

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

19 July 2018 at 7.30pm

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Mrs D V Clarke) in the chair.

Members of the Council present Councillors A Alderson, D E Anderson-Bassey, J Broadhead, I A Chaudhri, Mrs D V Clarke, D A Cotty, M D Cressey, R J Edis, J R Furey, Mrs L M Gillham, Mrs J Gracey, T Gracey, Miss M N Heath, N M King, Mrs G M Kingerley, D J Knight, M T Kusneraitis, S Lewis, M J Maddox, M Nuti, D Parr, N Prescott, N Rubidge, Ms A Shepperdson, P Snow, Miss J Sohi, P S Sohi, P J Taylor, P J Waddell, Mrs G Warner and M L Willingale

Members of the Council absent: Councillors J R Ashmore, S Dennett, Ms F Dent, Mrs E Gill, Mrs M T Harnden, Mrs Y P Lay, S Mackay, Mrs C S S Manduca, Ms C Simmons, A Tollett and N Wase-Rogers

158 FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The Mayor read out the Fire Precautions.

159 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of Council held on 16 and 17 May 2018 were confirmed and signed as correct records.

160 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mayor thanked Members for their support for her recent Barn Dance charity event.

161 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Dennett, Ms Dent, Mrs Gill, Mrs Harnden, Mrs Lay, Mrs Manduca, Ms Simmons, Tollett and Wase-Rogers.

162 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor P J Waddell declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the item on the Special Responsibility Allowance for Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee as he was the current Vice –Chairman of that Committee. Councillor Waddell withdrew from the room when the matter was considered.

163 QUESTION FROM MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 12

Mr McLellan representing EGAG asked the following question:

“We appreciate that Runnymede Borough Council continues to support a strong and vibrant Heathrow airport but not an expanded one, with it’s consequent negative implications on environmental pollution. However on the basis that Parliament has now endorsed expansion at Heathrow it is essential that enforceable noise and air pollution commitments be made to protect overflowed residents. We would also ask the council to ensure that there are no added cost burdens on National government or this Council resulting from disruption of infrastructure changes particularly on roads.

Our question is on this basis will RBC support the cross party judicial review that Wandsworth, Hammersmith and Fulham and Richmond and Hillingdon are seeking to ensure that air and noise pollution is not increased from current levels?”

In his supporting remarks Mr McLellan commented that the cross party Transport Select Committee recommendations regarding safeguards and costs had been rejected and ignored by Government in the final version of the National Policy Statement as the Government stated they would be addressed in the Development Consent Order (DCO).

Mr McLellan stated that he was not asking for a financial contribution but an expression of support at this time and to hold the stance against expansion to ensure that at the DCO Stage the best possible results could be obtained for the Borough.

In conclusion, Mr McLellan stated that Runnymede Borough Council’s position was that an expanded Heathrow would create significant environmental damage to the area and have negative impacts on many of Runnymede residents. EGAG support the challenge by the five Councils, (Hammersmith and Fulham, Hillingdon, Richmond, Wandsworth, and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead) on the basis of health grounds from air and noise pollution and infrastructure changes. EGAG urged the Government to seek legally enforceable robust safeguards to protect communities.

The Leader of the Council thanked Mr McLellan for the question and responded as follows:

“The Council acknowledges Parliament’s decision to proceed with a third runway at Heathrow. This was not policy decision this Council supported. Whilst this Council wishes that the Government would reconsider this decision, this seems unlikely and Heathrow Airport Limited are to proceed with their application for a Development Consent Order. We will continue to lobby for the interests of the communities of Runnymede in order to maximise benefits and help mitigate against negative environmental implications through the appropriate groups, consultations, and planning processes. This will include:

- seeking reassurance that Heathrow Airport Limited will not increase noise and air pollution above current levels;
- seeking solutions to transport challenges including Southern Rail Access
- examining proposals for air traffic movements and seeking solutions which are in the communities’ best interests

The Council is also in the process of compiling a list of requests which it believes will be for the greater good of the whole community and these will be presented to Heathrow Airport Limited from various relevant channels.

As just stated, like other local authorities we wish to be assured that air and noise pollution will not increase from current levels, but we will not be partaking in judicial review activities which can only challenge the process rather than the outcome.

We will seek to maintain a dialogue with all interested parties on this important matter and invite you to continue communication.”

164 FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2018/19

Council considered a recommendation from Environment and Sustainability Committee which had been held on 21 June 2018.

RESOLVED that –

the Food Service Plan 2018/19, as reported, be approved.

165 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

Council considered a recommendation from Corporate Management Committee which had been held on 28 June 2018. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee held also noted the Annual Report at its meeting on 5 July.

RESOLVED that –

the Treasury Management Annual Report 2017/18 be noted.

166 PROVISION OF NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND USE OF RETAINED 1-4-1 RIGHT TO BUY CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee which had been held on 28 June 2018.

RESOLVED that –

a supplementary capital estimate be approved for the sum of £500,000 for 2018/19, to be funded from set aside capital receipts which will enable the Council to work in partnership with partner Registered Social Landlords in the acquisition or building of affordable housing upon which the Council will receive nomination rights.

167 ANNUAL REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FUNCTION

Council received a recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee which had been held on 5 July 2018.

RESOLVED that –

the Annual Report on the Overview and Scrutiny function be received and noted.

168 PROPOSED SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES – CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF RUNNYMEDE JOINT COMMITTEE

Council considered authorisation of a Special Responsibility Allowance to acknowledge the responsibilities associated with discharging the offices of Chairman and Vice - Chairman of the Joint Committee which had been recently established by Runnymede Borough Council and Surrey County Council.

From the 2018/19 Municipal Year the offices of Chairman and Vice-Chairman would alternate between the two authorities every year with Surrey providing the Chairman in 2018/19. If the appointed Chairman was a Surrey member, the Vice Chairman had to be a Runnymede member and vice-versa.

Given the resources and budget available to Runnymede and the allowance scheme it had adopted it would not be possible to justify a level of SRA similar to the one paid by Surrey CC. It was proposed that in line with existing SRAs, a Runnymede member who acts as Chairman of the Joint Committee be awarded a SRA of £3,680 per annum. This amount mirrors that which was paid to the Chairmen of the majority of committees established by Runnymede. It was also proposed that a Runnymede member who holds the office of Vice-Chairman on the Joint Committee receive a SRA of £1,840 per annum.

The rationale behind these proposals was that the aims of the Joint Committee were to: increase the involvement of residents, local communities, businesses and partners; improve decision making, speed-up processes and reduce duplication in governance; support

Councillors in their role as community leaders and champions; promote greater accountability and local scrutiny; and provide an innovative two tier response to central Government policy initiatives and a platform on which future joint arrangements could be coordinated. When a Runnymede member was acting as Vice-Chairman they would need to act as a contact point and support the work of the Chairman and the SRA reflected this additional function beyond their mere membership of the Joint Committee.

The current Independent Remuneration Panel were supportive of the proposed SRA.

Council supported the proposed SRAs and

RESOLVED that –

- i) a Special Responsibility Allowance be awarded in respect of the post of Chairman of the Runnymede Joint Committee when that office is held by a Runnymede elected Member in the sum of £3,680 per annum;**
- ii) a Special Responsibility Allowance be awarded in respect of the post of Vice-Chairman of the Runnymede Joint Committee when that office is held by a Runnymede elected Member in the sum of £1,840 per annum; and**
- iii) any subsequent review of these Special Responsibility Allowances be undertaken as part of the triennial review of Members Allowances.**

Owing to the complexity of the following reports, the Chief Executive had asked the Mayor, under Standing Order 20.3, to allow relevant Officers to address Council and respond to any Member questions and comments thereon. The Mayor duly agreed.

169 **ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY IN CHERTSEY**

Council considered a report which recommended that the Council enter into a Development Agreement for a freehold purchase of an off- plan warehouse development on a site in Chertsey from the developer and proposed landowner.

Head of Terms for the purchase had been agreed and details were reported.

An independent valuation of the proposed purchase had been commissioned and details of the market valuation were noted.

The acquisition complied with the Property Investment Strategy 2017-2021 and the Property Acquisition Member Working Group had supported proceeding with the acquisition.

The financial implications associated with the acquisition were noted.

The purchase would, after allowing for the cost of acquisition, provide a major revenue contribution together with a reasonable prospect for growth in the capital value of the asset. The acquisition would add further diversity to the Council's portfolio. Some Members sought reassurance on the future marketability of the units on the site.

Members also sought greater clarity of presentation of gross and net yield in future reports. The Head of Commercial Services would amend the acquisition template to address this.

RESOLVED that –

- i) **the purchase of this development for the price reported be approved, depending on the final independent measurement of the completed development within the agreed +/- 2% tolerances at the reported rate Gross External Area, exclusive of VAT less interest, development costs and building contract retention; and**
- ii) **a capital spend approval in the sum reported for the purchase of this development be authorised and met from the provision for the future Property Investment Strategy purchases held within the Capital Programme.**

170 RUNNYMEDE REGENERATION PROGRAMME – EGHAM GATEWAY WEST

The Council considered four further options for development of the Egham Gateway project taking account of some key guiding principles.

Having regard to these guiding principles, Council agreed that Option 2A (iii) was the best option for meeting these principles where 92 residential units would be provided with 35% affordable.

The financial implications were noted. As Members had confirmed their preference for the project to focus more on place shaping and supporting the local economy at the expense of commercial income consequently the normal commercial return would not be achieved in favour of securing break even with the income covering the interest on the loan capital and MRP.

The timetable for the project was noted. Members requested that they be kept informed of progress at key stages of the project and that Members and residents be informed of the proposed design at the appropriate time. A Member Task Group would be established for the project and workshops would be arranged for all Members to facilitate comments on the evolving design prior to submission of a planning application.

Members explained the need for a robust Business Plan and risk management strategy to be in place for the project. Additionally, the importance of financial accountability and regular financial reporting were stressed.

In response to a Member question, Officers confirmed that signage showing availability of parking in Egham needed improvement.

RESOLVED that –

1. **Option 2A (iii) be adopted and Officers proceed with the development of the design, public consultation and the submission of the planning application for the redevelopment of the Egham Gateway West;**
2. **all Members of the Council be offered two workshops to facilitate comments on the evolving design and a report be made to the Corporate Management Committee for approval of the final design before submission for Planning Approval;and**
3. **the budgetary requirements for Egham Gateway West be taken from within the existing Egham Regeneration provision held with the Capital Programme.**

171 ADDLESTONE ONE – DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

RESOLVED that –

this item be deferred for consideration at the Special Council meeting to be held on 30 July 2018, and in the interim, a Member Workshop thereon be held on 26 July 2018.

Mayor

(The meeting ended at 9.05pm)