

Full Council

Thursday, 29 February 2024 at 7.30 pm

Council Chamber - Civic Centre

Supplementary Agenda

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8. Recommendations from Committees

a) Climate Change Action Plan - recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee

The report associated with this item was circulated to all members with the [agenda for the 22 February 2024 Corporate Management Committee](#).

The Committee noted that a substantial body of work had been delivered in the previous 12 months, in pursuance of the Council's commitment to addressing climate change.

It was noted that the Action Plan was intended to be a 'living' document which evolved over time, both in terms of actions and reporting. Progress updates on the Action Plan would be considered by the Corporate Management Committee twice a year. Progress on each relevant action would be noted in these updates.

There was discussion about maintaining the Council's commitment to climate change, particularly in light of the relevant team's wide-ranging responsibilities. Additionally, whilst the proposed Action Plan was aspirational, it also needed to be deliverable within the level of resource available to the Council. The Chief Executive stated that he monitored officers' workloads and would review the level of resource available for this work should it become necessary. More general staff training was also being explored, as this was an important element in maintaining the Council's commitments to addressing climate change.

It was **resolved** that the following recommendations be made to the Council:

1. The Runnymede Borough Council Climate Change Action Plan, attached at Appendix 1 of the officer's report, be adopted subject to the following matters being reviewed, for inclusion where required via the proposed officer delegation in 2 below:
 - a) The text in action 3.8 of the Plan, in relation to London Heathrow, being amended to avoid giving the impression that the Council supported its intentions for expansion.

- b) Local Plan Review actions under the Active and Sustainable Transport section to being amended to reference the concept of 20-minute neighbourhoods.
 - c) The addition of figures to show the number of actions falling under the indicators of the Action Plan key, in relation to timeframes, indicative carbon impacts and costs.
2. The Corporate Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development, in consultation with the Chair of the Corporate Management Committee and the Climate Change Members Working Party, be authorised to carry out annual high-level reviews and make minor amendments to the Climate Change Action Plan as necessary.

Note: Following Corporate Management Committee's consideration of the report, officers are requesting the following minor adjustments:

- In recommendation 2, that the post title be corrected to "Corporate Head of Planning, Economy and Built Environment".
- In recommendation 2, that the following be included in lieu of "annual"
"carry out periodic (at least on an annual basis) reviews".

This adjustment is consistent with the content of the proposed Climate Change Action Plan and affords appropriate flexibility for the maintenance of a 'live' document.

The recommendations to the Council, with the above incorporated, would therefore read:

1. The Runnymede Borough Council Climate Change Action Plan, attached at Appendix 1 of the officer's report, be adopted subject to the following matters being reviewed, for inclusion where required via the proposed officer delegation in 2 below:
- a) The text in action 3.8 of the Plan, in relation to London Heathrow, being amended to avoid giving the impression that the Council supported its intentions for expansion.
 - b) Local Plan Review actions under the Active and Sustainable Transport section to being amended to reference the concept of 20-minute neighbourhoods.
 - c) The addition of figures to show the number of actions falling under the indicators of the Action Plan key, in relation to timeframes, indicative carbon impacts and costs.
2. The Corporate Head of Planning, Economy and Built Environment, in consultation with the Chair of the Corporate Management Committee and the Climate Change Members Working Party, be authorised to carry out periodic (at least on an annual basis) reviews and make minor amendments to the Climate Change Action Plan as necessary.

b) Pay Policy Statement - recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee

The report associated with this item was circulated to all members with the [agenda for the 22 February 2024 Corporate Management Committee](#).

The Committee reviewed the draft Pay Policy Statement. It was noted that the Council's pay scales were not based on a postholder's age, except for apprenticeships. It was therefore unlikely that the recent changes in the National Living Wage from 23 to 21 years of age would impact employees. It was confirmed that provision had been made in the 2024/25 budget for the increase in the National Living Wage and consequential remodelling of the affected pay scales.

It was **resolved** that the Annual Pay Policy Statement 2024/25 be recommended for approval by the Council, subject to confirmation being provided on the recent changes to the National Living Wage being reflected in the Statement where necessary.

Note: Following Corporate Management Committee's consideration of the report, the Corporate Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development has adjusted the statement to correct an error in the report and draft Pay Policy Statement where reference was made to the National Living Wage applying to those aged 23 and over, where it should state 21 and over.

c) Members' Allowances Scheme 2024/25 - recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee

The report associated with this item was circulated to all members with the [agenda for the 22 February 2024 Corporate Management Committee](#).

This was the final year of the three-year arrangement that was agreed following the Independent Remuneration Panel's review of the Members' Allowances Scheme in 2022. It was confirmed that advertising the scheme in the local newspaper was a statutory requirement.

It was **resolved** that the following be recommended to the Council, for implementation at the point the staff pay award was agreed:

1. The 2023/24 Members' Allowances Scheme be withdrawn with an end date of 31 March 2024 inclusive.
2. An updated Members' Allowances Scheme, to incorporate an uplift to the basic allowance and special responsibility allowances, commensurate with the staff pay award (but not including any lump sum provisions or similar), be agreed with an implementation date of 1 April 2024 inclusive.
3. Any adjustments to basic and special responsibility allowances (either additional payments or recovery of payments made) be backdated 1 April 2024 inclusive.
4. That the Corporate Head of Law and Governance be delegated authority to implement the revised Members' Allowances Scheme

to give effect to the above, and undertake any necessary measures to do so (such as advertising it in a local newspaper, or authorising the recovery or payments made).

d) Preliminary consideration of mayoral selection - recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee

The report associated with this item was circulated to all members with the [agenda for the 22 February 2024 Corporate Management Committee](#).

The Committee discussed Councillor Elaine Gill as a potential candidate for the role of Mayor. Members from across the Chamber considered Councillor Gill to be an excellent candidate by virtue of her dedication to the community. It was stated that Councillor Gill had previously served as Mayor during the Covid-19 pandemic, and deserved a further opportunity to serve the residents of Runnymede as Mayor.

It was **resolved** that Councillor Elaine Gill be recommended to the Council, for appointment as Mayor for the 2024/25 municipal year.