



## EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2023

### 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.

I would like to welcome everyone to this evening's extraordinary 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 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 Dennis Booth*  
*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. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

To receive any communications or announcements from the Mayor.

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

The Leader to comment on the following matter:

- WeLoveGuildford campaign

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

## **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No questions or requests to speak have been received from the public in respect of the business to be transacted at this extraordinary meeting

## **6. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

No questions have been received from councillors in respect of the business to be transacted at this extraordinary meeting

## **7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (Pages 7 - 178 of the Council agenda)**

### Note:

At its meeting earlier today, the Executive considered the report on this matter and endorsed the recommendation to adopt the Economic Development Strategy 2023-2040 and the supporting evidence base and noted the draft Economic Development Action Plan.

The Motion:

The Lead Councillor for Regeneration, Councillor John Redpath to propose, and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Julia McShane to second, the adoption of the following motion:

- “(1) That the Economic Development Strategy 2023-2040 and the supporting evidence base, attached as Appendices 1 and 3 respectively to the report submitted to the Council, be adopted.
- (2) That the draft Economic Development Action Plan, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, which will be subject to further consultation with strategic partners, be noted”.

Reason:

To support the reinvigoration of Guildford’s economy, the new Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan:

- Sets out the case for action in light of changes to the international, national and regional economic landscape.
- Gives an updated analysis of Guildford’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
- Identifies key strengths and opportunities to for the Council and its partners to harness, such as sector specialisms and economic assets (e.g. commercial spaces).
- Highlights the importance of mitigating the environmental impact of economic activity to reflect climate change and sustainability issues.
- Identifies the levers that the Council can utilise to address priority interventions that can help deliver significant positive impact for our economy.

**Comments:**

Councillor Angela Gunning  
Councillor Tony Rooth

## **8. REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE PEER REVIEW - FINDINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP** (Pages 179 - 232 of the Council agenda)

Notes:

- (1) At its meeting earlier today, the Executive considered the report on this matter and endorsed the wording of the motion to be proposed by the Lead Councillor for Planning Development, Legal and Democratic Services set out below.
- (2) Following the debate on this matter, the Mayor proposes to take a separate vote on each paragraph of the motion. The vote may be by affirmation of the meeting, a show of hands, or (where, before the vote is taken, a councillor proposes and is supported by four other councillors) a recorded vote.

The Motion:

The Lead Councillor for Planning Development, Legal and Democratic Services, Councillor Tom Hunt to propose, and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Julia McShane to second, the adoption of the following motion:

“That, taking into account the comments and recommendations made by the Planning Committee Review Working Group and the Planning Committee in response to the recommendations of the Planning Committee Peer Review undertaken by the Local Government Association with the Planning Advisory Service, the Council agrees the following actions:

- (1) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R1: (Provide greater certainty in planning process by ensuring decision making conforms with planning policies and material planning considerations acting on behalf of the whole Guildford community and ensuring that there is clear separation between ward level responsibilities and decision-making role on Committee)**, a regular (monthly) planning training programme, be reinstated via MS Teams, subject to the proviso that whilst the planning training programme would be regular, there might not on all occasions be training every month.
- (2) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R2: (Explore ways to rebuild trust and confidence between officers and Members. Consider running an independently facilitated workshop to be held between officers and Members, separate to the Planning Committee meeting, to better understand their roles, issues, and concerns)**, an Officer/Member Workshop be held following the elections in May 2023.
- (3) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R3: (Examine ways for Planning Committee and relevant officers to discuss and learn from appeal decisions to ensure that decisions on planning applications are undertaken, on behalf of the whole Guildford borough community, in a fair, impartial, and transparent way. The present system tagged onto the end of often long Planning Committees is not conducive to creating a learning atmosphere)**, quarterly appeal review sessions be held via MS Teams and facilitated by the Executive Head of Planning Development, noting that details of Appeal Decisions would continue to be included on Planning Committee agendas.
- (4) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R4: (Review Planning Committee reports to see if further explanation can be given on the weight to be afforded to the Local and Neighbourhood Plan policies as well as material planning considerations such as the National Planning Policy Framework)**, appropriate mechanisms were in place already through which councillors could query policy weight afforded to particular proposals, noting that weight to be afforded to Local and Neighbourhood Plans and other material planning considerations would be covered in the training programme.
- (5) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R5: (Ensure planning officers and Committee members are more aware of the impact of what a lack of housing delivery has on the weight given to Local Plan policies and kept appropriately updated on the work of the Housing Delivery Board)**, the topic of housing delivery be addressed as part of the Planning Committee training programme, which should include an overview of the Land Availability Assessment.

- (6) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R6: (Review the opportunity for further guidance in the form of a supplementary planning document to help guide new high quality and sustainable development)**, in view of the current progress being made with SPDs and DPDs, no further action in response to this recommendation is required.
- (7) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R7: (Review the Planning Committee referral system focusing particularly on the Member referral process (7-day procedure) and householder referral system to ensure that applications are not unnecessarily delayed and Planning Committee can focus on the strategically more important applications)**, the proposed process for Councillor Call-up (referral) to Planning Committee as set out in Appendix 3 to the report submitted to the Council, be approved.
- (8) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R8: (Revisit the site visits protocol with particular emphasis on who attends and on ensuring a consistent approach of officers and conduct of members during the site visit)**, no changes be made to the current site visit protocol on the basis that councillors were aware of the need to ask for a site visit ahead of time rather than at the meeting itself which was noted to be useful for councillors in assessing the planning merits of a scheme.
- (9) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R9: (Review the member overturns process so that alternative motions are raised by Members and advice is provided by officers prior to the officer recommendation vote being made)**, the proposed procedure for councillors overturning officer recommendations at Committee, set out in Appendix 4 to the report submitted to the Council, be approved.
- (10) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R10: (Undertake bespoke probity in planning and appeals training for members with a neutral facilitator, for example, someone who has direct experience of being a Planning Inspector)**, the Probity in Planning training be incorporated into the annual training programme.
- (11) That, in response to the LGA/PAS Recommendation **R11: (Review public speaking opportunities for Parish councils and special interest groups)**, the current public speaking arrangements be retained, but for the Chairman to retain the existing discretion to allow additional speaking slots for significant applications.
- (12) That paragraphs (1) to (5), and (10) above be implemented following the Borough Council Elections in May 2023, and paragraphs (7) and (9) above be implemented with immediate effect.
- (13) That the Executive Head of Planning Development be requested, in consultation with the relevant lead councillor and Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, to undertake a review of the processes and practices referred to above after 12 months' operation, or sooner if deemed necessary".

Reasons:

To modernise the operation of the Planning Committee and to review and update all associated processes and procedures.

**Comments:**

Councillor Tony Rooth

**9. REVIEW OF PROBITY IN PLANNING LOCAL CODE OF PRACTICE HANDBOOK FOR COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS** (Pages 233 – 326 of the Council agenda)

Note:

It may be necessary for the proposer of the motion below to modify it to reflect the decisions taken by the Council in respect of Item 8 above.

The Lead Councillor for Planning Development, Legal and Democratic Services, Councillor Tom Hunt to propose, and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Julia McShane to second, the adoption of the following motion:

“That the revised ‘Probity in Planning Local Code of Practice Handbook for Councillors and Officers’, attached as Appendix 2 to the report submitted to the Council, be adopted.”

Reason:

To provide revised, up to date and fit for purpose Probity in Planning guidance to councillors and officers, together with other relevant information on the planning process at the Council in a helpful handbook.

**Comments:**

None

**10. COMMON SEAL**

To order the Common Seal.

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