

# Public Document Pack

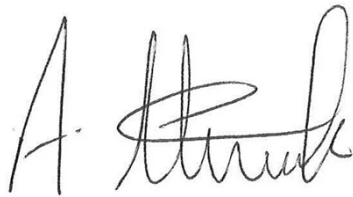
**Democratic Services Manager: Karen Shepherd**

**Direct line: (01628) 796529**

**TO: EVERY MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND the Meeting of the Council of the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead to be held in the **Desborough Suite - Town Hall** on **Tuesday, 27 June 2017 at 7.30 pm** for the purpose of transacting the business specified in the Agenda set out hereunder.

Dated this Monday, 19 June 2017



Managing Director

Rev Stileman will say prayers for the meeting.
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## **A G E N D A**

### **PART I**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence

2. COUNCIL MINUTES

To receive the Part I minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 February, 30 March and 23 May 2017. (Pages 7 - 54)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest (Pages 55 - 56)

4. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

To receive such communications as the Mayor may desire to place before the Council (Pages 57 - 58)

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None received

6. PETITIONS

To receive any petitions presented by Members on behalf of registered electors for the Borough under Rule C.10.

*(Any Member submitting a petition has up to 2 minutes to summarise its contents)*

7. ELECTORAL REVIEW: STAGE ONE - COUNCIL SIZE

To consider the above report (To Follow)

8. POLITICAL BALANCE AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS

The political balance and allocation of seats on the Standing Panels/Forums has been reviewed following the resignation of Councillor Hollingsworth from the Conservative Group on 12 June 2017.

Members are asked to note that the change in political balance has resulted in no changes to the allocation of seats.

Members are also requested to note that, as a result, the following vacancies (Conservative seats) have arisen:

- Licensing Panel
- Adult Services and Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel
- Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel
- Maidenhead Town Forum
- Access Advisory Forum
- Corporate Parenting Forum
- Grants Panel (substitute)

9. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

To consider the above report (To Follow)

10. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

**a) Question submitted by Councillor Shelim to Councillor Dudley, Leader of the Council:**

Will the Leader of the Council write to Network Rail to request that they remove the litter on their land adjacent to the track at Windsor Central train station? Further there is graffiti in this area and would they also remove that as appropriate.

**b) Question submitted by Councillor Shelim to Councillor Bicknell, Lead Member for Highways and Transport:**

Will the Lead Member please write to Great Western Railways and request the frequency of trains from Windsor Central train station to Slough are increased in frequency? At peak times and seasons, the trains are very full and extra capacity

and frequency would be appreciated by all residents and visitors alike and must make commercial sense.

**c) Question submitted by Councillor E . Wilson to Councillor Rankin, Lead Member for Economic Development, Property and Deputy Finance:**

Will the Lead Member advise how the 'investwindsorandmaidenhead' website has helped businesses to relocate to Dedworth & Clewer?

*(The Member responding has up to 5 minutes to address Council. The Member asking the question has up to 1 minute to submit a supplementary question. The Member responding then has a further 2 minutes to respond.)*

11. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

a) By Councillor McWilliams

This council notes the Help to Buy London programme with an up to 40% government house purchase loan compared with the national English scheme of up to 20%. Given the unaffordability of property to Royal Borough first time buyers, and our average house prices being greater than the majority of London boroughs, this council asks the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Chancellor and Prime Minister to please address this basic unfairness through extension of the 40% scheme to areas like the Royal Borough.

12. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

To consider passing the following resolution:-

"That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting whilst discussion takes place on item 13 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1-7 of part I of Schedule 12A of the Act"

## **PRIVATE MEETING**

### 13. MINUTES

To receive the Part II minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30 March 2017 (Pages 59 - 64)

## COUNCIL MOTIONS – PROCEDURE

- Motion proposed (mover of Motion to speak on Motion)
- Motion seconded (Secunder has right to reserve their speech until **later** in the debate)
- Begin debate

Should An Amendment Be Proposed: (only one amendment may be moved and discussed at any one time)

NB – Any proposed amendment to a Motion to be passed to the Mayor for consideration before it is proposed and seconded.

- Amendment to Motion proposed
- Amendment must be seconded BEFORE any debate can take place on it  
(At this point, the mover and seconder of original Motion can indicate their acceptance of the amendment if they are happy with it)
- Amendment debated (if required)
- Vote taken on Amendment
- If Agreed, the amended Motion becomes the substantive Motion and is then debated (any further amendments follow same procedure as above).
- If Amendment not agreed, original Motion is debated (any other amendments follow same procedure as above).

- The mover of the Motion has a right to reply at the end of the debate on the Motion, immediately before it is put to the vote.
- At conclusion of debate on Motion, the Mayor shall call for a vote. Unless the vote is unanimous, a named vote will be undertaken, the results of which will be announced in the meeting, and recorded in the Minutes of the meeting.

*(All speeches maximum of 5 minutes, except for the Budget Meeting where the Member proposing the adoption of the budget and the Opposition Spokesperson shall each be allowed to speak for 10 minutes to respectively propose the budget and respond to it. The Member proposing the budget may speak for a further 5 minutes when exercising his/her right of reply.)*

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**AT A MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL held in the Desborough Suite - Town Hall on Tuesday, 21st February, 2017**

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Sayonara Luxton), The Deputy Mayor (Councillor John Lenton) and

Councillors Mike Airey, Natasha Airey, Malcolm Alexander, Christine Bateson, Malcolm Beer, Phillip Bicknell, Hashim Bhatti, John Bowden, Paul Brimacombe, Clive Bullock, David Burbage, Stuart Carroll, Gerald Clark, David Coppinger, Carwyn Cox, Judith Diment, Simon Dudley, David Evans, Dr Lilly Evans, Marius Gilmore, Jesse Grey, Geoff Hill, David Hilton, Charles Hollingsworth, Maureen Hunt, Mohammed Ilyas, Lynne Jones, Philip Love, Ross McWilliams, Marion Mills, Eileen Quick, Jack Rankin, Colin Rayner, Samantha Rayner, Wesley Richards, MJ Saunders, Hari Sharma, Derek Sharp, Julian Sharpe, Adam Smith, John Story, Simon Werner, Derek Wilson, Ed Wilson and Lynda Yong.

Officers: Rob Stubbs, Rob Large, Russell O'Keefe, Alison Alexander, David Scott, Mary Kilner, Shauna Hichens and Andy Jeffs

111. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Collins, Kellaway, Lion, Majeed, Pryer, Shelim, Stretton, Targowska and Walters.

112. COUNCIL MINUTES

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2016 be approved.**

113. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D. Evans declared a personal interest in the item 'Land at Rear of Boulters Lock Car Park' as he was a friend of one of the individuals involved in the Boulters Riverside CIC. He left the room for the duration of the discussion and voting on the item.

Councillor Sharma declared a prejudicial interest in the item 'Land at Rear of Boulters Lock Car Park' as a member of the Hindu Society of Maidenhead. He made representations, then left the room for the duration of the discussion and voting on the item.

Councillor Bullock declared an interest in the item 'Land at Rear of Boulters Lock Car Park'. He remained in the room for the duration of the discussion and voting on the item, but abstained.

Alison Alexander declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the item 'Appointment of Statutory Officers' as she was being considered for appointment. She left the room for the duration of the discussion and voting on the item.

The Monitoring Officer advised Members that they were not required to declare an interest in the item 'Land at Rear of Boulters Lock Car Park'. merely by virtue of the fact that they were a Member or Substitute Member of the Maidenhead Development

Management Panel (MDMP). The property decision was distinct and different to any subsequent consideration of a planning application on the site by the MDMP.

114. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor submitted in writing details of engagements that she and the Deputy Mayor had undertaken since the last meeting, which were noted by the Council. She highlighted the Lions Club lunch for senior citizens in particular.

115. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

**a) Stephen Smart of Maidenhead Riverside asked the Lead Member for Economic Development and Property the following question:**

The Council has said it will only consider offers for the land adjacent to Boulter's Lock Car Park only if the proposal is for a community use. Why did it impose that condition?

Councillor Rankin responded that he welcomed the opportunity to discuss and debate the land at the rear of Boulter's Lock Car Park. For some time the Royal Borough had been in discussion with the Hindu Society of Maidenhead to help identify a site where they could realise their ambition to build a community centre. The Borough was in discussion with the Hindu Society, culminating last year for the site in question. When the potential lease started to move into the stage for Member input, it became clear in August 2016 that the lease did not have unanimous support amongst all residents.

The process had therefore been opened up in September 2016 so other interested community groups could have an opportunity to bid. The decision was taken to allow groups to bid on the same basis so the council would have comparable bids following the conclusion of the process. Residents wrote in who preferred that the land was not developed in any way or preferred expanding car park provision. As such and to aid transparency, today Members would consider all options that had been put to the council.

By way of a supplementary question, Mr Smart asked, if the council had said it was not considering any other options, why it was intending to sell land that was adjacent to Boyn Grove Community Centre to three neighbouring home owners? Why was the option of the land adjoining, opposite the car park, on a conditional basis which would potentially offer the best return for the least effort and impact, not part of the debate this evening?

Councillor Rankin responded that he was not aware of the details of the site being referred to and would write to Mr Smart with an answer.

**b) Andrew Hill of Boyn Hill ward asked the Lead Member for Planning the following question:**

At the Windsor public meeting you stated that all land in the local plan had been checked for availability and deliverability. However two residents have contacted RBWM saying their land was included *without* their knowledge. Why does the council choose to check availability and deliverability with only speculative proposers of such sites rather than with the actual land owners themselves?



Councillor D. Wilson responded that he could confirm that the sites allocated in the Regulation 18 Local Plan were based on evidence of availability collected through what was called a 'call for sites' process. This was when the planning authority asked for landowners, developers and agents to put their sites forward if they were interested in making them available for development, it was done once a year. Between the call for sites and consultation it was not unusual for changes in site availability. One of the reasons for a major consultation was to identify which sites were still available. In Windsor certain sites were now not available and they would need to be removed from the next draft. The local planning authority had been contacting land owners to re-confirm that their land remained available for development.

By way of a supplementary question, Mr Hill said that at the same meeting Councillor D. Wilson had stated that the Planning Inspector in 2007 had rejected the original Local Plan in part for want of a green belt review and on 3 November the Planning Inspector had advised the council to meet its entire need within its boundaries. In the House of Commons greenbelt briefing the Planning Minister Nick Bowles MP was quoted as saying to the Planning Inspectorate 'emphasise that it was for the local authority to choose to review its green belt land and it should not be for the Planning Inspector to recommend at examination stage; it was always transparently clear that it should be the local authority itself that had chosen the path'. Had the borough freely chosen the path of the green belt review or was this forced on the council by the Planning Inspectorate?

Councillor D. Wilson responded that in 2007 the Examiner had made it clear that green belt boundaries needed to be reviewed to accommodate growth. The council had taken this on board. There were always changes to legislation, it was a continually evolving process. On 3 November 2016 at a meeting with DCLG and the Planning Inspector it was made quite clear that the council had to meet its objectively assessed need within its boundaries and their recommendation was to meet it 100%.

**c) Andrew Hill of Boyn Hill ward asked the Leader of the Council the following question:**

At the Windsor public meeting you announced that the Council was exploring using Community Land Trusts to give young and (provably) local people truly affordable housing with long-term price rise capping. A great idea. Will you therefore support the placing of ALL Borough owned local plan sites into CLT's to permanently solve our town's housing crisis?

Councillor Dudley responded that CLTs could take many forms, for example putting land into a trust only available for people with a significant connection to the borough. In addition the price would be at a significant discount to the current open market price. The ratio of median salary to house prices in the borough was 12.5 times compared to 8 times in the south east. If a property was purchased as part of a CLT, it could only be sold at a price increased by the equivalent growth in median wages. The idea was something the borough would look at post the adoption of the Borough Local Plan when it would bring forward a new Affordable Housing Policy. The idea of a CLT for land on the golf course would be looked into. The borough had received a £100,000 grant from central government to explore the establishment of a CLT; a report would be presented to the next meeting of the Cabinet Regeneration Sub

Committee. In answer to the question, the council would not be placing all land in a CLT because this constrained the value realisation, but the idea would be explored.

By way of a supplementary question, Mr Hill referred to an article in The Independent on Sunday that stated a number of councils felt obliged to set up private trading companies, as had the borough. The article also said that the government white paper included in the small print extending the Right to Buy into private companies. He asked if this would be a problem. Additionally, would the fact that properties could only be sold or developed in a manner which befits the local community cause any problems?

Councillor Dudley responded that from a policy perspective the council was supportive of the Right to Buy. It would want to replenish the housing stock from Housing Associations which were subject to the Right to Buy; this would affect the borough's property company. He highlighted that no Member was a Director of either trading company, to avoid any perception of conflict. The CLT concept was exciting. If legislation affected the Right to Buy into the borough's property company, that was a good thing.

**d) Mick Jarvis of Maidenhead Riverside asked the following question of the Lead Member for Economic Development and Property:**

On September 7th Councillor Rankin wrote to Riverside residents advising his department had concluded that using the land adjacent to Boulters Lock car park for additional parking was uneconomic. On October 25th in an email to a resident Councillor Rankin admitted the existing economic analysis was inadequate:

"I accept that this is hardly a rigorous parking study."

Can Councillor Rankin now confirm that the economic analysis on which Council is being asked to decide the use of the land in question for the next 125 years is fit for purpose, is capable of withstanding robust challenge and based on realistic assumptions providing Council with a sound basis for making a decision?

Councillor Rankin responded that in September 2016 some residents requested that the land adjacent to Boulters Lock car park be developed to extend the car park. As such he asked that a piece of work be done to investigate the economic basis for doing so and the Property team approached the parking team for a high level piece of work.

The NPV analysis assumed a £240,000 capital cost to construct and then showed an ongoing net income of around £5,000 per year rising with inflation. The £240,000 figure came from the parking team based on their experience and the £5,000 per year assumed fee charging as was and that current occupancy levels were maintained in percentage terms. The discount rate was 4.12%. On that basis the net present value of extending the car park was minus £140,000.

The assumptions were challenged by some residents who fairly raised a belief that occupancy rates would increase with the opening of the bridge and the new development on the other side of the river. Whilst he agreed that this was a factor going forward, the council had no quantitative measure of this and his comment was accepting that the analysis was, as ever, only as good as the inputs; the analysis did not pretend to address changing utilisation rates.

Nevertheless today, transparently and in public, Council could decide to develop a car park from an amenity point of view, but it remained true that developing the land as car park was uneconomic. If Council took the view that occupancy may increase in the future it could choose to hold the land, retaining the ability to convert to car parking in the future.

By way of a supplementary question, Mr Jarvis commented that Riverside residents were confused. The parking analysis was exactly the same in detail to the one widely criticised and had been described by the Lead Member as 'hardly rigorous'. Mr Jarvis asked what had changed since September 2016 to make the Lead Member now believe it was valid?

Councillor Rankin responded that he had presented the analysis as a product of the assumptions made, including fees and utilisation rates. The challenge from some residents was that they believed utilisation rates would increase in future. This may be true but the council did not have a quantitative measure for this. The Council needed to take into account if occupancy rates were likely to rise but in his view it could not develop a car park today based on the current figures.

**e) Mick Jarvis of Maidenhead Riverside asked the following question of the Lead Member for Economic Development and Property:**

Boulter's Riverside CIC submitted a bid for the land adjacent to the Boulter's Lock car park on October 20th 2016 as required by Councillor Rankin's department. On that date a competing bid from the Hindu Society of Maidenhead of £73,000 was in place but the Hindu Society had the right to increase their bid.

Was the Hindu Society bid increased, was any such increased bid made contemporaneously with and on the same terms and conditions as the bid from Boulter's Riverside CIC and if not on what date was any bid in excess of £73,000 made by the Hindu Society?

Councillor Rankin responded that the first paragraph in Mr Jarvis' question was correct. The Hindu Society did not increase their bid on or before 20 October 2016 which was the deadline which applied equally to all groups. He had received a phone call afterwards from the Hindu Society to say they would financially match any competing bids. This would not be considered because it did not comply with the timetable. The paper showed the bid at £73,000.

By way of a supplementary question, Mr Jarvis commented that the CIC understood the council had not committed to accept the highest bid but the difference between 73,000 and £101,000 was considerable. The borough website said 'the disposal of surplus assets is a major source of income for the borough and vital for achieving its strategic aims and objectives'. As Lead Member for Economic Development and Property he would presumably endorse this view. If so, given there were now two community bids both proposing community use could the CIC expect him to support acceptance of the higher bid, which was the only bid offering an important lease back option for the council. Would he agree that the offer from the resident's CIC would give the people of Maidenhead the best deal?

Councillor Rankin responded that he would not be taking a view; the details were in the report. Finance was one of the metrics Council could use in making its decision.

116. PETITIONS

The following petition was presented by Councillor C. Rayner:

'We the residents of Horton and Wraysbury ask the RBWM council to carry on funding the 305 bus route until 31/8/17. To give time for both villages and the RBWM council to come up with transport solution to get our children to school and our residents to the doctors and to Staines. We thank the RBWM for funding the bus service 305 from the 31/8/2016 when Surrey CC without notice withdrew its funding over night to this bus route.'

Councillor Rayner addressed the meeting to summarise the content of the petition. He explained that the petition had come about when bus users were told by the bus driver that the bus was stopping on 31 March 2017 due to the subsidy being withdrawn. The Lead Member for Highways and Transport then confirmed to him that Surrey County Council had withdrawn the subsidy on 31 August 2016. The borough had stepped in to subsidise the service until 31 March 2017. The Lead Member promised he would seek a solution. The request was for the council to continue to subsidise the service until 31 August 2017 so that the council, parish council and local charities could come up with a solution to resolve the issue.

The Mayor ruled that the petition should be referred to the Lead Member/Head of Service for consideration, with the lead petitioner reserving the right to request a debate at Full Council, given the number of signatories was over 1000, if a resolution could not be found.

Councillor Werner joined the meeting at 8.03pm.

117. BUDGET 2017/18

Members considered the council budget for 2017/18. Councillor Saunders Lead Member for Finance, explained that the complex wheels of central government meant that he needed to amend the recommendations as presented in the agenda. The government was reasonably expected to have finalised the parliamentary process for confirming the Local Government Settlement. However, the final decisions had been made but not yet formally published. Therefore, he proposed adding the following additional recommendation:

'The Head of Finance in consultation with the Lead Member for Finance be authorised to amend the budget to reflect the final local government settlement once announced and to notify the council in due course of any subsequent financial changes.'

The Lead Member highlighted that 94% of Councils expected to increase their council tax next year. This figure had risen steadily over recent years, starting from relatively few councils. Next year, for the first time, the borough was joining the overwhelming majority, with a 0.95% increase, or £8.62 for a Band D home or 17p per week. This was less than half the limit of 1.99% being added by a majority of councils. It was worth noting that most of the very few who did not expect to increase Council Tax next year had much lower than average older residents and significantly less pressure on their Adult Care Services.

All were keenly aware of the growing needs of older residents for health and adult care services and the likelihood these would continue to rise. After the coming year

there was a clear need for the funding of these services to be addressed at national level from progressive taxation. Meantime, councils had been asked to fund the services from local Adult Social Care Levies added onto council tax bills, 2% last year and 3% more this year, for a Band D home, £18.14 this year and £45.89 next year.

Many residents would not resent paying the levy to fund £3m of additional adult social care services next year, while others, a total increase in Council Tax and Adult Social Care Levy of 3.95% was uncomfortable - £54.51 for a Band D household or £1.05 per week. For some it would simply be too much, which was why the borough was continuing to only charge 10% of the normal bill to households that simply could not afford to pay, reducing their increase from £54.51 to £5.45 or 10.5p per week. Many Councils were increasing the 10% charge to vulnerable households, some to as high as 25%. It could not be right for those in the greatest need to be taxed more, not less.

Other Councils were seeking to balance their books by increasing the fees and charges they received for everything from green waste collection to residential care, from marriage registrations to library charges, increasing them by substantially more than the reference inflation of 2%. The borough did not subscribe to such back door taxation, so fees and charges had either not increased, had increased by up to 2%, or, if the increase proposed by the relevant officers was more than 2%, this was carefully scrutinised and justified, often by comparison to much higher charges of nearby councils.

Capital investments continued to thrive, feeding the critical expansion of secondary schools, fuelling the regeneration of Maidenhead with additional public parking and a new leisure centre and making York House the accessible home for activities in Windsor.

The Maidenhead regeneration would bring significant benefits for investors in the town, one of the largest of which was residents, with the prospect of very significant developments on five major sites owned by the council. All reasonable expectations and advice indicated this would generate capital receipts in excess of £150m. It was this rational forecast which would repay the short term borrowing of £73m for strategic and tactical capital investments over the next two years, and likely also repay the £50 plus million of debt inherited from the previous administration in 2006.

The Lead Member thanked all of the leading officer teams and his Cabinet colleagues, who together had crafted the budget, with the expert coordination of the Head of Finance and Chief Accountant in the Finance Team. The 0.95% increase in Council Tax and 3% increase in Adult Social Care Levy were the logical and legitimate outcome of many weeks of dedicated effort and considerable expertise. The savings, revenue and capital budgets which the officers proposed with their Lead Members were assembled and after detailed scrutiny, Members had arrived at the proposal before Council.

In relation to those who felt the increases next year were the inevitable outcome of allegedly incompetent cutting in the past, the Lead Member commented that this was clearly silly. The lead officers and Members of the council had achieved an extraordinary transformation of the council over the last eight years, consistently delivering more for less. The council did not tax residents more over the last seven years because it did not need the money, so instead council tax was reduced by 32.5% less in real terms.

However, he was aware that some felt that the professional, prudent and effective management of services had given back to residents taxes they would rather had been paid to the borough to keep it fully funded in line with inflation. Anyone who felt this way was invited to pay what they had saved into the charity scheme. A Band D household would need to pay £1676.10 to match the money they had kept in their pocket over the eight years including next year. If they were also happy to pay the Adult Services Care Levy as well, the amount was £1,740.13.

The Lead Member was delighted that the Council was adding £160,000 to the grants available for voluntary organisations. The extended deadline to apply for this additional funding was the end of the week and although the council had already received many new applications, he wanted to ensure no-one missed out, so they should contact him to ensure their application was carefully considered.

Councillor Jones, Opposition Leader, thanked officers for their hard work to produce the budget, and to the Head of Finance, the Finance team and Directors for the time they had given her to discuss certain aspects and the evidence base of the budget. She also thanked Councillor Saunders for giving up some of his time.

As Leader of the Opposition her role was to provide a response to the budget. The definition of 'Opposition' was antagonists, enemies, adversaries, conflict, clash, polarity. However she saw her role, and that of any elected councillor whether aligned with the political administration or not, to challenge, examine, question in a constructive and non biased way, to be a check and balance, answerable to the residents. This should not be an opportunity for her to stand up and oppose the budget for the sake of it, or for others to throw 'metaphorical sponges' back at her. She was appreciative that this year the council had an officer led budget and that the budget added up, which was always a good start.

The budget for 2017/18 allowed for an increase to council tax of £36.37 for a Band D property, approximately twice the increase estimated last year in the MTFP. With this increase, council tax in the borough would be £961.46 and with future demands an estimated £1055.74 in three year's time. The Net budget requirement forecast increased from £60.7m (last year) to £73.4m (in 20/21). That was a £31.8million pound increase in funds required in four years but with the increases in council tax and Adult Social Care Levy the council would have a balanced budget

The take up of the Adult Social Care Levy was justified. Both the numbers accessing ASC, and the total cost of the care provided, had increased over the last three years. She agreed with the Leader of the Council and the Lead Member that the 'demand led' increases in Adult Social Care should not be funded at local authority level but that did not take away that it had been proven that the administration had been too optimistic in their forecasting of achievable savings and estimating increasing costs in the past.

In her response to the budget of 15/16 she had highlighted the fact that there was no increase in funding to allow for more resources for the borough local plan. Last year she again detailed the extra £300,000 taken from reserves to fund the planning function but it was not considered necessary to increase the budget. The council had overspent the planning budget consistently over the last four years: in 13/14 by £194,000, in 14/15 by £291,000 and in 15/16 by £629,000.

The front page summary highlighted increased investment for effective delivery of the Borough Local Plan and the handling of planning applications. Between 2012 and 2015 the administration took £630,000 out of the budget for the planning department, majorly as a result of the restructure, a restructure that reduced the size of the planning department at a time when the council was well aware of the impact of producing a Borough Local Plan and also an increase in planning applications. This was not increased investment but replacing what should have been there anyway and an area of underfunding that she had consistently highlighted.

Some of the items highlighted for increased investment such as expansion of schools, York House redevelopment, parking and leisure centres were financed from central government grants, developer contributions and borrowing and did not impact on council tax apart from interest on borrowing. Other items such as 'maintaining the quality of public trees' were to ensure the council was responsibly inspecting its trees on a rolling basis according to policy. This was not increased investment, rather it was ensuring funding was in the base budget as it should be.

The National Apprentice Levy of £280,000, 0.5% of payroll, suffered by the council was the gross amount charged by central government. Of this, £130,000 would apparently be passed on to the maintained schools. This may be correct but could not be considered fair. Most of the schools were small community schools that were already seeing their funding being cut and with staffing costs regularly reaching 85% of their budget, she felt the council would want to 'top slice' the money from small primary and first schools.

All were seeing a huge adjustment to the way the council operated, moving to a commissioning body. In some areas the council would be in partnership with other councils, still have a controlling interest and a direct line of control; in other areas it will be contract based. She was not convinced the council was out of the cycle of non achievable, or as Councillor Saunders had previously referred to, 'fatuous' savings. Some proposals had been backed by a quantifiable and substantial evidence base but others that were moving forward had been lacking in the details that would allow the challenge, questioning, scrutiny that was the responsibility of all councillors. She felt the words 'well I trust the officers' was not a justification or excuse for abdicating responsibility.

The Highways department was being outsourced. There were areas, those that were routine, that lent themselves to a contract. Other areas were not so easily quantified. To place them all in one big pot without addressing the differences in how they operated, without, in her view, presenting the evidence of savings made against possible risks for each individual area, did not allow the scrutiny, the challenge and the transparency for which councillors were responsible. Councillor Jones was concerned whether the estimated savings being generated by outsourcing were viable and whether to achieve savings the council was losing in-house expertise that would ensure continuity of services in the outsourced areas.

The council had some important decisions to make going forward, that would impact on the budget. The council now needed to borrow to fund the year on year capital program. Councillor Jones agreed that, with the amount of development indicated on council owned land, the council should see substantial income being generated for the council that would increase reserves in the future. The decision was whether to accept the one off payment for the land or borrow further to invest, as a partner in the

developments, and accept the added cost of borrowing and the added risks of being a developer to hopefully generate additional income going forward.

Councillor Jones explained that in the past she had not supported the budget proposals because they were obviously dictated by a political wish to cut tax above all else, but the mistakes of previous budgets could not, and should not, influence her response to the proposed one. The proposed budget had more substance and more evidence base although some assumptions of savings seemed to lack detailed justification. Last year she requested a commitment from the administration that would justify her supporting the budget, which was not given, therefore she had abstained. Her 3 requests were a commitment to:

- reconsider the increase in parking charges, which was done within 2 months
- put detail into the funding of community wardens; this was still not done but the decision to outsource was reversed
- ensure that funding was in place so that the planning department had adequate resources to deliver a prompt service to the residents and also to deliver the Borough Local Plan. She was pleased that this had been addressed in the proposed budget

This year her request was that the council looked again at the decision to pass on the Apprentice Levy to small community schools.

As long as there was transparent monitoring of outsourcing contracts against a detailed baseline at regular intervals and challenge and scrutiny was provided by all Councillors and accepted by Lead Members, then she believed the budget was the most realistic that the administration had presented at Council.

Councillor Sharma commented that the council was cutting taxes but not services. The council was spending more each year on the transport system, which was better than neighbouring councils. He referred to cross county services such as the Maidenhead to Heathrow service. In a similar situation to the bus service petition discussed earlier, if other councils stopped subsidising the service, the council had to step in. The borough was the only council to provide 24 hour bus pass access to its services.

Councillor Rankin commented that he had been in the fortunate position to have been involved in the creation of the budget and wanted to express his admiration and thanks for the professionalism and dedication of officers and Members in its crafting. This was a budget that protected vulnerable residents and invested significant capital in the regeneration of Maidenhead, whilst the Royal Borough remained a low tax council.

Naturally with the revaluation nationally and the regeneration of Maidenhead, next year may be challenging for local businesses and he wished to talk about the changes to business rates policy locally that the council was implementing to ease those transitions and support beyond. Currently through the local discretionary rate relief policy, which came into effect in April 2016, the Royal Borough could discount retail premises that had been empty for 12 months or more, who would receive up to 100% relief on their business rates. The council had been using this effectively to support retail businesses and this year he was pleased the council was expanding this to include commercial and industrial premises from 1 April 2017. Business would be able to apply for relief for three months and six months for these premises respectively. Further, the council would continue to provide



relief for charitable causes, in instances of hardship and to support rural community facilities in the year ahead.

Councillor Dudley welcomed the challenge from the Leader of the Opposition. He respected the fact that she and Councillor Beer regularly attended Cabinet and he welcomed their constructive input. The borough was a low council tax council; it had the lowest council tax outside London despite higher adult care services demand. Other councils had taken money to put in reserves, the borough had not. This was a new phase for the council. The borough was incredibly fortunate to have significant property assets but these would be realised over the next decade. The proposed budget represented the strategic decision to invest and adequately fund services. The change of approach was to ensure the most vulnerable were protected. 1700 residents were aged over 90 and this figure was expected to rise to 2100 by 2020. If 25% required care at a cost of £30,000 per person this equated to £3m, or 5-6% of council tax. The council knew it had to create financial environment to protect services.

Councillor Bateson commented that council tax had been cut in real terms by 32% since 2007. This was quite an achievement especially when other councils were cutting services or reduce grant funding. The borough had done the opposite, opening more services and increasing the grants budget by £160,000. In Ascot and the Sunnings safer routes to school was a major commitment including pedestrian lights under a bridge and a bridge over the Windle stream.

Councillor Bicknell thanked Councillor Jones. His department had struggled to explain how the £400,000 saving through Delivering Differently would work to the benefit of residents. He highlighted that Volker was a large organisation with a £100m turnover and contracts with numerous local authorities. The proposal would improve resilience, continuity and sustainability particularly in terms of sickness or leave. The council had been remiss in not spending money on tree maintenance but £100,000 was now being included in the budget for the next four years to put this right. He would arrange a meeting for Members to met the new faces at Volker.

Councillor Brimacombe commented that the path to the budget was well documented; the Lead Member had attended all Overview and Scrutiny Panels and the Audit and Performance Review Panel (APRP) and with officers answered all Member questions. The savings totalling £5.9m had a well documented path from the transformation strategy. The Directors had been in front of the APRP to explain their transformation initiatives.

Councillor D. Evans commented that the budget further reinforced the council's determination to build a new town for all residents. The council had taken a strategic decision to borrow as an investment for young people to be able to live in the town centre. A Joint Venture partner would be announced later in the year, with over 1500 new residences planned to bring vitality to the town centre. He welcomed funding for the Nicholson's car park to link it with The Landing and existing shopping centre. As the town was regenerated, the council needed to ensure businesses remained open therefore the budget included up to £9m for additional and temporary parking.

Councillor N. Airey highlighted that Children's Services had identified a number of savings through back office efficiencies and deleting of vacant posts and proposed significant investment including:

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- £300,000 investment in Home to School Transport following a full review
- Three additional social workers as demand in the MASH increased
- £28m in the capital programme across 25 projects including heating at All Saints and expansion at Windsor Girl's School

In relation to the apprenticeship levy she highlighted that if the council took on the cost it would need to find funding elsewhere. The council would work with schools to support them to grow talent, for example a bursar role.

Councillor Coppinger highlighted that alongside the growth in demand for adult services, young people with severe mental and physical needs were now living longer, which was a wonderful thing but required help at a cost of £100,000 per year per person. The precept would ensure enough funding was available and no services would be cut for the fourth year running. He questioned reporting of a £13m black hole, which was not possible as a balanced budget had been produced. Councillor Coppinger highlighted that the council's adult services were moving into a joint arrangements with Wokingham which would provide benefits of scale.

Councillor S Rayner highlighted plans for the new Braywick leisure centre which would support improvements in physical health and mental wellbeing. Unlike other councils the borough was investing in libraries, in Old Windsor and the new hub system. She proposed an amendment to the budget to remove the resident burial fees for infants and children up to the age of 18 years of age, which she felt were inappropriate.

Councillor Saunders accepted the amendment.

Councillor Beer commented that he had been involved as a council representative in lobbying Heathrow to provide a subsidy for the Series 7 bus service to reduce car traffic around the airport. He commented that recommendation ix) should refer to Thames Valley Police and the Environment agency as well as RBFRS as they also charged precepts. Councillor Beer also raise a concern that since the Arthur Jacobs Nature Centre had been run by a specialist contractor, nothing had been heard. He saw nothing relating to this in the budget. He also could not find any reference to how the increase in community Wardens from 18 to 36 would be funded. Councillor Beer also questioned how the customer contact centre would be improved when a £96,000 saving was being made.

Councillor Werner commented that agreeing to a budget was like signing to say you agreed with everything, and objecting was like saying you hated it all. There had been improvements in the budget making process but he still had some concerns. The budget was predicated on too many things where detail had not been given, or on issues such as CCTV and the green belt where decisions had not yet been made. He would therefore abstain.

Councillor Hill explained that the £96,000 saving in the customer contact centre was a result of smart sourcing, but that this process would only start once AfC and Optalis were in full flow. He commented that calls answered under 1 minute were at 79.4% against a target of 80% and first time resolution was at 89% against a target of 83%.

Councillor Saunders commented that he was very grateful for Councillor Jones' support for the substance of the budget and he very much respected the scrutiny she

offered to him and his colleagues. He then picked out highlights from other Councillor's speeches:

He was pleased that Councillor Sharma had found the budget supported his aspirations to support effective public transport. Councillor Rankin highlighted the extended business rate reliefs the council was promoting to help local businesses. Councillor Dudley painted the clear vision which had set the challenging course with a compass which would keep the council true to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable. Councillor Bateson had echoed his delight that the council would grant £160,000 more to voluntary organisations around the Borough. He thanked Councillor Bicknell for his determination to address issues which may have been overlooked and to pursue the further transformation in Highways. Councillor Brimacombe paid respect to the transparency and scrutiny which had brought the council to the proposed budget. Councillor D. Evans demonstrated that the budget fuelled the much needed Nicholson's Car Park expansion. Councillor N. Airey reminded Members of the investments in one of the most important roles, the social workers who supported some of our most seriously vulnerable. Councillor Coppinger remained proud that the council continued not to cut services and meet the needs of vulnerable elderly residents. Councillor Rayner had demonstrated how the council was both tackling big projects like the new leisure centre and focusing on those most in need of care by removing the charges for child burials. Councillor Beer would be pleased to find the other precept charges to which he referred in the budget documents and therefore covered by the recommendations. He would be pleased to arrange for him to receive answers to his other questions in writing. Councillor Werner's compliments were gratefully received. Councillor Hill was extremely proud of the Contact Centre; his teams had received various independent national awards for the efficiency and effectiveness.

The budget was for all the residents of the borough, from the many keen to see the regeneration of Maidenhead pick up pace, to those who simply wanted the council's tree outside their gate to be properly pruned, from those eager to see substantial continuing investment in their children's schools, to those who simply wanted their planning application for a new garage handled efficiently. Most of all, the budget was for those which every civilised society put at the top of their priorities, the vulnerable elderly, physically or mentally challenged and children. He was deeply proud to have led the extraordinary efforts of so many officer and Member colleagues to present the budget. It was a Conservative and Unionist budget and it served the needs of the union of all residents across the Borough

It was proposed by Councillor Saunders, seconded by Councillor Bowden, and:

**RESOLVED: That Full Council note the report and approve the:**

- i) Detailed recommendations contained in Appendix A which includes a Council Tax at band D of £915.57, including a 0.95% increase of £8.62.**
- ii) Adult Social Care Precept of 3% (an increase of £27.75 on the £18.14 precept included in the 2016/17 budget) to be included in the Council's budget proposals, making this levy the equivalent of £45.89 at band D.**

- iii) **Fees and Charges contained in Appendix D are approved, subject to the removal of resident burial fees for infants and children up to the age of 18 years of age.**
- iv) **Capital Programme, shown in appendices F and G, for the financial year commencing April 2017.**
- v) **Prudential borrowing limits set out in Appendix L.**
- vi) **Business rate tax base calculation, detailed in Appendix O, and its use in the calculation of the Council Tax Requirement in Appendix A.**
- vii) **Head of Finance in consultation with the Lead Members for Finance and Children's Services is authorised to amend the total schools budget to reflect actual Dedicated School Grant levels.**
- viii) **Head of Finance in consultation with the Lead Member for Finance is authorised to make appropriate changes to the budget to reflect the impact of the transfer of services to Achieving for Children and Optalis.**
- ix) **Responsibility to include the precept from the Berkshire Fire and Rescue Authority in the overall Council Tax charges is delegated to the Lead Member for Finance and Head of Finance once the precept is announced.**
- x) **The Head of Finance in consultation with the Lead Member for Finance be authorised to amend the budget to reflect the final local government settlement once announced and to notify the council in due course of any subsequent financial changes**

**(46 Councillors voted in favour of the motion: Councillors N. Airey, M. Airey, Alexander, Bateson, Beer, Bhatti, Bicknell, Bowden, Brimacombe, Bullock, Burbage, Carroll, Clark, Coppinger, Cox, Diment, Dudley, D. Evans, Dr. L. Evans, Gilmore, Grey, Hill, Hilton, Hollingsworth, Hunt, Ilyas, Jones, Lenton, Love, Luxton, McWilliams, Mills, Quick, Rankin, C. Rayner, S. Rayner, Richards, Saunders, Sharma, Sharp, Sharpe, Smith, Story, D. Wilson, E. Wilson and Yong. One Councillor abstained: Councillor Werner.)**

118. LAND AT REAR OF BOULTERS LOCK CAR PARK, MAIDENHEAD

Councillor D. Evans left the meeting.

Members considered the options for a piece of council owned land, to the rear of Boulters Lock car park, Maidenhead.

Councillor Rankin explained that whilst the decision sat within his delegated power, he believed that due to the high level of interest and in the interests of transparency, it was undoubtedly in the public interest that it be debated, discussed and decided at Full Council. He would not be advocating any decision and had produced a paper which laid out only the facts and options that councillors may choose to make.

For some time, the borough had been in discussion with the Hindu Society of Maidenhead to help them realise their ambition to build a community facility in the town of Maidenhead. From colleagues he understood many sites had been considered over time. By 17 March 2016, officers had negotiated, subject to contract and planning, a 125 year ground lease on a peppercorn rent for the sum of £73,000 for the Hindu Society of Maidenhead to build a community centre on the piece of land in question. This had yet to go to Members for approval.

Councillor Rankin explained that in August he had started to receive correspondence from some residents who objected to the proposal. Despite no decision having been made, it was clear that some residents believed that this was a 'done deal' and had been decided in secret. As such in September 2016 he chose to invite other interested residents groups to come forward with proposals. The Hindu Society transaction was put on hold and they were invited to bid on the same basis. One further proposal was received, by the Boulton Riverside CIC, who offered £101,000, with a plan to turn the site into allotments. The Hindu Society did not vary their proposal. The option to turn the site into a car park extension was also laid out in the report, for Members to consider,

Maidenhead Riverside was a cultural attraction in the borough so Council could determine that the car park should be developed to increase the amenity of the area. Or it could determine that the land should be held in the medium term, and developed later if utilisation rates did increase.

Councillor Rankin proposed that standing order C14.1 be suspended to enable Members to debate all four options without a motion being put forward and seconded. The Monitoring Officer explained to all present that the suspension of standing orders for the duration of the item was to allow all four options in the recommendation to be considered and debated, without the requirement for an individual motion to be proposed and seconded before the debate. A named vote would be taken at the end of the debate, with Members able to indicate they were voting for option i, ii, iii, iv or abstaining, to identify the preferred option from the Council as a whole.

It was proposed by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Smith, and:

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That standing order C14.1 be suspended for the duration of the item to enable Members to debate all four options without a motion being put forwarded and seconded.**

Councillor Sharma highlighted that it was a long held desire of the Hindu Community to have a community building. The proposed centre would be a hub and focal point of the local community. He understood the need for increased parking in the area but analysis showed this was not financially viable. The Hindu Society had written to the Property department to state they would be willing to match any bid from a third party. The proposed facility could be used for numerous activities including as a polling station and for elderly local residents to meet. This would help to mitigate some of the anti-social behaviour issues in the car park. The Society had already altered the plans including reducing the size and amending opening times. There would be no extra

pressure on parking as many users would car-share, use public transport or cycle. Diversity was a gift to the borough rather than a threat, and was a strength of the country. Cultural diversity played an important role in social cohesion, financial prosperity and driving improvements. He asked the council to accept the bid from the Hindu Society.

Councillor Sharma left the meeting at 9.18pm

Councillor Smith explained that there was once a house called Pennywise on the Lower Cookham Road owned by a Mr Maus. The house was long gone, replaced by a residential development, Horsham Reach. In 1966 Mr Maus sold the bottom of his large garden to the council. No-one knew why the council bought this area of about 1,350 sq yds. There had been substantial objection to a community centre, mostly on parking grounds, which was a planning matter. This was the third site considered for a community centre which he was aware of, and he understood there were one or two others.

Finding a site was less than half the battle. What was more important was that it needed to succeed, to be used fully and to grow. He found the Hindu Society's arguments of light and occasional use disingenuous, or if reliable, incompatible with any sensible level of utilisation. However this was not the main issue. The fatal problem with the Riverside site was that it was defined not by its potential but by its limitations in size, space, activities and the hours it may be used. The fact that a second smaller planning application was in the works meant it was already compromised. It could not grow, so its future would be impaired from day one, so it was therefore the wrong use of public resources. Both parties to the proposed lease would be creating a load of intractable problems for themselves for years to come.

In relation to the allotment proposal, he commented that 50 years passed before this idea occurred to anyone. The real purpose was to remove blight: a problem so grave to the neighbours they were apparently prepared to spend upwards of £100,000 to solve it. Allotments would certainly do the trick, as it was virtually impossible then to use the land for anything else: a change of use actually required a statutory instrument. He did not think allotments were the right choice, but the council should note well why residents had felt driven to this desperate measure.

Doing nothing had worked fine for 50 years, but no longer. First, it was a waste of public assets. Second, by letting the genie out of the bottle, the council had alarmed and angered residents by the prospect of blight. The council must accept some blame for this. It may be perfectly normal for councils to negotiate commercial leases in private and ahead of planning, and this is quite unexceptionable when it is dealing with shops or warehouses, and quite normal not to tell ward councillors that negotiations were in hand. In hindsight, and as Councillor Rankin quickly grasped when handed this case, the situation required more sensitivity. If the council resolved to do nothing, he would therefore wish this to be accompanied by some commitment to explore other options, for example, social housing or private sale.

Councillor Smith commented that he had been promised the paper would contain no recommendations, but it did. It recommended not extending the car park. Had he seen the draft paper, he would have asked for these words to be removed. Their presence had encouraged Riverside residents to feel the debate was not open, but a predetermined ambush. In his opinion this was the obvious choice. On the demand

side: more people in the ward and on Taplow Riverside, a regenerated town centre within walking distance, an aging population more leisure time, more facilities (notably the footbridge, and the second new zebra crossing to go in near Maidenhead Bridge). On the supply side: many new parking restrictions and plenty more to come, including on the access road to Ray Mill Island. Councillors had seen only a perfunctory cost/benefit analysis on expanding the car park. The benefit assumed no change in occupancy rate. This was insufficient: there were accelerants in the demand he had just described. The cost of £239,000 was unexplained and questionable. He would support option iii.

Councillor Diment commented that she had sympathy for the Hindu society and their need for a centre. The council should do everything it could to secure the group a site but she did not believe the Boulters Lock site was suitable because it was very small and there would only be 12 parking spaces. However, parking was a planning issue. Lack of parking in riverside was the biggest concern of residents and was an important consideration in increasing tourism in the area. The new pedestrian bridge would attract more visitors because both sides of the river would be open. The only parking available was Boulters Lock car park. The future of the two hotels in the ward was also in question and their loss would further reduce parking availability. A proper assessment of parking in Riverside was required. She suggested the site be used as a green car park. Allotments were not a viable option a only six would be provided and the land would be lost to the borough in perpetuity. In recent years Ray Mill Road West allotments had been extended. She supported the option of extended parking.

Councillor Love commented that most other faiths had a meeting place in the town. The nearest Hindu centre was in Slough 9 miles away. Therefore the society was forced to hire school facilities to fulfil their social, cultural and religious needs. The council had offered the site as a potential solution and granted a lease in May 2016. The society had spent £30,000 on consultants and architects. A community centre would benefit the whole community and could be used for a wide range of activities. He was particularly interested in the sessions it could offer for the elderly, as loneliness was increasingly seen as a social issue and was a council priority. He urged fellow councillors to accept the Hindu society proposal.

Councillor Hollingsworth stated that doing nothing was not an option. He had an affection for allotments as he had grown up during the war. However there were already numerous allotments in Riverside and his ward. He had visited the site and was aware of the concerns about size and the impact on traffic. The Hindu Society case was valid and social cohesion was important, but it was not appropriate on this site.

Councillor Brimacombe commented there was no argument against the pressing need for the Hindu Society to have a permanent home. However this was not an appropriate piece of land, particularly because Riverside would increasingly be used as a leisure attraction. A long term decision of 125 years was a discrepancy. The allotment proposal was a reaction rather than an initiative. He therefore supported the 'do nothing' option but he was sensitive to the ward councillors' comments that parking may be appropriate.

Councillor Ilyas commented that the council should consider the most effective use of its assets. Leaving the situation as is would not allow utilisation of the space, particularly as land was at a premium. There was no indication in the report that

parking in the area was currently insufficient. Allotments were an excellent idea but only brought pleasure to a small minority. It was in the best interest to provide a facility for the greatest number of people and to promote community values of tolerance and respect.

Councillor Dudley stated that it was a very difficult decision. Discussions about the site started in 2012, but since then there had been a number of significant changes including the residential development across the river, the footbridge and the developing Borough Local Plan. The most important aspect for him was to future proof the parking. However this was a planning matter and would be assessed by the experts; it was not a matter for conjecture. It was also not for the council to consider whether a community facility worked for those who established it. It would not be possible to build a borough for all if car parks and residential developments squeezed out every ounce of community formation. Money did not always talk in these situations. This was an opportunity to create something for the community that was long-cherished. The Hindu society proposal would be right for all residents if it worked in a planning perspective.

Councillor Saunders stated that there could be no doubt the council had a difficult choice because the decision could not satisfy everyone. He had first become involved some years back with the desire to create a community centre, run by the Hindu community and available for multiple and varied use by the public. As the then Cabinet Member for Property and Planning, officers had identified a redundant council site in Pinkneys Green and a planning application was proposed. Amidst local objections, some of which were reviewed for redaction to remove racially offensive attacks, the planning application did not secure consent. The second site identified by officers on Town Moor was not pursued for similar reasons. He was not surprised when the Hindu community lost hope that the borough would be able to handle objections, some of which had racial overtones. When the site in Riverside was proposed to him there seemed a real and deliverable opportunity which he had been pleased to sponsor with the Hindu community. This had been nurtured by others after he had left the Cabinet.

The council still had the opportunity to create a community centre run by the Hindu community and available for multiple and varied use by the public. Indeed, this offered a facility in an important location in need of such a facility at no public cost. The two conditions remained: the proposed building would be subject to a full planning application with full public consultation, and the amount realised for the site needed to be demonstrably appropriate as evidenced previously by an independent valuation and now by a reference price offered by another party. The council had due processes and an obligation to follow them in good faith, otherwise the council's word and trust was at risk of being devalued.

It was fundamental that the planning application would be subject to full consultation and the opportunity for most of the issues referenced to be properly and duly addressed: parking, use conditions, impact on adjacent properties, etc. However none of these were relevant to determining the property decision, which needed to be allowed to complete. When the Pinkneys Green site was being considered, the property decision was duly and properly made within the powers available, falling as it did well below the limit for Cabinet or Council debate in public. This left the public debate where it belonged - in the planning application process. The same should then apply and the Hindu community proposal should proceed.



Councillor Grey highlighted that the Hindu community was a registered charity and did good work in the community. It had to hire school premises to fulfil the social, cultural and religious needs of the community. It was not a question of money but a question of ethics. The council was duty bound to look at the needs of all residents. He urged Members to support option i.

Councillor Bullock stated he would abstain as he was likely to sit on the Maidenhead Development Management Panel.

Councillor Quick commented that the council had a duty to make the best use of resources. The site lying fallow for 50 years was not the best use. The council had a duty to all parts of the community. The Hindu Society had waited very patiently. Their offer was very generous and the facility could be used by all in the community. With regeneration the possibility of finding the perfect site was disappearing. The proposed site may not be perfect but planning issues would be dealt with in the planning process. She suggested undercroft parking could be an option. She would support option i.

Councillor D. Wilson commented that the borough was multi-cultural and all other faiths had accommodation. To build a borough for all it was right and proper to give due consideration to the property aspect. Details would be discussed in the planning process. He endorsed option i.

Councillor Clark commented that given the history of the Hindu Society's search for a home, it was quite right that appropriate land should be found. It was sad that a valuable piece of land had been unused for so long. A community centre was a great idea but the parking issues were likely to increase and Maidenhead would increase as a visitor attraction given the scale of development. Before the council agreed to a community centre, it should be sure that the piece of land was not required for alternative use, he felt somewhat backed into a corner when the best use of the land needed proper consideration. He preferred the 'do nothing' option.

A named vote was taken with Members able to indicate they were voting for option i, ii, iii, iv or abstaining, and it was:

**RESOLVED: That Full Council considers the report and:**

**i) Accept the Hindu Society proposal**

**(30 Councillors voted for option i: Councillors M. Airey, N. Airey, Bateson, Beer, Bhatti, Bicknell, Burbage, Carroll, Coppinger, Cox, Dudley, Dr L. Evans, Gilmore, Grey, Hill, Ilyas, Lenton, Love, Luxton, McWilliams, Mills, Quick, S. Rayner, Richards, Saunders, Sharp, Story, Werner, D. Wilson and Yong. 0 Councillors voted for option ii. 7 Councillors voted for option iii: Councillors Alexander, Diment, Hollingsworth, Hunt, C. Rayner, Smith and E. Wilson. 2 Councillors voted for option iv: Councillors Brimacombe and Sharpe. 6 Councillors abstained: Councillors Bowden, Bullock, Clark, Hilton, Jones and Rankin.)**

**(Councillors D. Evans and Sharma had declared interests and had left the room)**

Councillor Sharma and D. Evans re-joined the meeting.

Councillor McWilliams left the meeting at 10.10pm.

119. CONTINUATION OF MEETING

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That, in accordance with rule Part 2 C25.1 of the Royal Borough constitution, the meeting should continue past 10.00pm.**

Councillors Hunt and Bowden left the meeting at 10.15pm

120. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Members considered a number of amendments to the council constitution.

Councillor Coppinger introduced the report on behalf of Councillors Targowska. He advise Members that the amendment detailed in paragraph 2.6 had been withdrawn.

He outlined the proposals:

- Any Member, not already a Member of a Development Management Panel, wishing to speak at a Panel will be permitted to speak in favour or against any agenda item after all public speakers have spoken and prior to the Panel debating the item. Non Panel Members will be restricted to three minutes in total
- The current Visitor Management Forum has requested that their title be changed to Tourism Development Forum
- The Employment Panel have requested that the current approval threshold (in excess of £5,000) be increased to a revised threshold of £25,000. This will enable timely decisions on approval of payments
- Where the recruitment of Directors and Deputy Chief Officers of Services and appointments are on a like for like basis, the appointment will be delegated to the Managing Director and Head of HR in consultation with the relevant Service Director, the relevant Lead Member and the Chair of the Employment Panel.
- The Windsor Rural Development Management Panel Membership be increased from six Members to nine Members to bring it in line with the membership number of the Windsor Urban Development Management Panel.
- Updated terms of reference to give more clarity to the work and role of the Health and Wellbeing Board
- Updated Terms of Reference for the Grants Panel following the end of the Cabinet Participatory Budget Sub Committee including specific delegations to the Head of Strategy and Communities in consultation with Members.
- Updated terms of reference for the Berkshire Pension Fund Panel to clarify emergency powers
- A correction to a delegation relating to functions relating to local government pensions

Councillor Werner left the meeting at 10.17pm.

Councillor Burbage highlighted that, despite the withdrawal, there was a mandatory requirement for the annual budget to be recorded as a named vote.

Councillor Saunders suggested additional wording to paragraph 1.7 on page 189 of the report to read:

'No new documents should be circulated to the panel at the meeting, *except the Panel Update*. Messages should not be passed to individual Panel Members.'

It was proposed by Councillor Coppinger, seconded by Councillor Sharma, and:

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That Full Council considers and approves:**

- i) **The amendments to the Constitution set out in paragraphs 2.5 to 2.15 and Appendix 1, subject to the removal of the proposal at 2.6.**
- ii) **Additional wording to be added to paragraph 1.7 on page 189 of the report to read:**

**'No new documents should be circulated to the panel at the meeting, *except the Panel Update*. Messages should not be passed to individual Panel Members.'**

Councillor Werner re-joined the meeting at 10.25pm

121. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2017/18

Members considered the programme of meetings for 2017/18.

It was proposed by Councillor Dudley, seconded by Councillor Dr L Evans, and:

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That Council notes the report and:**

- i) **Approves the programme of meetings for the 2017/18 Municipal Year, attached as Appendix A.**

122. APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

Alison Alexander left the meeting.

Members considered the statutory appointments of Monitoring Officer, Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer following the agreement by Employment Panel of a new management structure for the Corporate and Community Services Directorate.

It was proposed by Councillor Dudley, seconded by Councillor Smith, and:

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That Council notes the report and appoints:**

- i) **Head of Law and Governance, Mary Kilner, as the Council's Monitoring Officer.**
- ii) **Managing Director, Alison Alexander, as the Council's Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.**

123. APPROVAL OF THE UPDATED PAY POLICY STATEMENT FOR 2017/18

Members considered approval of an updated Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18 as required by the Localism Act 2011.

Councillor Coppinger introduced the report on behalf of Councillor Targowska. He explained that the Localism Act 2011 required the council to review and publish a pay policy by 31 March each year. Councillor Coppinger highlighted the changes as detailed in paragraph 2.2 of the report.

Alison Alexander re-joined the meeting.

It was noted that a number of staff would be transferring out of the council in the coming months, therefore an updated statement would be presented to Council later in the year to reflect the changes.

It was proposed by Councillor Coppinger, seconded by Councillor Dr L. Evans, and:

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That Council notes the report and:**

- i) Approves the updated Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18.**
- ii) Notes that further revisions will be required to the statement following the external transfer of some council services on 1 April 2017 and for the implementation of the Government's reforms to public sector exit pay arrangements.**

124. TRANSFORMING CARE PARTNERSHIP CAPITAL PROJECT

Members considered a capital grant of £997,841 from NHS England that would allow the council to purchase a house for three residents with complex learning difficulties to gain a degree of independent living. The grant was time limited and the property needed to be purchased and adapted by the end of March. A ten year management lease would be arranged with a specialist housing association. All costs would be covered by rental income. A care provider would be selected separately.

It was proposed by Councillor Coppinger, seconded by Councillor Diment, and:

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That Council notes the report and agrees:**

- i) To enter into an NHS England Capital Grant Agreement.**
- ii) To enter into a house purchase contract.**
- iii) To delegate authority to the Managing Director/Strategic Director Adult, Children and Health Services and Lead Member of Adult, Health and Sustainability to negotiate and enter into a lease agreement and property development contract with a Housing Association following competitive selection.**

125. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

The item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

126. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

- a) Question submitted by Councillor C Rayner to Councillor Dudley, Leader of the Council:**

Can the Leader of the Council inform us what steps he is taking to try to reinstate the Saturday guard change in Windsor?

Councillor Dudley responded that last year, the Headquarters Household Division reviewed the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Guard frequency and agreed that from Monday 16 January 2017 the Windsor Guard will be on the same the day as Queen's Guard. The Guard Change days being Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, although the Guards did not march to Windsor Castle on Sundays.

The Headquarters Household Division had stressed that the changes were very much a trial and were currently being reviewed, with a decision expected by the end of March. Councillor Dudley had written to the Brigade Major, who was carrying out that review, to convey to him the concerns that had been expressed locally about the loss of the Saturday guard change in Windsor. He had informed the Brigade Major that what was considered suitable for London, in terms of guard change days, was not necessarily suitable for Windsor and had therefore suggested to him that the Saturday Guard Change in Windsor be reinstated.

The initial response from the Brigade Major to the arguments made to him had been positive and he was hopeful for a satisfactory review outcome and the reinstatement of the Saturday Guard Change in Windsor

Councillor C. Rayner confirmed he did not have a supplementary question.

**b) Question submitted by Councillor C Rayner to Councillor Bicknell, Lead Member for Highways and Transport:**

Will the Lead Member for Highways and Transport provide an update on the 305 bus service, with particular reference to Horton and Wraysbury, following changes to the funding of the route?

Councillor Bicknell responded that Service 305 was operated by 'Bear Bus' connecting Wraysbury, Horton and Hythe End with Poyle, Colnbrook and Staines. The service was financially supported by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Surrey County Council, the borough contributes approximately £30,000. In September 2016, Surrey County Council withdrew funding for the service. The Royal Borough agreed to fund the shortfall in the short-term to ensure that the service was maintained, whilst options were explored.

Councillor Bicknell explained that with officers and the Deputy Lead Member for Buses, he had considered options. Bids had now been invited to continue to provide the service in a cost-effective manner. Following receipt of bids, he would work with Ward Members and officers to agree the way forward, seeking to maintain bus services for local residents. No decision had been made and the way forward will be made in consultation with Ward Members.

By way of a supplementary, Councillor C. Rayner commented that it was a shame that ward councillors had not been told in August 2016 when Surrey County council withdrew their funding.

**c) Question submitted by Councillor Beer to Councillor Dudley, Leader of the Council:**

Government has accepted there is a housing crisis, but Government, MPs and the expand Heathrow lobby ignore that expansion would exacerbate the crisis. Will your Administration please resource an urgent active campaign alerting other Councils and the public using Local Plan data on housing and the entire infrastructure as the overriding reasons to reject expansion in the current NPS consultation?

Councillor Dudley responded that the council had been actively engaged in a campaign against the potential expansion of runway capacity at Heathrow Airport. The council had worked in partnership with other like minded authorities and organisations, namely the London Boroughs of Hillingdon, Wandsworth, Richmond and Greenpeace.

The National Policy Statement public consultation was launched by the Secretary of State for Transport on 2 February 2017. Prior to this, the council, along with its partners, had set out its intention to challenge the legalities of such a process by way of judicial review. In response, Government initiated legal proceedings in the High Court to strike out the council's case. Mr Justice Cranston delivered his verdict at the end of January setting out that any challenge could not be heard by the High Court until after the NPS consultation and parliamentary scrutiny process had run their course. This was expected to complete at the end of 2017.

The advice given to the council by its legal team was for residents, alongside officers, to engage in the process, raising awareness of the impacts that such a scheme would have. The consultation document itself set out a number of specific impacts that the NPS needed to address, including amongst others: noise, air quality, surface access, land use and green belt pressures. The borough's communication plan included measures to ensure residents knew the impacts of expansion at Heathrow and how they could have their say on this very important matter.

An officer working group was currently reviewing the consultation and technical documents relating to the NPS. Members and officers would ensure a robust response was submitted to the Secretary of State. This would highlight the impacts the council believed expansion would have including such infrastructure demands that would place a burden on the local area and future requirements for housing and employment land. The council would continue to do all that that it could to protect its residents and the borough from the effects of expansion at Heathrow.

By way of a supplementary, Councillor Beer highlighted that the Back Heathrow campaign had put out a lot of information that was inaccurate and exaggerated. DfT displays at a recent meeting in Egham presented false and inaccurate presentations. The council needed to publicise this in the council newspaper and state the true facts so misunderstanding and opposition to the council continuing its legal action was corrected. High profile publication in combination with other authorities was required.

Councillor Dudley responded that the next edition of Around the Royal Borough would include a leaflet on the NPS outlining the facts and enabling residents to respond to the consultation via a tear-off slip. The cost of the leaflet was £10,000. Lawyers were analysing the consultation to identify any weaknesses.

127. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Councillor Quick introduced her motion. She explained the historic association of the Household Cavalry to Windsor, dating back to 1616. The Household Cavalry was one of the two most senior regiments and formed the monarch's personal bodyguard. Since 1804 the Household Cavalry had been permanently stationed at Combermere barracks. Because of the long association with the town, many generations of families had ties, including soldiers who had settled in the area after they left the army. The Mayor had chosen the Household Cavalry Foundation as her charity this year, which supported soldiers, veterans, horses and the heritage.

Councillor E. Wilson commented that it had been a shock to many residents on Broome Farm because the Household Cavalry had been stationed at the barracks for nearly 200 years; it was part of the community. There was a useful and informative museum on site and he asked the Lead Member to make contact to see if this facility could be retained. The departure would mean a large number of children leaving Alexander First School in one go, which could be very destabilising to a small school. He asked the Lead Member to contact the school and offer support.

It was proposed by Councillor Quick, seconded by Councillor E. Wilson, and:

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That this Council:**

- (i) Notes that Windsor is a Royal town with a long military history;**
- (ii) Notes with concern the plans to relocate the Household Cavalry Regiment from Combermere Barracks, its permanent home since 1804, and;**
- (iii) Requests that the Leader writes to the Secretary of State for Defence to call for the retention of the historic link between the Household Cavalry and Windsor**

The meeting, which began at 7.30pm, ended at 10.45pm.

Chairman .....

Date.....

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**AT AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber - Guildhall, Windsor on Thursday, 30th March, 2017**

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Sayonara Luxton), The Deputy Mayor (Councillor John Lenton) and

Councillors Mike Airey, Natasha Airey, Malcolm Alexander, Christine Bateson, Malcolm Beer, Phillip Bicknell, Hashim Bhatti, Paul Brimacombe, Clive Bullock, David Burbage, Stuart Carroll, Gerald Clark, David Coppinger, David Evans, Dr Lilly Evans, Jesse Grey, David Hilton, Mohammed Ilyas, Lynne Jones, Richard Kellaway, Marion Mills, Gary Muir, Eileen Quick, Jack Rankin, Colin Rayner, Samantha Rayner, Wesley Richards, MJ Saunders, Hari Sharma, Derek Sharp, Julian Sharpe, Adam Smith, John Story, Lisa Targowska, Derek Wilson, Ed Wilson and Lynda Yong

Officers: Andy Jeffs, Rob Stubbs, Russell O'Keefe, Alison Alexander, Louisa Dean, Mary Severin, Karen Shepherd, and Jenifer Jackson

128. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bowden, Cox, Dudley, Diment, Gilmore, Hill, Hollingsworth, Hunt, Love, Majeed, McWilliams, Pryer, Shelim, Stretton, Walters and Werner.

129. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor explained that the War Horse Statue was a major part of her work for her charity, the Household Cavalry Foundation. Although she believed that she had an open mind in relation to planning application 17/00188/FULL, for the sake of good decision making she declared pre-determination and would make representations, but then not take part in the discussion or vote on the item.

Councillor Hilton declared a personal interest in planning application 17/00188/FULL as he was a member of the Sunninghill and Ascot Parish Council and had attended the meeting when the application had been discussed. His wife was also chairman of the Parish Council Planning Committee and would be speaking on the item. He had an open mind but had decided neither to speak nor vote on the application.

Councillor D. Wilson declared a personal interest in the item 'Maidenhead Development Partnership – Joint Venture Development Partner Procurement' as a council representative on the Maidenhead Town Partnership and the Partnership for the Rejuvenation of Maidenhead.

Councillor Kellaway declared a personal interest in the item 'Maidenhead Development Partnership – Joint Venture Development Partner Procurement' as a council representative on the Maidenhead Town Partnership and the Partnership for the Rejuvenation of Maidenhead.

Councillor D. Evans declared a personal interest in the item 'Maidenhead Development Partnership – Joint Venture Development Partner Procurement' as a council representative on the Partnership for the Rejuvenation of Maidenhead.

Councillor Saunders declared a personal interest in the item 'Maidenhead Development Partnership – Joint Venture Development Partner Procurement' as a council representative on the Partnership for the Rejuvenation of Maidenhead.

Councillor C Rayner commented that when he was Lead Member for Transport and Highways he had been involved in initial discussions in relation to planning application 17/00188/FULL but had no interest to declare.

The Managing Director declared a prejudicial interest in the item 'Appointment of Managing Director and Head of Paid Service' as the individual considered for appointment. She left the room for the duration of the debate and voting on the item. She also declared a personal interest in the item 'Maidenhead Development Partnership – Joint Venture Development Partner Procurement' as she had recently purchased a property from one of the bidders. She remained in the room for the duration of the discussion and voting on the item.

130. PETITION FOR DEBATE

An e-petition containing 1,287 signatories was submitted to the Council on 20 February 2017. In accordance with the provisions of the Council's Constitution, it was requested by the lead petitioner that the petition be reported to, and debated at, a full Council meeting.

The petition read as follows:

"We the undersigned petition The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to say "no" to 350 new houses on (mainly) green belt in the centre of Ascot. Landowners in Ascot want to build 350 new houses on either side of Ascot High Street - land that is either Green Belt or open space. This will also mean losing many of the mature trees which frame the Ascot views. How will the already gridlocked High Street and surrounding roads cope with the increase in traffic? Where will workers & shoppers be able to park, when all the car parks are built over? What will happen on Race Days? We see no answers to any of these questions. We believe this development will have a massive and unacceptable impact on our local communities - both in Ascot and the surrounding area. We call on the Royal Borough to NOT remove this land out of the Green Belt and to NOT include this site for housing in the Borough Local Plan".

The Head of Planning introduced the petition. She explained that the proposals for land fronting and around Ascot High Street came forward through the made Ascot and Sunnings Neighbourhood Plan. Chapter 9, which was about projects not policies, talked about the vision for how Ascot centre could be rejuvenated. It explained that it was not within the remit of a Neighbourhood Plan to redraw Green Belt boundaries; only the Borough Local Plan could do this which is why the area was not included in the Neighbourhood Plan as a policy. Development of the land, which was supported by the majority of the community in consultation, was important in delivering the overall vision for Ascot. The plan went on to set out what the site might bring forward, including open space and community facilities. As the local planning authority, the council had been speaking to a consortium of land owners including Ascot Racecourse, Ascot Car Parks Ltd and the Crown Estate who were working to bring forward a development brief as required by the Neighbourhood Plan. The group launched an Ascot Centre consultation webpage. At a consultation open day on 1 December 2016 the consortium set out updated proposals for up to 350 new homes with a new community facility for Ascot. The other two key areas identified were the

High Street and highways. In parallel, the council was at first stage consultation on a draft Borough Local Plan. The Regulation 18 draft included a strategic housing allocation for the landowners consortium site together with land known locally as the Shorts site. the draft borough Local Plan suggested around 300 homes together with a community facility, retail facilities and open space. It also identified constraints including significant mature trees on site and existing open space. The draft plan noted the intention to remove the land from the Green Belt as was envisaged by the projects section in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Lead Petitioner, Mrs V. Grimes, addressed the meeting. She represented the 1,287 petitioners who had expressed deep concern at the loss of Green Belt in Ascot centre. She had additional hard copy signatures to submit and would pass these to the Petitions Officer. Mrs Grimes commented that at the heart of the concern lay the sense of an indiscriminate focus on housing, opaque and ill-considered planning and a lack of due consideration of the daily realities of both living and working in Ascot. Mrs Grimes had attended the consortium workshops; it had been refreshing that this dialogue had been opened. The original vision and aspiration for a rejuvenated Ascot was based on work by the Princes Trust and the Neighbourhood Plan. The vision had been 'twisted'. Petitioners were not blind to the national housing needs. In Ascot, windfall and change of use sites were becoming available for residential development right in the centre. Residents now faced the Green Belt being sacrificed forever, for an indiscriminate focus on housing at unheard of levels. The approach appears poorly considered in its entirety even at this very early stage. Ramifications of widespread development served to amplify concerns about parking, traffic, commuter and worker access, crucial amenities and a lack of infrastructure in the village. Back in 2012, joined up working fostered by the Prince's Foundation and the Neighbourhood Planning Group saw localism at work. 86% of residents supported the resulting vision, albeit with reservations. The Neighbourhood Plan clearly communicated the community's desire to maintain Ascot's distinct character, to preserve the Green Belt, create a successful economic environment and ensure safe and accessible roads and streets. It also recognised the village's world famous neighbour, the racecourse, which brought unique aspects to the reality of living and working in the area. There was much needed income brought into the village as a result of the visitor numbers, but there were significant logistical plans also required. The Neighbourhood Plan recognised the potential for the adoption of Green Belt where there was a proven need to do so. Residential development was included in the rejuvenation vision as a means to raise funds for improvements. Now it seemed planning for Ascot was opaque and irresponsible. Landowners and consultants had their clear priority topics but the experience of the workshops was they saw no further. Indeed Ascot as one entity did not seem to be reflected in the Borough Local Plan. The grab for Green Belt would represent major changes in the village with unique pressures. There had been unsatisfactory consideration of a joined up strategy. A picture of house building aspiration was forming; perceived promoted or planned, it was forming. As petitioners to elected officials, residents were saying no to the loss of Green Belt and asking for joined up strategic thinking for the Ascot area.

Councillor Hilton, Ward Councillor, explained that as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan in 2012 a series of community workshops facilitated by the Prince's Foundation had led to the publication of the Ascot Settlement report. The report proposed opportunities for the rejuvenation of Ascot and its centre to better reflect the image of the racecourse. Residents agreed a bold vision to take land to the south of Ascot High Street out of the Green Belt. This led to meetings to resolve a series of issues raised by the landowners, therefore the council had been surprised to not be asked for its

views on the public consultation held on 1 December 2016. The ill-conceived consultation had been a disaster with the only new information being a proposal for 350 dwellings. This had been the catalyst for the petition. Councillor Hilton had met with the landowners and explained that they had done damage to their cause, and to the council. They had been advised to fundamentally change and seek views through stakeholder groups on public facilities, open space, retail, traffic and parking. Councillor Hilton had said if there was no change, he would support the petition. However change did occur with a new Project Manager in place and meetings that led to a development brief supplemented by a detailed master plan, and reassurances of what would be brought forward in planning terms. As a result, he would not be supporting the petition, and put forward a motion to this end.

Councillor Bateson explained that in late 2014 the Head of Planning and councillors had persuaded the three landowners to work together to produce a development brief as required by the Neighbourhood Plan. She had attended the consultation on 1 December and understood the level of frustration caused as there had been very limited information and there had been a refusal to accept questions on the presentation. A strong line was taken with the landowners at the next meeting, to explain what they needed to do to get the project back on track and get the council's support. Thankfully they listened and in the last few weeks she had attended two of the three meetings held to look at open space and community facilities, housing and High Street and highways issues. Those that took part would be invited to attend a further meeting to review the outcome of the consultation before the development brief was written. There would be public consultation on the development brief, which would be presented to Cabinet for approval. Councillor Bateson stated that things were changing, otherwise she would have supported the petition.

Councillor Dr L Evans stated that she supported her fellow Ward Councillor. She had also attended meetings with the consortium; it was good to see open dialogue.

Councillor D. Wilson commented that he too had been surprised at what had been presented on 1 December, as there had been no discussions with the council. Councillor Hilton did 'read the Riot Act' to the landowners; it had been important to place on record that something needed to be done and that it was not acceptable to have a presentation in that format. The wording of the petition referred to the loss of mature trees, increased traffic and parking issues. These would be addressed by the development brief for the site. The land had originally been earmarked as a project site in the Neighbourhood Plan and would be included in the Regulation 19 consultation along with land to the south known as the Shorts site. He believed that significant progress had been made and he therefore could not support the petition.

Councillor E. Wilson asked for clarification as to whether the discussion was about the Borough Local Plan or a development brief for a specific site. He had a similar situation in west Windsor, site HA11, where 650 houses were being planned.

Councillor D. Wilson commented that the site councillor E. Wilson referred to was contained within the Borough Local Plan and was in the Regulation 18 consultation. The Regulation 19 consultation would come before Full Council on 25 April 2017. The development brief was a separate issue and would give clarity to local residents on a number of issues of concern,

The Head of Planning commented that there were a number of layers of planning: the national layer represented by the NPPF, the Borough Local Plan and then Neighbourhood Plans. The Neighbourhood Plan for Ascot was an adopted plan that specifically set out the requirement for a development brief. Such briefs would be endorsed by Cabinet as part of the formal process and in the area under discussion, this was expected to be accompanied by a masterplan.

Councillor Saunders commented that the item had emerged when he had been Lead Member for Planning and had stayed in the democratic process through Regulation 18. He echoed the need for clarity for which Councillor E. Wilson had called. As part of the Borough Local Plan process, in terms of establishing planning policies and appropriate provision of housing to meet the borough's Objectively Assessed Need, there was a need to identify a series of sites some of which, very regrettably, were in the Green Belt. Sites not in the Green Belt were being developed as profoundly as possible but simply did not support the adequate volume of houses need to offer the right balance for the community. The site was allocated as part of the Borough Local Plan process and was referenced in the Neighbourhood Plan. To agree to the request to remove it from the Borough Local Plan would be to undo all the sequences followed hitherto. He strongly believed the council could not respond to the specific request at the foot of the petition. Every single site would also be unambiguously subject to the scrutiny of the appropriate planning process. Allocating a site in the Borough Local Plan did not give an open door to development. The emerging Borough Local Plan would actually give enhanced protection for several policies. It was not for the council to throw out a site at this stage because of fears a later application may not be appropriate.

It was proposed by Councillor Hilton, seconded by Councillor D. Wilson and:

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That:**

- i) This council refuses the petitioner's request**
- ii) The proposal to remove land to the south of Ascot High Street from the Green Belt would continue**
- iii) The proposal to retain the site within Regulation 19 would remain extant**

Councillor Dr L. Evans left the meeting.

131. PLANNING APPLICATION 17/00188/FULL

As the Mayor and Deputy Mayor had both indicated they would not chair the meeting, a Chairman was appointed for the duration of the item.

It was proposed by Councillor, S Rayner, seconded by Councillor Burbage and:

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That Councillor Burbage be appointed as Chairman for the duration of the item.**

The Chairman proposed that standing orders C3.1 and C14.1 be suspended for the duration of the item to allow Members to consider the planning application in the manner that would normally occur at a Development Management Panel, including public speaking and debate on the report and officer recommendation without a motion being on the table.

It was proposed by Councillor Burbage, seconded by Councillor D. Wilson, and:

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That standing orders C3.1 and C14.1 be suspended for the duration of the item to allow Members to consider the planning application in the manner that would normally occur at a Development Management Panel, including public speaking and debate on the report and officer recommendation without a motion being on the table.**

The Panel considered the Borough Planning Manager's report on planning application 17/00188.

NB: \*Updates were received in relation to planning applications marked with an asterisk.

\*17/00188/FULL Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead: Installation of Bronze War Horse statue and stone plinth with associated landscape surrounds (Application under Regulation 3- Borough Own) at Roundabout Adjacent to Heatherwood Hospital, London Road, Ascot.

The Panel was addressed by Dr. Bayliss in objection, Margaret Morgan on behalf of the Ascot, Sunninghill and South Ascot Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Group, Patrick Griffin on behalf of SPAE, Parish Councillor Barbara Hilton and Mr Carr and Ms Seagrove in support of the application)

It was proposed by Councillor Yong, seconded by Councillor Sharma and:

**RESOLVED: That the application be permitted with the conditions listed in Section 9 of the main report, and an additional condition to give delegated authority to the Head of Planning in relation to up-lighting.**

(31 councillors voted for the motion: Councillors M. Airey, N. Airey, Alexander, Bateson, Bhatti, Bicknell, Bullock, Burbage, Carroll, Clark, Coppinger, D. Evans, Grey, Ilyas, Kellaway, Lenton, Mills, Muir, Quick, Rankin, C. Rayner, S. Rayner, Saunders, Sharma, Sharpe, Smith, Story, Targowska, D. Wilson, E. Wilson and Yong. 1 Councillor voted against the motion: Councillor Beer. Four Councillors abstained: Councillors Brimacombe, Jones, Richards and Sharp. Councillors Hilton and Luxton did not take part in the debate or vote on the item.)

The Mayor resumed the Chair.

132. NEW AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS

Members considered opting in to the appointing person scheme allowing PSAA to manage auditor appointments for the audit of the 2018/19 accounts.

Councillor Saunders explained that this was a government- co-ordinated arrangement and the majority of councils had already decided to do so.

Councillor E Wilson commented that the council had very little option than to join the scheme. He requested reassurance that the quality of audits would not diminish,

particularly as the borough was becoming a more complex organisation. He also asked for confirmation that there was no intention to reduce the audit fee the council paid.

Councillor Brimacombe highlighted to Members that the Audit and Performance Review Panel had met twice to discuss the issue as what at first appeared to be a choice, turned out not to be. The Council had the option to go with the PSAA or plough its own furrow. There was a third option of rolling over the present options, but this would cause as much pain therefore the Panel had decided it was not worth it.

Councillor Saunders commented that the council had been most fortunate to be audited by KPMG, one of the two leading companies. Regrettably none of the options gave the council any degree of certainty that the council would continue to be audited by one of the top two firms. The PSAA would allocate auditors to councils. The Royal Borough was not particularly big so there was no particular reason to believe it would necessarily benefit from one of the top two firms. If the council decided to go its own way, it would incur costs and the complexity of setting up an audit panel, and could not be confident this would ensure an audit by one of the top firms either, who would likely be focussed on pursuing tender options through the PSAA. It was his personal intent as Lead Member to seek to ensure the quality of the audit would be fully maintained. He confirmed that the council would continue to invest at appropriate market rates to match the council's complexity.

Councillor E. Wilson commented that the clarification in regards of fees was important to note as the organisation became more complex.

Councillor Brimacombe highlighted that he had agreed as Chairman to send a letter to the PSAA informing them that the council expected to be appointed auditors of the same standard and quality as the incumbent auditors, with a preference to retain KPMG. He had yet to receive the draft letter from officers.

It was proposed by Councillor Saunders, seconded by Councillor E. Wilson and:

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That Council note the report and:**

- i. Approves RBWM opting in to the appointing person scheme allowing PSAA to manage auditor appointments for the audit of the 2018/19 accounts.**

Alison Alexander left the meeting at 9.18pm.

133. APPOINTMENT OF MANAGING DIRECTOR AND HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

Members considered approval to appoint Alison Alexander as the Council's permanent Managing Director and Head of Paid Service.

Councillor Bicknell, on behalf of Councillor Dudley, commented that it gave him great pleasure to present the report. Alison Alexander had been at the council since June 2013 when she had joined as Director of Children's Services. She had become Deputy Managing Director in June 2015 and was now proposed for appointment as the permanent Managing Director, on recommendation from the Employment Panel. As stated in the report the salary was proposed to be £137,000. This was comparable

with other councils in the area. The council was an increasingly complex organisation that required strong leadership.

Councillor Targowska, as Chairman of the Employment Panel, placed on record her thanks to Alison Alexander, who was a huge asset to the council. The council had undergone a significant change programme in 2016/17, driven by her work ethic and leadership skills.

Councillor Jones stated that she fully supported the proposal; she was a member of the Employment Panel that made the recommendation. She commented on Alison Alexander's commitment to the council, which was a very complex organisation.

Councillor Brimacombe commented that when assessing a salary level it was important to take into account what the role entailed, whether it retained the individual in the organisation, and the ability to attract an recruit an individual of similar quality. The ratio of earnings compared to an average employee was also a key measure; he believed in the borough this was at an acceptable ratio. He therefore supported the proposal.

Councillor Saunders commented that he found it extraordinary that people who assumed high office in the public sector were prepared to do so at relatively modest rates compared to those in the private sector.

Councillor Coppinger commented on the need for a Managing Director who could work across silos in a large organisation to achieve results. Alison Alexander had proved to him that she could do this. He highlighted that the agreement with Optalis had been signed earlier that day. The project had required unbelievable levels of leadership in a very short time. He commented that the council's former Managing Director (Ian Trenholm) now earned £175,000 working for the NHS. The Chief Executive of the LGA earned £199,000. He hoped Alison Alexander stayed with the council to see the transformation programme through, and beyond.

It was proposed by Councillor Bicknell, seconded by Councillor Coppinger and:

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That Council notes the report and appoints:**

- i) Alison Alexander as the Council's permanent Managing Director and Head of Paid Service.**

Alison Alexander re-joined the meeting at 9.31pm.

134. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting whilst discussion takes place on item 8 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1-7 of part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.**



**AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL held in the Desborough Suite - Town Hall on Tuesday, 23rd May, 2017**

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Sayonara Luxton), The Deputy Mayor (Councillor John Lenton)

Councillors Natasha Airey, Mike Airey, Malcolm Alexander, Christine Bateson, Malcolm Beer, Hashim Bhatti, Phillip Bicknell, John Bowden, Paul Brimacombe, David Burbage, Stuart Carroll, Gerald Clark, David Coppinger, Carwyn Cox, Wisdom Da Costa, Simon Dudley, David Evans, Dr Lilly Evans, Marius Gilmore, Geoffrey Hill, David Hilton, Charles Hollingsworth, Maureen Hunt, Mohammed Ilyas, Lynne Jones, Richard Kellaway, Philip Love, Phillip Love, Asghar Majeed, Ross McWilliams, Marion Mills, Nicola Pryer, Eileen Quick, Jack Rankin, Samantha Rayner, Wesley Richards, MJ Saunders, Hari Sharma, Derek Sharp, Julian Sharpe, Shamsul Shelim, Adam Smith, John Story, Claire Stretton, Lisa Targowska, Simon Werner, Derek Wilson and Ed Wilson.

Officers: Rob Stubbs, Russell O'Keefe, Alison Alexander, Andrew Scott and Andy Jeffs

THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR LUXTON) IN THE CHAIR

At the commencement of the meeting, all present stood for a minutes silence in memory of those that had lost their lives, those that had been injured and those that had been affected by the terrorist attack in Manchester on Monday 22 May 2017.

136. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bullock, Diment, Grey, C. Rayner, Walters and Yong.

137. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

138. ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR 2017/18

The Mayor, Councillor Luxton, welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting and gave a brief résumé of her year of office.

Councillor Luxton commenced by stating that it had been such an honour and joy to serve the residents of the Royal Borough as Mayor over that last 12 months and that she had enjoyed the last year immensely. Councillor Luxton commented that she would cherish the time that she held the office of Mayor and she hoped that she had made the Borough proud.

Councillor Luxton commented that it was with a little sadness and great relief that she was handing over the mayoral chain to her successor. Councillor Luxton advised that she had been delighted and humbled to experience at first hand the generosity of members of the local community and that, together with her consort, had met a large number of volunteers, without whom many local charities and good causes would not be able to function.

Councillor Luxton commented upon the numerous local voluntary groups that were making life better for the residents of the Royal Borough and the many individuals in the Borough who were helping others that were less fortunate than themselves. She advised that that it had been a pleasure to meet hundreds of local people ranging from young persons to senior citizen and to listen to their stories and to learn more about them.

Councillor Luxton commented upon her delight to have raised funds for her chosen charity, the Household Cavalry Foundation and stated that she had been overwhelmed by the support shown for the events that she had hosted in aid of the Foundation. She thanked those that had helped her organise those events, in particular Alan Carr, Jacqui Fletcher, Helen Francis and Martine Curzon.

Councillor Luxton stated that she was pleased that the War Horse Memorial had progressed so far during my Mayoral year and that the official launch of the project had been at her Charity Ball earlier that month. She explained that the project would provide ongoing fundraising in support of the armed forces and other associated charities and that she looked forward to following its progress over the next 12 months.

Councillor Luxton thanked her Deputy Mayor, Councillor John Lenton, and his wife Margaret, for their support and wished them well for the forthcoming year. She also thanked her fellow councillors for all their support and her husband Ian and her family for their support, love and patience throughout the year. Councillor Luxton also thanked the Mayoral team for looking after her, in particular the Mayor's Officers Mark, Tom and David, who had taken the stress out of driving to and from mayoral engagements.

In conclusion, Councillor Luxton presented a cheque for £30,000 to Lieutenant Colonel Giles Stibbe, Director of Household Cavalry Foundation, which represented the money that has been raised during the year in support of her chosen Charity. Lieutenant Colonel Giles Stibbe briefly addressed the meeting to thank the Mayor for raising the funds for the Foundation and commented upon the Household Cavalry's long association with the Royal Borough and the support that the regiment received locally.

The Mayor also advised that, separate to her fundraising activity, she was making a personal donation to the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service and the Windsor Homeless Project and presented a cheque for £8,000 and £1,000, respectively, to Fiona Devine and Sally Wright on behalf of those charities.

**THE MAYOR INVITED NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF THE MAYOR OF THE ROYAL BOROUGH FOR 2017/2018.**

In proposing Councillor John Lenton for the position of Mayor, Councillor Dudley advised that Councillor Lenton had been educated at Bournemouth School and the London School of Economics and had started work as an economist and management consultant before moving into financial consultancy, setting up Avocet Finance Limited which specialised in niche areas of Equipment Finance.

Councillor Dudley stated that Councillor Lenton had been active in politics since he joined the Young Conservatives and had been the Chairman of the Birmingham Bow

group, had been a member of various national policy committees and, following his move to Rolls Royce in Derby, had chaired the Belper Conservative Association.

Following his election as a Royal Borough Councillor in 2007, John had chaired the Royal County of Berkshire Pension Fund, which was administered by the Royal Borough on behalf of the 6 Berkshire unitary authority councils and 217 other public sector bodies. Under his stewardship the Fund had become recognised as a prestige fund, winning at least 9 national and international awards and was the first Local Government Fund to arrange longevity insurance. Councillor Dudley advised that he had the pleasure of working with Councillor Lenton on the Fund and stressed Councillor Lenton's dedication towards the protection of the pension assets of all the thousands of scheme members.

Councillor Dudley advised that Councillor Lenton had been a valuable and dedicated member of the administrations since 2007. He had been vice chairman of the Windsor Rural Development Control Panel, for 3 years had been a Director of Windsor Housing and was currently a member of the Adult Services and Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel and the Berkshire Fire Authority, being Vice Chairman of two of its four sub-committees. Councillor Dudley also advised that Councillor Lenton had been Chairman of the Aviation Forum and had led the campaign against the proposed third Heathrow runway option, which would devastate Wraysbury and nearby surrounding villages.

Councillor Dudley commented that Councillor Lenton had been married to Margaret for 49 years, had lived in Wraysbury for 29 years and had one son, Philip, who was a chartered accountant and director at Deloitte and past President of the Windsor St. George Rotary Club.

Councillor Dudley explained that that Councillor Lenton and Margaret Lenton had worked tirelessly with the National Magna Carta 800 committee to develop local and national commemoration events and they had done an absolutely wonderful job to make it the celebration it deserved to be.

Councillor Dudley advised that Councillor Lenton would have the full support of his wife Margaret, the former Principal of Slough Grammar School and their son Philip and Daughter in Law, Nina and that both Councillor Lenton and Margaret were looking forward to supporting residents of all ages, businesses and charities in the Royal Borough, in particular the many invaluable voluntary organisations that now help so many residents.

In conclusion, Councillor Dudley stated that Councillor Lenton had previously been an excellent Deputy Mayor and no doubt would be an excellent Mayor.

Councillor Bicknell announced that it gave him great pleasure to second the motion that Councillor Lenton be appointed Mayor and commented upon Margaret's many qualities and the support that she would provide to Councillor Lenton as Mayoress.

Councillor Bicknell advised that Margaret had been born in Rugby and had worked hard at her education and had secured a history degree. Councillor Bicknell explained that Margaret started her working life as a solicitor, before moving into banking and finally becoming a teacher. He advised that for 22 years she had been the head

teacher at Slough Grammar School, which under her leadership more than doubled its pupil numbers.

Councillor Bicknell advised that Margaret had been a local magistrate, a Governor of Churchmead School and a fellow of Brunel University and that, together with all the other varied personal and community interests, such as the Magna Carta committee, Bletchley park research work, Windsor festival, the operatic society, it was clear that Margaret was exactly what the Mayor needed standing at his side.

In conclusion, Councillor Bicknell commented that there was not a better team to be the Royal Borough's Mayor and Mayoress and therefore he had no hesitation in seconding the nomination.

It was moved by Councillor Dudley, seconded by Councillor Bicknell and

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That Councillor John Lenton be elected Mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the ensuing Municipal Year.**

The Managing Director declared Councillor Lenton duly elected Mayor. Councillor Lenton made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by Councillors Dudley and Bicknell.

THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR LENTON) IN THE CHAIR

Councillor Luxton presented the Mayor with the Mace, the Mayor's seal, the Borough seal and the keys to the Mayor's Parlour.

In making his speech of acceptance, Councillor Lenton advised that it was a great honour to be elected Mayor and that, together with the Mayoress, looked forward to fulfilling their duties and would do their best to live up to the high standards of their predecessors.

Councillor Lenton thanked Councillor Luxton for performing her duties as Mayor so well and commented that, with the support of her consort Ian, she had enhanced the reputation of the Royal Borough. Councillor Lenton also thanked the Mayoral Team, in particular Andrew Scott and Alison Singleton, for all the help and support they had given the Mayor and Deputy Mayor during the year.

Councillor Lenton commented upon the special and historic nature of the Royal Borough and advised that not only was the Borough the home of Her Majesty the Queen but the member for Parliament for Maidenhead was also the Prime Minister.

Councillor Lenton commented that he was proud of Windsor's historic and military traditions and proud of Maidenhead's famous Brunel heritage and its thriving commercial activities and its rapid regeneration. He also commented upon the many delightful thriving small towns and villages that were situated within the Borough.

In conclusion, Councillor Lenton advised that, during his term of office, he would look forward to serving all the residents of the Borough and, in particular, to meeting the growing force of both national and local voluntary organisations who do so much work for the Borough's residents.

The Mayor presented Councillor Luxton and her husband Ian with their Past Mayor's and Past Mayor's Consort badges.

139. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2017/18

In nominating Councillor Quick for the office of Deputy Mayor, Councillor David Evans advised that Councillor Quick, known to all as Dee, had been an outstanding Mayor a couple of years ago during Her Majesty's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations.

Councillor D Evans explained that being Mayor or Deputy Mayor was all consuming for the twelve months of office and that, although one would think that Councillor Quick would be happy to put her feet up and take a well earned rest, the Mayoralty was a family business as her father had been Mayor and Deputy Mayor on two occasions and her grandfather had also been Mayor and Deputy Mayor twice. Councillor D Evans advised that Councillor Quick therefore had some way to go before she could put her feet up and quipped that with that family history it appeared that there appeared to be more than one dynasty in Windsor.

Councillor D Evans explained that Councillor Quick had been involved in the heart of the community as a teacher and lecturer of Home Economics in local schools and colleges for almost 40 years, had been a Councillor for over 17 years, had served on numerous Panels and charities and had also been a Cabinet member for 8 years as lead member for Children's Services and for Leisure, Libraries and Culture.

Councillor D Evans explained that, despite the unprecedented changes that the Council had experienced, Councillor Quick had never lost sight of the key objective of delivering for the residents of the Borough. He recalled that, when Councillor Quick had been the lead member for Children's Services and he had been a new Councillor on the scrutiny panel, Councillor Quick never lost sight of the need to deliver for the Borough's young people and to ensure that the most vulnerable were safeguarded. He stated that Councillor Quick was always polite and courteous but had a steely resolve.

In conclusion, Councillor D Evans reiterated that Councillor Quick had undertaken the role of Mayor successfully 2015-16, taking part in the Magna Carta 800 year celebrations and Her Majesty's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, and that together with her husband John, she was looking forward to supporting Councillor Lenton and Margaret during what was going to be a busy and enjoyable mayoral year.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Ed Wilson commented upon how well known and respected Councillor Quick was within Windsor. Councillor E Wilson announced that Councillor Quick and her husband John had been married for many years and had two grown up children and a grandson, who all lived in the Borough.

Councillor E Wilson explained that Councillor Quick and John had met in Newcastle whilst training to be teachers and that they had taught in some of our local schools for a number of years. Councillor E Wilson explained that subsequently John had been called by God to spread the word of the Lord to Windsor residents, particularly those living in the east of Dedworth who enjoyed access and use the many excellent local amenities.

Councillor E Wilson quipped that John had much in common with Prince Philip in that he was always present, always ready to support his wife and was always allowed to put the bins out.

In conclusion, Councillor E Wilson explained how John Quick had been an excellent support to Councillor Quick when she had been Mayor and he was confident that he would continue to be a fantastic support to her as Deputy Mayor. He advised that the Borough was blessed with people like Councillor Quick and John who were prepared to provide a service to the community and to act as a role model to the younger generation encourage residents to become more community focused and active in community affairs.

It was moved by Councillor David Evans, seconded by Councillor Ed Wilson, and:

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That Councillor Eileen Quick be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the ensuing Municipal Year.**

The Managing Director declared Councillor Eileen Quick duly appointed Deputy Mayor. Councillor Quick made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by Councillors David Evans and Ed Wilson.

In her speech of acceptance, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Quick, stated that it was with great pleasure and a mixture of pride and humility that she was glad to accept the honour of becoming Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Quick explained that, as a former Mayor, she had experienced the reality of fulfilling the many hundreds of duties and engagements the Mayor had been invited to attend and that she now looked forward to supporting the Mayor and Mayoress and being part of their mayoral team. Councillor Quick thanked Councillor Lenton and Margaret Lenton for all their hard work to support the civic life of the Borough as Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress and advised that, as a serving Deputy, the transition to Mayor would be much easier.

Councillor Quick explained that she had undertaken some research in preparation for her role and commented upon the characteristics required of a good deputy. Referring to the book of Daniel in the Bible, Councillor Quick explained that this provided the best example of the 5 great qualities required to fulfil the role, namely, knowledge and ability, calmness and personal control, wisdom, positivity and loyalty. She advised that, during the forthcoming municipal year she would try and embody those qualities and stated that she was confident her consort will give her gentle nudges to remind her when she fell short. She commented upon the example that had been set by her father, her mother and her grandfather who had undertaken that role before her.

In conclusion, Councillor Quick stated that, as a representative of the Council they meet organisations and individuals who contribute so much to making the Royal Borough a great place to live and work and that she looked forward to being part of the civic team supporting the life of the Borough for the next municipal year.

Councillor Quick then presented Councillor Lenton and his wife Margaret with their past Deputy Mayor's and past Deputy Mayor's Consort badges.

140. PROPOSED STRUCTURE AND APPOINTMENT OF PANELS, CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEE ETC

Members considered the proposed committee/panel/forum membership for 2017/18. The Leader highlighted a small amendment to the membership of Maidenhead Development Management Panel.

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That:**

- a) **The membership of the Committees, Panels, Forums for the ensuing Municipal Year be approved as detailed in Table 1.**
- b) **The Chairman and Vice-Chairman as indicated below be appointed for the ensuing Municipal Year.**
- c) **Authority to amend/make further appointments on the nomination of the relevant Group Leader be delegated to the Democratic Services Manager.**
- d) **Authority to amend the Constitution as appropriate in light of amendments to the structure of Panels, Committees and Forums as detailed in Table 1 be delegated to the Monitoring Officer.**

**Table 1**

<b>COMMITTEE/PANEL/FORUM</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP 2017/2018</b>
<b>Appeals</b> (3 or 5 Members called on an 'as required' basis)	
<b>Audit and Performance Review Panel</b> (8 Members) (7C, 1TGOF)	Chairman: Cllr Luxton Vice Chairman: Cllr Smith  Cllrs Carroll, Dr L Evans, Rankin, Saunders, E Wilson (C), Da Costa (TGOF)  Subs: Cllrs D Evans, Kellaway, McWilliams, Quick, C Rayner, Richards and Story (C) Beer, Jones OR Werner (TGOF)
<b>Berkshire Pension Fund Panel</b> (5 Members) (4C, 1TGOF)	Chairman: Cllr Lenton Vice Chairman: Cllr Hilton  Cllrs Hill and Kellaway (C) & Rankin (C – TGOF seat)  Subs: Cllrs Alexander, Dudley, Sharpe and Story (C) and 1 vacancy (TGOF seat)
<b>Constitution Sub-Committee</b> (4 Members) (3C, 1 TGOF)	Chairman: Cllr Targowska Vice-Chairman: Cllr Bicknell  Cllrs Story (C), Beer (TGOF)  Subs: Cllrs Coppinger, Dudley, Kellaway (C), Da Costa, Jones OR Werner (TGOF)

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COMMITTEE/PANEL/FORUM	MEMBERSHIP 2017/2018
<p><b>Employment Panel</b> (8 Members) (7C, 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Cllr Targowska Vice Chairman: Cllr Quick</p> <p>Cllrs Bicknell, Brimacombe, Carroll, Dr L Evans and Saunders (C) Jones (TGOF)</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs Bateson, Dudley, Hilton, Rankin, Story, E Wilson and S Rayner (C), Beer, Da Costa, OR Werner (TGOF)</p>
<p><b>Licensing Panel</b> (15 Members) (14C, 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Cllr Grey Vice Chairman: Burbage</p> <p>Cllrs Alexander, Bhatti, Bicknell, Bowden, Hollingsworth, Hilton, Hunt, Muir, Richards, Sharp, Sharpe, D. Wilson (C) and Luxton (C – TGOF seat).</p> <p>Sub: Cllrs N. Airey, Bateson, Dr L Evans, Hill, Lenton, Mills, Pryer, Quick, S Rayner, Sharma, Shelim, Story, D Wilson, Yong (C), and 1 vacancy (TGOF seat).</p>
<p><b>Maidenhead Development Management Panel</b> (9 Members) (8C, 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Cllr Burbage Vice Chairman: Cllr D Wilson</p> <p>Cllrs Bullock, Hunt, Kellaway, Lion, Love, Smith (C) and Sharp (C - TGOF seat).</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs Brimacombe, Cox, Diment, Hill, Ilyas, Mills, Saunders and Sharma (C) and 1 vacancy (TGOF seat)</p>
<p><b>Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel</b> (8 Members) (7C, 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Cllr Hunt Vice Chairman: Cllr Yong</p> <p>Cllrs Bullock, Diment, Ilyas, Muir, S Rayner (C), Werner (TGOF)</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs Brimacombe, Gilmore, Grey, Hilton, Story, Pryer and Sharpe (C), Beer, Da Costa, OR Jones (TGOF).</p>
<p><b>Sustainability Panel</b> (6 Members) (5C, 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Cllr Mills Vice-Chairman: Cllr Coppinger</p> <p>Cllrs Pryer, Sharp, Yong (C), Werner (TGOF)</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs M Airey, Clark, Love, Rankin, E Wilson (C), Beer, Da Costa or Jones (TGOF)</p>
<p><b>Windsor Urban Development Management Panel</b> (9 Members) (8C, 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Cllr Alexander Vice Chairman: Cllr Bicknell</p> <p>Cllrs M Airey, Bowden, Grey, Quick, S Rayner and</p>



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COMMITTEE/PANEL/FORUM	MEMBERSHIP 2017/2018
	<p>Shelim (C), Da Costa (TGOF).</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs N Airey, Bateson, Bhatti, Muir, Pryer, Rankin, Richards E Wilson (C) Beer, Jones OR Werner (TGOF)</p>
<p><b>Windsor Rural Development Management Panel</b> (9 Members) (8C, 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Cllr Dr L. Evans Vice Chairman: Cllr C. Rayner</p> <p>Cllrs M. Airey, Bateson, Hilton, Lenton, Sharpe and Yong (C), Beer (TGOF)</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs Bowden, Luxton, Pryer, Quick, Rankin, Richards, S. Rayner, Story (C), Da Costa, Jones OR Werner (TGOF)</p>
<p><b>Borough-wide Development Management Panel</b> (13 Members) (12C, 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Cllr Burbage Vice Chairman: Cllr Alexander</p> <p>Cllrs Bateson, Bicknell, Coppinger, L Evans, Hilton, Hunt, Kellaway, C Rayner, Smith and D Wilson, (C) Beer (TGOF)</p> <p>Subs: M. Airey, Bowden, Clark, Diment, Grey, Ilyas, Lion, Quick, Rankin, Saunders, Sharpe, Yong (C) Da Costa, Jones OR Werner (TGOF)</p>
<p><b>Local Plans Working Group</b> (10 Members) (9C, 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Cllr Bateson Vice Chairman: Cllr Saunders</p> <p>Cllrs Alexander, Bicknell, Dr L. Evans, Hill, Hilton, Walters, D. Wilson (C), Beer (TGOF)</p> <p>Subs: Bowden, Clark, Coppinger, Ilyas, Kellaway, Quick, Sharpe, Smith, Story (C), Da Costa, Jones OR Werner (TGOF)</p>
<p><b>Adult Services and Health Overview &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b> (6 Members) (5C 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Vice Chairman:</p> <p>Cllrs M. Airey, Diment, Hollingsworth, Ilyas, Lenton (C), Da Costa (TGOF)</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs Clark, Dr L Evans, Mills, Quick, Yong (C), Beer, Jones OR Werner (TGOF)</p>
<p><b>Children's Services Overview &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b> (7 Members) (6C 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Vice Chairman:</p> <p>Cllrs Bowden, McWilliams, Mills, Pryer, Quick, E Wilson (C), Jones (TGOF)</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs Bhatti, Hollingsworth, Hunt, Ilyas, Sharma, Story (C), Beer, Da Costa OR Werner (TGOF)</p>

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COMMITTEE/PANEL/FORUM	MEMBERSHIP 2017/2018
<p><b>Corporate Services Overview &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b> (7 Members) (6C 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Vice Chairman:</p> <p>Cllrs Bowden, Burbage, Dr L Evans, McWilliams, Quick, C Rayner (C), Jones (TGOF)</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs Clark, D Evans, Gilmore, Grey, Lenton, Story (C), Beer, Da Costa OR Werner (TGOF)</p>
<p><b>Crime and Disorder Overview &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b> (7 Members) (6C 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Vice Chairman:</p> <p>Cllrs Bhatti, Bowden, Grey, Sharma, Sharp, Story (C), Werner (TGOF)</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs Alexander, Bullock, Muir, Ilyas, Sharpe, Shelim (C), Beer, Da Costa OR Jones (TGOF)</p>
<p><b>Highways, Transport &amp; Environment Overview &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b> (7 Members) (6C 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Vice Chairman:</p> <p>Cllrs Gilmore, Grey, Hunt, Lion, Sharma, Sharpe (C), Beer (TGOF)</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs D Evans, Hilton, Story, Sharp, Richards, Yong (C), Da Costa, Jones OR Werner (TGOF)</p>
<p><b>Culture and Communities Overview &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b> (7 Members) (6C 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Vice Chairman:</p> <p>Cllrs Clark, Diment, Gilmore Grey, McWilliams, Shelim (C), Werner (TGOF)</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs Bhatti, Ilyas, Lenton, Luxton, Mills, Sharpe (C), Beer, Da Costa OR Jones (TGOF)</p>
<p><b>Planning and Housing Overview &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b> (7 Members) (6C 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Vice Chairman:</p> <p>Cllrs M. Airey, Alexander, Burbage, Clark, Hilton, Kellaway (C), Beer (TGOF)</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs Bullock, Luxton, Sharpe, Smith, Walters, Yong (C), Da Costa, Jones OR Werner (TGOF)</p>
<p><b>Maidenhead Town Forum</b> (7 Members) (6C, 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Cllr Love Vice Chairman: Cllr Stretton</p> <p>Cllrs Gilmore, Hollingsworth, Sharma, D Wilson (C), Werner (TGOF).</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs Dudley, Hill, Lion, Mills, Smith, Targowska (C), Beer, Da Costa OR Jones (TGOF)</p>

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COMMITTEE/PANEL/FORUM	MEMBERSHIP 2017/2018
<p><b>Windsor Town Forum</b> (7 Members) (6C, 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Cllr Rankin Vice Chairman: Cllr Alexander</p> <p>Cllrs Bowden, Bhatti, Quick, S Rayner (C) Da Costa (TGOF)</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs M Airey, Bicknell, Pryer, C Rayner, Richards and E. Wilson (C) Beer, Jones or Werner (TGOF).</p>
<p><b>Access Advisory Forum</b> (2 Members) (1C, 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Cllrs Hollingsworth (C) &amp; Love (C – TGOF seat)</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs Luxton (C) &amp; Muir (C - TGOF seat)</p>
<p><b>Aviation Forum</b> (5 Members) (4C 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Cllr Bowden</p> <p>Cllrs Hilton, Lenton and Smith (C), Beer (TGOF)</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs D. Wilson, Grey, Dr L Evans, Cox (C), Da Costa, Jones OR Werner (TGOF)</p>
<p><b>Corporate Parenting Forum</b> (5 Members) (4C, 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Cllr Hollingsworth Vice Chairman: Cllr Clark</p> <p>Cllrs Luxton, E. Wilson (C), Jones (TGOF)</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs Bicknell, Cox, Mills, Yong (C), Beer, Da Costa OR Werner (TGOF)</p>
<p><b>Cycle Forum</b> (4 Members) (3C, 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Cllr D Wilson Vice-Chairman: Cllr Yong</p> <p>Cllr Lion (C), Beer (TGOF)</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs Hill, Luxton, Mills (C), Da Costa, Jones OR Werner (TGOF)</p>
<p><b>Grants Panel</b> (5 Members) (4C, 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Cllr Saunders Vice Chairman: Cllr Bateson</p> <p>Cllrs Bowden, Bullock (C), and Sharpe (C - TGOF seat)</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs Dudley, Hilton, Stretton, Hollingsworth (C) &amp; D Wilson (C – TGOF seat).</p>
<p><b>Maidenhead Town Partnership Board</b> (4 Members) (3C, 1 TGOF)</p>	<p>Cllrs D. Evans, Kellaway, D. Wilson (C), Werner (TGOF).</p> <p>Subs: Cllrs Brimacombe, Burbage, Saunders (C), Beer, Da Costa OR Jones (TGOF).</p>
<p><b>Rural Forum</b> (6 Members) (5C, 1TGOF)</p>	<p>Chairman: Cllr Bateson Vice-Chairman: Cllr D Evans</p> <p>Cllrs Coppinger, Hilton, Kellaway (C) and C Rayner (C- TGOF seat).</p>

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<b>COMMITTEE/PANEL/FORUM</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP 2017/2018</b>
	Subs: Cllrs Clark, Dr L Evans, Grey, Hunt, Lenton (C), and Luxton (C – TGOF seat).
<b>School Improvement Forum</b> (3 Members) (2C, 1TGOF)	Chairman: Cllr D. Evans (C) Vice-Chairman: Cllr N. Airey (C)  Cllr Mills (C – TGOF seat)  Subs: Cllrs Hilton, Lion (C) and Smith (C – TGOF seat)
<b>Independent Remuneration Panel</b>	Mr Karnail Pannu, Mr Chris Stevens and Mr Andrew Vallance (Chairman)
<b>Tourism Development Forum</b> (6 Members) (5C, 1 TGOF)	Chairman: Cllr C Rayner Vice Chairman: Cllr Burbage  Cllrs Clark, Grey, Shelim (C), Pryer (C – TGOF seat).  Subs: Cllrs M Airey, Bateson, Diment, Lion, Quick (C) and Yong (C - TGOF seat)
<b>Windsor, Eton and Ascot Town Partnership Board</b> (5 Members) (4C, 1 TGOF)	Chairman: Cllr Bowden Vice Chairman: Cllr Dr L. Evans  Cllrs Alexander, Rankin (C) and Shelim (C – TGOF seat).  Subs: Cllrs Bateson, Bicknell, Quick, Richards (C), and E Wilson (C – TGOF)

**FOR INFORMATION**

**CABINET MEMBERSHIP 2017/2018**

<b>CABINET</b>	
<b>Member</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
<b>Councillor Dudley</b>	<b>Leader of the Council and Chairman of Cabinet (including Housing)</b>
<b>Councillor Bicknell</b>	<b>Deputy Leader of the Council, Highways and Transport</b>
<b>Councillor Coppinger</b>	<b>Deputy Chairman of Cabinet, Adult Services and Health (including Sustainability)</b>
<b>Councillor Cox</b>	<b>Environmental Services (including Parking)</b>
<b>Councillor D Wilson</b>	<b>Planning</b>
<b>Councillor N Airey</b>	<b>Children’s Services</b>
<b>Councillor Saunders</b>	<b>Finance</b>
<b>Councillor S Rayner</b>	<b>Culture and Communities (including Customer and Business Services)</b>
<b>Councillor Rankin</b>	<b>Economic Development, Property and Deputy Finance</b>
<b>Councillor D Evans</b>	<b>Maidenhead Regeneration and Maidenhead (including School Improvement)</b>

<i>Principal Members</i>	
<b>Councillor Bateson</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Planning and Ascot &amp; The Sunnings</b>
<b>Councillor Targowska</b>	<b>HR, Legal &amp; IT</b>
<b>Councillor Hilton</b>	<b>Ascot Regeneration</b>
<b>Councillor Carroll</b>	<b>Public Health and Communications</b>

**Deputy Lead Members**

Cllr McWilliams – Policy and Affordable Housing  
Cllr Alexander - Streetcare and Windsor & Eton  
Cllr Sharma - Bus Champion  
Cllr Gilmore - Manifesto Delivery  
Cllr M. Airey – Planning Performance  
Cllr Bowden – Aviation and Heathrow Airport  
Cllr Love – Maidenhead Regeneration and Maidenhead

**Cabinet Sub Committee Appointments:**

Cabinet Prioritisation Sub Committee: Cllrs Dudley (Chairman) Bicknell, Coppinger and Cox. Cllr Targowska in attendance (non-voting)

Cabinet Local Authority Governors Appointment Sub Committee: Cllrs N. Airey (Chairman), Saunders, S Rayner and Rankin. Cllr Bateson in attendance (non-voting)

Cabinet Regeneration Sub Committee: Cllrs Dudley (Chairman) Rankin (Vice Chairman), Bicknell, Cox, D. Evans, S. Rayner, Saunders and D Wilson. Councillors Bateson, Hilton, Love and McWilliams in attendance (non-voting)

In closing the meeting, the Mayor invited Councillor Bicknell and Councillor Pryer's children, Harry and Isla, to present bouquets to the Mayoress, Deputy Mayor and immediate Past Mayor.

The meeting, which started at 7.30pm, ended at 8.28pm.

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## MEMBERS' GUIDE TO DECLARING INTERESTS IN MEETINGS

### Disclosure at Meetings

If a Member has not disclosed an interest in their Register of Interests, they **must make** the declaration of interest at the beginning of the meeting, or as soon as they are aware that they have a DPI or Prejudicial Interest. If a Member has already disclosed the interest in their Register of Interests they are still required to disclose this in the meeting if it relates to the matter being discussed.

A member with a DPI or Prejudicial Interest **may make representations at the start of the item but must not take part in discussion or vote at a meeting.** The term 'discussion' means a discussion by the members of meeting. In order to avoid any accusations of taking part in the discussion or vote, Members should move to the public area or leave the room once they have made any representations. If the interest declared has not been entered on to a Members' Register of Interests, they must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing within the next 28 days following the meeting.

### Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) (relating to the Member or their partner) include:

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit made in respect of any expenses occurred in carrying out member duties or election expenses.
- Any contract under which goods and services are to be provided/works to be executed which has not been fully discharged.
- Any beneficial interest in land within the area of the relevant authority.
- Any licence to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where the landlord is the relevant authority, and the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:
  - a) that body has a piece of business or land in the area of the relevant authority, and
  - b) either (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body **or** (ii) the total nominal value of the shares of any one class belonging to the relevant person exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Any Member who is unsure if their interest falls within any of the above legal definitions should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

A Member with a DPI should state in the meeting: ***'I declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

*Or, if making representations on the item: 'I declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will make representations, then I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'*

### Prejudicial Interests

Any interest which a reasonable, fair minded and informed member of the public would reasonably believe is so significant that it harms or impairs the Member's ability to judge the public interest in the item, i.e. a Member's decision making is influenced by their interest so that they are not able to impartially consider relevant issues.

A Member with a Prejudicial interest should state in the meeting: ***'I declare a Prejudicial Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

*Or, if making representations in the item: 'I declare a Prejudicial Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will make representations, then I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'*

### Personal interests

Any other connection or association which a member of the public may reasonably think may influence a Member when making a decision on council matters.

Members with a Personal Interest should state at the meeting: ***'I wish to declare a Personal Interest in item x because xxx'. As this is a Personal Interest only, I will take part in the discussion and vote on the matter.***

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## MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Since Annual Council the Deputy Mayor and I have carried out the following engagements:-

### Meetings

- Royal Albert Institute Trust
- Charles Davis Trust
- Friends of the Windsor and Royal Borough Museum
- Twinning Committee
- Extraordinary Council

### Schools/Clubs/Community

- Attended the *Resilience* Alcohol and Drug Team event
- Attended several Thames Valley History Festival events at Churchmead School and Windsor Museum
- Hosted a reception for school children from the Royal Borough's twin town of St Cloud, France at the Windsor Guildhall
- Attended the Annual Lecture and Dinner at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park
- Presented Fit4Life Certificates at Harwood House, Cookham
- Attended the dedication of plaque to Air Commodore West at Sunningdale Golf Club
- Led the Mayor's Sunday Civic Service
- Visited the Regatta for the Disabled, Bisham Abbey, Bisham
- Attended the official opening of the Animal Management Centre, Berkshire College of Agriculture, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead
- Attended a couple of citizenship ceremonies
- Participated in the Language and Culture Week at Waltham St Lawrence Primary School and celebrated with the Chinese delegation
- Attended the High Sheriff's Summer Reception
- Officially opened Ascot Grange, Sunninghill
- Judged the floats at Old Windsor Carnival and visited the stalls
- Royal Warrant Holders President's Reception
- Attend the Patronal service at Holy Trinity Garrison Church, Windsor
- Opened the woodland trail at Brigidine School, Windsor
- Participated in the WAMCF community Iftar at Maidenhead Mosque
- Launched the Windsor Business Lunch Club
- Visited the Rivertime Accessible Regatta, Bisham Abbey, Bisham
- Watched the Beating Retreat of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Coldstream Guards, Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall, London
- Attended the funeral of former Mayor Mike Bruton
- Attended the East Berkshire College Annual Awards Ceremony
- Visited the Crossroads Care tea party for Carers Week
- Visited the Open Day at St Marks Care Home, St Marks Road, Maidenhead
- "Beer and Wine in Berkshire" event at Windsor Museum
- Welcomed Congolese refugees to the Windsor Guildhall
- Opened Wraysbury Fair
- Marlow Town Mayor's civic service
- Visited the ladies cricket fun day, Maidenhead and Bray Cricket Club

- Led the Armed Forces Day Flagraising
- Year 11 Graduation Ceremony, Furze Platt Senior School, Maidenhead
- Opened the School Council Conference, Holyport Primary School, Maidenhead
- St George's House Annual Lecture, Windsor Castle
- Rotary Club of Windsor and Eton Summer Fayre
- Berkshire Community Foundation Afternoon Tea
- Opened Thrift Wood, Ockwells Park, Cox Green, Maidenhead
- *Young Enterprise tbc*

#### Concerts/Shows

- Music Festival concert, St Luke's Church, Maidenhead
- Royal Free Singers concert "The Sprig of Thyme"
- Windsor Maidenhead Symphony Orchestra concert

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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