



**WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

COUNCIL MEETING

15 October 2019

7.30 pm

Town Hall, Watford

Contact

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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, 15 October 2019 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 9 July 2019 to be submitted and signed.

4. Official Announcements

5. Mayor's Report (Pages 6 - 13)

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 Brian Hodgson, on behalf of Watford Area Humanists:

"In July, at the last full council meeting, this council voted to accept a definition of Islamophobia. My question is, 'what steps will this Council take to ensure that legitimate criticism of Islamic practices will not be deemed to be islamophobic or racist?'"

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. Appointment of Managing Director and Head of Paid Service (Pages 14 - 17)

Group Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development

11. Polling District, places and stations review (Pages 18 - 35)

Report of Electoral Services Manager

12. Appointment of new councillor

Report to follow for appointment of new councillor to committee(s) following Tudor by-election.

13. Chair of Licensing (Pages 36 - 38)

Report of Democratic Services Manager

14. Members Self Assessments 2018/19 (Pages 39 - 88)

Report of Democratic Services Manager

15. Motions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13.0

1. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Hofman and seconded by Councillor Martins:

Hate Crime destroys lives and devastates communities, it attacks an individual's identity and can have an appalling and devastating impact on victims. People who experience such crimes can feel isolated and vulnerable and suffer from significant emotional and physical stress.

Sadly, since the Brexit referendum in 2016 the UK has experienced an unprecedented rise in hate crimes motivated by individuals and groups trying to promote a sense of "otherness" or discrimination towards people based on their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or transgender identity.

Watford Borough Council is committed to defending the rights of everyone in our area to live free from fear and discrimination. Council fully condemns hate crime in all its forms and strongly believes that any acts motivated by prejudice or hate against a person are totally unacceptable. Watford's diverse population is one of our great strengths.

Council notes that:

Home Office figures for last year, showed that in 2017/18:

- *there were 94,098 hate crime offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, an increase of 17% compared with the previous year. This*

continues the upward trend in recent years with the number of hate crimes recorded by the police having more than doubled since 2012/13.

- 52% of religious hate crimes were targeted against Muslims (2,965 offences), with a further 12% targeted against Jews (672 offences).*
- At the same time, the charge rates have fallen. Only 12% of hate crimes reported to the police resulted in a charge in 2017/18, which is down from 21% in 2015/16.*

Therefore, Watford Borough Council resolves to:

- 1. Continue to ensure that all possible steps should be taken by Police Services at local level in consultation with local Government and other agencies and local communities to encourage the reporting of racist incidents and crimes.*
 - 2. Commit to recruit volunteer Hate Crime Ambassadors from across the council family who will help raise awareness of the issue among their colleagues and partner organisations to ensure reporting.*
 - 3. Challenge attitudes and behaviours that underpin hate crimes.*
 - 4. Raise awareness of the impact of hate crime by supporting the annual Hate Crime Awareness Week and other initiatives.*
 - 5. Stand up for the right of everyone in Watford to live free from hate.”*
2. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Ezeifedi and seconded by Councillor Bell:

“This Council calls on the Mayor to initiate and introduce on an annual basis ‘Black History month’ to celebrate the rich contribution of the Afro-Caribbean community in our Town.”

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

Manny Lewis, Managing Director