

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

+ Cllr Pat Tedder (Mayor)
+ Cllr Sarbie Kang (Deputy Mayor)

+ Cllr Alan Ashbery	- Cllr Liz Noble
+ Cllr Louise Ashbery	+ Cllr Jacques Olmo
+ Cllr Cliff Betton	+ Cllr David O'Mahoney
+ Cllr Jonny Cope	+ Cllr Ying Perrett
+ Cllr Kel Finan-Cooke	+ Cllr Jonathan Quin
+ Cllr Lisa Finan-Cooke	+ Cllr Bob Raikes
+ Cllr Shaun Garrett	+ Cllr Morgan Rise
+ Cllr Mary Glauert	+ Cllr Murray Rowlands
+ Cllr Mark Gordon	- Cllr John Skipper
* Cllr Julie Hoad	* Cllr Josh Thorne
+ Cllr Nirmal Kang	+ Cllr Kevin Thompson
+ Cllr Rob Lee	+ Cllr Victoria Wheeler
+ Cllr Shaun Macdonald	+ Cllr David Whitcroft
+ Cllr Leanne MacIntyre	+ Cllr Helen Whitcroft
+ Cllr Emma-Jane McGrath	+ Cllr Valerie White
+ Cllr Lewis Mears	+ Cllr Richard Wilson
- Cllr Sashi Mylvaganam	

+ Present
- Apologies for absence presented
* In attendance virtually

19/C Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Julie Hoad, Emma-Jane McGrath, Sashi Mylvaganam, Liz Noble, John Skipper and Josh Thorne. It was noted that Councillors Julie Hoad and Josh Thorne had joined the meeting virtually but would not be entitled to vote.

20/C Minutes

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

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 17
May and 28 June 2023 be approved as a correct record.**

21/C Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor referred to the recent death of former councillor David Allen, who had served as a councillor from 2011 until 2019, representing Frimley Green ward then Frimley ward. During this time he had been Chair of the Performance & Finance Scrutiny Committee. On behalf of the Council, the Mayor sent condolences to Mr Allen's family.

The Council was informed of the numerous engagements the Mayor had undertaken since May, including the Beating of the Retreat and celebrating Armed Forces Day.

22/C Leader's Announcements

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Shaun Macdonald, informed Members of the steps being taken to be a more transparent and inclusive Council, including: moving the item on public questions to earlier in the Council agenda and adopting gender neutral terminology. An item was also due to be considered at the next Governance Working Group meeting on introducing public questions for all committees.

The Council was updated on recent achievements and priorities, including the adoption of the Short Term Plan by the Executive the previous week and the recent completion of the Local Government's Peer Challenge process. Councillor Macdonald also referred to the financial challenges being experienced by local authorities and, although this Council was not facing an immediate crisis, it was necessary to take its financial challenges seriously by focusing on the relevant actions in the Short Term Plan, along with the Medium Term Financial Strategy prior to the budget setting in February 2024.

The Council was informed that the Armed Forces Covenant signed in 2012 had now lapsed and a report would be considered at the Executive meeting in September proposing that the Council signs up to the new Armed Forces Covenant.

Members were reminded that the Council had launched its summer of fun campaign, which promoted the many affordable activities available for families, including visiting one of the borough's four award winning Green Flag parks.

The Leader welcomed a number of new starters to the Council, including seven interns on summer placements.

23/C Executive, Committees and Other Bodies

- (a) Executive – 18 April, 30 May, 20 June and 18 July 2023

It was moved by Councillor Shaun Macdonald, seconded by Councillor Morgan Rise, and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 18 April, 30 May, 20 June, and 18 July 2023 be received and the recommendation therein be adopted as set out below:

21/E Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace

RESOLVED that a budget supplementary estimate be allocated and funded from the SANG reserve for the acquisition of the site identified in the exempt Executive report for use as Suitable

Alternative Natural Greenspace, including the associated fees and the set up costs.

- (b) Planning Applications Committee – 20 April, 1 June and 29 June 2023

It was moved by Councillor Cliff Betton, seconded by Councillor Victoria Wheeler, and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Applications Committee held on 20 April, 1 June and 29 June 2023 be received.

- (c) Audit and Standards Committee – 17 April and 11 July 2023

It was moved by Councillor Cliff Betton, seconded by Councillor Bob Raikes and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Audit and Standards Committee held on 17 April and 11 July 2023 be received.

- (d) External Partnerships Select Committee – 6 June 2023

It was moved by Councillor Rob Lee, seconded by Councillor Sarbie Kang and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the External Partnerships Select Committee held on 6 June 2023 be received.

- (e) Licensing Committee – 14 June 2023

It was moved by Councillor Valerie White, seconded by Councillor Rob Lee and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 14 June 2023 be received.

- (f) Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee – 12 July 2023

It was moved by Councillor Shaun Garrett, seconded by Councillor Nirmal Kang, and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee held on 12 July 2023 be received.

- (g) Employment Committee – 13 July 2023

It was moved by Councillor David Whitcroft, seconded by Councillor Shaun Macdonald and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Employment Committee held on 13 July 2023 be received.

(h) Joint Staff Consultative Group – 15 June 2023

It was moved by Councillor Valerie White, seconded by Councillor David Whitcroft and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Staff Consultative Group held on 15 June 2023 be received.

24/C Motions

It was moved by Councillor Jonathan Quin, seconded by Councillor Morgan Rise that

“this Council

- (i) notes, with regret, that the Eikon Charity stopped supporting the Surrey Heath Youth Council on Thursday 20 July 2023 and as a result, the Youth Council will cease operating unless new funding and support is found;
- (ii) acknowledges that the Youth Council has successfully engaged and represented young people in the Borough and has delivered projects including anti-stigma training days in local schools, charitable fundraising and a campaign to improve Crabtree Skate Park;
- (iii) notes, with regret, that there has not been closer collaboration and joint-working between the Council and the Youth Council in previous years, and that the Council has not appointed a Surrey Heath Young Mayor since 2015;
- (iv) requests that the Mayor of Surrey Heath formally writes to the current Youth Council thanking them for their service to the young people of Surrey Heath;
- (v) requests that the Leader and Chief Executive arrange a meeting with Eikon and the current youth council members to discuss their existing projects and how they could be supported by the Council or other agencies; and
- (vi) requests that the Leader of the Council and the Executive explore the options for the continuation of the Youth Council and the establishment of a ceremonial Young Mayor, with a report to go to Executive by no later than 31 October 2023”.

Members debated the motion and supported taking action to help the continuation of the Youth Council. It was, however, recognised that, as the current provision would cease from the new academic year, it would be necessary to urgently identify interim support for the Youth Council pending any longer term solutions that would be addressed in the report to the Executive.

RESOLVED that the Council

- (i) notes, with regret, that the Eikon Charity stopped supporting the Surrey Heath Youth Council on Thursday 20 July 2023 and as a result, the Youth Council will cease operating unless new funding and support is found;**
- (ii) acknowledges that the Youth Council has successfully engaged and represented young people in the Borough and has delivered projects including anti-stigma training days in local schools, charitable fundraising and a campaign to improve Crabtree Skate Park;**
- (iii) notes, with regret, that there has not been closer collaboration and joint-working between the Council and the Youth Council in previous years, and that the Council has not appointed a Surrey Heath Young Mayor since 2015;**
- (iv) requests that the Mayor of Surrey Heath formally writes to the current Youth Council thanking them for their service to the young people of Surrey Heath;**
- (v) requests that the Leader and Chief Executive arrange a meeting with Eikon and the current youth council members to discuss their existing projects and how they could be supported by the Council or other agencies; and**
- (vi) requests that the Leader of the Council and the Executive explore the options for the continuation of the Youth Council and the establishment of a ceremonial Young Mayor, with a report to go to Executive by no later than 31 October 2023.**

25/C Motions

It was moved by Councillor Jonny Cope and seconded by Councillor Shaun Garrett that

"this Council

- (i) opposes the Mayor of London's extension of the ULEZ to the boundary of Greater London;**
- (ii) notes that the expansion affects not only Londoners and will cause many Surrey Heath residents and businesses to pay £12.50 a day just to drive a car to carry out their trade or visit relatives; many simply cannot afford to do this;**
- (iii) notes that, for many of its residents, their car is the only reliable option to visit outer London, particularly given the reduced public transport options compared with inner London; punishing those who cannot afford to buy a more modern vehicle is deeply unfair and out of touch, particularly at a time when the cost of living is increasing;**

- (iv) calls on the Mayor of London to listen, rethink this flawed policy and instead invest in improving the public transport network in outer London to make it easier for people to make more sustainable transport choices; and
- (v) asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Mayor of London expressing this Council's opposition to ULEZ expansion to outer London and calling on the Mayor to cancel the expansion."

Members discussed the motion and heard concerns about the effect of the expansion of ULEZ on Surrey Heath residents, in particular for small businesses; it was also recognised that poor public transport links affected visiting outer London by such means. Furthermore, whilst it was recognised that improving air quality was critical, it was suggested by some Members that the expansion of ULEZ would have a negligible benefits in improving air quality.

The Council also heard views in support of the Mayor of London's attempt to limit pollution from the most polluting vehicles. However, it was felt that the economic impacts of the expansion needed to be addressed by introducing a fully funded scrappage scheme, before the Zone was expanded. Concerns about poor public transport links were also endorsed.

It was moved by Councillor Richard Wilson and seconded by Councillor Mary Glauert that the motion be amended as follows:

"this Council

- (i) ~~opposes the Mayor of London's extension of the ULEZ to the boundary of Greater London~~ **believes everyone has the right to clean air and recognises the need to improve air quality within Greater London, Surrey Heath and the entire country due to the chronic and acute health implications of pollution on young and vulnerable people and those with respiratory illnesses in particular;**
- (ii) ~~notes that the expansion affects not only Londoners and will cause many Surrey Heath residents and businesses to pay £12.50 a day just to drive a car to carry out their trade or visit relatives; many simply cannot afford to do this~~ **cost-of-living crisis has increased travel costs putting substantial pressure on many people's budgets;**
- (iii) ~~notes that, for many of its residents, their car is the only reliable option to visit outer London, particularly given the reduced public transport options compared with inner London; punishing those who cannot afford to buy a more modern vehicle is deeply unfair and out of touch, particularly at a time when the cost of living is increasing~~ **the ULEZ expansion affects not only Londoners and will cause some Surrey Heath residents and businesses to pay £12.50 a day just to drive a car to carry out their trade or personal business, although the hope is that they do not pay and find a less polluting way of travelling instead;**

- (iv) ~~calls on the Mayor of London to listen, rethink this flawed policy and instead invest in improving the public transport network in outer London to make it easier for people to make more sustainable transport choices; and~~ **notes that, for many Surrey Heath residents, their car is the only reliable option for effective and efficient travel, particularly given the poor provision of public transport across Surrey and outer London;**
- (v) ~~asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Mayor of London expressing this Council's opposition to ULEZ expansion to outer London and calling on the Mayor to cancel the expansion~~ **calls on the Mayor of London and the Secretary of State for Transport to work together to resolve concerns surrounding ULEZ expansion by delaying its introduction until a car scrappage scheme that is fully funded for residents outside of Greater London is in place, whilst also accelerating improvements to the poor provision of public transport offered to Surrey Heath residents;**
- (vi) **asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Member of Parliament for Surrey Heath, the Leader of Surrey County Council, the Mayor of London and the Secretary of State for Transport to request they work together urgently to improve public transport, to stimulate sustainable active travel and to reduce air pollution overall for Surrey Heath residents going about their daily lives within the Borough and beyond; and**
- (vii) **reaffirms its commitment to understand and support addressing of air pollution issues within the Borough as a priority.”**

The amendment was debated and, whilst differing opinions remained on how effective the expansion of ULEZ would be for improving air quality, along with a suggestion that residents would prefer the expansion to be cancelled entirely, there was consensus that it was important to send a message that the current approach was not sustainable. Councillor Jonny Cope therefore accepted the amendment without a vote and it consequently became the substantive motion.

RESOLVED that this Council

- (i) **believes everyone has the right to clean air and recognises the need to improve air quality within Greater London, Surrey Heath and the entire country due to the chronic and acute health implications of pollution on young and vulnerable people and those with respiratory illnesses in particular;**
- (ii) **notes that the cost-of-living crisis has increased travel costs putting substantial pressure on many people's budgets;**
- (iii) **notes that the ULEZ expansion affects not only Londoners and will cause some Surrey Heath residents and businesses to pay £12.50 a day just to drive a car to carry out their trade or personal business, although the hope is that they do not pay and find a less polluting way of travelling instead;**

- (iv) notes that, for many Surrey Heath residents, their car is the only reliable option for effective and efficient travel, particularly given the poor provision of public transport across Surrey and outer London;**
- (v) calls on the Mayor of London and the Secretary of State for Transport to work together to resolve concerns surrounding ULEZ expansion by delaying its introduction until a car scrappage scheme that is fully funded for residents outside of Greater London is in place, whilst also accelerating improvements to the poor provision of public transport offered to Surrey Heath residents;**
- (vi) asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Member of Parliament for Surrey Heath, the Leader of Surrey County Council, the Mayor of London and the Secretary of State for Transport to request they work together urgently to improve public transport, to stimulate sustainable active travel and to reduce air pollution overall for Surrey Heath residents going about their daily lives within the Borough and beyond; and**
- (vii) reaffirms its commitment to understand and support addressing of air pollution issues within the Borough as a priority.**

Note: in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.5 it was noted that Councillor Valerie White abstained from voting.

26/C Questions from Councillors

The Net Zero, Wellbeing & Environment Portfolio Holder, Councillor Morgan Rise, responded to a question from Councillor Jonathan Quin concerning the recent offensive smell from the Camberley sewage works. He outlined the actions the Council had taken in accordance with its statutory powers and the actions agreed at a meeting with representatives from Thames Water.

In response to a question from Councillor Murray Rowlands, the Sustainable Transport & Planning Portfolio Holder, Councillor Alan Ashbery, referred to the proposals and concerns regarding South Western Railway's consultation on plans to close ticket offices.

The following questions were asked in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11A:

- (i) The Leader, Councillor Shaun Macdonald, undertook to provide a more detailed response to Councillor Murray Rowlands concerning the lack of performing arts contained in the recent Camberley Theatre programme; and**
- (ii) Councillor Morgan Rise responded to a question from Councillor Shaun Garrett about ongoing issues with specific bins being missed for emptying and their inclusion on contractors' mapping systems; Councillor Rise**

advised that he was working with officers to map all bins across the borough and undertook to ensure this matter was addressed.

Mayor