

Date of issue: Thursday, 24 September 2020

MEETING	COUNCIL
DATE AND TIME:	THURSDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2020 AT 7.00 PM
VENUE:	VIRTUAL MEETING
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)	SHABANA KAUSER 07821 811 259

SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS

The following Papers have been added to the agenda for the above meeting:-

* Items 4,8 and 14 were not available for publication with the rest of the agenda.

PART 1

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>WARD</u>
4.	Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.	1 - 2	All
8.	Appointments to Committees, Panels, Outside Bodies and the Independent School Admission Appeals Panel – Appendix A	3 - 4	All
14.	To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10	5 - 6	All

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COUNCIL MEETING – 24 SEPTEMBER 2020
QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 9

1. From Chandra Muvvala to Councillor Anderson

Not many residents are aware of the virtual consultation that Slough Borough Council carried out on the widening of the high street in Langley. Many residents did not have good internet connection and were unable to attend the virtual consultation.

Do you have any other plans to reach all Langley residents to hear their feedback on the proposal to widen Langley high street?

2. From Meena Sharma to Councillor Swindlehurst

What assurances can be given to Slough's council taxpayers that they will not have to foot the bill, in increased council tax, to pay ongoing costs of the £41,333,500 white elephant SBC new offices, which is likely to be grossly under-occupied due to plans for long term homeworking?

3. From Gurcharan Manku to Councillor Anderson

What was your involvement in planning and assessment of bus lanes? What risk assessments if any were conducted for the project?

4. From Patrick O'Connor to Councillor Nazir

With the average space of new dwellings within Slough lower than the national average, is Councillor Nazir comfortable with the Labour policy of pursuing the development of low space, low quality dwellings?

5. From Kevin Barry to Councillor Strutton

Could the Leader of the Opposition offer his thoughts on the Prime Minister's cycling and walking plan for England – paying particular attention on the sections which promote “physical segregated bikes tracks” to create “physical separation” between vehicles, cycles and pedestrians to make cycling “mass transit” form of transport and how the Prime Minister wants to treat “cycles as vehicles” and not pedestrians and how this dovetails with the experiential bus and cycle lane in Slough which not only implements the Prime Ministers own strategy but allows for social distancing on our pavements to take place which is now more important than ever given the governments botched handling of track and trace?

6. From Steven Gillingwater to Councillor Swindlehurst

With the working group being established to look at the electoral cycle, will the working group be looking at the benefits of whole elections for disabled people and will the working group look at what Slough can do to be a leader in assisting disabled people stand for elections and be a strong voice for fellow disabled residents?

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APPENDIX A

Agenda item 8 – Appointments to Committees, Panels, Outside Bodies and the Independent School Admission Appeals Panel

Neighbourhood and Community Services Scrutiny – Councillor Begum to replace Councillor Gahir

Health Scrutiny Panel - Councillors Matloob and Sarfraz to replace Councillors N Holledge and Gahir

Education and Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel - Councillor (TBC) to replace Councillor N Holledge

Planning Committee - Councillor Ajaib to replace Councillor Sabah

Employment and Appeals Committee - Councillors Sabah and A.Sandhu to replace Councillors N.Holledge and Mohammed

Trustee Committee - Councillor Bains to replace Councillor N.Holledge

Corporate Parenting Panel – Councillor Brooker to replace Councillor Mohammad

Foster Panel – Councillor Brooker to replace Councillor Begum

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COUNCIL MEETING – 24 SEPTEMBER 2020QUESTIONS FROM ELECTED MEMBERS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 102-20 TO COUNCILLOR NAZIR, CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR STRUTTON (RECEIVED 07.07.20)

In regards to the monitoring of the Osborne contract, why did we not have the details or access to monitor the logging and processing of repairs, voids and caretaker cleaning of Council properties until recently? Even prior to the Covid-19 pandemic it was clear we had concerns and a high backlog of jobs?

Reply

As you have been informed Slough Borough Council has had access to the Osborne Accuserve database since the start of the Osborne Contract. We have used the data from the Osborne Accuserve database to produce the KPI reports that have been used to monitor the Osborne contract since the start of the Osborne contract. We have now used the Osborne Accuserve database to create a ring-fenced “Lock-down” package of work which will be used to monitor the clearing of the backlog. Separately standard KPIs and contract monitoring will be resumed for work from 1 July 2020.

3-20 TO COUNCILLOR AKRAM, CABINET MEMBER FOR GOVERNANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR STRUTTON (RECEIVED 08.09.20)

What action are you taking in regards to governance and councillor behaviour during meetings including appropriate dress, to ensure the rules are implemented fairly regardless of political alignment? Will you be writing to members regarding the recent language (“deranged”) used at the last full council meeting, as you have previously written to councillors about similar language which may affect people with mental health issues

Reply

Thank you for your question.

The current Council Procedure Rules in Part 4.1 of the Constitution continue to apply to remote meetings as they would to meetings held in person, except in so far as they might conflict with the provisions of the Local Authorities and Police & Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority & Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England & Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the remote meetings regulations”). The remote meetings regulations permit councils to make other standing orders and any other rules of the council governing the meeting about remote attendance at meetings of the Council which may include provision about voting, member and public access to documents and remote access for press and public. The Council have agreed a protocol for remote meetings which was accepted by full council at the AGM on 21 May 2020. The only rule concerning dress is Rule 26 of the Council Procedure Rules which simply says that Council robes may be worn by members at the AGM or at other special civic occasions as the Mayor may request. There is no

other provision in the Council Procedure Rules concerning dress. This rule also prohibits smoking, eating and drinking (except water, tea, coffee and soft drinks) at meetings. It also prohibits mobile phones at meetings but this would now conflict with the remote meetings regulations as phones may be necessary now to connect to meetings. Paragraph 13 of the Remote Meetings Protocol asks Members to be “mindful of their appearance. Rule 23 of the Council Procedure Rules deal with Members’ Conduct but this rule just relates to how debate is conducted, nothing else. Paragraph 13 of the remote meetings protocol sets out some rules of etiquette for Members to follow at remote meetings dealing with such matters as joining meetings a little early to check connections are working, muting microphones except when speaking, having “slogan free” backgrounds, not being distracted and not allowing confidential papers to be visible. The Members Bulletin which went out to Members Friday before last reminded Members to follow the etiquette in the remote meetings protocol. This was done at my request to the Monitoring Officer. The Council Procedure Rules and the remote meetings protocol do not have “in-built” enforcement or “policing” systems for any provisions relating to etiquette. The etiquette rules are something which Members have agreed upon and should follow out of good conscience and as best practice and which Chairs of meetings should remind Members about from time to time and call up anybody if they breach these rules.