

COUNCIL

13 OCTOBER 2020

LATE MATERIAL

The following material has been received since the publication of the agenda for this meeting:

Item 3 Minutes

Owing to a software error, when publishing the minutes, the surnames of some Councillors were missing in the attendance section. This has now been rectified and the amended minutes can be viewed [here](#).

Item 7 Update to Motion

An update to the motion contained on pages 2 to 3 of the Agenda can be found at **Annex 1**. Words highlighted in yellow were omitted from the original motion.

Item 10 Review of Emergency Decision Making Arrangements

The late material referred to in **Recommendation 3** of the agenda report is set out in **Annex 2**.

Item 12 Appointments to Committees, Panels and other bodies

Council is **RECOMMENDED** to make the appointments to Committees, Panels and other bodies as set out in **Annex 3**.

Update to Motion

Consultation in the Royal Borough

Proposed by Councillor Jason Hughes

Seconded by Councillor Ian George

Background

Effective consultation is the lifeblood of healthy local democracy, not only in its delivery but also its public perception to honestly engender and maintain the trust of communities. Resident participation in decision-making is critical to the responsible and expedient delivery of local government services. This imperative extends beyond the ballot box every four years. It is a continuous journey of consultation and engagement to ensure that reflecting residents' priorities, achieving value for money and providing excellent service delivery are at the epicentre of the Royal Borough's activities.

To this end, words must be matched by deeds. The Royal Borough has more to do to reflect this aspiration and to make it a reality.

This Council notes: -

1. The fundamental difference between 'consultation' and 'engagement' as vital disciplines in local government, the former is a component of the latter, specifically it recognises that: -
 - a. Consultation involves obtaining residents' feedback on proposals as a *corollary* of engagement and should regularly consult communities on long, medium and short-term plans, to appropriately determine the Council's strategic direction, set its budgets and prioritise projects;
 - b. Engagement is the broader ongoing process of *sharing* information with residents and to seek feedback with the core objective of involving communities in the decision-making process, and that consultation is the *formal process* to meet the Council's statutory and regulatory requirements;
2. That trusted, effective and efficient consultation is needed now more than ever **given** the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic;
3. According to the Council's most recent Residents' Survey, the majority of residents *do not* believe that it seeks their views before taking decisions;
4. *Only a third* of residents believe that the Council acts on residents' concerns;
5. The majority of residents *do not* believe that the Council explains the decisions it takes;
6. The Council's **Communities** and Engagement Committee is a toothless body which does not look at, or provide oversight to, consultations in the Royal Borough;
7. The Council's approach to consultation is disparate and fragmented across council departments, lacking centralisation and a dedicated core with strategic focus;
8. The recent absence of any meaningful consultation with residents on the imposition of Low Traffic Neighbourhood trials;
9. The vast difference in quality of recent important consultation efforts, specifically on the Cambridge Road Estate and Cumberland House regeneration schemes, the latter of which is a primary poor example which has understandably shaken residents' confidence in the Royal Borough's consultation efforts.

This Council resolves to: -

1. Continually seek to adopt and exemplify best practice in consultation, by joining the Consultation Institute;
2. Conduct a comprehensive audit of the capabilities, competences and resources of all relevant committees and operations across council departments, including the training of relevant officers, committee chairmen and members;
3. Reconfigure the **Communities** and Engagement Committee to ensure that it examines, approves and reviews all consultations on significant Council activities in highways, parking and planning with the following thresholds set at: -
 - a. All highways, parking and traffic schemes in excess of £50,000 cost;
 - b. And all proposed residential developments exceeding ten new units;
4. Consolidate all consultation delivery by council officers into a dedicated and centralised 'Consultation Team', removing disparate and fragmented consultation delivery in individual departments with a view to making cost savings or cost neutrality;
5. Set up a Consultation Team which will be a part of the Chief Executive's Department, but with separate management arrangements from communications to reflect the different disciplines of consultation and engagement/communications;
6. Enhance the examination of the new consultation arrangements, as above, via a more comprehensive revamp of the Council's Residents' Survey and to review at the **Communities** and Engagement Committee, reporting back to Full Council, one year after adoption.

Council

13 October 2020

Committee Appointment Nominations for Interim Decision-Making Arrangements During the Covid-19 Pandemic

RESPONSE AND RECOVERY COMMITTEE (11)		
	Member	Substitutes
1. LD	Caroline Kerr (Chair)	All other members of the Lib Dem Group
2. LD	Tim Cobbett (Vice Chair)	
3. LD	Mark Beynon	
4. LD	Lorraine Dunstone	
5. LD	Mark Durrant	
6. LD	Andreas Kirsch	
7. LD	Dennis Goodship	
8. LD	John Sweeney	
9. LD	Katrina Lidbetter	
10. CON	Kevin Davis	All other members of the Conservative Group
11. CON	Rowena Bass	
Note for information: <i>Councillors Mark Benyon, Lorraine Dunstone, Mark Durrant, Dennis Goodship and Katrina Lidbetter are new appointees to the Committee replacing Councillors Fiona Boulton, Emily Davey, Hilary Gander, Rebekah Moll and Diane White respectively.</i>		

CULTURE, HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE (11)		
	Member	Substitutes
1. LD	(Co-Chair) Emily Davey	All other members of the Lib Dem Group
2. LD	(Co-Chair) Hilary Gander	
3. LD	(Co-Chair) Rebekah Moll	
4. LD	Liz Green	
5. LD	Lesley Heap	
6. LD	Thay Thayalan	
7. LD	Olly Wehring	
8. LD	Yogan Yoganathan	
9. LD	Sharon Young	
10. CON	Ian George	All other members of the Conservative Group
11. CON	Jason Hughes	
<p>Note: The following sit as non voting Advisory Members in respect of matters relating to housing Sheltered Housing Panel: One from a pool of 4 reps: Maria Wise (and three positions tbc), Leaseholders Forum (must be a resident leaseholder, living in the property as their only or principal home): Alison Mary King and Hector Armando Rosales-Macedo (sharing position as representative and alternate), Private Sector Landlords Forum: nomination awaited from the Forum, Residents Associations (must be a tenant): Mr Harry Hall, Registered Providers Forum: Mr Tim Willcocks (Richmond Housing Partnership)</p>		

Appointments of Members to Committees, Panels and other bodies

All members of the Conservative Group to be appointed as Substitute Members for all Committees of the Council except for the Health & Wellbeing Board where it will be all members of the Conservative Group not on the Health Overview Panel.