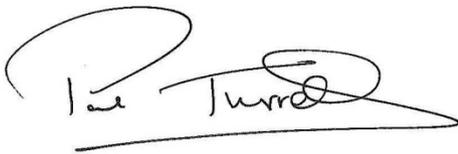


22.02.23

Dear Councillor

SUMMONS TO A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL

I hereby summon you to attend the meeting of the Full Council to be held on **Thursday, 2 March 2023** at **7.30 pm**. The meeting will be held at **Council Chamber - Civic Centre**.



PAUL TURRELL
Chief Executive
01932 425500
Email: paul.turrell@runnymede.gov.uk

A G E N D A

1. **Mayor's Announcements**

2. **Minutes**

6 - 17

To confirm and sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9 February 2023.

3. **Apologies for Absence**

4. **Declarations of Interest**

If Members have an interest in an item, please complete a member interest form and email it to Democratic.Services@runnymede.gov.uk by 5pm on the day of the meeting. Members are advised to contact the Corporate Head of Law and Governance prior to the meeting if they wish to seek advice on a potential interest.

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

6. **Petitions**

To receive any petitions from members of the Council under Standing Order 19.

7. **Questions from Members of the Council under Standing Order 13**

a) Question from Councillor Sylvia Whyte to the Leader of the Council

“In April 2022 I asked the Leader of The Council when elected members would receive monthly Enforcement updates. The Leader advised that “the most effective ways of reporting accurate information to Members would be looked at as soon as possible after the Election.” Whilst I and my fellow ward councillors have received some verbal updates on some key Enforcement issues in our ward, I would like to know when we, and all elected members, will receive a complete list of those enforcement issues across the Borough.”

b) Question from Councillor Don Whyte to the Leader of the Council

“Since October 2022 most households in Runnymede will have been progressively receiving part of the Government funded £400 Energy Bills Support Scheme (EBSS) discount. These households have a direct relationship with an electricity supplier.

Those households that buy their fuel through a third party or are not on mains electricity, have as of 20th February, not yet received any of the £400 EBSS discount. This includes people who live in park homes, a houseboat or care homes. Similarly, those who don't use mains gas or electric are entitled to a payment of £200.

Can the Leader please explain what Runnymede Borough Council is doing or planning to do to encourage and help residents to claim their £400 Energy Bill Support Scheme (EBSS) discount and or their £200 Alternative Fuel Payment?”

c) Question from Councillor Steve Ringham to the Leader of the Council

“Our next council elections, in May of this year, will be the first to be held where polling station voters will be required to show valid Photo ID before they can vote. Central government's excuse is that it is to prevent voter fraud or impersonation. However this restriction has not been extended to postal voters. Can the leader of the council tell me, with regard to Runnymede in the last 10 years, how many instances of voter fraud have been detected, investigated and prosecuted, split between postal and polling station voters, and as a percentage of all voters?”

**Clarification – I've asked for 10 years but any period will do depending on what data you hold*

8. **Recommendations from Committees**

a) **Asset Management Strategy and associated policies - recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee**

The Corporate Management Committee is due to meet after the date of this agenda's publication. Any recommendations will be distributed as part of a supplementary agenda.

b) **Local Authority Housing Fund - recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee**

The Corporate Management Committee is due to meet after the date of this agenda's publication. Any recommendations will be distributed as part of a supplementary agenda.

c) **Pay Policy Statement - 2023/24 - recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee**

The Corporate Management Committee is due to meet after the date of this agenda's publication. Any recommendations will be distributed as part of a supplementary agenda.

d) **Preliminary Consideration of Mayoral Selection - recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee**

The Corporate Management Committee is due to meet after the date of this agenda's publication. Any recommendations will be distributed as part of a supplementary agenda.

9. **Preliminary Consideration of Deputy Mayoral Selection**

In accordance with Standing Order 7, Council is asked to consider candidates for the office of Deputy Mayor for 2023/24.

If there is more than one nomination, the selection of Deputy Mayor will be conducted by secret ballot. In the event of an equality of votes on the nomination, the Mayor will exercise a casting or second vote.

The nominee will be put forward as a candidate for the office of Deputy Mayor at the Annual Council meeting on 17 May 2023 providing that they are still a member of the Council.

(To resolve)

10. **Delegated Authority to Appoint an Assistant Chief Executive**

At its meeting on 19 January 2023, the Corporate Management Committee commissioned an Appointments Sub-Committee to administer the recruitment to the newly created Assistant Chief Executive post. As part of the report, the committee considered that, in the interest of ensuring an efficient timetable for recruiting to this post, it was necessary to seek delegated authority from the Council, to formally offer the role to the preferred candidate at the conclusion of the shortlisting and interview process.

Recommendation:

That the Corporate Management Committee be delegated authority to make a formal offer of employment for the role of Assistant Chief Executive, following consideration of the recommendation of the Appointments Sub-Committee.

11. **Notices of Motion from Members of the Council under Standing Order 15**

To receive and consider any notices of motion from members of the Council under Standing Order 15.

a) From Councillor Tom Gracey

This Council notes that the ULEZ expansion will add further costs for residents and businesses when budgets are already under pressure, disproportionately impacting those on lower incomes, including key workers required to commute to London.

There is no evidence that ULEZ expansion will deliver improved air quality in outer London boroughs, and there is a risk of worsening the situation on Surrey roads. Residents within Runnymede should not have to pay a London-centric tax which has been developed to provide a source of revenue generation to offset poor financial management on the part of the Mayor of London's administration.

That the Council agrees and resolves the following:

- a) there is consistent and cross-party support for this Council to reduce its emissions and impact on the environment as quickly as practically possible;
- b) this Council does not support the expansion of the ULEZ.
- c) this Council rejects the proposal by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, to expand the ULEZ £12.50 daily charge and potential large fines for non-compliant vehicles which will hit small businesses and those on lower incomes hardest;
- d) the evidence and economic modelling of the impact is wrongly focussed on the impact on Londoners and revenues for the Mayor of London, ignoring the impact on Runnymede residents who do not have access to the same tube and bus networks within the Greater London area;
- e) the roughly £400 million of government funding set aside for the Mayor to spend on reducing air pollution would be better spent on public transport, cycle ways, and other initiatives rather than a network of ULEZ cameras that penalise lower income households and those that must travel for work;
- f) that the Leader of Runnymede Borough Council writes to the Mayor of London to request that he reverse his current approach and replace it with a strategy that will benefit residents in neighbouring regions alongside those in his own jurisdiction;
- g) that the Leader of Runnymede Borough Council invites our local MP and group leaders of political groups on Runnymede Borough Council who are in agreement with the sentiments raised to co-sign the letter.

b) From Councillor Alex Balkan

Level Crossings Motion

This Council notes that:

- Since the railway lines within the Borough were first built, the impact of level crossings on local residents has increased hugely as the local population has expanded.
- Residents have expressed ongoing concern about level crossing waiting times which can lead to traffic congestion, resulting air pollution from engine idling and can negatively impacts on the quality of life on residents living or working near level crossings in the Borough.
- Network Rail continue to investigate innovative ways to reduce the number of level crossings across the railway network. This was highlighted in a 2019 report "Enhancing Level Crossing Safety 2019 - 2029".
- There are ongoing works to improve the efficiency of the signalling at the

crossings in the Egham area, however, whilst this work is aimed at improving safety at the crossings, it only marginally reduces the barrier down times which continue to impact on the daily lives of residents.

- In Addlestone, crossing times have increased due to the length of trains being run on the local service being too long for the platform, resulting in barriers being lowered for longer.
- One complicating factor to date has been the need to mitigate the risk of flooding in any proposed alternative infrastructure.
- The progress and potential flood relief offered by the River Thames Scheme provides an opportunity to re-assess the feasibility of alternative solutions to a level crossing which could positively impact the lives of road users and local residents by reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality enhancing local connectivity.

That the Council resolves the following:

- Runnymede Borough Council is committed to improving connectivity and reducing the negative impact of level crossings on our towns, including the environmental impact.
- Runnymede Borough Council will continue to engage with all stakeholders from Network Rail, the Department of Transport, South Western Railways, Heathrow Southern Rail Link, residents groups and local businesses to pursue viable alternatives.
- To support this the Leader of the Council will write to Network Rail to request a review of level crossing provision in the Borough in light of the development of the River Thames Scheme, and to provide a cost analysis for alternative options which could address the congestion and delays caused by the current level crossing sites in Runnymede.

12. **Minority Group Priority Business**

No minority group priority business has been registered under Standing Order 23.

13. **Press and Public to be Excluded by Resolution**

To consider any items so resolved at the meeting.