

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At a Meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Council Chamber - Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road, SL1 2EL on Thursday, 27th July, 2023 at 7pm

**Present:-** The Worshipful the Mayor (Abbasi), in the chair; Councillors I. Ahmed, Ajaib, Akram, Anderson, Bedi, Carter, Chahal, Dar, Dhillon, Escott, Gahir, Gill, Hulme, Iftakhar, Instone, Kelly, Khawar, Manku, Mann, Matloob, Mohammad, Mohindra, Muvvala, Nazir, Naveed, O’Kelly, D. Parmar, Qaseem, Rana, W. Sabah, Satti, Shah, Shaik, Smith, Stedmond, Tomar and Wright

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillors E. Ahmed, Dauti, J. Sabah and Zarait

### 12. Declarations of Interest

None received.

### 13. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council held on 18th May 2023

**Resolved** - That the minutes of the annual meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 be approved as a correct record.

### 14. To receive the Mayor's Communications.

The Mayor outlined the various engagements he had undertaken since the annual meeting, which included citizenship ceremonies and visiting local schools amongst others.

Members were informed that the Mayor had selected “Together as One” as his Mayoral charity. Together As One was a youth-led charity bringing communities ‘together as one’ through training, youth work and creative projects.

The Council was currently conducting a consultation on the draft Corporate Plan and Members were reminded to complete the online questionnaire and share it with their contacts.

The Mayor informed Members that he would be retaining a Church of England Chaplain and also have his Imam providing prayers/moments of reflection. The Chaplain and Imam would take turns to provide prayers at Full Council.

The Mayor extended the Council’s congratulations to the Monitoring Officer who had recently been given a lifetime achievement award by his professional association, Lawyers in Local Government, for his ‘Significant Contribution to Local Government Legal Practice’.

**15. Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.**

Five elector questions were received. Four electors were present at the meeting and asked supplementary questions.

**16. Review of the Council's Constitution**

It was moved by Councillor Smith,  
Seconded by Councillor Chahal,

1. "That the amendments as below be approved:
  - a. Part 3.4 - Responsibility for Council Functions - replace the existing terms of reference for Planning Committee with those in Appendix 1;
  - b. Part 4.1 - Council Procedure Rules – replace Rule 30.1 and 30.3 with the new rules set out in the body of this report;
  - c. Part 5.2 - Code of Conduct for Members in relation to planning matters.
2. That the amendments to the Constitution will come into effect on the day following the Council meeting."

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed with 37 votes for and 1 abstention.

**Resolved –**

1. That the amendments as below be approved:
  - a. Part 3.4 - Responsibility for Council Functions - replace the existing terms of reference for Planning Committee with those in Appendix 1;
  - b. Part 4.1 - Council Procedure Rules – replace Rule 30.1 and 30.3 with the new rules set out in the body of this report;
  - c. Part 5.2 - Code of Conduct for Members in relation to planning matters.
2. That the amendments to the Constitution will come into effect on the day following the Council meeting.

**17. Appointments to Committees and Panels**

It was moved by Councillor Smith,  
Seconded by Councillor Chahal,

- (a) "That the following changes to Committees and Panels be agreed:
- i. Appointments Committee – Councillor Smith to be appointed to the committee in place of Councillor Manku; and Councillor Matloob to be appointed to the vacant seat allocated to the Labour Group.
  - ii. Appeals Committee – Councillor Iftakhar Ahmed to be appointed to the committee in place of Councillor Rana; and Councillor Gahir to be appointed to the vacant seat allocated to the Labour Group.
  - iii. Appeals Committee – Councillor Ejaz Ahmed to be appointed chair of the committee in place of Councillor Rana.
  - iv. Investigating & Disciplinary Committee – Councillor Qaseem to be appointed to the vacant seat allocated to the Labour Group.

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- v. Corporate Parenting Panel – Councillor Tomar to be appointed to the panel in place of the Lead Member for children’s services who will continue to attend the panel as a participating observer; and
  - vi. Corporate Parenting Panel – that Council confirms that the panel be comprised of 6 elected members in line with the proportionality principles agreed by Annual Council on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and that the terms of reference of the panel and Constitution be amended accordingly.
- (b) That the following changes to Committees made under Procedure Rule 1.2 (vi) be noted:
- i. Planning Committee – Councillor Mann has filled the vacancy following the resignation of Councillor Hulme from the committee.
- (c) That the following appointments of the Leader of the Council to the Slough Wellbeing Board be noted:
- i. Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Improvement & Recovery (Councillor Smith); and
  - ii. Lead Member for Health, Social Care & Wellbeing (Councillor Wright)”

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed with 37 votes for and 1 abstention.

## **Resolved -**

- (a) That the following changes to Committees and Panels be agreed:
- i. Appointments Committee – Councillor Smith to be appointed to the committee in place of Councillor Manku; and Councillor Matloob to be appointed to the vacant seat allocated to the Labour Group.
  - ii. Appeals Committee – Councillor Iftakhar Ahmed to be appointed to the committee in place of Councillor Rana; and Councillor Gahir to be appointed to the vacant seat allocated to the Labour Group.
  - iii. Appeals Committee – Councillor Ejaz Ahmed to be appointed chair of the committee in place of Councillor Rana.
  - iv. Investigating & Disciplinary Committee – Councillor Qaseem to be appointed to the vacant seat allocated to the Labour Group.
  - v. Corporate Parenting Panel – Councillor Tomar to be appointed to the panel in place of the Lead Member for children’s services who will continue to attend the panel as a participating observer; and
  - vi. Corporate Parenting Panel – that Council confirms that the panel be comprised of 6 elected members in line with the proportionality principles agreed by Annual Council on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and that the terms of reference of the panel and Constitution be amended accordingly.
- (b) That the following changes to Committees made under Procedure Rule 1.2 (vi) be noted:

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- i. Planning Committee – Councillor Mann has filled the vacancy following the resignation of Councillor Hulme from the committee.

(c) That the following appointments of the Leader of the Council to the Slough Wellbeing Board be noted:

- i. Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Improvement & Recovery (Councillor Smith); and
- ii. Lead Member for Health, Social Care & Wellbeing (Councillor Wright)

## **18. Deletion of the post of Executive Director - Place and Communities**

It was moved by Councillor Smith,  
Seconded by Councillor Chahal,

“That the severance package, as set out in the report, be agreed.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed with 37 votes for and 1 abstention.

**Resolved** – That the severance package, as set out in the report, be agreed.

## **19. To consider Motions submitted under procedure Rule 14.**

### **Equality of Care Experienced People**

It was moved by Councillor Qaseem,  
Seconded by Councillor Gill,

“Care experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their lives, including discrimination and stigma in accessing services such as housing, education, employment, and criminal justice to name but a few. The public Sector Equality Duty does not currently treat Care Experience as a protected characteristic, and as such Slough Borough Council does not include Care Experience when conducting Equality Impact Assessments of its policies.

As Corporate Parents we have duties and responsibilities to act in the best interests of our Care Experienced Young people and Children Looked After.

Slough Borough Council therefore resolves to;

1. To formally support the Show Us You Care Too campaign and write to government calling for care experience to be made a protected characteristic as part of the Government’s Independent Review into children’s social care;
2. That when making any decisions in relation to its policies or formulating its Council Plan it recognises that Care Experienced people are a vulnerable group who face discrimination.
3. That it recognises that councils have a duty to put the needs of vulnerable people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration.
4. That in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council includes Care Experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and

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the annual publication of information relating to people who share a Protected Characteristic in services and employment.

5. That this Council will treat Care Experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic so that future services and policies made and adopted by the Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a Protected Characteristic
6. For the Council to proactively seek out and listen to the voices of Care Experienced people when developing new policies based on their views.”

It was moved by Councillor Kelly, as an amendment,  
Seconded by Councillor Bedi,

“Care experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their lives; **despite the resilience of many care experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account; including care experienced people often face** discrimination and stigma in accessing services such as housing, education, employment, and criminal justice to name but a few. The public Sector Equality Duty does not currently treat Care Experience as a protected characteristic, and as such Slough Borough Council does not include Care Experience when conducting Equality Impact Assessments of its policies.

As Corporate Parents we have **collective** duties and responsibilities to act in the best interests of our Care Experienced Young people and Children Looked After.

**All Corporate Parents should commit to hearing the voices of looked after children and young people and to consider their needs in formulating Council policies.**

Slough Borough Council therefore resolves to;

1. To formally support the Show Us You Care Too campaign and write to government calling for care experience to be made a protected characteristic as part of the Government’s Independent Review into children’s social care;
2. That when making any decisions in relation to its policies or formulating its Council Plan it recognises that Care Experienced people are a vulnerable group who face discrimination.
3. That it recognises that councils have a duty to put the needs of vulnerable people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration.
4. That in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council includes Care Experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a Protected Characteristic in services and employment.
5. That this Council will treat Care Experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic so that future services and policies made and adopted by the Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a Protected Characteristic
6. For the Council to proactively seek out and listen to the voices of Care Experienced people when developing new policies based on their view.”

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The amendments to the motion were put to the vote and carried with 37 votes for and 1 abstention and the amended motion became the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and carried with 37 votes for and 1 abstention.

### **Resolved -**

Care experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their lives; despite the resilience of many care experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account; care experienced people often face discrimination and stigma in accessing services such as housing, education, employment, and criminal justice to name but a few. The public Sector Equality Duty does not currently treat Care Experience as a protected characteristic, and as such Slough Borough Council does not include Care Experience when conducting Equality Impact Assessments of its policies.

As Corporate Parents we have collective duties and responsibilities to act in the best interests of our Care Experienced Young people and Children Looked After.

All Corporate Parents should commit to hearing the voices of looked after children and young people and to consider their needs in formulating Council policies.

Slough Borough Council therefore resolves to;

1. To formally support the Show Us You Care Too campaign and write to government calling for care experience to be made a protected characteristic as part of the Government's Independent Review into children's social care;
2. That when making any decisions in relation to its policies or formulating its Council Plan it recognises that Care Experienced people are a vulnerable group who face discrimination.
3. That it recognises that councils have a duty to put the needs of vulnerable people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration.
4. That in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council includes Care Experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a Protected Characteristic in services and employment.
5. That this Council will treat Care Experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic so that future services and policies made and adopted by the Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a Protected Characteristic
6. For the Council to proactively seek out and listen to the voices of Care Experienced people when developing new policies based on their view

**Bus Lanes and efficient traffic flows at major junctions**

It was moved by Councillor Shaik,  
Seconded by Councillor Iftakhar,

“Council acknowledges the importance of delivering Best Value for residents of Slough, and demonstrating evidence based decision making which achieve positive outcomes for residents and recognises the importance of sustainable transport and the vital role which local bus services provides. Council also acknowledges that the residents of Slough have had serious concerns about the implementation and impact of the Bus Lanes across slough.

Council therefore requests Cabinet to:

- Review the implementation of the Bus lanes at the earliest opportunity and will use this to ascertain the current usage of the bus lanes to understand it's true impact on the local environment and journey times and to;
- Explore options to encourage sustainable travel, reduce congestion and deliver positive outcomes for the residents of Slough;
- To support a review of traffic flows at major junctions to understand how we can facilitate reduced journey times for Slough residents and increase road safety.”

It was moved by Councillor Sabah, as an amendment,  
Seconded by Councillor Ajaib,

“Council fully recognises the importance of providing and promoting sustainable transport options and the vital role which local bus services provides. Council also acknowledges that the residents of Slough have mixed views about the implementation and impact of the bus lanes across Slough.

Council therefore requests Cabinet to:

- Instruct officers to review the operation of the bus lanes, ascertain the impact they have had on; ~~journey times, passenger use and environmental impact.~~
  - **journey times**
  - **passenger experience and Usage**
  - **environmental impact with additional regards to new health world limits on NO2 exposure recently announces**
  - **Taxi and private hire operation and effectiveness**
  - **Electric vehicle use**
- Recognise that there is still a lack of understanding about when the bus lanes is in operation and therefore increase communication with residents as to its operation times.
- Undertake a cost/benefit analysis of keeping the bus lanes in situ vs removing them, to include all economic, financial, and environmental factors.

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- Explore additional measures to encourage take up of sustainable travel, reduce congestion and deliver positive outcomes for the residents of Slough by launching and promoting new modes of sustainable transport.
- Instruct officers to undertake a review of traffic flows at major junctions, including the operation and suitability of the current responsive system and priority junction signalling and road collision data, to identify ways in which changes can help facilitate reduced journey times for Slough residents and increased road safety.”

The amendments to the motion were put to the vote and not carried with 17 votes for, 20 against and 1 abstention.

The original motion was put to the vote and carried with 37 votes for and 1 abstention.

### **Resolved -**

Council acknowledges the importance of delivering Best Value for residents of Slough, and demonstrating evidence based decision making which achieve positive outcomes for residents and recognises the importance of sustainable transport and the vital role which local bus services provides. Council also acknowledges that the residents of Slough have had serious concerns about the implementation and impact of the Bus Lanes across slough.

Council therefore requests Cabinet to:

- Review the implementation of the Bus lanes at the earliest opportunity and will use this to ascertain the current usage of the bus lanes to understand it's true impact on the local environment and journey times and to;
- Explore options to encourage sustainable travel, reduce congestion and deliver positive outcomes for the residents of Slough;
- To support a review of traffic flows at major junctions to understand how we can facilitate reduced journey times for Slough residents and increase road safety.

## **20. To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10 (as tabled).**

A number of Member questions had been received. The questions and replies, as set out in the supplementary agenda, were noted.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 9.28 pm)