



**COUNCIL MEETING**

**THURSDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2020**

**ORDER PAPER**

**ORDER PAPER (Pages 1 - 6)**

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## EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 2020

### ORDER PAPER

#### WEBCASTING NOTICE

This meeting will be recorded for live and/or subsequent broadcast on the Council's website in accordance with the Council's capacity in performing a task in the public interest and in line with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

The whole of the meeting will be recorded, except where there are confidential or exempt items, and the footage will be on the website for six months.

If you have any queries regarding webcasting of meetings, please contact Committee Services.

On behalf of all councillors, I would like to welcome you to this evening's extraordinary Council meeting, which we are holding remotely as permitted under Regulations due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and government guidance. The Council has therefore made arrangements to hold the meeting virtually via Microsoft Teams, which is being streamed live and recorded and will be available for repeated viewing afterwards for up to 180 days from the date of this meeting.

If members of the public do not have an internet connection or access to a computer, they will be able to dial into the meeting and hear the proceedings but will not be able to participate, unless they have registered to speak. A message has been posted on the website in this regard. For public speakers, by participating virtually in the meeting you are consenting to being filmed and recorded, and the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and / or training purposes.

I should be grateful if participants in this meeting would ensure that:

- your cameras and microphones are turned off at all times unless you are speaking during the meeting
- your mobile phones and other hand-held devices are switched to silent during the duration of the meeting
- you minimise background distractions

This Order Paper sets out details of those members of the public who have given advance notice of their wish to ask a question or address the Council in respect of any business on tonight's agenda. It also sets out details of any questions submitted by councillors or any motions and amendments to be proposed by councillors in respect of the business on the agenda.

Unless a member of the public has given notice of their wish to ask a question or address the Council under Item 5 (Public Participation), they will not be permitted to speak. Those who have given notice may address the Council for a maximum of three minutes. Speakers may not engage in any further debate once they have finished their speech.

*Councillor Richard Billington  
The Mayor of Guildford*

| <b>Time limits on speeches at full Council meetings:</b>                            |            |
|---|------------|
| Public speaker:   | 3 minutes  |
| Response to public speaker:   | 3 minutes  |
| Questions from councillors:   | 3 minutes  |
| Response to questions from councillors:   | 3 minutes  |
| Proposer of a motion:   | 10 minutes |
| Seconder of a motion:   | 5 minutes  |
| Other councillors speaking during the debate on a motion:                           | 5 minutes  |
| Proposer of a motion's right of reply at the end of the debate on the motion:       | 10 minutes |
| Proposer of an amendment:   | 5 minutes  |
| Seconder of an amendment:   | 5 minutes  |
| Other councillors speaking during the debate on an amendment:                       | 5 minutes  |
| Proposer of a motion's right of reply at the end of the debate on an amendment:     | 5 minutes  |
| Proposer of an amendment's right of reply at the end of the debate on an amendment: | 5 minutes  |

**Note: Where it is necessary to conduct a vote by roll call, the name of each councillor present and eligible to vote will be read out in a random order rather than alphabetically by initial letter of surname.**

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence.

### **2 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

To receive and note any disclosable pecuniary interests from councillors. In accordance with the local Code of Conduct, a councillor is required to disclose at the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) that they may have in respect of any matter for consideration on this agenda. Any councillor with a DPI must not participate in any discussion or vote regarding that matter and they must also withdraw from the meeting immediately before consideration of the matter.

If that DPI has not been registered, the councillor must notify the Monitoring Officer of the details of the DPI within 28 days of the date of the meeting.

Councillors are further invited to disclose any non-pecuniary interest which may be relevant to any matter on this agenda, in the interests of transparency, and to confirm that it will not affect their objectivity in relation to that matter.

### **3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

To receive any communications or announcements from the Mayor.

### **4. LEADER'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Leader to comment on the following matters:

COVID update  
Heritage Portfolio change  
Electoral Review – setting up working group  
North Street consultation  
Budget consultation

Councillors shall have the opportunity of asking questions of the Leader in respect of his communications.

### **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No questions or requests to speak have been received

## 6. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

No questions have been received from councillors.

## 7. PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND (Pages 5 - 46 of the Council agenda)

The Chairman of the Corporate Governance Task Group, Councillor Deborah Seabrook to propose, and Councillor Liz Hogger to second, the adoption of the following motion:

- (1) That the Council Size Submission, attached at Appendix 1 to the report submitted to the Council, and its stated preference for maintaining a Council size of 48 Councillors, be approved and presented to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.
- (2) That the Democratic Services and Elections Manager, in consultation with the Chairman of the Corporate Governance Task Group, be authorised to make such minor alterations to improve the clarity of the revised draft Submission document as the Council may determine.

### **Comments:**

Councillor Joss Bigmore

### **Alteration of Motion:**

Under Council Procedure Rule 15 (o), Councillor Deborah Seabrook, as the mover of the original motion, has indicated that, with the consent of her seconder and of the meeting, she wishes to alter paragraph (1) of her motion in accordance with the proposed alteration below. The Deputy Mayor will put the proposed alteration to a vote without debate. If approved, Councillor Seabrook's motion, as altered, will become the substantive motion for debate to which amendments may subsequently be moved.

Alter paragraph (1) of the motion so that it reads (*changes shown in italics*):

“(1) That, *subject to the amendments below*, the Council Size Submission, attached at Appendix 1 to the report submitted to the Council, and its stated preference for maintaining a Council size of 48 Councillors, be approved and presented to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England:

- (1) On page 17 of the revised draft Submission (page 30 of the Council agenda), after “*There are no plans to introduce area planning committees.*”, add the following paragraph:

*“All councillors are involved in the planning process dealing with enquiries from residents regarding planning applications. Planning Committee members will have a significantly greater involvement as they deal with those applications referred to the committee for determination, most of which are locally sensitive or controversial. Meetings of the Planning Committee often take three hours or more to complete and committee members can expect to need several hours to read and understand the plans, respond to residents’ representations, and visit particular sites. Planning applications in respect of strategic sites identified in the Local Plan, will carry even greater sensitivity and will require a significant time commitment from councillors on the Committee, in addition to the normal business.”*

- (2) On page 28 of the revised draft Submission (page 41 of the Council agenda), under “Alternatives”

- (a) amend the first paragraph as follows:

*“In considering the appropriate Council size, we have looked at the implications of reducing the number of councillors to 44 fewer than 48 but feel that this would not provide sufficient Councillor capacity to undertake the range of roles set out in this proposal or offer sufficient community leadership. It is also recognised that the Borough will continue to see significant population growth in view of the anticipated housing development, for example at the various strategic sites identified in the Local Plan. and, We therefore believe that a reduction in number of councillors would result in an increase in electorate represented by each councillor and an increase in councillor workload in terms of casework and community leadership.”*

(b) substitute the following in place of the second paragraph:

*“We have also looked at a comparable increase in councillor numbers (an increase of three councillors was awarded to Guildford in 1998 and the borough’s population has increased by 25% since then). An increase of, say, four to 52 councillors would still mean each councillor represents 2279 each by 2026 (128 electors per councillor more than present 2151) and more thereafter. **However, the financial implications of a general increase in councillor numbers would be hard to justify in the current difficult financial climate.** As stated above, once the warding review has been undertaken and the need for possible adjustments in councillor numbers taken into account to achieve appropriate revised ward boundaries, we reiterate that this should be by an adjustment by way of an increase in councillor numbers rather than a reduction, for the reasons articulated in this Submission.”*

- (3) On page 29 of the revised draft Submission (page 42 of the Council agenda), add the following paragraph to the “Conclusion” immediately before “*The Council also wishes to continue with all-out elections every four years*”:

*“On the basis of the Commission’s expectation (as stated in their guidance) that the Council makes a submission for a council size that we believe is right for our authority and which enables the Council to “represent communities in the future and ensure that governance arrangements reflect our long term ambitions”, and takes into account future trends, we believe that the Council size should be at least 48”.*

**8. REVIEW OF ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES: 2020-21** (Pages 47 - 58 of the Council agenda)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Joss Bigmore, to propose, and Councillor Nigel Manning to second, the adoption of the following motion:

That, in the light of the change in the political constitution of the Council described in the report submitted to the Council, the proposed revision to the calculation of the numerical allocation of seats on committees for the remainder of the 2020-21 Municipal Year, as set out in the table below, be approved:

| <b>Committee</b>                                     | <b>Lib Dem</b> | <b>R4GV</b>   | <b>Con</b>    | <b>GGG</b>   | <b>Lab</b>   | <b>Ind</b>   |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Total no. of seats on the Council (1 vacancy)</b> | <b>17</b>      | <b>16</b>     | <b>8</b>      | <b>3</b>     | <b>2</b>     | <b>1</b>     |
| <b>% of no. of seats on the Council</b>              | <b>36.17%</b>  | <b>34.04%</b> | <b>17.02%</b> | <b>6.38%</b> | <b>4.26%</b> | <b>2.13%</b> |
| Corp Gov & Standards Cttee (7 seats)                 | <b>2</b>       | <b>2</b>      | <b>1</b>      | <b>1</b>     | <b>1</b>     | <b>0</b>     |
| Employment Cttee (3 seats)                           | <b>1</b>       | <b>1</b>      | <b>1</b>      | <b>0</b>     | <b>0</b>     | <b>0</b>     |
| Service Delivery EAB (12 seats)                      | <b>4</b>       | <b>5</b>      | <b>2</b>      | <b>1</b>     | <b>0</b>     | <b>0</b>     |
| Strategy and Resources EAB (12 seats)                | <b>4</b>       | <b>4</b>      | <b>1</b>      | <b>1</b>     | <b>1</b>     | <b>1</b>     |
| Guildford Joint Cttee (10 seats)                     | <b>4</b>       | <b>3</b>      | <b>2</b>      | <b>1</b>     | <b>0</b>     | <b>0</b>     |
| Licensing Cttee (15 seats)                           | <b>6</b>       | <b>5</b>      | <b>2</b>      | <b>1</b>     | <b>0</b>     | <b>1</b>     |
| Overview & Scrutiny Cttee (12 seats)                 | <b>4</b>       | <b>4</b>      | <b>2</b>      | <b>1</b>     | <b>1</b>     | <b>0</b>     |
| Planning Cttee (15 seats)                            | <b>5</b>       | <b>5</b>      | <b>3</b>      | <b>1</b>     | <b>1</b>     | <b>0</b>     |
| <b>Total no. of seats on committees (Total: 86)</b>  | <b>30</b>      | <b>29</b>     | <b>14</b>     | <b>7</b>     | <b>4</b>     | <b>2</b>     |

**Comments:**

None

**9. COMMON SEAL**

To order the Common Seal.

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