

Daneshill House
Danstrete
Stevenage
Hertfordshire

10 December 2018

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 Tuesday, 18 December 2018 at 7.00pm and you are summoned to attend to transact the following business.

Yours faithfully

Scott Crudgington
Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. MINUTES - 17 OCTOBER 2018

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 October 2018.

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3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

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

4. MAIN DEBATE - POLICING STEVENAGE: A PRESENTATION BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

To receive a presentation from the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

5. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

None.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL

None.

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

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

To consider the following motion submitted by Councillor S Taylor OBE CC –

Universal Credits – Stop and Reverse

That Council notes:

That Universal Credit, the Government's flagship social security programme, has been beset by flaws in its design and delivery. It is causing immense hardship for many people wherever it is rolled out. That Universal Credit was designed as an integral part of the Welfare Reform Act brought in by the Coalition Government following their election in 2010. That underpinning the Act has been an ideological drive to make being on Welfare Benefits as degrading and punishing as possible with the intention of forcing as many claimants off benefits as possible. Welfare Reform including the introduction of UC was accompanied with the rhetoric of benefit dependency, skivers and strivers, cheats and malingerers as a way of winning public support for pushing through the biggest changes in welfare since the 1930s. UC is just one part of these reforms which include the discredited and hated Work Capability Assessments, the change from DLA to PIP with a 20% budget reduction target and cuts to the Access to Work programme.

These changes are interconnected and form the core of the Conservatives' making work pay programme.

Council believes:

- Universal Credit is a vehicle for cuts: cuts in support for families with a disabled child; cuts in support for disabled people in work and cuts in support for lone parents bringing up children.
- That UC cannot be fixed.
- That Universal Credit should not have been rolled out in Stevenage, and that this should be reversed. That, as with the Work Capability Assessments, an entirely new scheme needs to be created making sure that Disabled People's Organisations and other groups affected are included at the heart of how these schemes are designed.

Council resolves:

- To write to the local MP and call on him to condemn the cruelty inflicted on local UC claimants
- To write to the Secretary of State and demand they halt the roll-out in Stevenage and nationally
- To support the opposition motion to demand the government publish its analysis of the impact of UC on people's incomes and debt

That under no circumstances will tenants in rent arrears due to waiting times for receipt of Universal Credit be evicted.

10. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS / PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

A. Question from Cllr J. Brown

“What will be the effect of Brexit on European funded and supported projects and employment in Stevenage?”

B. Question from Cllr G. Snell

“What is the number of Dentists and other health professionals operating from residential properties across Stevenage and what consideration has been given to encourage the practices to relocate into vacant business properties or community amenity space?”

C. Question from Cllr R. Parker

“What are the Council doing to improve the poor sickness record of Stevenage Borough Council staff?”

D. Question from Cllr A. McGuinness

“What is the Council’s policy on subletting within its Community Centres?”

E. Question from Cllr T. Wren

“What negotiations have the Council undertaken concerning access to affordable properties on the future Gresley Park development?”

11. UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY CHAIRS

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

12. SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO OFFICERS

To consider proposed modifications to the Scheme of Delegation of Council functions to Officers.

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13. 2018/19 MID YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW

The report circulated at item 11 was considered by the Executive on 21 November 2018 when the following recommendations to Council were agreed:

1. That Council be recommended to approve the 2018/19 Treasury Management Mid-Year review.

2. That Council be recommended to approve the latest list of approved Countries for investments, as set out in Appendix D to the report.
3. That Council be recommended to empower officers to undertake treasury management functions on behalf of Council wholly owned companies and/or Council Limited Liability Partnership (LLP), subject to authorisation from the Board of Directors (see Paragraph 4.5.12 of the report).

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14. AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES

To note the minutes from the Audit Committee meeting held on 20 November 2018.

Minutes attached – Item 14.

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