

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10th March 2015 at Pippbrook, Dorking from 8.05pm to 9.35pm

Present: Councillors Emile About (Chairman), Margaret Cooksey (Vice Chairman), Tim Ashton, Lucy Botting, Stella Brooks, John Chandler, Stephen Cooksey, Mary Cooper, Clare Curran, Rosemary Dickson, David Draper, Paul Elderton, James Friend, Paula Hancock, Raj Haque, Valerie Homewood, Mary Huggins, Chris Hunt, Roger Hurst, Howard Jones, Bridget Lewis-Carr, Simon Ling, Mick Longhurst, Tim Loretto, Vivienne Michael, Wayne Monkman, John Muggeridge, Stephen Musgrove, Paul Newman, John Northcott, Corinna Osborne-Patterson, Paul Potter, David Preedy, Sarah Seed, Philippa Shimmin, Peter Stanyard and Charles Yarwood.

54. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th February be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

55. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lynne Brooks, David Mir, Jatin Patel and Chris Townsend.

56. Disclosure of Interests

Councillor Charles Yarwood declared a non pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 11 – Motion to Council as his company worked within the field of property development, but not within the area of Mole Valley.

57. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman informed Members that he had attended the Youth Showcase Awards at Dorking Halls on 6th March and a Rotary meeting on 10th March at which he spoke about his role as the Chairman of Mole Valley District Council.

He thanked Members for attending his cheese and wine tasting evening held at Leatherhead Tennis Club on 28th February. Forty two people had attended and the event had raised £350 towards the Chairman's Charity.

The Chairman hoped to hold another Charity Event in the form of a Curry Night before the end of his term of office.

58. Treasury Management Strategy Report 2015/16 to 2017/18

The Council considered the report set out at pages 5 to 40 of the agenda in respect of the Council's prudential indicators for 2015/16 to 2017/18 and the expected treasury operations for that period. It was noted that Council approval of the recommendations in the report was required before the end of the 2014/15 financial year and, as such the Council was being asked to consider the report and approve the recommendations prior to consideration of the report by the Audit Committee. The Chairman of the Audit Committee introduced the report and proposed the recommendations.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Simon Ling.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the S151 Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Audit Committee, being authorised to make any final amendments following consideration of the recommendations by the Audit Committee:

- (1) The capital expenditure Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2015/16 to 2017/18 contained within Appendix A of the report be agreed;
- (2) The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement contained within Appendix A that sets out the Council's policy on MRP be agreed;
- (3) The Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16 to 2017/18 and the Treasury Prudential Indicators contained within Appendix B be agreed; and
- (4) The Investment Strategy 2015/16 contained in the Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix B) and the detailed criteria included in Annex B1 be agreed.

59. Corporate Strategy 2015-19

The Council considered the report set out at pages 41 to 58 of the agenda. A revised Appendix 1 which had been recommended to the Council by the Executive at its meeting on 3rd March 2015 and previously circulated to Members was tabled at the meeting. The Executive Member for Finance and Corporate Services introduced the report and proposed the recommendation.

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Strategy 2015-19, attached at Appendix 1 to these minutes be approved.

60. Mole Valley District Council Annual Pay Policy Statement for 2015

The Council considered the report set out at pages 59 to 66 of the agenda in respect of the Pay Policy Statement for 2015. The Executive Member for Finance and Corporate Services introduced the report and proposed the recommendation.

During the discussion of this item, Members requested that the dates for the appointment of the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive be included in the Pay Policy Statement before it was published on Mole Valley's website.

RESOLVED: That the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2015/16 be approved.

61. Leader's Statement

In the absence of the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader, Councillor James Friend, gave the Leader's statement:

"As this is the last Council meeting before the May elections, I know the Leader would like me to thank you all for your commitment and support this year.

"We continue to deliver a wide programme of work to support our local communities and this could not be achieved without the hard work and dedication of our Members and Officers.

"We look forward to seeing those Members who are not up for election, together with those who are returned by the electorate, at our annual Meeting on 19th May."

62. Reports of Executive Members

Councillor James Friend - Executive Member for Wellbeing

The Executive Member informed Councillors that the Partnerships and Parks teams continued to deliver a range of projects aimed at increasing the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Since the launch of the new Exercise on Referral scheme in partnership with all GPs across Mole Valley and our leisure providers, there had been 15 referrals of patients to use our leisure centres as part of their treatment. The referrals had been for a range of conditions both physical and mental health related.

On 3rd March, Mole Valley hosted, and Councillor James Friend chaired, a Childhood Obesity Event for the Health and Wellbeing Board. Over 160 practitioners from a wide cross section of public services, including health and social care, education and local authorities as well as the private and voluntary sectors were represented to discuss action to address the issue. Speakers from Public Health England gave delegates the latest research updates and Surrey's Director of Public Health gave a County perspective on the issue. A talk from Mole Valley District Council and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council gave an insight into the wide range of activity and influence that local authorities can contribute. Throughout the energetic day, delegates were afforded the rare opportunity to plan together and make pledges to take action in 2015 and beyond.

Members were informed that Mole Valley's Wellbeing Strategy was being developed, to include proposed priorities including dementia and emotional and mental health in children and adults, a focus on at-risk alcohol use, skin cancer and life expectancy differentials in some of our communities.

The Executive Member reported that on 5th and 6th March, 86 of the Council's frontline staff received Mental Health Awareness Training to improve their ability to recognise and relate sensitively to customers who may be suffering with such issues. This training would continue to be rolled out across all our frontline staff and to those of our contracted services.

The Children's Safeguarding Training that had been provided to Members before the Council meeting that night formed part of our commitment to safeguarding across all areas of the Council's elected members, staff and activities following the adoption of our new policy and procedure.

The Executive Member reported that the new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at KGV Playing Fields was now open and being used by members of the public. The court was suitable for a number of different sports with football goals and basketball hoops already in place. Later this spring the Parks Team would be marking lines for a full size netball court along with football and basketball courts. The intention was that the MUGA would be free to use by members of the public but with the option of becoming a home ground for a netball team. This would extend the use of the excellent facilities available in the pavilion. Once the ground had dried out, newly levelled soil would be laid and a wildflower meadow would be sown to complete the project.

Later in March, MVDC in partnership with Eibe Play would be installing new playground equipment in Kingston Road Recreation Ground in Leatherhead. The equipment had been chosen in consultation with the local charity B@titude and was aimed at adding play provision for older children, teenagers and adults to enable the whole family to enjoy spending time together in this recreation ground. The equipment would consist of flat swings, a basket swing, a pendulum swing, and a surfing style swing. There would also be an outdoor table tennis table which would go near the skate park and people could borrow bats and balls from B@titude. This project was delivered following discussions with B@titude and complemented the junior playground and the newly installed outdoor gym equipment making it an excellent facility for all ages to relax and exercise.

The Executive Member provided the following update:

Communications

Mole Valley District Council's website had achieved a high three stars in the Society of Information Technology Management (SOCITIM) insight – 'Better Connected 2015' scores released on Monday 2nd March. This improved upon the two star rating awarded in 2014. This very welcome and pleasing result was a true reflection of the time and effort put in by the joint Communications and ICT project team and web champions across the organisation to meet website standards set and tested by SOCITIM. The standards themselves were based on the user experience and therefore in the interests of our residents and customers. Our website was commended for being 'responsive, easy to use on a mobile and that the tasks reviewed performed consistently well'. This helped the majority of our customers who prefer to access our services on-line and increasingly by mobile device.

The high three stars rating matched that achieved by four Surrey authorities, including the County Council. Three authorities received a two star rating and four were given one star. No Surrey authority achieved four stars. Of the 439 local authority websites reviewed, 36% scored three stars, with only 8% awarded the highest four star rating.

The Executive Member reported that in early March the revised *Mole Valley and Me* feature on the website was successfully launched. This feature enabled residents to search for local information such as contact details for their local Councillors, waste/recycling collection days and planning applications in their area. The Executive Member explained that like our new-look website, the new *Mole Valley and Me* was responsive, meaning that the growing number of residents using our site on a mobile or tablet would be able to make best use of this service using such devices. The new site was approved by the World Wide Web Consortium, the organisation that sets website standards and tests have shown that it is, on average, 24% faster to load than both the old site and similar sites owned by other Surrey Councils.

Community Engagement

On March 18th and 19th, Mole Valley District Council would be hosting one of five challenges as part of the national LG Challenge competition run by the Local Government Association every year. Ten contestants would be set a challenge to investigate and identify innovative solutions for improving an important service for residents. The details of the challenge were currently a secret so as not to give any contestants an unfair advantage. This was an innovative way to engage with our residents and improve the services we offer. Mole Valley was particularly proud to be hosting a challenge this year given one of our officers, Mr Graeme Kane won the competition last year.

Benefits

The Council continued to work in partnership with HMRC on tackling benefit fraud and the current programme of Real Time Information data checking across departments looking at up to date earnings and pensions information had identified £80,000 of overpayments since October which the Council was taking recovery action on in order to bring the money back into the public purse.

The Benefits Service had just completed its annual exercise of recalculating all customers' awards for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support for the new financial year. This included updating all the new pensions and other welfare benefits together with rent increases and new council tax liabilities. This meant that when customers received their new council tax bill, they would also get the correct benefit on it from day one.

Housing

On 3rd February the Executive agreed the Homelessness Review and Strategy for the next 5 years and committed to achieving the National Practitioner Standard for Homelessness Services. The Council would invest in achieving this national best practice to improve our services for those facing homelessness. This investment, along with the £1.4m of capital funding to increase the Council's stock of emergency accommodation indicated the commitment Mole Valley was making to improve outcomes for homeless households.

At the end of February, 57 new affordable homes had been completed in this financial year and the target of 101 was on track to be achieved by the end of March.

Hosted by Help to Buy East and South East, a Homebuy show would be held on 18 April at the Harlequin Theatre, Redhill. Anyone was welcome to attend, though the event would be of most interest to first time buyers who were not able to afford to buy a property out-right but would qualify for shared ownership and other Government Help to Buy initiatives.

In February, the housing and employment project, Ethos, jointly funded through Mole Valley and neighbouring District and Borough Councils secured European Social Fund funding to run numeracy, literacy and computer skills courses in Dorking and Leatherhead. The funding opportunity was pursued in partnership with Leatherhead Start and the Harvest Church/Links Project Dorking. Other opportunities for European funding are being investigated through the Local Enterprise Partnership to help people prepare to enter or return to work.

At the end of February 11 households were temporarily staying in bed and breakfast. One family had been in this accommodation for more than 6 weeks, although they were found alternative accommodation on 9th March.

Youth Voice/Junior Youth Voice

The Youth Showcase Awards were held on Friday 6th March at Dorking Halls. The Partnerships and Communities team supported the Youth Council in organising the 11th annual Awards ceremony to an audience of over six hundred people. There was a fantastic display of young talent from across the District and a popular performance from professional soprano, Natalie Coyle, who originally made her stage debut at Dorking Halls as a child.

Seven awards were presented to the very deserving winners of each category including an award to Brockham Emergency Response Team who won the teamwork award for the support that they gave to the Brockham community during the flooding.

Grants

Following agreement at Executive on 3rd February, grant awards of more than £250,000 were given to local organisations and projects through the annual Community Grants process.

Councillor Paul Newman - Executive Member for Environment

The Executive Member informed Councillors that this month would see the launch of a new pest control service that would be delivered at no cost to the Council and would provide a competitively priced service to the community. The service would be delivered by 'Dial a Pest', who were a private company providing pest control services to 47 other Local Authorities across the south east of England and residents would be able to book either online or by using a designated Mole Valley telephone number.

The Executive Member went on to state that the service had made considerable efforts over the months to rehome the increasing number of stray dogs. This was a real success story as these dogs would most definitely have been sent to kennels and in extreme cases destroyed. In April 2016 there would be a mandatory requirement for all owners of dogs to ensure their pets were micro-chipped; this would provide better traceability between dog and owner and hopefully reduce the number of stray dogs the Council had to deal with. A campaign will be run later on in the year to encourage and provide 'free' micro chipping to residents.

The Executive Member reported that Mole Valley District Council continued to be an active participant in the Surrey Waste Partnership to secure benefits for our residents by working in partnership. This month the Executive approved the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. The Strategy sought to ensure Mole Valley continued to promote recycling across the district and provide high quality, cost effective waste and recycling services.

The Executive Member concluded by informing Members that Mole Valley's involvement with the Joint Waste Collection Contract was also progressing well. The draft specification to be used during the competitive dialogue sessions with bidders was approved by Executive this month. The specification was designed to deliver the waste, recycling and street cleaning services residents expect to receive in line with our commitment to protect the environment and spend tax-payers' money wisely.

The Executive Member concluded that the recent press coverage in relation to the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme had raised awareness for both businesses and customers about the "scores on the doors" and the all the information on the Food Standards Agency website had been updated to reflect current ratings.

Councillor John Northcott - Executive Member for Planning

The Executive Member provided Members with the following update:

Planning Policy

Responses were recently prepared to the consultation by the Airports Commission on the addition of runway capacity at Heathrow and Gatwick Airports. Following consideration of the matter by Council and the Executive, a formal response setting out the Council's objection to an additional runway at Gatwick Airport was submitted to the Airports Commission. The response also indicated that the Council raised no objection to either of the two Heathrow options. It was also made clear that in the Council's view whichever airport was chosen for a new runway, main rail lines and motorways must be significantly improved to overcome current congestion and accommodate future growth and in the case of Gatwick a wide range of mitigation measures should be sought to reduce the impact on local residents and businesses and adequately compensate those who would suffer increased noise and disturbance.

Work on preparing the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was underway again and the Executive would be invited to consider a revised Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule in June. This represented the first stage in the process of getting the CIL in place by next March.

The Planning Policy Team had been briefing the Planning Policy Working Group on the background work that was necessary to underpin the new Local Plan and had been continuing to support the groups in Ashted, Bookham, Ockley and Westcott who were preparing Neighbourhood Development Plans. It has also been heavily involved in the development of the Transform Leatherhead project and was working closely with the consultants Broadway Malyan.

Economic Development

The Economic Development Unit had also been supporting the Transform Leatherhead project, preparing a Communication & Engagement Strategy, engaging with the Members and Community Reference Group and working with the appointed consultants.

The first of a series of three free High Street Digital Skills Workshops, offered by Coast to Capital and the Association of Town Centre Management, had been held with businesses across the district attending.

Conservation

The Heritage Lottery application for the Deepdene was submitted in November and the Heritage Lottery Fund team were due to visit on 17 March with a decision to be made shortly thereafter.

A consultation on the enhancement of Church Street, Leatherhead was undertaken in November with some further soundings taken in January. A report was considered by the Local Committee earlier this month and the approach to short term improvements focussing on Church Street was agreed as well as undertaking some wider enhancements in the Town Centre. A formal planning application had been received for a retail development in Church Street and was currently undergoing consultation.

Work on West Street, Dorking to resurface the footways and adjust the kerbing was almost complete. The Executive Member added that Surrey County Council had sought to do all it could in terms of traffic management but inevitably the works had resulted in disruption. He thanked everyone for their forbearance.

Development Control and Planning Support

The Infrastructure Act became law on 12 February 2015 and was now in force. This would allow the Land Registry to move forward with its plans to create a single digitised local land charges register, whilst leaving responsibility for updating it with the Local Authority. It was expected that fees would be standardised across the country and, as such, a severe loss of income was anticipated. The process of data migration was set to commence in 2017, starting with London Boroughs. It was not known how soon after this date Mole Valley will be affected.

The Act also concerned the 'deemed' discharge of planning conditions. This in effect meant that decisions now needed to be made within a prescribed period of receiving such an application, failing which the application would be 'deemed' to be granted.

Following a period of staff recruitment and change, planning application performance statistics were 'back on track' with the cumulative figures for major, minor and other applications now meeting statutory targets for the period April 2014 – February 2015.

Recent legislative changes to allow the permitted change of use of certain types of office development to residential development were becoming evident. Whilst this would encourage the development of smaller scale residential units, the wider economic impact due to loss of commercial space was still to be determined.

Councillor Charles Yarwood - Executive Member for Assets

The Executive Member provided the following update:

Lower Shott / Grove Corner

The property team had over the past year been engaging with local members and representatives of Bookham Vanguard over the possible redevelopment of Lower Shott/ Grove Corner. Further viability studies were being undertaken with the expectation that a mixed use scheme could be consulted on later in the year.

Pippbrook House

The repair works on Pippbrook House would be completed this week and the scaffolding had now been removed. One of the last tasks was the removal of asbestos, with making good and tidying up to be completed this week.

The Foundry site in Dorking

Contractors had provided the necessary surveys to establish a draft brochure which was currently being reviewed by the legal team. The brochure would be sent to the housing associations approved by Housing. In the meantime, a draft advert had been prepared and quotes had been requested from specialist press to attract a wider spectrum of housing providers

The aim was to start advertising and contacting housing associations within the next couple of weeks with a closing date for receiving offers in April. A procurement process had been agreed and once proposals from the Housing Providers were received, they would be evaluated.

Work continued on developing the plans for the exiting new facilities at Meadowbank Football Ground. Last month we were delighted to learn that the new football facilities including an artificial grass pitch had been awarded a £500,000 grant from Sport England. The Council was thankful to Sport England in supporting the new facilities.

Dorking Halls

Work had commenced on a new business plan for the Dorking Halls which would be brought to the Executive in the summer.

52. Questions to Members of the Executive

(1) The following question was submitted by Councillor Stephen Cooksey:-

“In April 2015 the ability of the Council to require developers to make contributions from their profits to help cover infrastructure costs through the S106 process will be removed except in very special circumstances. It was expected that this would be replaced by the Community Infrastructure Levy which would be used for broadly the same purpose.

‘However Mole Valley has not undertaken the necessary procedures that will allow for the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy.

‘Would the Executive Member for Planning please explain why Mole Valley is not in a position to charge the new Community Infrastructure Levy, and based on income figures from S106 contributions in previous years, what the loss to the Council is likely to be in financial year 2015-2016?’”

Councillor John Northcott replied as follows:-

“Initial work to introduce the Community Infrastructure Levy was carried out in 2012/13, including consultation on a preliminary draft charging schedule. Due to changes in staff and with resources concentrated on progressing the Housing and Traveller Sites Plan, further work on progressing CIL was delayed. Following recruitment of an additional staff member in 2014, work to advance the CIL is back under way.

In order to get a CIL in place it has been necessary to update previous evidence and take account of revisions to the CIL regulations. We also have to follow the statutory procedures which include consultation and examination

Estimating lost S106 income as a result of the delay is more difficult as CIL is calculated on an entirely different basis and the rate at which CIL will be charged has yet to be agreed.

Nevertheless, in 2013/14 MVDC collected approximately £400,000 towards infrastructure from development through Section 106 Planning Infrastructure Contributions (also known as PIC).

Although it will not be possible to collect PIC after April, it will still be possible for MVDC to use S106 Agreements to ensure the delivery of site specific infrastructure as a requirement of granting planning permission for development.

However, due to changes in Government guidance in late 2014 that precludes seeking Section 106 contributions from schemes of ten or less dwellings (or five or less in rural areas), the majority of this sum would no longer be collected in any case, irrespective of the tightening of S106 regulations in April.”

Councillor Stephen Cooksey asked the following supplementary question:

“I am grateful for the indication of the £400,000, but it would be helpful for the public to be aware how much the Council is likely to lose as a consequence of not pursuing CIL . Could the Executive Member arrange for details of S106 monies raised in the last three years to be published?”

Councillor John Northcott replied that he was not sure how practical this would be; the key point was that the Council could no longer collect from small schemes; this formed the great majority of the source of the planning infrastructure levies. However, he added that he would see what could be done.

(2) The following question was submitted by Councillor Stephen Cooksey:-

“At the County Council meeting held on 9th December the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning in a written statement said:

‘In order to make further savings, more changes need to be considered, including charging for certain materials and rationalising opening times.’

Would the Executive Member for Environment inform Council whether this proposal has been discussed at any meeting of the Surrey Waste Partnership and if so what view was expressed on behalf of Mole Valley Council?”

Councillor Paul Newman replied as follows:

“Members will be aware that the Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) are owned and managed by Surrey County Council. SCC continually look to implement improvements in the way that the CRCs operate based on changes in the recycling industry, waste legislation and customer needs. The Leatherhead CRC in particular was entirely redeveloped in 2012 for the benefit of customers.

At a meeting of the Surrey County Council Cabinet on 24th February 2015, the Cabinet approved a consultation process for a range of potential cost-saving initiatives relating to the CRCs. These include: targeted reductions of opening hours; charging residents for materials such as tyres, gas bottles and asbestos; accepting and charging for commercial waste; generating income from selling materials on and off site; and, closing particular sites that are inefficient to operate.

SCC is currently developing the consultation process and will be discussing the initiatives with the Surrey Waste Partnership as key stakeholders. The Partnership is already aware of the County’s intention to consult and is putting the item on a future agenda. The Mole Valley District Council representative on the Partnership will of course present the interests of Mole Valley communities when these discussions occur.”

Councillor Stephen Cooksey asked the following supplementary question:

“Could the Executive Member indicate to Council as to whether he has a view about how charging and reducing hours of operation would help to improve recycling rates and how the resultant fly tipping problems might be tackled because that is a District responsibility.”

Councillor Paul Newman replied that all of the items mentioned, e.g. tyres, gas bottles and asbestos, wherever they were taken for disposal would incur a charge. He added that ways of improving enforcement in relation to fly tipping were being looked into. Councillor Newman concluded that the reduction in hours would be most cost efficient.

(3) The following question was submitted by Councillor Stephen Cooksey:

“The Dorking Advertiser on 5th March contained a story regarding residents’ concern about the concentration of litter in the vicinity of Moores Road and the High Street mainly caused by users of the KFC outlet. Would the Executive Member for Environment indicate what action is being proposed to resolve this problem?”

Councillor Paul Newman replied as follows:

“Members will recall from my update in January the range of initiatives we have been implementing as part of the Surrey-wide campaign to tackle littering in Mole Valley. These include working with Parishes and Residents Associations to support community litter picks; poster competitions with schools; and working with local businesses and Southern Railway. With these initiatives and many like them, we are demonstrating that we are determined to keep Mole Valley tidy and change the behaviours of those who litter our streets and green spaces. Our message is clear: littering in Mole Valley is not and will not be tolerated.

We are aware that there have been concerns amongst the community about the amount of food related litter, particularly around Moores Road associated with the KFC. Our Environmental Contracts Manager has already met with the local KFC manager who is very keen to work with Mole Valley District Council to tackle the issue.

KFC ‘s own staff carry out a daily litter-pick in the area around the outlet. The manager has agreed to increase the number of litter picks from twice a day to three times a day to combat the littering. They have also installed an additional bin on Moores Road. There are now three bins within 10 metres of the front door of the outlet. They are also increasing the anti-litter signage for customers, and we have offered to provide them with posters from the Surrey-wide litter campaign. Our own officers are currently developing a *Tidy Business* scheme to encourage responsible behaviours from our local businesses; KFC have indicated that they would like to be a key partner in this scheme. We will continue to work with KFC to tackle this matter and monitor the situation carefully.

I would also like to remind Members that 21st March is national Community Clear-Up Day. This ‘national spring clean’ aims to spruce up our high streets, residential and business areas, villages and parks to instil pride in our local area. There are already several community groups who are going to participate in community litter picks across Mole Valley. I am also delighted that Johnston Sweepers have agreed to participate, and we shall be asking KFC if they too want to be part of the biggest community clear-up Mole Valley has ever seen. I encourage all residents and Members to join in.”

53. Motions

Motion 1/2015

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Stephen Cooksey and seconded by Councillor David Preedy.

“That the Council

Notes:

1. the Government's relaxation of permitted development criteria to allow the conversion of offices into residential units without the requirement of planning permission;
2. that as a consequence of this change in planning criteria:
 - 2.1 development companies are buying town centre offices in order to turn them into expensive accommodation which does little to resolve the real housing needs of the community;
 - 2.2 the availability of office space for local companies to rent is rapidly decreasing thereby forcing some companies to relocate to other areas and deterring new businesses from locating in Mole Valley;
 - 2.3 demand for town centre on-street parking facilities will increase in an already overcrowded parking environment since few of the new flats will have their own parking spaces .
3. that similar consequences are affecting town centres in other parts of Surrey and throughout the UK.

Resolves:

1. to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Housing and Planning Minister to advise of the serious consequences of this policy change and ask the Government to reverse the decision to allow the permitted conversion of offices to residential accommodation.
2. to bring this motion to the attention of all Council Leaders and Chief Executives in Surrey with a view to making a Surrey wide approach to the Government to support its objectives;
3. to promote the objectives of this resolution through the LGA.”

The Council resolved to take the motion on the night.

Members debated the motion in full.

RESOLVED: That Motion 1/2015 be rejected.

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Chairman

.....Date