

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SURREY
HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL held at
Surrey Heath House, Camberley on
14 December 2022**

+ Cllr Helen Whitcroft (Mayor)
+ Cllr Pat Tedder (Deputy Mayor)

+ Cllr Dan Adams	* Cllr Rebecca Jennings-Evans
+ Cllr Graham Alleway	* Cllr David Lewis
* Cllr Peter Barnett	+ Cllr Emma-Jane McGrath
+ Cllr Rodney Bates	+ Cllr Charlotte Morley
- Cllr Cliff Betton	+ Cllr Alan McClafferty
+ Cllr Stuart Black	+ Cllr Sashi Mylvaganam
+ Cllr Richard Brooks	+ Cllr Liz Noble
* Cllr Vivienne Chapman	+ Cllr Adrian Page
* Cllr Sarah Jane Croke	+ Cllr Robin Perry
+ Cllr Paul Deach	+ Cllr Darryl Ratiram
+ Cllr Colin Dougan	+ Cllr Morgan Rise
+ Cllr Tim FitzGerald	+ Cllr John Skipper
+ Cllr Sharon Galliford	+ Cllr Graham Tapper
+ Cllr Shaun Garrett	+ Cllr Victoria Wheeler
+ Cllr Mark Gordon	+ Cllr Valerie White
+ Cllr Edward Hawkins	+ Cllr Kristian Wrenn
+ Cllr Josephine Hawkins	

+ Present

- Apologies for absence presented

* In attendance virtually

30/C Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Cliff Betton. It was noted that Councillors Peter Barnett, Vivienne Chapman, Sarah Jane Croke, Rebecca Jennings-Evans and David Lewis had joined the meeting virtually but would not be entitled to vote.

31/C Minutes

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, and

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held
on 26th October 2022 be approved as a correct record.**

32/C Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor presented a compilation of the events that she had attended since the last meeting of Full Council in October. These included attendance at Armistice

Day Services, Remembrance Day commemorations, the switching on of the Camberley town centre Christmas lights, Camberley Christmas market and the Surrey Heath Volunteer Awards and the hosting of a murder mystery event to raise money for the Mayor's Charity.

33/C Leader's Announcements

The Leader, Councillor Alan McClafferty, informed the Council that he had attended a Surrey wide Housing Summit, which brought together councillors, developers and Homes England, which aimed to develop joined up thinking in the housing crisis and the challenges of delivering sufficient housing for local people and affordable housing in particular.

As part of the Surrey Leaders Group, there had been further discussions the Surrey County Council over the Surrey County Deal and the possibility of devolving additional functions and resources to Boroughs enabling the delivery of more efficient services locally.

A successful prosecution of fly tipping at Mitcham Court which had resulted in the imposition of a £616 fine and the Council being awarded costs of £2,000. Mobile CCTV was now being deployed at known fly tipping hotspots with the aim of gathering evidence for further prosecutions.

Following feedback, the Council's multi-storey car parks had been subject to an intensive cleaning programme, with a particular focus on the stairwells, and the number of checks had been increased.

Working in partnership with Citizen's Advice Surrey Heath, £362,000 had been awarded to residents in greatest need in the Borough and the Council was working with community groups to distribute Christmas hampers.

Following the success of the 2022 scheme, the Christmas Tree recycling service would be running again between 5th and 15th January 2023 with residents being able to drop off Christmas trees at 15 locations across the Borough.

34/C Executive, Committees and Other Bodies

- (a) Executive – 15 November 2022 and 6 December 2022

It was moved by Councillor Alan McClafferty, seconded by Councillor Shaun Garrett, and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 15th November 2022 and 6th December 2022 be received and the revised recommendations therein be adopted as set out below:

69/E Calculation and Setting of the Council Tax Base for 2023/24

RESOLVED that with effect from 1 April 2023 the Empty Homes Premium remains at the maximum levels allowed in the legislation where the property has been empty for 2, 5 or 10 more years as detailed in paragraph 1.8 of the Executive agenda report.

- (b) Planning Applications Committee – 3 November 2022

It was moved by Councillor Victoria Wheeler, seconded by Councillor Robin Perry, and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Applications Committee held on 3 November 2022 be received.

- (c) Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee – 9 November and 24 November 2022

It was moved by Councillor Sashi Mylvaganum, seconded by Councillor Valerie White, and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee held on 9 November be received.

It was moved by Councillor Valerie White, seconded by Councillor Morgan Rise, and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee held on 24 November be received.

- (d) Audit and Standards Committee – 21 November 2022

It was moved by Councillor Darryl Ratiram, seconded by Councillor Rodney Bates and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee held on 21 November 2022 be received.

- (e) External Partnerships Select Committee – 29 November 2022

It was moved by Councillor Morgan Rise, seconded by Councillor Josephine Hawkins and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the External Partnerships Select Committee held on 29 November 2022 be received.

(f) Joint Staff Consultative Group – 24 November 2022

It was moved by Councillor Sharon Galliford, seconded by Stuart Black Councillor and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Staff Consultative Group held on 24 November 2022 be received.

35/C Questions from Members of the Public

The Finance and Customer Services Portfolio Holder, Councillor Robin Perry, received a question from a member of the public, Mr Edmund Bain, concerning the funding mechanism used to purchase the Square shopping centre in 2016.

In response to Mr Bain's supplementary question, the Portfolio Holder confirmed that the three recently matured short term loans used to finance the purchase had been rolled over and the Council was now paying interest on the three new loans at rates of 2.95%, 2.97% and 3%. This was marginally higher than the rate being paid on the old loans.

The Chairman of the Planning Applications Committee Councillor Edward Hawkins, received a question from a member of the public, Ms Jane Sherrard-Smith, concerning the Council's Development Management Team's knowledge and skills when it came to assessing planning applications for 5G telecommunications infrastructure.

In response to Ms Sherrard-Smith's supplementary question, regarding the power intensity drop off calculations in relation to 5G masts, the Chairman of the Planning Applications Committee agreed to provide a written response within 7 working days.

36/C Questions from Councillors

In response to a question from Councillor Paul Deach about the application of the severe weather policy to rough sleepers in the Borough, the Leader confirmed that approaches had been made to all rough sleepers known to the Council to ensure that they were provided with accommodation during the recent cold weather. It was confirmed that offers of temporary accommodation were made regardless of where the person originated from.

In response to a question from Councillor Morgan Rise about the resources that would be required to implement the Government's requirement for people to provide proof of identification when voting the Leader informed the Council that the Government had advised local authorities would be reimbursed for the cost of implementing the changes. There had been a number of discussions nationally about ensuring that the widest range of identification was permissible so that as many people as possible were able to vote and this requirement had also been discussed with the Constituency MP. The Leader expressed the view that he was

confident in the Council's ability to deliver these changes successfully and all staff involved would receive appropriate training.

In response to Councillor Sashi Mylvaganum's question relating to the pausing of the Council's Local Plan process following communications from the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities about potential changes to the way that future housing need numbers were calculated, the Leader stressed that the changes were not yet legislation. However if approved by the Government then local authorities would be able to produce a Local Plan that more accurately reflected the needs and wishes of local residents and did not impose inappropriate development on the Borough. In light of this, it was considered appropriate to pause the Local Plan process to enable the implications of any changes to be fully considered. It was agreed that as the Local Plan was substantially complete as much as possible should be put into the public domain.

In response to a question from Councillor Edward Hawkins about safety around the Borough's lakes and ponds, particularly during periods of cold weather when they were liable to freeze, it was agreed that the matter would be followed up as a matter of urgency with the Chief Executive and a written response provided within seven working days.

In response to a question from Councillor Rodney Bates asking if it was possible to publish the decision report concerning the purchase of the Square shopping centre in 2016, the Leader agreed that the report should be reviewed and released if at all possible.

Mayor