

## Crawley Borough Council

### Minutes of Full Council

Wednesday, 24 February 2021 at 7.30 pm

#### **Councillors Present:**

F Guidera (Mayor)

S Malik (Deputy Mayor)

L M Ascough, M L Ayling, A Belben, T G Belben, B J Burgess, R G Burgess, R D Burrett, D Crow, C R Eade, R S Fiveash, M Flack, J Hart, I T Irvine, K L Jaggard, G S Jhans, M G Jones, P K Lamb, R A Lanzer, T Lunnon, T McAleney, K McCarthy, J Millar-Smith, C J Mullins, M Mwagale, D M Peck, A Pendlington, M W Pickett, J Purdy, T Rana, B A Smith, P C Smith and K Sudan

#### **Also in Attendance:**

Mr Peter Nicolson

#### **Officers Present:**

Natalie Brahma-Pearl	Chief Executive
Ian Duke	Deputy Chief Executive
Heather Girling	Democratic Services Officer
Chris Pedlow	Democratic Services Manager
Karen Hayes	Head of Corporate Finance

#### **1. Minute Silence for Former Mayor and Councillor Raj Sharma**

The Full Council observed a minute's silence in memory of former Mayor and Councillor Raj Sharma who had sadly, and suddenly passed away.

The Mayor then invited representatives from each party to pay tribute to Councillor Sharma. Councillors Lunnon, Crow, Mullins, Burrett, B Smith, Rana, Mwagale, Flack, B Burgess and the Mayor on behalf of the Council paid their respects with heartfelt and touching tributes.

#### **2. Disclosures of Interest**

The disclosures of interests made by Councillors are set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

#### **3. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 16 December 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

#### 4. Communications

The Mayor provided the Full Council with a brief update on his last few months, stating

*'We continue to be in challenging times but I can report that I was able to attend the Greenway Foundation's annual Christmas Food Drive which took place on Christmas Eve. I took away some food parcels to deliver to some very thankful people, which was a very heart-warming experience. Christmas was a very challenging time for my family as we were caring for my father who unfortunately passed away. There is no good time to lose a loved one but Christmas time makes it especially tough and in lockdown during a pandemic it is particularly difficult and I sympathise with those who have lost loved ones during this time. I would like to just pay tribute to the St Catherine's Hospice staff and the district nurses who do an incredible job, putting themselves at risk during this time and as a town we are lucky to have St Catherine's Hospice and their funding raising has been massively impacted by the pandemic and they all need our support. I hope as we move out of this situation things start to improve.'*

#### 5. Public Question Time

**Question to Councillor Lamb as the Leader of the Council from Mrs Wakeham**

##### **Question**

*Is the council for or against 10,000 houses being built West of Ifield? With COVID 19 and Gatwick Airports expansion in question would it not be wise to suggest to HDC that they put a hold on this proposal until the next Local Plan review.*

*May I also point out that in CBC response 11.3, to EIA/20/2004 scoping report Noise and vibration It states ((intermittent)) events like aircraft noise.*

*In normal times there are (Gatwick Airport Master Plan 2019 )55 planes an HOUR, 70 planes an HOUR if standby runway comes into use and 90 planes if wide spaced runway is built. In no way can you describe those numbers as intermittent.*

**Response from Councillor Lamb as the Leader of the Council**

*The Council automatically opposes planning applications from sites which are unallocated in a Local Plan, whether it be our plan or those of neighbouring authorities, as is the case here. Last year CBC formally objected in principle to the West of Ifield allocation as part of Horsham District Council's Regulation 18 consultation on their Local Plan Review. This is already in the public domain. Amongst other things we raised significant queries about the sustainability of the scheme, and we articulated the critical importance of delivering major infrastructure upfront and of proper clarity on how Crawley's housing needs would be met.*

## 6. **Final Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (Councillors' Allowances Scheme 2021/22 and 2022/23 (Recommendation 1)**

The Full Council considered report [LDS/163](#) of the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) which detailed the findings of the IRP and its independent recommendations regarding the Councillors' Allowances Scheme for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

The item had been previously considered at the Governance Committee on 26 January 2021. Councillor Burrett moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Lunnon.

Following the conclusion of the debate, the Mayor invited the Democratic Services Manager to commence the voting process. Before the vote commenced, it was confirmed that none of the Labour or Conservative Members requested to vote as an individual, rather than through their respective Group block vote.

For the recommendation: Labour block vote of 15 votes, Conservative block vote of 17 votes, and Councillors Fiveash and Sudan. (34)

Against the recommendation: None (0)

Abstentions: (0)

The Mayor declared the recommendation was carried – votes in favour 34, and votes against 0 with 0 abstentions.

### **RESOLVED**

That the Full Council approves:

- a) That the allowances for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor remain set at the current rate (namely £11,548 for the Mayor and £1,800 for the Deputy Mayor respectively) until such time as a further report of the Independent Remuneration Panel is brought back for consideration to the Full Council on the matter.
- b) The Councillors' Allowances Scheme for 2021/22 and 2022/23 including Schedules 1 and 2, as detailed below:

#### **COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2021/2022 to 2022/2023 (From 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2023)**

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Crawley Borough Council Councillors' Allowances Scheme and shall have effect from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2023.
2. In this Scheme:  
  
"Councillor" means a Member of the Crawley Borough Council who is a Councillor.

“Total estimated allowances” means the aggregate of the amounts estimated by the Head of Corporate Finance, at the time when a payment of basic allowance or special responsibility allowance is made, to be payable under this Scheme in relation to the relevant year, and for this purpose any election under paragraph 9 shall be disregarded.

“Year” means the 12 months ending with 31 March.

### **3. BASIC ALLOWANCE**

Subject to paragraph 10, for each year the basic allowance specified in Schedule 1 to this Scheme shall be paid to each Councillor.

### **4. SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES**

- (1) For each year a special responsibility allowance shall be paid to those Councillors and Co-opted Members who hold the special responsibilities in relation to the authority that are specified in Schedule 1 to this Scheme.
- (2) Subject to paragraph 10, the amount of each such allowance shall be the amount specified against that special responsibility in that Schedule.

### **5. TRAVELLING AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES**

- (1) Travelling and subsistence allowances shall be paid to Councillors and Co-opted Members in the following circumstances:
  - (a) The attendance at a meeting of the authority or of any Committee or Sub-Committee of the authority, or of any other body to which the authority makes appointments or nominations, or of any Committee or Sub-Committee of such a body.
  - (b) The attendance at any other meeting, the holding of which is authorised by the authority, or a Committee or Sub-Committee of the authority, or a Joint Committee of the authority and at least one other authority within the meaning of Section 270(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, or a Sub-Committee of such a Joint Committee, provided that:
    - (i) Where the authority is divided into two or more political groups it is a meeting to which Members of at least two such groups have been invited.
    - (ii) If the authority is not so divided, it is a meeting to which at least two Councillors have been invited.
  - (c) The attendance at a meeting of any association of authorities of which the authority is a member.
  - (d) The attendance at a meeting of the Cabinet or a meeting of any of its Committees, where the authority is operating Cabinet arrangements.
  - (e) The performance of any duty in pursuance of any standing order made under Section 135 of the Local Government Act 1972 (requiring a Councillor or Councillors to be present while tender documents are opened).

- (f) The performance of any duty in connection with the discharge of any function of the authority conferred by or under any enactment and empowering or requiring the authority to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises.
- (g) The carrying out of any other duty approved by the authority, or any duty of a class so approved, for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the authority or any of its Committees or Sub-Committees. (The duties approved by the Council for the payment of travelling, subsistence and dependant care allowances under this sub-section are specified in Schedule 2 to this Scheme).
- (2) The level of travelling allowances payable to Councillors and Co-opted Members shall be based on that approved by HM Revenue & Customs as currently set out below. If there are any changes, the figures below will be amended accordingly:

	<b>First 10,000 miles</b>	<b>Each mile over 10,000</b>
<b>Cars and vans</b>	45p	25p
<b>Motorcycles</b>	24p	24p
<b>Bicycles</b>	20p	20p

In addition, elected Councillors may claim a passenger supplement of 5p per mile for carrying passengers in a car or van who would otherwise be entitled to a travelling allowance.

- (3) The level of subsistence allowances payable to Councillors and Co-opted Members shall be the same as those paid to officers. The figures set out below relate to the allowances paid in 2020/21. The officer rates will be updated annually on 1 April each year. If there is an increase the figures below will be increased accordingly.

<b><u>Subsistence Allowances</u></b>	<b><u>Rate</u></b>
Tea (more than four hours absence including the period from 3.00pm to 6.00pm)	£3.53
Evening Meal (more than four hours absence ending after 7.00pm)	£11.03

- (4) Overnight Rate

Overnight rate should be the actual cost up to a maximum of £86.46 (or £99.51, if in London) subject to the Head of Legal, Democracy and HR being empowered to authorise a higher amount in specific instances where suitable accommodation cannot be found within the limit.

## **6. DEPENDANTS' CARERS' ALLOWANCE**

A Dependants' Carers' Allowance of the actual cost up to £8.82 per hour shall be payable to cover the cost of caring for a Councillor's dependant children or elderly/disabled relatives whilst a Councillor is undertaking an approved duty, provided the carer is not a member of the Councillor's own household. In addition, the Dependants' Carers' Allowance, at the level prescribed above, shall be payable to cover the cost of a live-in nanny caring for a Councillor's dependant whilst the Councillor is undertaking an approved duty. In other circumstances where professional babysitting and care services are used and a minimum period for the service is imposed by the service provider, then the period in respect of which the allowance is payable shall include the whole period for which a Councillor is charged.

The Dependants' Carers' Allowance shall only be payable in relation to duties described in paragraph 5 (a) to (g) above.

If the national living wage is increased to a rate that exceeds the rate of Dependants' Carers' Allowance, the Dependants' Carers' Allowance shall be amended to remain 10 pence above the national living wage rate.

## **7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME**

Councillors are no longer entitled to join the Local Government Pension Scheme.

## **8. CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Co-opted Members shall only receive travelling and subsistence allowances and any special responsibility allowance which might apply.

## **9. RENUNCIATION**

A Councillor may by notice in writing given to the Head of Corporate Finance elect to forego any part of their entitlement to an allowance under this Scheme.

## **10. PART-YEAR ENTITLEMENTS**

- (1) The provisions of this paragraph shall have effect to regulate the entitlements to basic and special responsibility allowances where, in the course of a year, this Scheme is amended or that Councillor becomes, or ceases to be, a Councillor, or an office holder accepts or relinquishes a special responsibility in respect of which a special responsibility allowance is payable.
- (2) If an amendment to this Scheme changes the amount to which a Councillor or an office holder is entitled by way of a basic allowance or a special responsibility allowance, then in relation to each of the periods:
  - (a) Beginning with the year and ending with the day before that on which the first amendment in that year takes effect or

- (b) Beginning with the day on which an amendment takes effect and ending with the day before that on which the next amendment takes effect, or (if none) with the year

The entitlement to such an allowance shall be to the payment of such part of the amount of the allowance under this Scheme as it has effect during the relevant period as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of the days in the period bears to the number of days in the year.

- (3) Where the term of office of a Councillor begins or ends otherwise than at the beginning or end of a year, the entitlement of that Councillor to a basic allowance shall be to the payment to such part of the basic allowance as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during which their term of office subsists bears to the number of days in that year.
- (4) Where this Scheme is amended as mentioned in sub-paragraph (2), and the term of office of a Councillor does not subsist throughout the period mentioned in sub-paragraph (2) (a), the entitlement of any such Councillor to a basic allowance shall be to the payment of such part of the basic allowance referable to each such period (ascertained in accordance with that sub-paragraph) as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during their term of office as a Councillor subsists bears to the number of days in that period.
- (5) Where an office holder has during part of, but not throughout, a year such special responsibilities as entitle them to a special responsibility allowance, that office holder's entitlement shall be to payment of such part of that allowance as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during which he has such special responsibilities bears to the number of days in that year.
- (6) Where this Scheme is amended as mentioned in sub-paragraph (2), and an office holder has during part, but does not have throughout the whole, or any period mentioned in sub-paragraph (2) (a) of that paragraph any such special responsibilities as entitle them to a special responsibility allowance, that office holder's entitlement shall be to payment of such part of the allowance referable to each such period (ascertained in accordance with that sub-paragraph) as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days in that period during which they have such special responsibilities bears to the number of days in that period.

## **11. PAYMENTS**

Payments by direct bank credit shall be made in respect of basic and special responsibility allowances and pensions in monthly instalments and are usually paid on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. However where, for example, the 20<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend, payments will be made on the previous Friday. Each month's allowance is calculated on the basis of one twelfth of the annual allowance, and is for the period of that calendar month, and payment for individual days is calculated by dividing the monthly sum by the number of days (including Saturdays and Sundays) in the particular month (*subject to paragraph 9 above - renunciations*).

**SCHEDULE 1**

**The following are specified as the special responsibilities in respect of which special responsibility allowances are payable and the amounts of those allowances:**

<b>Office Holder</b>	<b>Allowance 2021/22 - 2022/23 (£)</b>
Basic allowance (all councillors)	6,617
Leader of the Council	15,885
Cabinet Portfolio Holders	7,942
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Commission	7,106
Chair of Planning Committee	6,617
Chair of Licensing Committee	5,453
Chair of Governance Committee	2,649
Chair of Audit Committee	2,649
Chair of Budget Advisory Group (must not be a Cabinet Member and payment will be made on completion of the BAG process)	1,262
Payment to the Chair of any Scrutiny Panel (paid on completion of the scrutiny review)	1,262
Leader(s) of minority group(s) ( <i>differential rates depending on number of Members in that Group</i> ); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• basic allowance</li> <li>• additional payment per group Member</li> </ul>	2,448 305
Mayor	11,548
Deputy Mayor	1,800
Independent Person(s) (Standards) *	750

No Councillor is entitled to more than one special responsibility allowance. Where a Councillor is eligible for more than one special responsibility allowance, they will be paid the allowance of the higher value.

- \* The Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and all Group Leaders, has been authorised to set the initial allowance and expenses for the Independent Person(s) and to review annually thereafter.



## SCHEDULE 2

**The following are approved duties for the payment of travelling, subsistence and dependants' carers' allowances in accordance with sub-section 5 (g) of this Scheme:**

- (i) Attendance at seminars and training courses funded by the Crawley Borough Council, whether held in the Town Hall or elsewhere.
- (ii) Attendance at meetings with Council Officers in connection with Crawley Borough Council duties.
- (iii) Attendance at meetings with other local authorities, central government or other agencies in connection with Crawley Borough Council duties.
- (iv) Attendance at meetings with members of the public in connection with Crawley Borough Council duties.
- (v) Attendance at meetings with voluntary organisations or public sector bodies, award ceremonies, or public events in connection with Crawley Borough Council duties.

### **7. Allocation of Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs - (Recommendation 2)**

The Full Council considered report [LDS/162](#) of the Interim Monitoring Officer. The report, which set out potential options for a more proportionate and sustainable system for the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the Council's committees. This had been proposed in light of the current Joint Agreement between the two political groups.

The item had been previously considered at the Governance Committee on 26 January 2021. Councillor Burrett moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Crow.

Councillor Lamb moved and presented the Labour amendment, (*as shown in Supplementary Agenda Order Paper*). The amendment was seconded and supported by Councillor Lunnon. The Labour Amendment was

*That the Full Council be recommended to:*

- a) *adopt Strict Proportional Approach to the allocation of Committee Chairs and to adopt a Strict Proportional Approach to the allocation of Committee Vice Chairs.*
- b) *to amend the Constitution to reflect the adopted protocol regarding the allocation of Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs.*

During the debate both on the original Recommendation 2 and the proposed amendment, Councillors McCarthy Lamb and Burrett all spoke during the debate, on their merits of each option before the Full Council, including the right to reply.

Following the conclusion of the debate, the Mayor invited the Democratic Services Manager to commence the voting process on the Labour Amendment. Before the vote commenced, it was confirmed that none of the Labour or Conservative Members

requested to vote as an individual, rather than through their respective Group block vote.

For the recommendation: Labour block vote of 15 votes, and Councillors Fiveash and Sudan. (17)

Against the recommendation: Conservative block vote of 17 votes (17)

Abstentions: (0)

The Mayor declared the recommendation was carried – votes in favour 34, and votes against 0 with 0 abstentions.

As a result of the tied vote, the Mayor used the casting vote, to vote AGAINST the proposed Amendment. There were therefore 18 votes for the against the proposal and 17 votes for and no abstentions.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Labour Amendment then falls.

The Mayor then invited the Democratic Services Manager to commence the voting on the substantive Recommendation 2. Before the vote commenced, it was confirmed that none of the Labour or Conservative Members requested to vote as an individual, rather than through their respective Group block vote.

For the recommendation: Conservative block vote of 17 votes (17)

Against the recommendation: None (0)

Abstentions: Labour block vote of 15 votes, and Councillors Fiveash and Sudan. (17)

The Mayor declared the recommendation was carried – votes in favour 17, and votes against 0 with 17 abstentions.

As a result of the tied vote, the Mayor used the casting vote to vote FOR Recommendation 2. There were therefore 18 votes for Recommendation and 17 abstentions and 0 votes against.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Full Council approves

- a) the adoption of Fixed Cascade Approach for the allocation of Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs, as detailed in the table below.

<b>Largest Opposition Group</b> (number of seats held)	<b>OSC</b>	<b>Audit</b>	<b>Governance</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>Licensing</b>
3	VC	VC			
6	C	VC			
9	C	VC	VC	VC	
12	C	C	VC	VC	VC
15	C	C	VC	C	VC
18*	C	C	C	C	C

\* *Non-Administration Party*

- b) That the Constitution be amended to reflect the adopted protocol regarding the allocation of Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

## **8. Polling Arrangements May 2021 - (Recommendation 3)**

The Full Council considered report [CEX/54](#) of the Chief Executive, which set out proposed changes to the polling arrangements for the May 2021 elections in light of the Coronavirus pandemic. It was proposed that the reduction in the number of polling places from 27 to 23 which help to mitigate a number of the problems that have arisen due to holding an election during the pandemic included a projected shortfall in experienced Senior Presiding Officers.

The item had been previously considered at the Governance Committee on 26 January 2021. Councillor Burrett moved the recommendation and in doing so explained that included in the Order Paper was a revised and updated temporary Polling Scheme for the Full Council's consideration. The Governance Committee requested that the Returning Officer's investigate the viability of accommodating Polling Places on, or near to, the three existing schools which were named as Polling Places. The Returning Officer's investigation concluded it was not possible and as such the table in the Order Paper listed the proposed polling places that temporarily removes the three existing schools as Polling Place and identifies their replacements.

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Crow. Councillors Lunnon, Lamb, McCarthy and Lanzer also spoke on the report with many difference views being expressed on the recommendation including whether it was appropriate to reduce the number of polling places as it could lead to longer queuing with the likely stricter one in one out approach to voting taking place this year.

Following the conclusion of the debate, the Mayor invited the Democratic Services Manager to commence the voting process. Before the vote commenced, it was confirmed that none of the Labour or Conservative Members requested to vote as an individual, rather than through their respective Group block vote.

For the recommendation: Conservative block vote of 17 votes (17)

Against the recommendation: None (0)

Abstentions: Labour block vote of 15 votes and Councillors Fiveash and Sudan. (17)

The Mayor declared the recommendation was carried – votes in favour 17, and votes against 0 with 17 abstentions.

## RESOLVED

That the Full Council approves the temporary Polling Scheme set out in table below for the May 2021 elections

Polling District	Borough Ward	County Division	Proposed Polling Station	Electorate	Postal Voters	Polling Station Voters
LAA	Bewbush and North Broadfield	Bewbush and Ifield West	Bewbush Centre	6286	970	5316
LAB	Bewbush and North Broadfield	Broadfield	Broadfield Community Centre	991	149	842
LAC	Bewbush and North Broadfield	Southgate and Gossops Green	Bewbush Centre	45	5	40
LBA	Broadfield	Broadfield	Broadfield Community Centre	4671	794	3877
LBB	Broadfield	Broadfield	Broadfield Community Centre	2713	498	2215
LD	Furnace Green	Tilgate and Furnace Green	Furnace Green Community Centre	4531	1005	3526
LEA	Gossops Green and North-East Broadfield	Southgate and Gossops Green	Gossops Green Community Centre	3953	776	3177
LEB	Gossops Green and North-East Broadfield	Broadfield	Broadfield Community Centre	827	204	623
LFA	Ifield	Langley Green and Ifield East	Ifield Community Centre	3552	726	2826
LFB	Ifield	Langley Green and Ifield East	Ifield Community Centre	786	176	610
LFC	Ifield	Bewbush and Ifield West	Ifield West Community Centre	2257	379	1878
LFD	Ifield	Bewbush and Ifield West	Ifield West Community Centre	591	150	441
LGA	Langley Green and Tushmore	Langley Green and Ifield East	Langley Green Centre	5557	968	4589
LGB	Langley Green and Tushmore	Northgate and West Green	Northgate Community Centre	488	104	384
LHA	Maidenbower	Maidenbower and Worth	Maidenbower Community Centre	2895	592	2303
LHB	Maidenbower	Maidenbower and Worth	Maidenbower Community Centre	3911	781	3130
LIA	Northgate and West Green	Northgate and West Green	Northgate Community Centre	3497	564	2933
LIB	Northgate and West Green	Northgate and West Green	The Charis Centre	4148	792	3356
LJA	Pound Hill North and Forge Wood	Pound Hill	Milton Mount Community Centre	2894	612	2282
LJB	Pound Hill North and Forge Wood	Pound Hill	Wakehams Green	1717	254	1463

			Community Centre			
LJC	Pound Hill North and Forge Wood	Pound Hill	Wakehams Green Community Centre	1862	337	1525
LKA	Pound Hill South and Worth	Three Bridges	Pound Hill Community Centre	2793	522	2271
LKB	Pound Hill South and Worth	Pound Hill	St Edward the Confessor Church Hall	1149	250	899
LKC	Pound Hill South and Worth	Maidenbower and Worth	St Edward the Confessor Church Hall	2334	615	1719
LLA	Southgate	Southgate and Gossops Green	St Mary's Church Hall	2964	667	2297
LLB	Southgate	Southgate and Gossops Green	Southgate West Community Centre	2918	748	2170
LLC	Southgate	Northgate and West Green	Southgate West Community Centre	624	178	446
LMA	Three Bridges	Three Bridges	Montefiore Institute	2781	588	2193
LMB	Three Bridges	Three Bridges	Three Bridges Community Centre	1757	407	1350
LMC	Three Bridges	Three Bridges	Holiday Inn Express	1282	220	1062
LMD	Three Bridges	Northgate and West Green	The Town Hall	376	65	311
LNA	Tilgate	Tilgate and Furnace Green	Tilgate Community Centre	2370	469	1901
LNB	Tilgate	Tilgate and Furnace Green	Holy Trinity Church Hall	2084	365	1719
				81604	15930	65674

## 9. Climate Change Scrutiny Panel Final Report- (Recommendation 4)

The Full Council considered report [OSC/292](#) of the Chair of the Climate Change Scrutiny Panel, Councillor Jaggard. In July 2019, Full Council declared a Climate Emergency with Councillors pledging to take local action to aim to reduce carbon emissions generated by Crawley Borough Council's workings and activities by at least 45% by 2030 and to zero by 2050. The motion to Full Council also asked the Overview and Scrutiny Commission (OSC) to convene a Scrutiny Panel to look into and make recommendations focusing upon the workings and activities of Crawley Borough Council relating to carbon emissions and to report to Council as soon as is practicable.

Councillor Lamb introduced the report to the Full Council and noted the climate emergency declared in 2019. The town was a large contributor to carbon emissions and there was an obligation to address this. The economy had been affected as a result of the Covid19 pandemic, and it would be important to look to green technologies to strengthen this in the future. There was a need to deliver changes for future generations.

The item had previously been considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Cabinet on 1 February 2021 and 3 February 2021 respectively. Councillor Lamb moved the recommendation, which was seconded by Councillor Jhans, who in doing so welcomed the report and noted that the call to action was clear. The Panel Chair and Panel members were thanked for a comprehensive report and for bringing together creative recommendations. It was acknowledged that the Panel had

considered a broad range of topics and that the recommendations would be evaluated by the officers' advisory group to be incorporated into the climate change emergency action plan.

Councillor Jaggard then had the opportunity to speak as the Scrutiny Panel Chair, noting the huge public interest in the panel and the public engagement sessions that had taken place. The officers, Cabinet members and witnesses who attended were thanked for the detailed, informative and valuable sessions. The Panel had worked on a themed approach over a series of months, covering a baseline audit, transport, business/commercial, blue/green infrastructure and domestic/residential. There were difficult decisions to be made however it was a balancing act between convenience, cost and behaviour. There was unanimous agreement to reduce carbon emissions in 2019 and everyone needed to act. This report was the catalyst to do just that.

Councillors P Smith, McCarthy, Lanzer, B Burgess, Ayling and the Mayor also spoke on the report.

Following the conclusion of the debate, the Mayor invited the Democratic Services Manager to commence the voting process. Before the vote commenced, it was confirmed that none of the Labour or Conservative Members requested to vote as an individual, rather than through their respective Group block vote.

For the recommendation: Labour block vote of 15 votes, and Conservative block vote of 17 votes, Councillors Fiveash and Sudan. (34)

Against the recommendation: None (0)

Abstentions: (0)

The Mayor declared the recommendation was carried – votes in favour 34, and votes against 0, with 0 abstentions.

## **RESOLVED**

That Full Council:

- a) endorses the Scrutiny Panel's findings and recommendations contained within report [OSC/292](#)
- b) requests that any necessary revisions to the Council's Constitution relating to paperless committee meetings be made.
- c) requests that the Governance Committee look at the future format of the Council's formal and informal meetings to consider which should be face to face, virtual or hybrid.

## **10. 2021/2022 Budget and Council Tax - (Recommendation 5)**

The Full Council considered report [FIN/514](#) of the Head of Corporate Finance, which set out the Budget and level of Council Tax for the year 2021/22. It was noted that the report detailed each of the Revenue, Capital and Housing Revenue Accounts that combine together to formulate 'The Budget'. The proposed Budget had been produced based on the principles set in the Budget Strategy which was approved by Full Council on 16 December 2020.

The Council had a statutory responsibility to set a Council Tax and Budget in advance of the commencement of the new financial year, with the Council Tax having to be set by 11 March 2021. In proposing the level of Council Tax for the Financial Year 2021/22, each of those accounts identified had been considered. The proposed Council Tax for 2021/22 was to be increased by 2.37%.

The Leader of the Council Councillor Lamb presented and moved the Budget commented that the global pandemic had a significant impact on the Council's finance. This budget included the first substantial cuts that the Council has had to make to services for a number of years. The Council's three main sources of income, have all been hit hard over the past year with income from retained business rates reduced as business struggle, Council Tax income reduced as unemployment increases and Council's services that generated income (fees and charges and rent) were not able to bring in the revenue that they previously had. Crawley's economy has had been hit harder than any other across the country.

This year's budget for the first time was a collective approach by the Labour and Conservative Parties respectively, working together for the best interest of our residents during this difficult time. We've considered all the options and alternative and then we went out to the public to hear their views and received the largest ever response to a Council consultation. Two third of the savings proposed were from back office functions and the remaining were based on the priorities set by residents in feedback from the consultation.

However, the Council will be investing in further Council housing as it funded differently and investing £77 million (which can't be used on revenue schemes) in capital improvements including the Town's infrastructure projects.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Crow then seconded the recommendations and spoken on the report. He commented that it was unusual for the opposition Leader to second the Administration's budget report, but this is probably the single most important thing I do at this Council in this exceptional year. Covid-19 has been devastating on so many levels across the country, with thousands of death and impact on the economy and local services, but Crawley has been hit hard with job losses and highest furloughing due to the impact on Gatwick airport and this has impacted on us as a Council.

When in July 2020 the Council unexpectedly went into no overall control, the two main politically Groups acted like adults and agreed to work together to put Crawley and our residents first. That is exactly what we have done throughout the year especially with this budget. Members have been engaged throughout the process and we undertook a public consultation to ensure we were making the right decisions for our residents, whilst ensuring we remain on a sound financial footing.

The item had been previously considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Cabinet on 1 February 2021 and Cabinet on 3 February 2021. Councillor Lamb moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Crow.

Councillors Lunnon, Lanzer, Purdy, P. Smith and Sudan also spoke during the Budget debate.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Councillors expressed their thanks and appreciation for the work carried out by Karen Hayes (Head of Corporate Finance), and her finance division during such a difficult and challenging year.

The Full Council was reminded that regulations required all Councils at their annual budget meetings to adopt the practice of recorded votes - that is, recording in the minutes of the meeting how each member present voted on any decision relating to the Annual Budget and Council Tax. This applied not only to substantive budget motions to agree the Budget and setting Council Taxes, including precepts, but also on any amendments should they be proposed.

Following the conclusion of the debate, the Mayor invited the Democratic Services Manager to commence the recorded voting process on the 2020/21 Budget and Council Tax.

The names of the Councillors voting for and against Recommendation 5 were recorded as set out below:

For the recommendation: Councillors Ascough, Ayling, A Belben, T Belben, B Burgess, R Burgess, Burrett, Crow, Eade, Fiveash, Flack, Guidera, Hart, Irvine, Jaggard, Jhans, Jones, Lamb, Lanzer, Lunnon, McAleney, McCarthy, Malik, Millar-Smith, Mullins, Mwangale, Peck, Pendlington, Pickett, Purdy, Rana, B Smith, and P Smith

Against the recommendation: Councillors Fiveash and Sudan (2)

Abstentions: (0)

The Mayor declared the recommendation was carried – votes in favour 32, and votes against 2 with 0 abstentions.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Full Council approves

- a) the proposed 2021/22 General Fund Budget including savings and growth as set out in paragraph 6.4 of the report [FIN/514](#),
- b) the proposed 2021/22 Housing Revenue Account Budget as set out in section 10 and Appendix 3 of the report [FIN/514](#),
- c) to ringfence £435,000 of useable capital receipts for investment in the Town Centre as a result of using Government funding on the Heat Network to avoid having to repay the grant,
- d) to increase the capital budget for 2021/22 for temporary accommodation acquisition by £826,300 to be funded from the earmarked homelessness acquisition reserve,
- e) the 2020/21 and future years Capital Programme and funding as set out in paragraph 11.6 of the report [FIN/514](#),
- f) that the Council's share of Council Tax for 2021/22 be increased by 2.37% (£4.95) from £208.89 to £213.84 for a band D property as set out in paragraph 13.3 of the report [FIN/514](#),
- g) the Pay Policy Statement for 2021/2022 as outlined in paragraph 16.3 and Appendix 6 of the report [FIN/514](#),



- h) the CBC Pricing Strategy as outlined in Appendix 7 of the report [FIN/514](#).

## 11. Treasury Management Strategy 2021-2022 - (Recommendation 6)

The Full Council considered report [FIN/517](#) of the Head of Corporate Finance on the Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/2021 which the Council was required to approve before the start of the financial year in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management and the Council's financial regulations. The strategy itself sets out how the Council would be investing its money across the course of the year.

The item had been previously considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Cabinet on 1 February 2021 and Cabinet on 3 February 2021 Councillor Lamb moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor P Smith.

Councillors Crow in support of the report and its recommendations.

Following the conclusion of the debate, the Mayor invited the Democratic Services Manager to commence the voting process. Before the vote commenced, it was confirmed that none of the Labour or Conservative Members requested to vote as an individual, rather than through their respective Group block vote.

For the recommendation: Labour block vote of 15 votes, Conservative block vote of 17 votes, and Councillors Fiveash and Sudan. (34)

Against the recommendation: None (0)

Abstentions: (0)

The Mayor declared the recommendation was carried – votes in favour 34, and votes against 0 with 0 abstentions.

### RESOLVED

That the Full Council approves the following items:

- a) the Treasury Prudential Indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement contained within Section 5 of report [FIN/517](#);
- b) the Treasury Management Strategy contained within Section 6 of report [FIN/517](#);
- c) the Investment Strategy contained within Section 7 of report [FIN/517](#)

## 12. Duration of the Meeting (Guillotine)

As the business had not been completed within the scheduled 2 hours 30 minutes a vote on continuation, and in line with Council Procedure Rule 2.2, was held. The Mayor required the Full Council to consider if it wished to continue with the meeting.

Having put it to the vote, the Full Council agreed that the meeting be continued for an additional period not exceeding 30 minutes.

**13. The Hawth Theatre - Contract Extension [PART B] - (Recommendation 7)**

The Cabinet received report HPS/24 of the Head of Major Projects and Commercial Services. The report sought an extension to the contract for a further four years along with a repayable grant to Parkwood Leisure.

The item had been previously considered at the Cabinet on 3 February 2021. Councillor Lamb moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Mullins.

Following the conclusion of the debate, the Mayor invited the Democratic Services Manager to commence the voting process. Before the vote commenced, it was confirmed that none of the Labour or Conservative Members requested to vote as an individual, rather than through their respective Group block vote.

For the recommendation: Labour block vote of 15 votes, Conservative block vote of 17 votes, and Councillors Fiveash and Sudan. (34)

Against the recommendation: None (0)

Abstentions: (0)

The Mayor declared the recommendation was carried – votes in favour 34, and votes against 0 with 0 abstentions.

**RESOLVED**

That the Full Council approves

- a) the allocation of a repayable Capital Grant of £400,000 to Parkwood Leisure to provide support towards costs incurred during the Covid-19 pandemic as a result of distancing measures imposed upon theatres, and
- b) that the repayment of the Capital Grant occurs over the four year contract extension period.

**14. Notice of Precept 2021/2022 (Recommendation 8)**

Councillor Lamb presented the report that set out the Notice of Precept from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex and West Sussex County Council, which combined with the previously agreed Crawley Borough Council precept to formulate the 2021/22 Council Tax Resolution for 2021/22.

Moved by Councillor Lamb, seconded by Councillor Crow.

Following approval of the Council's Budget and Council Tax 2021/22 in Recommendation 5, and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the names of the Councillors voting for and against Recommendation 8 were recorded as set out below:-

For the recommendation:

Voting in Favour: Councillors: Ascough, Ayling, A Belben, T Belben, B Burgess, R Burgess, Burrett, Crow, Eade, Flack, Guidera, Hart, Irvine, Jaggard, Jhans, Jones, Lamb, Lanzer, Lunnon, Malik, McAleney, McCarthy, Millar-Smith, Mullins, Mwangale, Peck, Pendlington, Pickett Purdy, Rana, B Smith and P Smith. (32)

Against the recommendation: Councillors Fiveash and Sudan. (2)

Abstentions: (0)

The Mayor declared the recommendation was carried – votes in favour 32, and votes against 2 with 0 abstentions.

## RESOLVED

1. That it be noted that on 20 January 2021 the Leader of the Council under delegated powers calculated the Council Tax Base 2021/22 for the whole Council area as **34,961.9** [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
2. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2021/22 is calculated at £7,476,253.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2021/22 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

(a)	£116,146,244	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
(b)	£108,669,991	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
(c)	£7,476,253	being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
(d)	£213.84	being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
(e)	£0	being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.

(f)	£213.84	being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.
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4. That it be noted that the County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.
5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2021/22 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

### COUNCIL TAX SCHEDULE 2021/22

	CRAWLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL	WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL	POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR SUSSEX	TOTAL
BAND A	142.56	1,007.04	143.27	1,292.87
BAND B	166.32	1,174.88	167.15	1,508.35
BAND C	190.08	1,342.72	191.03	1,723.83
BAND D	213.84	1,510.56	214.91	1,939.31
BAND E	261.36	1,846.24	262.67	2,370.27
BAND F	308.88	2,181.92	310.43	2,801.23
BAND G	356.40	2,517.60	358.18	3,232.18
BAND H	427.68	3,021.12	429.82	3,878.62

6. That it be determined in accordance with Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992 that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2021/22 is NOT excessive in accordance with principles approved by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZC of the Act.

## **15. Appointment of the Council's Monitoring Officer (Recommendation 9)**

The Full Council considered report CEX/55 of the Chief Executive which detailed the recommendation for the new Head of Legal, Governance and HR and also the Council's Monitoring Officer from the Employment Panel held on 15 February 2021.

It was noted that the Council has a statutory duty to appoint a Monitoring Officer, under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as one of its designated Officers. Also that the Council's Monitoring Officer must not also be the Council's Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) or the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service.

Councillor Lamb moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Crow.

Councillor Pickett also spoke on the item.

Following the conclusion of the debate, the Mayor invited the Democratic Services Manager to commence the voting process. Before the vote commenced, it was confirmed that none of the Labour or Conservative Members requested to vote as an individual, rather than through their respective Group block vote.

For the recommendation: Labour block vote of 15 votes, Conservative block vote of 17 votes, and Councillors Fiveash and Sudan. (34)

Against the recommendation: None (0)

Abstentions: (0)

The Mayor declared the recommendation was carried – votes in favour 34, and votes against 0 with 0 abstentions.

### **RESOLVED**

That the Full Council

- a) appoints Siraj Choudhury as the Council's Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal, Governance and HR with effect from 29 March 2021.
- b) approves that the Council's Monitoring Officer amend the Council's Constitution and the relevant Sub-Delegation Schemes to take into account the above appointment.
- c) notes that, with effect from 29 March 2021, the current Interim Monitoring Officer (Chris Pedlow) will revert to the role of Deputy Monitoring Officer.

## **16. Notification of Decision Protected from Call-In - (Recommendation 10)**

The Mayor introduced the item which was the notification to the Full Council that the Chief Executive on 18 November 2020, used her protection from Call-in authority in relation to a decision taken by the Leader of the Council in respect of Additional Restrictions Discretionary Business Grant - Revised Scheme and Guidelines. In line

with Council's Constitution use of her protection from Call-in must be reported to Full Council.

Councillor Lamb spoke on item and provided the Council with some background on the decision he had taken, which had been protected from Call-in, regarding the Additional Restrictions Discretionary Business Grant - Revised Scheme and Guidelines and that it enabled an additional funding of £2,248,180 being made available in grants to support Crawley local businesses.

The Mayor moved the recommendation which was seconded by the Deputy Mayor.

## RESOLVED

That the Full Council notes use of the protection from Call-In by the Chief Executive.

## 17. Councillors' Question Time

Name of Councillor asking Question	Name of Cabinet Member Responding
<p>Councillor Sudan to the Leader of the Council</p> <p>I thank the Leader for his response to my question. I do recall that the reason for joining the Greater Brighton Economic Board was so that we could have our feet on the lobbying soapbox. The cost to the public of us joining has been £55,000. In the light of the Leader's reply please can he explain the comments he made to the Greater Brighton Economic Board in July in which he said that (and I quote) Crawley Borough Council is not receiving any economic benefits through membership of the board. My question was asking about material benefit that had come to Crawley as a direct result of membership of the board. I'm not asking about benefits that would have resulted of the lobbying or whether Crawley was involved, nor am I asking about benefits that have nothing to do with lobbying by CBC or anyone else. In other word,s I wanted to know, how would we be worse off if we withdrew?</p>	<p>Councillor Lamb, Leader of the Council</p> <p>I set out at the time of our joining the case for why I thought it would make sense for us to join, based around that lobbying. If you wish to say what are the benefits, other than all the things that have already been listed, then the answer is going to be nothing as they've already been listed and discounted. In practice, my argument for the Greater Brighton Economic Board in that instance was more about policies moving forward. The biggest concern at the time (although diminished due to the pandemic) was the fact we had 20 years to get Brighton mainline improvements through before we were going to run out of capacity of the railway line ie the train leaving Brighton is full, prior to it reaching Three Bridges. That is one example that would be catastrophic for the economy. Being part of a larger economic entity is that it can argue the case for that investment which makes significant amounts of sense and looking forward to the future of the town which needs to look after its residents.</p>
<p>Councillor Crow to the Leader of the Council</p> <p>Just over 48 hours ago we heard from the Prime Minister about his roadmap for re-opening Britain. I appreciate it only</p>	<p>Councillor Lamb, Leader of the Council</p> <p>I welcome the more cautious approach the Prime Minister now appears to be taking. We need to bear in mind that Crawley's numbers are still in</p>

<p>happened a couple of days ago, but does he have any indication of the impact on council services and when we are likely to be opening up, thinking in particular of leisure facilities, tennis, MUGA and the town hall. I am keen to see no unnecessary delay which is later than the government's guidance, particularly as opening up in line with the guidance would assist in generating some income again.</p> <p>When plans are devised and drawn up please can members be informed as soon as possible.</p>	<p>proportionately higher in terms of infection rates than other areas and higher than the national level. If they do not decrease we may need to have restrictions for longer. I am hopeful that with vaccinations the numbers and levels will drop quickly, and we will be able to open but at the moment I am not planning one way or another. But I do welcome a cautious approach.</p>
<p>Councillor Brenda Burgess to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development</p> <p>How are the Station Gateway, Eastern Gateway and redevelopment of Three Bridges Station progressing please?</p>	<p>Councillor P Smith, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development</p> <p>It is going to be hard to provide short answers to those projects. But Station Gateway reserved matters application is potentially heading to Planning Committee on 6 April. On Three Bridges station, there is a review of the scheme costs and also, we are having to look at the air quality management information due to the revised AQMA. In terms of Eastern Gateway, this is being led by WSCC and which has had a couple of issues such as Covid costs and original estimates but they are working with the supplier. You will have seen the notice about the demolition of the county buildings and work is due to start in the summer.</p>
<p>Councillor Purdy to the Leader of the Council</p> <p>Whilst we've seen the new town hall going up in 2020, there have been delays and construction increases in other areas of the country due to the pandemic. The new building will include 5.5 floors of grade A commercial space which the council is relying upon for future income. Given the previous discussions on budget challenges and income can the Leader give an update on when the building will be ready for occupation on the date?</p> <p>Are there any cost increases associated with Covid?</p>	<p>Councillor Lamb, Leader of the Council</p> <p>We are running ahead of schedule. It helps everyone working from home as it assists coordinating on site. We are looking at early 2022 to be relocated into the new building. The Chief Financial Officer is very diligent and takes a cautious approach and therefore the model of estimated rents coming in is pessimistic so it is hoped we will exceed that.</p> <p>I'm not aware of any associated with Covid. There are some associated with</p>

	the DHN which is work that had to be done.
<p>Councillor Bob Burgess to the Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Community Engagement</p> <p>Thanks to all those involved in change to the way grants are awarded. A large piece of work in a short amount of time. Going forward how confident are you that this new way of working will be successful?</p> <p>I fully agree that those that need it should be getting it. There are those that have been receiving it that may longer require the funding, but there are those that do need our support and they should continue to receive help where possible.</p>	<p>Councillor B Smith, Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Community Engagement</p> <p>I don't think we'd have introduced the new system if we weren't hopeful of it being successful. It was discussed at great length and officers have put a lot of work into the scheme. The processes will help to support those organisations that we desperately need to support and assist others in need to find alternative sources of funding. And in the end provide a better service.</p> <p>Some of the awards we have been making have been historical and the groups are now sustainable. The funding can be used in a different way, which is substantial – twice the amount of the county council – and I would hope we would be able to continue to support organisations that need it.</p>
<p>Councillor Mwangale to the Cabinet Member for Housing</p> <p>Some residents in Tilgate were panicked at the prospect of a development being squeezed into a small piece of land in Shackleton Road next to the community centre. Having successfully fought the council from building on Ely Close, what is the plan for scrutinising this please?</p>	<p>Councillor Irvine, Cabinet Member for Housing</p> <p>I am sorry to hear the people of Tilgate are alarmed. There are plans afoot, nothing further. However, consultation with ward members and the public will be instigated when necessary.</p>

## 18. Procedural Motion to Continue the meeting.

The Mayor informed the Full Council that the meeting had now passed 11.00pm and, in line with Full Council Procedure Rule (FCPR) 8.4, the use of the Guillotine process would come into effect.

In response, Councillor Burrett moved a Procedural Motion in relation to FCPR 11.1 (q) *To suspend a particular Full Council Procedure Rule, namely the execution of the Guillotine process (Section 8.4), thus allowing the meeting to continue beyond 11.00pm until such time as all items on the Agenda had been debated.* The motion was seconded by Councillor McCarthy.

Clarification was provided to the Full Council on what the moved Procedural Motion meant in practical terms, and the Mayor then invited the Democratic Services Manager to commence the voting process. Before the vote commenced, it was confirmed that a number of Councillors from both the Labour and Conservative Group



would be voting as individuals, rather than through their respective Group's block vote.

For the recommendation: Labour block vote of 11 votes, and Conservative block vote of 15 votes. (26)

Against the recommendation: Councillors B Burgess, R Burgess, Hart, Irvine, Fiveash, Pickett, B Smith and Sudan (8)

Abstentions: (0)

The Mayor declared the Procedural Motion was carried – votes in favour 26, and votes against 8 with 0 abstentions.

## RESOLVED

That the Full Council approves the Full Council Procedure Rules (FCPR) procedural motion in relation to 11.1 (q) *To suspend a particular Full Council Procedure Rule, namely the execution of the Guillotine process (Section 8.4 of the FCPR)*, and thus allowing the meeting to continue beyond 11.00pm until such time all items on the Agenda had been debated.

## 19. Receiving the Minutes of the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Other Committees including Items for Debate

Moved by Councillor Malik (as the Deputy Mayor):-

## RESOLVED

That the following reports be received:  
Planning Committee – 7 December 2020  
Planning Committee – 12 January 2021  
Governance Committee – 26 January 2021  
Cabinet – 3 February 2021  
Planning Committee – 8 February 2021

The following items which were not Full Council Recommendations were selected as Items for Debate:

Agenda Page no.	Committee/ Minute no.	Item
p80	Cabinet 3 February 2021 (Minute 6)  Karen Sudan	Petition – “Save Crawley's Adventure Playgrounds”
p.85	Cabinet 3 February 2021 (Minute 8)	Proposed Article 4 Directions - Planning Change of Use from C3

Agenda Page no.	Committee/ Minute no.	Item
	Conservative Group	(dwelling houses) to C4 (houses in multiple occupation)
p.99	Planning Committee 8 February 2021 (Minute 4)  Conservative Group	Planning Application CR/2018/0172/FUL - Gatwick School, 23 Gatwick Road, Northgate, Crawley

**20. Item for Debate - Petition - "Save Crawley's Adventure Playgrounds" - Cabinet, 3 February 2021 (Minute 6)**

Councillor Sudan explained the rationale for bringing forward this item for debate. It was felt the item had not had the full debate it deserved, although there had been a strong justification for the decision that had been made. The decision to close the adventure playgrounds was made at a Cabinet meeting at the same meeting that the budget was agreed. The public were clearly not happy with the decision and it was noted that there was a clear case for unsupervised play. There have been discussions around the vulnerable and the adventure playgrounds provide more than a place for fun and learning; they provide a safety net for children. It was felt that alternatives should have been considered, especially in the more deprived areas.

Councillor Lamb spoke on this item adding that it was not an easy decision to make. The options were part of the public consultation and this had not been their biggest concern for making savings. It was important to debate issues but there had been sessions for all councillors to attend to discuss the budget challenges. In addition, the reporting process had gone through the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Cabinet, which every councillor was entitled to attend and speak. Alternatives had been considered but the council was legally required to set a budget.

Councillor Mullins responded that as Cabinet Member he empathised with the public but acknowledged that the adventure playgrounds were now old and whilst some had been refurbished, others would require significant investment. The footfall of sites has decreased dramatically. The proposed new way of operating would be more effective and meet the demands of the community.

**21. Item for Debate - Proposed Article 4 Directions - Planning Change of Use from C3 (dwelling houses) to C4 (houses in multiple occupation) - Cabinet, 3 February 2021 (Minute 8)**

Councillor Crow explained the rationale for bringing forward this item for debate. This proposal was welcomed and he had received positive feedback from local residents. It assisted in the controlling of HMOs and provided a balance.

Councillor McCarthy also spoke on this item.

Councillor P Smith responded on this item stating that there was a balancing act with Article 4 Directions and the positioning of HMOs was monitored and would assist with any displacement.

**22. Item for Debate - Planning Application CR/2018/0172/FUL - Gatwick School, 23 Gatwick Road, Northgate, Crawley - Planning Committee, 8 February 2021 (Minute 4)**

Councillor Crow explained the rationale for bringing forward this item for debate. He welcomed the permanent planning permission of the Gatwick School. It achieved a good rating in its first Ofsted rating and it was proving to be a popular school. It means the school were able to increase and improve its facilities. The permanent permission was good for school and also the town as well.

Councillors Burrett, P Smith and Irvine also spoke on this item.

Councillor Purdy responded on this item. It was acknowledged the work of the Planning Team in providing advice during the application process in order to welcome the permanent permission.

**Closure of Meeting**

With the business of the Full Council concluded, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.26 pm

**F Guidera (Mayor)**