



**WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL**



COUNCIL MEETING

17 October 2022

7.30 pm

Town Hall, Watford

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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 Monday, 17 October 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 19 July 2022 to be submitted and signed.

4. Official Announcements

5. Mayor's Report (Pages 5 - 9)

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. Appointment of Chair to Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Pages 10 - 12)

11. Watford Local Plan (Pages 13 - 418)

12. Council Scheme of Delegation (Pages 419 - 506)

Report of the Group Head of Democracy and Governance

13. Motions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13.0

1. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Watling and

seconded by Councillor Bell –

This council resolves that the Mayor write to Watford's MP Dean Russell to speak up on behalf of his residents on issues such as the cost of living crisis, the disastrous effects the mini budget has had on the pound and the huge profits made by energy companies whilst his constituents' bills & mortgage costs continue to rise.

2. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Turmaine and seconded by Councillor Khan –

Motion to Council: Warm Banks in Watford

This Council also notes that:

Many individuals and families will not be able to warm their homes this winter due to the cost of energy, despite the government's deferred payment energy unit price cap. Increasingly, councils like Watford are creating 'Warm Bank' schemes, to give residents a place to stay warm and keep the cost of bills at home down after school and during evenings and weekends.

This Council believes that:

No one should go cold in Watford. Fuel poverty in the United Kingdom is disgraceful and a shaming indictment of the policies of the Conservative government. People should be able to affordably warm their own homes

This Council resolves:

That Watford Council will develop an emergency plan for the use of 'Warm Banks' across the borough. This includes the opening of community centres, leisure centres and other suitable buildings to provide support.

To work closely and provide extra funding for charities that are combating poverty such as food banks, children's and pensioners poverty charities.

Work with local businesses across Watford this winter so that they too, can help with dealing with the emerging fuel crisis.

That Watford Council will write to Dean Russell, Watford's MP, to demand the government does more in dealing with fuel poverty in the town by providing funding to councils to cope this winter.

3. The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Stotesbury with a seconder to be advised –

Council notes with concern recent reports that all 980 staffed ticket offices

in England could be closed, following discussions between the Department for Transport and the Rail Delivery Group and changes to the Government's guidance relating to ticket office opening hours.

Council believes that ticket offices provide a vital service to residents in Watford. Having a clearly sign-posted place in the station for people with ticket enquiries provides certainty and confidence for customers who may struggle to otherwise locate station staff.

Not all residents are able to use station ticket machines, or have the means to book a ticket in advance. Complicated journeys involving connections are likely to require human assistance to ensure customers purchase the most appropriate and cheapest tickets, and do not incur penalties from mis-booked tickets.

Council is concerned the closure of ticket offices will disproportionately affect elderly and disabled residents in Watford – as well as those with poor literacy and IT skills. Council also notes the possible implications for current station staff and the concerns that have been raised over possible staff redundancies.

Council therefore resolves:

That the Mayor to write to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, and the Government Railways Minister, expressing Council's opposition to the possible closure of staffed rail ticket offices – and in particular the office at Watford Junction.

That the Mayor to write to London North Western Railway expressing the Council's opposition to any plans to close the staffed ticket office at Watford Junction.

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

Donna Nolan, Chief Executive