

Daneshill House
Danestrete
Stevenage
Hertfordshire

5 October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Stevenage Borough Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage on Wednesday, 13 October 2021 at 7.00pm and you are summoned to attend to transact the following business.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Partridge
Chief Executive

AGENDA

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 2. MINUTES - 26 MAY 2021 (ANNUAL), 21 JULY 2021 (SPECIAL) AND 21 JULY 2021**

To approve as a correct record the attached Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on 26 May 2021 (Annual Meeting), 21 July 2021 (Special Meeting) and 21 July 2021 (Ordinary Meeting) for signature by the Mayor.

Page Nos. 7 - 28

- 3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

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

- 4. MAIN DEBATE**

There is no Main Debate.

- 5. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS**

None received.

- 6. QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL**

In accordance with Standing Orders, written responses to the following questions submitted by the Youth Council will be sent out on a supplementary agenda.

- (A) What services do SBC provide for Young People aged between 11 to 17?
- (B) What are the local councillors doing to help support Youth provision? If so, how can the Youth Council get involved?
- (C) What are the Council doing to ask Young People what they want to see in the town?

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None received.

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

In accordance with Standing Orders, the following motions have been received for consideration:

- (i) **Councillors to be made aware of upcoming announcements to press and public**

To be moved by the Liberal Democrat Group.

“That Council calls for a weekly bulletin to be circulated to all councillors by the start of each week outlining all known events, public announcements, statements, news releases and other information planned for publication by the Council during the coming week.”

- (ii) **Managing the IT System**

To be moved by the Liberal Democrat Group.

“That Council notes the serious financial consequences of the recurrent series of IT failures experienced in recent years and those to date during 2021 by SBC. These failures have caused widespread disruption to Council services to residents, to staff working practices and to the e-mail system on at least four separate occasions.

We therefore call upon the Overview and Scrutiny Committee urgently to investigate and review the management and operation of the Council's IT systems and specifically:

- speedily to appoint independent consultants to analyse and identify the key problems;
- quickly to resolve these problems with the minimum of disruption to Council services and working arrangements;
- to appoint senior staff including at least one at director level to manage the IT system;
- to develop a strategy and plan for the IT system and submit it to Council for approval;
- to suspend the introduction of all new devices, apps and systems until such time as the above has been achieved; and
- to introduce measures to ensure that future failures and outages are costed and reported to Council.”

(iii) Live animals as prizes

To be moved by the Liberal Democrat Group.

“That Council asks for an officer report on the feasibility of not allowing the giving of live animals as prizes or rewards:

- (a) at any SBC event;
- (b) on SBC controlled premises; and
- (c) in the Borough of Stevenage.”

11. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS / PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

In accordance with Standing Orders, written answers to the following questions will be circulated on a supplementary agenda.

(A) Question from Councillor Margaret Notley

“In the past there used to be provision for substitute Members to attend committee meetings in the event that a Member of a Committee cannot attend. Why is this not being re-instated?”

(B) Question from Councillor Nick Leech

“Can you explain who owns and is responsible for the derelict oil container in Waverley Close, Roebuck ward?”

(C) Question from Councillor Adam Mitchell CC

“The current ‘line of sight’ policy for trimming hedges results in hedgerows looking unfinished and messy. Will you consider reviewing this policy and start trimming Stevenage’s hedgerows properly?”

(D) Question from Councillor Chris Howells

“The safety of local people should be a priority, but in the town centre pedestrians are having to dodge cyclists, e-scooters and skateboarders. They are frightening the elderly, the disabled and children. What is being done to stop this anti-social

behaviour?”

(E) Question from Councillor Julie Ashley-Wren

“Why is it taking so long to prepare and submit final accounts for refurbishment works to leaseholders of SBC owned flats? In many instances the work has long been completed, yet without a final and settled account, meaning that sales cannot take place.”

(F) Question from Councillor Stephen Booth

“Why is it taking so long for simple queries to be dealt with by the “Your Say” system? Should not all queries from councillors be responded to within a week?”

(G) Question from Councillor Andy McGuinness

“What is the latest update on progress to provide a permanent home for the Covid-19 Cobra snake?”

(H) Question from Councillor Robin Parker CC

“Why are opposition parties not allowed to be Chair of any Scrutiny functions?”

(I) Question from Councillor Graham Snell

“Why does it take so long for the Council to evict tenants who are in clear and continuing breach of their tenancy agreement when backed with reported and documented instances of repeated anti-social behaviour? Will the Council lobby the Government to grant stronger powers to local authorities to act in such situations?”

(J) Question from Councillor Alex Farquharson

“Can the Leader expand on her stance towards GSK’s £400 million investment in Stevenage?”

12. TRANSFORMING OUR TOWN CENTRE PROGRAMME UPDATE AND TOWNS FUND DECISION MAKING

To consider an update report on the Town Centre Regeneration Programme, and proposals for Towns Fund decision making.

Page Nos. 29 - 70

13. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REVIEW 2020/21 INCLUDING PRUDENTIAL CODE

The report circulated at Item 13 was considered by the Executive on 15 September 2021 when the following recommendations to Council were agreed:

1. That the 2020/21 Annual Treasury Management Review be recommended to Council for approval.

2. That Council be recommended to approve that the wording in Appendix C, Table 1 of the report (Specified Investments Criteria) be amended as set out in Paragraph 4.2.6.5 of the report, in order to allow the use of Enhanced Cash Funds included in Table 3 (Treasury Limits).

Page Nos. 71 - 92

14. AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES

To note the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 8 September 2021.

Page Nos. 93 – 98