

MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Council Chamber - Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road, SL1 2EL on Thursday, 28th September, 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present:- The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Abbasi), in the chair; Councillors E. Ahmed, I. Ahmed, Ajaib, Akram, Anderson, Carter, Chahal, Dauti, Dhillon, Escott, Gahir, Gill, Hulme, Iftakhar, Instone, Kelly, Manku, Mann, Matloob, Mohammad, Mohindra, Muvvala, Nazir, Naveed, O'Kelly, D. Parmar, Qaseem, Rana, J. Sabah (until 8.11pm), W. Sabah, Satti, Shah, Shaik, Smith, Tomar, Wright and Zarait.

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Bedi, Dar, Khawar and Stedmond.

21. Declarations of Interest

Agenda Item 5 - Petition - Support the sale of property from the asset disposal list to the Langley Islamic Centre for Community Development: Councillor Shaik declared that he had been approached by the Lead Petitioner. Councillor Shaik stayed in the meeting and participated in the discussion on this agenda item.

22. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 27th July 2023

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th July 2023 be approved as a correct record subject to Minute reference 15 being amended to read “four electors were present but only three supplementary questions were asked.”

23. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

Members were informed that the Mayor had attended a number of engagements which included visits to schools, community organisations and citizenship ceremonies. The work carried out by volunteers across the town was acknowledged by the Mayor and appreciation for their services was placed on record.

The Mayor reminded Members of their responsibilities as elected representatives and the important role they played in the development of the town.

24. Petition - Support the sale of property from the asset disposal list to the Langley Islamic Centre for Community Development

The Mayor invited Mr Rana, the petition organiser to address the meeting.

Following completion of the subsequent debate,

It was moved by Councillor Smith,
Seconded by Councillor Chahal,

Council - 28.09.23

“That the Executive Director of Property and Housing:

- a) Initiates in conjunction with other Directors a review of the services delivered from the asset is completed and a decision made on future service delivery utilising less or alternative assets
- b) Includes representatives of the Petition Organiser in any stakeholder engagement concerning the asset.
- c) Ensures there is wide publication of any intended disposal of the Langley Pavilion such publication to specifically include the Petition Organiser.
- d) Includes representatives of the Petition Organiser in any stakeholder engagement with the voluntary and community sector to inform its wider estates strategy.”

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed with 37 votes for and 1 abstention.

Resolved – That the Executive Director of Property and Housing:

- a) Initiates in conjunction with other Directors a review of the services delivered from the asset is completed and a decision made on future service delivery utilising less or alternative assets
- b) Includes representatives of the Petition Organiser in any stakeholder engagement concerning the asset.
- c) Ensures there is wide publication of any intended disposal of the Langley Pavilion such publication to specifically include the Petition Organiser.
- d) Includes representatives of the Petition Organiser in any stakeholder engagement with the voluntary and community sector to inform its wider estates strategy.

25. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.

Five elector questions had been received. Four electors were present and asked a supplementary question.

26. Recommendation of the Member Panel on the Constitution from its meeting held on 7th September 2023

It was moved by Councillor Smith,
Seconded by Councillor Anderson,

“That the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for inclusion in the constitution, as set out at Appendix B in the supplementary agenda, be approved.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed with 37 votes for and 1 abstention.

Council - 28.09.23

Resolved – That the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for inclusion in the constitution, as set out at Appendix B in the supplementary agenda, be approved.

27. Recommendation of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 18th September 2023

It was moved by Councillor Smith,
Seconded by Councillor Chahal,

“That the Corporate Plan, attached at Appendix A in the supplementary agenda, be approved.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed with 35 votes for and 1 abstention.

Resolved - That the Corporate Plan, attached at Appendix A in the supplementary agenda, be approved.

28. Recommendation of the Employment Committee held on 25th September 2023

It was moved by Councillor Zarait,
Seconded by Councillor Smith,

- a) “That the contents of the report are noted.
- b) That the chief officer structure as set out in Appendix A be approved and agree the pay grades for the new Director posts which includes grades over £100,000.
- c) That the other proposed changes to the structure at Appendix A that the head of paid service intends to make be noted and approve the redundancy package(s) set out in Appendix B.
- d) Authorise the Monitoring Officer to make any consequential changes to the Constitution, including Article 12, Part 3.6 Scheme of Delegation to Officers, Part 4.7 Officer Employment Procedure Rules, and Part 7.
- e) Delegate to the chief executive in consultations with the leader decisions to depart from the multi-borough agreement to share a statutory Director of Public Health (recruitment to that post will then be conducted in the normal way).”

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed with 36 votes for and 1 abstention.

Resolved –

- a) That the contents of the report are noted.
- b) That the chief officer structure as set out in Appendix A be approved and agree the pay grades for the new Director posts which includes grades over £100,000.

Council - 28.09.23

- c) That the other proposed changes to the structure at Appendix A that the head of paid service intends to make be noted and approve the redundancy package(s) set out in Appendix B.
- d) Authorise the Monitoring Officer to make any consequential changes to the Constitution, including Article 12, Part 3.6 Scheme of Delegation to Officers, Part 4.7 Officer Employment Procedure Rules, and Part 7.
- e) Delegate to the chief executive in consultations with the leader decisions to depart from the multi-borough agreement to share a statutory Director of Public Health (recruitment to that post will then be conducted in the normal way).

29. Petition - Review and Reversion of the Bi-Weekly Bin Collection Policy

The Mayor invited Ms Anu Singh, on behalf of the petition organiser, to address the meeting.

Following completion of the subsequent debate,

It was moved by Councillor Smith,
Seconded by Councillor Chahal,

- a) "That fortnightly collections continue as currently scheduled;
- b) That the council roll out further educational programmes to better inform residents on recycling and general waste;
- c) That the Executive Director for Property and Housing Council will report to Cabinet on options for residents to improve the recycling rates.
- d) That the council works with members for reducing food waste and hence reducing disposal costs and that the Lead member for Transport, Housing, The Environment and Environmental Services be briefed and updated on the collection service."

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed with 36 votes for and 1 abstention.

Resolved -

- a) That fortnightly collections continue as currently scheduled;
- b) That the council roll out further educational programmes to better inform residents on recycling and general waste;
- c) That the Executive Director for Property and Housing Council will report to Cabinet on options for residents to improve the recycling rates.
- d) That the council works with members for reducing food waste and hence reducing disposal costs and that the Lead member for Transport, Housing, The Environment and Environmental Services be briefed and updated on the collection service.

30. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.

Learning from the recent past years at Slough Borough Council

In accordance with council procedure rule 16.9

Councillor Mohindra, as proposer of the motion, moved to withdraw the motion, Councillor Manku, as seconder of the motion, seconded to withdraw the motion.

The motion was withdrawn with 20 votes for, 16 against and 1 abstention.

Resolved – That the motion be withdrawn.

Proposed reorganisation of Thames Valley Police

It was moved by Councillor Qaseem,
Seconded by Councillor Mohammad,

“Council Commends;

- That excellent work is undertaken by hard-working police officers across the town to best serve the needs of the Slough community.
- That strong partnership work with the police is evident in Slough, and the town benefits from an area based policing approach.
- That a local, strong, neighbourhood based policing approach, deeply rooted within the communities that the police serve, is essential to build trust with the police and enable residents to feel safe in our town.
- That resident's value having a front of house and highly visible police station within the town.
- That despite the efforts of our local police partners, Slough continues to have a 45% higher crime rate than the average across the Thames Valley and Thames Valley as a whole continues to have high race disproportionality rates in relation to stop and search and arrests data.

The council notes the proposed reorganisation of Thames Valley Police into 5 new command areas, placing Slough within Berkshire East, alongside Bracknell and Windsor & Maidenhead. Whilst we understand the need to move to a different organisational model, it is vital that the unique needs of Slough, the higher demand within Slough and our residents continue to be best served by the police.

As such, the council resolves to;

- a) Vigorously oppose any loss of a front of house, centrally located police building within the town.
- b) Lobby the Police and crime commissioners for the restoration of Police Community Support Officers across the town back up to 27.
- c) Constructively challenge Thames Valley police force to increase recruitment from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities at all levels of Thames Valley, ensuring that the police service adequately reflects the communities it

Council - 28.09.23

serves. Ensure that these efforts are included within the annual report to the council.

- d) Ensure that tackling the blight of drug use, and the associated criminality that accompanies it is at the forefront of Slough's policing plan.
- e) Work with police partners to ensure an increase in mandatory, high visible patrols in key retail centres across the town."

It was moved by Councillor Muvvala, as an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor I Ahmed,

"Council Commends;

- That excellent work is undertaken by hard-working police officers across the town to best serve the needs of the Slough community.
- That strong partnership work with the police is evident in Slough, and the town benefits from an area based policing approach.
- That a local, strong, neighbourhood based policing approach, deeply rooted within the communities that the police serve, is essential to build trust with the police and enable residents to feel safe in our town.
- That resident's value having a front of house and highly visible police station within the town.
- That despite the efforts of our local police partners, Slough continues to have a 45% higher crime rate than the average across the Thames Valley and Thames Valley as a whole continues to have high race disproportionality rates in relation to stop and search and arrests data.

The council notes the proposed reorganisation of Thames Valley Police into 5 new command areas, placing Slough within Berkshire East, alongside Bracknell and Windsor & Maidenhead. Whilst we understand the need to move to a different organisational model, it is vital that the unique needs of Slough, the higher demand within Slough and our residents continue to be best served by the police.

As such, the council resolves to;

- a) Vigorously oppose any loss of a front of house, centrally located police building within the town, **while acknowledging that there are currently no plans to close Slough Police Station/front counter.**
- b) Lobby the Police and crime commissioners for the restoration of Police Community Support Officers across the town back up to 27.
- c) Constructively challenge Thames Valley police force to increase recruitment from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities at all levels of Thames Valley, ensuring that the police service adequately reflects the communities it serves. Ensure that these efforts are included within the annual report to the council.
- d) Ensure that tackling the blight of drug use, and the associated criminality that accompanies it is at the forefront of Slough's policing plan.
- e) Work with police partners to ensure an increase in mandatory, high visible patrols in key retail centres across the town."

Council - 28.09.23

The amendment was put to the vote and agreed unanimously. The amended motion became the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and carried with 35 votes for and 1 abstention.

Resolved -

“Council Commends;

- That excellent work is undertaken by hard-working police officers across the town to best serve the needs of the Slough community.
- That strong partnership work with the police is evident in Slough, and the town benefits from an area based policing approach.
- That a local, strong, neighbourhood based policing approach, deeply rooted within the communities that the police serve, is essential to build trust with the police and enable residents to feel safe in our town.
- That resident's value having a front of house and highly visible police station within the town.
- That despite the efforts of our local police partners, Slough continues to have a 45% higher crime rate than the average across the Thames Valley and Thames Valley as a whole continues to have high race disproportionality rates in relation to stop and search and arrests data.

The council notes the proposed reorganisation of Thames Valley Police into 5 new command areas, placing Slough within Berkshire East, alongside Bracknell and Windsor & Maidenhead. Whilst we understand the need to move to a different organisational model, it is vital that the unique needs of Slough, the higher demand within Slough and our residents continue to be best served by the police.

As such, the council resolves to;

- f) Vigorously oppose any loss of a front of house, centrally located police building within the town, while acknowledging that there are currently no plans to close Slough Police Station/front counter.
- g) Lobby the Police and crime commissioners for the restoration of Police Community Support Officers across the town back up to 27.
- h) Constructively challenge Thames Valley police force to increase recruitment from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities at all levels of Thames Valley, ensuring that the police service adequately reflects the communities it serves. Ensure that these efforts are included within the annual report to the council.
- i) Ensure that tackling the blight of drug use, and the associated criminality that accompanies it is at the forefront of Slough's policing plan.
- j) Work with police partners to ensure an increase in mandatory, high visible patrols in key retail centres across the town.

Council - 28.09.23

31. To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10

Details of Member questions and replies received, as set out in the supplementary agenda, were noted

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 9.55 pm)