

Daneshill House
Danestrete
Stevenage
Hertfordshire

11 July 2023

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, 19 July 2023 at 7.30pm or at the rising of the Special Council meeting, whichever is the later, and you are summoned to attend to transact the following business.

Yours faithfully



Matthew Partridge
Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. MINUTES - ANNUAL MEETING - 24 MAY 2023

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of Annual Council held on 24 May 2023.

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3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

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

4. COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

None received.

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. UPDATE FROM SCRUTINY CHAIRS

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

10. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

To consider the Annual Scrutiny Report 2022/23.

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11. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

In accordance with Standing Orders, the following motions have been received for consideration:

(1) Education provision in Hertfordshire

To be moved by the Labour Group.

"In view of the difficulties being experienced by schools in Hertfordshire due to reductions in education funding, including:

- That Hertfordshire schools are running at a combined deficit of £1.8 million;
- That the equivalent of one in 22 (4.6 per cent) LA-maintained schools in Herts are now spending more than their income;
- That with the lack of Pupil Premium Grant since 2020, Hertfordshire schools are missing out on £1.9million of vital funding;
- That Hertfordshire's education department are glossing over the 800 children already awaiting special school's provision and cutting mainstream budgets to prop up special school places; and
- The worrying rate of teachers leaving the state sector for reasons other than retirement grew to a record high last year,

We as a Council have a duty of care to put pressure on the government to properly fund our state education system.

In recognition of the above stated points, this Council instructs the Portfolio Holder for Co-operative Council and Neighbourhood Communities to write to the Secretary of State for Education and Hertfordshire County Council to ask the Government to properly fund the state education system, and to challenge the County Council to cease formulating budgets that attempted to camouflage what is, in reality, an educational crisis.”

(2) Consultation on planning applications

To be moved by Councillor Stephen Booth and seconded by Councillor Robin Parker CC.

“That Council requests a report on the widening of the number of properties consulted over planning applications, including consulting with ward councillors when planning applications are received involving green space unspecified in the 2018 Local Development Plan.”

(3) Mayor of London’s Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) Expansion

To be moved by Councillor Graham Lawrence CC and seconded by Councillor Bret Facey.

“That this Council notes that:

- On 4 March 2022 the Mayor Khan announced his plan to expand the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) from its current boundary to cover all of outer London. The expansion is due to come into force by 29 August 2023.
- The expansion will mean that those with non-compliant vehicles will pay £12.50 per day to drive within the ULEZ each day.
- Stevenage is a commuter town, with a significant number of residents travelling into outer London for work via public transport, but in their own vehicles also.
- Many Stevenage residents also have family connections to outer London and so need to visit outer London to see relatives.
- The less well-off will be disproportionately penalised by this expansion, as such residents will be reliant on their cars and are unable to replace them with more modern (compliant) vehicles.
- The Mayor of London has set aside almost £400 million towards expanding the ULEZ and related projects.
- 5 Councils (Bexley, Bromley, Harrow, Hillingdon and Surrey Councils) have joined together to oppose the Mayor’s decision to expand the ULEZ and have successfully taken the issue to the High Court for Judicial Review.

That this Council resolves to:

- Condemn this expansion which will push up the cost of living for some of our poorest residents, who rely on their cars and trades vehicles to commute to outer London, by imposing this de facto tax on motorists.
- Call on the Mayor of London to withdraw his unworkable and discriminatory ULEZ expansion.
- Publicly express solidarity with, and support for, the local authorities involved

in the 'Coalition Against ULEZ Expansion' legal challenge against the Mayor of London's flawed decision."

12. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS / PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

In accordance with Standing Orders, written answers to the following questions will be circulated on a supplementary agenda.

(A) Question from Councillor Graham Lawrence CC

"After spending so much time on children's play areas in the Borough, inspecting, reviewing upgrading some and closing others, does the Council think it should maintain those that remain, rather than allow them to become damaged and overrun with plant growth and rubbish?"

(B) Question from Councillor Phil Bibby CC

"To try and avoid road sweepers having to skirt round parked cars, leaving unsightly detritus on the roads, could the Council advise residents in advance, asking them not to park where there is such detritus on planned routes?"

(C) Question from Councillor Bret Facey

"Does the Leader still believe that the £110,000 refurbishment of Shephalbury Park's tennis courts, which was funded by the Lawn Tennis Association and Conservative government, is 'fantastic news' for Stevenage people?"

(D) Question from Councillor Chris Howells

"When will this Council start to take the safety of pedestrians in the Town Centre seriously? We are having to dodge cyclists, skateboarders and e-scooters in what is meant to be a pedestrianised zone. It is hardly surprising that Stevenage as a Town suffers from a poor reputation across the County when this is what visitors get to see."

(E) Question from Councillor Stephen Booth

"Will SBC undertake to consult with ward councillors ahead of Council sales of green space or other land for development?"

(F) Question from Councillor Andy McGuinness

"What progress is being made on decarbonising the Council by its target of 2030?"

(G) Question from Councillor Robin Parker CC

"What publicity or other actions are the council promoting, in conjunction with the police, about the use of electric scooters being illegal when used other than on private land?"

(H) Question from Councillor Graham Snell

“Can the Council explain what the long-term plans are for the use of the currently vacant former car park area to the north of the new multi-storey car park on the train station site?”

(I) Question from Councillor Tom Wren

“Does the Council think that an electric bicycle hire scheme could be viable in Stevenage and help to meet our climate change objectives?”

13. AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES

To note the Minutes of the meetings of the Audit Committee held on 27 March 2023 and 6 June 2023.

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14. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider the following motions –

1. That under Section 100A 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.

15. REGENERATION PROGRAMME UPDATE AND SG1 PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

To consider financial recommendations in respect of a proposal to create a Joint Venture structure to deliver the first project (Plot A Swingate House) of the SG1 regeneration scheme.

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