



COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 30th July, 2014

7.30 pm

Town Hall, Watford

Publication date: 22 July 2014

CONTACT

If you require further information or you would like a copy of this agenda in another format, e.g. large print, please contact Caroline Harris on 01923 278372 or by email – legalanddemocratic@watford.gov.uk .

Welcome to this meeting. We hope you find these notes useful.

ACCESS

The Council Chamber's Public Gallery is situated at the rear of the Town Hall between the main building and the side entrance to the Colosseum. Access is via the visitors' and Members' car parks.

Visitors may park in the staff car park after 4.00 p.m. and before 7.00 a.m. This is a Pay and Display car park; the current charge is £1.50 per visit.

The Council Chamber is on the mezzanine floor of the Town Hall and a lift is available.

Induction loops are available in the Council Chamber.

TOILETS (including disabled)

Toilets are situated on the first floor, near the Committee Rooms.

FIRE/EMERGENCY INSTRUCTIONS

In the event of a fire alarm sounding, vacate the building immediately following the instructions given by the Democratic Services Officer.

- Do not use the lifts
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings
- Go to the assembly point at the Pond and wait for further instructions
- Do not re-enter the building until authorised to do so.

MOBILE PHONES

Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off before the start of the meeting.

MINUTES

Copies of the minutes of this meeting are usually available seven working days following the meeting and can be found on the Council's website www.watford.gov.uk/meetings

RECORDING OF MEETINGS

An audio recording may be taken at this meeting for administrative purposes only.

22 July 2014

Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Watford to be held on Wednesday, 30th July, 2014 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 11 June 2014 to be submitted and signed.
(All minutes are published on the Council's website.)

4. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. MAYOR'S REPORT (Pages 1 - 4)

**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**

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. MOTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 13.0

- (1) The following motion is being moved by Councillor Iain Sharpe and seconded by Councillor Kareen Hastrick

"Council notes that:

According to information made available to Hertfordshire County Council's Highways and Waste Panel, the county council is intent on reducing support for bus routes so that it only supports bus services starting before 6.30 pm and withdraws funding for non-commercial Sunday services

Such a reduction would affect 39 services across the county, including several directly serving Watford, and approximately 200,000 passenger trips.

While this council recognises the county's need to make budget savings, it believes that such a blanket approach to cutting bus services is unacceptable, and will adversely affect local bus passengers.

This council therefore resolves to request formally that the county not proceed with these cuts."

- (2) The following motion is proposed by Councillor Anne Joynes and seconded by Councillor Seamus Williams

"This Council resolves to call on the County Council to withdraw their proposed cuts to bus services which would see funding withdrawn if the service starts after 6.30pm and the withdrawing of non-commercial Sunday services.

This would severely affect Watford residents and their quality of life, when we should surely be trying to improve a vital public service and try to encourage non-car use in and out of Watford."

- (3) The following motion is proposed by Councillor Derek Scudder and seconded by Councillor Tim Williams

"This council notes with concern the proposals outlined as part of Hertfordshire County Council's current consultation on household waste sites.

These include:

- a 44% reduction in opening hours at Waterdale, including reduced hours at weekends and closure on Thursdays and Fridays

- complete closure of the Elstree site

This council notes that when the county council closed the Wiggshall Road household waste site, its cabinet member for waste claimed that Watford would remain 'well-provided for' due to the facilities at Waterdale and Elstree.

The proposed cuts and closure make a mockery of this assurance.

The council notes the Mayor wrote to the leader of Herts County Council on 14th July expressing her concern over the changes. Council endorses the mayor's action and resolves to respond formally to the consultation, opposing these proposals."

- (4) The following is a motion proposed by Councillor Nigel Bell and seconded by Councillor Matt Turmaine

"This Council resolves to write to the Coalition Government calling on them to repeal the 'Bedroom Tax or spare room subsidy' at the earliest

opportunity.

Last week the Department of Work and Pensions published a report revealing the Bedroom Tax has been a disaster.

It found that half of affected tenants have cut back on essentials, that more than half have racked up debts, and that not much more than 1 in 20 have 'downsized' or moved into private accommodation.

The DWPs own analysis showed only 19% of those affected had applied to move and even fewer were able to find a smaller property.

Many disabled people and their families have had the stress of having to cope with this so-called 'spare room' tax.

It is the right time for Watford Council to join the many other Councils and Campaigners to show a United front in calling for the repeal of this hated and unnecessary Tax."

11. ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT (Pages 5 - 32)

Report of the Committee and Scrutiny Officer and Scrutiny Chairs

12. NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 33 - 68)

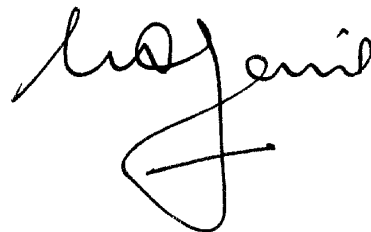
Report of Committee and Scrutiny Officer and Ward Councillors

13. ICT ROADMAP

Report of Cabinet 23/07/14 (to follow)

14. MUNICIPAL BONDS

Report of Cabinet 23/07/14 (to follow)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manny Lewis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Manny Lewis, Managing Director