



**WATFORD  
BOROUGH  
COUNCIL**

# **COUNCIL MEETING**

**17 March 2020**

**7.30 pm**

**Town Hall, Watford**

## **Contact**

Sandra Hancock

[democraticservices@watford.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@watford.gov.uk)

01923 278372

For information about attending meetings please visit the [council's website](#).

**Publication date: 9 March 2020**

9 March 2020

Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Watford to be held on Tuesday, 17 March 2020 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 28 January 2020 to be submitted and signed.

4. **Official Announcements**
5. **Mayor's Report** (Pages 7 - 14)  
Report of the Elected Mayor
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 Dennis Watling –

“At the planning meeting held on 16th December 2019, which I was present at, the council approved the huge development at the TK Maxx and Range site. I and tens of other residents heard Daniel Massie, Pre-Development Director at Berkeley Homes, state that the developer had agreed to contribute the Mayor’s cycle scheme and other schemes in Watford.

Can the Mayor tell me, how many times he or his officers met Berkeley Homes to discuss these financial commitments? What specific amounts have been agreed to be directed to this scheme. What other schemes has the developer agreed to support for the building of these huge range site towers which include but not limited to a 28 storey monstrosity?”

**8. Petitions presented under Council Procedure Rule 12.0**

A petition in the following terms has been received. At the time of agenda publication the petition contained 115 signatures of Watford residents.

Statement –

“Since Watford Market was moved to the top end of the town, the majority of market units / stalls have significantly declined bringing the market almost to extinction. Stall holders and residents feel rents are too high, location is poor, market area is uninviting as well as difficult to find (out of sight and tacked away indoors at top end of town in shipping containers).

We, the undersigned, petition Watford Council as concerned citizens who urge Watford Council to acknowledge that the market is failing in its present form and we are requesting a full ‘rethink’ / ‘review’ about what type of market we want for the future. We demand the following be re-considered a) better location of stalls to enhance visibility and presence (along high street) b) affordable rents c) consider introducing variety of stalls e.g. Traditional Market stalls, Farmers Market, Christmas Market, Speciality Markets e.g. French, similar to St Albans market.”

**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. Report by Committee for Standards in Public Life on Review Of Standards in Local Government (Pages 15 - 132)**

Report of Standards Committee and Group Head of Democracy and Governance

**11. Watford BC Corporate Plan 2020 (Pages 133 - 155)**

Report from Cabinet held on 2 March 2020.

**12. Pay Policy Statement (Pages 156 - 177)**

Report of the Group Head of HR

**13. Vice Chairman 2020/21 nominations (Pages 178 - 186)**

Report of the Democratic Services Manager

#### **14. Motions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13.0**

1. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Bell –

“This Council notes the recent publication of the ‘Marmot Review’ and the implications for communities that are suffering still from austerity and the subsequent health inequalities that have been made worse by it.

The Council notes the change in life expectancy particularly for women since 2011 as revealed in the Marmot Review.

This Council resolves that future policy by the Mayor and his administration should properly take account of the results and conclusions of the Marmot review in helping to create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities.”

2. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Sharpe and seconded by the Elected Mayor –

“Council notes that the government have placed significant pressure on Watford Borough Council to deliver more homes, tripling the council’s housing target to deliver 793 dwellings a year.

Councils notes that the government, as part of the National Planning Policy Framework, are planning to meet their promise to build 300,000 new homes a year by building heavily on brownfield land. Watford is made up of 95% brownfield land, meaning we will be under increase pressure to build more homes, particularly near public transport interchanges.

Council believes that we have a housing crisis across the country and therefore we should build more good quality homes, particularly for local families and young people who may otherwise find it difficult to get on the housing ladder.

Council believes that the government’s current National Planning Policy Framework seriously constrains council’s powers to insist that developers provide affordable housing or infrastructure such as schools, doctors surgeries or improved public transport in new development.

Council believes that effective planning policy should require improvements to public transport and to infrastructure such as schools, health facilities etc. as part of new development to ensure there is a good quality of life for existing and new residents.

Council calls on the government to reform its current rules surrounding

development to give councils more power to:

- Challenge unrealistic targets.
- Insist on improved infrastructure with new developments.
- Challenge viability assessments that allow developers to get away without providing adequate affordable housing for local young people.
- Scrap permitted development rights that lead to substandard homes being built, such as the recent case of windowless flats in Wellstones.

Council resolves for the Mayor to write to the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to call on reform to planning rules to give councils more powers. “

3. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Dychton and seconded by Councillor Collett –

“Council notes that EU nationals from the other 27 EU member states are part of our shared communities alongside UK citizens. They are our husbands, wives, parents, friends and colleagues. They are an integral part of a vibrant and thriving town. There are over 8000 EU nationals living in the town who make a valuable contribution to life in Watford.

Council notes that the government’s current Settled Status Scheme is ineffective, with many EU nationals not applying for the status and those who do being incorrectly denied their rights to stay in this country.

Council notes and supports the actions the Mayor has already taken in this area by writing to all EU Nationals on the electoral register to encourage them to apply for the government’s Settled Status Scheme.

Council believes that EU nationals play an integral role in Watford, particular their part in working in our key public services and the number of EU nationals who have settled in the town deserve to be able to stay.

Council calls for Watford Borough Council to do all they can to support EU nationals in Watford apply for the Settled Status Scheme so they can continue playing an important part in our town’s life. This includes:

- Holding regular drop in sessions at the Town Hall and/or other locations in the town where appropriate to provide advice and support for EU nationals about their legal rights post Brexit.
- Further promoting the government’s Settled Status Scheme to EU Nationals in Watford via social media and engagement with the EU national community in the town.

Council calls for the Mayor to write to the Home Secretary seeking improvements to the European Settlement scheme, which include:

- i. Confirming that there will be no changes to the rights of settled EU citizens living in the UK.
- ii. Replacing the current European Settlement scheme with a registration scheme without a deadline where EU citizens are considered lawful by default and can request a proof of immigration status only when they are asked to demonstrate it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing as a series of overlapping, horizontal loops and lines.

**Donna Nolan, Managing Director**

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'M' and 'L' followed by a horizontal line.

**Manny Lewis, Managing Director**