



**WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

COUNCIL MEETING

16 October 2018

7.30 pm

Town Hall, Watford

Contact

Caroline Harris

legalanddemocratic@watford.gov.uk

01923 278372

For information about attending meetings please visit the council's website.

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Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Watford to be held on Tuesday, 16 October 2018 starting at 7.30 pm at the Town Hall, Watford to take into consideration and determine upon the following subjects, namely: -

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Disclosure of Interests**
- 3. Minutes**

The [minutes](#) of the meeting held on 10 July 2018 to be submitted and signed.

- 4. Official Announcements**
- 5. Mayor's Report (Pages 7 - 12)**
- 6. Questions by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 10.0**
- 7. Questions by Members of the Public under Council Procedure Rule 11.0**

The following question has been received from Ms Herron:

"Re: Watford Community Housing

It came up in the WCHT AGM that the trust has moved 75 or so properties social housing rents have been converted to affordable housing rents.

This was not well received by tenants.

I'd like to know who is monitoring WCHT as nothing seems to be being asked to tenants before big changes are done.

This completely goes against what WCHT was set up for years ago.

Is this in keeping with the terms of the original transfer?"

- 8. Petitions presented under Council Procedure Rule 12.0**
- 9. Business especially brought forward by the Chairman or the Head of Paid Service which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered as a matter of urgency.**

10. Voter ID Pilot (Pages 13 - 48)

Report of the Managing Director to ask Council to participate in the Voter Identification Electoral Pilot in May 2019 and to note the evaluation of last May's voter ID pilots.

11. Business Rates Pilot for 2019/20 (Pages 49 - 73)

Report of the Director of Finance to ask for Council's approval to enter the Business Rates Pilot or Hertfordshire Business Rates Pool for 2019/20

12. Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles 2019 - 2022 (Pages 74 - 218)

A report of the Licensing Committee recommending to Council that the Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 be adopted.

13. Proposed Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy 2018-2023 (Pages 219 - 304)

A report of the Licensing Committee recommending to Council to adopt the amended Statement of Licensing Policy 2018/2023.

14. Opportunity to increase the provision of social rented housing (Pages 305 - 313)

Report of Cabinet on 10 September 2018 with one recommendation to Council

The appendix is considered Part B in accordance with Paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A as it contains information relating to the financial and business affairs of the Council.

15. Cycle Hire Scheme and Demand Responsive Transport System

Report of Cabinet on 8 October 2018, to follow

16. Motions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13.0

1. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Stotesbury and seconded by Councillor Dychton

“Full Council ‘People’s Vote on Brexit’ Motion

Council notes that:

- 1. While Watford's EU referendum result was the closest in the UK, and marginally in favour of Leave, recent opinion polls indicate that there has been a significant swing in favour of a 'People’s Vote' on the final Brexit deal*
- 2. The Government’s own impact assessments show that the UK is likely to be worse off in every scenario after Brexit*
- 3. There will be severe damage to our international relationships, reduced influence with other states, and the complete loss of say and control over the rules of the European Single Market and Customs Union, the largest market in the world*
- 4. There are a large number of non-UK EU nationals living in Watford who are concerned about the impact of Brexit on their lives, and that their current rights are not being fully protected*
- 5. That the Government has totally mismanaged the Brexit negotiations. The ‘Chequers Statement’, issued on 6th July 2018, (the closest indication yet of what a final deal might look like), has been rejected by EU negotiators and has also managed to alienate both supporters and opponents of Brexit*
- 6. The NHS is experiencing severe problem in recruiting nurses and doctors since the decision was made to leave the European Union, and this is having a real negative impact on the health of local residents.*
- 7. The UK economy is now the slowest growing economy in Europe, reducing the prosperity of the UK and our local residents. New investment in the area is being jeopardised and new job opportunities are being lost.*
- 8. Inflation caused by Brexit-related depreciation of the pound is driving up living costs for our poorest residents, further squeezing their living standards*
- 9. There will be a negative impact on our established mutually beneficial partnerships and links with European cities.*

Council therefore:

- 1. Believes that the people should have scrutiny of what is being negotiated on their behalf and an opportunity to vote on the final deal, including the option to remain in the EU*
- 2. Formally adds its voice to those calling for a public ‘People’s Vote’ on the final Brexit deal*
- 3. Asks the Mayor to write to Watford's MP expressing these views and*

asking him to support a 'People's Vote'"

2. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Tim Williams and seconded by Councillor Ian Stotesbury

"This Council fully endorses and supports the end to the use of unnecessary Single Use Plastics (SUPs) in Watford and to take the following measures to achieve this:

a) Watford Borough Council to become a full signatory of the 'Plastic Free Pledge', by phasing out the use of unnecessary SUPs in all Borough Council buildings, and working with commissioning partners to reduce, with the aim to end the purchase and procurement of SUPs through the Watford Borough Council supply chain.

b) to encourage the town's residents, organisations and businesses to go 'plastic free,' providing practical guidelines and advice to help the transition from SUPs to sustainable alternatives.

c) to encourage traders on Council land/with Council Permission to sell re-usable containers and invite customers to bring their own, with the aim of phasing out SUPs; including investigating the possibility of requiring food and drink vendors to avoid SUPs as a condition of their event/hire permission.

d) to continue to install drinking fountains in our parks to in order to reduce the use of plastic in purchased water bottles and the consequent pollution and cost of rubbish disposal. There's already a drinking fountain established in Cassiobury Park with another one to be installed, and further drinking fountains planned for Oxhey Park and Woodside."

3. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Nigel Bell and is seconded by Councillor Asif Khan

"This Council notes that Arriva Rail London (ARL) and Transport for London (tfl) are proposing to close 51 ticket offices including Watford High Street and Carpenders Park station.

This Council notes the advantage of having manned ticket offices to provide advice and additional services in particular to vulnerable users and those with a disability and the elderly.

Insufficient ticket machines can cause delays and platform congestion and having no staff will make users feel less safe and secure.

This Council notes that the Conservative Government's harsh austerity policies have led to the £700million cut to tfl's funding.

This Council, therefore, resolves through the Mayor to write to Arriva London and demand that they put people before profits and to withdraw the threat of these cuts to staff.

Also to write to London Travelwatch emphasising the concerns of Watford Council on behalf of our residents and to strongly urge that these cuts do not go ahead."

4. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Turmaine and seconded by Councillor Mauthoor

"Ethical Debt Collection Policy

This council notes:

That 'problem debt' or over-indebtedness affects an estimated 8.3 million people in the UK, according to reports by the National Audit Office.

The use of bailiffs by local authorities and commissioned debt collection agencies brings unparalleled levels of stress to people who are already experiencing extremely challenging circumstances.

In some instances, the inability of people suffering problem debt to pay debt collection agencies can lead to them becoming homeless. This places additional financial burdens on the local authority (and council tax payers) owed money as well as forcing further stress, challenge and change on the families of those affected.

This council resolves:

To implement an ethical debt collection policy and align itself to best practice in both the private sector and other local authorities, which have abandoned the use of bailiffs for debt collection.

To ensure that value for money for council tax payers is maximised by pursuing debt repayment plans that will enable money to be paid back to the local authority through managed debt collection.

To avoid additional costs being incurred such as those arising from needing to re-house people made homeless as a result of a non-ethical debt collection policy.

To enshrine the above in contracts held with agencies operating on behalf of Watford Borough Council and to work with them to implement an ethical debt collection policy.

This council further notes that an ethical debt collection policy is not a 'no debt' collection policy and that everyone who owes money to the local authority is obliged to repay it."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manny Lewis'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Manny Lewis, Managing Director