

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2023**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Margaret Greer, Mahmut Aksanoglu, Maria Alexandrou, Nawshad Ali, Kate Anolue, Hivran Dalkaya, James Hockney and Michael Rye OBE.

STATUTORY CO-OPTES: *1 vacancy (Church of England diocese representative), vacancy (other faiths/denominations representative), vacancy (Catholic diocese representative), Alicia Meniru & 1 vacancy (Parent Governor representative) - Italics Denotes absence.*

OFFICERS: Penny Halliday (Director of Meridian Water), Terry Osborne (Director of Law and Governance), Diana Barrett (Regeneration Lead Lawyer), and Harry Blake-Herbert (Governance Officer).

Also Attending: Cllr Alessandro Georgiou (Call-In Lead Member), Cllr Tim Leaver (Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement).

1

WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

The Chair detailed the procedure of the meeting and outlined how the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would consider the reasons for call in.

Apologies for absence were received from the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nesil Caliskan, and it was noted that Cllr Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement, would be answering any questions on her behalf.

The Committee noted that Councillor Alessandro Georgiou would present the reasons for the call-in as the Lead Call-in Member.

2

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received regarding any item on the agenda.

3

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

AGREED in accordance with the principles of Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of

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Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

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DECISION CALLED-IN- KD5627-MERIDIAN WATER PARCEL 10

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee were to consider and review KD5627 - Meridian Water Parcel 10 - taken on 17 November 2023 and included on the Publication of Decision List No. 31/23-24.

The decision had been called in for review by 7 members of the Council, namely Councillors: Alessandro Georgiou (Lead), Lee Chamberlain, Chris Dey, Peter Fallart, Stephanos Joannides, Paul Pratt, and Andrew Thorp.

The report sets out the officer response to the reasons for call-in.

The Chair asked that in future, the options available to the committee are presented in the same order throughout the report.

The Chair reminded members of the confidential nature of the issues covered by the report and to be discussed and asked, given the sensitive nature of the documents being discussed, that Members return any and all papers to officers at the end of the meeting, and reminded Members of their responsibility to dispose of them properly if they chose not to do so.

Members asked, as a point of procedure, why one of the documents they had received, had not been distributed within the correct timeframe, and why some of the documents referred to had not been sent to Members at all. Officers apologised for the delay in sending the confidential legal advice to members at the same time as the main report and advised that the further advice referred to by members, namely counsel's advice, would not be sent to members of the committee; as it had not been considered by the Executive when making its decision, but had been distilled and explained more helpfully in the document that had been made available.

The Chair acknowledged this, and felt it was appropriate to continue with the call-in.

5

REASONS FOR AND OFFICER RESPONSES TO CALL-IN-KD5627

Reasons for the call-in were presented by Councillor Alessandro Georgiou, Lead Call-in Member for the decision.

Cllr Georgiou summarised the reasons for the call-in of the decision.

Cllr Georgiou asked that Members refer the decision back to the decision taker for reconsideration.

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Cllr Leaver and officers spoke in response to the reasons for call-in, and questions posed by Members of the committee.

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ORIGINAL DECISION OF CALL-IN-KD5627

Cllr Georgiou summarised the points made during the discussion and reiterated his view that Members should refer the decision back to the decision taker.

The Chair summarised the key points made throughout the discussion and took Members of the committee through the options available to them, namely: refer the decision back to the decision-making person/body for reconsideration; refer the matter to full Council; or confirm the original decision.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the reasons provided for the Call-In and responses set out in the Officer's report. Having considered the verbal responses and the information presented by the Cllr Leaver and relevant Officers, the Committee **AGREED** to confirm the original decision made by the Cabinet.

7

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members **NOTED** the date of the next meeting, as set out in the meeting agenda, namely Monday 15 January 2024.

The Chair thanked everyone for their time and contributions, and the meeting ended at 20:43.