

Date of issue: Thursday, 25 July 2024

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>DATE AND TIME:</b>	THURSDAY, 25TH JULY, 2024 AT 7.00 PM
<b>VENUE:</b>	COUNCIL CHAMBER - OBSERVATORY HOUSE, 25 WINDSOR ROAD, SL1 2EL
<b>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)</b>	NICHOLAS PONTONE 01753 875120

### SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS

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

\* Items 4, 7 and 10 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	-
7.	Allocation of Seats and Committee Appointments	3 - 14	All
10.	To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10 (as tabled).	15 - 22	All

This page is intentionally left blank

**COUNCIL MEETING – 25<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024**

**QUESTION FROM ELECTOR UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 9**

**1. From Ms Sharon O'Reilly to Councillor Smith**

"How many Slough Councillors have submitted a DBS Check?"

**2. From Ms Sue Sibany-King to Councillor Smith**

"Are any of the Slough Borough Council pension plans, and/or investments being invested, in any way, in any company or companies who are still funding the supply of arms to Israel and therefore being complicit in genocide?"

This page is intentionally left blank

**Slough Borough Council**

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Council</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Allocation of Seats and Committee Appointments
<b>Chief Officer:</b>	Sukdave Ghuman, Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Alex Polak, Head of Governance & Scrutiny
<b>Ward(s):</b>	All
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Revised Allocation of Seats Appendix 2 – Committee appointments and appointments to Chair and Vice Chair vacancies

**1. Summary and Recommendations**

- 1.1 This report advises the Council of revised proportionality entitlements to seats on committees in light of changes to political groups since the Annual Meeting of Council on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024, which are the formation of the Slough Independent Group and a change to the membership of the Conservative Group as notified on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
- 1.2 Council is requested to approve the revised allocation of seats on committees and outside bodies, and make the necessary appointments in accordance with the wishes of the political groups.
- 1.3 The report also informs the Council of other consequential matters arising from the current political balance including support entitlement of the Slough Independent Group.

**Recommendations:**

Council is recommended to:

- (a) Note the revised proportionality and entitlement to committee seats as set out in Appendix 1.
- (b) Approve the appointments to committees and outside bodies as set out Appendix 2.
- (c) Approve the appointment as per appendix 2 to fill the vacant role of chair of the Employment Committee.
- (d) Approve the appointment as per appendix 2 to fill the vacant role of chair of the Investigating & Disciplinary Committee.

- (e) Approve the appointment as per appendix 2 to fill the vacant role of vice chair of the Audit & Corporate Governance Committee.
- (f) Approve the appointment as per appendix 2 to fill the vacant role of vice chair of the Standards Committee.

**Reason:**

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 stipulates that the council should review the proportionality calculation and make any necessary adjustments to the allocation of seats on committees following any change in political balance. This is the first Full Council meeting since changes in political balance on Slough Borough Council. Full Council also needs to fill several vacant chair or vice chair positions, which have arisen from the changes to group membership.

**Commissioner Review**

The Commissioners have reviewed this report and have no specific comments to add.

**2. Report**

**Introductory paragraph**

- 2.1 It is a requirement to appoint to the Committees, Sub-committees and other bodies as set out in the Constitution.

Allocation of Seats on Committees

- 2.2 The Council, in undertaking its duty to allocate seats to political Groups is required, as far as reasonably practicable, to give effect to the statutory principles below:
  - (a) that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
  - (b) that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
  - (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority; and
  - (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of the seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.
- 2.3 In practice, the proper application of these rules often leads to a variation in the number of members from each Group on each committee, even between committees with the same number of members, in order to ensure balance overall across all committees and any sub-committees.

2.4 The Council agreed the allocation of seats and appointments at the Annual Council meeting held on 16th May 2024. On 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024 a Notice was received in accordance with Regulation 10 (c) of The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, notifying the Council that the following Councillors had formed a new group called the Slough Independent Group:

- Councillor Akram (Group Leader)
- Councillor Ajaib (Deputy Group Leader)
- Councillor Dar
- Councillor Nazir
- Councillor Qaseem
- Councillor J Sabah
- Councillor W Sabah

2.5 Separately, as of 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024 the Council was notified that Councillor Muvvala had submitted his resignation from the Conservative Group and therefore now sits as an independent councillor and not a member of any group.

2.6 Seats on committees are allocated to political groups, therefore upon leaving their previous groups the members above automatically were removed from any committees to which they had been appointed by their former groups, pending the revised seat allocations being agreed as set out in this report.

2.7 Consequently, they also lost any chair or vice chair positions they held on those committees, and these positions became vacant. Two chair positions are vacant and two vice chair positions are vacant, as set out in recommendations (c) to (f) above. Nominees for those positions are set out in appendix 2, for consideration and decision by Full Council.

2.8 Unlike the names put forward by groups to fill their own seats on each committee (to which each group has an entitlement), the candidates for chair and vice chair positions named in appendix 2 can, if desired, be changed by full council under the usual process for amendments.

2.9 The current political balance of the Council is as follows:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Seats on Council</b>
Conservative Group	20
Labour Group	11
Slough Independent Group	7
Liberal Democrat Group	3
<i>Independent (not in a group)</i>	<i>1</i>

2.10 Proportionality and allocation of committee places has been re-calculated based on revised group membership, as set out in Appendix 1. Following a detailed review of the options and discussions with group leaders there are no changes to the current size of any committees. This is considered to remain the best fit within the requirements of the political proportionality calculation as described above.

2.11 Members should note that there is no seat entitlement for any councillors not in a political group. One member of the council is not in any political group. The

calculations are therefore done on the basis of a proportion of the remaining 41 council seats.

- 2.12 Groups have been asked for nominations their revised seat allocations and these are set out in Appendix 2. Council is not being asked to re-approve unchanged appointments to committees, chairs, vice-chairs and outside bodies agreed at the Annual Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024, therefore the Appendix only lists new or changed appointments.

### Slough Independent Group – entitlement to support

- 1.1 The AGM each year has a standing item to agree the political support which will be available to political groups over the coming year. The arrangements agreed in May 2024 for the current year remain in place: the Conservative Group and the Labour Group each have a full time political group support officer.
- 1.2 Under the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 Councils are free to decide whether to have political group support officers. If they do have such roles in their officer structure, then a political group qualifies for support if it comprises at least 10% of the membership of the Authority. The Slough Independent Group has 7 of the 42 seats on the Council and is therefore entitled to such support.
- 1.3 The Slough Independent Group has indicated that it does not have a requirement for political group officer support at the current time but has requested up to six hours of administrative support per week. For the time being it is proposed to find this from within the existing democratic services team. This support will be reviewed in due course, not least in advance of the 2025 AGM when a formal decision will be needed about political group support for the subsequent year.
- 1.4 There are therefore no changes proposed to the current position regarding political group officer support.
- 1.5 The Slough Independent Group is eligible to receive other forms of support such as accommodation and this is under discussion with the group leadership.

### **Options considered:**

**Option 1** – Agree the revised seat entitlements and make appointments to committees as set out in the recommendations and in Appendices 1 and 2 of this report to reflect the new political balance of the Council and ensure compliance and best fit with the rules on political proportionality. This is the recommended option.

**Option 2** – Agree a different allocation of seats or change to committee structures. The Council could change the committee structure by varying the number of seats on some or all committees if this did not depart from the proportionality rules, or if no member voted against. Various options have been tested and the best fit is as proposed in Appendix 1. Group Leaders have been consulted on the preferred option. It is therefore not recommended to change the size of any committees.

**Option 3** - 'Do nothing'. This is not recommended as the Council is required to comply with the provisions the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 relating to the representation of different political groups on committees and other relevant bodies.



### **3. Implications of the Recommendation**

#### *3.1 Financial implications*

- 3.1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
- 3.1.2 The position regarding Political Group Support Officers is set out in section 2 of this report and there are no new costs to the council arising at this stage, although there is an opportunity cost of six hours per week of a democratic services team member.

#### *3.2 Legal implications*

- 3.2.1 The recommendations within this report meet legal requirements (primarily the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 and associated Regulations). The proposals have no workforce implications other than as set out in 3.1.2 and any financial implications have been reflected within the approved budget.
- 3.2.2 The rules for the allocation of seats are set out in Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (the 1989 Act) and the Local Government Committee and Political Group Regulations 1990. The Council has an obligation to ensure compliance with the legislative requirements for political proportionality in relation to the allocation of seats and the nominations to them where members are organised into different political groups. Should the Council wish to not apply the political proportionality requirement, then it may only do so in accordance with section 17 of the 1989 Act and provided that no member of the Council votes against.

#### *3.3 Risk management implications*

- 3.3.1 The principal risk is that decisions of committees or other bodies could be challenged if the Council did not meet its duty for political balance on such bodies under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The recommendations in this report address this risk.

#### *3.4 Environmental implications*

- 3.4.1 None arising from this report.

#### *3.5 Equality implications*

- 3.5.1 None arising from this report.

### **4. Background Papers**

None.

This page is intentionally left blank

## Allocation of Seats July 2024

### Appendix 1

Committee		Seat allocation			
Name	Size	Conservative Group	Labour Group	Slough Independent Group	Liberal Democrat Group
<b>Seats on Council --&gt;</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
Licencing Committee	10	5	2	2	1
Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee	10	5	2	2	1
Planning Committee	8	4	2	1	1
Audit & Corporate Governance Committee	8	4	2	1	1
Standards Committee	8	3	2	2	1
Employment Committee	6	3	2	1	0
Trustee Committee	6	3	2	1	0
Appointments Committee	6	3	2	1	0
Appeals Committee	6	3	2	1	0
Investigating and Disciplinary Committee	6	3	2	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>

#### **Panels, Working Groups and other non-committee bodies or arrangements defined by the constitution:**

Corporate Parenting Panel	6	3	2	1	0
SACRE	6	3	2	1	0
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	3	1	1	1	0
Pool of Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee Task & Finish Group Chairs	5	2	1	1	1

#### **Other informal member groups, whose size is not prescribed, which we aim to convene on a proportional basis (sizes given are current sizes)**

Member Development Working Group	5	2	1	1	1
Member Panel on the Constitution	7	3	2	1	1

This page is intentionally left blank

**CHANGES TO APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND  
OTHER BODIES 2024/25**

*Please note that the proposed appointments below refer only to changes to committees to meet the revised seat allocations in Appendix A. All previous appointments for the current municipal year are unchanged unless stated.*

**LICENSING COMMITTEE**

New appointments:

Slough Independent Group (2) – Councillors Nazir and W Sabah.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE**

New appointment:

Slough Independent Group (1) – Councillor Dar.

Note – the Labour Group allocation reduces from 3 to 2 seats and in accordance with the wishes of the group Councillor Gahir will cease to be a member of the committee.

**EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE**

New appointments:

Chair – Councillor Satti

Slough Independent Group (1) – Councillor Qaseem

Note – the Labour Group allocation reduces from 3 to 2 seats and in accordance with the wishes of the group Councillor Parmar will cease to be a member of the committee.

**INVESTIGATING & DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

New appointments:

Chair – Councillor Rana

Conservative Group – Councillor Shaik  
Slough Independent Group (1) – Councillor Dar

**APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

New appointment:

Slough Independent Group (1) – Councillor Akram

Note – the Labour Group allocation reduces from 3 to 2 seats and in accordance with the wishes of the group Councillor Anderson will cease to be a member of the committee.

### **APPEALS COMMITTEE**

New appointments:

Slough Independent Group (1) – Councillor Akram  
Labour Group – Councillor Gahir (replacing Councillor Instone)

### **TRUSTEE COMMITTEE**

New appointments:

Slough Independent Group (1) – Councillor J Sabah

### **CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

New appointments:

Conservative Group – Councillor Rana  
Slough Independent Group (2) – Councillor Ajaib and W Sabah

Note – the Labour Group allocation reduces to 2 seats and in accordance with the wishes of the group Councillors Escott and Mann will cease to be members of the committee.

### **AUDIT & CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

New appointments:

Vice-Chair – Councillor Akram

Slough Independent Group (1) - Councillor Akram  
Labour Group – Councillor Escott

### **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

New appointments:

Vice-Chair – Councillor Instone  
Slough Independent Group (2) – Councillors W Sabah and Ajaib

Note – the Conservative Group allocation reduces to 3 seats and in accordance with the wishes of the group Councillor Shaik will cease to be members of the committee.

### **Berkshire Pension Fund Advisory Panel (I - Chair of Employment Committee)**

Councillor Satti

### **Champions (in accordance with Article 10 of the Constitution)**

Councillor Stedmond – Libraries Champion (replacing Councillor Muvvala)

## **OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **New appointments**

#### **Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Authority**

Conservative Group (1) – Councillor Satti (replacing Councillor Rana)

Labour Group (1) – Councillor Gahir

Slough Independent Group (1) – Councillor Nazir

#### **Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG)**

Councillor Khawar

#### **South East Employers**

Councillor Smith (deputy)

## **QUASI-JUDICIAL AND OTHER BODIES 2024/25**

### **CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL**

New appointments:

Conservative Group – Councillor Smith (replacing Councillor Dauti)  
Slough Independent Group (1) – Councillor Qaseem

### **FOSTER PANEL (1 Member)**

Councillor Smith

### **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Labour Group – Councillor Mohammad  
Slough Independent Group (1) – Councillor J Sabah

Note – the Liberal Democrat Group is no longer entitled to a seat therefore Councillor Abbasi will cease to be a member of SACRE.



**COUNCIL - 25 July 2024****Member Questions****From Cllr Mann to Lead Member for Community Cohesion**

"Can the Lead Member please details what meetings he has had, and with whom in relation to the community cohesion aspect of his portfolio. Given the widely reported concerns raised during the general election campaign of the impact on community cohesion, what steps did he takes during the campaign to provide leadership on this front, and what does he propose to prioritise in the coming weeks."

**Reply**

Thank you, Cllr Mann, for your important question regarding community cohesion during the general election campaign. I appreciate the opportunity to address these concerns.

Firstly, I would like to say that the responsibility for cohesion within our community lies with us all, and each and every service and Member of the Council will have a role to play in this area.

As the Lead Member responsible for Leisure, Sports, Culture, and Community Cohesion, I have taken several steps to ensure we maintain and strengthen community bonds. Here's a summary of my actions and plans:

**Meetings and Engagements:**

1. On 2nd May, I had my first introductory meeting with the directorship as part of the onboarding process for the new cabinet.
2. Prior to this meeting, I participated in the LGA training workshop to quickly get up to speed with my responsibilities.
3. On 23rd May, I joined a meeting with the directorship focused on Public Health, which has overlapping elements with my portfolio.
4. I also had a meeting with the Culture and Community Cohesion executive in May and follow up with various Assistant Directors.
5. Regular bi-weekly and monthly meetings have been established to ensure ongoing communication and progress.
6. I have attended numerous events and met with various community faiths and groups and have tried to listen to their concerns and build trust.

I am continuing to learn about relevant programmes across the council, community safety for example and have an ongoing programme of briefings planned.

**Campaign Leadership:**

During the campaign, although I had pre-planned leave (before snap election were called out) to perform a pilgrimage and I was away for most of June but where possible I ensure to get regular updates and reports on Slough's situation. I am

actively looking into maintaining communication with community leaders to understand and address their concerns.

What I offer or Priorities Moving Forward:

1. I propose our MP to prioritise rebuilding of trust with all communities and faiths in Slough.
2. I am committed to facilitating discussions with community leaders to address concerns and promote unity both on domestic and internal humanitarian issues which I believe is key in this.
3. I propose our MP to bring necessary investments for the betterment of Slough's development as well as to address the funds for the community needs and foster cohesion.
4. In near future I will be meeting various faiths groups to encourage and promote unity in Slough.
5. The Director of Public Health and the new Director of Strategy will be working together with me to explore this in more detail to strengthen our work and engagement across Slough to promote and build community cohesion, so that Slough continues to offer a sense of belonging for all and positively values diversity.

I hope this provides a clear and concise answer to your question. Thank you.

### **From Cllr Anderson to Lead member for Environment, Environmental Services and Open Spaces**

“Please provide a summary of all the cost breakdowns for the food waste caddy program, including unit cost, total cost, cost per annum, cost of collection vehicle, carbon cost, disposal cost, transport cost, and expected tonnage reduction.”

#### Reply

Thank you, Councillor Anderson, for your question, there are 5,050 household properties in the pilot.

- 5,100 – 23 litre caddies @ £6.68 per caddy. £34,068 (capital)
- 5,100 – 7 litre caddies @ £1.45 per caddy. £7,395 (capital)
- Supply of collection vehicle and operatives - £850 per day. £221,000 (all-inclusive cost staff vehicle etc)
- Disposal of food waste - £10 tonne (based on current disposal of 5 tonnes per week) £2,500.

The caddies have been purchased using the DEFRA capital grant.

We are not able at present to give any indicative costs for conducting borough wide food waste collection. A cabinet report will be prepared for early 2025 when the pilot will have been operating for over 6 months and we have actual data. Food waste collections are likely to become mandatory by March 2026

## Carbon costs – carbon data for pilot to date

Vehicle	Emissions ▲	Avg. Emissions	Distance
<a href="#">DU688BV</a>		1,425 kg 1.209 kg/km	1,179 km

- Disposal costs – disposal costs for the pilot is £10 per tonne . The cost of residual waste for disposal is £120 per tonne so a saving of £110 per tonne of food waste collected. The more we collect in the pilot the bigger the saving will be.
- Expected tonnage reduction - National data indicates between 40% to 50% reduction in residual: waste tonnage for authorities operating food waste collection. We need to let the food waste trial run a few more months before we can start to analyse and forecast tonnage differences in Slough as a result of the introduction of food waste collection in the pilot areas.

I hope this clarifies your question, thank you.

### **From Cllr Matloob to Lead Member for Environment, Environmental Services and Open Spaces**

"Can you advise on progress with the Environmental Hit Squad, what have been the achievements as visibly I cannot see any improvements so could you highlight what's been achieved?"

#### Reply

Thank you, Councillor Matloob, for your question,

Improvements in Chalvey specifically as the pilot area, included resurfacing of the highways, fly tip clearance, street cleansing and grounds maintenance and road markings.

Further plans are being made to address identified hot spots across the borough.

A dedicated fly tip crew has been established, launched back in June, and is collecting on average over 10 tonnes of reported illegal fly tipping incidents per week and is collating data on type of loads and hot spot areas.

I hope this clarifies your question, thank you.

## **From Cllr Gahir to Lead Member for Environment, Environmental Services and Open Spaces**

"In the full council meeting, information was given that Slough Borough Council has appointed an environmental hit squad. Can you please tell us the exact number of people that are in that squad, how much it is costing the taxpayers and how long does the council expect the scheme to be working as the council is better of installing mobile spy cameras on hot spot areas."

### Reply

Thank you, Councillor Gahir, for your question,

The Hit Squad consists of officer from across several disciplines working together as part of a cross council team to address environmental problems This consists of the following:

- 2 x officers from highways
- 2 x officers environmental services
- 2 x officers' enforcement
- 1 x housing officer
- 1 x housing regulation officer

Cost is mainly officer time, and all staff have substantive roles.

The dedicated fly tipping team consists of 1 x HGV driver and 1 x operative. They will report all reported fly tips from around the borough. They have no enforcement powers but will look for evidence of origins of the fly tip at each reported incident collected. They operate Monday to Friday.

- 1 x driver - £42,161 (with on-costs)
- 1 x operative - £34,753 (with oncosts)
- Cover for annual leave and sickness - £11,000
- 1 x vehicle - £25,000, and £5,000 for maintenance costs per annum.

Disposal costs at £180 a tonne. Averaging 10 tonnes a week. £93,600 per annum.

I hope this clarifies your question, thank you.

### **From Cllr Instone to Lead Member for Environment, Environmental Services and Open Spaces**

"What is the cost so far of the kitchen caddy trial scheme? How much of this is capital investment in the plastic caddys and what is the additional weekly collection cost? What will be the additional capital cost in rolling the scheme out to all of Slough?"

#### Reply

Thank you, Councillor Instone, for your question,

Trial is running for a 12-month period, based on 5 days a week for 52 weeks.

5,100 X 23 litre caddies - £34,068 (capital)

5,100 X 7 litre caddies £7,395 (capital)

Supply of collection vehicle and operatives - £850 per day, £4,250 per week.

£221,000 for 12 months

Disposal of food waste - £10 tonne – averaging 5 x tonnes a week at present saving of £110 per tonne

Additional capital costs to roll out borough wide likely to be funded by DEFRA in all or part.

- 4 x 11 tonne food waste vehicles - £480,000
- 36,000 X 23 litre caddies - £240,480
- 36,000 X 7 litre caddies £52,200
- 500 x 240 litre bins for flats - £22,500

I hope this clarifies your question, thank you.

### **From Cllr Parmar to Council Leader**

"What discussions, if any, have taken place between SBC and DWP, regarding the impact on claimant services at Slough Jobcentre as a result of the sale of the Upon Lodge office site. What alternative Jobcentre office accommodation is to be provided for DWP service users in Slough?"

#### Reply

Thank you, Councillor Parmar, for your question.

The freehold of the building in question is owned by the Council but the DWP have a long lease which has a further 4 years to run so their occupation is unaffected by the sale and one assumes they will review their requirements in Slough over the coming years.

I hope this clarifies your question, thank you.

**From Cllr Hulme to Lead member for Finance, Council Assets and Transformation**

"Will the LM for finance provide the cost of the claims for Travel and Subsistence (including overnight expenses), by officers in FY 23/24"

Reply

Thank you, Councillor Hulme, for your question,

Please see the figures below:

<b>Travel</b>		<b>82,456</b>
Carpark Charges	766	
Congestion charges	100	
fuel	741	
Bicycle Allowance	107	
Car Mileage	77,240	
Public Transport	1,708	
taxi fare	153	
Train fare	1,641	
<b>Accommodation &amp; Subsistence</b>		<b>1,632</b>
Accommodation	1,531	
Subsistence	101	
<b>Total</b>		<b>84,088</b>

I hope this information clarifies your question.

**From Cllr Mohammad to Lead Member for Environment, Environmental Services and Open Spaces**

"Will the LM for environmental services please state the amount spent on street cleaning in the borough in 22/23 and 23/24 and provide the actual budget for 24/25. How many FTE staff were/are employed on street cleaning in the above financial years?"

Reply

Thank you, Councillor Mohammad, for your question,

	<b>Street cleaning budget</b>	<b>Staff Employed FTE</b>
<b>2022/23</b>	£1,536,000	48
<b>2023/24</b>	£1,428,000	24
<b>2024/25</b>	£1,340,000	24

I hope this clarifies your question, thank you.

**From Cllr Gill to Lead Member for Finance, Council Assets and Transformation**

"I see that on the Cabinet Committee Asset Disposal one of the agenda items is Surplus Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Assets, can you advise what assets are part of this ?"

Reply

Thank you, Councillor Gill, for your question. The assets which were declared surplus to requirement by the HRA are publicly available as part of the Cabinet agenda from the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023 which is available on the Council website. The link to these can be found here:

[4abcd. F HRA Surplus Assets - July Cabinet - Appendices.xlsx \(slough.gov.uk\)](#)

I hope this clarifies your question, thank you.

### **From Cllr Escott to Lead Member for Equalities**

"Serious concerns were recently raised about allegations of homophobia amongst Conservative councillors. As lead member for Equalities, can you please detail what meetings you have held with LGBTQI+ groups, such as Spectrum since taking up your role, and how as Lead Member you celebrated the recent Pride month in June."

#### **Reply**

Thank you, Cllr Escott, for your question. There is no place for homophobia or discrimination of any kind. As Lead Member for Equalities, I am proud of the rich diversity within our communities in Slough, and I will champion this going forward.

The Council promote any relevant events relating to Pride Month and LGBTQ+ matters through internal communications and staff networks.

I hope this clarifies your question, thank you.