

SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Surrey Heath House
Knoll Road
Camberley
Surrey
GU15 3HD

Tuesday, 15 February 2022

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, 23 February 2022 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. Suspension of Council Procedure Rules

The Mayor to move that, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Council Procedure Rule 21.2 (requirement to stand) be suspended for the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

To report apologies for absence.

3. Minutes

To approve as a correct record, the open minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 December 2021.

4. Mayor's Announcements

5. Leader's Announcements

6. 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.

7. 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).

8. Questions from Councillors

To deal with questions, if any, received under Council Procedure Rule 11.

9. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 - 2025/26 and Annual Budget 2022/23 (Pages 7 - 86)

10. Setting of Council Tax 2022/23 (Pages 87 - 94)

11. 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 – 25 January and 15 February 2022

At its meeting on 15 February 2022, the Executive will be asked to consider the following recommendation:

95/E Review of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme

The Executive will be advised to RECOMMENDED to Full Council that

- (i) The revised Local Council Tax Support Scheme, as set out at Annex A to the Executive agenda report, replace the existing Local Council Tax Support Scheme from 1 April 2022;**
- (ii) Transitional protection for those impacted by more than a £5 per week reduction in support in payments of council tax due to the introduction of the revised scheme from 1 April 2022; and**
- (iii) Transitional protection from the new capital limit for those current vulnerable group claimants with over £6000 but less than £16,001 capital for the period 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022.**

Note: the recommendations of the Executive relating to the Revenue

Budget 2022/23, Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2025/26, Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23, Capital Strategy 2022/23 to 2025/26 and Capital Programme 2022/23 are dealt with at Item 9 - Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 - 2025/26 and Annual Budget 2022/23.

- (b) Planning Applications Committee – 9 December 2021, 20 January and 10 February 2022
- (c) Licensing Committee – 15 December 2021 and 16 February 2022

At its meeting on 16 February 2022, the Licensing Committee will be asked to consider the following recommendation:

20/L Gambling Act 2005- Draft revised Statement of Principles 2022-2025

The Committee will be advised to RECOMMEND to Full Council that the revised Statement of Principles 2022-2025 in relation to exercising functions under the Gambling Act 2005, as set out at Annex B to the Licensing Committee agenda report, be adopted.

- (d) Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee – 19 January 2022
- (e) Employment Committee – 8 February 2022

23/EC Pay Settlement 2022/23

RECOMMENDED to Full Council that a consolidated increase of £500 on all pay scale points be agreed as the Pay Award for 2022/23.

30/EC Joint Staff Consultative Group Constitution

RECOMMENDED to Full Council that the revised Joint Staff Consultative Group Constitution, as attached at Annex A to this report, as amended, be adopted.

- (f) Joint Staff Consultative Group – 13 January and 3 February 2022

12. Motions

Councillor Sharon Galliford to move that:

“this Council

- (i) notes that
 - a. the pressure on organisations to pay the right amount of tax in the

- right place at the right time has never been stronger;
- b. polling from the Institute for Business Ethics finds that “corporate tax avoidance” has, since 2013, been the clear number one concern of the British public when it comes to business conduct;
- c. almost two-thirds (63%) of the public agree that the Government and local councils should consider a company’s ethics and how they pay their tax as well as value for money and quality of service provided, when undertaking procurement;
- d. around 17.5% of public contracts in the UK have been won by companies with links to tax havens;
- e. it has been conservatively estimated that losses from multinational profit-shifting (just one form of tax avoidance) could be costing the UK some £7bn per annum in lost corporation tax revenues;
- f. the Fair Tax Mark offers a means for business to demonstrate good tax conduct, and has been secured by a wide range of businesses across the UK, including FTSE-listed PLCs, co-operatives, social enterprises and large private businesses;

(ii) believes that

- a. paying tax is often presented as a burden, but it shouldn’t be;
- b. tax enables us to provide services from education, health and social care, to flood defence, roads, policing and defence. It also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies;
- c. as recipients of significant public funding, local authorities should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; be that by ensuring contractors are paying their proper share of tax, or by refusing to go along with offshore tax dodging when buying land and property;
- d. where substantive stakes are held in private enterprises, then influence should be wielded to ensure that such businesses are exemplars of tax transparency and tax avoidance is shunned - e.g., no use of marketed schemes requiring disclosure under DOTAS regulations (Disclosure Of Tax Avoidance Schemes) or arrangements that might fall foul of the General Anti-Abuse Rule;
- e. more action is needed, however, current law significantly restricts councils’ ability to either penalise poor tax conduct or reward good tax conduct, when buying goods or services;
- f. UK cities, counties and towns can and should stand up for responsible tax conduct - doing what they can within existing frameworks and pledging to do more given the opportunity, as active supporters of international tax justice;

(iii) approves the Council’s for Fair Tax Declaration;

(iv) leads by example and demonstrates good practice in our tax conduct, right across its activities;

(v) will prompt contractors and ensure agency contractors implement IR35

robustly and pay a fair share of employment taxes;

- (vi) commits to not use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty;
- (vii) undertakes due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates;
- (viii) demands clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers and their consolidated profit & loss position;
- (ix) promotes Fair Tax Mark certification for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due;
- (x) supports Fair Tax Week events in the area, and celebrates the tax contribution made by responsible businesses who say what they pay with pride; and
- (xi) supports calls for urgent reform of EU and UK law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.”

13. Governance Working Group (Pages 95 - 152)

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

14. ISO 9001 (Pages 153 - 164)

To consider the report of the Chief Executive (attached).

15. Leader's Question Time

The Leader to answer questions from Members in relation to the Executive functions.