

**GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**



**MAH  
MAYOR**

Contact Officer:

John Armstrong,  
Democratic Services and Elections Manager  
Tel: 01483 444102

27 November 2023

To the Councillors of Guildford Borough Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council for the Borough of Guildford to be held in the **Council Chamber, Millmead House, Millmead, Guildford, Surrey GU2 4BB** on **TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2023** commencing at 7.00 pm.

Tom Horwood  
Chief Executive

Millmead House  
Millmead  
Guildford  
Surrey GU2 4BB

**[www.guildford.gov.uk](http://www.guildford.gov.uk)**



**Guildford Borough Council**

Millmead House, Millmead, Guildford, Surrey GU2 4BB

### **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 Democratic Services.

## THE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK (2021- 2025)

### **Our Vision:**

A green, thriving town and villages where people have the homes they need, access to quality employment, with strong and safe communities that come together to support those needing help.

### **Our Mission:**

A trusted, efficient, innovative, and transparent Council that listens and responds quickly to the needs of our community.

### **Our Values:**

- We will put the interests of our community first.
- We will listen to the views of residents and be open and accountable in our decision-making.
- We will deliver excellent customer service.
- We will spend money carefully and deliver good value for money services.
- We will put the environment at the heart of our actions and decisions to deliver on our commitment to the climate change emergency.
- We will support the most vulnerable members of our community as we believe that every person matters.
- We will support our local economy.
- We will work constructively with other councils, partners, businesses, and communities to achieve the best outcomes for all.
- We will ensure that our councillors and staff uphold the highest standards of conduct.

### **Our strategic priorities:**

#### Homes and Jobs

- Revive Guildford town centre to unlock its full potential
- Provide and facilitate housing that people can afford
- Create employment opportunities through regeneration
- Support high quality development of strategic sites
- Support our business community and attract new inward investment
- Maximise opportunities for digital infrastructure improvements and smart places technology

#### Environment

- Provide leadership in our own operations by reducing carbon emissions, energy consumption and waste
- Engage with residents and businesses to encourage them to act in more environmentally sustainable ways through their waste, travel, and energy choices
- Work with partners to make travel more sustainable and reduce congestion
- Make every effort to protect and enhance our biodiversity and natural environment.

#### Community

- Tackling inequality in our communities
- Work with communities to support those in need
- Support the unemployed back into the workplace and facilitate opportunities for residents to enhance their skills
- Prevent homelessness and rough-sleeping in the borough

<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

## **AGENDA**

- 1. 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 - 38)**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10 October 2023.

- 4. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

To receive any communications or announcements from the Mayor.

**5. LEADER'S COMMUNICATIONS**

To receive any communications or announcements from the Leader of the Council.

**6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

To receive questions or statements from the public.

**7. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

To hear questions from councillors of which due notice has been given.

**8. CAPITAL AND INVESTMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2022-23**

(Pages 39 - 126)

**9. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (MTFP) AND FINANCIAL RECOVERY PLAN - NOVEMBER UPDATE REPORT (Pages 127 - 146)**

**10. REVIEW OF COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES 2023 (Pages 147 - 212)**

**11. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2023 (Pages 213 - 236)**

**12. TIMETABLE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2023-24 (Pages 237 - 242)**

**13. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE (Pages 243 - 246)**

To receive and note the attached minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 5 October 2023.

**14. NOTICE OF MOTION DATED 23 NOVEMBER 2023: ANTI-SEMITISM AND ISLAMOPHOBIA**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, Councillor James Walsh to propose, and Councillor Howard Smith to second the following motion:

“Recent figures released by the Community Security Trust (CST) and Tell MAMA reveal that cases of antisemitism and Islamophobia are on the increase in the UK, fuelled by events in the Middle East.

Between 7 October and 9 November, for example, Tell MAMA reported 701 cases of anti-Muslim behaviour across the country - a sevenfold increase in Islamophobic attacks on the same period in 2022. The CST also reported the highest number of cases of antisemitic attacks since their records began in 1984, with 1,019 cases recorded between 7

October and 3 November.

Recent incidents of antisemitism have been reported here in Guildford with some individuals and families having already left the borough, planning to leave the borough in the near future, or living under protection as a result. Local representatives of the Jewish community Guildford have stated that the situation is “unprecedented” and reflects growing and unacceptable intolerance and division in national and international society.

The Labour Group believes that we must unite against the forces that seek to divide communities and sow division and hatred between people from different backgrounds or who share different faiths or beliefs. It believes that tolerance, understanding and respect are cornerstones of democracy and that violence, intolerance and prejudice only serve to corrode them. Therefore, it asks that:

- (1) The Council be reminded of its resolution dated 12 July 2016 and reaffirmed on 11 April 2017 condemning racism, xenophobia and hate crimes, as follows:

*“We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country. Guildford Borough Council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable. We are pleased to note the strong stance that Surrey Police have taken against these issues.*

*Guildford Borough Council will work to ensure local bodies and programmes have support and resources needed to fight and prevent all these anti-social acts, and reassures all people living in Guildford borough that they are valued and welcome members of our community.”*

- (2) The Council condemns all forms of discrimination, intolerance and division that some in our communities are facing and pledges to work together with partners, including Surrey Police and faith/religious organisations, to address issues and provide reassurance as it is made aware of them.
- (3) The Council condemns antisemitism in all of its forms and regrets the incidents that have been reported in Guildford in recent months. It pledges to work with partners and local communities to address areas of concern and provide

reassurance and support to the Jewish community wherever possible.

- (4) The Council condemns Islamophobia in all of its forms and pledges to work with partners and local communities to address areas of concern and provide reassurance and support to the Muslim communities wherever possible.”

**15. NOTICE OF MOTION DATED 24 NOVEMBER 2023: PROPOSED SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO RECEIVE INTERIM REPORTS ON THE INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED FRAUD RELATING TO HOUSING MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, Councillor Philip Brooker to propose, and Councillor Bob Hughes to second the following motion:

“Council notes the report about irregularities in HRA expenditure considered by the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee on 29 November 2023.

The report advises that:

- An external team of experts are investigating any potentially fraudulent activity and that an internal “Strategic Project Group” is monitoring and co-ordinating the work of various workstreams.
- A “Strategic Board” will be set up imminently which will eventually report to the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee.
- Monthly reports will be prepared, but not available for public scrutiny.
- The first public report will not be available for “approximately six months”.
- Additional external support will be brought in to assist.

Council notes that, whilst it is welcome that some more information is now in the public domain, it considers it to be inadequate considering the magnitude of the sums involved, in light of the clear public interest in the detail of these irregularities being made public much

earlier than now proposed.

Council further notes that many of the “facts” could be made public without jeopardy to any other ongoing investigations, yet Council have not been provided with any specifics on what should be withheld under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. This should be fully scrutinised immediately in the interests of transparency.

Council notes that it rejected, at its meeting on 10 October 2023, a motion for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to send in a Best Value Commissioner to carry out an independent investigator to examine the issues, which would certainly have speeded up the process, but now, two months later, seems to think that something similar is a good idea in order to proceed “in a timely manner”.

Therefore, this Council resolves:

- (1) Using the powers given to this council, immediately establish a Special Committee to receive interim reports from each investigating team, no later than at monthly intervals.
- (2) That, in the interest of transparency, the special Committee be chaired by a member of a political party other than one of those in coalition at the time the irregularities commenced (2021), and that the composition of the committee be representative of the composition of the Council.
- (3) That the Special Committee must have full access to all official information held by GBC as a public authority.
- (4) That in the interest of openness and transparency, the Special Committee be authorised to decide how much information can be revealed to (a) Members in confidence and (b) the General Public”.