

SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Surrey Heath House
Knoll Road
Camberley
Surrey
GU15 3HD

Tuesday, 5 December 2023.

To: The Members of the Surrey Heath Borough Council

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Surrey Heath Borough Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Surrey Heath House on Wednesday, 13 December 2023 at 7.00 pm. The business which it is proposed to transact at the meeting is set out below.

Please note that this meeting will be recorded.

Yours sincerely

Damian Roberts

Chief Executive

1. Apologies for Absence

To report apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 October 2023.

3. Declarations of Interest

Members are invited to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and non-pecuniary interests they may have with respect to matters which are to be considered at this meeting.

4. Questions from Members of the Public

To answer questions, if any, received under Council Procedure Rule 10 (Paragraph 3 of the Public Speaking Procedure Rules).

5. Mayor's Announcements

6. Leader's Announcements

7. Executive, Committees and Other Bodies

To receive the open minutes of the following bodies (minutes reproduced in the Minute Book), to answer questions (if any) in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.5 and to consider the recommendations as set out below:

- (a) Executive – 21 November and 5 December 2023

At its meeting on 5 December 2023 the Executive will be advised to consider the following recommendations:

57/E Calculation and setting of the Council Tax Base for 2024/25

The Executive will be advised to RECOMMEND to Full Council that

- (i) with effect from 1 April 2024 the Empty Homes Premium be set at the maximum levels allowed in the legislation where the property has been empty for 1, 5 or 10 or more years as detailed in paragraph 1.8;**
 - (ii) the Council Tax Exceptional Hardship Policy remains unchanged for 2024/25, and the fund available be set at £30,000; and**
 - (iii) the Local Council Tax Support Scheme be amended to disregard 100% of War Disablement Pensions and War Widow's Pensions in the calculation of income with effect from 1 April 2024.**
- (b) Planning Applications Committee – 26 October and 23 November 2023
- (c) Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee – 15 November 2023
- (d) Employment Committee – 16 November 2023

16/EC Pay Settlement 2024/25

RECOMMENDED to Full Council that a consolidated 4% pay award be agreed for 2024/25.

- (e) External Partnerships Select Committee – 28 November 2023
- (f) Joint Staff Consultative Group – 27 October, 3 November and 23 November 2023

8. Motions

- a) Councillor Kevin Thompson to move that

“this Council

- (i) recognises the bravery and hard work of Surrey’s police officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and staff in trying to keep our local communities safe;
- (ii) notes that despite their efforts, and Surrey residents paying the highest council tax in England for their police force, just 150 out of over 2,700 residential burglaries were solved in the year to August 2023, and there were over 6,500 vehicle crimes, representing an annual increase of over 14%;
- (iii) believes that many more crimes could be prevented in Surrey Heath with an increased community policing presence and that many of our communities have seen a drop in police visibility and presence over recent years;
- (iv) notes that the operating budget for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey, including staff and running costs, is currently £1,540,000, representing an increase of more than 50% since March 2021;
- (v) further notes that, according to Home Office statistics, the number of PCSOs on Surrey’s streets reduced by more than 50% from 140 to just 68 in the two years since March 2021;
- (vi) believes that the cost of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner should be spent on providing frontline police services, funding the equivalent of around 60 new PCSOs;
- (vii) further believes that, regardless of the incumbent’s political allegiances, it is clear that the Police and Crime Commissioner is not a necessary role and should be abolished, with its functions transferring to Police Boards, made up of local councillors and representatives from relevant local groups; and
- (viii) calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Home Secretary expressing this Council’s view that this needlessly political role should be abolished with the financial savings reinvested into frontline policing that would benefit Surrey Heath and all of Surrey.”

b) Councillor Josh Thorne to move that

“this Council

- (i) is concerned about the number of cases reported to the RSPCA each year, regarding pets given as prizes via fairgrounds, social media, and other channels;
- (ii) is concerned for the welfare of those animals that are being given as

prizes;

- (iii) recognises that many cases of pets being as prizes may go unreported each year;
- (iv) supports a move to ban the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, on Surrey Borough Council owned land.
- (v) agrees to:
 - a) ban outright the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, on Surrey Heath Borough Council land; and
 - b) write to the UK Government, urging an outright ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on both public and private land.”

9. Governance Working Group (Pages 5 - 10)

To consider the report of the Head of Legal & Democratic Services (attached).

10. Revised Committee Memberships 2023/24 and Appointment of a Vice-Chair of Licensing Committee (Pages 11 - 18)

To consider the report of the Head of Legal & Democratic Services (attached).

11. Questions from Councillors

- (a) To deal with questions, if any, received under Council Procedure Rule 11.
- (b) The Leader to answer questions from Members in relation to the Executive functions under Council Procedure Rule 11A.