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Crawley Borough Council



Full Council

Supplementary Agenda – Order Paper

Wednesday, 27 March 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. A.', positioned above the title 'Chief Executive'.

Chief Executive

	Pages
2 Disclosures of Interest	5 - 6
Enclosed are the Disclosures of Interests received in advance of this meeting.	
4 Communications	7 - 8
Enclosed is a Cabinet Member announcement	
8 Councillors' Questions Time	9 - 10
There is one written questions submitted in advance for Full Council to consider.	
There are two methods for Councillors asking questions:	
1. Councillors can submit written questions in advance of the meeting and written answers will be provided on the evening of the Full Council.	
2. Councillors can also verbally ask questions during the CQT.	
Councillors have the opportunity to ask oral supplementary questions in relation to either of the methods above.	
9 Receiving the Minutes of the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Other Committees including Items for Debate	
There were <i>no</i> Items for Debate	
<i>NB: In advance of the meeting Political Groups can identify any items they wish to debate as a Reserved Item. These Reserved Items will then be the only matters to be the subject of debate.</i>	

10 Amendment 1 to Notice of Motion - Supply and Affordability of Social Housing

11 - 14

Enclosed is the Amendment 1 to Supply and Affordability of Social Housing, Mover Councillor Jones and Seconder Councillor Irvine

This amendment will be discussed under item 7 Notice of Motion Supply and affordability of Social Housing.

NOTE: The Mayor has agreed that, although this report and information was not available for at least five clear days before the meeting, there are special circumstances justifying its urgent consideration.

INFORMATION ON DURATION OF THE MEETING

If the business of the meeting has not been completed within two and a half hours (normally 10.00 p.m.), then the Mayor will require the meeting to consider if it wishes to continue for a period of up to 30 minutes. A vote will be taken and a simple majority in favour will be necessary for the meeting to continue. (Following the meeting's initial extension, consideration will be given to extending the meeting by further periods of up to 30 minutes if required).

Should the vote be in favour of not continuing, there is a process for dealing with motions and recommendations which have not been dealt with within the two and a half hours, or at the expiry of any agreed extension(s). In these circumstances, such motions and recommendations will be deemed as formally moved and seconded (together with any amendments). No speeches will be allowed on these items and the vote will be taken in the usual way. If a recorded vote is called for during this process, it will be taken immediately. This process will also apply in instances where the Council is statutorily required to make a decision about any matter before a particular date.

During the process set out above, the only other motions which may be moved are that a matter be withdrawn or referred to an appropriate body or individual for decision or report. When all motions and recommendations have been dealt with, the Mayor will declare the meeting closed.

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Agenda Item 2

Disclosures of Interest Received

Councillor	Item and Minute	Meeting	Type and Nature of Disclosure
Councillor Jones	Review of the Constitution (Order of Business for the Annual Meeting of the Full Council) (Minute 4)	Governance Committee 5 March 2024	Personal Interest as current Leader of the Council. If re-elected as Leader in May 2024 any change could potentially affect their office as Leader.
Councillor Ali	Tree Preservation Order Application CR/2023/0510/TP O – Woldhurstlea Wood, Buckswood Drive (Trees to Rear of 40 Tintern Road), Gossops Green (minute 4)	Planning Committee 6 March 2024	Personal interest – West Sussex County Councillor for Southgate & Gossops Green division.
Councillor Ali	Planning Application CR/2023/0658/FUL – 93 Downland Drive, Southgate (minute 5)	Planning Committee 6 March 2024	Personal interest – West Sussex County Councillor for Southgate & Gossops Green division.
Councillor R A Lanzer	Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (HASC) (Minute 7)	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 11 March 2024	Personal Interest – Member of WSCC
Councillor R A Lanzer	Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (HASC) (Minute 7)	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 11 March 2024	Personal Interest – WSCC Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing
Councillor Nawaz	Enhanced Shop Front and High Street Improvement Programme (Minute 6)	Cabinet 13 March 2024	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest – As he rents an unit on a Council's own neighbourhood parade.

Agenda Item 2

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Agenda Item 4

Cabinet Member Announcements – 27 March 2024

Councillor Sue Mullins (*Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Culture*) – Public Art Programme taking place across the Borough

There is a town wide mural project ongoing in Crawley as part of Creative Playground. This is funded in part by developers' contributions from the planning process administered by Crawley Borough Council with the rest supplied by Arts Council England. The Cabinet Member will provide further information on what is being brought forward as part of this exciting initiative that will further enhance the public realm throughout the Borough, including the Town Centre.

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Agenda Item 8

Councillors Written Questions and the Responses

Full Council – 27 March 2024

Q1 – Question to Councillor Chris Mullins (*Cabinet Member for Leisure & Wellbeing*) from Councillor Hellier

I welcome the decision to install permanent toilet facilities at Cherry Lane and Millpond unsupervised playgrounds, which was advised at our last full council meeting.

This reminded me that I have been asked several times by Furnace Green residents about the plans for Waterlea and what is happening there? It's been 15 months since we visited the site together with Councillor Crow and I will be grateful for an update as nothing appears to have happened since our visit.

Response

Waterlea Adventure Playground remains mothballed until a suitable option comes forward for the redevelopment of the site. We will continue to investigate viable options and prioritise the site as part of the council wide asset review, which is currently taking place.

We have continued to support the preschool operating from Waterlea throughout the continued closure and are entering into discussions regarding a longer term lease agreement for the building and enclosed garden to the rear.

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Agenda Item 10

Full Council

27 MARCH 2024

AMENDMENT 1 to NOTICE OF MOTION – SUPPLY AND AFFORDABILITY OF SOCIAL HOUSING

Mover Councillor Jones and

Seconder Councillor Irvine

*(Those words in **Red Bold** are proposed be added and
the words *Purple* and crossed through to be removed)*

This Council notes:

At the meeting of the Full Council in July 2022, the following petition was submitted under the Petition Scheme, signed by over 1,000 Crawley residents.

“We need truly affordable, publicly owned homes for Crawley people. We, the undersigned, are appalled at Crawley Borough Council’s decision to charge council tenants so-called affordable rents at the maximum 80% of the market rate. This policy is causing unnecessary hardship and must be scrapped. Instead, we call upon the Council to borrow the money to build council houses at rents comparable to existing stock and use housing cooperatives to reduce the cost.”

It was presented and after discussion, it was agreed to note the petition and for councillors to be provided with information relating to the charging levels for affordable rents, which was subsequently done. **It was also noted that at the time of the meeting, only 4% of Crawley Homes stock was charged at the higher affordable rate, a percentage which remains broadly the same at the current date.**

This Council further notes:

Since July 2022, we have seen increased housing costs for all tenures, including for council tenancies charged at social and affordable rent levels.

Agenda Item 10

At the February 2023 meeting of the Full Council, the following items occurred:

- The annual budget was passed, with it being highlighted how exceptionally high temporary housing accommodation costs would become financially unsustainable for the council.
- A motion declaring a Housing Emergency for Crawley was passed with unanimous support.
- A written question was submitted and answered, which showed that in 2023, only 37 new Council homes were delivered, which was lower than in previous years **which can be directly attributed to the delays caused by the additional planning restrictions on water neutrality imposed on the Borough by Natural England, a Government department.**

This Council resolves to:

1. Following the declared Housing Emergency declared for Crawley, fully explore all options with renewed vigour, including borrowing and using housing co-operatives, to maximise both the delivery and the speed of delivery, of new social housing for Crawley.
2. **Notes the plans being brought forward by the Labour administration at Crawley Borough Council for approximately another 500 council and affordable homes anticipated to be delivered over the forthcoming two years of the next council.**
3. **Notes the failure of the national Conservative Government (a) to adequately support social and council housebuilding in the UK, (b) their lack of action and active attempts to suppress the replacement of housing stock lost to councils and (c) their continuing failure to respond to unsustainable levels of expenditure being incurred by councils such as Crawley on temporary accommodation costs by refusing to unfreeze housing benefit subsidy from 2011 levels.**
4. Increase the rate of lobbying to all those who could potentially positively influence the outcome, to resolve the water neutrality restrictions that is negatively impacting the delivery of new housing in Crawley, and wherever possible, present a united cross-party approach in doing so.
5. To assist with affordability for future tenants, **continue to share information and best practice with** ~~seek learning from~~ other local authorities, ~~including London boroughs such as Kensington and Chelsea~~, to see how more affordable rents for new properties can be realistically set at the lowest possible amount within the 50-80% range that is national policy.
6. **Request** ~~Bring back~~ a report to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission in 2025, to report back on social housing delivery during 2024, including what efforts and progress the council has made with regard to the first **five** ~~three~~ resolutions of this motion.

Agenda Item 10

Proposed Amended Notice of Motion 1 – Supply and Affordability Of Social Housing, if approved, now reads:

This Council notes:

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Agenda Item 10

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2. Notes the plans being brought forward by the Labour administration at Crawley Borough Council for approximately another 500 council and affordable homes anticipated to be delivered over the forthcoming two years of the next council.
3. Notes the failure of the national Conservative Government (a) to adequately support social and council housebuilding in the UK, (b) their lack of action and active attempts to suppress the replacement of housing stock lost to councils and (c) their continuing failure to respond to unsustainable levels of expenditure being incurred by councils such as Crawley on temporary accommodation costs by refusing to unfreeze housing benefit subsidy from 2011 levels.
4. Increase the rate of lobbying to all those who could potentially positively influence the outcome, to resolve the water neutrality restrictions that is negatively impacting the delivery of new housing in Crawley, and wherever possible, present a united cross-party approach in doing so.
5. To assist with affordability for future tenants, continue to share information and best practice with other local authorities, to see how more affordable rents for new properties can be realistically set at the lowest possible amount within the 50-80% range that is national policy.
6. Request a report to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission in 2025, to report back on social housing delivery during 2024, including what efforts and progress the council has made with regard to the first five resolutions of this motion.