

Daneshill House  
Danestrete  
Stevenage  
Hertfordshire

6 October 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Stevenage Borough Council will be held virtually (via Zoom) on Wednesday, 14 October 2020 at 7.00pm and you are summoned to attend to transact the following business.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Partridge  
Chief Executive

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## **AGENDA**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**2. MINUTES - 15 JULY 2020**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 15 July 2020.

Pages 7 – 20

**3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

To receive any communications that the Mayor may wish to put before Council.

**4. MAIN DEBATE**

There is no Main Debate.

**5. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS**

None.

**6. QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL**

In accordance with Standing Orders, written responses to the following questions will be tabled at the Council meeting.

## **7. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

In accordance with Standing Orders, written answers to these questions will be tabled at the Council meeting.

(A) Question from Jill Borchers

Recently work has started on the new bus interchange as part of the regeneration of Stevenage Town Centre. As a result, a key cycleway route through the Town Centre has been completely blocked. There is no signage indicating this nor a diversion provided.

Access to the Town Centre is already very restricted - a local company report: "At Box Bike Delivery we find access to the town centre to make deliveries restrictive, difficult and, given the relatively small-size and proximity of the area, surprisingly time-consuming. As the resident population of the town centre grows and with more deliveries needing to be made, we would welcome any improvements to access for cyclists, including our cargo bikes, that could help the last-mile become a greener one.'

Stevenage Borough Council have declared a Climate Emergency and continue to promote the cycleway network yet appear to have paid no attention to maintaining a crucial cycle access route during extended building works. Why was this allowed to happen given your stated commitments to active travel?

## **8. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S UPDATE**

In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, the Leader of the Opposition shall be given the opportunity to raise one matter relevant to the Borough that has arisen since the last meeting of the Council. The Leader of the Council shall then have the opportunity to advise the Council of matters relevant to the Borough that have arisen since the last meeting.

## **9. UPDATE FROM SCRUTINY CHAIRS**

To receive updates from the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees on the recent activities of those Committees

## **10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

(i) Local Government Reorganisation

To consider the following motion submitted by the Labour Group.

"This council strongly rejects the proposal from Hertfordshire County Council to create a single unitary council for the 1.2 million people living in Hertfordshire.

We reject the proposal to create what would become the biggest council in the country because it would:

1. greatly reduce the democratic input of Stevenage people to decision-making and impact upon their ability to hold those taking decisions on their behalf to account and;
2. almost certainly result in the reduction or cessation of important discretionary services that are relied upon by our businesses and residents, especially those who are isolated and/or vulnerable.

We believe the government's intention to commence a structural reorganisation of local government in the middle of the Covid Pandemic is ill-timed and will unnecessarily divert attention and resources. We should be focussed on recovery not reorganisation.

Council urges government to publish its green paper on social care before the white paper on local government reorganisation as the future structure of social care has a fundamental impact on the structure of local government.

Council supports the work of Hertfordshire Districts & Boroughs to explore and assess alternative options to the County Council's proposal to form a single Hertfordshire Unitary Council and agrees that proper engagement should take place with Hertfordshire people.

Council agrees to

Write to the Leader of the County Council setting out our objections to his proposal.

Ask that the Leader of the County Council sets out what commitment there would be to ensure that the people of Stevenage would be given equal opportunities in respect of employment, funding, business initiatives, Council housing investment, leisure facilities, arts facilities and sporting facilities and health initiatives.

Write to the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government to demand that the publication of the Recovery and Devolution White Paper is delayed until after the next General Election by which time the social care green paper will have been published and implemented and the local and national recovery from the Covid crisis will hopefully be well under way.

Continue to support the work of Hertfordshire District & Borough Leaders to explore alternative local government structural options in the event that the Recovery & Devolution White Paper confirms the Government's intention to commence the structural reform of local government

Ensure that the views of Hertfordshire people be sought and taken into account when developing any alternative local Government structural options for Hertfordshire.

Communicate the potential impact of a Single Unitary Council for Hertfordshire on Stevenage to the people of the town."

**11. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS/PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

In accordance with Standing Orders, written answers to the following questions will be tabled at the Council meeting:

(A) Question from Councillor Graham Lawrence

“Do you believe the Council communicates effectively with the local and regional press?”

(B) Question from Councillor Doug Bainbridge

“Will SBC commit to revisiting the Local plan in light of the official adjusted projected growth figures and requirements for housing?”

(C) Question from Councillor Alex Farquharson

“Were Longmeadow Ward Councillors kept fully updated of the discussions and decisions for allowing Broadwater Day to go ahead?”

**12. CHANGE TO STANDING ORDERS - VOTING AT COUNCIL MEETINGS**

To consider an amendment to the Council’s ‘Temporary’ Standing Orders for voting at Council meetings.

Page Nos. 21 - 22

**13. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF 2019/20 INCLUDING PRUDENTIAL CODE**

To update Members on the Annual Treasury Management Review for 2019/20 including an update on the performance of the Strategy.

Page Nos. 23 - 40

**14. AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

To note the draft Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 10 September 2020.

Page Nos. 41 - 48

**15. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

To consider the following motions –

1. That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt

information as described in paragraphs 1 – 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as amended by Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

2. That Members consider the reasons for the following reports being in Part II and determine whether or not maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

**16. EMERGENCY COVID-19 FUNDING SUPPORT FOR STEVENAGE LEISURE LIMITED**

Pages 49 – 106