

MINUTES
OF A MEETING OF THE
BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WOKING

held on 6 April 2017

Present:

Cllr A E Murray (Mayor)	
Cllr G S Cundy (Deputy Mayor)	
Cllr Mrs H J Addison	Cllr W P Forster
Cllr M Ali	Cllr D Harlow
Cllr A Azad	Cllr K Howard
Cllr T Aziz	Cllr D E Hughes
Cllr A-M Barker	Cllr S Hussain
Cllr D J Bittleston	Cllr I Johnson
Cllr J E Bond	Cllr C S Kemp
Cllr A J Boote	Cllr J Kingsbury
Cllr A C L Bowes	Cllr R Mohammed
Cllr M A Bridgeman	Cllr L M N Morales
Cllr G G Chrystie	Cllr M Pengelly
Cllr K Davis	Cllr M I Raja
Cllr I Eastwood	Cllr C Rana
Cllr M A Whitehand	

Also present: Claire Storey, Independent Co-opted Member and Tim Stokes, Independent Person.

Absent: Councillor Mrs B A Hunwicks

Before the start of the meeting, the Council held a minute's silence in memory of past Councillors Beryl Marlow (Borough Councillor for Byfleet 2001 to 2004), Geoff Smith (Borough Councillor for Goldsworth East 2000 to 2005) and Neville Hinks (Borough Councillor for Knaphill 1982 to 2007), all of whom had passed away in recent weeks.

The Mayor advised that agenda item 17 – Sheerwater Regeneration Scheme Proposals – would be brought forward on the agenda. Furthermore it was noted that two supplementary reports had been prepared, copies of which were tabled at the meeting.

A petition had been received earlier in the week seeking the protection from development of the green open space in Sheerwater. In view of the proposals before the Council in respect of the Sheerwater Regeneration Scheme Proposals, it had been agreed to receive the petition after agenda item 7, a petition relating to Goldsworth Park Recreation Park.

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 9 February 2017 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Mrs Hunwicks.

3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor paid tribute to Neville Hinks who had passed away earlier in the week. Neville had been Borough Councillor for Knaphill for 25 years and had served as Mayor in 1995/96. Always cheerful and outgoing, Neville would be remembered with affection and admiration.

The Mayor had attended numerous events since the last meeting, including local drama productions, art projects and sporting events. On St George's Day, 23 April, Woking would witness the formal presentation of the Freedom of the Borough to all Ranks of the Army Training Centre (Pirbright). The Civic Reception would be held in the following week on Friday, 28 April.

4. URGENT BUSINESS

The Mayor indicated that the following item should be considered as Urgent Business in view of the need for the Council to take a decision on the matters raised before the next meeting on 22 May 2017.

WOKING INTEGRATED TRANSPORT PACKAGE CAMERA ENFORCEMENT OF BUS LANE RESTRICTIONS

A report prepared by Officers was tabled at the meeting and the Mayor allowed Members a few minutes to read the paper before calling on Councillor Kingsbury to introduce the item.

The report sought approval to introduce camera enforcement of the bus lane restrictions as part of the Woking Integrated Transport Package. The new bus lane would be introduced during May 2017 in the High Street, beginning directly outside the entrance to Woking Railway Station. Access would be restricted to buses and authorised vehicles only, easing traffic flow and enhancing the safety for public transport and other highways users.

A number of concerns were raised in respect of the creation of the bus lane, including the difficulties posed for individuals seeking to drop food off for the foodbank, whether taxis and Bustler Buses would be classed as authorised vehicles, the importance of adequate signage and advertising of the restrictions, and the implications of longer routes around the town for taxis.

The Council was advised that the regulations for the bus lane had already been approved; the report before the Council was simply seeking authority to enter into an agreement with Surrey County Council to enforce those regulations. The arrangements would suppress traffic flows and would make the area by the Railway Station and Albion Square safer for pedestrians. The concerns of the foodbank and local businesses had been raised through the consultation process and it was intended to ensure that vehicles operated by those interests would be deemed as authorised vehicles. The concerns raised by Members would be noted.

WBC17-017

RESOLVED

- That (i) authority be delegated to Assistant Director (Place) to negotiate terms and enter into an agreement with Surrey County Council to authorise Woking Borough Council to operate and enforce bus lane contraventions within Woking as Surrey County Council's agent;
- (ii) upon completion of the agreement, the Assistant Director (Place) is duly authorised to exercise any power, duty or function vested in the Council by virtue of the agreement with Surrey County Council to operate and enforce bus lane contraventions in Woking; and

- (iii) upon completion of the agreement, the Assistant Director (Place) is duly authorised to authorise any persons to issue fixed penalty notices to enforce bus lane contraventions.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, the Leader of the Council, Councillor J Kingsbury, Councillor D J Bittleston, Councillor G S Cundy and Councillor C S Kemp declared a non pecuniary interest in any items under which the Thamesway Group of Companies was discussed, arising from their positions as Directors of the Thamesway Group of Companies. The interest was such that speaking and voting were permissible.

In accordance with the Officer Procedure Rules, the Chief Executive, Ray Morgan, Deputy Chief Executive, Douglas Spinks, Strategic Director, Sue Barham, and Head of Democratic and Legal Services, Peter Bryant, declared a non-pecuniary interest in any items under which the Thamesway Group of Companies was discussed, arising from their positions as Directors of the Thamesway Group of Companies. The interest was such that speaking was permissible.

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor I Johnson declared a non pecuniary interest in Agenda item 4 – Urgent Business arising from his position on the Woking Foodbank Steering Group and the location of the Foodbank along the bus lane route. The interest was such that speaking and voting were permissible.

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, The Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor A E Murray, declared a non pecuniary interest in Agenda item 14 – Annual Report by Council Representatives on Outside Bodies arising from her position as a Trustee of Citizen's Advice Woking. The interest was such that speaking and voting were permissible.

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Claire Storey, Independent Co-Opted Member, declared a non pecuniary interest in Agenda item 7 – Petition – To Save Goldsworth Park Recreation Park – and Item 8 – Recommendations of the Executive – arising from the vicinity of her property to the site referred to. The interest was such that speaking was permissible.

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Claire Storey, Independent Co-Opted Member, and Tim Stokes, Independent Person, declared non pecuniary interests in Agenda item 9 – Independent Sheerwater Scrutiny Panel – Update on Recommendations – and Item 17 – Sheerwater Regeneration Scheme Proposals – arising from their roles on the Independent Sheerwater Scrutiny Panel. The interest was such that speaking was permissible.

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillor Mrs H Addison declared a non pecuniary interest in Agenda item 14 – Annual Report by Council Representatives on Outside Bodies - arising from her position as a Trustee of Woking ShopMobility. The interest was such that speaking and voting were permissible.

6. QUESTIONS

Copies of questions submitted under Standing Order 8.1 together with draft replies were laid upon the table. The replies were confirmed by Members of the Executive, supplementary questions were asked and replies given.

7. PETITION – TO SAVE GOLDSWORTH PARK RECREATION PARK

The Council had before it a report on a petition seeking the retention of the area of grassland in Goldsworth Park known as North Meadow. The Mayor advised that the Petitioner had agreed, in light of the recommendations of the Executive, that he did not need to present the Petition, and that he was content for the points raised to be taken into account in consideration of Agenda item 8 in respect of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Facilities Strategy. The Council was therefore asked to note the petition and consider the issues raised during the debate on the Strategy. WBC16-041

RESOLVED

That (i) the petition be noted; and

- (ii) the issues raised by the petition be taken into account during the consideration of the recommendation for the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Facilities Strategy.

8. PETITION – PROTECTION OF GREEN SPACE IN SHEERWATER

The Mayor advised that the first supplementary report before the Council referred to a petition received earlier in the week, seeking to prevent the loss of any green space in Sheerwater, including the recreation ground, under the regeneration proposals. In view of the item later on the agenda which dealt with the regeneration proposals, it had been agreed to receive the petition and invite a representative for the petitioners to speak on their behalf. The Mayor therefore welcomed Jill Willis, representative for the petitioners. Jill stressed the importance of the recreation ground to local residents as the only large open green space in the Canalside ward. The area was regularly used for outdoor games and had been designed to alleviate any flooding in the area.

The Mayor thanked Jill Willis for her presentation and advised the Council to note the petition and to take account of the points raised under the agenda item on the Sheerwater Regeneration Scheme Proposals.

RESOLVED

That (i) the petition be noted; and

- (ii) the issues raised by the petition be taken into account during the consideration of the Sheerwater Regeneration Scheme Proposals.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Councillor J Kingsbury moved and Councillor D J Bittleston seconded the reception and adoption of the report and recommendations of the meeting of the Executive held on 23 March 2017.

EXECUTIVE – 2 FEBRUARY 2017

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR FACILITIES STRATEGY

The first recommendation from the Executive before the Council dealt with the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Facilities Strategy and the Mayor reminded Members to take into consideration the points raised by the Petition earlier on the agenda in regard to the North Meadow area of Goldsworth Park.

In considering the proposals, it was noted that the Executive had recommended that all reference to North Meadow should be removed from the report and the action plan for the period of the Strategy. WBC17-007

RESOLVED

- That (i) the priorities for playing pitch and outdoor facilities provision identified in the report be approved;
- (ii) Officers be authorised to enter into initial discussions with colleagues, potential partner organisations and agencies in order to establish the viability of future proposals at the sites identified;
- (iii) Officers be authorised to review the current operational model of Woking Park Tennis Courts and, subject to the outcome and consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, the Strategic Director (People) be authorised to amend the Leisure Management Contract with Greenwich Leisure Limited accordingly and enter into a new arrangement with a specialist tennis provider; and
- (iv) all reference to North Meadow in Goldsworth Park be removed from the report and the action plan for the period of the Strategy.

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS)

The recommendation of the Executive in respect of the Medium Term Financial Strategy was introduced by Councillor Kingsbury. The Council noted the proposals and it was WBC17-007

RESOLVED

That the Medium Term Financial Strategy report be approved and the Executive authorised to prepare an Investment Strategy for consideration as part of the Budget process for 2018/19 which would generate sufficient income to avoid reduction in services for local people.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2017-2022

Councillor Hussain introduced the recommendations from the Executive for the adoption of the Economic Development Strategy. Councillor I Johnson, Chairman of the Council's Economic Regeneration Task Group, spoke in support of the proposals. WBC17-007

RESOLVED

- That (i) the draft Economic Development Strategy, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted by the Council;
- (ii) where specific actions have a new financial or resource investment implication these will be subject to further reports to and agreement of the Executive; and

- (iii) the Economic Regeneration Task Group oversees the delivery of the Strategy and actions.

SAFEGUARDING – POLICY AND PROCEDURE – A GUIDE TO SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

The Members of the Council were asked to agree that the policy on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults and Children be adopted as set out before them. The item was introduced by Councillor Whitehand. WBC17-007

RESOLVED

- That (i) the Policy on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults and Children, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted; and
- (ii) the Strategic Director responsible for safeguarding be delegated authority to agree minor amendments to the Policy in consultation with the Lead Member for Safeguarding.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO HOUSING ASSISTANCE POLICY FOR ADAPTING AND REPAIRING YOUR HOME

The changes proposed by the Executive in respect of the Housing Assistance Policy for adapting and repairing homes was introduced by Councillor Whitehand. The Council welcomed the proposals and it was WBC17-007

RESOLVED

- That (i) the Housing Assistance Policy, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be adopted with effect from 1 May 2017; and
- (ii) the Strategic Director, Sue Barham, be delegated authority to agree minor amendments to the Housing Assistance Policy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder

10. SHEERWATER REGENERATION SCHEME PROPOSALS

The Mayor referred the Council to the report on the Sheerwater Regeneration Scheme Proposals and the two supplementary reports. Whilst the first of the two reports had been circulated earlier in the week, the second supplementary report, which dealt with the outcome of the consultation of secure tenants, had been tabled. In view of the importance of the report, the Mayor allowed a break of sufficient time to enable the Members to read the report. The Mayor also reminded the Councillors to take account of the points raised by the petition on the green open space of Sheerwater during the debate, considered earlier in the evening.

The report on the Sheerwater Regeneration Scheme proposals was introduced by Councillor Bittleston, Portfolio Holder for the Regeneration Scheme. The report explored five options in respect of the regeneration of Sheerwater. These comprised Do Nothing; Start Again; Invite New Private Sector Proposals; Seek a Development Partner; and Implement Through Thameswey Developments Limited. In each case the merits of the different options were set out, with the report concluding that the objectives of the Council for Sheerwater should be implemented through Thameswey Developments Limited, an option which would enable the development profit to be retained and the profit levels suppressed, thereby ensuring rents for retained affordable homes to be affordable.

The scheme would result in extensive changes to Sheerwater, including 522 new open market dwellings, 462 new affordable dwellings, a new leisure centre, new public open space, pitches and formal play areas, and the demolition of 449 affordable dwellings and 127 existing private dwellings. The approach proposed would enable the Council to set the framework for the Regeneration of Sheerwater, for the detailed commercial arrangements to be determined by the Executive, and for the planning details to be determined by the Planning Committee.

The Sheerwater Regeneration Oversight Panel would continue to oversee the improvements in Sheerwater, both within the red line redevelopment area and the wider area. A new Project Board of seven Members would be established to manage the governance of the detailed implementation by Thameswey Developments.

Councillor Forster expressed his support for the principle of regeneration of the area but expressed some concern over the plans, in particular the elements relating to affordable housing. There were a number of specific elements of the proposals which raised concerns, in view of which Councillor Forster moved and Councillor Barker seconded the following amendment:

Amend xii, to

“the Executive be authorised to approve the implementation of the Artificial Pitch at Bishop David Brown School as incorporated in the Phase 1 (A, B & C) detailed Planning Consent, and to authorise an initial release of funds to Thameswey Developments Limited to enable it to obtain Tenders and to progress the necessary public consultation and preparation of the detailed planning application for the balance of Phase 1 and all of Phase 2”

Insert a new xiii as:-

“The Chief Finance Officer be authorised to release funds to Thameswey Housing Limited for the acquisition of properties required for the regeneration of Sheerwater”;

Insert a new xiv as:-

“Officers make the necessary arrangements to review and update the financial model to take account of detailed phasing, as set out in the report, and, at the appropriate point incorporate the results of the Tenders for Phase 1, and report thereon to the Finance Task Group to enable it to review the model and report on its robustness to the Council prior to the Council releasing the funds for Thameswey Developments Limited to implement the consented part of Phase 1”;

Insert a new xv as:-

“When Thameswey Developments Limited (TDL) has obtained Tenders for the implementation of the Phase 1 (A, B & C), the detailed Planning Consent, it submits its updated proposals to Council Officers who will report back to Council on the update of the financial model for the regeneration to enable the Council to authorise the necessary finance for TDL to implement Phase 1 (A, B & C)”;

Insert a new xvi as:-

“When Thameswey Developments Limited (TDL) has undertaken further public consultation in support of the preparation of the detailed Planning Application for the balance of Phase 1 and all of Phase 2, as outlined in the report, Council Officers report back to Council to enable Council to authorise TDL to submit the detailed Planning Application”;

Insert a new xvii as:-

“Council Officers to keep under review housing need in the Borough, and particularly Sheerwater, and ensure that when the Council receives reports on the submission of Detailed Planning Applications in respect of future phases of the Sheerwater Regeneration the information about need is available to, and taken into consideration in the proposals submitted to, the Council”;

The Mayor provided the Members with an opportunity to read through the tabled amendment before moving to the debate.

The proposed amendments were welcomed by the Council and were agreed nem con to form the substantive recommendations before the Members. The Mayor advised that she would not limit the time available for the Group Leaders to speak on the item.

Councillor Raja spoke against the proposals and advised that the residents were supportive of regeneration but only where it was needed, in particular in an area previously defined in the Borough’s Core Strategy. Councillor Raja considered that the residents had been completely ignored and that no consultation had been undertaken, despite the recommendations of the Independent Sheerwater Scrutiny Panel. Councillor Raja considered that the proposals had not been pursued democratically and in view of this he chose to take no further part in the debate and left the Chamber for the remainder of the item.

The Council continued the debate with Members commenting on the impact of the proposals, the way in which the Scheme had developed and the detailed arrangements to take the regeneration forward. Councillor Bittleston responded to the points raised and provided clarification across a number of areas, including the use of a Compulsory Purchase Order, the provision of green open space, the quality of the housing proposed and the Council’s record on affordable housing. All those involved in the development of the proposals, including the Independent Sheerwater Scrutiny Panel, Councillor Davis, Councillor Kingsbury and Officers, were thanked for their support.

In accordance with Standing Order 10.8 the names of Members voting for and against the amended recommendations were recorded.

In favour: Councillors Mrs H J Addison, , A Azad, D J Bittleston, A C L Bowes, G G Chrystie, G S Cundy, K M Davis, I Eastwood, D Harlow, K Howard, S Hussain, I Johnson, C S Kemp, J Kingsbury, R Mohammed, M Pengelly, C Rana and M A Whitehand.

TOTAL in favour – 18

Against: Councillors M Ali, T Aziz, A-M Barker, J E Bond, A J Boote, M A Bridgeman, D E Hughes and L M N Morales.

TOTAL against – 8

Present not voting: Councillors W P Forster.

TOTAL present not voting – 1

The amended recommendations were therefore carried by 18 votes to 8 votes. WBC17-016

RESOLVED

- That (i) the Sheerwater Regeneration project be included in the approved Investment Plan at a total cost of £372m and, based on the proposals set out in this report, financed by sale of properties and total borrowing by the Council of £129m to finance the long term investment of Share Capital (£32.5m) and the Loan Facility (£96.6m) for Thamesway Housing Limited;
- (ii) Thamesway Developments Limited be appointed to deliver the Regeneration of Sheerwater in accordance with the Planning Consent obtained on 27 July 2016;
- (iii) a Thamesway Development Revolving Loan Facility of up to £76m, for a period not to exceed eight years, at an interest rate based on the relevant PWLB rate for the relevant drawing and subject to an Arrangement Fee of £760,000 (1%) payable at the commencement of the facility be approved;
- (iv) Thamesway Housing Limited, through a subsidiary established for the purpose of the regeneration, be appointed as the owner and operator of the affordable housing developed by Thamesway Developments Limited as part of the Regeneration of Sheerwater and be subject to security arrangements to ensure the rents remain affordable;
- (v) acquisition of Share Capital in the Thamesway Housing Subsidiary be authorised up to £32.5m, being 25% of the cost of the affordable homes purchased from Thamesway Developments Limited;
- (vi) a Thamesway Housing Revolving Loan Facility of up to £96.6m, being 75% of the cost of the affordable homes purchased from Thamesway Developments, for a period not to exceed eight years at an interest rate based on the relevant PWLB rate for the relevant drawing multiplied by 1.33334 to ensure that there is no cost to the Council in providing the Share Capital, be approved;
- (vii) a Thamesway Housing Sheerwater Regeneration Finance Facility of £96.6m based on a 50 year Annuity based on a weighted interest rate calculated by reference to the PWLB 50 year Annuity Rate plus 0.5% margin multiplied by 1.33334 to ensure that there is no cost to the Council in providing the Share Capital, be approved;
- (viii) the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to approve the Loan Agreements and related Security Documents to protect the Council's interests and to ensure the regulation of Affordable Rents;

- (ix) Officers be authorised to prepare the detail of the Compulsory Purchase Order and submit it to Council for approval in February 2018;
- (x) Thamesway Housing Limited, financed by Thamesway Developments Limited be authorised to acquire private properties within the development area in accordance with the terms of the Sheerwater Community Charter;
- (xi) a Sheerwater Regeneration Project Board be established of seven Members, four Conservatives, one Liberal Democrat one Labour and one Independent, to oversee the implementation of the regeneration project;
- (xii) the Executive be authorised to approve the implementation of the Artificial Pitch at Bishop David Brown School as incorporated in the Phase 1 (A, B & C) detailed Planning Consent and to authorise an initial release of funds to Thamesway Developments Limited to enable it to obtain Tenders and to progress the necessary public consultation and preparation of the detailed planning application for the balance of Phase 1 and all of Phase 2;
- (xiii) the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to release funds to Thamesway Housing Limited for the acquisition of properties required for the regeneration of Sheerwater;
- (xiv) Officers make the necessary arrangements to review and update the financial model to take account of detailed phasing, as set out in the report, and, at the appropriate point incorporate the results of the Tenders for Phase 1, and report thereon to the Finance Task Group to enable it to review the model and report on its robustness to the Council prior to the Council releasing the funds for Thamesway Developments Limited to implement the consented part of Phase 1;
- (xv) when Thamesway Developments Limited (TDL) has obtained Tenders for the implementation of the Phase 1 (A, B & C), the detailed Planning Consent, it submits its updated proposals to Council Officers who will report back to Council on the update of the financial model for the regeneration to enable the Council to authorise the necessary finance for TDL to implement Phase 1 (A, B & C)";
- (xvi) when Thamesway Developments Limited (TDL) has undertaken further public consultation in support of the preparation of the detailed Planning Application for the balance of Phase 1 and all of Phase 2, as outlined in the report, Council Officers report back to Council to enable Council to authorise TDL to submit the detailed Planning Application;
- (xvii) Council Officers to keep under review the housing need in the Borough, and particularly Sheerwater, and ensure that when the Council receives reports on the submission of Detailed Planning Applications in respect of future phases of the Sheerwater Regeneration the information about need is available to, and taken into consideration in the proposals submitted to, the Council; and

- (xviii) Right to Buy receipts are not retained from the 31st March 2017 onwards and that the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to determine whether or not to retain future receipts.

11. INDEPENDENT SHEERWATER SCRUTINY PANEL - UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS

Councillor Bittleston and Councillor Davis introduced the report on the implementation of the recommendations from the Independent Sheerwater Scrutiny Panel and advised that the Sheerwater Regeneration Oversight Panel had kept the recommendations under review. The supplementary report outlined the changes to the report on the implementation of the recommendations drawn up by the Oversight Panel at its meeting on 30 March. The Council was asked to note the position as set out in the schedule attached to the supplementary report.

WBC17-012

RESOLVED

That the position regarding the Independent Sheerwater Scrutiny Panel's recommendation, as set out in the Schedule to the Supplementary Report, be noted.

12. WEST BYFLEET NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Council received a report on the draft West Byfleet Neighbourhood Plan following a six week consultation which had ended on 10 March 2017. The report summarised the main issues raised by the responses to the consultation and sought authority to submit the Neighbourhood Plan for Independent Examination. The residents were congratulated on their hard work in drawing up the Neighbourhood Plan and it was

WBC17-011

RESOLVED

- That (i) having regard to the Officers' response to the Regulation 16 consultation of the West Byfleet Neighbourhood Plan as summarised in Section 2 of this report, the West Byfleet Neighbourhood Plan and its supporting documents be submitted to the Examiner for Examination;
- (ii) authority be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning to receive, respond to and submit to the Examiner any further modifications to the West Byfleet Neighbourhood Plan that the West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum may wish to make in light of the consultation responses and to treat these as a part of the submitted documents; and
- (iii) a budget is set aside to the value of £20,000 to support the West Byfleet Neighbourhood Plan process. This will be recoverable through Government grant.

13. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillor Davis, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, introduced the annual report of the Committee, outlining the key activities undertaken during the year. A wide range of interesting topics had been covered by the Committee over the year and Councillor Davis thanked Councillor Johnson for his supportive role over the year as Vice-Chairman.

It was noted that the Members of the Economic Regeneration Task Group had requested a change to the name of the Group to better reflect the Group's current remit, proposing a change to the Economic Development Task Group. WBC17-005

RESOLVED

- That (i) the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be received; and
- (ii) the Economic Regeneration Task Group be renamed the Economic Development Task Group.

14. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL REGISTRATION REVIEW PANEL

Claire Storey, Chair of the Elections and Electoral Registration Review Panel, introduced the Panel's annual report on the work carried out by the Elections Team during the past year. The work had included the combined Borough and Police Crime Commissioner Elections, the European Union Referendum and a Neighbourhood Plan Referendum, in addition to the maintenance of the electoral register. The report was welcomed and it was WBC17-010

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report of the Review Panel be received.

15. ANNUAL REPORT ON MEMBER LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Kemp, Lead Councillor for Member Learning and Development, presented the annual report on the Council's learning and development activities over the past year. Councillor Kemp drew attention to specific elements of the report, namely the forthcoming Could You Be a Councillor event for anyone interested in the role, the introduction of mandatory training and the recent successful mid-term assessment of the Council's activities by South East Employers under the Charter recognition scheme. It was noted that the Council's Policy for Member learning and development had been reviewed and was before the Council for approval. WBC16-047

RESOLVED

- That (i) the Elected Member learning and development activities of 2016-17 be noted; and
- (ii) the updated Policy for Elected Member Learning and Development, as set out in Appendix 2 to this report, be adopted.

16. ANNUAL REPORT BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Leader of the Council, Councillor J Kingsbury, introduced the report and welcomed the contributions from the Council's representatives on outside bodies. WBC17-004

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

17. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2017-18

WBC17-009

RESOLVED

That the Pay Policy Statement be approved for publication.

18. BROOKWOOD CEMETERY COMPANIES AND THAMESWEY DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED - APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR

In anticipation that Councillor Cundy would be elected Mayor for the 2017-18 Municipal Year, the Council was advised that Councillor Cundy would resign his directorship of the Brookwood Cemetery Companies, Thameswey Developments Limited and Thameswey Limited. Consequently, it was necessary to appoint a director to the Cemetery Companies and Thameswey Developments Limited in his place. WBC17-015

RESOLVED

- That (i) the Leader of the Council (Councillor Kingsbury) be appointed a director of Woking Necropolis and Mausoleum Limited, Brookwood Park Limited and Brookwood Cemetery Limited in place of Councillor Cundy;
- (ii) the Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Bittleston) be appointed a director of Thameswey Developments Limited in place of Councillor Cundy; and
- (iii) the Head of Democratic and Legal Services be authorised to take all necessary action to effect the resignation of Councillor Cundy from the companies referred to in resolves (i) and (ii) above, and the appointment of Councillors Kingsbury and Bittleston in his place.

19. NOTICES OF MOTION

The Council noted that no motions had been received.

20. THE MAYOR

The Mayor noted that this would be the last meeting of Council during her Mayoral Year. The Mayor advised that she had thoroughly enjoyed the year and thanked those who had supported her in the role. The Mayor extended her best wishes to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Cundy, for his forthcoming Mayoral Year.

21. THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Kingsbury announced that this would be the last meeting of Council at which he would be attending as Leader of the Council. Having served as Leader for over nine years, Councillor Kingsbury would be stepping down from the position in May 2017 and would propose that Councillor Bittleston be elected Leader of the Council.

Councillor Kingsbury took the opportunity to thank all the Councillors for their help and support over the years.

20. THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor and Consort were thanked for their outstanding service during the Mayoral year.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and ended at 10.30 pm

Chairman: _____

Date: _____