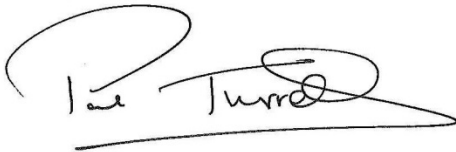


19.04.23

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, 27 April 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**

7 - 15

To confirm and sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 2 March 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 Sam Jenkins to the Leader of the Council

“Our recently adopted Climate Change Strategy encourages the local community to support the Council’s work in tackling climate change. Recently a campaign was initiated at Royal Holloway, led by the President of the Students’ Union, to encourage the university to stop investing in fossil fuel companies. A letter in support of this campaign was signed by over 200 students and staff. Please can the Leader of the Council confirm if Runnymede Borough Council has any active business interests involving coal, gas or oil companies, and if so can this information be made available to the general public?”

b) Question from Councillor Abby King to the Leader of the Council

“Many women in Runnymede experiencing domestic violence understandably feel too afraid to approach service providers. Given Runnymede doesn’t have a fully funded women’s centre, how does Runnymede work with women who experience domestic violence, and their families, to enable them to access advice and urgent support without fear?”

c) Question from Councillor Robert King to the Leader of the Council

“With even one of the cheapest areas in Runnymede for buying a first home over 8 times the average household income, it is completely unaffordable to be approved for a mortgage. What advice would the leader give to those trying to buy their first home in Runnymede Council’s area under this administration and is it doing enough to support them?”

d) Question from Councillor Rhys Davies to the Leader of the Council

“What is Runnymede Council doing to inform residents when water companies dump sewage into our local rivers, to keep them safe from the pollution and mitigate the risk of residents and their pets falling ill from contaminated water?”

e) Question from Councillor Alex Balkan to the Leader of the Council

“Would the Leader of the Council agree with me that whilst Councillors and officers efforts to improve the transparency of its services have seen progress over the last year, there is more that can be done to further improve this in the coming years. Would the Leader support that in the coming year we develop a calendar on the Council website, which includes the scheduled activities to be undertaken by the DSO across our range of services including bin collection, grass cutting, street cleaning etc?”

8. **Recommendations from Committees**

a) **Procurement Strategy and related policies - recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee**

The report and appendices associated with this recommendation were circulated to all members with the agenda for the 23 March 2023 meeting of the Corporate Management Committee and are available on the website.

An overview of the changes that had been made to the suite of documents was provided to the Committee. New documentation aimed to provide prospective suppliers with useful information about the Council’s

procurement processes. The importance of good practice and minimising instances of noncompliance was emphasised to the Committee.

It was noted that further changes were expected in 2024 as a result of the Procurement Bill that was currently making its way through Parliament. The changes that were the subject of this report therefore sought to put the Council in a favourable position for adopting further changes later on.

The Committee explored the sections relating to social value and sustainable procurement.

There was discussion about the level of resource available in the procurement team. The Committee was keen to ensure that staff were not overstretched by the quantity of work likely to arise from this report. The Head of Procurement, once appointed, would be tasked with monitoring workloads.

Recent discussions on sharing services with a neighbouring authority had been paused due to difficulties in reaching an agreement on the division of a shared team's resources between the participating authorities. Surrey districts and boroughs had however recently compiled a shared contract register with a view to sharing procurement activities on individual projects. Opportunities to share services would however continue to be explored as and when appropriate.

It was **resolved** that the Procurement Strategy and associated policies be recommended to Council for adoption.

b) Amendments to the Constitution - recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee

The report and appendices associated with this recommendation were circulated to all members with the agenda for the 23 March 2023 meeting of the Corporate Management Committee and are available on the website.

The Committee reviewed the proposed changes to the Constitution, following their review by the Constitution Member Working Party. The way in which the changes were presented had changed from previous years, with the aim of providing greater clarity to members. It was noted that the Corporate Management Committee agenda documents would not be reproduced for Council.

There was discussion about the proposed process for alternative budgets. Concerns were raised about the speed at which opposition groups were expected to prepare their budget proposals. It was however stated that the administration's proposed budget would ordinarily be available approximately one week before the relevant Corporate Management Committee and that opposition groups would not be asked for their proposals until nearer the budget setting Council meeting. The moveable nature of meetings meant that it was not possible to offer greater flexibility in the process.

The proposed five day expectation for staff to respond to member enquiries, having been debated by the Member Working Party, could be revisited in due course, should it be necessary.

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

Council on 27 April 2023.

- 1) That the updates to the Constitution be adopted at the beginning of the 2023/24 municipal year i.e. from 18 May 2023 (subject to the deletion of a repetitious entry on page 168 of the agenda pack).
- 2) That Surrey County Council's withdrawal from The Runnymede Joint Committee be noted.
- 3) That Runnymede Borough Council withdraws from the Runnymede Joint Committee with immediate effect, thus bringing about the Joint Committee's dissolution.
- 4) That the Corporate Head of Law and Governance be delegated authority to make any unforeseen and necessary changes to the Constitution, arising from the dissolution of the Runnymede Joint Committee, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

c) Members' Allowances Scheme 2023/24 - recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee

The report and appendices associated with this recommendation were circulated to all members with the agenda for the 23 March 2023 meeting of the Corporate Management Committee and are available on the website.

The proposed scheme had been drafted in accordance with the previously adopted recommendations of the independent remuneration panel (i.e. uplifts in accordance with the annual staff pay award).

It was **resolved** that the following recommendations be put to the Council on 27 April 2023:

1. The 2022/23 Members' Allowances Scheme be withdrawn with an end date of 16 May 2023 inclusive.
2. An updated Members' Allowances Scheme (as attached at appendix 1 of the officer's report), to incorporate a 3% uplift with the basic allowance and special responsibility allowances, be agreed with an implementation date of 17 May 2023 inclusive.

Note: The recommendation of the Corporate Management Committee was to implement the new Members' Allowances Scheme with effect from Annual Council on 17 May 2023. It is however a requirement of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 for allowances schemes to commence from 1 April each year. The following recommendations are therefore put to the Council:

1. The 2022/23 Members' Allowances Scheme be withdrawn with an end date of 31 March 2023 inclusive.
2. An updated Members' Allowances Scheme (as attached at appendix 1 of the officer's report), to incorporate a 3% uplift with the basic allowance and special responsibility allowances, be agreed with an implementation date of 1 April 2023 inclusive.
3. That any required payments or recovery of sums paid to holders of special responsibility allowances be backdated to 1 April 2023

inclusive.

9. **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 Jonathan Hulley

This Council recognises the impact that breaches of planning rules can have on local communities. This Council recognises that, whilst Planning Enforcement is not a statutory responsibility and is therefore not allocated ring-fenced funding, Runnymede Borough Council remains committed to maintaining and developing our Planning Enforcement resource.

This Council welcomes the recent increase in resource that has been allocated to support Planning Enforcement and re-affirms its support for the RBC Planning department in upholding national and local planning guidance.

The importance of this issue is also recognised by our Member of Parliament who has been campaigning to strengthen the legislative framework in respect of planning enforcement both through the administration of sanctions and the ability to track repeated offenders through a national database.

Therefore, we call on the Council to:

- Reaffirm our commitment to upholding planning rules through the use of enforcement where warranted.
- Express its support for our Planning team working to deliver this.
- Request the Leader of the Council to write to our MP outlining our support for his campaign to give local authorities increased powers of enforcement.
- Hold discussions with our MP to advocate for Planning Enforcement to become a statutory service

b) From Councillor Marissa Heath

This Council notes that it has set out a comprehensive outline plan to tackle its carbon emissions and to play its role in addressing climate change. Since this plan was agreed further evidence has been published through the 6th IPCC report highlighting the importance of action on every front. This means we all have a role to play from residents and local authorities to national government. The IPCC report also set out that avoiding the worst ravages of climate breakdown is still possible, and there are “multiple, feasible and effective options” for doing so. Government have set out ambitious targets and County, Borough and District councils have set out strategies on how to deliver this. We must also support our residents in shifting to low carbon lifestyles.

This Council will continue to take action locally to reduce carbon emissions and the Council will continue to work collaboratively with other councils, the community and businesses and also seek expertise where possible to further its objectives.

Therefore, this Council agrees to:

- Recognise the strong work so far undertaken by officers and members in delivering a robust strategy and way forward;
- Will actively support and work with businesses and local organisations in moving towards net zero;
- Will join UK100 and utilise the resources offered through this body to take

forward our strategy.

10. **Minority Group Priority Business**

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

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

To consider any items so resolved at the meeting.