

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SURREY
HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL held at
Surrey Heath House, Camberley on
23 February 2022**

+ Cllr Sarah Jane Croke (Mayor)
+ Cllr Helen Whitcroft (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 Stuart Black	+ Cllr Sashi Mylvaganam
+ Cllr Richard Brooks	+ Cllr Adrian Page
+ Cllr Vivienne Chapman	+ 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 Pat Tedder
+ Cllr Mark Gordon	+ Cllr Victoria Wheeler
+ Cllr Edward Hawkins	+ Cllr Valerie White
+ Cllr Josephine Hawkins	+ Cllr Kristian Wrenn
+ Cllr Rebecca Jennings-Evans	

+ Present

* In attendance virtually but did not vote

55/C Suspension of Council Procedure Rules

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

**RESOLVED that Council Procedure Rule 21.2 (requirement to stand)
be suspended for the meeting.**

56/C Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Peter Barnett, who had joined the meeting virtually but would not be entitled to vote.

57/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 15
December 2021 be approved as a correct record.**

58/C Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor shared a video presenting the numerous events she had attended since the last Council meeting. She also reminded Members that her Charity Ball would be held on 25 March 2022 at the Camberley Theatre.

59/C Leader's Announcements

The Leader thanked all staff, contractors, emergency services, energy companies and community organisations who had kept services operating during Storm Eunice the previous weekend. He also thanked the members of staff who had telephoned and visited vulnerable residents affected by the widespread power cuts and the Council Members who had volunteered.

Members were advised that council staff had distributed £460,000 to Surrey Heath businesses that year and, since the beginning of the pandemic, had awarded over £48m in grants and business rate relief to businesses in the borough. Staff were also working with businesses to help them access additional funding through a number of government-sponsored schemes. The Leader reported that the Surrey Heath Annual Lottery Scheme had awarded nearly £5,000 to three local organisations. He also referred to the Household Support Grant, which had launched on 7 November 2021 and was operated in partnership with Citizens Advice Surrey Heath; at the end of the previous week, the scheme had paid 2132 claims, totalling over £77,000.

The Leader welcomed the new Strategic Director for Environment & Community, Nick Steevens, to the Council. He also welcomed the new borough commander for Surrey Heath, Inspector Gemma Taylor.

60/C Questions from Members of the Public

The Business & Transformation Portfolio Holder, Councillor Colin Dougan, responded to a question from a member of the public, Mr Singh, on behalf of Camberley Sikh Association, which hired the Ian Goodchild Centre for monthly prayers and social gatherings. The question concerned restoring the faulty extraction system in the Centre's kitchen, which was affecting the Association's preparation of the Guru's communal meal which formed an essential part of the Sikh religion's practice. In response to a supplementary question, Councillor Dougan referred to recent dialogue between Mr Singh and the Council's Chief Executive to help to resolve the matter.

61/C Questions from Councillors

The Business & Transformation Portfolio Holder, Councillor Colin Dougan, responded to a question from Councillor Sharon Galliford submitted under Procedure Rule 11. The question concerned 10 buildings in the borough that had been assessed for cladding risk. In response, Councillor Dougan confirmed that the buildings did not require remedial work nor were considered to pose a risk to the health, safety and welfare of the residents; he also outlined to processes that could be undertaken should any concern arise.

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 - 2025/26 and Annual Budget 2022/23

The Council considered a detailed report setting out the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 to 2025/26, the revenue budgets estimates for the 2022/23 financial year, the indicative estimates for the period 2023/24 to 2025/26, a 4-year capital strategy and programme, plus the Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23.

The Leader, in presenting the budget for 2022/23, referred to the savings already identified in the budget and those that would need to be made that year, along with the savings required over the period of the MTFS. The use of reserves to support the MTFS, along with the plans at the end of the Strategy to begin to replenish reserves again, were noted. It was reported that the budget included an increase to Council Tax of £5 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 in the agenda paper be amended. The amended budget had been circulated prior to the meeting and contained the following proposals:

- (i) Freezing Council Tax at the current level (£228.66 for Band D properties);
- (ii) Addressing Poverty issues as follows:
 - a. An additional £50k towards support for Food Banks;
 - b. An additional £50k towards the Hardship Support Fund for Universal Credit recipients;
- (iii) Funding of £100k for Camberley regeneration incentives to tenants;
- (iv) An additional £50k towards the Staff Pay Award for those in Bands 1-5; and
- (v) An additional savings target of £75k.

The Council debated the amendment and, whilst the principles it sought to achieve were acknowledged, concerns were expressed about the impact of the additional savings required and the permanent impact on the Council Tax precept. The amendment was put to the vote and lost.

It was moved by Councillor Rodney Bates and seconded by Councillor Victoria Wheeler that (iii) of the items to note in the recommendation be amended as follows:

- (iii) “the Medium Term Financial Strategy contains a savings target of £1.350 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, **apart from Community Services, Planning Enforcement, Food Safety, and Parks and Open Spaces where no service reductions will be considered**, and subject to a Star Chamber challenge review that will commence in March 2022”

The Council was informed that the Members proposing this amendment would support efficiencies within the areas identified, but opposed any reduction in service. Having debated the definition of a reduction in service, some Members indicated support for prioritising those areas for protection, whilst also recognising they would not wish to restrict the Council's options when identifying the necessary savings. The amendment was put to the vote and lost.

RESOLVED that the Medium Term Financial Strategy, as set out at Annex A to the agenda report, be agreed, comprising:

- (i) the Revenue Budget Estimates covering the period 2022/23 to 2025/26 as follows:**
 - a) the 2022/23 budget estimates giving a net cost of services revenue budget for the Council of £14.788 million as shown in Appendix 1 to the Medium Term Financial Strategy;**
 - b) the unavoidable and service pressures of £4.791 million shown in Appendix 1 and in more detail in Appendix 1-1 to the Medium Term Financial Strategy;**
 - c) the revenue efficiencies of £2.413 million shown in Appendix 1 and in more detail in Appendix 1-2 to the Medium Term Financial Strategy;**
 - d) the recommendation from the Executive that a sum of up to £7.500 million of earmarked reserves at this stage be repurposed to the general revenue fund balance to support the revenue budget over the period of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and provide a sustainable budget for the Council and that authority be delegated to the Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Portfolio Holder for Finance, to identify which reserve(s) this sum is to be drawn from and the eventual amount to be re-purposed;**
 - e) that the Surrey Heath Borough Council element of the annual precept be increased by £5.00 per Band D property and in the appropriate statutory proportions for other properties; and**
 - f) that a total of £0.270 million of earmarked reserves be allocated to support budgets in the services these earmarked reserves were set aside for;**
- (ii) the Capital Strategy, as set out at Annex A, Appendix 2 to the agenda report, and associated Capital Programme (appendix 2-1) covering the period 2022/23 to 2025/26 which includes:**
 - a) the new capital bids for £1.139 million in Appendix 1 to Annex A for 2022/23 be approved, and that they be incorporated into the Capital Programme; and**

- b) **The Prudential Indicators summarised below and explained in Annex A for 2022/23 to 2025/26 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;**

Prudential Indicator	2022/23 Proposed £m	2023/24 Estimated £m	2024/25 Estimated £m	2025/26 Estimated £m
Capital Expenditure	1.139	1.428	1.428	0.928
Capital Financing Requirement	174	171	167	164
Ratio of net financing costs to net revenue stream	28.22%	27.54%	26.89%	26.30%
Financing Costs	3	3	3	3
Operational Boundary	230	230	230	230
Authorised Limit	235	235	235	235

- (iii) **The Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23 shown at Annex A, Appendix 3 to the agenda report, including;**

- a) **The Treasury Management Indicators for 2022/23 at Annex C to the Strategy;**
- b) **The Minimum Revenue Provision policy statement and estimated minimum revenue provision payment table at Annex F to the Strategy; and**
- c) **the Treasury Management Policy Statement at Annex G to the Strategy.**

RESOLVED to note:

- (i) **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 (2021/22) is known and this will be reported in the revenue outturn report which will be considered by the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee and the Executive early in the new financial year;**
- (ii) **the Council Tax base for Surrey Heath Borough Council is 38,976.2 as set at Council on 15 December 2021;**
- (iii) **the Medium Term Financial Strategy contains a savings target of £1.350 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 March 2022 and

(iv) The statement of the Chief Financial Officer (Strategic Director Finance and Customer Services) on the robustness of estimates and sustainability of balances.

Note1: 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 Cliff Betton, Tim FitzGerald, Sashi Mylvaganam, Morgan Rise, John Skipper, Graham Tapper, Helen Whitcroft, Kristian Wrenn.

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

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, David Mansfield, Alan McClafferty, Emma-Jane McGrath, Charlotte Morley, Adrian Page, Robin Perry, Darryl Ratiram, Pat Tedder, Victoria Wheeler, Valerie White.

Voting in favour of the amendment moved by Councillor Rodney Bates and seconded by Councillor Victoria Wheeler:

Councillor Graham Alleway, Rodney Bates, Richard Brooks, Tim FitzGerald, Sharon Galliford, Emma-Jane McGrath, Charlotte Morley, Morgan Rise, John Skipper, Graham Tapper, Pat Tedder, Victoria Wheeler, Helen Whitcroft, Kristian Wrenn.

Voting against the amendment moved by Councillor Rodney Bates and seconded by Councillor Victoria Wheeler:

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

Voting in favour of the substantive motion:

Councillors Dan Adams, 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,

David Mansfield, Alan McClafferty, Charlotte Morley, Adrian Page, Robin Perry, Darryl Ratiram, Valerie White.

Voting against the substantive motion:

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

Note 2: It was noted for the record that

- (i) Councillor Dan Adams declared that his company leased property in the Square; and
- (ii) Councillor Paul Deach declared that he undertook professional work in Camberley Town Centre.

63/C Setting of Council Tax 2022/23

Having determined its Council Tax Requirement for 2022/23, 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 2022/23, it was noted that, in December 2021, a Council Tax base of 38,976.17 Band D equivalent properties had been approved for 2022/23, and that precepts for 2022/23 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 2022/23 calculated in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:**

- (a) **For the whole Council area is 38,976.17 (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:**

Bisley	1,658.21
Chobham	2,075.35
West End	2,393.10
Windlesham	8,222.82

(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 2022/23 (excluding parish precepts and special expenses) is £9,107,172;
- (iii) that the following amounts be calculated for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) £44,076,876 being the aggregate for the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31(A)2 of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - (b) £35,145,610 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act;
 - (c) £9,931,067 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) £254.80 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) £823,895 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act;
 - (f) £233.66 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) of the agenda report;
- (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) of the agenda report as the amounts of Council Tax for 2022/23 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 2022/23 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 £5.00 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, 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, David Mansfield, Alan McClafferty, Emma-Jane McGrath, Charlotte Morley, Adrian Page, Robin Perry, Darryl Ratiram, Pat Tedder, Victoria Wheeler, Valerie White, Kristian Wrenn.

Voting against the motion:

Councillor Graham Tapper.

Abstaining from voting:

Councillors Cliff Betton, Tim FitzGerald, Sashi Mylvaganam, Morgan Rise, John Skipper, Helen Whitcroft.

64/C Executive, Committees and Other Bodies

(a) Executive – 25 January and 15 February 2022

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 25 January and 15 February 2022 be received and the recommendation therein be adopted as set out below:

95/E Review of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme

RESOLVED 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.**

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

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 9 December 2021, 20 January and 10 February 2022 be received.

- (c) Licensing Committee – 15 December 2021 and 16 February 2022

It was moved by Councillor Rodney Bates, seconded by Councillor Shaun Garrett and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Committee held on 15 December 2021 and 16 February 2022 be received and the recommendation therein be adopted as set out below:

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

RESOLVED 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

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee held on 19 January 2022 be received.

- (e) Employment Committee – 8 February 2022

It was moved by Councillor Colin Dougan, seconded by Councillor Cliff Betton and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Employment Committee held on 8 February 2022 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted as set out below:

23/EC Pay Settlement 2022/23

RESOLVED 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

RESOLVED that the revised Joint Staff Consultative Group Constitution, as attached at Annex A to the Employment Committee agenda report, be adopted.

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

It was moved by Councillor Graham Tapper, seconded by Councillor Josephine Hawkins and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Joint Staff Consultative Group held on 13 January and 3 February 2022 be received.

65/C Motions

It was moved by Councillor Sharon Galliford and seconded by Councillor Mark Gordon 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.

It was moved by Councillor Alan McClafferty and seconded by Councillor Colin Dougan that the motion be amended by removing (vi). Councillor McClafferty advised that he would not wish to prevent an opportunity to purchase a property where the only means was through an offshore vehicle that could subsequently be

brought onshore. Councillor Galliford, as mover of the motion, indicated she could not accept the amendment as she felt it removed the core of the motion. The amendment was put to the vote and was carried. It therefore became the substantive motion.

RESOLVED 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) will undertake 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;

(vii) demands clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers and their consolidated profit & loss position;

(viii) promotes Fair Tax Mark certification for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due;

(ix) 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

(x) 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.

66/C Governance Working Group

The Council received a report from the Governance Working Group on the issues it had discussed at its meeting on 28 January 2022. The Group had reviewed and made a number of recommended changes to the Terms of Reference of the Executive, Committees & Other Bodies and the Scheme of Delegation of Functions to Officers. These documents had been reviewed as part of the holistic review of the Constitution being undertaken by the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Terms of Reference of the Executive, Committees and Other Bodies be updated, as set out at Annex A to the agenda report; and**

- (ii) the Scheme of Delegation of Functions to Officers in respect of non-executive functions be updated, as set out at Annex B to the agenda report.**

67/C ISO 9001

The Council considered a report exploring the applicability of the ISO 9001 standard to services being delivered by the Council. The item was being considered following a motion agreed by the Council on 27 October 2021. A report had been considered by the Performance & Finance Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 19 January 2022 and the comments and recommendations from the Committee were noted.

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

- (i) the key principles that underpin the ISO 9001 and related quality and customer service standards, be used to inform the Council's approach to delivering improved performance and customer focus across the organisation; and
- (ii) in line with the feedback from the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee, Option 2 in the report , namely that the Council seeks full ISO 9001 certification across all functions, not be supported and is removed as an option.

It was moved by Councillor Cliff Betton and seconded by Councillor Morgan Rise that the motion be amended by removing (ii) and replacing it with the following wording:

“the Council works towards certification of ISO 9001.”

The amendment was put to the vote and lost.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the key principles that underpin the ISO 9001 and related quality and customer service standards, be used to inform the Council's approach to delivering improved performance and customer focus across the organisation; and**
- (ii) in line with the feedback from the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee, Option 2 in the report (that the Council seek full ISO 9001 certification across all functions, paragraph 4.2) not be supported and is removed as an option.**

Note: it was noted for the record that Councillor Graham Alleway declared that he was employed by QMS UK Ltd as a consultant for certification and an IRCA certified auditor for compliance to the standard. However, he advised that QMS UK Ltd did not certify public bodies and he would be retiring the following day.

68/C Leader's Question Time

The Leader received a question from Councillor Rodney Bates concerning opportunities to become a Fair Trade borough. He indicated support for the principle and for further investigating this matter.

In response to a question from Councillor Kristian Wrenn, the Leader indicated that, if the Council had the ability and such a request came from the Government, he would be prepared to consider providing similar support to Ukrainian refugees as had been provided in the recent Syrian and Afghan resettlement programmes.

The Leader received a question from Councillor Victoria Wheeler regarding changes to the Surrey County Council Local Committee, requesting support for petitioning that the status quo be retained. The Leader indicated that he was broadly supportive of the proposed arrangements.

69/C Councillor Resignation

Councillor David Mansfield informed the Council that he would be standing down as a councillor at the end of that meeting as he had moved out of the borough and was now retiring from his work at the NHS. The Mayor, on behalf of the Council, thanked Councillor Mansfield for his service and wished him well for the future.

Mayor