



**WATFORD  
BOROUGH  
COUNCIL**



# **COUNCIL MEETING**

**19 July 2022**

**7.30 pm**

**Town Hall, Watford**

## **Contact**

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**Publication date: 11 July 2022**

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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, 19 July 2022 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 24 May 2022 to be submitted and signed.

**4. Official Announcements**

**5. Mayor's Report (Pages 6 - 11)**

Report from Mayor Taylor

**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. Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22 (Pages 12 - 21)**

Report of the Senior Democratic Services Officer

**11. Neighbourhood Locality Fund Annual Report 2021/22 (Pages 22 - 25)**

Report of the Democratic Services Officer (IS)

**12. Council Pay Policy Statement - August 2022 (Pages 26 - 67)**

Report of the Executive Head of Human Resources and Organisational

Development

**13. Council Plan 2022-26 and Delivery Plan 2022-24 (Pages 68 - 146)**

Report of Cabinet and the Managing Director

**14. Shared Services (Pages 147 - 402)**

Report of Cabinet and the Executive Head of Commercial Finance and Innovation

Please note the appendices to the Cabinet report are exempt under paragraph 1, Part 1 Schedule 12A, as they contain information that enable the identification of individuals.

**15. Motions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13.0**

1. The following motion has been proposed by Mayor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Pattinson –

This Council notes that:

On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54 per cent.

In light of the increased energy price cap, the average standard tariff energy bill will increase by £693 per year. The average pre-pay meter energy bill will increase by £708 per year (Ofgem, 2022).

On 6 April 2022, the Government increased National Insurance by 1.25 percentage points, which is projected to cost the average family in Watford an additional £600 a year.

The Government has suspended the pensions 'triple lock' for 2022/3, meaning Watford's 16,325 pensioners will see a rise of 3.1 per cent this year (instead of 8.3 per cent under the triple lock formula). This year, this will cost pensioners in Watford hundreds of pounds.

In 2021/22 Watford Foodbanks distributed food parcels at a rate of 9533 per 100,000 people (Trussell Trust, 2022). There are also many independent foodbanks also operating in Watford which means that this figure is likely to be much, much higher. We recognise the amazing work of the people operating food banks throughout our town and know they are supporting people to be able to feed their families at this time.

Council notes the decision taken in June 2022 to impose a 'Windfall Tax' on the super-profits of oil and gas companies and to redistribute this as a one-

off payment of £400 to households later this year. Council notes that the Windfall Tax was first proposed by Sir Ed Davey MP, leader of the Liberal Democrats, in May 2022. Though the Windfall Tax is welcome, Council believes it does not go nearly far enough and the Government should be doing much more to support local people through the Cost of Living crisis.

The Council is currently working with all relevant partners and stakeholders in our town to come together to understand the impact of the crisis on them / their clients and how we can all work together to maximise the support outcomes from our combined activities. But we recognise that this is not enough.

This Council therefore declares a 'Cost of Living Emergency' and calls on the Government to:

Immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20 per cent to 17.5 per cent for one year, saving the average household in Watford a further £600 this year

Immediately re-introduce the pension's triple lock to support Watford's pensioners.

Immediately restore the Universal Credit supplement of £20, which was cancelled by the Government in September 2021.

Finally the Council calls on the Elected Mayor of Watford to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to express the Council's demands for VAT to be cut to 17.5%, for the re-introduction of the pension's triple-lock and for the £20 Universal Credit supplement to be restored in response to this crisis.

2. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Bell, the seconder to be advised –

The pandemic brought into sharp focus the imbalance of power in the workplace that Trades Unions and the Labour Party have long sought to rectify.

Wages have stagnated for over a decade and work is becoming increasingly insecure.

Since the Conservatives came to power 12 years ago, In-Work poverty, low pay and financial insecurity have become rampant.

Incomes have stagnated and many workers have experienced real terms pay

decline.

This Council fully supports ending the pernicious practice of 'Fire and rehire' and banning 'Zero contracts' and we will make sure Watford Council has a family friendly policy balancing work home, community and family life.

This Council calls on Watford's M.P. to stand up for these principles and support them in Government.

## **16. Exclusion of Press and Public**

**The Chair to move:** that, under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for aspects of previous items of business as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during consideration of the item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Section 100(1) of the Act for the reasons stated in terms of Schedule 12A.

**Note: if approved, the Chair will ask members of the press and public to leave the meeting at this point.**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Donna Nolan', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Donna Nolan, Managing Director**