



**WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL**



COUNCIL MEETING

31 January 2023

7.30 pm

3rd floor Annexe, 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, 31 January 2023 starting at 7.30 pm at the 3rd floor Annexe, 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 17 October 2022 to be submitted and signed.

4. Official Announcements

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

6. Questions by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 10.0

7. Petitions presented under Council Procedure Rule 12.0

8. 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.

9. Appointment of Chair to Licensing Committee (Pages 12 - 14)

Report of the Democratic Services Manager

10. Request from Hertsmere Borough Council asking Watford to make a joint application for a Principal Area Boundary Review (Pages 15 - 34)

Report of the Group Head of Democracy and Governance

11. New Polling Station Locations from May 2023 (Pages 35 - 40)

Report of the Electoral Services Manager

12. Members Allowances 2022/2023 (Pages 41 - 47)

Report of the Democratic Services Manager

13. Budget and Council Tax Resolution 2023/24 (Pages 48 - 179)

Report of the Director of Finance

14. Motions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13.0

1. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Stotesbury and seconded by Mayor Taylor:

Council notes:

- That the Labour Mayor of London Sadiq Khan has announced his intention to expand the Ultra Low Emission Zone to the London border, starting August 2023.
- That within the ULEZ, all vehicles not meeting the “ultra low emission vehicle” standard are charged £12.50 per day each time they are used, both residents’ vehicles and visitors’.
- That the expansion to the London border will have knock-on effects to residents in Watford and in many other local authorities on the edge of London.
- Due to poor public transport links in outer London and nearby areas, Watford residents are unfairly penalised because people in these areas are more likely to own a car, more likely to need a car, and less able to find alternatives.
- Further, older cars which will be hit with the ULEZ charge will be disproportionately owned by people on lower incomes who cannot afford a newer replacement vehicle.
- Watford is served by a number of TfL services and as such, residents in Watford are paying into TfL’s budget but do not have access to the TfL scrappage scheme.

Council acknowledges:

- That Mayor of Watford, Peter Taylor has written to Sadiq Khan to outline opposition to the ULEZ expansion until such time as:
 - The car scrappage scheme is extended to Watford
 - Watford stations are included in zone 6 to reduce public transport costs
- That the initial requirement for TfL to find new revenue from expanding current schemes was part of a negotiated funding settlement with the Conservative government.

Council calls for:

- The immediate announcement from the Labour Mayor of London that ULEZ expansion will be halted or delayed.
 - Watford residents to be included in TfL's scrappage scheme to enable the transition from polluting vehicles to ULEZ compliant vehicles.
 - Investment from TfL and Hertfordshire County Council in public transport in order to help the switch from private to public transport
 - The inclusion of Watford stations into zone 6 of the TfL network to reduce costs for local residents.
2. The following motion has been proposed by Mayor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Allen-Williamson:

Council notes that recent statistics compiled by the BBC show:

- That at West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust, 71% of ambulances are waiting longer than 30 minutes before handing over to A&E staff, more than double the figure in 2019 and well above the national average of 44%.
- At the trust, more people are waiting longer to see a doctor in A&E. In 2019, 18% of patients waited more than four hours to be seen. That figure is now 42%.
- That hospital waiting lists in the trust have risen by 158% since 2019 and over half of patients are waiting more than 18 months for treatment.

Council believes

- That local NHS staff are working incredibly hard and that local residents are proud of the work of health workers and social care workers do every day to help others.
- That management in the local NHS Trust have been successful in improving the standard of care over recent years and have been rightly recognised by national awards for their work and innovations such as digital wards.
- That the current crisis is a result of a long period of underfunding by the Conservative government, long term issues with the social care sector, and a staffing crisis caused by a lack of long term thinking.
- That anti-strike legislation proposed by the government to ensure minimum staffing levels will make industrial relations worse, attack individual rights, and are a way for the government to distract from their failures.
- That local health outcomes would be vastly improved by implementing plans for investment at Watford General Hospital and hospitals at St Albans and Hemel Hempstead.

Council calls for

- The Secretary of State for Health and Social care to immediately fund

the improvement plans set out by West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust and supported by Watford Borough Council

- The Conservative government to drop plans to legislate against the right to strike and to achieve a fair pay deal with nurses, ambulance workers and other key workers.
- The government to deal with the current NHS crisis and then create a long term strategy to properly fund and staff our precious health service.

3. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Dhindsa and seconded by Councillor Trebar:

We call on the Council to use its powers and influence to create a new BID zone in West Watford.

To work with the County Council and other agencies to maintain and upgrade the streetlights in Vicarage Road precinct

So that they can be used for festive lights in the future.

Also to provide hanging baskets in the spring and summer along with new signage highlighting the amenities on offer in the precinct.

This creation of a new BID could then provide sustained funding for the lights and provide future improvements for the area.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna Nolan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donna Nolan, Chief Executive