

Daneshill House  
Danestrete  
Stevenage  
Hertfordshire

1 October 2013

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, SG1 1HN on Wednesday 9 October 2013 at 7.00pm and you are summoned to attend to transact the following business.

Yours faithfully

Nick Parry  
Chief Executive

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## **AGENDA**

### **PART I**

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

**2. MINUTES – ANNUAL COUNCIL – WEDNESDAY 17 JULY 2013**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 17 July 2013.

Minutes attached – Item 2 – (Pages 1-8)

**3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**4. MAIN DEBATE – THRIVING FAMILIES**

Prior to the debate there will be a presentation from Gill Gibson and Ola Sidjuwade Children's Services at Herts County Council on the work they are undertaking to improve outcomes for Hertfordshire families with multiple and complex needs

**5. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS**

None received

## **6. QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL**

None received

## **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. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

The following Motion has been submitted by Councillor Sharon Taylor –

'This Council welcomes Labour's decision to repeal the Bedroom Tax, which will give hope to the many disabled and vulnerable people unfairly hit by the Government's cruel tax.

The Bedroom Tax hits over 400,000 disabled people nationwide. For the vast majority of those affected, there is nowhere smaller for them to downsize to, and those affected are faced with an average bill of £720 a year or £14 per week. This tax is not only unfair, it does not make economic sense either as it will end up costing more than it saves in higher benefit bills overall if people are pushed into the private rented sector.

This Council believes we have a responsibility to highlight the impact of bedroom tax and to agree a set of principles to offer support to tenants affected and protect them as far as possible.

Council agrees to

- Proactively engage with tenants and offer advice and assistance
- Prevent tenants from losing their homes through sensitive debt management and rent arrears procedures
- Identify the need for and process discretionary housing payments quickly
- Adjust allocations and letting policies to assist tenants who wish to downsize.

Our Council is also committed to protesting to Government to repeal the bedroom tax now by

- Working with tenant organisations who call for the repeal of the bedroom tax
- Communicating the hidden costs of the bedroom tax
- Demonstrating to Government the unfairness of the bedroom tax
- Working with the Government to provide alternative strategies to address housing shortages

This Council calls on the Government to recognise the impact this tax is having on the most vulnerable in our community and to urgently consider repealing this unfair and uneconomic tax without further delay.'

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

None received

**11. MATTER REFERRED FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE - ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2012/13**

The Executive and Audit Committee at their meetings on 3 September and 9 September 2013 respectively, considered a report that reviews treasury management activities including the 2012/13 prudential and treasury indicators. The report is attached marked 'item 11'.

Both bodies agreed that **Council be recommended** to approve the 2012/13 prudential and treasury indicators in the report.

Report attached – Item 11 – (Pages 9-22)

**12. OFFICER REPORT - MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES – REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

To consider an officer report regarding recommendations received from the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances

Report & Appendices attached – Item 12 – (Pages 23-31)

**13. OFFICER REPORT – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – SECTION 85**

To consider an officer report seeking approval to the reason for non-attendance on medical grounds of Councillor David Cullen, before the six month deadline is reached on 22 November 2013

Report attached – Item 13 – (Pages 32-33)

**14. AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES – 9 SEPTEMBER 2013**

To note the draft Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 9 September 2013.

Minutes attached – Item 14 – (Pages 34-37)

**15. URGENT PART I BUSINESS**

To consider any Part I business accepted by the Mayor as urgent.

**16. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

**17. PART II MATTER REFERRED FROM THE EXECUTIVE – ARCHER ROAD REGENERATION**

At a Special meeting on 27 September 2013 the Executive considered a Part II report concerning proposals for a regeneration scheme at Archer Road (attached for Members at item 17) and agreed the recommendations therein.

As a Budget and Policy Framework matter for this report is to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1 October 2013. Any comments from that Committee will be reported to Council.

The recommendations for Council are shown at section 2.2 of the report.

Part II Report & Appendix circulated to Members only – Item 17 – (Pages P1-16)

**18. PART II OFFICER REPORT – SINGLE STATUS REVIEW: IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW PAY AND GRADING ARRANGEMENTS**

To consider a Part II officer report that seeks approval to proposed changes to pay and grading arrangements for all 'Green Book' and 'Red Book' employees

Part II Report & Appendices circulated to Members only – Item 18 –  
(Pages 17-96)

**19. URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

To consider any Part II business accepted by the Mayor as urgent.

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