

## THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

**At a meeting of the Full Council held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Tuesday, 17 October 2023 from 7.30 - 10.00 pm**

**Present:** Councillors Councillor Phil Williams (Chair), Councillor Raj Khiroya (Vice Chair), Matthew Bedford, Ruth Clark, Oliver Cooper, Stephen Cox, Steve Drury, Lisa Hudson, Andrea Fraser, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Philip Hearn, Tony Humphreys, Khalid Hussain, Joan King, Stephen King, Chris Lloyd, David Major, Keith Martin, Abbas Merali, Chris Mitchell, Debbie Morris, Sarah Nelmes, Louise Price, Kevin Raeburn, Paul Rainbow, Reena Ranger, Ciaran Reed, Andrew Scarth, Roger Seabourne, Jon Tankard, Narinder Sian, Jonathan Solomons, Chris Whately-Smith and Anne Winter

### **Officers in Attendance:**

Kimberley Grout, Associate Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Housing  
Stephen Rix, Associate Director of Legal and Democratic  
Alison Scott, Director of Finance  
Joanne Wagstaffe, Chief Executive

### **41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Sara Bedford, David Coltman, Rue Grewal, Ian Morris and David Raw.

### **42 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meetings of Full Council held on the 11th July 2023 be approved as being a correct record and are signed by the Chair.

### **43 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair invited the Group Leaders to say a few words in respect of the recent atrocities which had occurred in Israel. The Council expressed their condolences to all those affected by the events and a minutes silence was held.

### **44 RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 18**

No petitions had been received.

### **45 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 15**

The three questions received from the public, under Procedure Rule 15 in the Constitution, and the answers provided were noted.

### **46 TO RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING ON 11 SEPTEMBER AND 5 OCTOBER 2023**

Council considered recommendations arising from resolutions made by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meetings on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

a) Budget Monitoring Report

Council was informed that a review of the Council's budgets at the end of the first quarter had concluded that the approved budget of £13.754million, would be insufficient to cover the Council's projected costs to the end of the 2023/24 financial year. The shortfall was attributed to a number of factors including inflationary pressures, the pay award and the cost of recycling materials. To ensure the continued delivery of uninterrupted services it was proposed that a portion of the Council's reserves were used to close the budget gap.

It was moved by Councillor Keith Martin, seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes, that:

- i. That the revenue budget virements, as set out in appendices 1 to 3, be approved and incorporated into the three-year medium-term financial plan.
- ii. That the revenue budget supplementary estimates, as set out in appendices 1 to 3, approved and incorporated into the three-year medium-term financial plan.
- iii. That the revenue variances to be managed, as set out in appendices 1 to 3, be noted.
- iv. That the capital variances as set out in appendices 1 to 3, be approved and incorporated into the three-year medium-term financial plan.

On being put to Council the recommendations were CARRIED, the voting being For 26, Against 0 and Abstaining 8.

**RESOLVED** that the budgetary changes be approved.

b) Calendar of Meetings

It was clarified that the Local Area Forums were intended to be a mix of face to face, virtual and hybrid meetings dependant on the facilities available in each area. The final decision on the type of meeting would lie with ward councillors.

It was moved by Councillor Sarah Nelmes, seconded by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, that:

- i. The draft calendar of meetings for 2025/26 be ratified.
- ii. The proposed changes to the schedule of meetings as set out in Paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 of the report be approved.

On being put to Council the recommendations were CARRIED unanimously.

**RESOLVED** the Calendar of Meetings for 2025/26 be approved.

c) Local Plan Regulation 18 Part 4 Consultation

Following concern about the Council's ability to secure infrastructure provision for particular areas it was proposed by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, that Appendix 1 of the Plan be amended to include wording that required the infrastructure requirements detailed for Maple Cross and Shepherds Lane to be secured through a legal agreement. The proposed amendment was seconded by Councillor Matthew Bedford, put to the vote and carried unanimously.

It was noted that Green Belt constraints would make it difficult to meet Government housing targets for the area. Consequently, it was proposed that the Local Plan would be an evidence based Local Plan based on a low growth Green Belt constraints.

It was moved by Councillor Chris Mitchell that the Red Cross Centre in Croxley Green be removed from the List of Preferred Sites in the Regulation 18 consultation. The proposed amendment was seconded by Councillor Narinder Sian put to the vote and defeated. The Voting in favour of the amendment was For 3, Against 21.

It was moved by Councillor Oliver Cooper that the following amendments be made to the Foreword of the Regulation 18 Consultation document:

- That the word 'required' is removed from 'required government target'.
- That 'Government Inspector' is replaced with 'Planning Inspectorate'.
- That the sentence 'As we go to print the government has not changed any of the planning rules' is replaced with 'Whilst the government is implementing proposals which would allow Green Belt land to be protected, this will only come into law next year.'

The proposed amendment was seconded by Councillor Philip Hearn put to the vote and defeated. The voting in favour of the amendment was For 8, Against 26.

It was moved by Councillor Oliver Cooper that the following sites be removed from the Regulation 18 Consultation document:

- CFS3 - Fraser Crescent and Woodside Road
- CFS6 - Mansion House
- PCS21 - Love Lane
- CFS65 - Bucknalls Lane
- CFS16 - Chorleywood Station Car Park
- EOS12.4 - Maple Cross
- EOS7.0 - Shepherds Lane, Mill End
- CFS59 - London Road
- CG65 - Croxley Green Red Cross

The proposed amendment was seconded by Councillor Philip Hearn, put to the vote and defeated. The voting in favour of the amendment was For: 8, Against 26.

It was moved by Councillor Oliver Cooper that in respect of site CFS16 Chorleywood Station car park the Regulation 18 consultation document be amended so that no change to the boundaries would be permitted under any planning application in Chorleywood Common. The proposed amendment was seconded by Councillor Philip Hearn, put to the vote and defeated. The voting in respect of the amendment was For 8, Against 26.

It was moved by Councillor Oliver Cooper that in respect of sites EOS12.4 Maple Cross and EOS7.0 Shepherds Lane a requirement be added that all health, education, and similar facilities secured must be contracted to open and operate before residential properties could be occupied. The proposed amendment was seconded by Councillor Philip Hearn, put to the vote and defeated. The voting in favour of the amendment was For 10, Against 24.

In response to concerns about the inclusion of a number of proposed housing allocation sites in the plan, including the Croxley Green Red Cross building and Chorleywood Station Car Park, it was stressed that the Regulation 18 consultation focused on the preferred issues and options and consequently was not the final iteration of the Local Plan that would be going to Examination. Any responses to the Regulation 18 consultation would receive full consideration and where sites were subsequently found to be unviable they could be removed before the Local Plan progressed further. It was stressed that even if all the potential housing sites identified in the draft Local Plan were progressed, the District would still face a shortfall against Government housing requirements and removing sites at this stage would impact on the plan's soundness at Examination.

It was moved by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, seconded by Councillor Mathew Bedford that:

- i. The Local Plan Regulation 18: Part Four Three Rivers Preferred Local Plan Lower Housing Growth Option – Protecting More Green Belt Land document as set out in

- Appendix 1, as amended, be approved for public consultation in accordance with the regulations and the Local Development Scheme.
- ii. Delegated authority be granted to the Head of Planning Policy and Conservation in consultation with the Lead Member for the Local Plan to make any minor changes that are required before the documents are published for consultation.

On being put to Council the recommendations were declared CARRIED, the voting being: For 24, Against 8 and Abstaining 2.

**RESOLVED** that the Local Plan be approved for Regulation 18 consultation.

NOTE: At the end of consideration of this item, Councillor Roger Seaborne left the meeting.

#### **47 CHANGE TO THE MEMBERSHIP TO THE LOCAL PLAN SUB-COMMITTEE**

Full Council noted that Councillor Louise Price would replace Councillor Phil Williams on the Local Plan Sub Committee.

#### **48 QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER, LEAD MEMBERS, CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES AND REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRS OF THE COMMITTEES, AND QUESTIONS ON THE CHAIRS REPORTS**

Full Council noted the responses provided to questions received by the Leader, Lead Members, Chairs of Committee and reports from the Chairs of Committees.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Ciaran Reed, Councillor Sarah Nelmes, confirmed that it was standard Council practice for any press releases to be fronted by the appropriate Lead Member. Notwithstanding this, the contribution made by Councillor Reed towards securing Community Infrastructure Levy funding to improve the King George V Playground in Sarratt was acknowledged.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Reena Ranger, Councillor Sarah Nelmes clarified that the decision to install static cameras in the Council Chamber rather than tracking cameras had been primarily influenced by cost.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Narinder Sian, Councillor Paul Rainbow, confirmed that it was expected that the final report on the outcomes of the consultation in respect of the 2020 changes to parking in Croxley Green would be shared with ward councillors imminently. The delays in completing this work were attributed to a combination of resource constraints and a need to comply with Pre-Election Period constraints.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Chris Mitchell, Councillor Paul Rainbow, confirmed that the imposition of the advertised changes to the short term parking provision in the vicinity of Frankland Road and Watford Road were expected imminently.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Chris Mitchell, Councillor Paul Rainbow confirmed that the installation of additional electric vehicle charging points across the district would be dependent on the infrastructure provision required.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Narinder Sian, Councillor Paul Rainbow confirmed that there was evidence to support the demand for the Beryl Bike scheme in the District and Beryl Bikes were looking to expand their Watford Scheme into Three rivers.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Philip Hearn, Councillor Paul Rainbow confirmed that responsibility for writing to those residents impacted by Highways Order changes lay with Hertfordshire County Council in their capacity as the Highways Authority.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Philip Hearn, Councillor Paul Rainbow clarified that work on the development of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan was being led by Hertfordshire County Council in their capacity as the Highways Authority.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Reena Ranger, Councillor Paul Rainbow stressed that educating drivers about the impacts of idling car engines was a more effective long term solution than fines. The use of Civic Enforcement Officers to fine drivers would have resource implications.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Debbie Morris, Councillor Paul Rainbow clarified that any highways safety works were the responsibility of Hertfordshire County Council in their capacity as the Highways Authority.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Andrea Fraser, Councillor Paul Rainbow acknowledged the popularity of the Aquadrome and the difficulties of parking following periods of heavy rain. It was currently free to park at the Aquadrome and the only way to prioritise local residents would be to introduce parking charges.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Joan King, Councillor Paul rainbow confirmed that officers would be asked to notify residents when enforcement of the recently installed double yellow lines in the vicinity of Oxhey Drive would begin.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Stephen Cox, Councillor Paul rainbow agreed to visit the Erskine House, Filton House, Forfar House to view the problems being experienced by residents with the refuse stores.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Chris Lloyd, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst informed Full Council that the County Council had, that morning, agreed a motion to lobby the Mayor of London for all stations in the Three Rivers area to be incorporated into Zone 6. A presentation on initial plans for the Watford Croxley link would be given to Councillors however it was stressed that for the plans to secure funding from Three Rivers District Council then links must come into Croxley and Three Rivers.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Keith Martin, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst confirmed that there had been a significant increase in the number of potholes reported to the County Council compared to the same period in the previous year and agreed that more funding needed to be allocated to restoring roads to a suitable condition however resources were limited.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Keith martin, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst noted that the expansion of the Warner Bros Studios at Leavesdon, was not only good news for residents of Three Rivers District it was also good news for the wider area.

In response to a question from Councillor Philip Heran, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst confirmed that Hertfordshire County Council had not expressed any safety concerns relating to proposals to build 190 homes on Chorleywood Station Car park, as part of the Local Plan Preferred Options. It was noted that sites were not required to provide a parking ratio of one to one if they were in close proximity to good public transport links. Concerns about access routes through protected common land were noted and it was stressed that if a site was found to be unviable following the Regulation 18 Issues and Options Consultation then it would be removed from the Local Plan.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Andrea Fraser, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst clarified that Rickmansworth High Street was Highways land and as such the District Council was limited in what it could do. Notwithstanding this, funding to support the High Street had been provide to Batchworth Community Council. At a meeting of the High

Street Board, on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023, it had been agreed that the road would be closed to vehicular traffic between 10am on Saturday and 6am on Monday and the order had been submitted to the County Council for approval.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Andrea Fraser it was confirmed that all suggestions for the use of Community Infrastructure Levy funding were welcomed.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Oliver Cooper, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst stated that it would be inappropriate for Members of the Council to directly approach the Defence Infrastructure Organisation over any concerns that they might have over the security implications arising from proposed housing developments in close proximity to the Northwood Headquarters.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Stephen Cox, Councillors Stephen Giles-Medhurst stated that the photograph recently used in a press release about the Green Belt had been required at short notice and consequently one had been taken by a member of the Liberal Democrats on their personal phone.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Chris Mitchell it was confirmed that the proposed housing development at Jacketts Field would not be progressed at this time.

In response to a question from Councillor Reena Ranger, Councillor Andrew Scarth confirmed that the Hospital was outside the boundary of London's recently expanded Ultra Low Emission Zone. A letter had been sent to the Mayor of London expressing concern that the zone's expansion could impact on local residents ability to access healthcare facilities.

In response to a Supplementary Question from Councillor Joan King, Councillor Andrew Scarth undertook to provide a written response in respect of the actions taken to rehome residents and improve residential properties where damp and mould had been reported to the Council's Environmental Health Function.

Meeting Concluded

Note: In accordance with Part 4, Rule 1, Paragraph 7 of the Council's Constitution, the meeting concluded at 10pm. In accordance with Part 4, Rule 6, Paragraph 3 of the Council's Constitution all remaining items on the agenda fell and were not considered.

**CHAIRMAN**