

Public Document Pack



SUMMONS

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Wednesday 20 July 2022

Council Chamber, The Forum

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the Dacorum Borough Council in the County of Hertfordshire to be held in the Council Chamber, The Forum on Wednesday 20 July 2022 at 7.30 pm to transact the business set out below.

**CLAIRE HAMILTON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

**Contact: Corporate & Democratic Support
ext 2209**

AGENDA

1. MINUTES (Pages 4 - 25)

To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 13 April and 11 May 2022

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To consider questions (if any) by members of the public of which the appropriate notice has been given to the Assistant Director (Corporate and Contracted Services)

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive announcements and business brought forward by the Mayor, Leader, and Members of the Cabinet or the Chief Executive.

4.1 By the Mayor:

4.2 By the Chief Executive:

4.3 By the Group Leaders: Any apologies for absence

4.4 Council Leader and Members of the Cabinet:

Councillor Williams	Leader of the Council
Councillor Barratt	Neighbourhood Services
Councillor Anderson	Place
Councillor Banks	Communities
Councillor Elliot	Corporate Services
Councillor Griffiths	Housing Services
Councillor Williams	Commercial Strategy and Delivery

5. MOTIONS (Page 26)

6. QUESTIONS

To consider questions (if any) by members of the Council of which the appropriate notice has been given to the Assistant Director (Corporate and Contracted Services)

7. BUSINESS FROM THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING (Pages 27 - 28)

To consider any business from the previous meeting.

8. CABINET REFERRALS (Pages 29 - 30)

To consider the following referrals from Cabinet:

Item 8.1 CA/32/22 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan Update

9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REFERRALS

None

10. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

To consider any proposals for changes to committee membership

11. CHANGE TO COMMITTEE DATES

To consider any proposals for changes to committee dates

12. CALL IN AND URGENCY PROCEDURE

To inform the Council of an urgent (Part 2) Portfolio Holder Decision.

This is for information purposes only.

PH-014-22-Leisure Contract

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

To consider passing a resolution in the following terms:

That, under s.100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12A Part 1 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 the public be excluded during the items in Part 2 of the Agenda for this meeting, because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that, if members of the public were present during those items, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information relating to the financial and business affairs of the Council and third party companies/organisations.

Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part 1, paragraph 3.

Agenda Item 1

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

13 APRIL 2022

Present -

MEMBERS:

Riddick (Mayor), Anderson, Banks, Barrett, Bassadone, Beauchamp, Bhinder, Birnie (Deputy Mayor), Chapman, Claughton, Durrant, Elliot, England, Freedman, , Guest, Harden, , Hobson, Imarni, Johnson, Link, Suqlain Mahmood, Sobaan Mahmood, McDowell, Peter, Silwal, Sinha, Stevens, Sutton, Symington, Taylor, Timmis, Tindall, Williams and Wilkie (33)

OFFICERS:

The Chief Executive, Assistant Director (Corporate and Contracted Services), G Osler (ICT Operations Team Leader) and T Angel (Minutes).

The meeting began at 7.30 pm.

1. MINUTES

Councillor Tindall suggested that some information had been omitted from the minutes of the previous meeting and therefore were inaccurate. He requested that the recording be re-examined and the minutes be amended accordingly. The Mayor advised that the recording had been used to complete the minutes and didn't feel that his request was necessary.

A vote was held:

13 for (Anderson, Barrett, Bassadone, Beauchamp, Bhinder, Chapman, Elliot, Guest, Harden, Johnson, Peter, Riddick and Silwal).

7 against (Claughton, England, Freedman, Hobson, McDowell, Stevens and Taylor).

Therefore the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2022 were agreed by a majority and then signed by the Mayor.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 By the Mayor

The Mayor announced the sad passing of Hon. Freeman, Bob Parsons OBE. One minutes silence was held in remembrance.

4.2 By the Chief Executive

None.

4.3 By Group Leaders

Councillor Williams gave apologies on behalf of Councillors Adeleke, Arslan, Douris, Griffiths, Hearn, Rogers, Timmis, Wyatt-Lowe, and Independent Member Councillor Maddern.

Councillor Tindall gave apologies on behalf of Councillors Allen, Barry-Mears, Dhyani, Foster, Hollinghurst, Pringle and Ransley.

4.4 Council Leader and Members of the Cabinet

Councillor Williams, Leader of the Council

The Leader presented his update as follows:

Not directly related to the motion agreed at the last Council meeting regarding the concerns about potential expansion at Luton Airport but he was pleased to see the direction of travel that the previous application which was under consideration has been called in by the Secretary of State and pencilled in for a public inquiry in September. He hoped this was a sign that the Secretary of State would take great interest in the future expansion plans and call them in for scrutiny.

He was pleased to see that in the latest notice from the West Herts Hospital Trust (WHHT) they've indicated their board meeting for 20th June and want to take a fresh look at what circumstances may have changed since the last consideration at the option of a new build site as opposed to the redevelopment of Watford. He said this wasn't something to celebrate as yet but it was a positive that they are prepared to reconsider the option of a Greenfield site which members felt was a far greater option for future healthcare provision.

Happy to take questions.

Questions

Councillor Tindall was pleased to hear the update about the hospital. He questioned if there had been any mention regarding the potential urgent care centre and the NHS site just off the Marlowes which could be very useful to the Council.

The Leader said discussions were ongoing with the NHS regarding all options. He suggested that decisions about Hemel Hempstead and St Albans would fall into place once the decisions around Watford and the Greenfield site were made. Under the current plans a massive proportion of investment would go to Watford and Hemel and St Albans would pick up what was left. He wanted to be clear that whilst there are discussions around the alternative uses at the Hemel site the maximum benefit we can get is to use as much of the site for healthcare services as possible. This was the priority for our residents.

There were no further questions.

Councillor Elliot, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources

The Portfolio Holder presented his update as follows:

Financial Services

The Finance service has been extremely busy during January and February following the release of the final local government finance settlement.

This has required a further assessment and review of the draft 22/23 budget proposals, followed by the final budget scrutiny and the production and presentation of the proposed 22/23 budget on this evening's agenda.

The finance service is also working closely with our external Commercial experts to develop the basis of the Council's future commercial strategy and commercial business case appraisals.

Commercial Assets and Property Development

Estates Team

The Estates Team have continued to work with Public Health England, the NHS, Herts County Council and other partners on the assessment and delivery of vaccine delivery sites, pop up testing/vaccination sites, and booster jab locations. The work in this area is expected to reduce significantly going forward, the experience of this joint working and the relationships created should assist the council going forward. The focus moving forward will be to make the best use of our operational assets as part of the wider Covid recovery plan.

Commercial Property Team

The performance of the commercial assets has remained strong, and income levels exceed budgeted expectations by circa 15%, and occupancy remains above 95%. This is a good indicator of how the local small independent businesses have progressed over the course of the pandemic. The Government's Moratorium on debt collection is due to come to an end in March 2022 and it is unknown at this point in time what impact that will have upon the local business community and void levels.

Going forward the customer/business response to Covid Recovery will be key to income performance. The Government's business rates relief support will continue in 2022 for the leisure and hospitality sectors.

Revenues and Benefits service

The Revenues service has been hard at work implementing several new government Covid Support policies for 21/22 and 22/23. These include; the implementation of the Omicron and Hospitality relief scheme 21/22, providing circa £800k of business rates relief to local businesses, the planning for the Council Tax based £150 Energy Rebate for 22/23, and the delivery of the final Covid Additional Relief Fund scheduled for March.

The revenues service have also supported the Economic development team to roll out the next phase of the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG), with this phase focusing on supporting those businesses that won't receive the Omicron Relief grant but are involved in the hospitality and leisure supply chain sectors.

This team continues to play an important role in providing financial support to local residents and numbers of test and trace support applications increased exponentially during December and January to levels not seen before.

The Revenues service is working with the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities and software partners to ensure the issuing of the 2022/23 business Rates bills are on time and include the new reliefs for 2022/23.

Questions

Councillor Birnie highlighted that despite support from the Government during the pandemic, many businesses appear to still be in difficulty. He asked if the Portfolio Holder had a view of the extent to which staff shortages and the increase in inflation had impacted businesses.

The Portfolio Holder explained that staff shortages particularly in the hospitality sector had been a result of individuals having to find jobs elsewhere during the lockdown periods and then not returning due to low wages and unsociable hours. He advised there had also been issues with supply chains, HGV drivers and food from abroad; all contributing factors to the increase in inflation. He said the Council were sympathetic to businesses and had payment plans available to those that may be struggling.

Councillor Birnie asked if the mix of businesses in Dacorum gave him any cause for concern in relation to staff shortages and the rate of inflation.

The Portfolio Holder replied that although we had a mix of businesses in Dacorum it was a countrywide problem with many contributing factors rather than just the two mentioned.

Councillor England asked if the Portfolio Holder still thought Chancellor Rishi Sunak had more important things to think about than inflation.

The Portfolio Holder referred to the last Council meeting when Councillor England asked him that question and highlighted that just a matter of hours later, Russia invaded

Ukraine. He said we were in unprecedented times and the situation in Ukraine has exacerbated the situation further.

There were no further questions.

Councillor Griffiths, Portfolio Holder for Housing

Councillor Williams presented an update on behalf of Councillor Griffiths:

TENANT & LEASEHOLDER SERVICES

- Supported Housing staff reported they have had 7,661 contacts with tenants (inc referrals).
- Promotion of block champions has led to increased resident volunteers
- Completed the alarm upgrade @ Elizabeth House.

STRATEGIC HOUSING

- Proactively participating and supporting HCC to plan for Ukraine Sponsorship and Connection scheme. Including preparation for undertaking of accommodation checks.
- Fourth Afghan (ACRS) Household resettled in line with government resettlement scheme.
- Engagement with Legal Services to obtain Warrant for entry due to PRS regulatory breach.
- Development of new Domestic Abuse residents and staff policy, in line with requirements outlined by Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation framework.

PROPERTY & PLACE

- Continuation of high levels of gas servicing for the period.
- Continued pressures on the Osborne contract in terms of labour shortages following the pandemic and BREXIT, hence delays in work activity.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

St Margaret's Way	Tenders issued for Principal Contractor. Cabinet Report prepared to appropriate general fund land.
Mountbatten View	Mobilising a start on site.
Eastwick Row	Started on site 21 st February 2022.
Coniston Road	On site progressing well. Completion due April 2022.
Wilstone	Mobilising a start on site.
Bulbourne	Approval to purchase land approved at Sept Cabinet. Awaiting feedback on Heads of Terms from TTC. Project ready to submit for planning approval subject to agreeing sale.
Marchmont	Stage 2 design progressing. Planning application to be

	submitted early April.
Cherry Bounce	Project on hold (being considered for the Housing Company) with the exception of submitting to the Community Review Panel.
Paradise Depot	Planning application submitted.
Garage Sites	Dione Rd, Beechwood, Sempill, Housewood End & Sledale - Contracts signed, mobilising start on site.
Randall's Ride	Mobilising start on site. Homes England funding request has been successful - £1.9m.
Stoneycroft & Varney Rd	Stage 2 design.
Aragon Close RSAP	Started on site.

Questions

Councillor Symington said she was pleased to hear of a fourth property being allocated to Afghan refugees. She asked if consideration could be given to a fifth property and to ensure the property would go to one of the families living in temporary accommodation in the Borough and for the process to be expedited as soon as possible.

Councillor Williams didn't feel it was appropriate for him to respond as he was aware of ongoing communication between Councillor Symington and Councillor Griffiths and he didn't want to commit as it wasn't straightforward.

Councillor Freedman referred to the Afghan resettlement scheme. He questioned if the four families housed by DBC were families that were in temporary accommodation within the Borough or if they were from elsewhere in the country.

Councillor Williams replied that the placement of families was coordinated by the Home Office but he was happy to investigate and provide a written response. **Action.**

Councillor Williams, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Contracted Services

The Portfolio Holder presented his update as follows:

The Highbarns remedial work is almost complete. The filling of the void has been successful.

Members will be aware we have recently closed the consultation for Berkhamsted Leisure Centre. He was pleased to say we have received over 700 responses and they are currently being assessed. The results will hopefully be reported to members over the summer.

He welcomed questions.

Questions

Councillor Symington asked for an update on the progress of the electric vehicle charging point strategy.

The Portfolio Holder advised they were working with a number of organisations to discuss the options for Dacorum. His understanding was they have narrowed it down to one potential supplier and will work with them over the next few weeks identifying the sites and the range of charging options that will be provided. He was confident we could reach an agreement with them and start a programme for charging facilities over 2022-2023.

There were no further questions.

Councillor Barrett, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services

The Portfolio Holder presented his update as follows:

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

CSG

- Tree planting 2021-2022, Housing, Highways, leisure 96 trees to be planted, now almost completed.
- Storm Eunice-230 reports of tree damage, backlog still being cleared, inspections almost complete.
- Whips at Gadebridge park Arboretum completed, quantity unknown
- HCC agreement for Rights of Ways (ROW) has been agreed and signed.
- River Gade Project has been pushed forwards a year starting May 2023 and finishing June 2023.
- Old Town – We are supplying 60 new planted troughs as part of improvement to the Old Town.
- Canal Field Play Area due to start works on site soon
- New Wild Flower area has been created in Gadebridge Park at the Queensway entrance.
- The service is working in partnership with a local business in Kings Langley to creating wild areas which they will sponsor.
- Bunkers Park, hedge/screen planting done to screen off the cemetery site from the rest of the park.
- Friends working day help at Bunkers park and Chipper field common all of which were well supported by residents.

Clothes Swaps

- Big success! 79 attendees over the 3 events. 676 items brought, 556 items taken. Remaining items saved for next clothes swap or distributed to local charities.

Great British Spring Clean

- We have already supported 22 litter picks for the Great British Spring Clean by providing equipment. At least another 9 in the diary.

Street Champions

- 628 registered volunteers (29 new registrations in March)

Waste Services

- Still suffering from shortage of drivers but managing to provide all services

Fleet

- Ford now closed order book for the foreseeable future. Looking at other options to replace ageing fleet

Questions

Councillor England asked how many of our registered 'Street Champions' had not collected their equipment.

The Portfolio Holder said he would provide a written response. **Action.**

Councillor Guests queried if DBC were accessing funding through Hertfordshire County Council for the Queen's Green Canopy Scheme.

The Portfolio Holder confirmed we would be taking advantage of the Grant and would be planting a tulip tree in the Queens Square during the week commencing 30th May, ahead of the Jubilee celebrations. The tree will be erected with a tree guard around it and a plaque.

Councillor Symington asked for confirmation that the works at Canal Fields play area will commence at the end of April. She asked if the Berkhamsted Town Council Clerk could also be made aware.

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that was correct and he would make sure the Clerk was aware.

Councillor Claughton queried when the work at Canal Fields play area would be finished.

The Portfolio Holder said he would provide a written response. **Action.**

There were no further questions.

Councillor Banks, Portfolio Holder for Community and Regulatory Services

The Portfolio Holder presented her update as follows:

Regulatory Services

A Covid-19 update

Case numbers remain a concern in Dacorum. This is mainly due to the Omicron variant which became the dominant variant since December throughout the UK. The

government has now released its Living with COVID plan in February 2022. Though pressure still remains for our Environmental Health teams.

Public Space Protection Order and Littering Enforcement Pilot Contract

So far 1488 tickets have been issued. 73% of these tickets are for littering offences. The remainder are for breaches of either the Dog Control PSPO or the Town Centre PSPO.

Officers have been working with District Partners to ensure that all wards in the borough are visited frequently, at least monthly for areas of low littering and PSPO complaints.

Members will be further updated on the progress of the pilot, as and when data is available from the service as part of the updates to Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SPAEC).

Whilst Officers have focussed their attention on keeping Dacorum COVID secure we have fallen behind with our regular Food Service inspections. Consequently a Food Service Recovery Plan has been adopted to catch up on eatery inspections.

I am pleased to update members that Rebecca Connolly's team have completed the first milestone in the Food Service Recovery Plan ahead of schedule. With the high risk premises being inspected prior to the June deadline in the plan.

Turning to community,

As we move cautiously towards face to face contact, a number of face-to-face community events are coming forward not least the Queens Platinum Jubilee and our Armed Forces Day celebrations – check out the Council website and social media platforms for further information.

Additionally we have:

- **Ping Pong Parlour, Marlowes** has opened to the public on 12th April. There is the intention to have a formal opening.
- **Healthy Hub** partnership and contract with HCC public health has been extended for a further 2 years. Back to face-to-face Healthy Hub drop ins at the South Hill Centre, with more in the planning stage for across the Borough
- **Northridge Way Basketball court** – My sincere thanks to Councillor Elliot, Coach Ken and the young basketball players who first brought to my attention the poor state of the court. This has been refurbished and is now open to the public. Once the line painting has been done (delayed as this cannot be done during or just before cold weather) there will be an official launch.
- **Community grants** are now open until 5pm on 31st May. Mr Mayor and members please promote this with your groups and contacts.

Finally,

- Dacorum's award under the **Household Support Fund** is being administered by Dacorum Community Trust (DCT). As part of the nationwide efforts to recover following the pandemic, Hertfordshire have been provided with some funding

from the government's Household Support Fund (HSF). This funding will be used to help people this winter with things like the cost of food and energy. We're working with a range of partners, who will work with and contact those eligible for support directly, to make sure we can get the right help to those who need it, at the right time.

Questions

Councillor Birnie was pleased to hear about the Government fund to be administered by Dacorum Community Trust (DCT). He asked if the Portfolio Holder could give some information on how much is available under this fund to those in need in the Borough and to share details on how the fund will be administered.

The Portfolio Holder advised that The Household Support Fund comes from Central Government and HCC (Hertfordshire County Council) decided to allocate an amount per district/borough for them to administer to residents locally, using their local knowledge. Due to time and resource pressures it was agreed that DCT were best placed to administer this in Dacorum. DCT have received £44,000. DCT's client group are the most vulnerable and they will be looking at circumstances around receipt of Universal Credit, evidence of not being able to pay bills or buy food, using their usual checks to support this group. Other partners such as CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau), foodbanks and housing etc. are aware of DCT administering this on our behalf and are signposting residents to them.

Councillor Freedman asked the Portfolio Holder to provide a breakdown of the penalty notices that had been issued, for example, how many had been rejected, resolved or were outstanding.

The Portfolio Holder replied she would provide a written response. **Action.**

Councillor Symington asked for an update on whether the artificial grass pitches are going to be relocated in Berkhamsted and if so, where.

The Portfolio Holder advised that matter didn't fall within her remit. Councillor Williams advised he would provide a response to Councillor Symington.

Councillor England questioned the proportion of penalty notices for littering that related to cigarette waste.

The Portfolio Holder provided some figures from March; 127 cigarette butts and 55 for cigarettes.

Councillor Harden sought clarification on whether District Enforcement had jurisdiction to prosecute for litter on private land.

The Portfolio Holder advised they did not.

Councillor Guest advised that in her Ward today signs were being put around the bins at Stoneycroft shops instructing smokers to put their cigarettes and cigarette butts in the built-in ashtrays on the bins. She asked if the Portfolio Holder agreed her department and Environmental Services needed to work together to ensure there are more of these

signs in the Borough so that cigarettes are put somewhere safe instead of being littered, causing fire and health and safety hazards.

The Portfolio Holder felt Councillor Guest made a good point and added her concerns about the impact on wildlife. She agreed there should be more signage to encourage smokers to use their common sense.

Councillor England questioned, if there is no KPI data on litter for some time, how will the litter Enforcement Pilot be capable of objective evaluation.

The Portfolio Holder explained the whole purpose of the Pilot is to establish these parameters. She hoped that would come through the scrutiny process to update members.

Councillor Freedman asked if there had been any more reports of criminals masquerading as Enforcement Officers.

The Portfolio advised she had not had any more reports of this nature. She believed it was probably a spate of opportunistic criminal activity.

There were no further questions.

Councillor Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Planning & Infrastructure

The Portfolio Holder presented his update as follows:

Since the last meeting members will have received briefings on the Habitat Resource Assessment and will be aware that all residential planning permissions are now suspended pending National Trust as land owner putting in a mitigation strategy in place. Details are available on the website. We hope the strategy can be put in place in the next 3-6 months.

This Council has received Government funding to pilot three key areas with the planning portfolio. One is starting this week with a survey of residents in Apsley which will run to the end of May to ask residents about what they like and dislike about Apsley, and what they would like to see changed. This is part of the Two Waters opportunity area. A second pilot is to do with the software we're running to improve our administration for planning applications. The third is to pilot geospatial software, and we are one of only three authorities in the Country to have received funding for this.

Under development management, the planning application for 1400 homes at East Tring, Marshcroft Farm, has been received. It hasn't appeared on any lists yet because it will take some time to validate. He couldn't express a corporate opinion as the Council would have to determine the application with an open mind. He left it to members to work out his personal view on it.

There has been a large increase in applications and workload and recruitment continues to be a problem in enforcement. He urged members to be patient with the staff.

Hemel Gardens Community Project: The initial framework plan has undergone an independent quality review by a panel of independent experts. The team behind the

project are digesting the comments received. The local journeys transport survey received 500 responses and those are being assessed.

An independent chair, Bob Lane, has now been appointed. Bob is very experienced in regeneration projects and will work with the two authorities involved.

Hemel Place: Branding work on Hemel Hempstead has taken place and Hemel Hempstead will be showcased at the Annual UK Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum (REIIF) next month in Leeds. Berkhamsted, Tring and other parts of the Borough will also be involved.

This weekend is the last chance to follow the OWLs trail through the middle of Hemel before they disappear on 19th April. Please take the time to do it if you haven't already as it is fabulous.

Next month the Council will be publishing a map with walking routes that link all important sites in the middle of Hemel Hempstead.

South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan: The vision and contents of the Regulation 18 Consultation has been agreed for the six authorities to consider in the next few months. He hoped members would support it when it comes to scrutiny as the infrastructure in future is vital. The joint strategic plan doesn't supersede the local plans which will continue to control numbers. The consultation is due to start in the summer.

Economic Development: The Economic Recovery Plan continues to be delivered as the effects of the pandemic are not over. He is proud of the effort and partnership working the Council has done to try to help the Borough recover.

Happy to take questions.

Questions

Councillor Freedman expressed his disappointment with the Council and National Trust that he couldn't find out ways that he or other members of the community that make regular use of those areas could contribute to management, whether that was small projects or spreading the word. Despite efforts to contact people to find out what he could do to assist he hadn't had any success or responses.

The Portfolio Holder explained the Council were already working in partnership with the National Trust to help with the mitigation strategy but he can ask if there is anything members of the public can do to help.

Councillor Symington referred to the announcement of the suspension of planning applications in Dacorum and shared an observation that the majority of public were unaware of this news. She then referred to a radio interview with Councillor Birnie that had been shared with her by a resident and asked if the Portfolio Holder could reflect on the comments made.

The Portfolio Holder advised he hadn't listened the interview so it was difficult to comment, however it was all evidence to argue for a lower house building target; It is part of the administrations target to try and achieve that. He then said whilst the general

public may not be aware of the announcement the developers certainly are, and he wrote a complex seven page press release on the matter.

Councillor Wilkie asked if the Portfolio Holder would accept it was wrong of the Council to resist the Liberal Democrat's calls for a delay in the Regulation 18. She then sought clarification on whether it was just new-build planning applications that had been suspended or all applications.

The Portfolio Holder clarified it was only residential applications that had been suspended, such as new-builds or conversions, it didn't relate to commercial or extension applications. In terms of the first question he said he hoped it was based on a misapprehension and wasn't deliberate, about what Regulation consultations involve and what they're for. Regulation 18 consultations do not require things like Habitat Resource Assessments, you only have to get things such as the HRA, infrastructure delivery plan, etc. in place when you go to Regulation 19. He advised the Council went to Regulation 18 when we did to get the feedback of the public as ammunition to argue DBC's corner for a lower housing provision, we didn't go to consultation with documents incomplete or missing to argue something we was going to set in stone. He said we got the public's opinion from that consultation so we could use it and we're grateful of the public for giving DBC a powerful tool to use.

There were no further questions.

5. MOTION

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor Banks and seconded by Councillor Anderson:

We are saddened and disturbed by the unprovoked aggression against Ukraine, which has caused horrific devastation, and created an escalating humanitarian crisis with millions of women, children and the elderly displaced or affected whilst those able men and women fight a war.

In light of this, and as a way of expressing support for the people of Ukraine and members of our communities who are from or who have ties with Ukraine this Council;

- A. Condemns the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine and stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and their families and friends, including those local to Dacorum.
- B. Will work with and support the efforts of our local communities to provide help, and comfort to those in need.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by Councillor Freedman and seconded by Councillor Tindall. The amendment was accepted by Councillor Banks and Councillor Anderson, therefore the following paragraph was added to the motion:

- C. The Leader of the Council to write to the Home Secretary urging that the UK urgently provides a faster route to safety for Ukrainians fleeing Russian violence by waiving all visa requirements for Ukrainian passport holders arriving in the UK while their country is under attack.

A vote was held and the Council unanimously agreed the Motion.

6. QUESTIONS

None.

7. BUSINESS FROM THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

None.

8. CABINET REFERRALS

Resolved:

That the following be approved:

15 March 2022

Item 8.1 CA/24/22 GARAGE STRATEGY

Decision

1. That Council approve additional 21/22 supplementary funding of £110k revenue for project costs, to be funded from the Dacorum Development reserve.
2. That Council approve a supplementary capital budget for 2022/23 garage investment of £500k. The specific investment decisions to be delegated to the Strategic Director (Corporate and Commercial) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources and s.151 Officer.

9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

Councillor Imarni, Chair of the Housing and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee, introduced the annual reports and provided a detailed overview of each committee.

10. WAIVER OF 6 MONTH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RULE

The Council unanimously agreed Councillor Barry-Mears non-attendance at meetings of the authority due to maternity for a six month period up to 30th November 2022 pursuant to Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

11. CHANGES TO THE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The following changes to committee membership were agreed:

Councillor Symington to replace Councillor McDowell as the DBC representative on the Chilterns Conservation Board.

12. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE DATES

The following changes to committee dates were agreed:

The Cabinet meeting scheduled for 28th June 2022 to be cancelled due to a clash with the LGA conference.

The meeting ended at 9.08 pm.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

11 MAY 2022

Present -

MEMBERS:

Riddick (Mayor), Adeleke, Allen, Anderson, Arslan, Barry-Mears, Banks, Barrett, Bassadone, Beauchamp, Bhinder, Birnie (Deputy Mayor), Chapman, Claughton, Dhyani, Douris, Elliot, England, Foster, Freedman, Griffiths, Guest, Harden, Hearn, Hobson, Imarni, Johnson, Link, Maddern, Sobaan Mahmood, Suqlain Mahmood, Peter, Oguchi, Pringle, Ransley, Rogers, Sinha, Stevens, Sutton, Symington, Taylor, Timmis, Tindall, Townsend, Wilkie, Williams and Wyatt-Lowe (47)

OFFICERS:

The Chief Executive, Strategic Director (Place), Assistant Director (Legal and Democratic Services), F Hussain (Head of Legal and Democratic Services), C O’Neil (Corporate Support Team Leader), D Bulpit (Events Officer) and T Angel (Corporate and Democratic Support Officer)

The meeting began at 7.30 pm.

1. THE MAYOR

Councillor Stewart Riddick made a speech in relation to his year as Mayor of Dacorum.

Councillor Stewart Riddick asked for nominations for the election of a Mayor to hold office until the appointment of a successor at the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2023.

It was moved by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Griffiths and unanimously

Resolved:

That Councillor John Birnie be appointed Mayor to the Borough of Dacorum until the appointment of a successor at the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2023.

Councillor Stewart Riddick vacated the chair which was taken by Councillor John Birnie who made his declaration of acceptance of office.

Councillor John Birnie delivered a speech of acceptance.

The newly elected Mayor referred to the duties carried out by Councillor Stewart Riddick as Mayor of the Borough of Dacorum during the past year.

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Williams and unanimously;

Resolved:

That the Council tender to Councillor Stewart Riddick their most cordial thanks for the admirable manner in which he has discharged the duties of the office of Mayor of the Borough of Dacorum during the past year and place on record their appreciation of the energy and sound judgement

which distinguished his actions during that period: That the Seal of the Council be affixed to a copy of this resolution and that it be presented to him in recognition of his services as Mayor of the Borough of Dacorum.

2. DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor asked for nominations for the appointment of the Deputy Mayor to hold office until the appointment of a successor at the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2023.

It was moved by Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor Barrett and unanimously;

Resolved:

That Councillor Alan Johnson be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Dacorum until the appointment of a successor at the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2023.

Councillor Alan Johnson made his declaration of acceptance of office.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting will be considered at the next Council meeting.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Durrant, Hollinghurst, McDowell and Silwal.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

7. APPOINTMENTS OF THE CABINET, OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY AND REGULATORY COMMITTEES 2022/23

Proposals for the Cabinet, Chairs and Vice-Chairs and Members to serve on the Standing Committees until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2023 were circulated as set out in Annex A to these minutes and agreed.

The Leader issued notice of amendments to the Cabinet positions for information purposes only, as set out in Annex A.

The Mayor advised that concluded the business for the evening and declared the meeting closed.

The meeting ended at 8.11 pm.

ANNEX A

MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET, OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES, POLICY DEVELOPMENT PANELS AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2019-2023

CABINET

Cabinet Portfolio Holder	Conservative
Leader of the Council	Cllr Williams
Corporate Services	Cllr Elliot
Housing Services	Cllr Mrs Griffiths (Deputy Leader)
Neighbourhood Services	Cllr Barrett
Communities	Cllr Banks
Place	Cllr Anderson
Commercial Strategy & Delivery	Cllr Williams

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY (13 members = 8:5)

Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Gbola Adeleke (Vice-Chair)	Roxanne Ransley
Neil Harden	Lara Pringle
Nigel Durrant	Nick Hollinghurst
Isy Imarni (Chair)	Sammy Barry-Mears
Alan Johnson	Simy Dhyani
Suqlain Mahmood	
Pearl Oguchi	
Colette Wyatt-Lowe	

FINANCE AND RESOURCES (13 members = 8:5)

Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Gbola Adeleke	Christopher Townsend
Frances Arslan	Stephen Claughton (Vice Chair)
Terry Douris (Chair)	Sally Symington
Bert Chapman	Ron Tindall
Fiona Guest	Rick Freedman
Sobaan Mahmood	
Suqlain Mahmood	
Babita Sinha	

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT (13 members = 8:5)

Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Neil Harden (Chair)	Garrick Stevens
Rob Beauchamp	Adrian England
Stewart Riddick	Sheron Wilkie
Penny Hearn	Nigel Taylor
Colette Wyatt-Lowe	Anne Foster
Mark Rogers (Vice-Chair)	
Rosie Sutton	
Jane Timmis	

HEALTH IN DACORUM COMMITTEE (10 members = 6:3:1)

Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Independent
Rob Beauchamp	William Allen	Jan Maddern
Alex Bhinder (Chair)	Nick Hollinghurst	
Nigel Durrant	Lara Pringle	
Fiona Guest (Vice-Chair)		
Alan Johnson		
Babita Sinha		

AUDIT COMMITTEE (6 members = 4:2)

Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Stewart Riddick	Christopher Townsend
Bert Chapman (Chair)	Sally Symington
Sobaan Mahmood	
Goverdhan Silwal	

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (13 members = 7:5:1)

Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Independent
Rob Beauchamp (Vice-Chair)	Phil McDowell	Jan Maddern
Nigel Durrant	Garrick Stevens	
Fiona Guest (Chair)	Ron Tindall	
Stewart Riddick	Nick Hollinghurst	
Terry Douris	Claire Hobson	
Colette Wyatt-Lowe		
Andrew Williams		

APPEALS AND REVIEWS COMMITTEE**APPEALS (8 members = 5:3)**

Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Gbola Adeleke	Brenda Link
Hazel Bassadone (Chair)	Phil McDowell
Penny Hearn (Vice-Chair)	Roxanne Ransley
Rosie Sutton	
Colette Wyatt-Lowe	

**LICENSING AND HEALTH AND SAFETY ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
(12 members = 8:4)**

Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Hazel Bassadone	Brenda Link
Alex Bhinder (Vice-Chair)	William Allen
Penny Hearn (Chair)	Lara Pringle
Isy Imarni	Vacancy
Alan Johnson	
Colin Peter	
Mark Rogers	
Rosie Sutton	

**LICENSING AND HEALTH AND SAFETY ENFORCEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE
(6 members = 4:2:0)**

Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Hearn (Chairman)	Link
Bhinder (Vice-Chair)	Pringle
Bassadone	
Sutton	

LICENSING OF ALCOHOL & GAMBLING SUB-COMMITTEE (3 members = 2:1:0)

This Committee consists of a Panel of 3 Members who are picked from the Members of the Licensing and Health and Safety Enforcement Committee. Only Members who have had training on the Licensing of Alcohol & Gambling Sub-Committee can sit on this Panel.

Conservative	Liberal Democrat

STANDARDS COMMITTEE (5 members = 3:2)

Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Alan Anderson	Roxanne Ransley
Goverdhan Silwal	Rick Freedman
Colette Wyatt-Lowe	
Independent Town Council Rep	

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE (5 members = 3:2)

Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Margaret Griffiths	Ron Tindall
Andrew Williams	Stephen Claughton
Colette Wyatt-Lowe	

ELECTORAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (6 members = 4:2)

Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Alan Anderson	Garrick Stevens
Terry Douris	Nick Hollinghurst
Margaret Griffiths	
Andrew Williams	

OTHERS**JNC (JOINT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE) (4 members = 3:1)**

Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Bert Chapman	Ron Tindall
Isy Imarni	
Gbola Adeleke	

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP (6 members = 4:2)

Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Goverdhan Silwal	Rick Freedman
Alex Bhinder	Sammy Barry-Mears
Terry Douris (Chair)	
Margaret Griffiths	

Agenda Item 5

MOTIONS to DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL - 20th July 2022

Motion One. Proposed by Cllr. Ron Tindall

1. This motion calls upon the Council to address the present Cost of Living Crisis which is a complex problem which may be with us for some years. The Ofgem energy price cap has risen by 54%, the pensions triple lock has been suspended, and food and petrol price rises have contributed to the highest levels of inflation for nearly 30 years.

2. Whilst the opportunities for action at local level are limited, it is important this council does what it can to ease the pressures on our residents. Therefore, this Council resolves as a matter of urgency to

- a. instruct officers to look at and improve the current support mechanisms available to residents,
- b. arrange discussions with all concerned organisations across Dacorum including food banks and the voluntary sector, and
- c. initiate discussions with Council Tax Preceptors regarding 2023/2024

with the purpose of enabling proposals to be brought forward in a timely manner to provide assistance and support for those most in need in our communities.

Motion Two. Proposed by Cllr., Garrick Stevens

1. While acknowledging that home ownership is an aspiration for many, this Council also recognises that many in the community will, for various reasons, be unable or unwilling to be other than a lifetime tenant of a Registered Social Landlord ['RSL or Housing Assn']. In this Borough approximately 5,000 dwellings are owned by RSLs and they make a vital contribution to the provision of affordable housing in the rental sector.

2. The Government has made a proposal to introduce the Right to Buy to tenants of Housing Associations. Until now this has been restricted to tenants of public sector housing stock.

3. To safeguard the property and other assets of Housing Assns/RSL, which are independent corporate bodies, and to maintain the stock of local housing for rent [or shared ownership], this Council -

Calls upon the Leader of the Council to write to the Minister at DLUHCG,
[with copies to the respective MPs, -

a. requesting that the Government proceeds with its proposals only with an unequivocal commitment to ensure that any dwelling so removed from the RSL Housing stock in the Borough shall be replaced on a 1 -for- 1 basis, and

b. the Government provide the additional funding to meet the full replacement costs to include provision for the supply of land within the Borough.

FULL COUNCIL - APRIL

ACTION POINTS FOR PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Date of meeting	Action point	PH responsible for action	Response / Investigation Ongoing
13/04/22	Councillor Freedman referred to the Afghan resettlement scheme. He questioned if the four families housed by DBC were families that were in temporary accommodation within the Borough or if they were from elsewhere in the country. Councillor Williams replied that the placement of families was coordinated by the Home Office but he was happy to investigate and provide a written response.	Cllr Williams/Cllr Griffiths	At the last council meeting you asked if the Afghan families resettled in Dacorum had come from temporary accommodation in the Borough or elsewhere, I have had the following response Of the four households resettled into Dacorum, the first two families were identified urgently by the Home Office and matched with properties – they were not temporarily accommodated in the borough. The final two families were identified by Officers from the Watermill Hotel and through direct liaison with the Home Office matched with properties.
13/04/22	Councillor England asked how many of our registered 'Street Champions' had not collected their equipment.	Cllr Barrett	As of today there are 658 Champions registered of which 392 have collected equipment.
13/04/22	Councillor Claughton queried when the work at Canal Fields play area would be finished.	Cllr Barrett	At the last Full Council meeting you asked when the Canal Fields play area works would be completed. Unfortunately there has been a delay in commencement, however work is now scheduled to commence on 6th June and is expected to be completed within 6 weeks.

13/04/22	Councillor Freedman asked the Portfolio Holder to provide a breakdown of the penalty notices that had been issued, for example, how many had been rejected, resolved or were outstanding.	Cllr Banks	<p>At the last Full Council meeting you asked me to provide a breakdown of the PSPO fixed penalty notices that had been issued, for example, how many had been rejected, resolved or were outstanding.</p> <p>As of the end of March 2022 of the total 1743 fixed penalty notices that had been issued, 192 had been challenged.</p> <p>65 fixed penalty notices out of the 192 challenged have been accepted and cancelled.</p> <p>The last figures I have are that 68% of FPN have been paid.</p>
----------	---	------------	---

CA/32/22 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

Decision

1. That Cabinet recommends that Council approves the updated Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan

2. That Cabinet approves the following budget virements in the HRA for 22/23:
 - £140k increase to the HRA Supervision and Management employee budget to cover the costs of an additional Team Leader Post and two new Strategic Housing Officer posts.
 - £200k increase to the HRA Supervision and Management supplies and services budget to cover the additional work to be undertaken in respect of stock reviews etc.
 - £340k reduction to the HRA Revenue Contribution to Capital budget.

Corporate Objectives

Providing good quality affordable homes, in particular for those most in need

Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery

Climate and ecological emergency

Statutory Officer Comments:

Monitoring Officer:

Monitoring Officer:

The annual review provides a robust mechanism to monitor the business plan to ensure that it takes account of changes in government policy, law and the economy and therefore meets the Council's statutory requirements.

Deputy S151 Officer:

There are some inflationary assumptions inherent within the Business Plan, which are liable to change over the lifetime of the plan and so represent a risk to delivery. These assumptions are kept under regular review.

The Business Plan incorporates a programme of capital works, which must be financed. Funding sources available to meet the cost of these works includes capital receipts and reserves, grant funding and external borrowing.

The way in which the Council structures its borrowing will influence the amount of funding available to deliver the Business Plan in future years. Borrowing options and the associated implications for the Business Plan will be presented to Members in advance.

Advice

Cllr Griffiths introduced the report and said that this was revised business plan for the housing revenues account and that there were 2 recommendations, she said it is fairly self-explanatory and she was happy to take questions.

Recommendation agreed