



COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, 5 APRIL 2022

ORDER PAPER

ORDER PAPER (Pages 1 - 18)

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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.

I would like to welcome everyone to this evening's meeting of the Council.

I should be grateful if you would ensure that your mobile phones and other hand-held devices are switched to silent during the meeting. If the fire alarm sounds during the course of the meeting - we are not expecting it to go off - please leave the Council Chamber immediately and proceed calmly to the assembly point in Millmead on the paved area adjacent to the river as you exit the site.

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 together with 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 6 (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 Marsha Moseley
The Mayor of Guildford

Time limits on speeches at full Council meetings:	
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

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 MINUTES (Pages 9 – 28 of the Council agenda)

To confirm the minutes of the Budget meeting of the Council held on 9 February 2022.

4. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

To receive any communications or announcements from the Mayor.

5. LEADER'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Leader of the Council to comment on the following matters:

- Ukraine
- Weyside Urban Village
- Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Neat2Eat

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

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public have registered to speak or ask a question.

7. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- (a) **Councillor Paul Spooner** to ask the Lead Councillor for Environment, Councillor James Steel, the question set out below.

“Central Government Changing Places Fund (first round) outcomes were announced on 24 March making up to £30m available to local authorities to boost the provision of Changing Places (accessible) toilets in existing buildings. The announcement on 24 March will deliver over 500 new Changing Places toilets.

Every local authority that submitted an eligible expression of interest has received at least £40,000 in funding. Guildford Borough Council did not receive funding as they did not submit a formal expression of interest.

I would like to ask the Lead Councillor, at a time that the Executive are closing public toilets and affecting some of our most vulnerable residents in a significant way, why the opportunity for funding was not progressed, particularly given the fund prospectus stated a commitment that all local authorities who submitted bids would receive at least £40,000. Does the Lead Councillor agree that this is a double blow for the elderly, disabled and for those who need toilets?"

The Lead Councillor's response is as follows:

"We are very proud that within the current administration we were able to help facilitate, and part fund the provision of the first two public Changing Places toilets within the borough. The first opened in the Friary Centre on 22 January 2020 and the second within Guildford Baptist Church on 10 October 2020, for which the Council contributed funding of £10,000 and £3,500 respectively.

Of course, it would have been better for our finances had government grant funding been available sooner, but the opportunity to help some of the most vulnerable in our society came sooner than the grant. We recognised the value of supporting these improvements and did so without hesitation. Unfortunately, there were no mechanisms within the grant funding to support recently completed projects and the process only realistically allowed for applications for relatively advanced proposals that happened to be near ready in the short two-month period between the announcement of the funding and the closing of the fund.

To be clear, this fund is not directly relevant to the current public toilets in Guildford borough that are being proposed for closure as they are not of sufficient size.

We have had to make changes to the number of our public toilets we provide in order to make some savings; however, we have carried out a careful review and undertaken an extensive consultation which has materially altered the outcomes. Whilst a number of toilets will close there is still extensive Council and other provision, especially in the town centre and all our current operational toilets in our parks remain untouched".

Councillor James Steel
Lead Councillor for Environment

- (b) **Councillor Graham Eyre** to ask the Lead Councillor for Resources, Councillor Tim Anderson, the question set out below. (Councillor Anderson's response to each element of the question is set out in **red type** below).

- (i) *How much did the Council spend on agency and temporary staff in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22?*

"The details are set out in the tables below:

AGENCY STAFF SPEND			
	2019-20	2020-21	2021 total to date
DIRECTORATE	£	£	£
HRA REVENUE	33,761	18,321	156,489
RESOURCE	431,924	913,178	658,651
SERVICES	1,283,547	2,119,582	1,859,767
STRATEGY	229,013	303,005	324,903
GF REVENUE	1,978,245	3,354,086	2,999,811
HRACAP	111,014	17,063	133,246
GFCAP	628,717	727,152	835,144
TOTAL CAPITAL	739,731	744,215	968,390
TOTAL AGENCY SPEND	2,717,976	4,098,301	3,968,200

	2019-20 £	2020-21 £	2021-22 to date £
TOTAL AGENCY	2,717,976	4,098,301	3,968,200
TOTAL Temporary Staff	555,738	418,302	574,155
Grand Total	3,273,714	4,516,603	4,542,355

NB *2021 total to date is up until 29/3/22*****

Services – to 29/03/22

Planning staff (Development Control and Building Control):	£427,000
Corporate Programmes staff (not yet chargeable to capital):	£315,000
Refuse staff:	£375,000
Street Cleaning staff:	£189,000

(ii) Is the Council planning to reduce this amount in the current 2022-23 financial year?

“Yes, we wish to reduce agency staff spend. However, there is an ongoing recruitment issue across this Council (and indeed in many councils) where posts have not been able to be recruited to despite a number of recruitment drives. We have struggled to recruit various professional roles across a number of services and sometimes experience a lack of appropriately qualified or experienced candidates in the market for the rates that we are able to offer. We are therefore looking at potential training schemes for hard to fill roles. In order to deliver projects and maintain the ambitious Capital Programme, temporary/agency staff are utilised.

A breakdown of agency spend by project is set out in the table below. It should also be noted that many of our capital projects receive substantial external funding – e.g. Weyside Urban Village £52m HIF Grant. Grant income can only be used on the specific projects for which we have received the funding. It cannot be used for other purposes.”

	AGENCY COSTS			
	2019-20	2020-21	2021	
	£	£	£	
			total to date	
CAPITAL PROJECT				
HOUSING NEW BUILD	111,014	17,063	133,246	
WUV INCL Internal Estate Road	378,660	324,334	350,950	Funded by Homes England and LEP grant
WALNUT BRIDGE	33,307	150,954	45,949	Funded by LEP grant
GUILDFORD TOWN CENTRE (NORTH STREET)	32,788	83,106	87,865	To be funded through the capital receipt from the sale of land
SMC	45,109	33,478	5,397	Funded by LEP Grant
A331 HOTSPOTS	11,529	15,750	0	Funded by LEP Grant
TOWN CENTRE APPROACHES	0	2,130	0	
ASH ROAD BRIDGE	61,159	117,399	125,375	Funded by Homes England grant and S106 Contributions
ASH ROAD FOOTBRIDGE	0	0	5,611	
IT RENEWALS	0	0	213,998	
MUSEUM	52,631	0	0	
TUNSGATE PUBLIC REALM	13,534	0	0	Funded by LEP Grant
TOTAL SPEND	739,731	744,215	968,390	

(iii) How much has the Future Guildford project influenced the need for agency and temporary staff over the past 2 years?

“Due to the recruitment issues outlined, agency/temporary staff are needed to fill resource gaps where recruitment has not been successful, to cover maternity leave or to fill roles associated with Projects of a specific length if we are to continue to provide an acceptable service to our residents. Some temporary and agency were employed as part of Future Guildford to deliver the project in 2020-21 but they have since left the Council. The staff establishment structure following Future Guildford has identified a number of posts which can be recruited to permanently which were previously temporary or agency roles – e.g. in Corporate Programmes to deliver the Capital Programme. This recruitment is underway”.

(c) **Councillor Jan Harwood** to ask the Lead Councillor for Climate Change, Councillor Cait Taylor, the question set out below. (Councillor Taylor’s response to each element of the question is set out in red type below).

(i) Has the Council completed its procurement of a green energy supplier as initiated over a year ago?

“We were examining our opportunity to sign up for a green tariff, or basket of tariffs that would enable part of the energy supplies used by the Council to have a green origin to even out the higher cost of a green tariff. The aim was to purchase this via the Council’s energy broker, LASER. However, it was not straightforward in that there was a balance required between paying for the higher cost for greener energy and ensuring we kept within budget as part of the Savings Strategy.

At one point the discussions with LASER were delayed from their end and since our climate change officer left the Council in September 2021, we have been unable to revisit this workstream. However, we do want to pursue greener energy procurement and will be entering discussions with LASER again shortly. For information, further information on LASER’s services can be viewed via the following links:

[Zero Carbon \(laserenergy.org.uk\)](https://www.laserenergy.org.uk/)

[Replace \(laserenergy.org.uk\)](https://www.laserenergy.org.uk/)

- (ii) How does the Council intend to source 100% renewable energy for its own operations?

“This is part of the wider ongoing work to secure the best options for reducing CO₂ equivalent emissions from the Council’s operations and energy reduction. To provide an exact answer to this specific question is not possible at this point in time”.

- (d) **Councillor Nigel Manning** to ask the Lead Councillor for Environment, Councillor James Steel, the following question:

“This Administration has decided to close public toilets as part of a cost cutting exercise and to completely remove the public toilet grants to both Shere and Ash Parish Councils from 1st April 2022. 4 public toilets have been identified for closure, including the one at Ripley. In the GBC press release dated 29th March 2022, it states that Ripley Parish have agreed to the taking on of the cleaning and maintenance of the Ripley public toilet from 4th April, although it does not say which year!! What year is this to be?

In addition, I understand the Ripley public toilet is a freehold asset owned by GBC. Who is going to pick up the cost of business rates, water rates and insurance on this property?

What other payments, if any, have GBC made or agreed to make, whether to Ripley Parish Council or others, in respect of the Ripley public toilets? Over what period are these payments going to be made?”

The Lead Councillor’s response is as follows:

“As part of the consultation process, Ripley Parish Council expressed a strong wish to continue having a facility within the parish and were willing to take on the provision directly if the Borough Council decided that Ripley was a facility chosen for closure. They highlighted that due to the timings and their current budget and financial position they would need some transitional support to cover operating costs until they were in a position to finance this facility fully themselves. By providing some transitional support now, as a one off, this would give the opportunity for the provision to continue uninterrupted, rather than close now and potentially reopen in the future when Ripley Parish Council could afford to do so.

Having listened carefully to the consultation responses from Ripley, on balance we considered that a one-off payment now and continuing service was a valuable benefit to residents and visitors to Ripley whilst allowing the Borough Council to make long term structural savings in costs without delay. We have agreed a one-off payment of £15,000 to help transition the facility into the Parish Council’s control. As part of this we will need to transfer or lease the building to the Parish Council and this work has started. There was insufficient time to complete this legal work prior to the changes introduced with effect from 4 April 2022, but these will be completed in the normal manner in due course.

In the interim, the Parish Council will undertake the cleaning, opening and closing of the toilets from 4 April 2022, and this will allow the Borough Council to immediately adjust its staffing and vehicles to deliver the operational savings we have identified. We will continue to cover the small cost of utilities, repairs and insurance until the facility is passed to Ripley, at which point the Borough Council will not be involved in this facility in any shape or form and there will be no other future payments or ongoing costs falling to Guildford beyond the transfer and this one-off transitional support payment.

There is no business rates liability for the Ripley public toilets, this was as a result of changes to legislation in 2021 - Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Act 2021 which Zero rated buildings that were wholly or mainly public toilets from April 2020.

In order to save the Borough Council significant costs of overtime and fuel associated with locking and unlocking toilets, Ripley Parish Council has provided a locking and unlocking service to our toilets in Ripley for a number of years in return for £2,000 per year; this arrangement will cease as of 3 April 2022. There are no other payments or agreements to Ripley Parish Council in regard to the Ripley toilets other than the planned transfer of responsibility and transitional support which we aim to complete as soon as possible”

Councillor James Steel
Lead Councillor for Environment

- (e) **Councillor Guida Esteves** to ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Joss Bigmore, the following question:

“With reference to the Item 8 on the Council Agenda, Approach to the Review and Potential Update to the Local Plan: Strategy and Sites (2019), I am disappointed with the proposed delay to the formal review. The current plan focuses development outside the town centre, making it more car dependent, does not adequately reflect the climate emergency declared by the Council, is dependent on infrastructure that will not be delivered and may no longer reflect the reality of retail and commerce needs post the COVID pandemic.

Paragraph 3.6 of the report to Council (page 32 of the Council agenda) recommends that it is appropriate to undertake any formal review of the LPSS towards the end of the 5 year period, i.e. before 25 April 2024, unless circumstances change in any significant way in terms of government guidance. The adopted local plan was made under NPPF 2012 which has since been updated in 2018, 2019, and most recently July 2021.

- a) Given this, can the Leader please confirm what will constitute a significant change in government guidance that would trigger the review, given that three revisions of the NPPF appear not to qualify? and*
- b) Can the Leader please also confirm what monitoring and mechanism is being put in place to ensure that the proposed approach is “revisited immediately”, as stated?”*

The Leader’s response is as follows:

“The Council has already begun the process of reviewing the LPSS. In accordance with LPSS Policy ID2, a review of the transport evidence base is already underway to understand the implications of the Government’s cancellation of the A3 Guildford scheme.

We also intend to shortly procure a range of evidence base documents including retail, leisure and employment needs studies to understand the changing context post COVID.

It is necessary to have the outputs of this work prior to a Formal Review and decision regarding whether or not the LPSS (or parts of it) need to be updated. It is hoped that by the time the Formal Review is undertaken there will also be clarity regarding the Government’s proposed changes to the planning system including any amendments to the Standard Method for calculating housing need.”

Councillor Joss Bigmore
Leader of the Council

- (f) **Councillor Ramsey Nagaty** to ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Joss Bigmore, the question below. (Councillor Bigmore's response to each element of the question is set out in **red type** below).

"May I ask the Leader of the Council:

- (i) *to confirm what conflicts of interest matters were taken into account before finalising the appointment of Ms Cook?*

"There are no conflicts of interest. Thorough checks and declarations were made about avoiding any potential conflicts of interest and Mary Cook, as a barrister and partner in a firm of solicitors, is aware of the requirements and complied fully with them".

- (ii) *Ms Cook's advice only takes into account the impact of the Standard Methodology which would need to be used. What reason does the Council give for not taking into account any other part of the calculation of the housing number?*

"It is for Ms Cook to respond to the brief how she sees fit. Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions of Ms Cook in relation to her advice at a briefing session. Ms Cook's advice states that local housing need should be assessed using the standard method unless exceptional circumstances justify an alternative approach. However, she goes on to raise concerns regarding whether Guildford would be successful in demonstrating an alternative approach on the basis of her knowledge and experience".

- (iii) *Why is the motion on this Order Paper in respect of Agenda Item 8 so reliant on one opinion and does not take into account wider aspects such as Climate Change, maintaining food security, already high level of housing above the plan figure etc?"*

"The Council motion called for independent advice to be sought regarding the review process. It is for the author to decide what issues to take into account in answering the brief".

8. APPROACH TO THE REVIEW AND POTENTIAL UPDATE TO THE LOCAL PLAN: STRATEGY AND SITES (2019) (Pages 29 - 38 of the Council agenda)

Note:

At the request of the Conservative group, the Mayor will ask the Council whether it wishes to take a separate vote on each paragraph of the motion in respect of this matter.

The motion:

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Joss Bigmore to propose and the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Julia McShane to second the adoption of the following motion:

- "(1) That the Council notes the independent expert legal advice of a potential Local Plan Review at Appendix 1 to the report submitted to the Council.
- (2) That the Council endorses the approach proposed to not conclude a Formal Review of the Local Plan: strategy and sites (LPSS) at this stage but instead undertake it towards the end of the statutory five-year period unless circumstances change in such a way that means that undertaking an earlier review would be advantageous to the Council.
- (3) That the Executive be updated on the outcomes of the review of the transport evidence base currently underway and any other significant changes in circumstance that may impact on considerations regarding the timing of the Formal Review of the LPSS.
- "

- (4) That priority be given to the production of a Green Belt Supplementary Planning Document alongside the emerging Local Plan: Development Management Policies.”

Reason:

To update Council on progress on the Council resolution [see minute CO102] which was agreed on 13 April 2021.

Alteration of Motion:

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

Alteration:

- (a) Substitute “Borough” in place of “Council” at the end of paragraph (2)
 (b) Substitute “Full Council” in place of “Executive” in paragraph (3)

Paragraphs (2) and (3) of the motion would read as follows:

- (2) That the Council endorses the approach proposed to not conclude a Formal Review of the Local Plan: strategy and sites (LPSS) at this stage but instead undertake it towards the end of the statutory five-year period unless circumstances change in such a way that means that undertaking an earlier review would be advantageous to the **Borough**.
- (3) That the **Full Council** be updated on the outcomes of the review of the transport evidence base currently underway and any other significant changes in circumstance that may impact on considerations regarding the timing of the Formal Review of the LPSS.

Comments:

Councillor Tim Anderson
 Councillor Ramsey Nagaty

Alternative Motion if the Motion, as altered, above fails

Councillor Ramsey Nagaty to propose the following alternative motion should the Motion, as altered, above fail:

- “(1) That the Council notes the expert legal advice set out in Appendix 1 to the report but considers that the response to the brief limited its scope so that it does not fully reflect all aspects that should be considered.
- (2) That the Council determines to commence a formal review of the Local Plan Strategy and Sites with immediate effect.
- (3) That Full Council be updated on the outcomes of the review of the transport evidence base, currently underway, and all other significant changes in circumstances including climate change impacts and regulations that may impact on the ongoing review, with minimum quarterly reports to Full council.
- (4) That priority be given to the production of a Green Belt Supplementary Planning Document alongside the emerging Local Plan: Development Management Policies”.

If necessary, the Mayor will ask for a seconder before debating the alternative motion.

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION - APPROVAL OF INTER-AUTHORITY AGREEMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
(Pages 39 - 66 of the Council agenda)

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

- “(1) That the draft Heads of Terms of the Inter-Authority Agreement setting out the formal governance arrangements for joint working between Guildford and Waverley, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, be approved.
- (2) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to enter into the final Inter-Authority Agreement on behalf of Guildford Borough Council.
- (3) That the collaboration Risk Assessment, as set out in Appendix 2, be approved.
- (4) That the establishment of a Joint Governance Committee and its proposed composition and terms of reference, as set out in Appendix 3 to this report, be approved.
- (5) That the Joint Governance Committee be authorised to approve its standing orders at its first meeting.
- (6) That, subject to approval of paragraph (4) above, Guildford’s numerical allocation of seats to the political groups on the proposed Joint Governance Committee shall be as follows:
- Residents for Guildford and Villages: two seats
 - Guildford Liberal Democrats: two seats
 - Conservatives: one seat
 - Guildford Greenbelt Group: one seat
- (7) That the nominations for membership and substitute membership of the Joint Governance Committee for the 2022-23 municipal year, be considered at the Selection Council meeting on 16 May 2022.
- (8) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend the constitution to incorporate the establishment of the Joint Governance Committee, and its terms of reference; and, subject to paragraph (5) above, its standing orders”.

Reason:

To approve the governance processes required to progress the collaboration with Waverley Borough Council.

Comments:

None

10. WEST CLANDON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (Pages 67 – 122 of the Council agenda)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Joss Bigmore to propose, and the Lead Councillor for Resources, Councillor Tim Anderson to second, the adoption of the following motion:

“That the Council resolves to ‘make’ (adopt) the West Clandon Neighbourhood Plan”.

Reason:

To meet the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Act (as amended) and The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

Comments:

None

11. PRE-ELECTION PUBLICITY GUIDANCE (Pages 123 – 132 of the Council agenda)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Joss Bigmore to propose, and the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Julia McShane to second, the adoption of the following motion:

“That the Pre-Election Period Publicity Policy, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report submitted to the Council, be approved with immediate effect.”

Reasons:

To protect the interests of the Council, and to provide guidance to Councillors and Officers on publicity and the use of Council resources during the Pre-Election Period.

Comments:

None

12. COUNCILLOR CHRIS BLOW (Pages 133 – 136 of the Council agenda)Note:

Should Councillor Blow be able to attend the meeting this evening, the Mayor will ask the meeting to agree to withdraw this item.

The Motion:

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

“That the Council agrees that the reason for Councillor Chris Blow’s failure to attend any meeting of the Council or any of its committees since 21 October 2021 was due to his ill health, and that, if necessary, the matter be reviewed again by the Council at its meeting on 11 October 2022”.

Reason:

To comply with the requirements of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Comments:

None

13. DIRECTORS’ PAY AWARD 2022 (Pages 137 – 140 of the Council agenda)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Joss Bigmore to propose, and the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Julia McShane to second the adoption of the following motion:

“That a pay award of 3.75% be approved for the Director posts with effect from 1 April 2022 in accordance with our adopted Pay Policy Statement, following last year’s pay freeze”.

Reason:

To apply a pay award to our Director posts that is in line with the general staff pay award for 2022-23, following last year’s pay freeze and noting the current higher rate of cost-of-living inflation.

Comments:

None

14. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE (Pages 141 - 158 of the Council agenda)

To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 25 January and 24 February 2022, which are attached to the Council agenda.

Comments:

None

15. NOTICE OF MOTION DATED 24 MARCH 2022: SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
(page 4 of the Council agenda)

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, Councillor Paul Spooner to propose, and Councillor Keith Witham to second the following motion:

“In recent weeks, a sub-committee of the Surrey Police and Crime Panel, which is majority male, voted to discipline the Police and Crime Commissioner for supporting the view that biologically male rapists were not female.

This is a disgraceful decision by the sub-committee which has caused anger and hurt for women in Surrey, as it sets a precedent that men should police the language of women about an emotive subject.

This Council condemns the decision made by the Surrey Police and Crime Panel sub-committee and calls on the Joint Chief Executive of this Council to send a letter of concern to the Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel”.

Comments:

Councillor Fiona White

16. NOTICE OF MOTION DATED 25 MARCH 2022: ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (pages 4 - 7 of the Council Agenda)

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, Councillor George Potter to propose, and Councillor Pauline Searle to second, the following motion:

“Council notes that:

- i. Sexual violence, sexual harassment, and domestic abuse remain endemic in our society:
 - a. In 2019/20, 4.9 million women were victims of sexual assault in England and Wales, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).
 - b. A third of 16-18-year-old girls report experiencing unwanted sexual touching at school, according to End Violence Against Women.
- ii. The pandemic has made the situation worse:
 - a. The ONS report into Domestic abuse during the pandemic in November 2020 found increased demand for victim services and indicators that severity of abuse has increased.
 - b. Plan International UK found that since lockdown began, 1 in 5 girls aged 14-21 experienced public sexual harassment.
 - c. By 2030, 2 million more girls are now at risk of undergoing Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) due to the pandemic according to Plan International.
- iii. The justice system is failing many victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence:

- a. Out of 139,000 rapes estimated by the ONS in the year ending March 2020, only 58,845 were reported to police. Of those, just 2.4% ended in convictions.
 - b. Three in four domestic abuse cases in England and Wales end without charge, according to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services.
- iv. Those from minority backgrounds experience domestic abuse disproportionately:
 - a. ONS figures for 2019 show that disabled women were more than twice as likely to experience domestic abuse than non-disabled women.
 - b. LGBT+ people are significantly more likely to experience domestic abuse, with 13 per cent of bisexual women facing intimate partner abuse in 2019/20, according to Stonewall.
 - c. In 2019, 60 per cent of UK police forces admitted referring victims of crime to the Home Office for immigration purposes, harming migrant women.
- v. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021, whilst very welcome, still contains policy gaps, including failure to provide equal protection for migrant women.
- vi. The funding for domestic abuse services in the 2021 Budget falls short of the figure that Women's Aid says is needed by over £200 million per year.
- vii. The UK has failed to ratify the Istanbul Convention, a treaty creating a global framework for protecting women from violence.

Council believes that:

- I. Everyone, regardless of identity, has the right to live a life free from fear and violence.
- II. Current systems and services do not properly tackle continuing violence against women and girls in our society due to underfunding, ingrained culture of victim blaming and lack of available education and training.
- III. Investing in raising awareness, education, and policies aimed at prevention is vital and prevents greater costs long-term.
- IV. An intersectional approach to violence against women and girls is imperative to provide high level care and support to the most vulnerable victims.
- V. Disclosures of abuse must be made easier and always taken seriously by authorities who offer a trauma-informed response.
- VI. Perpetrators of serious violence usually have a history of inflicting abuse and harassment against other women and girls. Tackling violence against women and girls means dismantling this culture.
- VII. Ending violence against women and girls must be a top priority for all levels of government.

Council resolves:

That the Executive be requested to:

- A. recognise misogyny as a hate crime.
- B. find ways to help support members of our diverse communities who may need specialist care and help.
- C. ensure that Guildford Borough Council continues to do everything in its power to build a borough free from misogyny and violence against women and girls. This includes continuing to invest in vital services, listening and responding to women and girls about the action needed, and calling out misogyny and sexism wherever we see or hear it.
- D. work with Surrey Police on improving women's safety in Guildford borough.
- E. continue to work with local and national networks working to end violence against women and girls
- F. become a White Ribbon Accredited Organisation <https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/organisations>

Council calls on Surrey Police to:

- a. record harassment of women and girls as a hate crime as soon as possible, not wait until they are required to do so
- b. prioritise investigating crimes against women and girls and ask them to ensure that women and girls are treated with the required sensitivity.

Council calls on Surrey County Council to:

- a. encourage the teaching of age-appropriate education on consent from primary school.
- b. work with schools and families to tackle toxic masculinity culture, and to educate men through campaigns and bringing in male “allies”.

Council calls on the Government to:

1. Increase efforts to prevent and detect violence against women and girls by:
 - a. Funding an NHS-style public awareness campaign as soon as possible, including on long-lasting trauma impacts.
 - b. Consulting education leaders and the specialist violence against women and girls sector, to take immediate action on sexual harassment in schools and higher education.
 - c. Implementing guidance to include awareness of public sexual harassment and its consequences in the national curriculum.
 - d. Upskilling all school staff via training to ensure confidence in correctly and sensitively handling disclosures of a sexual or abusive nature.
 - e. Introducing a duty on public authorities to ensure all frontline staff are trained to detect and respond appropriately to domestic abuse.
 - f. Improving cross-government coordination of policies and services for separating families across England and Wales.
 - g. Establishing a plan to tackle the social recovery of vulnerable and at-risk women and girls following the pandemic.
 - h. Ensuring the child’s safety and needs are put first when decisions are made as to the appropriate level of contact with an abusive parent.
2. Improve outcomes for victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse by:
 - a. Ensuring migrant women have equal access to protection from abuse.
 - b. Introducing training and guidance for organisations on making their services more trans inclusive.
 - c. Offering a long-term funding model for specialist services, including specialist BAME and LGBT+ services, so they can plan strategically and fully focus on providing support.
 - d. Introducing mandatory training for police and the Crown Prosecution Service in understanding the impact of trauma on victims.
 - e. Improving access to independent legal support for victims, including those with no recourse to public funds.
 - f. Introducing mandatory awareness training for local authority Children’s Services staff to enable them to appropriately examine and record allegations of domestic abuse which may present as parental conflict.
 - g. Ensuring appropriate support is available for those who do not flee from their abuser.
 - h. Giving Local Authorities the duty and funding to provide appropriate accommodation and support for survivors of abuse
3. Strengthen the justice system to properly deal with sexual violence and domestic abuse by:
 - a. Urgently increasing funding to reduce Criminal and Family court backlogs.

- b. Extending protections of 16 and 17-year-olds by expanding the definition of 'position of trust', to include all adults who work/volunteer with under-18s.
 - c. Legislating to make public sexual harassment a criminal offence.
 - d. Legislating to make the promotion of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) a hate crime.
4. Establish the UK as a leader in domestic and global efforts to end violence against women and girls by:
- a. Ratifying the Istanbul Convention as soon as possible.
 - b. Setting up an independent commission on 'Ending Violence Against Women and Girls' for ongoing, sustainable accountability and progress in domestic and global efforts.”

Alteration of Motion:

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

Alteration:

- (1) Omit “*Council notes that:*” and paragraphs i to vii which follow.
- (2) After “*That the Executive be requested to:*” substitute the following in place of paragraphs A to F:
- A. *Ensure that Guildford Borough Council continues to do everything in its power to build a borough free from misogyny and violence against women and girls. This includes continuing to invest in vital services, listening and responding to women and girls about the action needed, and calling out misogyny and sexism wherever we see or hear it.*
 - B. *Ensure the council continues to work with the South West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service, Surrey Police, members of the Safer Guildford Partnership and other organisations to address violence against women and girls in the borough and to support victims.*
 - C. *Work to become a White Ribbon Supporter Organisation and investigate the impact and cost-effectiveness of GBC becoming a White Ribbon Accredited Organisation <https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/organisations>*
 - D. *Write to the Police, Surrey County Council and Government as follows:”*
- (3) After “*Council calls on the Government to*”, insert the following as paragraph 1. and re-number subsequent paragraphs accordingly:
- “1. *Recognise misogyny as a hate crime.*”

The motion, as altered, would read as follows:

“Council believes that:

- i. Everyone, regardless of identity, has the right to live a life free from fear and violence.
- ii. Current systems and services do not properly tackle continuing violence against women and girls in our society due to underfunding, ingrained culture of victim blaming and lack of available education and training.

- iii. Investing in raising awareness, education, and policies aimed at prevention is vital and prevents greater costs long-term.
- iv. An intersectional approach to violence against women and girls is imperative to provide high level care and support to the most vulnerable victims.
- v. Disclosures of abuse must be made easier and always taken seriously by authorities who offer a trauma-informed response.
- vi. Perpetrators of serious violence usually have a history of inflicting abuse and harassment against other women and girls. Tackling violence against women and girls means dismantling this culture.
- vii. Ending violence against women and girls must be a top priority for all levels of government.

Council resolves:

That the Executive be requested to:

- A. Ensure that Guildford Borough Council continues to do everything in its power to build a borough free from misogyny and violence against women and girls. This includes continuing to invest in vital services, listening and responding to women and girls about the action needed, and calling out misogyny and sexism wherever we see or hear it.
- B. Ensure the council continues to work with the South West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service, Surrey Police, members of the Safer Guildford Partnership and other organisations to address violence against women and girls in the borough and to support victims.
- C. Work to become a White Ribbon Supporter Organisation and investigate the impact and cost-effectiveness of GBC becoming a White Ribbon Accredited Organisation.
<https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/organisations>
- D. Write to the Police, Surrey County Council and Government as follows:

Council calls on Surrey Police to:

- a. Record harassment of women and girls as a hate crime as soon as possible, not wait until they are required to do so
- b. Prioritise investigating crimes against women and girls and ask them to ensure that women and girls are treated with the required sensitivity.

Council calls on Surrey County Council to:

- a. Encourage the teaching of age-appropriate education on consent from primary school.
- b. Work with schools and families to tackle toxic masculinity culture, and to educate men through campaigns and bringing in male 'allies'.

Council calls on the Government to:

- 1. Recognise misogyny as a hate crime.
- 2. Increase efforts to prevent and detect violence against women and girls by:
 - a. Funding an NHS-style public awareness campaign as soon as possible, including on long-lasting trauma impacts.
 - b. Consulting education leaders and the specialist violence against women and girls sector, to take immediate action on sexual harassment in schools and higher education.
 - c. Implementing guidance to include awareness of public sexual harassment and its consequences in the national curriculum.
 - d. Upskilling all school staff via training to ensure confidence in correctly and sensitively handling disclosures of a sexual or abusive nature.

- e. Introducing a duty on public authorities to ensure all frontline staff are trained to detect and respond appropriately to domestic abuse.
 - f. Improving cross-government coordination of policies and services for separating families across England and Wales.
 - g. Establishing a plan to tackle the social recovery of vulnerable and at-risk women and girls following the pandemic.
 - h. Ensuring the child's safety and needs are put first when decisions are made as to the appropriate level of contact with an abusive parent.
3. Improve outcomes for victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse by:
- a. Ensuring migrant women have equal access to protection from abuse.
 - b. Introducing training and guidance for organisations on making their services more trans inclusive.
 - c. Offering a long-term funding model for specialist services, including specialist BAME and LGBT+ services, so they can plan strategically and fully focus on providing support.
 - d. Introducing mandatory training for police and the Crown Prosecution Service in understanding the impact of trauma on victims.
 - e. Improving access to independent legal support for victims, including those with no recourse to public funds.
 - f. Introducing mandatory awareness training for local authority Children's Services staff to enable them to appropriately examine and record allegations of domestic abuse which may present as parental conflict.
 - g. Ensuring appropriate support is available for those who do not flee from their abuser.
 - h. Giving Local Authorities the duty and funding to provide appropriate accommodation and support for survivors of abuse
4. Strengthen the justice system to properly deal with sexual violence and domestic abuse by:
- a. Urgently increasing funding to reduce Criminal and Family court backlogs.
 - b. Extending protections of 16 and 17-year-olds by expanding the definition of 'position of trust', to include all adults who work/volunteer with under-18s.
 - c. Legislating to make public sexual harassment a criminal offence.
 - d. Legislating to make the promotion of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) a hate crime.
5. Establish the UK as a leader in domestic and global efforts to end violence against women and girls by ratifying the Istanbul Convention as soon as possible and setting up an independent commission on 'Ending Violence Against Women and Girls' for ongoing, sustainable accountability and progress in domestic and global efforts".

Comments:

None

17. COMMON SEAL

To order the Common Seal.

