

Runnymede Borough Council

Full Council

Thursday, 21 July 2022 at 7.30 pm

Members of the Committee present: Councillors M Harnden (Mayor), S Saise-Marshall (Deputy Mayor), A Balkan, A Berardi, J Broadhead, R Bromley, D Coen, D Cotty, M Cressey, V Cunningham, M Darby, R Davies, S Dennett, J Furey, L Gillham, J Gracey, T Gracey, M Heath, C Howorth, J Hulley, S Jenkins, A King, N King, R King, S Lewis, I Mullens, M Nuti, J Olorenshaw, S Ringham, P Snow, S Walsh, D Whyte, S Whyte, S Williams and J Wilson.

Members of the Committee absent: Councillors T Burton, D Clarke, E Gill, C Mann, N Prescott and M Willingale.

158 **Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor made her announcements and highlighted some of the events she had attended since becoming Mayor.

159 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 May 2022 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

160 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors T Burton, D Clarke, E Gill, C Mann, N Prescott and M Willingale.

161 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations received.

162 **Speaking or Questions from Members of the Public under Standing Order 12**

No questions from the public had been received.

163 **Petitions**

No petitions had been received from Members of the Council under Standing Order No 19.

164 **Questions from Members of the Council under Standing Order 13**

Councillor Hulley asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

"Has Runnymede Borough Council adopted the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MND) 5 Point Charter to help those suffering from the disease in Runnymede?"

The Leader of the Council responded as follows:

'The Council had not adopted the Charter. However, this could be considered as part of objective 4 of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, that being to develop our

workforce in relation to Health and Wellbeing matters, so as to improve the service provided to residents. Cllr Hulley was invited to feedback his thoughts around this as part of the consultation on the draft strategy.'

Councillor S Whyte asked the Leader of the Council the following question:

"I think we all agree that Runnymede is a lovely place and many of us enjoy its green spaces and waterways. I was shocked, therefore, to read the state of many of our rivers and streams which have deteriorated considerably between 2013 and 2019, mainly due to sewage discharge. These include The Bourne at Chertsey, Virginia Water Lake and The Moat at Egham, all of which have an ecological status of poor.*

What has the Administration done in the intervening period to bring about improvements to the ecological status of our waterways?"

**Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) Scoping Report for the 2040 Local Plan*

The Leader of the Council responded as follows:

'Responsibility for water quality within our waterways sits with the Environment Agency who run an environmental hotline and a 24-hour service with respect to environmental incidents and all Members were encouraged to report any incidents to the hotline.

Within the parameters available to us, the Council responds as follows to prevent sewage entering the waterways directly and to prevent flooding which may lead to sewage contamination indirectly:-

- *We license and inspect all caravan sites and include a licence condition specifically with respect to drainage and sanitation requiring the safe disposal of all foul, rain and surface water;*
- *Our engineers carry out a programme of land drainage flood attenuation work to monitor, inspect and repair our watercourses and ditches;*
- *With respect to planning applications our engineers provide draft planning conditions for relevant new planning applications with respect to sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS). SuDS are in essence a series of management practices, control structures, strategies, and design solutions to drain surface water both efficiently and sustainably from development sites. Their main principle lies in the treatment and management of rainwater, and they are technical solutions for transporting surface water, slowing down the runoff before it enters watercourses, storing or reusing water at the source, or allowing water to fall on permeable surfaces and soak into the ground. A well-designed and integrated SuDS not only controls and mitigates flood risk by improving the quality of surface water run-off into receiving water bodies, but also provides opportunities to make a significant contribution to tackle the net zero carbon target through their ability to improve water quality, whilst also managing and mitigating both flood risk and surface water runoff created as a result of new development.*
- *There are also a number of Policies in the Local Plan that seek to maintain water quality, namely*

Policy IE4: The visitor economy which states that Tourism/leisure proposals which promote greater use of the River Thames, Wey and Bourne as a leisure and recreational resource should not harm local biodiversity or water quality. If we received such an application, we would consult the Environment Agency and it would be them who would advise us if there

were any unacceptable impacts from a water quality perspective.

Policy EE12: Blue Infrastructure which states that the Council will resist proposals that lead to a decrease in the provision and quality of, and fails to enhance, the status of blue infrastructure, in accordance with the Water Framework Directive. Proposals will be supported that: demonstrate how they will support improving the status of failing water-bodies, in particular in relation to the requirements of the Thames River Basin Management Plan. Again, for any application which relates to blue infrastructure in the Borough, we would consult the Environment Agency.

Policy EE13 could also be looked at in the next iteration of the Local Plan to further support water quality improvements in the borough'

In response, Cllr S Whyte asked for the EA hotline to be publicised to the public via the Council's social media channels.

Cllr D Whyte asked the Leader and Chief Executive to write to the MP to make him aware of the deterioration in watercourses and ask for his support on applying pressure on the water companies to fulfil their responsibilities in relation to watercourses.

In response to a question from Cllr Darby, the Leader of the Council confirmed that the promotion of activities on waterways would be addressed as part of 'healthy lifestyles' in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

165 Recommendation from Environment and Sustainability Committee - 9 June 2022 - Food Service Plan 2022/23

Council considered a recommendation from the Environment and Sustainability Committee held on 9 June 2022 regarding the Food Service Plan 2022/23 and

Resolved that:

The Food Service Plan for 2022/23 be approved in accordance with Article 4 of the constitution

166 Recommendation from Corporate Management Committee - 23 June 2022 - Runnymede Joint Committee - Constitution Changes

Council considered a recommendation from Corporate Management Committee held on 23 June 2022 regarding an update to the Runnymede Joint Committee constitution to reflect the transfer by SCC of executive highway functions from its remit.

Members noted that any highways related issues could still be raised directly by residents with their Surrey County Councillor or via the web portal on the SCC website.

Resolved that –

the Runnymede Joint Committee constitution be updated to reflect the transfer of executive highway functions from its remit.

167 Recommendation from Corporate Management Committee - 23 June 2022- Chertsey Depot Site - Proposal for Refurbishment

Council considered a recommendation from Corporate Management Committee held on 23 June 2022 regarding a capital estimate for the purposes of refurbishment and upgrade of the Chertsey Depot following a report into Health and Safety that begun in November 2020.

In response to points raised by a Member regarding the relocation of grounds maintenance

and green spaces function, the Leader of the Council confirmed that opting for the minimum option would not preclude the Council going for a comprehensive redevelopment of the site in future, but this option was being sought in the interim partly to make the site fit for purpose.

Resolved that –

a capital estimate in the sum reported and the procurement of the works contract for the commencement of refurbishment and upgrade of the Ford Road Depot prior to grounds maintenance and green spaces services being relocated and delivered in-house from the depot premises in April 2023 be approved.

168 Recommendation from Corporate Management Committee 23 June 2022 - Safer Runnymede Staffing

Council considered a recommendation from Corporate Management Committee held on 23 June 2022 regarding an increase in staff in order to deliver new CCTV contracts as well as provide capacity to pursue other revenue opportunities with neighbouring authorities.

Resolved that –

Subject to Community Services Committee supporting the increase in staffing establishment, the recruitment of 1.5 Full-time CCTV operators, funded from revenues associated with providing CCTV monitoring services to other Councils be approved.

169 Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee -7 July,2022 and Corporate Management Committee- 14 July, 2022

Council considered a recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee regarding the Annual Report on the Overview and Scrutiny function.

The Chairman of the Committee confirmed Treasury Management training for Members would take place every two years.

At the Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee a Member had queried the wording around the call-in relating to outside bodies, believing that Members had not misinterpreted advice around not being able to make a speech in support of their own nomination, but rather they had been told they were unable to do so. However, no Amendment was moved at this meeting of Full Council and no change was made in this regard.

The reference in the Annual report to the PPSO in Egham would be changed to 'Egham Hythe'.

Resolved that –

the Overview & Scrutiny Select Committee Annual Report be received and adopted

170 Recommendation from Corporate Management Committee 14 July 2022- Addlestone One Cladding

Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee held on 14 July 2022 regarding remediation works in the Addlestone One development.

Members unanimously supported the way forward and considered it right that leaseholders who met the qualifying criteria would not be required to contribute to the cost of the works which would be met by the Council.

A Member commented that they would have liked a buy back scheme arrangement to have been explored.

Resolved that:

- 1. A contract to undertake cladding remediation works to the residential blocks which form part of the Addlestone One development be awarded to the company and for the contract sum reported;**
- 2. The cladding remediation works be delivered under a JCT Intermediate form of contract with contractor's design which will be executed on the Council's behalf by Corporate Head of Law and Governance in consultation with the Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive and the Corporate Head of Assets and Regeneration;**
- 3. The proposed programme of works be noted but that this maybe subject to change following clarifications and final interview with the intended contractor;**
- 4. The leaseholders who meet the qualifying criteria set out in the body of the report will not be required to contribute to the costs of these works which will be met by the Council; and**
- 5. Officers be authorised to continue to explore the Council's options in respect of possible legal action in relation to the cladding installed in the Addlestone One development.**

171 Notices of Motion from Members of the Council under Standing Order 15

No Motions had been registered under Standing Order 15.

172 Minority Group Priority Business

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

(The meeting ended at 8.15 pm.)

Chairman