

## MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

7 March 2019 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 R Ashmore, J Broadhead, I A Chaudhri, Mrs D V Clarke, M D Cressey, D A Cotty, S Dennett, J R Furey, Mrs E Gill, Mrs L M Gillham, Mrs J Gracey, T Gracey, Mrs M T Harnden, Miss M N Heath, N King, D J Knight, M T Kusneraitis, Mrs Y P Lay, S Lewis, S Mackay, M Maddox, M Nuti, D W Parr, N Prescott, N Rubidge, Ms A Shepperdson, P Snow, P S Sohi, P J Taylor, A P Tollett, PJ Waddell, Mrs G Warner, N Wase-Rogers and M Willingale.

Members of the Council absent:      Councillors Ms F Dent, RJ Edis, Mrs G Kingerley, Mrs C S S Manduca, Miss J Sohi and Ms C Simmons

### 512    FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The Mayor read out the Fire Precautions.

### 513    MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 February 2019 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### 514    MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that the Mayoral Ball would be held on 30 March 2019 and thanked the Runnymede Independent Residents' Group for their support thereon.

### 515    APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Ms Dent, Edis, Mrs Kingerley, Mrs Manduca, Miss Sohi and Ms Simmons.

### 516    PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION OF MAYORAL SELECTION

Council considered a recommendation from Corporate Management Committee which had been held on 28 February 2019.

#### **RESOLVED that-**

- a)      **Councillor Parshotam Sohi be nominated for the office of Mayor for the Municipal Year 2019/20; and**
- b)      **Councillor Mrs E Gill be nominated for the office of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2019/20**

### 517    MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES – REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Council considered the recommendations from the Corporate Management Committee held on 28 February 2019.

The Panel had recommended that the Basic Allowance be increased to £5,000 per annum from 1 April 2019 with any increases in 2020/21 and 2021/22 linked to RPI. The Panel had also recommended that the Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA)s be increased based on the current formula for calculation of SRAs and that the current maximum of 2 SRAs be retained but the current exemption for the Leader of the Council from this restriction be discontinued. The Panel did not recommend any other changes to the amounts and types of SRAs. The recommended increase to the Basic Allowance reflected the increased workload and decision-making responsibilities Councillors now faced in the challenging modern local government environment and the varied skills sets required, addressed the historical deficit of the Basic Allowance when compared with other local authorities in Surrey and the South East, removed a potential barrier to a person wishing to become a Councillor and avoided deterring existing Councillors from effectively fulfilling their full role.

Council thanked the Members of the Panel for the thorough work that they had done in putting forward the recommendations.

Corporate Management Committee noted the Panel's recommendations, but felt that an increase to £5,000 was not appropriate at this time due to a variety of circumstances and decided to recommend that the Panel's recommendations be accepted with the exception of the Basic Allowance which it considered should be set at £4,000 rather than £5,000 as it was proposed that a separate scheme of performance related Member remuneration be introduced as part of the new arrangements for Member Working Groups in the new Municipal Year. The Committee also decided to recommend that instead of using the established formula for calculating SRAs, that the SRAs be set at the amounts shown in Annex 2 of the Panel's Report which had been calculated on the basis of a £5,000 Basic Allowance.

Council agreed with the recommendation of Corporate Management Committee and

**RESOLVED that –**

- i) the Council notes the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel following the Panel's review of the scheme of Members' Allowances;**
- ii) the Council notes that the Panel recommends**
  - a) that from 1 April 2019, the Basic Allowance be set at £5,000 with any increases in 2020/21 and 2021/22 linked to RPI and the Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA)s be increased based on the current formula for calculation of SRAs and the current maximum of 2 SRAs per Councillor be retained but the current exemption for the Leader from this restriction be discontinued;**
  - b) that no other changes be made to the scheme of Members' Allowances;**
- iii) Council accepts the Panel's recommendations with the exception of the Basic Allowance which should be set at £4,000 rather than £5,000 and that all SRAs be set at the levels shown in Annex 2 of the Panel's Report;**
- iv) the Members' Allowances Scheme set out at Annex '2' to the Panel's report, as amended in line with recommendation iii) above, be adopted with effect from 1 April 2019; and**

- v) **an appropriate supplementary revenue estimate be approved to cover the increased costs of the scheme in 2019/20 and subsequent years increases be added to the Medium Term Financial Strategy.**

518 ANNUAL PAY POLICY STATEMENT – 2019/20

Council considered a recommendation from Corporate Management Committee which had met on 28 February 2019.

Council agreed with the recommendation from Corporate Management Committee that the Statement be approved, including the recommended addition in paragraph 3.3 of the Statement as shown in the resolution below.

**RESOLVED that –**

**the Pay Policy Statement 2019/20, as reported, be approved, with an addition to para 3.3 to state the following:**

**‘Pay policy is important in shaping the culture of an organisation. Runnymede Borough Council continues to be committed to shaping a fair, inclusive and forward-thinking environment for our staff. This will form part of our ongoing work to rationalise our pay structures. These will be reported to the relevant Committees and Working Groups at least quarterly.’**

519 REVIEW OF ICT SERVICES

By resolution of the Council, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of this matter under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the discussion would be likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A to Part 1 of the Act.

Council considered a recommendation from Corporate Management Committee on the outcome of the ICT review, the new Digital Strategy 2020 and proposed changes to the Council's ICT structure.

Council agreed with the recommendation and

**RESOLVED that -**

- i) **the new Digital Strategy 2020 and associated projects, as reported, be approved;**
- ii) **the proposed staffing structure of the Digital Services Team be approved, subject to staff and UNISON consultation; and**
- iii) **a supplementary revenue estimate of £100,000 be approved to fund the new structure as included within the budget report approved by Full Council on 12 February 2019.**

(The meeting ended at 8.04 pm)

Mayor