

Daneshill House
Danstrete
Stevenage
Hertfordshire

19 February 2019

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, 27 February 2019 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 - COUNCIL - 18 DECEMBER 2018

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 18 December 2018 for signature by the Mayor.

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3. MINUTES - SPECIAL COUNCIL - 30 JANUARY 2019

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Special meeting of Council held on 30 January 2019 for signature by the Mayor.

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4. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

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

5. MAIN DEBATE - 2019/20 COUNCIL TAX AND GENERAL FUND AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

The Main Debate concerns the setting of the 2019/20 Council Tax and the General Fund and Capital Budgets. The recommendations from the Executive are set out in each of the attached reports.

Reports 5A and 5B and Appendices attached.

6. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

None.

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL

None.

8. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

9. 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.

10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

A. To consider the following motion submitted by Councillor Sharon Taylor OBE CC:

'That this Council notes that analysis of the 2018 Local Election results by the Fawcett Society found that only 34% of councillors in England are women, up 1% since 2017. Of the seats that were up for election in 2018, 38% went to women, up just 3 percentage points on 2014 when these seats were last contested; That across England, Labour has improved its representation since seats were last up for grabs, with 45% women compared with 40% in 2014, Liberal Democrat representation up from 34% to 36% whilst the Conservative Party saw a fall from 31% to 29% in the share of its councillors who are female; That as of the 2018 local elections, only 26 out of 119 Labour councils and only 33 out of 130 opposition Labour Groups are led by women; As of summer 2017, only 4% of councils in England and Wales have parental leave policies, according to research by the Fawcett Society; That the role of a councillor should be open to all, regardless of their background, and that introducing a parental leave policy is a step towards encouraging a wider range of people to become councillors, and is also a step to encourage existing councillors who may want to start a family to remain as councillors; That parental leave must apply to parents regardless of their gender, and that it should also cover adoption leave to support those parents who choose to adopt.

Accordingly, this Council resolves to adopt the parental leave policy drafted by the LGA Labour Group's Women's Taskforce to give all councillors an entitlement to parental leave after giving birth or adopting; To ensure that councillors with children and other caring commitments are supported as appropriate; To notify the LGA Labour Group that this council has passed a motion at full council to adopt the parental leave policy.'

B. To consider the following motion submitted by Councillor Robin Parker CC:

'That Stevenage Borough Council notes its firm objections to the planning development known as Gresley Park.

It is regrettable that Pigeon Land have submitted a planning application to East Herts District Council on what was once, and remained until very recently, a formerly designated and much used green belt site adjoining Stevenage. The application includes 618 homes, an 80 bed care home, 50 assisted living homes, a neighbourhood hub and a Travelling Showpersons' site.

As a consultee, Stevenage Borough Council believes that the scheme will have a detrimental effect on many Stevenage residents and will place an unnecessary additional strain on the infrastructure and services of our town.

Major objections include:

1. The disruption to traffic flows of the three new junctions on Gresley Way;
2. Additional traffic congestion at junctions across the town;
3. Vastly underestimated predictions of traffic from the new development;
4. Increased noise and environmental pollution;
5. Additional demand on Stevenage secondary schools and GP surgeries without a clear plan nor suitable additional funds to tackle these problems;
6. The destruction of woodland habitat for a Travelling Showpersons' site.

Stevenage Borough Council is supportive of house building where it is suitable and where plans provide the necessary infrastructure and alleviative measures to cope with any additional demands on our town's services. This Council believes that the Gresley Park development does not adhere to this and so calls on Officers of the Council to submit this Council's firm objections to this development.'

11. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS/PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

A. Cllr. Robin Parker C.C.

'Section 82 of the Environment Act 1995 provides that every local authority shall review the Air Quality within its area, at the present time and should also estimate what it will be in the future. In two tier local government areas like Hertfordshire, this duty sits with the District and Borough Councils. According to the HCC draft Air Quality Strategy page 9 [published as Appendix A of Item 7 in the Agenda for the HCC Highways and Environment Cabinet Panel meeting on 12.2.2019] there is no Air Quality/Air Pollution monitoring occurring in the Borough of Stevenage [source DEFRA, correct as at 21.12.2018].

(a) Is this correct?

(b) If so, why is SBC failing in this regard?'

B. Cllr. Andy McGuinness

'Following the recycling bag trial, what are the Council's plans going forward to meet both the Council's recycling needs and the requirements of our residents?'

C. Cllr. Graham Snell

'How many Parking Tickets have been issued during the last 12 months in the Borough for violations of the rules regarding the use of Blue Badges. In the answer, please show separate figures for:

- (1) Not showing the Badge;
- (2) Parking in the wrong place;
- (3) Staying longer than allowed;
- (4) Any other issues.'

D. Cllr. Tom Wren

'How many hours of council staff productivity have been lost this year due to downtime and performance issues of the SBC IT systems?'

12. UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY CHAIRS

To receive an update from the Chairs of each of the Scrutiny Committees on recent activities.

13. STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO EAST HERTS COUNCIL REGARDING THE GRESLEY PARK PLANNING APPLICATION

To consider an Officer report on the Stevenage Borough Council consultation response to East Herts Council regarding the Gresley Park planning application.

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14. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY INCLUDING PRUDENTIAL CODE INDICATORS 2019/20

To consider an Officer report that recommends the approval of the Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20 including the Annual Investment Strategy and the prudential indicators. This report has been considered previously by Audit Committee and the Executive.

Report and Appendices attached.

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15. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2019-20

To consider an officer report that recommends to Council a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2019/20.

Report and Appendix attached.

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16. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2019/20

To consider an officer report recommending the pay policy statement for the financial year 2019/20.

Report and Appendix attached.

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17. AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES

To note the draft Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 4 February 2019.

Minutes attached.

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18. 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 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.

19. INTERIM APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE, HEAD OF PAID SERVICE, ELECTORAL REGISTRATIONS OFFICER AND RETURNING OFFICER

To approve an appointment to the post of interim Chief Executive, Head of Paid Service, Electoral Registrations Officer and Returning Officer upon the recommendation of the Appointments Committee.