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COUNCIL
15 NOVEMBER 2023

(7.16 pm - 9.07 pm)

PRESENT (in the Chair), Councillor Gill Manly,
Councillor Martin Whelton
Councillor Sally Kenny, Councillor Agatha Mary Akyigyina,
Councillor Stephen Alambritis, Councillor Laxmi Attawar,
Councillor Thomas Barlow, Councillor Hina Bokhari,
Councillor Michael Brunt, Councillor Billy Christie,
Councillor Caroline Cooper-Marbiah,
Councillor Anthony Fairclough, Councillor Edward Foley,
Councillor Brenda Fraser, Councillor Jenifer Gould,
Councillor Joan Henry, Councillor Daniel Holden,
Councillor Andrew Howard, Councillor Natasha Irons,
Councillor Linda Kirby, Councillor Paul Kohler,
Councillor Edith Macauley, Councillor Peter McCabe,
Councillor Simon McGrath, Councillor Nick McLean,
Councillor Aidan Mundy, Councillor Dennis Pearce,
Councillor Marsie Skeete, Councillor Eleanor Stringer,
Councillor Martin Whelton, Councillor Helena Dollimore,
Councillor James Williscroft, Councillor Sheri-Ann Bhim,
Councillor John Braithwaite, Councillor Michael Butcher,
Councillor Caroline Charles, Councillor Eleanor Cox,
Councillor Klaar Dresselaers, Councillor Chessie Flack,
Councillor Kirsten Galea, Councillor Ross Garrod,
Councillor Jil Hall, Councillor Billy Hayes, Councillor Susie Hicks,
Councillor Andrew Judge, Councillor Usaama Kaweesa,
Councillor Samantha MacArthur, Councillor Gill Manly,
Councillor Stephen Mercer, Councillor Stuart Neaverson,
Councillor John Oliver, Councillor Robert Page,
Councillor Michael Paterson, Councillor Tony Reiss,
Councillor Slawek Szczepanski, Councillor Matthew Willis,
Councillor Max Austin and Councillor Victoria Wilson

ATTENDING Councillor Dan Johnston
REMOTELY

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

There were no apologies for absence.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Skeete.

Councillor Johnston attended the meeting remotely.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the ordinary and the special meeting held on 13 September 2023 are agreed as an accurate record.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Agenda Item 4)

The Leader spoke to welcome the Merton Youth Parliament who were observing the meeting and then provided updates on His Royal Highness King Charles III 75th Birthday, Remembrance weekend, Galpins Road, the Study Prep School and the Borough of Sport.

There were no announcements from the Chief Executive.

The Mayor provided an update on their recent and upcoming events and activities.

5 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS (Agenda Item 5)

The responses to the written public questions were circulated prior to the meeting. The Mayor then invited each of the questioners in turn to ask (if they wished) a further question to the Cabinet Member. A copy of the supplementary questions and responses will be included in the 'public questions to Cabinet Members' published document.

6 COUNCILLORS' ORDINARY PRIORITY QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS (Agenda Item 6)

The responses to the written member ordinary priority questions were circulated prior to the meeting. The Mayor then invited each of the members in turn to ask (if they wished) a further question to the Cabinet Member. A copy of the supplementary questions and responses will be included in the 'member ordinary priority questions to Cabinet Members' published document.

7a STRATEGIC THEME: MAIN REPORT (Agenda Item 7a)

The Strategic Theme report on Borough of Sport was moved by Councillor Cooper-Marbiah and seconded by Councillor McCabe.

The Liberal Democrat amendment as set out in agenda item 17 was moved by Councillor Wilson and seconded by Councillor Willis.

The two Conservative amendments as set out in agenda item 17 were moved by Councillor Paterson and seconded by Councillor Cox.

Councillor Kohler also spoke on the item.

The Liberal Democrat amendment was put to the vote and fell: Votes For – 26, Against – 29, Abstentions – 1.

The Conservative amendment 1 was put to the vote and fell: Votes For – 26, Against – 29, Abstentions – 1.

The Conservative amendment 2 was put to the vote and fell: Votes For – 26, Against – 29, Abstentions – 1.

RESOLVED: That the Strategic Theme report is agreed.

7b STRATEGIC THEME: COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS (Agenda Item 7b)

The responses to the written member strategic theme priority questions were circulated prior to the meeting. The Mayor then invited each of the members in turn to ask (if they wished) a further question to the Cabinet Member. A copy of the supplementary questions and responses will be included in the 'member strategic theme priority questions to Cabinet Members' published document.

It was also noted that a copy of the remaining Member questions and responses will be published after the meeting, in line with Constitutional requirements.

7c STRATEGIC THEME: MOTIONS (Agenda Item 7c)

The motion was moved by Councillor Gould and seconded by Councillor Galea.

Councillor McCabe also spoke on the item.

The motion was then put to a vote and fell – votes in favour: 24, votes against: 31, abstentions: 1.

8 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY FORUM: RAYNES PARK 19 SEPTEMBER 2023 (Agenda Item 8)

Councillor Willis presented an update which was received by the Council.

9 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY FORUM: WIMBLEDON 20 SEPTEMBER 2023 (Agenda Item 9)

Councillor Kohler presented an update which was received by the Council.

10 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY FORUM: MITCHAM 5 OCTOBER 2023 (Agenda Item 10)

Councillor Mundy presented an update which was received by the Council.

11 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY FORUM: MORDEN 18 OCTOBER 2023
(Agenda Item 11)

Councillor Charles presented an update which was received by the Council.

12 NOTICES OF MOTION (Agenda Item 12)

No motions were submitted to this meeting.

13 REVISION OF SENIOR PAY STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATIONAL PAY
AND GRADING STRUCTURE REVIEW (Agenda Item 13)

The report was moved by Councillor Christie and formally seconded by Councillor Garrod.

Councillor Fairclough also spoke on the item.

RESOLVED:

(A) That Full Council approved the following recommendations from the Appointments Committee:

- (I) The first tranche of the wider organisational pay and grading review, namely proposed revisions to the senior pay structure and salary levels for Tier 1 (Executive Director), Tier 2 (present Assistant Director) and Tier 3 (Head of Service) posts, to take effect from 1 April 2024, in so far as it relates to those roles where the revised salary range exceeds £100k per annum.
- (II) To delegate authority to the relevant Executive Directors to recruit to vacant senior roles given that at least some element of the salary range for each of these roles is expected to exceed £100k per annum.

14 CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND RELATED
MATTERS (Agenda Item 14)

The report was formally moved by Councillor Bhim and formally seconded by Councillor Stringer.

RESOLVED:

That the Council:

1. Noted the changes to the membership of Committees that were approved under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Council.

2. That Council approved the changes requested by the Conservative group as detailed at 2.2 of the report.

15 PETITIONS (Agenda Item 15)

The report was moved by Councillor Garrod and seconded by Councillor Stringer.

RESOLVED

That Council

1. Noted the update on the petition received at the last meeting,
2. Accepts receipt of a petition presented by Councillors Hall, Reiss and MacArthur stating “We the undersigned demand that Merton Council enforce the legal covenants agreed to by AELTC and Merton Council to keep their promises to the people of Wimbledon”.

16 BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL (Agenda Item 16)

That the Strategic Theme for the next ordinary meeting of the Council, being held on 7 February 2024, shall be Building a Sustainable Future.