

Daneshill House
Danestrete
Stevenage
Hertfordshire

21 February 2012

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, 29 February 2012 at 7.00pm and you are summoned to attend to transact the following business.

Yours faithfully

Nick Parry
Chief Executive

AGENDA

PART I

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. MINUTES – 7 DECEMBER 2011

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 7 December 2011.

Minutes attached

3. MINUTES – 25 JANUARY 2012

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 25 January 2012.

Minutes attached

4. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

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

5. MAIN DEBATE – 2012/2013 COUNCIL TAX AND BUDGET AND 2012/2013 CAPITAL FORWARD PLAN AND 5 YEAR CAPITAL STRATEGY

The Main Debate is to consider the officer reports entitled '2012/2013 Council Tax and General Fund Budget' (attached as item 5) together with the item shown at 13 below 'Matter Referred from the Executive 2012/2013 Capital Forward Plan and 5 Year Capital Strategy'

Report & Appendices attached

6. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

None received

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL

None received

8. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None received

9. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S UPDATE

In accordance with Standing Order 14, 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.

10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

None received

11. QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS/EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

None received

**12. MATTER REFERRED FROM EXECUTIVE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
- PRUDENTIAL CODE INDICATORS AND TREASURY
MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The report attached as item 12 was considered by both the Executive and the Audit Committee at their respective meetings on 7 and 13 January 2012. The recommendations from the Executive are set out below with recommended amendments from the Audit Committee shown in ***bold italics*** -

1. That the 2012/13 Treasury Management Strategy as detailed in Appendix A be adopted ***subject to the amendment of paragraph 4.1 of Appendix A to read 'The Council has determined that it will only use approved counterparties from selected countries with a minimum sovereign credit rating of AA+ (changed from AA-) from Fitch Ratings (or equivalent from other agencies if Fitch does not provide).***

2. That the Prudential Code Indicators as detailed in Appendix A, attachment six be adopted.

3. That the modification to investment criteria, as detailed in paragraph 4.2.3 of the report and Appendix A, attachment 3 for instant access call accounts, be adopted.

4. That the following comments be reported to Council.

a. The Audit Committee expressed its concerns over the sustainability of the borrowing requirement within the General Fund and would wish to receive assurance of the Council's intended actions to rebalance the budget through the application of the Asset Management Strategy.

b. The Audit Committee expressed its support for recommendation 3, the modification to investment criteria.

Report & Appendix attached

**13. MATTER REFERRED FROM THE EXECUTIVE - 2012/13 CAPITAL
FORWARD PLAN AND 5 YEAR CAPITAL STRATEGY**

This matter is to be considered in the Main Debate at item 5 above.

The report attached as item 13 was considered by the Executive at its meeting on 7 February 2012 when it was agreed that Council be recommended –

1. That the revised 2011/12 and the final 2012/13 General Fund capital programme (which include the amendments made by the Leader's Services Priority Group), as detailed in Appendix A to the report, be approved.
2. That the revised 2011/12 and the draft 2012/13 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme as detailed in Appendix A to the report, be approved.
3. That the updated forecast of resources as summarised in Appendix A to the report, be approved
4. That the ongoing work of the Corporate Capital Review Group (CCRG) and Leader's Services Priority Group, to bring the 5 year Capital Strategy into balance, be noted.

Report & Appendices attached.

14. MATTER REFERRED FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE – REVISIONS TO FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The report attached as item 14 was considered by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 13 February 2012 when it was agreed that Council be recommended to approve the proposed revisions to Financial Regulations.

Report & Appendices attached

15. OFFICER REPORT - REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

To consider the attached report (item15) concerning the report of the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances and recommends a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2012/2013.

Report & Appendices attached

16. PAY POLICY STATEMENT

To consider the attached report (item 16) concerning the Council's pay policy statement for the financial year 2012/13 in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.

Report & Appendix attached

17. MINUTES – AUDIT COMMITTEE – 29 NOVEMBER 2011

To note the Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 29 November 2011.

Minutes attached

18. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider the following Motion –

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 SI 2006 No. 88.
2. That Members consider the reasons for the following report 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.

PART II BUSINESS

19. PART II OFFICER REPORT - SENIOR OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

To consider a Part II Officer report concerning Senior Officer Appointments.

Report attached

20. PART II MINUTES – AUDIT COMMITTEE – 29 NOVEMBER 2011

To note the Part II section of the Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 29 November 2011.

Minutes attached
