

4 December 2023

Committee	Council
Date	Tuesday, 12 December 2023
Time of Meeting	6:00 pm
Venue	Tewkesbury Borough Council Offices, Severn Room

ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND

Agenda

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. When the continuous alarm sounds you must evacuate the building by the nearest available fire exit. Members and visitors should proceed to the visitors' car park at the front of the building and await further instructions (during office hours staff should proceed to their usual assembly point; outside of office hours proceed to the visitors' car park). Please do not re-enter the building unless instructed to do so.

In the event of a fire any person with a disability should be assisted in leaving the building.

2. To receive any announcements from the Chair of the Meeting and/or the Chief Executive.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Item	Page(s)
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
Pursuant to the adoption by the Council on 24 January 2023 of the Tewkesbury Borough Council Code of Conduct, effective from 1 February 2023, as set out in Minute No. CL.72, Members are invited to declare any interest they may have in the business set out on the Agenda to which the approved Code applies.	
4. MINUTES	7 - 34
To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2023, the Special meeting held on 7 November 2023 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 21 November 2023.	
5. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC	
a) To receive any questions, deputations or petitions submitted under Council Rule of Procedure.12.	
<i>(The deadline for public participation submissions for this meeting is Wednesday 6 December 2023.).</i>	
b) To receive any petitions submitted under the Council's Petitions Scheme.	
6. MEMBER QUESTIONS PROPERLY SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES	
To receive any questions submitted under Rule of Procedure 13. Any items received will be circulated by 5pm on Monday 11 December 2023.	
<i>(Any questions must be submitted in writing to Democratic Services by, not later than, 10.00am on Monday 4 December 2023).</i>	
7. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	
The Council is asked to consider and determine recommendations of a policy nature arising from the Executive Committee as follows:-	
(a) Medium Term Financial Strategy	35 - 58
At its meeting on 29 November 2023, the Executive Committee considered the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25-2028/29 and RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that it be ADOPTED .	

(b) Tewkesbury Garden Town Programme Delegations

59 - 62

At its meeting on 29 November 2023, the Executive Committee considered the Tewkesbury Garden Town Programme Delegations and **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to:

- i) prepare bids for external revenue funding to support the delivery of the Garden Town programme;
- ii) accept grants of external revenue funding of up to £50,000 and agree any terms and conditions associated with those awards;
- iii) seek specific Council approval for the acceptance of grants of external revenue funding of over £50,000 and any terms and conditions associated with those awards;
- iv) deploy the revenue resources in line with the funding bids and the Garden Town programme following the Council's normal procedures for procurement and the appointment of staff;
- v) ensure continued stakeholder engagement related to the programme takes place informed by production of a Tewkesbury Garden Town Charter for subsequent, specific approval by Council in February 2024;
- vi) undertake activities to progress the Garden Town programme, including sourcing potential partner capital funding, whilst seeking specific Council approval for:
 - acceptance of any partner grant for capital works; and
 - acting as lead for delivery of infrastructure elements of the programme where necessary; and
- vii) in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Lead Member for Built Environment, provide quarterly update reports to Council on progress with the Garden Town programme.

(c) Infrastructure Funding Statement and Annual Community Infrastructure Levy Rate Summary Statement

63 - 114

At its meeting on 29 November 2023, the Executive Committee considered the Infrastructure Funding Statement and Annual Community Infrastructure Levy Rate Summary Statement and **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that publication of the Infrastructure Funding Statement, relating to the financial year ending 31 March 2023, by 31 December 2023, be **APPROVED**, subject to appropriate amendments to the IFS if necessary to clarify what had been brought forward, received, spent and allocated for future maintenance thereby arriving at the closing balance, and that the Annual Community Infrastructure Levy Rate Summary Statement be published alongside the Infrastructure Funding Statement by 31 December 2023.

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Ban on Pets as Prizes

Councillor Skelt will propose and Councillor Pervaiz will second:

England's local authorities have the opportunity to ban the giving of live animals as prizes on Council-owned land to ensure the welfare of these animals is not compromised. They can also assist by raising public awareness of the issue and can lead the way in terms of prohibiting this outdated practice.

Animal ownership is a big responsibility - one that should be planned and well thought out. Animals often do not have their welfare needs met prior to, during, and after being given as prizes. Because of this, we actively discourage people against taking on an animal in a spontaneous, ill-planned manner.

Prospective owners should have a clear understanding of their responsibilities involved in animal ownership, they should carefully consider whether they have the necessary facilities, time, financial means and level of interest to care for these animals. This is often not the case when an animal is suddenly thrust into your hand as a prize. Being given away as a prize can be extremely detrimental to the welfare of an animal. Sadly, many goldfish will die before even getting back to their new homes, or shortly after.

RSPCA England believes the current legislative provisions under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 do not go far enough, and would like to see England introduce legislation similar to Scotland's. The Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 makes it an offence to give an animal as a prize to anyone, regardless of their age, except within the family context - such as a parent rewarding their child's achievements with a new pet, for example

By issuing an outright ban of such activities on Council-owned or operated land, or their properties, the Council will send a clear message of its commitment to ensure the welfare of animals and help reinforce the message that these practices are no longer desirable in our community, these small changes could make a big difference; 36 of England's local authorities have already taken this step.

We as a local authority have an ideal opportunity with this Motion to ban the giving of live animals as prizes on all Tewkesbury Borough owned land.

This Council:

- Is concerned about the number of cases reported to the RSPCA each year regarding pets given as prizes via fairgrounds, social media and other channels.
- Is concerned about the welfare of those animals being given as prizes.
- Recognises that many cases of pets being as prizes may go unreported each year.
- Supports a move to ban the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, in Tewkesbury Borough.

The Council therefore agrees to:

- Ban outright the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, on Tewkesbury Borough land.
- Write to the UK Government, urging an outright ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on both public and private land.

(b) Ban on Puppy Farms

Councillor Skelt will propose and Councillor Adcock will second that:

Tewkesbury Council believes Puppy Farms – in which dogs are bred purely for profit with little concern for their welfare – are cruel and inhumane. They are often run illegally without the correct licensing and monitoring from the local Council.

Dogs on puppy farms are more likely to be over-bred, kept in poor conditions and not receive adequate food or vet care. Research from the Naturewatch Foundation estimates that 400,000 farmed puppies are brought every year in the UK.

Tewkesbury Borough Council fully supports efforts to crack down on illegal puppy farms, such as the introduction of 'Lucy's Law' in 2020 banning the third-party sale of puppies in the first six months of their life. Tewkesbury Borough Council expresses its disappointment in the Government's decision in May 2023 to break its promise to introduce a 'Kept Animals Bill' to add further protections to prevent dogs from being exploited on puppy farms.

Tewkesbury Borough Council recognises the legal role it has to provide licenses to all dog breeders who sell puppies for a profit. Tewkesbury Borough Council further believes it can help make sure those wishing to buy puppies do so from reputable, licensed breeders.

The Council therefore agrees to:

- Publish an up to date list of locally licensed dog breeders on its website so local residents who wish to buy a puppy are signposted to reputable breeders.
- Undertake a dedicated publicity campaign to raise awareness of illegal puppy breeding and signs to look for when buying a puppy that suggest it might come from a puppy farm, and how to report suspicious activity.
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs calling for the Kept Animals Bill to be revived to make it more difficult for puppy farmers to operate.

9. STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

115 - 116

To agree to increase the membership of the Standards Committee to three Independent Persons and three Parish Councillors.

10. APPOINTMENT TO LOWER SEVERN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

To appoint a Member to represent the Council on the Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board.

Recording of Meetings

In accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, please be aware that the proceedings of this meeting may be recorded and this may include recording of persons seated in the public gallery or speaking at the meeting. Please notify the Democratic Services Officer if you have any objections to this practice and the Mayor will take reasonable steps to ensure that any request not to be recorded is complied with.

Any recording must take place in such a way as to ensure that the view of Councillors, Officers, the public and press is not obstructed. The use of flash photography and/or additional lighting will not be allowed unless this has been discussed and agreed in advance of the meeting.

Executive Director: Resources