

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SURREY  
HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL held at  
Surrey Heath House, Camberley on  
22 February 2023**

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+ 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

**37/C Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Tim FitzGerald and Kristian Wrenn. It was noted that Councillor Peter Barnett had joined the meeting virtually but would not be entitled to vote.

**38/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 14 December 2022 be approved as a correct record.**

**39/C Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor presented a video of the engagements she had attended since the last meeting of the Council. Members were also informed that a celebration for the King's Coronation would be held at Frimley Lodge Park between 11am and 5pm on Sunday, 7 May 2023.

## **40/C Leader's Announcements**

The Leader welcomed the new Head of HR, Performance & Communications, Sally Kipping, to her first Council meeting. He also extended a welcome to the Council's new Climate Change, Economic Development, and Regeneration managers.

Members were informed that Surrey Heath Borough Commander Matt Walton would be leaving his role the following month; on behalf of the Council, the Leader thanked him for his diligent work and wished him well in his new senior police role in another borough. Inspector Sam Turner would be replacing him in the near future.

The Leader updated the Council on a number of other matters, including

- (i) the Coronation Grant Scheme adopted by the Executive the previous week
- (ii) the Council's Voter ID communications strategy
- (iii) Frimley NHS's application to the Department of Health and Social Care for funding of £1.26bn to provide a new state of the art Frimley Park Hospital
- (iv) discussions with the Leader of Surrey CC and other borough and district leaders on working more closely with the County Council
- (v) national press coverage on Surrey Heath being the least stressed place to live in England.

## **41/C Medium Term Financial Strategy and Annual Budget 2023/24**

The Council considered a report setting out the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023/24 to 2026/27, the revenue budgets estimates for the 2023/24 financial year, the indicative estimates for the period 2023/24 to 2026,27, a 4-year capital strategy and programme, plus the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24.

The Leader, in presenting the budget for 2023/24, referred to the financial context of the budget, including financial pressures on Council services, which primarily came from the unusually high rates of inflation. He referred to the savings already identified in the budget, the proposed use of reserves, along with the increased income and efficiency savings targets of £500,000 that would need to be found in 2023/24. It was reported that the budget included an increase to Council Tax of £2.99 a year on a Band D property.

It was moved by Councillor Alan McClafferty and seconded by the Councillor Robin Perry that the recommendations as set in the agenda report be approved.

It was moved by Councillor Sashi Mylvaganam and seconded by Councillor Cliff Betton that the recommendations be amended as set out in the published alternative budget from the Liberal Democrat Group. The proposals in the alternative budget related to the extension of the Medium Term Financial Strategy by a further three years to cover the period of an annual budget for the financial year 2023/24 and indicative budgets for each of the following six years 2024/25 to 2029/30. It was advised that the proposal included in the published alternative budget to provide a Council Tax rebate for the increase to the Surrey Heath

precept for Bands A to D would not be included in the amendment moved at the meeting. Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and lost.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) that the Medium Term Financial Strategy, as set out at Annex A to the agenda report, be agreed, comprising:**
  - (a) the Revenue Budget Estimates covering the period 2023/24 to 2026/27 as follows:**
    - i. the 2023/24 budget estimates giving a net cost of services revenue budget for the Council of £17.468 million as shown in Appendix 1 to the Medium Term Financial Strategy;**
    - ii. to agree the unavoidable service pressures and budget growth of £5.210 million shown in Appendix 1 and in more detail in Appendix 1-1 to the Medium Term Financial Strategy;**
    - iii. to agree the revenue efficiencies of £2.348 million shown in Appendix 1 and in more detail in Appendix 1-2 to the Medium Term Financial Strategy;**
    - iv. to approve the recommendation by the Strategic Director Finance and Customer Services, the Council's Section 151 Officer, that a sum of up to £3.500 million of the interest equalisation earmarked reserve be drawn to support the revenue budget over the period of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and provide a sustainable budget for the Council;**
    - v. that the Surrey Heath Borough Council element of the annual council tax precept be increased by 2.99% across all Council Tax Bands;**
  - (b) the Capital Strategy, as set out at Appendix 2 to the Medium Term Financial Strategy and associated Capital Programme (appendix 2-1) covering the period 2023/24 to 2026/27 which includes:**
    - vi. the new capital bids for £2.539 million in Appendix 2 to the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2023/24 be approved, and that they be incorporated into the Capital Programme; and**
    - vii. the Prudential Indicators summarised below and explained in Appendix 2 for 2023/24 to 2026/27 in accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities 2011 be approved;**

<b>Prudential Indicator</b>	<b>2023/24 Proposed £m</b>	<b>2024/25 Estimated £m</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimated £m</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimated £m</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>2.539</b>	<b>1.490</b>	<b>0.990</b>	<b>0.990</b>
<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>161</b>
<b>Ratio of net financing costs to net revenue stream</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>0.56</b>
<b>Financing Costs</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.8</b>
<b>Operational Boundary</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>Authorised Limit</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>235</b>

(c) **The Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23 shown at Appendix 3, Annex A to the Medium Term Financial Strategy including;**

- viii. **The Treasury Management Indicators for 2022/23 at Appendix 3, Annex C to the Medium Term Financial Strategy;**
- ix. **The Minimum Revenue Provision policy statement and estimated minimum revenue provision payment table at Appendix 3, Annex F to the Medium Term Financial Strategy; and**
- x. **the Treasury Management Policy Statement at Appendix 3, Annex G to the Medium Term Financial Strategy.**

(d) **to note:**

- xi. **the forecast level of reserve balances shown at Appendix 4 to the Medium Term Financial Strategy. It should further be noted that these will be subject to confirmation once the outturn position for the current financial year (2022/23) is known and this will be reported in the revenue outturn report early in the new financial year;**
- xii. **the Council Tax base for Surrey Heath Borough Council is 39,613.4 as set in December 2022;**
- xiii. **the Medium Term Financial Strategy contains a savings target of £1.200 million over the period of the strategy which will be achieved through a combination of further services efficiencies, increases in income and potentially service reductions to be identified through a output-based budget review for all services of the Council and subject to a Star Chamber challenge review that will commence in the summer of 2023. There is also a managed vacancy factor (mvf) of**

**£100,000 built into the budgets as part of the pay settlement agreed by Council;**

- xiv. the statement of the Chief Financial Officer (Strategic Director Finance and Customer Services) on the robustness of estimates and sustainability of balances; and**
- xv. the finance settlement from central Government was finalised through the House of Commons on 8 February 2023.**

Note 1: In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, recorded votes were taken.

Voting in favour of the amendment moved by Councillor Sashi Mylvaganam and seconded by Councillor Cliff Betton:

Councillors Rodney Bates, Cliff Betton, Sharon Galliford, Emma-Jane McGrath, Sashi Mylvaganam, Liz Noble, Morgan Rise, John Skipper, Graham Tapper, Pat Tedder, Victoria Wheeler, Helen Whitcroft.

Voting against the amendment moved by Councillor Sashi Mylvaganam and seconded by Councillor Cliff Betton:

Councillors Dan Adams, Graham Alleway, Stuart Black, Richard Brooks, Sarah Jane Croke, Vivienne Chapman, Paul Deach, Colin Dougan, Shaun Garrett, Mark Gordon, Edward Hawkins, Josephine Hawkins, Rebecca Jennings-Evans, David Lewis, Alan McClafferty, Charlotte Morley, Adrian Page, Robin Perry, Darryl Ratiram, Valerie White.

Voting in favour of the substantive motion:

Councillors Dan Adams, Graham Alleway, Rodney Bates, Stuart Black, Richard Brooks, Sarah Jane Croke, Vivienne Chapman, Paul Deach, Colin Dougan, Sharon Galliford, Shaun Garrett, Mark Gordon, Edward Hawkins, Josephine Hawkins, Rebecca Jennings-Evans, David Lewis, Alan McClafferty, Emma-Jane McGrath, Charlotte Morley, Adrian Page, Robin Perry, Darryl Ratiram, Pat Tedder, Victoria Wheeler, Valerie White.

Voting against the substantive motion:

Councillors Cliff Betton, Sashi Mylvaganam, Liz Noble, Morgan Rise, John Skipper, Graham Tapper, Helen Whitcroft.

Note 2: It was noted that, in relation to the proposal to provide a Council Tax rebate to households in Council Tax Bands A to D included in the published alternative budget, which was subsequently not moved at the meeting, the Monitoring Officer had advised that, in accordance with paragraph 4.2 of the Members' Code of Conduct, he would have granted a dispensation to councillors residing in Band A to D properties.

#### **42/C Setting of Council Tax 2023/24**

Having determined its Council Tax Requirement for 2023/24, the Council was now required formally to approve the Council Tax for the area taking into account

precepts received from Surrey County Council, Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner and the Parishes.

In approving the Council Tax for 2023/24, it was noted that, in December 2022, a Council Tax base of 39,613.40 Band D equivalent properties had been approved for 2023/24, and that precepts for 2023/24 had been received from the Parishes, Surrey County Council and the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner.

It was moved by Councillor Robin Perry, seconded by Councillor Alan McClafferty and

**RESOLVED**

**(i) to note that the Council Tax Base for 2023/24 calculated in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:**

**(a) For the whole Council area is 39,613.40 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the 'Act)); and**

**(b) For dwellings in those parts of the area to which a Parish precept relates the following:**

<b>Bisley</b>	<b>1,666.50</b>
<b>Chobham</b>	<b>2,088.64</b>
<b>West End</b>	<b>2,413.37</b>
<b>Windlesham</b>	<b>8,323.63</b>

**(Being the amounts calculated by the Council in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amount of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which special items relate);**

**(ii) that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2023/24 (excluding parish precepts and special expenses) is £9,532,823;**

**(iii) that the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:**

**(a) £46,756,876 being the aggregate for the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A 2 of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils;**

**(b) £36,370,789 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act;**

- (c) **£10,386,087 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act);**
  - (d) **£262.19 being the amount at (c) above (Item R), as divided by Item T ((i) (a) above) calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts);**
  - (e) **£853,264 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act;**
  - (f) **£240.65 being the amount at (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by Item T, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount for its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates;**
- (iv) **to note that the County Council and Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwelling as indicated in the Table at paragraph 4(i) and 4(ii) below;**
- (v) **that the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables at paragraph 4(iii), 4(iv), 4(v) and 4(vi) below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2023/24 for each part of its area and for each category of dwellings; and**
- (vi) **to note that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is NOT excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as the proposed increase is not more than £6.99 at Band D.**

Note: In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was taken.

Voting in favour of the motion:

Councillors Dan Adams, Graham Alleway, Rodney Bates, Cliff Betton, Stuart Black, Richard Brooks, Sarah Jane Croke, Vivienne Chapman, Paul Deach, Colin Dougan, Sharon Galliford, Shaun Garrett, Mark Gordon, Edward Hawkins, Josephine Hawkins, Rebecca Jennings-Evans, David Lewis, Alan McClafferty, Emma-Jane McGrath, Charlotte Morley, Sashi Mylvaganam, Liz Noble, Adrian Page, Robin Perry, Darryl Ratiram, Morgan Rise, John Skipper, Graham Tapper, Pat Tedder, Victoria Wheeler, Helen Whitcroft, Valerie White.

## **43/C Executive, Committees and Other Bodies**

Executive – 17 January and 14 February 2023

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 17 January and 14 February 2023 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted as set out below:**

### **89/E Local Community Improvement Fund Bids**

**RESOLVED that**

- (i) £6,410 be added to the Council's Capital Programme for the installation of an additional lamp and column and to replace the 3 lamp heads on the existing columns to LED at Southcote Park, Camberley; and**
- (ii) £55,000 be added to the Council's Capital Programme for the resurfacing of damaged tarmac pathways at London Road Recreation Ground.**

### **90/E Deanside Playground Refurbishment**

**RESOLVED that**

- (i) permission be granted to draw down £94,000 from the Section 106 reserve for this development to refurbish the playground at Deanside to ensure the local children can continue to play in a safe and secure space;**
  - (ii) these funds be added to the capital programme; and**
  - (iii) authority to spend the contingency budget be delegated to the Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Customer Services.**
- (a) Planning Applications Committee – 8 December 2022 and 19 January 2023**

It was moved by Councillor Edward Hawkins, seconded by Councillor Victoria Wheeler, and

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Applications Committee held on 8 December 2022 and 19 January 2023 be received.**



- (b) Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee – 5 January and 25 January 2023

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

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee held on 5 January and 25 January 2023 be received.**

- (c) Employment Committee – 26 January 2023

It was moved by Councillor Stuart Black, seconded by Councillor Cliff Betton and

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Employment Committee held on 26 January 2023 be received and the recommendation therein be adopted as set out below:**

**21/EC Pay Policy Statement**

**RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement 2022-24 be adopted, as set out at Annex A to the Employment Committee agenda report.**

- (d) Joint Staff Consultative Group – 12 January 2023

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

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Staff Consultative Group held on 12 January 2023 be received.**

Note: it was noted for the record that Councillors Edward Hawkins and Josephine Hawkins declared an interest in respect of the recommendation from the Executive at minute 89/E.

**44/C Motions**

It was moved by Councillor Graham Alleway and seconded by Councillor Victoria Wheeler that

“this Council asks the Executive to review the policy for distribution of CIL funding, taking into account the following recommendations:

- (i) each ward be allocated 45% of CIL generated from development in the ward, inclusive of the 15 or 25% statutory allocation to Parish Councils, and the current 15% non parished ward allocation established by this Council;
- (ii) the CIL balance above the amounts currently issued for parished or non parished wards be held by the Borough in ward CIL accounts;

- (iii) the consultation process to identify needs and improvements to infrastructure to deliver priorities reflected from consultations be reviewed, to include:
  - (a) a central role for ward councillors consulting with residents;
  - (b) Officers engaging appropriate authorities and agencies responsible for infrastructure and service provision to deliver the infrastructure;
  - (c) a central role for ward councillors engage with adjoining Ward Councillors to identify infrastructure concerns and opportunities to mitigate effects of development; and
- (iv) any unspent CIL money in the Ward accounts to be returned to the Borough general CIL fund if unspent in the statutory timescale.”

It was moved by Councillor Morgan Rise and seconded by Councillor Graham Tapper that (i) be amended by changing 45% to 33%. The motion was put to the vote and lost.

**RESOLVED to ask the Executive to review the policy for distribution of CIL funding, taking into account the following recommendations:**

- (i) each ward be allocated 45% of CIL generated from development in the ward, inclusive of the 15 or 25% statutory allocation to Parish Councils, and the current 15% non parished ward allocation established by this Council;**
- (ii) the CIL balance above the amounts currently issued for parished or non parished wards be held by the Borough in ward CIL accounts;**
- (iii) the consultation process to identify needs and improvements to infrastructure to deliver priorities reflected from consultations be reviewed, to include:**
  - (a) a central role for ward councillors consulting with residents;**
  - (b) Officers engaging appropriate authorities and agencies responsible for infrastructure and service provision to deliver the infrastructure;**
  - (c) a central role for ward councillors engage with adjoining Ward Councillors to identify infrastructure concerns and opportunities to mitigate effects of development; and**
- (iv) any unspent CIL money in the Ward accounts to be returned to the Borough general CIL fund if unspent in the statutory timescale.**

Note: In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct Councillor Graham Alleway declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was a director of the Surrey Association of Local Councils, that was affiliated to the National Association of Local Councils, which he referred to in moving the motion.

#### **45/C Motions**

It was moved by Councillor Robin Perry and seconded by Councillor Edward Hawkins that

“this Council

- (i) notes that
  - (a) HMG awarded a new contract to audit local authority annual accounts to BDO, through Public Sector Audits Appointments (PSAA) in 2020;
  - (b) with the much publicised pressures across the whole Local Government Audit system that are the result of staffing and capacity issues within those audit firms, many Councils like Surrey Heath are experiencing significant delays in the completion of the audits on their accounts;
  - (c) having outstanding unaudited accounts, falsely and unnecessarily undermines confidence in the finances of all those Councils, including Surrey Heath;
  - (d) recognising that staff turnover issues in the finance team contributed in part to the initial delays in the process, despite subsequently expending many hours working with the Auditors, actively supporting them and responding to their queries as part of the standard audit process and receiving multiple re-start dates, disappointingly the 2019/20 audit has still not been completed by the current external auditor;
  - (e) despite having been prepared diligently and in a timely manner, the external auditor has yet to start work on the audit of accounts for 2020/21. This delay has also impacted the preparation of the 2021/22 accounts;
  - (f) it has already incurred significant expenditure retaining temporary staff with the historic knowledge and experience required to respond to queries relevant to the outstanding annual accounts; and
- (ii) asks the Leader of the Council to write formally to the Secretary of State for Levelling-up Housing and Communities to seek his assistance in:
  - (a) enabling the PSAA to offer the Council the appointment of an alternative audit company that has the necessary capacity to complete the above audits, or
  - (b) releasing the Council from the requirement to use the currently appointed auditors (BDO) under the existing national Public Sector

Audits Appointments (PSAA) arrangement for the audit of its annual statement of accounts for financial years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 until the new PSAA arrangement commences from 1 April 2023, to allow the Council the option of securing new external auditors from PSAA or otherwise, that have the capacity and capability to complete the outstanding audit of accounts.”

The Council debated the motion and referenced the myriad of reasons that had impacted the audit of the 2019/20 accounts. Concerns were raised about the potential implications associated with changing auditors, in particular in relation to the additional costs that could be incurred. However, it was also suggested that, at this stage, the only decision sought, and consequently the only cost to the Council, was the letter to the Secretary of State.

**RESOLVED that this Council**

**(i) notes that**

- (a) HMG awarded a new contract to audit local authority annual accounts to BDO, through Public Sector Audits Appointments (PSAA) in 2020;**
- (b) with the much publicised pressures across the whole Local Government Audit system that are the result of staffing and capacity issues within those audit firms, many Councils like Surrey Heath are experiencing significant delays in the completion of the audits on their accounts;**
- (c) having outstanding unaudited accounts, falsely and unnecessarily undermines confidence in the finances of all those Councils, including Surrey Heath;**
- (d) recognising that staff turnover issues in the finance team contributed in part to the initial delays in the process, despite subsequently expending many hours working with the Auditors, actively supporting them and responding to their queries as part of the standard audit process and receiving multiple re-start dates, disappointingly the 2019/20 audit has still not been completed by the current external auditor;**
- (e) despite having been prepared diligently and in a timely manner, the external auditor has yet to start work on the audit of accounts for 2020/21. This delay has also impacted the preparation of the 2021/22 accounts;**
- (f) it has already incurred significant expenditure retaining temporary staff with the historic knowledge and experience required to respond to queries relevant to the outstanding annual accounts; and**

**(ii) asks the Leader of the Council to write formally to the Secretary of State for Levelling-up Housing and Communities to seek his assistance in:**

**(a) enabling the PSAA to offer the Council the appointment of an alternative audit company that has the necessary capacity to complete the above audits, or**

**(b) releasing the Council from the requirement to use the currently appointed auditors (BDO) under the existing national Public Sector Audits Appointments (PSAA) arrangement for the audit of its annual statement of accounts for financial years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 until the new PSAA arrangement commences from 1 April 2023, to allow the Council the option of securing new external auditors from PSAA or otherwise, that have the capacity and capability to complete the outstanding audit of accounts.**

Note: in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.4, a recorded vote on the motion was taken.

The following Members voted in favour of the motion:

Councillors Dan Adams, Graham Alleway, Stuart Black, Richard Brooks, Sarah Jane Croke, Vivienne Chapman, Paul Deach, Colin Dougan, Shaun Garrett, Mark Gordon, Edward Hawkins, Josephine Hawkins, David Lewis, Alan McClafferty, Charlotte Morley, Adrian Page, Robin Perry, Darryl Ratiram, Valerie White.

The following Members voted against the motion:

Councillors Rodney Bates, Cliff Betton, Sharon Galliford, Emma-Jane McGrath, Sashi Mylvaganam, Liz Noble, Morgan Rise, Graham Tapper, Pat Tedder, Victoria Wheeler, Helen Whitcroft.

#### **46/C Governance Working Group**

The Council considered a report from the Governance Working Group containing its recommendations from its meeting on 27 January 2023 in relation to revisions to the ICT Code of Practice, revisions to the Social Media Protocol for Councillors, and adopting a Protocol for the appointment and role of Honorary Freeman and Honorary Aldermen.

#### **RESOLVED that**

- (i) the ICT Code of Practice at Part 5, Section C of the Constitution, be updated as set out at Annex A to this report;**
- (ii) the Social Media Protocol for Councillors, one of the Documents which supports the Constitution, be updated as set out at Annex B to this report; and**

**(iii) the Protocol for appointment and role of Honorary Freemen and Honorary Aldermen, as set out at Annex C to the agenda report, be adopted as a Document which supports the Constitution.**

**47/C Questions from Members of the Public**

The Finance & Customer Services Portfolio Holder, Councillor Robin Perry, responded to questions from Mr Bain concerning the Minimum Revenue Provision in the year to March 2023 and the borrowing undertaken to fund the acquisition of the Mall, Camberley. He also responded to a question from Mr Lee regarding the circumstances leading to the delays in the auditing of the 2019/20.

The Leader responded to a question from Mr Lee about the inclusion of a motion concerning the auditing of the Council's accounts on the agenda for that meeting.

The Housing, Support & Safeguarding Portfolio Holder, Councillor Sarah Jane Croke, responded to a question from Mr Hodges-Long on the number of social housing properties within the borough that had issues with defective heating, asbestos or mould. She also undertook to respond to a supplementary question in writing within the next seven days.

**48/C Questions from Councillors**

The Leader responded to a question from Councillor Morgan Rise about earmarked reserves.

In response to a question from Councillor Graham Tapper, the Council was informed that Surrey County Council had been advised that a section of the High Street had not been restored to its original state following recent works carried out by a utility company.

Following a question from Councillor Victoria Wheeler about issues being experienced by Accent tenants, the Housing, Safeguarding & Support Portfolio Holder, Councillor Sarah Jane Croke, undertook to assist with addressing these concerns.

Mayor