

# Addendum

## Council

Dear Councillor,

**Council - Thursday, 10 February 2022, 7.30 pm**

I enclose, for consideration at the meeting of the Council to be held on Thursday, 10 February 2022 at 7.30 pm, the following reports which were unavailable when the agenda was published.

**Mari Roberts-Wood**  
Head of Paid Service

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|----------------------|----|--|---|
| Public questions     | 5. | <b><u>Public questions</u>(Pages 3 - 4)</b>      | To consider any questions received from members of the public under Council Procedure Rule 13.  |
| Questions by Members | 6. | <b><u>Questions by Members</u>(Pages 5 - 16)</b> | To consider any questions received from Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 14.   |
| Recommendations      | 7. | <b><u>Recommendations</u>(Pages 17 - 20)</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minute 61 – Budget &amp; Capital Programme 2022/23 (Notice of Amendment).</li><li>• Minute 62 – Council Tax setting 2022/23 (Amendment to recommendations).</li></ul> |

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## Reigate and Banstead Borough Council

Meeting of Council 10 February 2022

### Public Questions

Number	Question by	To be answered by	Subject
1	Joanna Barnett	Councillor Archer, Executive Member for Investment and Companies	Ecology surveys for the Horley Business Park site

# Agenda Item 5

**Council Meeting:** 10 February 2022

**Joanna Barnett** will ask the **Councillor Archer, Executive Member for Investment and Companies**, the following question: Ecology surveys for the Horley Business Park site

**Question:**

In December 2020 the Council's joint venture partner for the Horley Business Park LLP, destroyed 6 acres of mature woodland on the site of the proposed business park in Horley. Concerns were raised by the public about the damage to wildlife, including bats that were living on the site prior to the illegal felling. A copy of the surveys was requested from the Council by the public.

We know that in 2017 Avian Ecology was commissioned by the Horley Business Park LLP to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal on the business park site, which included the site of the felling at Meadowcroft House. Other surveys were mentioned in the report. I submitted Freedom of Information Request for the additional surveys in March 2021.

In response to requesting the additional surveys I was told in July 2021 "the other surveys that I referred to are not held by the Council and that The Council has been working to ascertain whether these other surveys were carried out by Avian Ecology and if so to secure the paperwork from them." In December 2021 I made a FOI for a copy of all communications between the Horley Business Park LLP (the Council) and Avian Ecology. I was told that the Council holds no records of any communication.

With all of this in mind, can you please confirm what replacement ecology surveys the Joint venture (of which the Council is a member) plan to carry to inform the second draft of the SPD and prevent any further damage to wildlife on the site?

Thank you.

## Reigate and Banstead Borough Council

Meeting of Council 10 February 2022

### Questions by Members

	Question by	To be answered by	Subject
1	Cllr Ritter	Cllr Ashford, Executive Member for Community Partnerships	Community Development Support
2	Cllr Booton	Cllr Lewanski, Executive Member for Corporate Policy and Resources	Benchmarking to support the Council's Sustainability Strategy
3	Cllr Chandler	Cllr Neame, Executive Member for Housing and Support	Update on the Afghan resettlement programme
4	Cllr Essex	Cllr Bramhall, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services	Energy efficiency ratings and penalties
5	Cllr Cooper	Cllr Bramhall, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services	Publication of grass-cutting schedules
6	Cllr Sinden	Cllr Bramhall, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services	Electric taxis and private hire vehicles and provision of charging points
7	Cllr Philpott	Cllr Bramhall, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services	Recycling pizza boxes
8	Cllr Ashford	Cllr Biggs, Executive Member for Planning Policy & Place Delivery	Flooding management in planning applications
9	Cllr McKenna	Cllr Biggs, Executive Member for Planning Policy & Place Delivery	Affordable housing in planning policy
10	Cllr Torra	Cllr Biggs, Executive Member for Planning Policy & Place Delivery	Affordable housing targets
11	Cllr Turner	Cllr Biggs, Executive Member for Planning Policy & Place Delivery	Water run-off from properties with impermeable driveways

# Agenda Item 6

**Councillor Ritter** will ask the **Executive Member for Community Partnerships, Councillor Ashford** the following question:

## **Question 1: Community Development Support**

Previous councillors in the Earlswood and Whitebushes ward campaigned long and hard for a Community Development Worker to cover Whitebushes area because of the social needs of the area and one staff member was appointed in 2019 to cover the Woodhatch and Whitebushes areas.

Could the Executive Member responsible for Community Development please provide the rationale for not recruiting a replacement for this post now that the previous post-holder has moved on? Are the needs of this area now considered less important and how will the support that was so welcomed now be delivered?

# Agenda Item 6

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

## **Question 2: Benchmarking to support the Council's Sustainability Strategy**

The Council Climate Plan 2021 Scorecards\* were recently published with this council scoring 64% against a national average of 43%.

This council should be proud of its achievement and I hope will share the feeling that we should not be complacent as more can also be done.

Somerset West & Taunton topped the league table at an impressive 92% and closer to home Waverley and Woking scored 76% and 70% respectively.

Will this council kindly commit to appointing someone to build upon our success, by performing a look-across exercise to see what other councils are doing, in a bid to help improve our position for 2022 and to support our Sustainability Strategy?

# Agenda Item 6

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

## **Question 3: Update on the Afghan Resettlement Programme**

Can the Executive Member for Housing please provide an update on the progress made in the resettlement of Afghan refugees in the Borough following the council agreeing to provide three homes for families?



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

**Question 4: Energy efficiency ratings in housing and penalties issued under the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard Regulations**

Since 1 April 2020, landlords can no longer legally let properties if they fall below an Energy Efficiency Rating (EPC) of E, according to the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard Regulations. These regulations allow local authorities to impose penalties of up to 20% of the value of the property's rateable value, up to £150,000 per property for non-compliance.

Please can the Executive Member confirm that all the private rental landlords in Reigate and Banstead are on its register of private landlords, how many of these have EPC certificates, how many of these fall below the required standard and the number of penalties so far issued by the council under these regulations to residential landlords through its licensing scheme?

# Agenda Item 6

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

## **Question 5: Publication of grass-cutting schedules**

The Tadworth & Walton Residents Association has raised concerns about grass-cutting, sweeping and litter clearance.

On behalf of the TWRA I would like to ask the portfolio holder for Neighbourhood Services, Cllr Bramhall if the council could publish dates for grass cutting on its website to enable voluntary groups to readily access this information?

## Agenda Item 6

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

### **Question 6: Electric taxis and private hire vehicles and provision of charging points**

Could the Executive Member please tell me what the council, with its responsibility for regulating taxis and private hire vehicles and in line with its environmental sustainability strategy, is doing to require and incentivise taxis and private hire vehicles to shift to fully electric and support this with provision of designated charging points?

# Agenda Item 6

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

## **Question 7: Recycling pizza boxes**

Most of our residents are very conscientious about recycling and the information on RBBC website recycling pages of "yes please" and "no thanks" criteria help them recycle correctly.

There are reports in various media articles that grease absorbed into a pizza box can be problematic for recycling and, according to those reports, can cause rejection of recycling batches. On the other hand, there are some articles that say this isn't an issue.

Appreciating the fact different recycling contractors will have different processes, please confirm if this is a problem for our own recycling processes? Or any other similar mistakes that spoil recycling batches, which our residents may be unwittingly unaware of?

## Agenda Item 6

**Councillor Ashford** will ask the **Executive Member for Planning Policy & Place Delivery, Councillor Biggs** the following question:

### **Question 8: Flooding management in planning applications**

The Tadworth & Walton Residents Association has raised serious concerns about flooding caused either directly or indirectly by building works, dropped curbs associated concreted or tarmacked drives.

On behalf of TWRA I would like to ask portfolio holder for planning policy, Cllr Biggs, to explain what steps are being taken to include a mandatory question about how water will be displaced by the works included in every individual planning application.

# Agenda Item 6

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

## **Question 9: Affordable housing in planning policy**

It is now clear that the planning system is only capable of meeting our policy requirements for affordable/social commitments in new housing schemes when and if developers are able to secure significant profits, usually 15-20% on Gross Development Value, based on the requirements for 'Viability Assessment' as part of the National Planning Policy Framework.

It is also evident that when submitting applications the viability statement in support of the scheme can be manipulated so developers can repeatedly claim that they cannot afford to deliver the policy, whilst returning far larger profits than a decade ago.

In light of this, will the Council commit to review each and every scheme where affordable housing is needed, as follows:

- 1) At the application stage, ensure a comparison of standardised inputs including Gross Development Value, Gross Development Cost and Profit submitted by the applicant is undertaken with reference to other comparative data on new housing schemes within the Borough.
- 2) To assist understanding what is happening in reality to undertake a review of three recent schemes where the viability test was applied: Liquid and Envy, Marketfield Place and Marketfield Way developments in Redhill to compare the affordable homes required by policy against the number considered affordable based on the original viability estimate and additional 'claw-back' to fund affordable homes based on the latest financial estimates.
- 3) That where a shortfall is identified, that a commuted payment for affordable housing provision is sought from the applicant.

**Councillor Torra** will ask the **Executive Member for Planning Policy & Place Delivery, Councillor Biggs** the following question:

## **Question 10: Affordable housing targets**

The latest Reigate and Banstead affordable housing completion statistics are ranked as red, which means they are way off-target. The council's affordable housing target is for 50 affordable homes to be built in the first 6 months of this financial year, of which 30 should be at social rent (i.e. at 50% of market rent). The total so far is 24 affordable homes which is less than half the overall target and just 2 (two) houses for social rent which is tiny fraction of what is needed. Please confirm what the council is doing to address this.

# Agenda Item 6

**Councillor Turner** will ask the **Executive Member for Planning Policy & Place Delivery, Councillor Biggs**, the following question:

## **Question 11: Water run-off from properties with impermeable driveways**

The Tadworth & Walton Residents Association has raised a concern about water run-off from properties with impermeable drive-ways.

On behalf of the TWRA I would like to ask the portfolio holder for planning policy Cllr Biggs, how the Council intends to educate the public to this issue, and encourage people with impermeable surfaces that drain onto public roads to think about converting their drives to permeable surfaces.



## Meeting of Council, 10 February 2022

### Agenda item 7, Notice of Amendment (Council Procedure Rule 2.13.4) - Budget and Capital Programme 2022/23

Councillor Chandler will propose and Councillor Essex will second.

Amendments to the Recommendations (Minute Ref. 61) on the Budget and Capital Programme 2022/23 (Item 7 on the agenda) as set out below:

Original recommendation	Amendment
<p>2) A Revenue budget requirement of £19.980 million for 2022/23, as set out in this report and at Annex 2, which reflects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service budget savings of (£0.430) million (net); including additional savings of (£0.315 million) at Annex 2;</li> <li>• Service budget growth for Government funding reductions of £0.115 million;</li> <li>• Service budget growth for parking income losses of £1.100 million; plus</li> <li>• Central budget growth of £1.800 million.</li> </ul>	<p>2) A Revenue budget requirement of <b>£20.202 million</b> for 2022/23, as set out in this report and at Annex 2, which reflects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service budget savings of <b>(£0.595 million)</b> (net); including additional savings of (£0.315 million) at Annex 2 <b>and the proposals set out in the Amendment of (£0.165 million);</b></li> <li>• Service budget growth for Government funding reductions of £0.115 million;</li> <li>• <b>Service budget growth for the proposals set out in the Amendment of £0.242 million);</b></li> <li>• Service budget growth for parking income losses of £1.100 million;</li> <li>• <b>Service budget growth for Environmental Sustainability initiatives as set out in the Amendment of £0.340 million; plus</b></li> <li>• Central budget growth of <b>£1.605 million including provision for borrowing costs for the Capital Programme proposals and the savings arising from the new Central Budget provision for vacancies as set out in the Amendment.</b></li> </ul>

# Agenda Item 7

<p>4) The forecast for Revenue Reserves (Annex 3) and the recommended use of £1.777 million from Reserves in 2022/23 comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £0.115 million from the Government Funding Risks Reserve to fund reduced housing benefit subsidy; and</li> <li>• £0.350 million from the Pensions Reserve to fund 2022/23 employer pension contributions; and</li> <li>• £1.100 million from the COVID-19 Risks Reserve to fund reduced income from parking fees; and</li> <li>• £0.212 million from the General Fund Balance to support the 2022/23 Revenue Budget;</li> </ul>	<p>4) The forecast for Revenue Reserves (Annex 3) and the recommended use of <b>£1.999 million</b> from Reserves in 2022/23 comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £0.115 million from the Government Funding Risks Reserve to fund reduced housing benefit subsidy; and</li> <li>• £0.350 million from the Pensions Reserve to fund 2022/23 employer pension contributions; and</li> <li>• £1.100 million from the COVID-19 Risks Reserve to fund reduced income from parking fees;</li> <li>• £0.212 million from the General Fund Balance to support the 2022/23 Revenue Budget; and</li> <li>• <b>£0.222 million from the Corporate Plan Delivery Fund to fund the net budget growth as set out in the Amendment;</b></li> </ul>
<p>5) A Capital Programme of £45.297 million for 2022/23 to 2026/27 as set out in this report and at Annexes 4.1 and 4.2, including net Capital Programme Growth Proposals of £4.993 million.</p>	<p>5) A Capital Programme of <b>£46.532 million</b> for 2022/23 to 2026/27 as set out in this report and at Annexes 4.1 and 4.2, including net Capital Programme Growth Proposals of £4.993 million <b>plus the Capital Growth of £1.235 million as set out in the Amendment.</b></p>

# Meeting of Council, 10 February 2022

## Agenda item 7, amendment to recommendations under Minute 62 (Council Tax setting) of the Executive meeting held on 27 January 2022

Recommendation (7) authorised the Chief Finance Officer to make any amendments to the Council Tax demands as might prove necessary as the result of changes to the estimated demands issued by preceptors on the Council's Collection Fund.

The Chief Finance Officer amends recommendation (3) at Minute 62 of the Executive meeting held on 27 January 2022, to be adopted by Full Council as set out below:

Original recommendation	Amendment
a) £70,550,416 – being the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils	a) £68,753,416 – being the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils
b) £56,316,870 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) of the Act.	b) £53,146,877 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) of the Act.
c) £13,978,546 – being the amount which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year (item R in the formula in Section 32(4) of the Act).	c) £15,606,539 – being the amount which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year (item R in the formula in Section 32(4) of the Act).
d) £224.47 – being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish Precepts).	d) £250.61 – being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish Precepts).

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