

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SURREY
HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL held at
Surrey Heath House, Camberley on
22 July 2020**

+* Cllr Pat Tedder (Mayor)
+- Cllr Sarah Jane Croke (Deputy Mayor)

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

+ Present at the meeting on 22 July 2020

* Present at the re-convened meeting on 29 July 2020

- Apologies for absence presented for the re-convened meeting on 29 July 2020

14/C Minutes

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

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual meeting of the
Council held on 20 May 2020 be approved as a correct record.**

15/C Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor reported on activities she had undertaken since her election. She had attended the Council's Fly the Flag for Armed Forces event on 22 June 2020, a thank you party for Surrey Heath Prepared, and a virtual meeting with the Surrey Mayors, the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, the High Sheriff and the under Sheriff of Surrey, and the Young Mayor for Surrey.

The Mayor informed the Council that she had attended a virtual day at Ascot Races, raising money for her charities.

Since her election, the Mayor had produced three short videos, two of which had been to thank volunteers and the third to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D Day landings. The videos had been subtitled, which reflected that the Mayor's Charities were raising awareness of the difficulties for those with a hearing loss.

The Council was informed that the Mayor hoped to see using subtitles become standard policy for videos produced by the Council or by individual councillors.

16/C Leader's Announcements

The Leader reported on his activities since the last Council meeting, which had primarily been related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

17/C Questions from Members of the Public

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Alan McClafferty, received a question from a member of the public, Ms Jane Sherrard-Smith, raising concerns about and requesting the contact details for any and all organisations involved in the replacement masts, poles and antennae around the borough for 5G technology, in order for local people to deliver their questions and concerns.

18/C Questions from Councillors

The Leader responded to a question from Councillor Rodney Bates submitted under Procedure Rule 11. The question concerned the impact and financial implications on the Council's plan of being home to the first 5G shopping centre in the UK, following the recent announcement by the Government that buying new Huawei 5G equipment would be banned after 31 December 2020 and that all Huawei equipment would be removed from 5G networks by the end of 2027.

19/C Executive, Committees and Other Bodies

- (a) Executive – 26 May and 23 June 2020

It was moved by Councillor Alan McClafferty, seconded by Councillor Colin Dougan, and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 26 May and 23 June 2020 be received and the recommendations from 26 May, 23 June and 21 July 2020 be adopted as set out below:

3/E Watchetts Tennis Court Redevelopment

RESOLVED that the Capital Programme be increased by £135,000 to fund the redevelopment of the Watchetts Tennis Court.

17/E EM3 LEP - Bid for funding - Surrey Heath Online Retail Experience (SHORE)

RESOLVED that the Capital Programme be amended by £10,000 to fund the Council's contribution towards the Surrey Heath Online Retail Experience project.

25/E Review of the Corporate Capital Programme 2019/20

RESOLVED that

- (i) **actual capital expenditure for 2019/20 of £7.895m against a budget of £40.328m be noted;**
- (ii) **the carry forward budget provision of £32.406 million from 2019/20 into 2020/21 be approved;**
- (iii) **the revised 2020/21 Capital Programme of £33.885 million be noted;**
- (iv) **the final capital prudential indicators for 2019/20 be noted.**

(b) Planning Applications Committee – 30 April, 28 May and 18 June 2020

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 30 April, 28 May and 18 June 2020 be received.

(c) Audit and Standards Committee – 20 April 2020

It was moved by Councillor Cliff Betton, seconded by Councillor Darryl Ratiram and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee held on 20 April 2020 be received.

(d) External Partnerships Select Committee – 9 June 2020

It was moved by Councillor Robin Perry, seconded by Councillor Morgan Rise and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the External Partnerships Select Committee held on 9 June 2020 be received.

(e) Joint Staff Consultative Group – 25 June 2020

It was moved by Councillor Graham Tapper, seconded by Councillor Rebecca Jennings-Evans and

RESOLVED that the notes of the meeting of the Joint Staff Consultative Group held on 25 June 2020 be received.

(f) Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee – 1 July 2020

It was moved by Councillor Sashi Mylvaganam, seconded by Councillor Shaun Garrett, and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee held on 1 July 2020 be received.

20/C Motions

It was moved by Councillor Sashi Mylvaganam and seconded by Councillor Kristian Wrenn that

“this Council resolves that

- (i) concern about articles which have appeared in the national press in respect of the Council’s property investments which suggests possible multi-million pound valuation losses in the Council’s property investments in Camberley Town Centre be noted;
- (ii) in order to protect the current and future financial interests of Surrey Heath Borough Council Taxpayers Financial Officers, in conjunction with the Council’s Auditors, and/or other independent organisation, be asked, subject to budget approval, to produce a report, to be presented to the next Full Council Meeting, detailing the purchase costs of property purchased by the Council as investments for treasury management since January 2016, together with independently ratified valuations of those property investments as at the time of purchase and at end of the last financial year and a current valuation, as at the date of this Council meeting;
- (iii) in the event that the valuations as at the end of the last financial year show an erosion of more than 25% of the purchase costs, or 50% of the current valuation, a further independent report be commissioned, subject to budget approval, from the Council’s Auditors or other qualified company or institution (in accordance with the Council’s Contract Standing Orders) into:
 - a) the strategic rationales behind each property investment made since January 2016.
 - b) the procedures followed in respect of each investment to ensure that all Council Standing Orders and protocols were adhered to correctly;
 - c) the amount paid for each property investment made since January 2016 to assess if proper value for money at the time of purchase was obtained for Borough Council Taxpayers in respect of each investment;
 - d) the actual and forecasted rental income, and all other critical financial aspects, to assess whether the full financial costs, risks and benefits were properly evaluated;
 - e) whether the most appropriate financial methods and mechanisms, for both the short and
 - f) long term benefit of Council Taxpayers, were used to fund each property investment made since January 2016; and
 - g) Based upon a), b), c) and d). above, to produce recommendations in respect of procedures to be adopted in future property investments to ensure best practice is followed for the ongoing security and benefit of Council Taxpayers; and

- (iv) Financial Officers, based upon the findings of the independent report(s), and taking further independent advice, as necessary, produce a Property Investment Strategy report in time for the 2021/22 Budget setting process, detailing options in respect of the future management and deployment of the Council's property investments to ensure prudent financial management."

It was noted that, although the Mall Shopping Centre, Camberley, now known as the SQ, had been acquired primarily for the purposes of regeneration rather than purely investment purposes, this acquisition would be considered within the scope of the motion.

The Executive Head of Finance advised Members that the cost of the work proposed in the motion would be outside the existing budget and, if Members were minded to agree to this investigation, the Council would need to agree a budget for this work.

The Council was informed that the Performance & Finance Scrutiny Committee had agreed to dedicate its meeting on 9 September 2020 to the scrutiny of the Council's property investments and this might be a more appropriate forum for this matter. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12 (e), it was moved by Councillor Rodney Bates and seconded by Councillor Alan McClafferty that the motion be referred to the Performance & Finance Scrutiny Committee to discuss in more detail. This procedural motion was put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED that the matters identified in the motion be referred to the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

21/C Motions

It was moved by Councillor Rodney Bates and seconded by Councillor Morgan Rise that

"this Council

- (i) formally supports the general principle of unitary authorities within local government and agrees that any such unitary authority affecting Surrey Heath should be ideally around the region of 300,000 to 500,000 residents;
- (ii) opposes the principle of a single unitary authority to cover Surrey on the grounds that such a unitary authority would be too big, too remote and not in the best interests of Surrey Heath residents;
- (iii) instructs the Acting Chief Executive to formally open negotiations with neighbouring authorities (not just within Surrey) with a view to Surrey Heath forming part of a unitary authority;
- (iv) confirms that it has no formal position or preferred option at this stage regarding the specific unitary grouping that it wishes to be part, but

believes that all options must be thoroughly and positively reviewed and properly considered; this includes the establishment of a network of locally Parish/Town type Councils which could deal with localised issues, including certain planning functions;

- (v) instructs the Acting Chief Executive to convene regular Group Leader meetings to update on the various options as they progress and to bring forward a report to Full Council once all options have been clearly worked through;
- (vi) asks the Acting Chief Executive to send a copy of this motion to the Chief Executives and Leaders of all of Surrey Heath's neighbouring authorities, other Surrey Boroughs, and Surrey County Council to inform them of the Council's position."

The Council was informed that legislation required that police areas must not be divided between council boundaries; therefore, if any unitary authority were to be formed with authorities outside the Surrey County boundary this would have an impact on police areas. It was moved by Councillor Alan McClafferty that (iii) of the motion be amended to remove "(not just within Surrey)". This amendment was not seconded and therefore fell.

The Council discussed an anticipated White Paper from the Government, which was expected to promote the creation of unitary authorities. Differing views were presented on whether the Council could fully debate and form a position prior to the publication of this White Paper.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.11 (c) it was moved by Councillor Colin Dougan and seconded by Councillor Paul Deach that consideration of the motion be deferred. It was proposed that consideration be deferred until after the publication of the Government's White Paper.

This procedural motion was put to the vote. Having achieved an equality of votes, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.2 (c) the Mayor's casting vote was exercised in favour of further debate. A further vote was subsequently taken, at which point the procedural motion to defer consideration of the original motion was carried.

RESOLVED to defer consideration of the motion.

Note 1: In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillors Paul Deach, Edward Hawkins, David Mansfield and Charlotte Morley declared a non-pecuniary interest as they were members of Surrey County Council.

Note 2: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.4, a recorded vote on the procedural motion to defer consideration of the original motion was taken.

The following Members voted in favour of the procedural motion:

Councillors Dan Adams, Sarah Jane Croke, Vivienne Chapman, Paul Deach, Colin Dougan, Shaun Garrett, Edward Hawkins, Josephine Hawkins, Rebecca Jennings-Evans, David Lewis, David Mansfield, Alan McClafferty, Adrian Page, Robin Perry, Darryl Ratiram, Valerie White.

The following Members voted against the procedural motion:

Councillors Graham Alleway, Peter Barnett, Rodney Bates, Cliff Betton, Tim FitzGerald, Sharon Galliford, Ben Leach, Emma-Jane McGrath, Sashi Mylvaganam, Morgan Rise, John Skipper, Graham Tapper, Pat Tedder, Victoria Wheeler, Helen Whitcroft, Kristian Wrenn.

The following Members abstained from voting:

Councillor Charlotte Morley.

Having achieved an equality of votes, a further vote was taken.

In the second vote, the following Members voted in favour of the procedural motion:

Councillors Dan Adams, Sarah Jane Croke, Vivienne Chapman, Paul Deach, Colin Dougan, Shaun Garrett, Edward Hawkins, Josephine Hawkins, Rebecca Jennings-Evans, David Lewis, David Mansfield, Alan McClafferty, Chalotte Morley, Adrian Page, Robin Perry, Darryl Ratiram, Valerie White.

In the second vote, the following Members voted against the procedural motion:

Councillors Graham Alleway, Peter Barnett, Rodney Bates, Cliff Betton, Tim FitzGerald, Sharon Galliford, Ben Leach, Emma-Jane McGrath, Sashi Mylvaganam, Morgan Rise, John Skipper, Graham Tapper, Pat Tedder, Victoria Wheeler, Helen Whitcroft, Kristian Wrenn.

22/C Windlesham Community Governance Review

The Council was reminded that, at its meeting on 26 February 2020, it had agreed to form a Community Governance Review Working Group (CGRWG) comprising representatives from the various residents associations, the petitioners, officers, all impacted Borough Councillors and representatives from Windlesham Parish Council to agree the options to consider in the second stage of the Community Governance Review (CGR).

The CGRWG had met on 18 March 2020 and a compromise had been proposed, which would include retaining a single parish council and an undertaking from Windlesham Parish Council to fundamentally restructure its governance processes. In addition, the CGRWG had proposed that

- a) the parish warding arrangement be amended by dividing the current Bagshot ward to form 2 wards covering Bagshot village and the northern section of Windlesham village;
- b) six councillors and two councillors be allocated to Bagshot ward and Windlesham North ward respectively; and
- c) the Parish Council's name be changed in order to better reflect the parish's geographical boundaries.

The warding pattern, allocation of councillors to parish wards and proposed name change would form the second stage of the CGR consultation.

The Council had been due to consider the CGRWG's recommendations at its meeting on 8 April 2020; however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic it had been felt that the Council would not have been able to meet its obligations in respect of the public consultation and, following the receipt of legal advice, the CGR had been paused.

Members were informed that Windlesham Parish Council had met on 20 March 2020, where it had considered the CGRWG's proposed way forward. At this meeting the Parish Council had agreed to establish a Working Group to put together options for a desired framework for a revised governance structure.

It was moved by Councillor Alan McClafferty and seconded by Councillor Colin Dougan that

- (i) A second round of consultation be undertaken in the Windlesham Parish area with the following recommended options:
 - a. A new parish ward co-terminus to the current KC polling district be created and named Windlesham North ward of Windlesham Parish Council;
 - b. A new parish ward co-terminus with the KA and KB polling districts be created and named Bagshot Ward of Windlesham Parish Council;
 - c. The Windlesham ward of Windlesham Parish Council be renamed Windlesham South ward of Windlesham Parish Council;
 - d. Windlesham Parish Council be renamed to better reflect its geographical boundaries;
- (ii) A report be brought back to Council setting out the outcome of the second round of consultation and making final recommendations on the Windlesham Community Governance Review;
- (iii) The Community Governance Review timetable be updated, as set out at Annex A to the agenda report; and
- (iv) Windlesham Parish Council's undertaking to fundamentally review the structure of its governance process be noted.

It was moved by Councillor Victoria Wheeler and seconded by Councillor Peter Barnett that the motion be amended to:

1. include the addition of brackets to references to “north” and “south” in the Windlesham wards in (i) of the motion;
2. include the addition of a requirement that the wording of the consultation to residents was agreed in consultation with the borough councillors for the Windlesham Parish area and the Working Group; and
3. insert wording to (iv) to reflect that a Working Group had been formed by the Parish Council to review and make recommendations on its governance structure.

The amendment was put to the vote and carried. It therefore became the substantive motion.

It was moved by Councillor Edward Hawkins and seconded by Councillor Rebecca Jennings-Evans that a minimum response to the consultation from the impacted electorate should be required in order for the proposals to be adopted, with the threshold figure to be proposed by the CGRWG. Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and an equality of votes was achieved. Councillor Edward Hawkins subsequently agreed to withdraw his amendment.

The Council considered the proposal to rename the Parish Council and heard differing views on whether this should form part of the second stage of the CGR consultation or removed from this motion and further considered outside this CGR process. It was moved by Councillor Rebecca Jennings-Evans and seconded by Councillor Valerie White that the motion be amended to remove (d) in (i) of the motion. The amendment was put to the vote and was lost.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED that

- (i) **a second round of consultation be undertaken in the Windlesham Parish area with the following recommended options:**
- a. **a new parish ward co-terminus to the current KC polling district be created and named Windlesham (North) ward of Windlesham Parish Council;**
 - b. **a new parish ward co-terminus with the KA and KB polling districts be created and named Bagshot Ward of Windlesham Parish Council;**
 - c. **the Windlesham ward of Windlesham Parish Council be renamed Windlesham (South) ward of Windlesham Parish Council;**
 - d. **Windlesham Parish Council be renamed to better reflect its geographical boundaries;**

- (ii) **the consultation document be agreed in consultation with the borough councillors for the Windlesham parish area and the Working Group;**
- (iii) **a report be brought back to Council setting out the outcome of the second round of consultation and making final recommendations on the Windlesham Community Governance Review;**
- (iv) **the Community Governance Review timetable be updated, as set out at Annex A to the agenda report; and**
- (v) **Windlesham Parish Council's undertaking to fundamentally review the structure of its governance process, and the formation of a Parish Council Working Group to progress this work, be noted.**

Note 1: In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillors Peter Barnett, Sharon Galliford, Rebecca Jennings-Evans, and Valerie White declared non-pecuniary interests as they were members of Windlesham Parish Council.

Note 2: It was noted for the record that

- (i) Councillor Emma-Jane McGrath declared that she had spoken with members on the community in connection with this subject;
- (ii) Councillor David Mansfield declared that he had attended Windlesham Parish Council meetings where the item had been discussed but had not participated in any discussions at these meetings; and
- (iii) Councillor Victoria Wheeler declared that she had met with representatives from One Windlesham and Windlesham Parish Council's Working Group

Note 3: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.4, a recorded vote on the amendment to the motion proposed by Cllr Victoria Wheeler and seconded by Councillor Peter Barnett was taken.

The following Members voted in favour of the amendment:

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

Note 4: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.4, a recorded vote on the amendment to the motion proposed by Cllr Rebecca Jennings-Evans and seconded by Councillor Valerie White was taken.

The following Members voted in favour of the amendment:

Councillors Dan Adams, Sarah Jane Croke, Vivienne Chapman, Paul Deach, Colin Dougan, Shaun Garrett, Edward Hawkins, Josephine Hawkins, Rebecca Jennings-Evans, David Lewis, David Mansfield, Alan McClafferty, Adrian Page, Robin Perry, Darryl Ratiram, Valerie White.

The following Members voted against the amendment:

Councillors Graham Alleway, Peter Barnett, Rodney Bates, Cliff Betton, Richard Brooks, Tim Fitzgerald, Sharon Galliford, Emma-Jane McGrath, Charlotte Morley, Sashi Mylvaganam, Morgan Rise, John Skipper, Graham Tapper, Pat Tedder, Victoria Wheeler, Helen Whitcroft, Kristian Wrenn.

23/C Section 151 Officer

In accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1982 and Section 113 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 there was a statutory requirement on the Council to designate one of its officers as its Section 151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer.

The current Section 151 Officer, Mr Simon Little, would be leaving the Council's employment on 11 August 2020. A recruitment process to fill the vacancy was underway and an Appointments Sub Committee would be formed to interview candidates and make a recommendation on the appointment of the Section 151 Officer to the Council.

In the interim, in order to ensure the Council met its requirements to appoint a Section 151 Officer, it was proposed that the Council's Chief Accountant, Mr Adrian Flynn, be appointed as Section 151 Officer for the intervening period. Mr Flynn was currently appointed as a Deputy Section 151 Officer.

RESOLVED that Mr Adrian Flynn be appointed as the Section 151 Officer from 12 August 2020 until further notice.

The meeting was adjourned in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.

The meeting reconvened on 29 July 2020.

24/C Governance Working Group

The Council received a report from the Governance Working Group. The Working Group had reviewed the role and purpose of the Employment Committee and its sub committees after several months of operation and had recommended a number of changes to their Terms of Reference.

The Working Group had also reviewed Financial Regulations in respect of ex gratia payments and recommended amendments to the document. These proposed amendments reflected the recommendations included in the Browne Jacobson report on the decision to award the Chief Executive an additional duties allowance.

It was proposed by Councillor Alan McClafferty, seconded by Councillor Josephine Hawkins, and

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Terms of Reference of the Executive, Committees and Other Bodies at Part 3 of the Constitution, be amended as set out at Annex A to the agenda report;**
- (ii) the Officer Employment Rules at Part 4 of the Constitution be amended as set out at Annex B to the agenda report;**
- (iii) the Scheme of Delegation of Functions to Officers at Part 3 of the Constitution, be amended as set out at Annex C to the agenda report; and**
- (iv) Financial Regulations be amended, as set out at Annex D to the agenda report.**

25/C Leader's Question Time

The Leader responded to a question from Councillor Rodney Bates concerning plans to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain on 15 September 2020. He advised that planning was in the early stages but that work was underway to ensure the occasion was marked.

In response to a question from Councillor Cliff Betton, the Leader deferred to the Portfolio Holder for Places & Strategy, Councillor Rebecca Jennings-Evans, who advised on measures being put in place by the Greenspaces team following recent concerns about the state of the bins at Frimley Green Recreation Ground and the request for additional bins at the site.

The Leader received questions from Councillors Sashi Mylvaganam, Helen Whitcroft and Kristian Wrenn concerning the Covid-19 pandemic and the expected increase in unemployment and use of foodbanks, provisions being made for residents struggling to pay Council Tax, and preparations in the event of a local lockdown. The Leader advised that he was privy to the planning for a potential local lockdown and felt that it was as progressed as it could be in the circumstances. He also referred to the financial support being provided to charities and other support provided by the Council. The Leader further advised that residents experiencing difficulties with making Council Tax payments should be encouraged to contact the Revenues & Benefits team.

Following a question from Councillor Morgan Rise, the Leader confirmed that he would be delighted to attend the raising of the Pride flag at Surrey Heath House on 3 August 2020.

26/C Exclusion of Press and Public

In accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the ground that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act as set out below:

<u>Minute</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>
27/C	3
28/C	3
29/C	3

27/C Executive and Committees - Exempt

Executive – 26 May 2020

It was moved by Councillor Alan McClafferty, seconded by Councillor Rebecca Jennings-Evans and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 26 May 2020 be received.

28/C Options to replace the post of Chief Executive

The Council was informed that, at its meeting on 9 July 2020, the Employment Committee had considered a report on options for the replacement of the Chief Executive. The Committee had recommended that, in order to achieve the best outcome for the Council, the options to recruit a standalone Chief Executive and further explore a shared Chief Executive should be pursued in parallel.

Since the meeting of the Employment Committee, further information on the proposed approach had been sought. Members were advised of the different processes and the anticipated timescales for the options it was proposed to conduct in parallel.

It was moved by Councillor Colin Dougan and seconded by Councillor Cliff Betton that the options to recruit a standalone Chief Executive and to further explore a shared Chief Executive be pursued in parallel.

Members considered the proposal to pursue the two options in parallel. It was advised that there appeared not to be any precedent for this approach to recruiting a Chief Executive. The Head of Legal Services also advised on potential legal or procedural ramifications of this approach. Differing views were put forward by Members in respect of the potential benefits and implications of the proposed course of action.

The motion was put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED that the options to recruit a standalone Chief Executive and to further explore a shared Chief Executive be pursued in parallel.

Note: in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.5, Councillors Peter Barnett, Rodney Bates, Richard Brooks, Charlotte Morley, and Victoria Wheeler recorded their vote against this decision.

29/C Review of Exempt Items

The Council reviewed the items which had been considered at the meeting following the exclusion of members of the press and public as they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information.

RESOLVED that the decision at minute 28/C and the associated agenda report be made public.

Mayor