

MINUTES of the WAVERLEY
BOROUGH COUNCIL held in
the Council Chamber, Council
Offices, The Burys, Godalming
on 18 February 2020 at 7.00
pm

- * Cllr Mary Forszewski (Mayor)
- * Cllr Penny Marriott (Deputy Mayor)

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| * Cllr Brian Adams | * Cllr Jerry Hyman |
| * Cllr Christine Baker | * Cllr Peter Isherwood |
| * Cllr David Beaman | * Cllr Jacquie Keen |
| * Cllr Roger Blishen | * Cllr Robert Knowles |
| * Cllr Peter Clark | * Cllr Anna James |
| Cllr Carole Cockburn | * Cllr Andy MacLeod |
| * Cllr Richard Cole | * Cllr Peter Marriott |
| * Cllr Steve Cosser | * Cllr Michaela Martin |
| * Cllr Martin D'Arcy | * Cllr Peter Martin |
| Cllr Jerome Davidson | * Cllr Mark Merryweather |
| * Cllr Kevin Deanus | * Cllr Kika Mirylees |
| Cllr Simon Dear | Cllr Stephen Mulliner |
| * Cllr Sally Dickson | * Cllr John Neale |
| * Cllr Brian Edmonds | * Cllr Peter Nicholson |
| * Cllr Patricia Ellis | * Cllr Nick Palmer |
| * Cllr David Else | * Cllr Julia Potts |
| * Cllr Jenny Else | * Cllr Ruth Reed |
| * Cllr Jan Floyd-Douglass | * Cllr Paul Rivers |
| * Cllr Paul Follows | * Cllr Penny Rivers |
| * Cllr Maxine Gale | * Cllr John Robini |
| * Cllr Michael Goodridge | * Cllr Anne-Marie Rosoman |
| * Cllr John Gray | * Cllr Trevor Sadler |
| * Cllr Michaela Gray | Cllr Richard Seaborne |
| * Cllr Joan Heagin | * Cllr Liz Townsend |
| * Cllr Val Henry | * Cllr John Ward |
| * Cllr George Hesse | * Cllr Steve Williams |
| Cllr Chris Howard | * Cllr George Wilson |
| * Cllr Daniel Hunt | |

*Present

Apologies

Cllr Carole Cockburn, Cllr Jerome Davidson, Cllr Simon Dear, Cllr Chris Howard, Cllr Stephen Mulliner and Cllr Richard Seaborne

Also Present

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, prayers were led by
The Reverend Ian Maslin.

CNL52./19 MINUTES (Agenda item 1.)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 December 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

CNL53./19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 2.)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Carole Cockburn, Jerome Davidson, Simon Dear, Chris Howard, Stephen Mulliner, and Richard Seaborne.

Cllr Hyman gave apologies and left the meeting at 9.20pm, during the consideration of the Capital Strategy.

CNL54./19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda item 3.)

Cllr John Robini and Cllr Jacquie Keen declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in respect of Agenda Item 11, as they rented a garage from Waverley Borough Council.

Robin Taylor, Monitoring Officer, advised that given the nature of the DPI he had granted a dispensation to allow Cllrs Robini and Keen to remain in the Council Chamber and take part in the determination of the recommendations on the Housing Revenue Account budget.

CNL55./19 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda item 4.)

- 55.1 The Mayor thanked the Chief Executive, Tom Horwood, and Waverley officers for their hard work over the weekend in responding to the bad weather and flooding in Waverley.
- 55.2 The Mayor reported on a networking event she had hosted on Monday, which enabled representatives from local organisations to meet with representatives of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. This had been an extremely interesting event, and many useful connections were made between organisations for their mutual benefit.
- 55.3 The Mayor reminded Members of her charity walk, on Sunday 22 March, in aid of Mane Chance. The walk would start at Guildford Station and follow the North Downs Way via Watts Gallery to Farnham, with refreshment stops along the way. She hoped that Members and staff would join her for some or all of the walk.
- 55.4 Finally, the Mayor announced that she would be holding an event on Monday 27 April at Rodborough School to highlight the issue of mental ill-health and in particular suicides among men. She had met with the Surrey County Council Public Health Lead for Suicide Prevention, and was looking forward to providing more details in due course of this exciting initiative.
- 55.5 With the indulgence of the Mayor, Cllr Christine Baker stood to commend the Mayor for what she was doing to draw attention to this important matter. Cllr Baker advised Members that her son had committed suicide at the age of 38,

and today would have been his birthday, so she could not let the moment pass without commenting.

CNL56./19 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda item 5.)

The Leader welcomed Cllr Maxine Gale to the Council.

CNL57./19 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda item 6.)

There were no questions from members of the public.

CNL58./19 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (Agenda item 7.)

There were no questions from Members of the Council.

CNL59./19 MOTIONS (Agenda item 8.)

There were no motions on notice from Members.

CNL60./19 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2020/21 - 2023/24 AND GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2020/21 [EXE 60/19] (Agenda item 9.)

60.1 The Leader of the Council, Cllr John Ward, presented the budget to Council:

“Good evening Councillors and Ladies and Gentlemen in the Public Gallery. I am pleased to present to you the first General Fund Budget of this new administration which is outlined in the report on pages 23 – 84 of your Agenda packs. We may be a new Administration but the same problems and financial pressures confront us as they did our predecessors and so, before Cllr Merryweather; effectively my Chancellor; presents that report in more detail, I would like to set the scene with a number of more general remarks about the situation in which we find ourselves. By the way I should perhaps make it clear at once that I have no intention of knifing my Chancellor.

“This report relates only to our General Fund budget and does not cover our social housing activities, dealt with by our Housing Revenue Account (HRA), which is an entirely separate entity that will be covered later under Agenda Item 11. Excluding our Housing Revenue Account activities, our General Fund is the account into which we receive all our other revenues and is the “pot” from which we expend money on all of our other day-to-day services. Therefore it is clear that having a robust General Fund Budget is essential to the delivery of all aspects of our Corporate Plan which, to remind you all, states explicitly that we “*will promote and sustain a financially sound Council*”.

“For some years now, it has been Central Government policy to reduce the funding this and other Councils receive, either in Grants or from the small share of Business Rates that it allows us to retain. It is doing so despite relentless upward inflationary pressure on our costs, and faster than we can reasonably be expected to make up the resulting gap from other income sources. There is, therefore, extraordinary pressure on us to cut costs and, by implication, risk services. This is captured on the adverse side of the

Medium Term Financial Plan, and summarised in the Table at §4.2 of your report (Page 24).

“I encourage you, during Cllr Merryweather’s remarks, to view the Chart at §4.12 (Page 27) of the report and, in particular Business Rates. While we, as Waverley, collect them, they are not set by us nor do we have any say in how much we can keep to fund our services. So, whilst we currently collect around £38m from Waverley’s businesses, for which they naturally expect to receive some services it will, I am sure, surprise many of you to learn that we are currently allowed to keep only around 5p in every £1. More importantly, we have not only been told by Central Government to expect that share to decline to zero, but there is a very serious threat that it may actually go further and tax us more than £1 for every £1 we collect from our hard-pressed businesses. The Government continues to insist that “*Local Councils retain 50% of the Business Rates*” which may be true overall as some northern (Tory Target?) Boroughs appear to be able to retain over 100% which is called “*levelling the playing field*” but seems to be political tilting of the available funding. All this is even before the other potential impact we may suffer – perhaps £800,000 or more – from the so-called “*negative RSG*” which is discussed in §4.14 (Page 28).

“You will also notice from that Chart that in 2010 Waverley used to receive £6 million in Government Grants but we have received no Central Government Support Grant funding since 2018-19 and the only Central Government support we have had since; the so-called “*New homes Bonus*” (a reward for building even more houses); will be cut by £300,000 in 2020-21 and we expect it to disappear altogether by 2023-24. The income that Councils can obtain basically comes from three sources – Central Government Funding (Grants) – the local population (Council Tax and other Charges) – Investment Income – the Government has cut off our Grants, capped our ability to raise Council Tax and not given us enough time to make prudent Investments to replace the “lost” revenue. No wonder Surrey County Council has felt it necessary to go to the Public with its Begging Bowl and is considering “inviting” residents to pay more Council Tax!

“The financial stresses that we face now were identified several years ago, and in 2018 the Budget Strategy Working Group was established to “*drive forward the initiatives designed to resolve the projected budget shortfall.*” The initiatives and targets they have been working on comprise the initiatives side of the Medium Term Financial Plan, summarised in the Table at §4.4 (Page 25) of your report. These fall into three broad categories:

1. Cutting costs and making other efficiency savings that do not affect service delivery;
2. Increasing funding where we can from existing sources insofar as they are not affected by government policy;
3. Finding completely new sources of revenue, for example from investments.

“While some of these initiatives, like the ones for Property and Commercial, have evolved into strategies, others have not. Although Cllr Merryweather will discuss shortly their impact on the 2020-21 Budget, I must draw your attention now to the remarks made by Cllr Mulliner, the Chair of the Budget Strategy Working Group, to the Executive on 4 February, (summarised at

§60.2 on page 170 of the pack) about the Group's progress and findings to date after 2 years of work. The Group has concluded that it is "*unlikely that any significant revenue could be generated from new revenue streams in the next four years, and also has reservations about the level and timing of savings achievable through the Customer Services Project*".

"Our new Administration has been following the work of the Group closely in the 9 months since the local elections and improved on some of initiatives where we can, for example the Property Investment Strategy. However, whilst we are as disappointed as Cllr Mulliner in that Group's progress, we have no reason to disagree with his assessment, especially as to whether new income streams can impact soon enough.

"Some of you may already have thought that the scope of the Group's initiatives may have been too optimistic because it didn't include deep, strategic, service cuts. Whilst this Administration will if necessary, but only as a last not a first resort, consider making such strategic service cuts. I must make it clear that we feel it is a more realistic, and fair approach, steered by last year's Residents' Consultation, to cut costs and increase fees and charges. The Administration is already making contingency plans for the future but the challenge remaining after 2020/21, to deal with a further £3.5 million deficit represents over a quarter of our General Fund Budget. On that depressing note, I would ask the Mayor's indulgence to now hand over to Cllr Merryweather to deal with the detail of the proposed Budget."

- 60.2 Cllr Mark Merryweather, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Assets and Commercial Services, highlighted the key details of the General Fund budget, which were summarised on page 45 of the agenda. A balanced budget was being proposed in very challenging circumstances. The council did not have the reserves to draw on to balance a deficit, and so the challenge had been to find a sustainable £1.9m in annual savings and new income. This was just the first step towards the £5.4m per year need in total by 2023/24. Within these constraints, the Executive was proposing a fair budget that reflected the Corporate Strategy that itself expressed the mandate granted to the administration through the election in 2019, and residents' priorities as informed by the 2019 budget consultation.
- 60.3 Cllr Merryweather referred to Annexe 2, which showed the Council's total service cost which at £10.8m was a net cost increase of £255,000 made up of large cost and revenue movements caused by budget pressures and compensating initiatives, including cost inflation, loss of recycling credit income, and 5% cost savings totalling almost £700,000 from Heads of Service. There were no planned structural cuts to services, but unintended consequences of planned savings would need to be monitored. The Council's property investment portfolio was operating in challenging market conditions, and a voids reserve was proposed which was offset against investment income.
- 60.4 Cllr Merryweather outlined the proposals for raising car parking income: car park charges had not been increased for over three years, but neither had parking capacity; most central car parks were full at peak times. Waverley had listened to residents and businesses, and taken expert advice via an

independent strategic review of off-street parking, and was proposing a range changes to charges, with some tariffs increasing, some decreasing, and some being frozen. The aim was to improve the availability of parking in areas of high demand whilst enabling longer stay parking at cheaper rates at less busy car parks. This would make better use of space, reduce town centre congestion and improve air quality. It was forecast that these changes would increase overall car parking income by £145,000 of which £100,000 would be earmarked to pay for the ongoing costs of delivering the climate change emergency action plan.

- 60.5 Other fees and charges were regulated to a large extent by central government, but a review was underway to make pricing fairer for residents and reflective of the council's priorities. A freeze on the pricing of a Green Waste subscription was proposed and other discretionary charges were rising in line with inflation. Cllr Merryweather went on to detail the allocation of earmarked reserves to the capital programme, investment property voids, and a further £200,00 to the climate change emergency projects reserve making the total commitment for 2020/21 £300,000.
- 60.6 Cllr Merryweather outlined the approach proposed to mitigate risk on business rate income, and highlighted the impact of business rate 'retention' proposals and reduction in New Homes Bonus on forecast income. Finally, Cllr Merryweather explained the approach to increase Council Tax by 1.9%, which was less than the maximum allowed by government which would equate to a 2.7% increase. This approach in part allowed residents to benefit from the additional council tax income arising from new properties built in the borough.
- 60.7 The Mayor invited Cllr Julia Potts, Leader of the Principal Opposition Group, to respond to the budget presentation:

"Madam Mayor, thank you. First I would like to thank Mr Clark, and the finance team, for their hard work, assistance and professionalism to us as a Conservative Group with budget briefings.

"Before you this evening, we have what can only be described as an exceedingly optimistic one year budget. So, the very real concern of the Waverley Conservative Group is how does it fit into the 4 year budget strategy? Does this 1st year budget address the structural issues that Waverley, like so many other district and borough councils, face over the next 4 years? There can be no doubt that savings not accomplished in year 1 will make years 2-4 far more difficult. We see this as a significant risk.

"In particular, the key aspect to this, which we would question, is: are the significant expense reductions, and raising of revenue, in year 1 sufficient to ensure that financial problems are minimised in later years. I would ask the Leader to please clarify what the strategy is on Council Tax and car parking ongoing, because this is extremely unclear in this budget. We have proposals on car parking charges and have still not seen the review, so again, what is the proposed strategy? I do see that there is a 100% increase proposed in this budget for the car park in Milford so it will be interesting to see if the ward councillors support this.

“We have a significant sum, £300,000, proposed for the Climate Change agenda in this first year. This is non-specific, and again we have seen no plan. Where is the costed plan? We have grave concerns that these critical aspects to the council’s financial strategy are somewhat vague and non-transparent.

“From what we have seen of the Administration’s budget, income from property investment seems to play a crucial part - £1.2m, a huge assumption. £300,000 on income can come from one near-term investment paid for out of reserves. However, this is a huge risk that it is likely to fail to achieve for the following reasons:

1. Our understanding from political comments at the Value for Money O&S was that the administration intends to limit themselves to Waverley-only properties. Simple arithmetic proves this to be a tiny pool of opportunities to be competed for in the open market.
2. They won’t invest in some properties because they are ‘unethical’. How exactly is this defined? A tiny pool becomes microscopic.
3. The arithmetic of the PWLB funded acquisitions has become almost insurmountable since the 1% hike in loan rate.
4. Ideas of getting involved in residential development, whilst laudable, involve long time delays and significant risk before even being delivered.

“Continuing on investment, what is happening with our Leisure Centres, the jewels in our crown for so many years. What has happened to plans for Cranleigh and given the Carbon Neutrality target now of this council, can a new leisure centre offering both dry and wet side facilities even be built. Or are they just ‘treading water’ until a private provider moves into the area? Godalming Leisure Centre, again delays; and whilst we know the school have to apply to the Secretary of State for the car park extension the delay to a £70,000 annual income is significant. Farnham, again what is happening? Dither and delay has cost the climbing wall; what assurances can be given that the rest of the expansion will proceed?

“Heads of Service are expected to create £699k of savings this year. The most exposed here is surely commercial services with savings of £246k. Waverley Training Services, Leisure, Ranger reduction, and proposed changes to Careline are all of serious concern. How realistic are the Business Transformation objectives. Whilst we understand there has been some slippage already we have serious concerns about staff morale. Never forget that our staff are our most important asset. Delivering such huge savings, through massive cuts, begs the question Are we really going to be adequately staffed to enable us to provide the core services for our residents?

So to summarise we have major changes to car parking charges being delegated, we have initiatives that are uncosted, and we have no coherent 4 year budget plan. This is from leadership who were on the previous council and should therefore be fully aware of the day to day funding requirements of Waverley. The Conservative Group have serious and very grave concerns about significant aspects of the General Fund budget proposals before councillors this evening, and do feel this potentially calls into question

whether Waverley will even be able to remain a viable standalone authority long term if this General Fund budget as it is, is approved.

“Madam Mayor, given the concerns we have about the longer term transparency of changes to the car parking tariffs, we wish to bring an amendment to the recommendations in the General Fund Budget on page 3 of the main agenda by adding an additional recommendation to ensure greater transparency for all our councillors and residents. The amendment is as follows:

That Council agree to add an item 6 to the recommendations to:
Require any changes to car parking tariffs in the borough in 2020/21 be brought to Council for full transparent debate and decision, following all necessary consultation, and are not approved through delegated authority. “

- 60.8 Cllr Michael Goodridge seconded the proposed amendment. Cllr Potts spoke to the amendment proposed:

“Further to comments I have already made about car parking charges and in the spirit of openness and transparency I move this amendment and additional recommendation. When fellow councillors approve the use of delegated authority for fees and charges last year I am sure many were unaware that this would potentially include car parking, indeed I am told by members of the Conservative group how surprised and indeed ‘shocked’ many of them were when they attended the Finance Portfolio Holders ‘drop-in sessions’ only to be told that car parking charges could be increased under delegated powers. Furthermore, some of the Conservative members of the Standards Committee recall this particular matter being discussed and being assured that would not be the case.

“I am sure that members of this council – cross party – will agree that changes to car parking charges must have a fully open and transparent debate before any decisions are made. The Rainbow Alliance has made a point of expressing its desire to communicate and listen to residents in Waverley. It is crucial that happens with decisions as key as car parking, and that process includes all councillors as this impacts residents, businesses and those working in towns and villages across Waverley.”

- 60.9 Cllr Goodridge, seconding the amendment, expressed his concern that Council was being asked to approve the car parking charges as set out in the email of 4 February sent on behalf of Cllr Palmer by the Strategic Director, without them being in the council papers, having gone to public consultation nor to Overview & Scrutiny. The email also referred to further proposals concerning car parking to be brought forward in the near future. Cllr Goodridge referred to the powers reserved to Full Council in the Constitution, including approving car park fees and charges; the delegations to the S151 officer in the scheme of delegation; and the delegation to the Head of Environmental Services which excluded approval of fees and charges from his management powers in relation to car parks. Cllr Goodridge felt that it was clear that the Constitution required car parking charges to come to full Council for approval and the amendment would ensure that this happened.

- 60.10 The Mayor invited speakers on the amendment. Cllr Steve Cosser, Cllr Kevin Deanus, Cllr Peter Martin and Cllr Robert Knowles all spoke in support of the amendment. Cllr Nick Palmer, Portfolio Holder for Operational and Enforcement Services, noted that Cllr Cosser was the only councillor to have responded directly to him regarding the email of 4 February. Cllr Palmer explained that the objective of the changes to charges was to start to address the most immediate difficulties within the parking system, and these were a modest adjustment after several years of no change.
- 60.11 Cllr Paul Follows, Cllr George Wilson, and Cllr Andy MacLeod spoke against the amendment. In response to Councillors' request for clarification, Robin Taylor, Head of Policy & Governance, confirmed that at its meeting on 10 December 2019, Full Council had approved recommendations from the Audit Committee to amend the Financial Regulations including a delegation to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and relevant service Portfolio Holders to amend fees and charges.
- 60.12 In summing up, Cllr Potts emphasised that the amendment was about the principle of openness and transparency in decision-making, and this was not evident in the way the proposals for changes to car parking charges were being presented. It had not been clear to Members in December what was being agreed and the implications of that in relation to car parking charges.
- 60.13 The Leader responded that, having checked with Officers, he was confident that the Council had on 10 December approved the change to the Financial Regulations allowing the delegation to the S151 Officer. The reason for seeking the delegation was to have some flexibility to respond to demand in a business-like manner, and he was totally opposed to the amendment.
- 60.14 The Mayor put the amendment to the Council:

That Council agree to add an item 6 to the recommendations to:

Require any changes to car parking tariffs in the borough in 2020/21 be brought to Council for full transparent debate and decision, following all necessary consultation, and are not approved through delegated authority. "

Votes in favour 16; against 31; abstentions 4. The amendment therefore was lost.

For 16

Cllrs Brian Adams, Steve Cosser, Kevin Deanus, Patricia Ellis, David Else, Jenny Else, Jan Floyd-Douglass, Michael Goodridge, John Gray, Val Henry, Peter Isherwood, Robert Knowles, Anna James, Peter Martin, Julia Potts, Trevor Sadler

Abstentions 4

Cllrs Martin D'Arcy, Mary Forszewski, Jerry Hyman, Penny Marriott

Against 31

Cllrs Christine Baker, David Beaman, Roger Blishen, Peter Clark, Richard Cole, Sally Dickson, Brian Edmonds, Paul Follows, Maxine Gale, Michaela

Gray, Joan Heagin, George Hesse, Daniel Hunt, Jacquie Keen, Andy MacLeod, Peter Marriott, Michaela Martin, Mark Merryweather, Kika Mirylees, John Neale, Peter Nicholson, Nick Palmer, Ruth Reed, Paul Rivers, Penny Rivers, John Robini, Anne-Marie Rosoman, Liz Townsend, John Ward, Steve Williams, George Wilson

- 60.15 Returning to the debate on the General Fund budget for 2020/21, Members agreed that there was a need for united lobbying of central government on retention of business rates, but disagreed along Group lines on other aspects of the proposals. Members emphasised the importance of maintaining grants to voluntary organisations, and it was noted that the £300k fund for the climate change action plan was for 2020/21, and the action plan itself would come to the Executive in March 2020.
- 60.16 The Mayor invited the Leader to sum up before moving to the recommendations. The Leader welcomed the debate that had occurred, and assured Members that a similar level of debate had taken place between Executive members in drawing up proposals. On the procedural point raised, he assured Members that Council had approved the delegation to officers, in line with the recommendation of the Audit Committee from their meeting on 26 November. Expectations had been raised in Cranleigh by the out-going administration last year but the Executive was trying hard to resolve to find a way to meet those expectations and provide a new leisure centre. The Leader echoed support for voluntary organisations, and welcomed the cross-party unity on business rates retention.
- 60.17 The Budget called for a 1.9% increase in Council tax for our residents which was the 2nd lowest in Surrey and compared favourably with the 3.99% increase demanded by Surrey County Council, the 3.84% demanded by the Surrey Police and the much higher average percentages, albeit on smaller bases, demanded by the Towns & Parishes. Car parking charges had not increased for 3 years and, as virtually our only other significant form of revenue, had to play their part in balancing the budget although a blanket increase was not a reasonable proposition. The charges would therefore be scaled so that long-term parking was encouraged towards the further out and under-used areas, whilst the more central ones were biased towards shorter term parking to aid our hard-pressed retailers by increasing turn-over.
- 60.18 Officers had been asked to look very carefully at their departmental expenditures and seek out savings to reduce the burden on our ratepayers. They had managed to achieve savings of almost £700,000. The outcome of the recent budget consultation had been noted and the Executive had listened to residents who preferred to see strategic savings and a rise in car parking charges to a larger rise in Council Tax. The Leader commended this well constructed and fair Budget to Council.
- 60.19 In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was taken on each of the five recommendations, which were agreed as follows:

Council RESOLVED to:

1. Agree a 1.9% increase in Waverley's element of the Council Tax charge for 2020/21, equivalent to around 7p a week on a Band D property.

For 33

Cllrs Christine Baker, David Beaman, Roger Blishen, Peter Clark, Richard Cole, Martin D'Arcy, Sally Dickson, Brian Edmonds, Paul Follows, Maxine Gale, Michaela Gray, Joan Heagin, George Hesse, Daniel Hunt, Jerry Hyman, Jacquie Keen, Andy MacLeod, Peter Marriott, Michaela Martin, Mark Merryweather, Kika Mirylees, John Neale, Peter Nicholson, Nick Palmer, Ruth Reed, Paul Rivers, Penny Rivers, John Robini, Anne-Marie Rosoman, Liz Townsend, John Ward, Steve Williams, George Wilson

Abstentions 3

Cllrs Mary Forszewska, Val Henry, Penny Marriott

Against 15

Cllrs Brian Adams, Steve Cosser, Kevin Deanus, Patricia Ellis, David Else, Jenny Else, Jan Floyd-Douglass, Michael Goodridge, John Gray, Peter Isherwood, Robert Knowles, Anna James, Peter Martin, Julia Potts, Trevor Sadler

2. Agree to make no change to the Council's existing Council Tax Support Scheme.

For 49

Cllrs Brian Adams, Christine Baker, David Beaman, Roger Blishen, Peter Clark, Richard Cole, Steve Cosser, Martin D'Arcy, Kevin Deanus, Sally Dickson, Brian Edmonds, Patricia Ellis, David Else, Jenny Else, Jan Floyd-Douglass, Paul Follows, Maxine Gale, Michael Goodridge, John Gray, Michaela Gray, Joan Heagin, Val Henry, George Hesse, Daniel Hunt, Jerry Hyman, Peter Isherwood, Jacquie Keen, Robert Knowles, Anna James, Andy MacLeod, Peter Marriott, Michaela Martin, Peter Martin, Mark Merryweather, Kika Mirylees, John Neale, Peter Nicholson, Nick Palmer, Julia Potts, Ruth Reed, Paul Rivers, Penny Rivers, John Robini, Anne-Marie Rosoman, Trevor Sadler, Liz Townsend, John Ward, Steve Williams, George Wilson

Abstentions 2

Cllrs Mary Forszewska, Penny Marriott

Against 0

3. Agree the proposed Fees and charges as shown at Annexe 4 of the agenda report.

For 49

Cllrs Brian Adams, Christine Baker, David Beaman, Roger Blishen, Peter Clark, Richard Cole, Steve Cosser, Martin D'Arcy, Kevin Deanus, Sally Dickson, Brian Edmonds, Patricia Ellis, David Else, Jenny Else, Jan Floyd-Douglass, Paul Follows, Maxine Gale, Michael Goodridge, John Gray, Michaela Gray, Joan Heagin, Val Henry, George Hesse, Daniel Hunt, Jerry Hyman, Peter Isherwood, Jacquie Keen, Robert Knowles, Anna James, Andy MacLeod, Peter Marriott, Michaela Martin, Peter Martin, Mark Merryweather, Kika Mirylees, John Neale, Peter Nicholson, Nick

Palmer, Julia Potts, Ruth Reed, Paul Rivers, Penny Rivers, John Robini, Anne-Marie Rosoman, Trevor Sadler, Liz Townsend, John Ward, Steve Williams, George Wilson

Abstentions 2

Cllrs Mary Forszewska, Penny Marriott

Against 0

4. Approve the General Fund Budget for 2020/21 as described in the agenda report and in Annexes 2 and 3 of the agenda report.

For 33

Cllrs Christine Baker, David Beaman, Roger Blishen, Peter Clark, Richard Cole, Martin D'Arcy, Sally Dickson, Brian Edmonds, Paul Follows, Maxine Gale, Michaela Gray, Joan Heagin, George Hesse, Daniel Hunt, Jerry Hyman, Jacquie Keen, Andy MacLeod, Peter Marriott, Michaela Martin, Mark Merryweather, Kika Mirylees, John Neale, Peter Nicholson, Nick Palmer, Ruth Reed, Paul Rivers, Penny Rivers, John Robini, Anne-Marie Rosoman, Liz Townsend, John Ward, Steve Williams, George Wilson

Abstentions 2

Cllrs Mary Forszewska, Penny Marriott

Against 16

Cllrs Brian Adams, Steve Cosser, Kevin Deanus, Patricia Ellis, David Else, Jenny Else, Jan Floyd-Douglass, Michael Goodridge, John Gray, Val Henry, Peter Isherwood, Robert Knowles, Anna James, Peter Martin, Julia Potts, Trevor Sadler

5. Approve the General Fund Capital Programme as shown at Annex 6 of the agenda report.

For 37

Cllrs Christine Baker, David Beaman, Roger Blishen, Peter Clark, Richard Cole, Martin D'Arcy, Kevin Deanus, Sally Dickson, Brian Edmonds, Paul Follows, Maxine Gale, Michael Goodridge, Michaela Gray, Joan Heagin, George Hesse, Daniel Hunt, Jerry Hyman, Jacquie Keen, Andy MacLeod, Peter Marriott, Michaela Martin, Peter Martin, Mark Merryweather, Kika Mirylees, John Neale, Peter Nicholson, Nick Palmer, Julia Potts, Ruth Reed, Paul Rivers, Penny Rivers, John Robini, Anne-Marie Rosoman, Liz Townsend, John Ward, Steve Williams, George Wilson

Abstentions 7

Cllrs Patricia Ellis, Mary Forszewska, John Gray, Peter Isherwood, Anna James, Robert Knowles, Penny Marriott

Against 7

Cllrs Brian Adams, Steve Cosser, Jan Floyd-Douglass, David Else, Jenny Else, Val Henry, Trevor Sadler

Cllr Jerry Hyman left the meeting before the start of consideration of this item.

- 61.1 The Leader moved the recommendation to approve the Capital Strategy for 2020/21, which was seconded by Cllr Paul Follows. The Leader invited the Portfolio Holder, Cllr Mark Merryweather, to present the proposals.
- 61.2 Cllr Merryweather reported that it was a statutory requirement for local authorities to produce an annual capital strategy. The Capital Strategy brought together the Council's detailed policies, procedures and plans relating to cash investments and property assets. Only minor amendments were proposed to the Treasury Management strategies. More substantive changes were proposed to the Property Investment Strategy, to allow the Council more scope to explore investment opportunities that would generate an income for the Council. The current property portfolio was wholly commercial office, industrial and retail space, and heavily concentrated in Farnham. Having taken legal advice, it was now proposed to diversify and invest in open market rental residential property, and it was expected that the most attractive opportunities would be those where the Council had the strategic cost advantage of building on its own land. These developments would be in addition to the Housing Revenue Account, and would contribute to Waverley's Local Plan housing targets, be built to a high standard of design, and the rental income would contribute to Waverley's General Fund balance.
- 61.3 The Property Investment Strategy continued to keep risk and good governance at the heart of decision-making and these sections had been strengthened. The Strategy also now reflected the Council's Climate Change commitment.
- 61.4 Cllr Peter Martin was pleased to support the Capital Strategy, although he had some reservations about the move into residential property, and the proposal to keep investments within the confines of the borough. However, all proposals were considered on a case-by-case basis and assessed against the agreed criteria. He also had concerns about whether the budgeted level of income could be achieved in 2020/21, but was content to support the Capital Strategy.
- 61.5 Cllr John Gray noted that the Executive had reduced the number of independent members on the Investment Advisory Board, and that the Audit Committee had not had an opportunity to review the proposals, which had been submitted to the Value for Money Overview & Scrutiny Committee instead. He noted also that since the elections in May 2019, the Audit Committee had not yet reviewed its terms of reference, which the committee had previously agreed to do at its first meeting in the new council year. This was important because of the potential confusion in the roles of Audit Committee and O&S, and their respective lines of reporting. Given the substantial sums of money that would need to be invested to generate the required level of income, and the risks involved in property investment, Cllr Gray was concerned that the Audit Committee had not had an opportunity to review the Capital Strategy. There was not sufficient time in Council to review such technical documents and he felt that the Audit Committee should be

able to review these thoroughly and seek assurances or independently raise concerns if necessary.

- 61.6 Cllr Merryweather responded by assuring Members that he was fully aware of the risks of property investment, but some carefully considered risks would be necessary in order to generate income to balance the General Fund. Cllr Merryweather welcomed the interest of the Audit Committee in the Capital Strategy, and their having a stronger role in it.
- 61.7 The Mayor put the recommendation to approve the Capital Strategy for 2020/2021, and

Council RESOLVED that the Capital Strategy for 2020/2021, incorporating the Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators and Property Investment Strategy be approved.

For 46

Cllrs Brian Adams, Christine Baker, David Beaman, Roger Blishen, Peter Clark, Richard Cole, Martin D'Arcy, Kevin Deanus, Sally Dickson, Brian Edmonds, Patricia Ellis, David Else, Jenny Else, Jan Floyd-Douglass, Paul Follows, Maxine Gale, Michael Goodridge, Michaela Gray, Joan Heagin, Val Henry, George Hesse, Daniel Hunt, Peter Isherwood, Jacquie Keen, Robert Knowles, Anna James, Andy MacLeod, Peter Marriott, Michaela Martin, Peter Martin, Mark Merryweather, Kika Mirylees, John Neale, Peter Nicholson, Nick Palmer, Julia Potts, Ruth Reed, Paul Rivers, Penny Rivers, John Robini, Anne-Marie Rosoman, Trevor Sadler, Liz Townsend, John Ward, Steve Williams, George Wilson

Abstentions 4

Steve Cosser, Mary Forszewski, John Gray, Penny Marriott

Against 0

CNL62./19 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN, REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21 [EXE 62/19] (Agenda item 11.)

- 62.1 The Leader introduced the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) report, reminding Members that this was another area where the Council's income stream and ability to provide services to residents was suffering from ill thought-out Central Government interference. The authority's responsibility as a social landlord was with the management and maintenance of existing council homes, of which there were almost 5,000 rented and shared ownership homes in our Borough, and delivering housing by purchase or by building our own. Waverley was one of a dwindling number of councils still doing this.
- 62.2 The Right to Buy (RTB) scheme had seemed "a good idea at the time" but was not properly thought through. The Council was forced to sell houses at below market value and not even allowed to keep all the proceeds, resulting in a continued net loss of Social Housing. Even worse, national statistics showed that about 40% of social housing sold ended up being privately rented out at full market rates – a classic case of robbing the poorest to enrich those better off. There was little wonder that there is a nationally recognised crisis in available Social Housing.

- 62.3 The Government had also required Waverley to take £189 million of “assumed debt” by an enforced transfer of the HRA to a so-called “self-financing basis”; and a 4 year rent freeze; had robbed the council of badly needed income to maintain our current housing stock. Even applying the maximum rent increase now allowed by the Government, our tenants will be paying less in rent than 4 years ago
- 62.4 Waverley’s Corporate Strategy aimed to maximise the availability of housing that meets the needs of local people at all income levels and emphasised the value and worth of all residents. More and better affordable housing was needed for residents of the Borough in housing need, particularly the more vulnerable in our society. Despite the many difficulties outlined this Administration had put in place a viable business plan to aid delivery of these priorities.
- 62.5 The Council had to set a balanced HRA budget for 2020/21 in accordance with the updated 30-year Business Plan including the three-year Capital Programme. The plan which would be presented by Cllr Rosoman, the Housing Portfolio Holder, would provide the resources to fund the 30-year maintenance forecast and deliver proposals for building new quality affordable homes for those in need and investment in stock remodelling.
- 62.6 The Housing Portfolio Holder, Cllr Anne-Marie Rosoman outlined the detail of the proposed Housing Revenue Account Business Plan. In order to set a balanced HRA budget a combination of factors had to be considered, looking at statutory responsibilities, housing need and setting forward programmes within the Housing Strategy.
- 62.7 In 2012, Waverley had to take out £189m of borrowing to transfer the HRA to the new ‘self-financing’ basis. This level of debt, and the cost of servicing it, could not be ignored. At the time the government allocated this debt to the Council, it was on the assumption that rents would rise annually with reference to the Retail Price Index. However, only 4 years later, in 2016, the Conservative Government implemented major changes to HRA finances requiring statutory annual rent reductions of 1% per year on year for four years. The impact was to remove a significant amount of resources from the HRA in future years, limiting the ongoing ability to develop or acquire new properties replacing the Right to Buy stock losses.
- 62.8 Last year, the Government announced that providers of social housing would be permitted to increase average weekly rents by CPI plus 1% for the five years starting 1 April 2020. CPI in September 2019 was 1.7% While this did not allow us to fully make up for those year on year reductions imposed over the last 4 years, it did allow some limited, but sadly still necessary, breathing space ,in which to catch-up. It was proposed that the maximum allowed rent increase in 2020/21 be approved in order to fund annual repairs, core maintenance programme and the new build and re-modelling capital programme and because of the cumulative effect on future rental streams.
- 62.9 The Business Plan assumed that in 2020/21 average rents would be increased by the maximum currently allowable ie 2.7% for 5 years and then assumed rents would increase by CPI only and that CPI is 2%. The table at 4.11 on page 137 of the agenda demonstrated the cumulative effect on rental streams applying 3 scenarios and assumed for simplicity that the stock level

would remain the same throughout the 30 Year HRA Business Plan. The table at 4.11 on page 138 provided details of how this would affect tenants according to bedroom numbers. Even with the rent increase average rents would still be below the 2016 level.

- 62.10 The Housing O&S Committee reviewed the draft HRA Business Plan last month and was largely in agreement with the recommendations set out in this report. We acknowledge that some people may need help and the Council had excellent support in place to help, particularly with the transition to Universal Credit. As of last month, over 4,100 tenants were in credit and arrears stood at only £164,000. Whilst recognising financial pressures, the Council had a responsibility to ensure that services to tenants were maintained and that we could deliver homes to those at all income levels.
- 62.11 The proposed rise in service charges in senior living accommodation broadly related to utilities. A schedule of fees and charges for various services to leaseholders and shared owners was given in Annexe 2, whilst Annexe 3 on page 149 showed the planned spend in 2020/21 and the following years on each of the three elements to the capital programme.
- 62.12 The 30-year Business Plan also included a programme to develop new affordable homes and a programme to remodel some of the existing stock. The major regeneration project at Ockford Ridge continued to be a combination of redevelopment and remodelling existing dwellings.
- 62.13 The Corporate Strategy aimed to maximise the availability of housing that meets the needs of local people at all income levels, despite the impact of the previous 4 years' rent reduction on future resources. There was still an ambitious plan to bring new affordable homes into our Borough and the proposed rent increase would help secure the resources to deliver.
- 62.14 Cllr Rosoman concluded by thanking Officers for their hard work and support, and commended the Budget for approval.
- 62.15 Cllr Julia Potts, as Leader of the Principal Opposition Group, spoke to confirm that the Waverley Conservative Group supported the HRA budget, unlike Cllr Follows last year. The Group did have concerns about the Climate Change agenda and the potential cost impact on the budget of retro-fitting 5000+ homes to meet the carbon neutral target, and the potential cost of this to lower income and vulnerable residents. Cllr Potts sought assurances from the Portfolio Holder that this would be carefully and sensitively managed.
- 62.16 Cllr Jenny Else referred to the climate change commitment, for the council to be carbon neutral by 2030, and noted that she could not see in the Business Plan the initiatives that would achieve this. Cost was an unknown factor, but even a conservative cost of £10,000 per property to retro-fit would come to around £50m. Cllr Else asked how this work was being planned, and how it was planned to be funded, and whether it was a realistic goal.
- 62.17 Cllr Paul Follows echoed the comments of the Leader with regard to the impact of central government policies on local government, and ultimately on social housing tenants. The Council had to maintain housing standards, and that required further funding. His opposition last year was to the government

strategy of council house financing that negatively impacted on Waverley's housing stock. Cllr Follows highlighted the need for genuinely affordable housing, and for better quality housing that was environmentally sustainable and cheaper for tenants to run. Costs of building to improved environmental standards were decreasing, as were the costs of retro-fitting energy saving features, and officers were looking innovatively at what could be achieved. Cllr Follows commended the HRA Budget to Council.

62.18 The Leader summed up by reminding Members that the aspiration to become carbon neutral by 2030 had recognised the need for additional government funding to reach this ambitious target, and he encouraged all Members to lobby government to deliver this. In closing, he commended the HRA Business Plan to Council for approval, and the recommendation was seconded by Cllr Follows.

62.19 In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was taken on this item. The Mayor move the nine recommendations *en bloc* and these were approved, with 48 votes in favour and two abstentions. Accordingly,

Council RESOLVED that:

- 1.the rent level of Council dwellings be increased by 2.7% from the 2019/20 level with effect from 1 April 2020 in accordance with the Government's permitted guidelines;**
- 2.the weekly charge for garages rented by both Council and non-Council tenants be increased by 25 pence per week excluding VAT from 1 April 2020;**
- 3.the service charge in sheltered accommodation be increased by 50 pence per week from 1 April 2020 to £19.50;**
- 4.the recharge for energy costs in sheltered accommodation (as appropriate) be increased by 50 pence per week from 1 April 2020;**
- 5.the revised HRA Business Plan for 2020/21 to 2023/24 as set out at Annexe 1 of the agenda report be approved;**
- 6.the approval change for the fees and charges as set out in Annexe 2 of the agenda report be noted;**
- 7.the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes as shown at Annexe 3 of the agenda report be approved;**
- 8.the proposed use of the Working Balance Reserve and Contingency Reserves to fund Capital Programmes be approved; and,**
- 9.the financing of the capital programmes be approved in line with the resources shown in Annexe 4 of the agenda report.**

For 48

Cllrs Brian Adams, Christine Baker, David Beaman, Roger Blishen, Peter Clark, Richard Cole, Steve Cosser, Martin D'Arcy, Kevin Deanus, Sally Dickson, Brian Edmonds, Patricia Ellis, David Else, Jenny Else, Jan Floyd-Douglass, Paul Follows, Maxine Gale, Michael Goodridge, John Gray, Michaela Gray, Joan Heagin, Val Henry, George Hesse, Daniel Hunt, Peter Isherwood, Jacquie Keen, Robert Knowles, Anna James, Andy MacLeod, Peter Marriott, Michaela Martin, Peter Martin, Mark Merryweather, Kika Mirylees, John Neale, Peter Nicholson, Nick Palmer, Julia Potts, Ruth Reed, Paul Rivers, Penny Rivers, John Robini, Anne-Marie Rosoman, Trevor Sadler, Liz Townsend, John Ward, Steve Williams, George Wilson

Abstentions 2

Cllrs Mary Forszewski, Penny Marriott

Against 0

CNL63./19 ANNUAL PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2020/21 [EXE 63/19] (Agenda item 12.)

63.1 The Leader moved the recommendation that the Annual Pay Policy Statement for 2020/21 for Council be approved. Cllr Paul Follows seconded the recommendation.

(Cllr Jan Floyd-Douglass was absent from the meeting for the consideration of this item)

For 47

Cllrs Brian Adams, Christine Baker, David Beaman, Roger Blishen, Peter Clark, Richard Cole, Steve Cosser, Martin D'Arcy, Kevin Deanus, Sally Dickson, Brian Edmonds, Patricia Ellis, David Else, Jenny Else, Paul Follows, Maxine Gale, Michael Goodridge, John Gray, Michaela Gray, Joan Heagin, Val Henry, George Hesse, Daniel Hunt, Peter Isherwood, Jacquie Keen, Robert Knowles, Anna James, Andy MacLeod, Peter Marriott, Michaela Martin, Peter Martin, Mark Merryweather, Kika Mirylees, John Neale, Peter Nicholson, Nick Palmer, Julia Potts, Ruth Reed, Paul Rivers, Penny Rivers, John Robini, Anne-Marie Rosoman, Trevor Sadler, Liz Townsend, John Ward, Steve Williams, George Wilson

Abstentions 2

Cllrs Mary Forszewski, Penny Marriott

Against 0

63.2 Council RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement for the 2020/21 financial year be approved.

CNL64./19 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE (Agenda item 13.)

64.1 Council received the Minutes of the Executive for the meetings held on 7 January and 4 February 2020.

64.2 The Leader reported that all Part 1 matters had been dealt with.

64.3 Cllr Steve Cosser spoke in relation to Minute EXE 51/19, The Burys investment opportunity, and noted that following the January Executive

meeting Cllr Follows had made comments which had appeared to be contradict what the Executive had agreed. Cllr Cosser asked if the Leader could clarify the scope of the options appraisal being commissioned. The Leader responded by referring Cllr Cosser to the Executive's decision.

CNL65./19 COUNCIL TAX SETTING (Agenda item 14.)

- 65.1 The Mayor moved the recommendations in the report on Council Tax Setting, which was a technical report that summarised all of the appropriate budgetary decisions that had been taken to enable the level of Council Tax for 2020/21 to be determined, and specified all of the individual levels of Council Tax for approval by the Council.

Votes For 48

Cllrs Brian Adams, Christine Baker, David Beaman, Roger Blishen, Peter Clark, Richard Cole, Steve Cosser, Martin D'Arcy, Kevin Deanus, Sally Dickson, Brian Edmonds, Patricia Ellis, David Else, Jenny Else, Jan Floyd-Douglass, Paul Follows, Maxine Gale, Michael Goodridge, John Gray, Michaela Gray, Joan Heagin, Val Henry, George Hesse, Daniel Hunt, Peter Isherwood, Jacquie Keen, Robert Knowles, Anna James, Andy MacLeod, Peter Marriott, Michaela Martin, Peter Martin, Mark Merryweather, Kika Mirylees, John Neale, Peter Nicholson, Nick Palmer, Julia Potts, Ruth Reed, Paul Rivers, Penny Rivers, John Robini, Anne-Marie Rosoman, Trevor Sadler, Liz Townsend, John Ward, Steve Williams, George Wilson

Abstentions 2

Cllrs Mary Foryszewski, Penny Marriott

Votes Against 0

- 65.2 Council RESOLVED to approve the individual council tax resolutions as set out in the agenda report at paragraphs**

- **2.1 (a) – (h), being the amounts calculated for the Council for 2020/2021 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992;**
- **2.2, being the amounts of the precepts for 2020/2021 issued by Surrey County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992; and,**
- **2.3, being the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2.1(h) and 2.2, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 expressed as the Council Tax for the financial year commencing on 1 April 2020 for each of the categories of dwellings specified.**

CNL66./19 CONTRACT PROCUREMENT RULES - PROPOSED REVISIONS [AUD34/19] (Agenda item 15.)

- 66.1 Cllr Peter Marriott, Chairman of the Audit Committee, presented the proposed revisions to the Contract Procurement Rules to Council. The Audit

Committee had reviewed the proposed changes at its meeting on 26 November 2019. The revisions largely related to the insertion of a number of new sections addressing Modern Slavery, a number of tax issues, web accessibility standards, and the drive towards carbon neutrality. The Audit Committee was keen to get the input of the Members on the Climate Change Advisory Group on the provisions to address carbon neutrality, and as a result the wording now proposed was stronger than that originally considered by the Audit Committee.

- 66.2 The revisions also included clarification on seeking and obtaining quotes for contracts; and on disposal of council assets, distinguishing between disposal of land and buildings and other council-owned assets.
- 66.3 The Audit Committee had considered the proposed changes to the Contract Procurement Rules carefully and, with the addition of wording provided by the Climate Change Advisory Group, were pleased to recommend them to Council for adoption.
- 66.4 Cllr John Gray questioned the route by which the revisions had come to Council, noting that the Financial Regulations went to Audit Committee on 26 November and then Council on 10 December, and that the CPRs had been to Audit Committee as well on 26 November.
- 66.5 It was proposed by Cllr Peter Marriott, duly seconded by Cllr Merryweather, that the proposed revisions to the Contract Procedures Rules as set out in the agenda report be approved, which was agreed by general assent with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor abstaining and no dissent.
- 66.6 **Council RESOLVED to approve the revisions to the Contract Procedure Rules, as set out in the agenda report.**

CNL67./19 MINUTES OF THE LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE (Agenda item 16.)

- 67.1 It was moved by Cllr Robert Knowles, Chairman of the Committee, duly seconded by Cllr Peter Clark, and

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held on 13 January 2020 be received and noted.

- 67.2 There was one matter for Council's consideration in Part I, detailed at Minute CNL 68/19, and there were no speakers on Matters of Report in Part II.

CNL68./19 TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE ENFORCEMENT - DELEGATIONS FOR SURREY JOINT WARRANTING [LIC 33/19] (Agenda item 17.)

- 68.1 Cllr Knowles introduced the proposal to approve Joint Warranting Arrangements between Surrey Licensing Authorities in relation to enforcement of Taxi and Private Hire regulations.
- 68.2 Waverley Borough Council was the Licensing Authority for the purposes of regulating Taxi and Private Hire services in the Borough. The proposed Joint Warranting Arrangements would allow Waverley's powers for inspecting and

taking action against Waverley licensed Taxi and Private Hire vehicles to be exercised by Licensing Officers of the ten other Surrey Licensing Authorities when vehicles are operating outside of Waverley. Waverley would receive reciprocal powers from the other Surrey Licensing Authorities, which would enable Waverley Licensing Officers to inspect and take action against Taxi and Private Hire vehicles licensed by other Surrey Licensing Authorities when operating in Waverley.

- 68.3 The proposed arrangements addressed restrictions in the Taxi and Private Hire vehicle regulations, to enable improved enforcement of the taxi and private hire trade across the County. It was an excellent example of cross border working for the benefit of public safety. As well as endorsing the proposals, the Licensing & Regulatory Committee had asked officers to report back on whether similar arrangements could be agreed with relevant Hampshire and West Sussex Licensing Authorities that border Waverley.
- 68.4 In response to comments from a number of Members, Cllr Knowles confirmed that whilst some aspects of Taxi and Private Hire licensing had been standardised across the county, there was more to be done in this area. However, the powers to be delegated related to legal requirements applicable to all licensed vehicles.
- 68.5 The Mayor moved the recommendation that the delegations for Surrey Joint Warranting be approved, which was agreed by general assent with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor abstaining and no dissent.
- 68.6 **Council RESOLVED that:**
- (a) the Council's Taxi and Private Hire enforcement functions under the legislation set out below are delegated to the Surrey local licensing authorities (also set out below), in addition to retaining those functions within the Borough and to similarly receive the same delegated Taxi and Private Hire enforcement functions of those local authorities; and,**
 - (b) the responsibility for relevant Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing legislation in accordance with 2.1 of the Council's Constitution which confirms an existing delegated power to the Head of Environmental & Regulatory Services at Part I.3 of the Council's Scheme of Delegation (authorisation to enforce all relevant Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing legislation) be extended to include the authorisation of officers of other Surrey authorities participating in a Joint Warranting Scheme.**

Functions to be delegated to the Surrey Local Licensing Authorities:

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

- Section 53(3)(a): Driver to produce his licence for inspection
- Section 58: Return of identification plate or disc on revocation
- Section 60: to suspend and revoke vehicle licences
- Section 61: to suspend and revoke drivers' licences

- Section 68: fitness of private hire vehicles
- Section 73: obstruction of authorised officer

Town and Police Clauses Act 1847

- Section 45: prosecution for plying for hire without a licence

Road Traffic Act 1988

- Section 143: no insurance

The Surrey Local Authorities named below have delegated (or will delegate) the same functions to Waverley Borough Council. Those authorities have also retained the ability to exercise these functions.

The Surrey Local Authorities:

- Elmbridge Borough Council
- Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
- Guildford Borough Council
- Mole Valley District Council
- Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
- Runnymede Borough Council
- Spelthorne Borough Council
- Surrey Heath Borough Council
- Tandridge District Council
- Woking Borough Council

CNL69./19 MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE (Agenda item 18.)

69.1 It was moved by Cllr John Robini, Chairman of the Standards Committee, duly seconded by Cllr Goodridge, and

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 13 January 2020, be received and noted.

69.2 There were no matters for consideration in Part I, and no speakers on matters in Part II.

CNL70./19 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda item 19.)

There were no matters to be considered in exempt session.

The meeting concluded at 9.55 pm