

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

16 July 2020 at 7.30 pm via MS Teams

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor P Sohi) in the chair.

Members of the Council present Councillors M Adams, D Anderson-Bassey, J Broadhead, T Burton, I Chaudhri, B Clarke, D Clarke, D Cotty, M Cressey, S Dennett, R Edis, J Furey, E Gill, L Gillham, J Gracey, T Gracey, M Harnden, M Heath, C Howorth, J Hulley, N King, R King, M Kusneraitis, S Lewis, S Mackay, M Maddox, I Mullens, A Neathey, M Nuti, J Olorenshaw, N Prescott, P Snow, J Sohi, P Sohi, S Walsh, D Whyte, S Whyte, M Willingale and J Wilson

Members of the Council absent: Councillors A Alderson and M Brierley.

93 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council noted the Mayoral announcements.

A Minute silence was held in memory of former Councillor Terry Dicks and Andrew Panter, residents representative on Englefield Green Committee, both of whom had passed away recently.

94 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 5 March 2020 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

95 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors A Alderson and M Brierley

96 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

97 SPEAKING OR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 12

No requests to speak or ask questions from the public had been registered.

98 PETITIONS

No petitions were submitted by Members of the Council under Standing Order No 19

a Question from Councillor D Whyte to the Leader of the Council

Councillor D Whyte asked the following question;

'Following the welcome announcement from Surrey County Councillor Matt Furniss, that all boroughs in Surrey will have a Rainbow Crossing by June 2021, can I ask where Runnymede's Rainbow Crossing will be installed?'

The Leader of the Council replied that this was a Highway Authority function and Officers would contact Surrey County Council to see if they could provide details of where they proposed to install the rainbow crossing or what consultation they proposed to undertake. The Leader would try and give advance notice to Cllr Whyte on the proposed location.

In response Cllr D Whyte asked if there would be any opportunity to consult with residents on the location. The Leader would follow up potential consultation opportunities with the County Council

b Question from Councillor Mullens to the Leader of the Council

Councillor Mullens asked the following question:

'Mindful of the fact that Surrey County Council has produced a Climate Change Strategy which sets out the collective approach of Surrey's 12 local authorities to tackle climate change, and following the Motion that this Council passed on 17th October 2019, to form a report on the implications of climate change for our borough, could the Leader of the Council say what the progress is towards providing this report, and what is the schedule for the completion of the 14 items of the Motion?'

The Leader of the Council replied that Officers had studied the Surrey CC climate change strategy and advised that on the whole, it was a useful framework which Runnymede could subscribe to. The Surrey CC strategy had also only recently been considered by Environment and Sustainability Committee on 8 July.

After consultation with the Chairman of Environment and Sustainability Committee, regarding the areas that a climate change strategy should cover, officers had started to prepare our strategy which would include a first year action plan. It was expected that the Climate Change Member Working Party would receive a report in the Autumn and the aim would be to submit the strategy to Environment and Sustainability Committee and full Council by the end of the calendar year. Unfortunately, the pandemic had slowed progress and diverted officers to other more pressing duties. However, Officers expect to make rapid progress now as normal business resumed.

Cllr Mullens replied by asking if the Leader of the Council was aware that in May the Corporate Head of Environmental Services responded to a Climate Change petition from residents stating that it was unlikely that the Council would declare a Climate Change emergency nor would we sign up to be carbon neutral by 2030. Cllr Mullens asked if this was the Runnymede policy on Climate Change and, if so, who made this Policy

The Leader of the Council agreed to speak to the Corporate Head of Environmental Services and respond to Cllr Mullens after the meeting to clarify the position on declaration of a Climate Change emergency.

c. Question from Councillor R King to the Leader of the Council

Councillor R King asked the following question;

'Does the Leader agree that the military covenant adopted in 2013 is vital, both for serving personnel and veterans, in integrating them and their families back into our community and providing them with the respect they so deserve? And, as such, what additional measures are being put in place to improve our bronze rating to silver and gold?'

The Leader of the Council replied that there was the Armed Forces Covenant which was a pledge that together we acknowledged and understand that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve with their lives. Linked to the Armed Forces Covenant was the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) which encouraged employers to support defence and inspire others to do the same. The scheme encompassed bronze, silver and gold awards for employer organisations that pledge, demonstrated or advocate support to defence and the armed forces community, and align their values with the Armed Forces Covenant. The ERS was designed primarily to recognise private sector support although public sector organisations such as the emergency services, local authorities, NHS trusts and executive agencies were also eligible to be recognised.

In order to progress to silver or gold a number of other actions had to be achieved and the Leader would ask Officers to investigate the feasibility of the Council being able to demonstrate the actions which would justify a silver or gold status.

Councillor R King mentioned that until recently information on the Council's Armed Forces Support web page was not up to date and that it was important for the page to have accurate up to date information containing appropriate signposting for former members of the Armed forces or serving members families. The Leader of the Council would pass this comment onto the Council's Armed Forces Champion

d. Question from Councillor Neathey to the Leader of the Council

Councillor Neathey asked the following question;

'Does the Leader agree with me that an achievement of David Cameron's time as Prime Minister was the passing of equal marriage that allows residents of this borough to marry those that they love regardless of gender? And what further work does his administration intend to do to further LGBT equality in this borough?'

The Leader of the Council replied that he would ask Cllr Howorth, the new Chairman of Human Resources Member Working Party to consider the matter and respond.

Cllr Neathey mentioned that many organisations raised the LGBT flag and that this Council should raise the rainbow flag in June in future. The Leader of the Council replied that the raising of any flags was not a matter for him to decide but again the matter would be referred to the HR MWP for consideration.

Cllr R King asked if the Leader of the Council was aware that Corporate Services had not responded to his request asking for the LGBT logo to be incorporated on Council communications to celebrate LGBT month. The Leader of the Council replied that the matter would be looked at via the relevant Member Working Party and Committee.

100 RUNNYMEDE 2030 LOCAL PLAN: LOCAL PLAN ADOPTION

Council's formal approval was sought to adopt the Runnymede 2030 Local Plan in line with the Inspector's Report and incorporating the Main Modifications the Inspector had recommended.

The Chairman and Vice -Chairman of the Planning Committee moved and seconded respectively the following Motion as set out in the published Council Summons:

That Council:

- a) **Adopt the Runnymede 2030 Local Plan (Appendix 3) in line with the Inspector's recommendations, including the Inspector's Main Modifications (attached at Appendix 2);**
- b) **Agree the content of the Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement (attached at Appendix 6 to this report);**
- c) **Adopt a new Policies Map for Runnymede that incorporates the Policies Map changes associated with the adoption of the Runnymede 2030 Local Plan (a summary of the key changes to the Policies Map is included at Appendix 4);**
- d) **Authorise the Corporate Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development, in consultation with the Chair of Planning Committee, to make any necessary minor alterations and corrections to the Runnymede Local Plan 2030 and the updated Policies Map for clarity, factual accuracy or presentational purposes.**

All the Appendices referred to in the Local Plan report had been circulated to all Councillors electronically and in hard copy and had been placed on the Council's website.

In moving the Motion, the Chairman of the Planning Committee stated that the process of producing a new Local Plan in an area as heavily constrained as Runnymede, and with the Government's requirements for Local Authorities to significantly boost housing delivery, had been long and challenging.

The Council had formally submitted the Runnymede 2030 Local Plan for examination in July 2018. The Plan was underpinned by over 40 comprehensive and robust evidence-based studies and was supported by documentation relating to the Duty to Cooperate, as well as Habitats Regulations Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal work.

Ms Mary Travers, an independent Inspector had been appointed by the Secretary of State to undertake the examination of the Plan. After carefully considering the spatial strategy put forward by the Council, all of the policies drafted including site allocations proposed, the evidence underpinning the Plan, as well as all of the comments made throughout the preparation of the Local Plan and Examination in

Public by local people, developers, statutory consultees and other interested parties, the Inspector had concluded that with the recommended main modifications, the Runnymede 2030 Local Plan satisfied the requirements of Section 20(5) of the 2004 Act and met the criteria for soundness in the National Planning Policy Framework' (para 338).

The Chairman outlined the benefits of an adopted Runnymede 2030 Local Plan which would provide an up to date planning policy framework for the Borough. The new Local Plan included detailed policies to manage future development in the Borough and included a number of development allocations, as well as providing opportunities to regenerate some key sites in town centres. Policies also provided a strong and updated framework to protect the local environment and guide the provision of new infrastructure.

The Local Plan would boost housing delivery in the Borough in line with national planning policy requirements, including the provision of much needed affordable homes and housing for those with specialist needs.

Read as a whole, the Plan included policies designed to secure that the development and use of land in the borough contributed to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. This included the overall spatial strategy and site allocation policies that sought to direct development to the most sustainable locations in the borough, and policies to reduce and minimise the risks from flooding, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, avoid habitat fragmentation, improve water quality and efficiency, and promote the use of renewable and low carbon energy.

Upon adoption, the new Local Plan would also enable the Council to implement a Community Infrastructure Levy (or CIL), to help secure contributions towards infrastructure needs in the Borough, as well as providing the key 'hook' for updated planning guidance documents to be prepared (such as Car Parking Guidance, Design Guidance and Infrastructure Guidance), which would help improve the quality of development delivered locally.

The Chairman also pointed out that the Council would commence its review of the adopted Local Plan early in 2021. This would allow the Council to reflect on whether the vision, policy objectives and spatial strategy of the Local Plan were being effectively delivered, and whether national planning policy requirements at the time of the review were being met. If not, the Local Plan could be updated accordingly.

The Chairman of the Planning Committee commended the Local Plan for adoption.

Some concern was expressed by Virginia Water Members over perceived lack of regard by the Inspector for residents views on some of the sites allocated for housing which they considered unsuitable, and that insufficient investigation had been undertaken of alternative potential housing sites in Virginia Water. The Virginia Water Members also considered that the impact on road infrastructure and the natural environment had been ignored by the Inspector. In response, the Chairman stated that all evidence had been considered by the Inspector and that the identified sites were sound. Furthermore, any future Neighbourhood Plan for Virginia Water could identify sites for development.

Some Members commented on the effectiveness and extent of past consultation on the Local Plan and that the Council needed to communicate more effectively with all affected residents in the borough in future consultations on the next review via social media and other ways. However, in response the Chairman of the Planning

Committee mentioned the large number of consultation responses which had been considered by the inspector and the extensive rounds of public consultation. In addition, a Member of RIRG urged Members to engage more fully with their residents in their respective wards.

The Labour Group welcomed the provision of more housing which was much needed.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group commented on the level of concentration of gypsy/traveller pitches on parcels of land in the Bittams area, and that any relaxation of Green Belt should be for affordable housing provision.

A ward Member expressed particular concern over the identification of a parcel of land outside Thorpe Lea West on the basis of density and nature of the housing proposed, and its location adjacent to the M25 where air quality was poor.

The Leader of the Independent Group stated that whilst the Plan had been judged sound by the Inspector, he considered that there were flaws in relation to Policies SL1-SL18 in respect of parcels of land allocated for development and their proposed densities. Development in these areas would be contentious and strongly opposed by residents who perceived the Local Plan did not support them. Particular mention was made of the Brox End Nursery site.

However, many Members endorsed the benefits that adoption of the Local Plan would bring and one Member emphasised the importance of adopting the Local Plan as failure to do so would result in intervention by Central Government and imposition of a Local Plan on the Council which would result in the Council losing control of its own destiny.

In conclusion, Officers were thanked for their work in producing the Local Plan. The Chief Executive was asked to commend Georgina Pacey (Local Plans Manager) for her work thereon

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

For (29): Councillors Adams, Anderson-Bassey, Broadhead, B Clarke, D Clarke, Cotty, Dennett, Edis, Furey, Gill, Gillham, J Gracey, T Gracey, Harnden, Heath, N King, R King, Kusneraitis, Mackay, Maddox, Mullens, Neathey, Nuti, Prescott, Snow, J Sohi, Walsh, Willingale and Wilson.

Against (5): Councillors Burton, Cressey, Olorenshaw, D Whyte and S Whyte.

Abstention (5): Councillor Chaudhri, Howorth, Hulley, Lewis and P Sohi.

The Motion was duly passed, and it was

RESOLVED that the Council;

- a) **Adopt the Runnymede 2030 Local Plan (Appendix 3) in line with the Inspector's recommendations, including the Inspector's Main Modifications (attached at Appendix 2);**
- b) **Agree the content of the Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement (attached at Appendix 6 to this report);**

- c) **Adopt a new Policies Map for Runnymede that incorporates the Policies Map changes associated with the adoption of the Runnymede 2030 Local Plan (a summary of the key changes to the Policies Map is included at Appendix 4);**
- d) **Authorise the Corporate Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development, in consultation with the Chair of Planning Committee, to make any necessary minor alterations and corrections to the Runnymede Local Plan 2030 and the updated Policies Map for clarity, factual accuracy or presentational purposes.**

101 HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING – JOINT WARRANTING OF LICENSING OFFICERS

Council received a recommendation from the Regulatory Committee held on 23 June 2020 on Joint Warranting of Licensing Officers for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing, and

RESOLVED that -

- i) **the Council delegates the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire enforcement functions under the legislation to the following Surrey Licensing Authorities, as set out below:**

- **Elmbridge Borough Council**
- **Epsom and Ewell Borough Council**
- **Mole Valley District Council**
- **Reigate and Banstead Borough Council**

- **Guildford Borough Council**
- **Spelthorne Borough Council**
- **Surrey Heath Borough Council**
- **Tandridge District Council**
- **Waverley Borough Council**
- **Woking Borough Council**

in addition to retaining those functions within the Borough. Similarly, for the Council to receive the delegated Hackney Carriage and Private Hire enforcement functions from the following Surrey Licensing Authorities, as set out below;

- **Elmbridge Borough Council**
- **Epsom and Ewell Borough Council**
- **Mole Valley District Council**
- **Reigate and Banstead Borough Council**
- **Guildford Borough Council**
- **Spelthorne Borough Council**
- **Surrey Heath Borough Council**
- **Tandridge District Council**
- **Waverley Borough Council**
- **Woking Borough Council**

- ii) **the amendment of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy regarding delegation of powers, be approved; and**
- iii) **the Council's Constitution be updated to reflect that both the Corporate Head of Environmental Services, the Senior Licensing Officer and Taxi Licensing Officers be authorised to undertake the Taxi and Private Hire enforcement powers referred to in paragraph (i) above**

102 CONSTITUTION REVIEW 2020

Council received and considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee held on 25 June 2020 regarding the annual review of the Council Constitution, and

RESOLVED that -

- i) **the changes to the Council's Constitution be approved;**
- ii) **the revised Constitution be effective from 16 July 2020;**
- iii) **the Corporate Head of Law and Governance be authorised to settle the final form of the revised Constitution for adoption in accordance with the above decisions, and the Corporate Head of Law and Governance be authorised to incorporate any delegations to officers subsequently authorised by Committee(s) after 25 June 2020 and prior to printing, and make any minor editing changes necessary to correct errors or omissions discussed after 16 July 2020.**

103 DETERMINATION OF SEVERANCE PAYMENTS FOR CHIEF OFFICERS

Council received and considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee held on 25 June 2020 regarding determination of Severance Payments for Chief Officers, and.

RESOLVED that -

the Council's policy be amended so that in the case of termination on efficiency grounds, any severance payment to any Chief Officer with a net cost of less than £50,000 will be determined by the Corporate Management Committee and any severance payment to any Chief Officer with a net cost of more than £50,000 will be determined by Full Council.

104 ANNUAL REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FUNCTION 2019/2020

Council considered the recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee which had been held on 2 July 2020 regarding the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny function, and

RESOLVED that

the Annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Function for 2019/20 be received and noted, subject to the deletion of the last sentence of paragraph 7.12 in the report.

105 ULTRA LOW VEHICLE EMISSION STRATEGY

Council considered the recommendation from the Environment and Sustainability Committee which had been held on 8 July 2020 regarding a 5 year Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Strategy, and

RESOLVED that

the Five -year Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) Strategy be endorsed and approved subject to inclusion of bikes and e-scooters in Action 8 of the Strategy,

106 NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR BURTON – AUDIO RECORDING OF COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

The following Motion was moved by Cllr Burton to improve the accessibility, openness, transparency and accountability of all Runnymede Borough Council Part 1 Council and Committee meetings:

The Motion asks for the Motion to be referred to the Corporate Management Committee with support from any Member Working Parties to consider:

- *audio recording of all Part 1 meetings of Council Committees and Full Council.*
- *archiving audio recordings for future reference for a minimum of 10 years.*
- *ensuring the audio recordings are available to the public on the Runnymede website for a minimum of 10 years.*
- *preparing for audio recordings in the Council Chamber in due course, ready for the resumption of normal attendance at Council Committee Meetings.*

Councillor Lewis and other Members commented that the Motion was unnecessary as the practicalities and cost of introduction of audio recording was already being investigated by the Digital Services Team, but a timescale could not be given at this stage for reporting thereon.

The Motion was put to the vote and lost.

107 NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR NEATHEY: HISTORIC MONUMENTS REVIEW AND RACIAL EQUALITY STRATEGY

The following Motion was moved by Councillor Neathey regarding a Racial Equality Strategy and Historic Monuments Review:

The Corporate Management Committee or any other committee, with support from any necessary working groups, should form a report and recommendations for full Council on a full racial equality strategy fit for the 2020's.

Any strategy should include considerable input from BAME individuals and groups both in the form of consultation and being invited to actively be part of the policy making process.

This strategy should consider the below options but should not be limited by them. These are intended as ideas and examples only.

- *Setting up local BAME networks both in and out of the council*

- *Removing names from job applications*
- *Setting staff equality KPIs for recruitment and progression (including for senior roles)*
- *Setting up mentoring opportunities*
- *Working with local employers to improve opportunities for BAME residents*
- *Training for staff and members on unconscious bias*
- *Ensuring that service design has specifically consulted with ethnic minority groups*
- *Education programmes developed in partnership with schools and the university examining Imperial history and BAME history*
- *Setting up an all-party BAME cllrs caucus*

And, as part of the above plan, the Community Services Committee, with support from any necessary working groups, should be asked to set up an independent panel of historical experts and other community representatives to review monuments as a first step.

- *The panel will be selected in such a way that it ensures BAME people are well represented*
- *This panel will produce a report on all of the statues and monuments that can be publicly accessed in Runnymede*
- *The report will make recommendations with detailed explanations on any monument that should be removed, altered, or may require additional protection*
 - *Officers will provide additional guidance on any powers that can be used to do so or, if required to do so, recommend a strategy to influence the owner of any such monument*
- *They will be asked to identify problematic statues within a modern context rather than historical moral relativist sense, although their recommendations should be proportionate and take account of historical moral relativism within the suggested solution as well as overall historic importance.*
- *Provide suggestions of historical figures associated with the area who may warrant a statue and who would showcase the diversity of those that can succeed and contribute to the borough*

The Leader of the Council gave a full response which he asked to be circulated to all Members after the meeting. Whilst he could not support the reference to Corporate Management Committee, he did think that it might be more appropriate for the Health and Wellbeing Member Working Party to consider some of the issues raised relating to BAME in due course.

Members discussed various aspects of the Motion and a requisition that the voting on the Motion be recorded under Standing Order 25.2 was made by Councillor R King, and the voting was recorded as follows:

For (6): Councillors Burton, R King, Mullens, Neathey, D Whyte and S Whyte,

Against (27): Councillors Adams, Anderson-Bassey, Broadhead, B Clarke, D Clarke, Cotty, Dennett, Edis, Furey, Gill, T Gracey, Heath, Howorth, Hulley, N King, Kusneraitis, Lewis, Mackay, Maddox, Nuti, Prescott, Snow, J Sohi, P Sohi, Walsh, Willingale and Wilson.

Abstention (6): Councillor Chaudhri, Cressey, Gillham, J Gracey (owing to technical reasons), Harnden and Olorenshaw.

The Motion was lost.

108 MINORITY GROUP PRIORITY BUSINESS

No items of Minority Group Priority Business had been registered under Standing Order 23

109 NOMINATIONS TO SURREY LEADERS' GROUP (SLG)

RESOLVED that:

no nomination be made to the SCC Adults and Health Select Committee and Councillor Hulley be nominated to the Countryside Access Forum.

(The meeting ended at 10.10 pm)

Mayor