

To all Members of the Council

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Your attendance is requested at the meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Pippbrook, Dorking on **TUESDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2014 at 7.00pm** for the transaction of the business set out in the following Agenda.

AME Griffiths

Corporate Head
Monday 6th October 2014

The Chairman would like to remind Members that they have the opportunity to ask Officers questions, in respect of issues concerning matters of detail or for further clarification, prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22nd July 2014.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

To receive any disclosures of interests from Members (either disclosable pecuniary interests or non-pecuniary interests) in relation to any items included on the agenda for this meeting in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES

(i) Audit Committee – 25th September 2014 – Treasury Management – Annual Report and Prudential Indicators 2013/2014

The Committee received a report that asked it to note the Treasury Management Annual Outturn for 2013/14, and approve the actual Prudential Indicators reported for 2013/14.

The Committee noted that the Council's in-house team together with some externally managed funds achieved a rate of return on investments of 1.22%. The Council achieved an overall return of £425,844 in 2013/14, approximately £106,000 above budget.

Members asked questions on various matters such counter party risk implications, capital receipts, cap and collar investments and the Churches, Charities and Local Authorities (CCLA) Fund. Officers agreed to report back to Members at a later date with further information relating to these matters.

Additional details would be available in the monitoring report to be considered by the Executive on 7th October 2014, in particular in relation to disability adaptation under spends. Officers would also provide further information to Members regarding historic levels of borrowing up to 1997.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- (1) That the Treasury Management Annual Outturn report for 2013/2014 be noted.
- (2) That the actual Prudential Indicators reported for 2013/2014, be approved.'

The report considered by the Audit Committee is set out at pages 7 to 20 of the agenda.

The Council is asked to accept the recommendations of the Audit Committee.

6. LEATHERHEAD TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN

To receive the report of the Strategic Director as set out at pages 21 to 28 of the agenda.

The Council is asked to approve the expenditure of up to £511,000 over the financial years 2014/15 to 2016/17, in order to develop a Master Plan for Leatherhead Town Centre.

7. MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS

To receive the report of the Returning Officer as set out at pages 29 to 51 of the agenda.

The Council is asked to agree the Returning Officer's proposals for polling districts and places as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, and that authority be delegated to the Returning Officer, following consultation with Group Leaders and respective ward members, to designate alternative polling places in the event of any polling place not being available/suitable for any particular election.

8. LEADER'S STATEMENT

The Leader will speak to the Council for up to 5 minutes.

9. REPORTS OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

To receive reports from Executive Members.

10. QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

A total of up to two questions can be put to each Executive Member (for a period of up to 15 minutes whichever is the shorter). Questions are to be received by the Corporate Head with responsibility for Democratic Services by no later than 10am on the working day immediately prior to the meeting.

11. MOTIONS

(1)(a) Motions 2 and 3/2014

Motions 2 and 3/2014 as set out below were submitted by Councillors Chris Hunt and Stephen Cooksey respectively to the meeting of the Council held on 22nd July 2014. The Council did not agree to consider them on the 22nd so they were referred to the Planning Policy Working Group for consideration.

2/2014

"This Council fully accepts the guidance included in the Ministerial statement from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Planning), Nick Boles MP of 6 March 2014 namely that Local Plans:

- Can include windfalls for each year of the plan
- Do not need to identify land to meet housing targets for years 11 to 15 of the Plan
- Should not seek to release Greenbelt Land solely to meet Housing Target numbers

This Council resolves:

- to publish an updated position of new dwellings created and permitted since 2006 as at 30 June 2014
- to publish an updated assessment of the recent average annual rate of Windfall dwellings
- to publish the implications, for the level of new dwelling land required to be identified in the Local Plan, of the above updates when applied alongside the above accepted guidance from the Minister's written statement that if the level of new dwelling land calculated as now required to be identified is below 100, not to propose to make any changes to the Greenbelt boundary through the Local Plan except where local communities have demonstrated Very Special Circumstances apply and that where there is a majority of local ward residents in favour of such a change (including, where applicable, demonstration through the approval of a Neighbourhood Development Plan)."

3/2014

"This Council:

Notes

1. that the Liberal Democrat Manifesto for the 2014 Local Elections in Mole Valley stated that 'no site should be released from the Green Belt unless it no longer contributes to Green Belt aims and has the consent of the community'
2. that in a press release dated 18th March 2014 the Leader of the Conservative Group stated 'that there will be no changes to the Green belt boundary without support of

the local community' and 'that Conservative Councillors will remain resolute in listening to our residents and communities and rejecting greenbelt boundary changes unless local communities can demonstrate very special circumstances and full local support for any minor change'

3. that both Liberal Democrats and Conservatives have therefore committed publically to policies to oppose development on Green Belt sites which do not have the consent of the local community;
4. that policies and statements from Government Ministers with regard to Green Belt development lack clarity and that there is considerable uncertainty about the Government's position on whether the Green Belt or housing development have priority in local planning processes.

Resolves

1. to inform the Planning Policy Working Group that any proposals for development on Green Belt sites which do not have the support and consent of the local community following the recent and continuing public consultation exercise and which continue to contribute to Green Belt aims will not have the support of the majority of Councillors;
2. that if, as a consequence, Mole Valley is unable to meet the housing requirement agreed in the Core Strategy, a special case should be made to Government arguing that having conducted the review and taken account of the wishes of local residents, the target is no longer realistic given the desire of the Council to respond positively to the views expressed by local residents and its own determination to protect the Green Belt;
3. that the search for appropriate brownfield sites be intensified but full regard must be given to the importance of reserving and retaining land for industrial, employment, cultural, retail and recreational purposes within our urban communities."

The motions were considered at the meeting of the Planning Policy Working Group held on 10th September 2014 and a revised motion combining the key parts of Motions 2/2014 and 3/2014 was agreed for recommendation to the Council as set out below. The Working Group also recommended that Motions 2/2014 and 3/2014 be withdrawn.

"This Council:

- (1) Recognises the strength of the opposition to development of land in the Green Belt within Mole Valley. In the first instance the Council will continue to support appropriate development of new homes within the built-up areas. In order to deliver the remaining requirement for new homes, it will allocate sites taking into account the views of the local community alongside technical site assessments and relevant planning policies
- (2) Welcomes the guidance included in the Ministerial statement from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Planning), Nick Boles MP of 6 March 2014 namely that Local Plans can include windfalls for each year of the plan and it is not necessary to identify land to meet housing targets for years 11 to 15 of the Plan; and
- (3) Resolves:
 - to publish on the Council website monthly figures on housing permissions and completions. It will also continue to publish an annual statement of housing land

supply the base date of which is the 31st of March each year. This statement will contain information on past rates of new homes completed on windfall sites;.

- to publish as part of the Housing and Traveller Sites Plan or any future relevant Local Plan the implications of the most up to date housing land supply position for the level of new land required for development;
- to explain the decision making process in relation to the allocation of land for development in a Local Plan in a clear and transparent way to ensure that residents understand the process.”

Councillors Cooksey and Hunt have now withdrawn Motions 2/2014 and 3/2014 and the following new motion, 6/2014, has been submitted jointly by Councillor Stephen Cooksey and Councillor James Friend:

(1)(b) Motion 6/2014

“This Council:

Notes:

1. that in the elections held in May 2014 many members of the Council committed publically to policies to oppose development on Green Belt sites which do not have the consent of the local community;
2. the guidance in the 6th March 2014 Ministerial Statement from the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Planning) that Local Plans can include windfalls for each year of the plan; that Local Plans do not need to identify land to meet housing targets for years 11 – 15 of the plan; and that unmet housing need is unlikely to outweigh the harm to the Green Belt such as to justify inappropriate development on a site within the Green Belt;
3. that Government guidance continues to evolve stressing the need for the demonstration of special circumstances before any development in the Green Belt can appropriately outweigh the harm caused;
4. with concern, that Planning Inspectors have elsewhere in the country sought to overturn democratic decisions to prevent development on Green Belt sites which indicates some confusion in the application of Government planning policies.

Resolves:

1. to inform the Planning Policy Working Group of its view that it will not support proposals for the exclusion of land from the Green Belt and its allocation for development in the Housing & Traveller Sites Plan which do not have the support and consent of the local community and which continue to contribute to Green Belt aims;
2. that the search for appropriate brownfield sites be intensified but giving full regard to the importance of reserving and retaining land for industrial, employment, cultural and recreational purposes within our urban communities;
3. to publish on the Council website monthly statistics on housing permissions and completions and to continue to publish an annual statement of housing land supply with a base date of 31st March each year containing information on past rates of new homes completed on windfall sites;

4. to publish as part of the Housing and Traveller Sites Plan and any future relevant Local Plan the implications of the most up-to-date housing land supply position for the level of new land required for development.”

(2) Motion 5/2014

The following motion has been submitted by Councillor Stephen Cooksey:

“Council notes:

- a) the strong and enthusiastic participation shown by the people of Scotland in a remarkable democratic process leading to the Referendum on 18 September;
- b) the resulting increased discussion on the devolution of powers from central government in Westminster and Whitehall.

Council believes:

- I. That power should be devolved to the people in all parts of the United Kingdom;
- II. That England is currently ruled over by an over-centralised state that fails to reflect localities and regions;
- III. That concentrating more power to English MPs in Westminster is not the only answer for English devolution and that passing power down to the local areas of England is essential.

Council therefore calls for:

Mole Valley’s MPs, the Leader of the Council and the Executive to lobby for urgent major devolution of power, including tax raising and spending, from central government to the regions, counties, boroughs and districts and cities of England.

And that such lobbying should emphasise:

that the devolution of powers and finance to English councils be carried out in ways that enhance and strengthen local democratic bodies. This must include agreement that it shall be for local people and communities to decide their form of democratic leadership without having a specific model imposed (for example directly elected Mayors) in return for more powers;

a recognition that English devolution must include both large cities and county areas, as the many councils not within city regions must also gain greater powers and finance in order to build successful and prosperous futures.”

12. URGENT ITEMS

To consider any items which the Chairman considers to be urgent.

If you require a copy of this agenda, any of the reports within it or a large print version of the agenda, please telephone Joanne Hargreaves on 01306 879331 or e-mail: joanne.hargreaves@molevalley.gov.uk