

Daneshill House  
Danestrete  
Stevenage  
Hertfordshire

8 October 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, 16 October 2019 at 7.00pm and you are summoned to attend to transact the following business.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Partridge  
Chief Executive

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## AGENDA

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

**2. MINUTES - 24 JULY AND 11 SEPTEMBER 2019**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24 July 2019, the Special Meeting of the Council held on 24 July 2019 and the Special Meeting of the Council held on 11 September 2019.

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**3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**4. MAIN DEBATE - STEVENAGE RE-IMAGINED: A TEN YEAR ARTS AND HERITAGE (CULTURAL) STRATEGY**

**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

### (i) Wild Flowers / Highway Verges

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Robin Parker, CC:

“That Council notes that:

- (a) A number of other local authorities have adopted the policy of planting or encouraging wild flowers, and other alternative methods of managing highway verges, which improve biodiversity without increasing the cost of highway verge maintenance.
- (b) Growing concern about the possible health impacts and effect on biodiversity by the widespread use of glyphosate weed killers.

With the aim of improving biodiversity and the street scene, along with reducing any undesirable environmental impacts, Council agrees to ask for an officer report within the next 6 months about the feasibility of a change in the policy on highways verge maintenance and cutting, to allow many further areas to be left free for wildflower self and initiated seeding, where appropriate, safe and with particular need to ensure safety and visibility, including financial implications and consequences for the current Agency agreement with HCC.”

### (ii) Support for Smart Motorway between Junctions 6 and 8 of A1(M)

To consider the following motion submitted by Councillor Adam Mitchell, CC:

“That this Council notes that:

Smart Motorways go some way towards reaching this Council's goals of reducing carbon and achieving a 'Sustainable Transport Town' accreditation whilst improving safety through modern technology and live data.

This Council welcomes the upgrade to a Smart Motorway between Junctions 6 and 8 of the A1(M) and recognises the benefits that such an improvement will bring to our town and its people.

This Council will work co-operatively at all levels of government to bring forward these benefits to our residents whilst honouring our commitments to promote a more sustainable environment in which to live.”

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

In accordance with Standing Orders, written answers to the following questions will be tabled at the Council meeting:

(A) Question from Councillor Robin Parker, CC

“Reference the Pride of Stevenage Awards on 28.9.2019, excluding award winners and members, who received invitations and, in particular, were invitations issued to the Stevenage MP and all Stevenage parliamentary candidates?”

(B) Question from Councillor Tom Wren

“On the 12th June, this Council passed a motion declaring a climate change emergency. What actions have been taken by the Council in the 4 months since this declaration?”

(C) Question from Councillor Stephen Booth

“What measures does the Council take in ensuring that the Charter Fair is set up in an orderly and safe manner and attention is given particularly to:

- due regard to Health & Safety regulations
- access to shops and businesses is maintained
- approaches to pedestrian crossings for the public are left clear
- sufficient account is taken for access to those with disability and particularly those with sight disability?”

(D) Question from Councillor Andy McGuinness

“How much officer time and resources have a) already been used and b) planned to be used, on “No Deal” Brexit scenario planning?”

(E) Question from Councillor Graham Snell

“In view of the recent reports about some of the new paving in the Town Centre being very slippery when wet, and therefore a hazard, what actions have been taken by the Council to address this?”

## 11. **UPDATE FROM SCRUTINY CHAIRS**

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

**12. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF 2018/19 INCLUDING PRUDENTIAL CODE**

The report circulated at Item 12 was considered by the Executive on 11 September 2019 when the following recommendations to Council were agreed:

1. That the 2018/19 Annual Treasury Management Review is recommended to Council for approval.
2. That the updated Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy is recommended to Council for approval.

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**13. REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2019 - OUTCOME OF REVIEW**

To consider a report regarding the outcome of the Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places Review 2019.

REPORT TO FOLLOW

**14. AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

To note the draft Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 10 September 2019.

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