up and coming acts and attracted well known British acts of the day. For a short while, the Harlequin was almost on a par with other small but very well-known venues on the British touring circuit for the south east, such as the Tunbridge Wells Forum and the Brighton Concord 2.

Whilst the Harlequin still continues to put on successful theatre productions, comedy gigs and tribute acts, I do feel it is a shame that the Harlequin's viable potential as a thriving music venue, as proved from those excellent shows I attended in my teenage years, was ultimately never fully realised. Would the executive member look into promoting the Harlequin as a suitable venue for promoters of touring acts? As I feel this can only be a positive move in putting the Harlequin and Redhill on the touring map of this country.

Agenda Item 6

Councillor Chandler will ask the **Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, Cllr Bramhall** the following question:

Question 4: New Pond Farm

Having spent a considerable sum of money to understand the flora, fauna and natural environment of the New Pond Farm area and potential improvements (and it would be interesting to know exactly how much) will the council be capitalising upon this position by bringing forward a proposal for its better use and enjoyment by the residents for consultation?

Agenda Item 6

Councillor Chandler will ask the **Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, Cllr Bramhall** the following question:

Question 5: Allotments at New Pond Farm

The opportunity to grow your own produce is well recognised as having huge social benefit as well as supporting residents to achieve sustainability and self-reliance. Rising food costs are impacting local families and increasing the use of food banks. New Pond farm allotments have not been let whilst the planning proposal was being considered depriving many of an opportunity. Please can the council confirm the current waiting list for allotments across the borough and that the temporary halt to letting allotments at New Pond Farm is now being reviewed and vacant plots now offered to residents who have been waiting patiently on the waiting list?

A written answer is to be provided.

Agenda Item 6

Councillor McKenna will ask the **Executive Member for Planning Policy and Place Delivery, Cllr Biggs** the following question:

Question 6: Marketfield Way

At a time when the Council is failing to deliver a decent amount of social housing to those of our residents in need, isn't it right that we scrutinise ever more carefully the decisions this Council has made on housing. The Council's flagship mixed residential and commercial scheme at Marketfield Way in the town centre includes 150 luxury flats with concierge service, gym and other features all pre-sold to private rented specialist Kookie, with no social housing at all, on this publicly owned site. Taking into account this forward sale, plus the fact the Council is left with a lot of high value retail/leisure space in the town centre, and most importantly subsidy to the Council of £2m grant from Coast to Capital LEP can the Council advise us of the impact of all this good news on viability of the scheme in terms of surplus over and above the normal developers return (Usually 15% profit on cost) and what this would equate to in affordable housing units if we were considering the scheme today?

Agenda Item 6

Councillor Ritter will ask the **Executive Member for Planning Policy and Place Delivery, Cllr Biggs** the following question:

Question 7: Job Creation from New Developments

Policy EMP5 in Reigate and Banstead Borough Council's Development management plan (DMP) states that this council will seek to secure a minimum of 20% of total jobs created by the construction of new development (of 25 or more homes) for local residents or apprenticeships. Opportunities for training and placement schemes targeted at local residents in respect of any jobs created through the end use of any non-residential development will also be explored. In light of this, could the Executive Member for Planning Policy and Place Delivery please give an update on what percentage of jobs have been created in this way for local residents, since the start of the plan, what percentage of new developments have been assessed on this requirement, and whether the training and placement opportunities being explored include developing the skills needed for retrofitting homes in the Borough or other 'Green' jobs.

Recommendations from the Audit Committee – 25 November 2021

Minute
reference
28

External Audit Contract Agreements 2023-2028

Members were informed of the recommended approach for appointing the external auditor to the Council for the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2028. The recommended proposal was to accept the invitation from Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) Limited to participate in their nationwide tendering exercise. It was explained that if the Council was to attempt a bespoke procurement, the costs would be greater than using PSAA's services and there would be a high risk of not being able to appoint a suitable auditor ready for April 2023.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND to Council that Council accepts the Public Sectors Audit Appointments' invitation to opt into the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors to local government and police bodies for five financial years from 1 April 2023.

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**Constitution Review Addendum
Council, 2 December 2021**

Following circulation of the report, a further amendment has been recommended. This relates to Part 3 Officer Scheme of Delegation, Human Resources, paragraphs 6.3-6.5 and 6.9. The amendments will include a requirement for the CFO to be consulted for any delegated decision relating to these.

Delegated function	Act(s)	Officer(s)	Consultation Required With	Non-Executive/ Executive Function
6.3 Move an existing Officer to a higher point within the existing grade, above a pay bar or above the maximum progression level	Local Government Act 1972	Relevant HOS	With the agreement of the HOS with responsibility for Human Resources	Non-Executive
6.4 Carry out grading reviews for existing posts and move a position to a different grade where justified	Local Government Act 1972	Relevant HOS	HOS with responsibility for Human Resources	Non-Executive
6.5 Approve payment of honoraria: I. In accordance with employment terms and conditions II. In excess of employment terms and conditions	Local Government Act 1972	Relevant HOS CE	With the agreement of the HOS with responsibility for Human Resources With the agreement of HOS with responsibility for Human Resources and the Chairman of the Employment Committee	Non-Executive
6.9 In relation to recruitment and retention of staff, where there is a need for considering market supplements in other areas, the agreed criteria be applied and, where a payment is warranted, approve accordingly (2003/04 Minute 222)	Local Government Act 1972	Relevant HOS	Chairman of the Employment Committee	Non-Executive

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