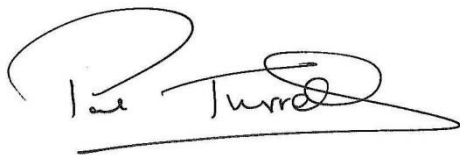


31 January 2018

Dear Councillor

SUMMONS TO A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

I hereby summon you to attend the meeting of the Council to be held on **Thursday 8 February 2018 at 7.30pm** in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre, Addlestone.



PAUL TURRELL
Chief Executive

01932 425500
Email: paul.turrell@runnymede.gov.uk

A G E N D A

1. **FIRE PRECAUTIONS**

The Mayor will read the Fire Precautions which set out the procedures to be followed in the event of fire or other emergency.

2. **MINUTES**

To approve and sign, as correct records, the Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on 7 December 2017 (Appendix 'A' - blue pages) and 9 January 2018 (Appendix 'B' - green pages).

3. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

4. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

5. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

If Members have an interest in an agenda item please record the interest on the orange coloured form circulated with this Agenda and hand it to the Democratic Services Manager at the start of the meeting. A supply of the form will also be available at the meeting.

Members are advised that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 makes it a criminal offence for any Member with any arrears of Council Tax which have been outstanding for two months or more to attend any meeting at which a decision affecting the budget is to be made, unless the Member concerned declares at the outset of the meeting that he or she is in arrears and will not be voting on the decision for that reason. The Member concerned must not vote but may speak. The application of Section 106 of the 1992 Act is very wide and Members should be aware that the responsibility for ensuring that they act within the law at all times rests solely with the individual Member concerned.

6. **PETITIONS**

To receive Petitions under Standing Order No. 19.

7. **QUESTIONS**

To answer questions asked under Standing Order No. 13.

8. **COMMITTEE SEATS REVIEW**

Synopsis of report

To review the allocation of seats on the Council's Committees following the resignation of Councillor Mackay from the Conservative Group.

RECOMMENDATION

- a) **To resolve that the allocation of seats on the Committees named in paragraph 2.3 below be as set out in that paragraph ;**
- b) **To allocate Committee seats to Members of Political Groups as requested by those groups ; and**
- c) **To resolve that Councillor S. Mackay be appointed to Committees as set out in paragraph 2.3 below.**

1. Context of report

1.1 Following the resignation of Councillor Mackay from the Conservative Group, Council are asked to consider revisions to the apportionment of total Committee seats and their appointment on individual Committees as shown below.

1.2 These allocations will again be reviewed at Annual Council on 16 May 2018 following the Borough Election to be held on 3 May 2018.

2. Report

2.1 **Political Composition of the Council**

Following the resignation of Councillor Mackay from the Conservative Group, the political composition of the Council at the date of this Council meeting will be as follows:-

	Members	Approx % of Total
Conservative	35	83
Runnymede Independent Residents'	6	14
Independent-Cllr Mackay	1	3

(NB – The Conservatives and the Runnymede Independent Residents' Members have constituted themselves as political groups in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (the Act)).

2.2 **Apportionment of Total Committee Seats**

Under the structure previously agreed, and confirmed by the current Constitution the following Committees have been appointed (Standing Order 22.1) and have the following numbers of seats subject to any minor adjustment to comply with the statutory principles:

Corporate Management Committee	10
Environment and Sustainability Committee	10
Housing Committee	10
Community Services Committee	10
Planning Committee	15
Regulatory Committee	5
Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee (also functioning as the Crime and Disorder Committee)	9
Standards and Audit Committee	10

This gives 79 seats to divide amongst the parties. On the basis of the statutory principles, there is a total Committee seat entitlement for each political grouping as follows:-

Group	Total Committee Entitlement
Conservative	66
Runnymede Independent Residents'	11
	77

The remaining two seats must be allocated to Councillor Mackay who is not part of a political group. It is for the Council to decide which Committees Councillor Mackay serves on.

2.3 **Apportionment of Seats on Individual Committees**

Seats on the main Committees should then be allocated in order to give effect to the statutory principles and the last sentence of the paragraph immediately above. Members should note that in this Municipal Year the Council agreed, with no dissenting vote, to split the Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee/Crime and Disorder Committee seats 7:2 instead of 8:1 as shown below, which is why the table

below shows 65 seats for the Conservative Group and 12 seats for the Runnymede Independent Residents' Group instead of the strict entitlement of 66 seats and 11 seats respectively. **Although Officers have made suggestions in the following table, it is for the Council to say which Committee has which split.**

Committees	Political Groups				Total
	Con	RIRG	Cllr Mackay		
Corporate Management	8	2			10
Environment and Sustainability	7	2	1		10
Housing	9	1			10
Community Services	8	1	1		10
Planning	13	2			15
Regulatory	4	1			5
Overview and Scrutiny Select/Crime and Disorder	7	2			9
Standards and Audit	9	1			10
	Totals	65	12	2	79

2.4 **Individual Membership of Committees**

Once the Council has approved the manner of constituting the main Committees, then under the Act and Standing Orders it is necessary to make appointments on each Committee so as to give effect to the wishes of the relevant groups. In order to allow for possible changes to the membership of Committees during the Municipal Year, these appointments should not be for fixed terms. **The Council must formally appoint the 'non-Group' Member to such Committees as it may decide.**

Members are reminded that should the need for change in membership arise during the remainder of this Municipal Year, under Standing Order 22.8 the Chief Executive or Corporate Head of Law and Governance, or Democratic Services Manager are authorised to make and change appointments to Committees and Sub-Committees in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group.

The wishes of the political groups regarding appointments to Committees will be reported to this meeting of Full Council.

(To resolve)

9. **BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2018/19 – SECTION 25 REPORT – RECOMMENDATION FROM CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF 25 JANUARY 2018**

To consider the recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee held on 25 January 2018. The recommendation will be included on the supplementary Summons which will be circulated on 2 February 2018.

10. **CAPITAL STRATEGY AND GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME –
RECOMMENDATION FROM CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF 25
JANUARY 2018**

To consider the recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee held on 25 January 2018. The recommendation will be included on the supplementary Summons which will be circulated on 2 February 2018.

11. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT ESTIMATES FOR 2018/19**

Council is asked to note that the Housing Committee undertook a review of the HRA Estimates 2018/19 at its meeting on 10 January 2018 and the Minute of that review is set out below. Council is therefore recommended to adopt Resolutions (i) and (ii) in respect of these Estimates.

Minute of Housing Committee

The Committee considered the draft HRA Revenue Estimates for 2018/19 and the proposed changes in rents and charges (including those for Housing General Fund services) for 2018/19.

During the comprehensive presentation of the draft Estimates by the Council's Senior Accountant (Housing), Members' attention was drawn to the major income and expenditure variations to the original budget and the various elements of the Estimates for 2018/19.

As regards the rent reviews, Members noted the predicted average rent level by property bedroom size, based upon an across the board rent cut of 1.0% for 2018/19 in line with the Government's rules. The reduction in rents would result in a reduction in an average rent in Runnymede from £109.09 to £108.05 in 2018/19.

The Committee noted that whilst the actual reduction to a non-Housing Benefit tenant might seem minimal, the impact on the HRA, when the current rules were compared with the former guidelines (CPI + 1%), represented a reduction of around £794,000 for 2018/19, which, when added to the assumed loss in 2016/17 and 2017/18 resulted in a cumulative loss of anticipated rental income to the HRA for 2018/19 of £1,590,000 which would originally have assisted in paying down the HRA loans.

The provisions for the planned major repair and improvement programmes for 2018/19 were in accordance with the HRA Business Plan and could be met in full from the available resources.

With regard to other fees and charges, attention was drawn to the revised IRL management and administration charges as a consequence of withdrawal of SCC funding for those clients who reside in the Council's IRLs and were in receipt of Housing Benefits. For the reasons outlined, Officers were confident that no current or future residents would be adversely affected as a consequence.

For the first time, Members were presented with the key risks which could impact on the HRA in the short or long term. These risks had been taken into account in preparation of the HRA estimates for 2018/19.

In conclusion, it was anticipated that the working balance (including Major Repairs Reserve) would be some £19.3m as at March 2019. Whilst this appeared a significant balance Members noted that this needed to cover both the current and future capital spending plans, and also the future repayment of the £102m of borrowings between now and March 2042. In this regard and in response to a request from a Member, Officers would report to a future meeting of the Committee on the strategy for scheduling debt repayments for the period 2032-2042.

The Committee expressed their approval of the Estimates, as presented, and took the opportunity of thanking the Council's Senior Accountant (Housing) for his work in their preparation and presentation.

RESOLVED that:

- i) **the draft HRA Revenue Estimates for 2018/19, as reported, be approved as submitted, and that Full Council be requested to make provision accordingly; and**
- ii) **the proposed changes in rents and charges (including those for Housing General Fund Services) for 2018/19, as reported, be approved to be effective either from the first rent week of April 2018, or 1 April 2018 as appropriate.**

12. BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2018/19 – RECOMMENDATION FROM CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF 25 JANUARY 2018

To consider the recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee held on 25 January 2018. The recommendation will be included on the supplementary Summons which will be circulated on 2 February 2018.

13. ELECTORAL REVIEW – COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON REVISED WARDING PATTERN

To consider the recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee held on 25 January 2018. The recommendation will be included on the supplementary Summons which will be circulated on 2 February 2018.

14. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2018/19

To consider the recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee held on 25 January 2018. The recommendation will be included on the supplementary Summons which will be circulated on 2 February 2018.

15. PRESS AND PUBLIC TO BE EXCLUDED BY RESOLUTION

To consider any items so resolved at the meeting.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL7 December 2017 at 7.30pmThe Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor I A Chaudhri) in the chair.

Members of the Council present: Councillors D E Anderson-Bassey, J R Ashmore, Miss E Bancroft, J Broadhead, I A Chaudhri, Mrs D V Clarke, D A Cotty, R J Edis, Mrs E Gill, Mrs J Gracey, Mrs M T Harnden, N M King, Mrs G M Kingerley, D J Knight, S Lewis, M J Maddox, M Nuti, D W Parr, N Prescott, Ms C Simmons, Miss J K Sohi, P Sohi, P B Tuley, A Tollett, P J Waddell, Mrs G Warner, N Wase-Rogers and J Wilson.

Members of the Council absent: Councillors A Alderson, T Dicks, J R Furey, Mrs L M Gillham, T Gracey, Miss M N Heath, Miss D Khalique, M T Kusneraitis, Mrs Y P Lay, S Mackay, Mrs C S S Manduca, B W Pitt, P I Roberts and M Willingale.

408 FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The Mayor read out the Fire Precautions.

409 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 October 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

410 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alderson, Dicks, Furey, Mrs Gillham, T Gracey, Miss Heath, Miss Khalique, Mrs Lay, Mackay, Mrs Manduca, Pitt, Roberts, and Willingale.

411 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor highlighted some of the functions and events he and the Mayoress had attended since the last Council meeting.

The Mayor was presented with a Gideon Bible by Mr Magnus Work of the Gideon Society.

412 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Council considered the recommendation from Planning Committee held on 25 October 2017.

RESOLVED that –

the October 2017 Runnymede Borough Council Local Development Scheme, as reported, be approved.

413 CHARITY COLLECTIONS POLICY 2017-2020

The Council considered a recommendation from the Regulatory Committee held on 14 November 2017.

RESOLVED that –

- i) **the Draft Charity Collections Policy 2017-2020,as reported, be approved and adopted; and**
- ii) **the model Street Collections Regulations ,as reported, be readopted.**

414 CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO REVISED DRAFT AIRPORTS NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT

The Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee held on 30 November 2017.

RESOLVED that –

the consultation response to the Revised Draft Airports National Policy Statement, Appendix 'A', be submitted to the Department for Transport

415 REPLACEMENT COMMUNITY TRANSPORT VEHICLES

The Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee held on 30 November 2017.

RESOLVED that –

a capital estimate of £80,000 be approved from the capital expenditure programme for the replacement of two Community Transport vehicles.

416 PREVENTING UNAUTHORISED VEHICLE ACCESS TO PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

The Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee held on 30 November 2017.

RESOLVED that –

- i) **a supplementary revenue estimate in the sum of £75,000 in 2017/18 be approved for all of the costs already incurred and to cover any future associated expenditure; and**
- ii) **a smaller annual provision of £10,000 be included in future years' budgets via the Medium Term Financial Strategy.**

417 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2018 /2019

The Leader of the Council reported that the calendar of meetings for 2018/19 would be reported to Corporate Management Committee on 25 January 2018, and then to Full Council on 8 February 2018.

418 AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY IN EGHAM

The Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee held on 30 November, 2017.

RESOLVED that –

a supplementary capital estimate be approved in the sum reported to cover the land acquisition price and professional fees required to obtain planning permission for the

affordable housing development, with the costs being met from Set Aside 1-4-1 receipts(30%) and HRA working balances (70%).

Mayor

(The meeting ended at 7.54 pm)



Consultation on revised draft Airports National Policy Statement Response Form

On 25th October 2016, the Government announced that its preferred scheme for adding new runway capacity in the South East of England was through a Northwest Runway at Heathrow Airport and this would be subject to consultation through a draft Airports National Policy Statement ("draft Airports NPS"). The draft Airports NPS was published on 2nd February 2017, launching a 16 week period of public consultation (the "February Consultation").

In the consultation document for the February Consultation, the Government explained it would continue to update the evidence base which was considered when it selected a Northwest Runway at Heathrow as its preferred scheme. The intention had been to publish this during the February Consultation but there was no suitable time to do so. The aviation model has been developed to incorporate the latest market data and to produce an updated set of demand forecasts. In July 2017 the Government also published the UK Air Quality Plan which sets out a range of measures to bring nitrogen dioxide air pollution within legal limits in the shortest possible time. The Government has revised the draft airports NPS to take account of this updated evidence base, and made other amendments as a result of either consideration of consultation responses or a change in the Government's policy. The Government is therefore undertaking a short period of further consultation.

How to respond:

Online: www.gov.uk/dft/heathrow-airport-expansion

Email: RunwayConsultation@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Post: **Freepost RUNWAY CONSULTATION**
(no stamp or further address required)

Respond by:

19 December 2017

October 2017

Before answering any of the questions please read the consultation document for the further consultation which can be found at:

<http://www.gov.uk/dft/heathrow-airport-expansion>

For the reasons explained in the further consultation document, the Government proposes to make changes to the draft Airports NPS and some of the documents which were published alongside it. The changes have been published along with the supporting documents set out in the table on pages 7 and 8 of the further consultation document.

Have your say: Do you have any comments on the revised draft Airports NPS or any of the documents set out in the table on pages 7 and 8 of the further consultation document?

ABOUT YOU

First name..... Sarah..... Surname... Walsh.....

Postcode..... KT15 2AH..... Email... sarah.walsh@runnymede.gov.uk.....

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or group? Yes/No

If yes, please state the name of your organisation or group* :.....

...Runnymede Borough Council.....

*Please note: if you are providing a response on behalf of an organisation or group the name and details of the organisation or group may be subject to publication or appear in the final report

FOR ORGANISATIONS: What category is your organisation?

Please tick the relevant box

- Statutory body
- Local authority
- Community group
- Environment group
- Airport
- Airline
- Air Navigation Service Provider
- Other Transport Provider (e.g. bus, train)
- Small Business
- Medium Business
- Large Business
- Business umbrella body
- Air freight business
- Other, please state

HOW DID YOU HEAR^{mm} ABOUT THIS CONSULTATION?

Please tick the relevant box

Contact from Department for Transport

Press advert

Local newspaper story

Local authority engagement

Social media (Twitter, Facebook etc)

National news story (national newspaper, BBC News, Sky News, ITV News etc)

Informed through stakeholder group (business group, campaign group etc)

CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA), and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want information that you provide to be treated as confidential please tick the box below.

Please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals with, amongst other things, obligations of confidence.

In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

The Department for Transport will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA, and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

I wish my response to be treated as confidential

Please write your reasons below. Please attach additional pages as required

N/A

CONSULTATION QUESTION

Mmmm

Question: For the reasons explained in the further consultation document, the Government proposes to make changes to the draft Airports NPS and some of the documents which were published alongside it. We published these changes on 24 October 2017, along with the supporting documents set out in the table on pages 7 and 8 of the further consultation document.

Do you have any comments on the revised draft Airports NPS or any of the documents set out in the table at pages 7 and 8 of the further consultation document?

Please provide as much detail as possible in the box below. Please attach additional pages as required.

Advisory Note: If you responded to the February Consultation, you do not need to repeat points made previously, as we are considering these in full. Please note that when we consider responses to this further consultation, we may not be able to cross-refer to earlier responses because of the large numbers involved.

Runnymede Borough Council welcomes the Government utilising an updated evidence base on passenger demand forecasts, noise analysis, the National Air Quality Plan, and responses to the first consultation, in order to revise the draft National Policy Statement.

However, Runnymede remains extremely concerned that the consultation, more so in the revised ANPS than even the original document, gives the impression of a decision having already been made in favour of the Fleathrow Northwest Runway rather than being a full and fair consultation about which scheme would best meet Government policy and serve the national interest.

The principle issues/concerns identified in our first response still stand and we wish all of our previous points to still be considered. These included, but are not limited to:

Impact on local communities:

Runnymede considers that the full range of benefits and harmful impacts of a Northwest runway at Fleathrow Airport will reach over a far wider area than any DCO 'redline'. The Revised draft Airports NPS has not taken any further steps to ensure that the content and consideration of any DCO fully recognises that if the benefits of the airport beyond the 'redline' are to be highly regarded, then so must the harmful impacts. These impacts include in particular the implications for air quality associated with surface access and the direct noise implications for residents and those using the public open spaces in the Borough. Runnymede retains the strong belief that the affected communities in the northern parts of its Borough should be entitled to receive noise insulation measures and compensation. The additional clarity provided in the Revised draft ANPS confirms that the majority of affected Runnymede residents will receive no compensation or contributions to acoustic insulation. Runnymede also retains serious doubts over whether Fleathrow Airport will be able to meet its pledge that expansion will not lead to more airport-related traffic on the roads than today and other pledges used to support their proposal. The Revised ANPS provides no details of the intended Sanctions, or sanctioning process to enforce these matters.

Surface access concerns:

The Airports Commission's Report clearly concluded that both Southern and Western Rail schemes are essential for the operation of a two-runway airport as well as an expanded airport, it is therefore disappointing that the Government, despite noting that the airport scheme promoters have pledged to meet the cost of surface access schemes required to enable a runway to open, have gone no further than expecting the costs of Southern rail to be 'partly offset by airport contributions'. Given the likely substantial disruption that will be caused to the borough of Runnymede in delivering Southern Rail Access, we consider it essential that the benefits of Southern Rail are accessible to the citizens of Runnymede. We would like to request this should include ensuring there is a stop as part of the scheduling within the borough of Runnymede.

Deliverability and total monetarised benefit:

The revised draft ANPS acknowledges that the monetarised benefits of the Gatwick option have increased by relatively more over a 60 year period than Heathrow, considering that a significant amount of the local economic benefit relied upon for Heathrow lie beyond the 'red line' of the airport site the Council retains its concerns about the beneficial delivery of the Heathrow expansion and its acknowledged greater negative impact on local communities.

While we welcome the Government's commitment to set up ICCAN for noise, we believe they should be given the powers to enforce sanctions too. We also believe that other similar bodies or powers are necessary for air quality and other pledges enshrined in the ANPS in order to enable enforceable sanctions in these other areas as well.

Runnymede does however welcome changes/clarifications in the Revised draft ANPS including:

- that the Government will consider how authorities can benefit from the increase in locally collected business rates in the area, and the opportunities for authorities to work together to share the benefits;
- the noise mitigation measures should ensure the impact of aircraft noise is limited, and where possible, reduced compared to the 2013 baseline assessed by the Airports Commission;
- that in addition to the scheduled night flight ban, the Government expects the applicant to make particular efforts to incentivise the use of the quietest aircraft at night;
- the revised Appraisal of Sustainability provides updated estimates for populations affected by noise impacts at lower decibel levels;
- that in assessing the likely significant noise impacts further guidance has been introduced on the principles to be followed in undertaking the assessment of airport noise;
- that when considering the noise insulation scheme proposals put forward by an applicant, the Secretary of State will take into account how quickly the applicant will put the works in place;

- the surface access strategy must reflect changing numbers of passengers, freight operators and airport workers attributable to the number of air traffic movements during all phases of the scheme;
- it will be ensured that an applicant undertakes a comprehensive assessment of all the carbon impacts of expansion, to include emissions from surface access due to airport passengers / visitors, and also emissions from airport operations including energy and fuel use;
- that the Secretary of State will be able to impose requirements on the applicant where the proposed mitigation measures to manage the impacts on surrounding transport infrastructure are insufficient to effectively offset or reduce the impact of any additional passengers, freight operators and airport workers;
- that the applicant's proposed mitigation package related to air quality should be subject to consultation with relevant stakeholders in addition to local communities;
- that additional guidance has been provided so that any noise assessment an undertaken by the applicant should be in accordance with the developing airspace design;
- that the Secretary of State will need to be satisfied that infrastructure projects are sustainable and as aesthetically sensitive, durable, adaptable and resilient as they can reasonably be, having regard to regulatory and other constraints and including accounting for natural hazards such as flooding; and
- applications for projects in Flood Zone 1 [for projects of 1 hectare or greater, or projects which may be subject to other sources of flooding (local watercourses, surface water, groundwater or reservoirs), or where the Environment Agency has notified the local planning authority that there are critical drainage problem], and Flood Zone 2 and 3, should be accompanied by a flood risk assessment.

The Council also very much welcomes the Government's response that it "will ensure airport expansion is accompanied by a world class package of measures to mitigate the impact of expansion on the environment and affected communities", and given Runnymede's proximity to Fleathrow Airport believe there should be a guarantee provided to Runnymede that it will be a certain beneficiary of the compensation and mitigation package (as currently it seems we may only be able to bid for part of the £2.6 million community mitigation pot).

It is particularly noted that the revised documents advise:

- aviation demand is expected to be higher than previously forecast in the years up to 2030 due to recent growth in passenger numbers;
- carbon emissions are now forecast to be substantially lower than previously forecast; the further analysis continues to support the Government's previously stated view that the Fleathrow Northwest Runway scheme can be delivered without impacting the UK's compliance with legal air quality limits; and
- total monetised benefits are now higher across all scheme options; with Fleathrow delivering the greater monetised benefits more quickly.

However, as noted above the principle issues/concerns identified in our first response still stand and we wish all of our previous points to still be considered.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL9 January 2018 at 7.30pmThe Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor I A Chaudhri) in the chair.

Members of the Council present: Councillors A Alderson, D E Anderson-Bassey, Miss E Bancroft, J Broadhead, I A Chaudhri, Mrs D V Clarke, D A Cotty, R J Edis, J R Furey, Mrs L M Gillham, Mrs E Gill, Mrs J Gracey, T Gracey, Mrs M T Harnden, N M King, Mrs G M Kingerley, Miss D Khalique, D J Knight, M T Kusneraitis, Mrs Y P Lay, S Lewis, S Mackay, M J Maddox, Mrs C S S Manduca, M Nuti, D W Parr, B W Pitt, N Prescott, P I Roberts, P Sohi, A Tollett, P J Waddell, Mrs G Warner, N Wase-Rogers and M Willingale.

Members of the Council absent: Councillors J R Ashmore, T Dicks, Miss M N Heath, Ms C Simmons, Miss J K Sohi, P B Tuley, J Wilson.

MINUTE SILENCE

The Mayor announced that Mr Richard Cousins, Chief Executive of Compass Group which was based in Chertsey and members of his family had died in a plane crash in Australia in December. Council stood for a minute silence as a mark of respect.

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The Mayor read out the Fire Precautions.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ashmore, Dicks, Miss Heath, Ms Simmons, Miss Sohi, Tuley and Wilson.

DRAFT LOCAL PLAN – QUESTION FROM MR PYLE (WENTWORTH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION)

Mr John Pyle (Deputy Chair to Wentworth Residents' Association) asked the following question under Standing Order 12:

'What assurance can the Council give the WRA that:

- i) It has fully and properly co-operated with neighbouring local authorities in producing the draft Local Plan?**
- ii) The draft Local Plan (and the proposed development identified within it) is sound (within the meaning of the NPPF) and (in respect of the Borough and Virginia Water) would: safeguard the long – term integrity of the Green Belt (having regard to possible alternatives to accommodate future development); protect sensitive landscapes; avoid unacceptable traffic impact; prevent deterioration in air quality levels; and promote biodiversity?'**

In asking the question, Mr Pyle referred to his perceived lack of due diligence in the council decision- making process and lack of regard for residents' views.

The Leader of the Council thanked Mr Pyle for his question and confirmed that a detailed written response to the question would be despatched by the Corporate Head of Law and Governance in accordance with Standing Order 12.8 (b) as soon as possible after the meeting. In brief, the Leader presented a breakdown of housing figures across the Virginia Water ward and clarified the proposed housing figures for Virginia Water ward as 706 net additional dwellings, confirmed that the Council had fully complied with the Duty to Cooperate in producing the Local Plan and that the Local Plan met the tests of soundness. The Leader acknowledged that in producing the Local Plan a number of challenges had to be considered and balanced and that whilst the Plan would not satisfy all residents it was the best way forward for the Borough as a whole.

In response, Mr Pyle referred to lack of consultation with residents, loss of Green Belt land to housing development and insufficient investigation of the identified potential housing sites in Virginia Water.

DRAFT 2030 LOCAL PLAN

The Council received the recommendations from the Planning Committee held on 20 December on the Local Plan and associated documentation which was considered by that Committee. In moving the recommendations from the Planning Committee, the Chairman of the Planning Committee additionally moved that 'following conclusion of the public consultation, the Corporate Director of Planning and Environmental Services, further to discussion with the Chief Executive, Chairman of the Planning Committee, Leader of the Council and Leader of the Runnymede Independent Residents Group, be authorised to make any non-substantive changes/updates to the draft Local Plan and submit the draft Local Plan to the Secretary of State on or before 31 March 2018'. The Motion was duly seconded.

The Leader of the Council, Chairman of the Planning Committee and other Members emphasised the importance of approving the draft Local Plan for public consultation. Failure to do so would result in intervention by Central Government and imposition of a Local Plan on the Council which would be to the detriment of all residents of the borough.

A Member highlighted the fact that the provision of additional housing was a requirement of Central Government and was necessary to meet the needs of the borough residents, especially younger persons. The Plan set out policies for potential housing sites and associated infrastructure considerations. The sites would be the subject of detailed consideration by the Planning Committee as and when detailed planning applications were received in the future.

Some concern was expressed by Virginia Water Members over perceived overdevelopment in Virginia Water and that no amendments had been made to the Local Plan in response to issues raised by local residents in Virginia Water. The Leader of the Council reminded all Members that the Plan was an overarching document for the whole borough and that there were a number of significant challenges which had to be considered and balanced in the development of the Plan which would not be to the satisfaction of all residents.

Some Members commented on the effectiveness and extent of past consultation on the Local Plan and asked for all householders to be consulted by letter on the draft Local Plan. The Leader of the Council did not consider a mailshot to all residents would be the most appropriate method of consultation and confirmed he would work with Officers to ensure a detailed communications strategy was devised to ensure open and effective communication with local residents and residents' groups.

The Runnymede Independent Residents' Group urged Members to engage more fully with their residents in their respective wards and also likewise for residents to engage more fully with the planning process through, for example, development of Neighbourhood Plans under the Localism

Act, as Thorpe had successfully done. The Group also highlighted that some of the Green Belt land identified in the Local Plan for proposed release was of poor quality and would not affect the long term integrity of the Green Belt. Furthermore, the Group considered that rather than focussing on the retention of some poor quality Green Belt land, greater attention should be paid to measures for conserving and enhancing the environment.

The CHLG would clarify the Local Plan process for those Members who had requested clarification. In conclusion, Officers, the Chairman of the Planning Committee and members of the Local Plan Member Working Group were thanked for their work in producing the draft Local Plan.

A requisition that the voting on the Motion be recorded under Standing Order 25.2 was made and the voting was recorded as follows:

For (23) Councillors Alderson, Anderson-Bassey, Broadhead, Mrs Clarke, Cotty, Edis, Furey, Mrs Gill, Mrs Gillham, Mrs Gracey, T Gracey, Mrs Harnden, Mrs Kingerley, Knight, Mrs Lay, Maddox, Parr, Prescott, Roberts, Tollett, Waddell, Mrs Warner and Willingale.

Against (5) Councillors Chaudhri, Mackay, Mrs Manduca, P Sohi and Wase–Rogers.

Abstention (7) Councillors Miss Bancroft, Miss Khalique, King, Kusneraitis, Lewis, Nuti and Pitt,

RESOLVED that:

- i) the draft Runnymede 2030 Local Plan ,as amended by the Addendum considered by the Planning Committee, and taking account of amendments referred to in the preamble to the recommendation from the Planning Committee ,be endorsed as sound;**
- ii) the draft Local Plan be endorsed as sound and approved for publication and consultation as the 'Regulation 19' submission document, the consultation document; and**
- iii) following conclusion of the public consultation, the Corporate Director of Planning and Environmental Services, further to discussion with the Chief Executive, Chairman of the Planning Committee, Leader of the Council and Leader of the Runnymede Independent Residents Group, be authorised to make any non-substantive changes/updates to the draft Local Plan and submit the draft Local Plan to the Secretary of State on or before 31 March 2018.**

(The meeting ended at 8.40 pm)

Mayor