

Minutes of the meeting of the
Woking JOINT COMMITTEE
 held at 6.00 pm on 13 March 2019
 at Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6ND.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its next meeting.

Surrey County Council Members:

- * Mrs Liz Bowes (Vice-Chairman)
- * Ms Ayesha Azad
- * Amanda Boote
- * Mr Ben Carasco
- * Mr Will Forster
- * Mr Saj Hussain
- * Mr Colin Kemp

Borough / District Members:

- * Cllr David Bittleston (Chairman)
- * Cllr Ann-Marie Barker
- * Cllr John Bond
- * Cllr Graham Chrystie
- * Cllr Beryl Hunwicks
- * Cllr Louise Morales
- * Cllr Melanie Whitehand

* In attendance

OPEN FORUM

Public questions were invited. 12 public questions were asked as follows:-

- Community Infrastructure Levy process – 10 questions
- Safe to Play petition for a crossing point at Sopwith Drive
- Surrey Half Marathon – alternative routes / resurfacing at Westfield Avenue

The full questions and answers given are recorded in Annex A.

53/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

There were no apologies for absence.

54/18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

55/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

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There were no declarations of interest.

56/18 PETITIONS [Item 4]

There were no petitions received.

57/18 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 5]

Three written questions were received as follows:-

- VAS signage outside Pyrford Primary school
- Damage to street furniture (railings)
- Pavement parking in Knaphill

The full written questions and answers given are attached as Annex 1.

One supplementary question was asked and the response given recorded in the annex.

58/18 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 5a]

59/18 WRITTEN MEMBER QUESTIONS [Item 6]

There were no written member questions.

60/18 WOMENS SUPPORT CENTRE - A PRESENTATION [Item 7]

The Committee received a presentation from Kate Paradine, Chief Executive of Women in Prison and Carol Appleby, Manager of the Womens Support Centre.

The presentation reviewed the issues experienced by women in prison and highlighted the national good practice example of the Woking Womens Support Centre in the High Street. The centre provides help with tackling a range of issues, including counselling, anger management and parenting support. The following points were noted:

- A third of all women in prison have been in care
- Prison is an expensive way of making problems worse
- It costs approx. £40,000 p.a. for each woman in prison
- For every £1 spent, £4.68 is saved
- Women can be diverted to the Support Centre instead of custody for minor offences
- The introduction of the Support Centre has seen a 36% reduction of Women in prison locally, set against a national increase

- Referrals are via a variety of routes (Police, Childrens Services, Family support), including self referrals (Domestic Abuse can mean that women are forced to shoplift)

The Centre would like to see more facilities available Surrey wide and now are awareness raising to attract external funding and to encourage more Districts and Boroughs to fund and / or provide similar central and accessible services.

61/18 HIGHWAYS UPDATE (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION - FOR DECISION) [Item 8]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Andrew Milne, Area Highways Manager, SCC

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: None

The Area Highways Manger (AHM) presented a report which gave an updated position on current schemes and proposed a priority list of Capital Budget schemes for 2019/20. Members noted that there would be no revenue budget for the year and that the AHM encouraged them to use their allocations for this. The Committee also discussed the proposed traffic calming scheme at Westfield Road and noted that a good scheme should not increase pollution levels.

The Local Committee agreed to:

- Note the progress with the ITS highways and developer funded schemes, and revenue funded works for the 2018/19 financial year.
- Note the budgetary position.
- Agree the proposed capital works programme for 2019/20 shown in table 2 at section 2.3
- Note that a further Highways Update will be brought to the next meeting of this Committee.

Reasons for Decision:

The above recommendations are made to enable progression of all highway related schemes and works.

62/18 HIGHWAYS BRIEFING - CABINET MEMBER [Item 12]

The Committee welcomed County Councillor Matt Furniss, Cabinet member for Highways to the meeting. Cllr Furniss introduced himself and highlighted that the County Council were working on the future highways contract for 2021. He noted the budget constraints highlighted in the Highways Report

ITEM 4

and encouraged Members to use their allocations for revenue maintenance when possible.

63/18 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY - ARRANGEMENT ON MANAGING THE PROPORTION OF THE CIL INCOME EARMARKED FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION - FOR DECISION) [Item 9]

The Committee received a report on Community Infrastructure Levy community receipts. Members noted the comments made by the various Neighbourhood Forum representatives during the public forum, especially the concerns over the project management of agreed schemes. As a result, it was proposed and agreed that the process be implemented as recommended, and be carefully monitored and be reviewed in 12 months time. The recommendations of the report have been amended to include this agreement (proposed by Cllr Bittleston and seconded by Cllr Carasco).

Members also noted the following points:

- The consultation on the draft report could have been wider, to include all Members and the Forums – although it was noted that every Councillor would be included in the training.
- The Planning Policy Manager and his team had been working closely with the Neighbourhood Forums and had also studied how other local authority are managing the use of their CIL income. The report takes into account lessons learnt from these other authorities.
- Although Councillors are being asked to manage the delivery of the identified community projects, in practice, it is likely that there would be significant Officers input by way of providing advice and some help. The nature of the assistance can only be determined on a case by case basis depending on the nature, scale and type of community project. The Joint Committee will monitor the situation and make any changes to the process in due course if it is deemed necessary.,
- The process has been designed to be local, open and transparent. In this regard, Officers will provide monthly updates on money received and how much has been earmarked for each Ward/Neighbourhood Area. Each Councillor will receive the update from end of April and thereafter at the end of each month.
- It was clarified that the use of the 75%/85% that went to the Borough Council is the sole responsibility of the Council through the Joint Committee., The Council has published a Regulation 123 priority list (that was widely consulted on) of schemes that it wishes to the use CIL income on.

The Working Joint Committee agreed that :

- (i) The arrangement for managing the proportion of the CIL receipts earmarked for local community projects as set out in Section 2 of the report be noted and approved;
- (ii) Local Ward Borough Councillors in conjunction with County Divisional Councillors take the leading role in identifying local community infrastructure projects that CIL receipts could be used, and in doing so should work in partnership with designated Neighbourhood Forums

and other recognised stakeholders within the Ward or Neighbourhood Area.

(iii) That the process be subject to review in one years' time.

Reason for decision:

To enable the effective and efficient management of the proportion of the CIL receipts that is earmarked for local community projects.

64/18 DECISION TRACKER (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 10]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Nicola Thornton-Bryar, Partnership Committee Officer, SCC

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: None

The Woking Joint Committee noted the decision tracker.

65/18 FORWARD PLAN (FOR INFORMATION) [Item 11]

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Nicola Thornton-Bryar, Partnership Committee Officer, SCC

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: None

The Woking Joint Committee noted the forward plan of items expected to be received in 2019.

Meeting ended at: 8.05 pm

Chairman

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