



Council Meeting

**Wednesday, 24th
July, 2019**

HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Hastings Borough Council to be held at the Council Chamber, Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 3UY, on Wednesday, 24th July, 2019 at 6.00 pm at which meeting the business specified below is proposed to be transacted.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Legal Officer

Muriel Matters House
Breeds Place
Hastings

16 July 2019

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 15 May 2019
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Announcements from the Mayor and Leader
5. Questions (if any) from:
 - a) Members of the public under Rule 11
 - b) Councillors under Rule 12
6. Motion (Rule 14)

Councillor Batsford to propose:

“Over the last four years, Hastings has seen a huge rise in the

numbers of households threatened with homelessness through the increased use of 'No-Fault Section 21 Notices' of the 1988 Housing Act, which allows landlords to carry out 'no fault' evictions.

Over 27% of all accepted homelessness applications in Hastings now result from 'No-Fault Section 21 Notices' evictions.

This widespread use of 'No-Fault Section 21 Notices' results in insecurity for private tenants and disruption to family life, as well as affecting job security, educational performance in children, and mental health, with families continuously under the threat of potential eviction proceedings.

In Hastings, which has the largest proportion of private rented housing in the south east, it also creates instability in local communities, with transient populations who are never able to settle.

There is not only a personal cost for Hastings but a financial one as well. Temporary accommodation for those who are accepted as homeless now costs the council over £1m.

Abolishing 'No-Fault Section 21 Notices' would provide increased security for tenants, as well as reducing the homelessness burden on local authorities, particularly if coupled with the government's proposals to extend the minimum period for shorthold tenancies from six months to three years.

This Council:

1. Calls for the end of the use of 'No-Fault Section 21 Notices' evictions.
2. Instructs the Leader of Hastings Council to write on behalf of the council to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, asking him to repeal 'No-Fault Section 21 Notices' of the Housing Act 1988 and to speedily implement their proposals for three year fixed term tenancies."

7. Motion (Rule 14)

Councillor Chowney to propose:

"Since 2002 people seeking asylum have only been able to apply for the right to work after they have been waiting for a decision on their asylum claim for over a year. Even then they can only be employed into one of the narrow, highly-skilled professions included on the Government's Shortage Occupation List.

People seeking asylum are left to live on as little as £5.39 per day,

struggling to support themselves and their families, and left vulnerable to destitution, isolation, and exploitation.

The potential economic gain for the UK economy of allowing people seeking asylum to work is estimated to be £42.4million via increased taxable income and reduced payments of accommodation / subsistence support.

71% of people polled agreed with the statement: *“when people come to the UK seeking asylum it is important they integrate, learn English and get to know people. It would help integration if asylum-seekers were allowed to work if their claim takes more than six months to process”*.

In Hastings, there are up to 120 people seeking asylum in receipt of Section 95 support.

We believe that:

- (i) people seeking asylum want to be able to work so that they can use their skills and make the most of their potential, integrate into their communities, and provide for themselves and their families;
- (ii) restrictions on the right to work can lead to extremely poor mental health outcomes, and a waste of potentially invaluable talents and skills both for the economy of Hastings, Rye, East Sussex and the UK;
- (iii) allowing people seeking asylum the right to work would therefore lead to positive outcomes for those seeking asylum in Hastings and for the local and national economy.

This council:

- (i) Agree to join the Lift the Ban Coalition, which is campaigning to restore the right to work for everyone waiting for more than 6 months for a decision on their asylum claim.
- (ii) Call on East Sussex County Council to also join the Lift the Ban Coalition as above.
- (iii) Call on the UK Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work unconstrained by the shortage occupation list after they have waited six months for a decision on their initial asylum claim or further submission.”

8. Motion (Rule 14)

Councillor Rankin to propose:

“HBC will consider the carbon reducing impact of planting trees on council land and where appropriate plant trees or managed hay meadows to increase carbon sequestration as set out in The Royal Society Greenhouse Gas Removal report of October 2018. We call on ESCC to implement this policy on a wider scale.”

9. Motion (Rule 14)

Councillor Barnett to propose:

“Recent evidence shows that poverty in Hastings has worsened significantly in the last few years. More adults live in poverty, more children live in poverty, and those that do so are likely to die even sooner, at all age groups. Especially shocking is that infant mortality has increased for the first time in 60 years, so poorer parents are now more likely to see their new baby die before that baby is one year old.

For those in poverty, the early roll out of Universal Credit has led to further disadvantage, with many denied previous benefits or forced to abandon training and higher education. The recent United Nations report concludes that austerity policies have clearly contributed to this growth in poverty and deprivation.

Demand for temporary accommodation has increased dramatically as housing becomes increasingly unaffordable.

The Child Poverty rate for Hastings is now 38%, by far the highest in the South East.

Many children are not attending school regularly, and are increasingly obese by the age of 11.

The increasing attractiveness of Hastings as a place to move to, with a buoyant creative economy, cuts little ice with those who see their standard of living falling further and further behind the better off.

Rather, they see many support services failing to provide adequate support, with schools, GP's and other health services, voluntary sector groups and the local authorities all struggling with increased demand and reduced budgets.

This council is determined to address poverty in whatever ways are possible, and agrees to:

- Press government for an end to short term funding through competitive grants (ie Homelessness provision) and other initiatives, such as Hastings Opportunity Area, and a return to adequate long-term support based on local needs.

- Ask the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the impact of the anti-poverty strategy 2016-21 and for it to undertake to monitor key indicators of poverty on a regular basis.
- Call for a community conference to consider how best to tackle poverty in the next anti-poverty strategy, and to consider making this strategy a longer term (10 year) one to encourage partners to plan joint action more strategically.
- The council is already committed to fund and support voluntary sector advice and support agencies (HARC, CAB and Credit Union) for 2020/21, but we'll do all we can to protect funding to commission effective advice and support services in future years.
- Sign up to become affiliated to the Child Poverty Action Group.
- Support and encourage others to support the day of action on child poverty in Hastings on August 1st, led by Unite the Community and other local voluntary organisations.”

10. Membership of Committees

To give effect to any request received from a political group for a change in their representation on committee(s).

11. Reports of Committees

- a) To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of any items considered while the public were excluded by the relevant committee because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 referred to in the minutes of the relevant committee.
- b) To receive and consider the recommendations and any decisions of the following committees.

Notes:

1. The Mayor will call over the minutes and members will rise and indicate those items which they wish to have discussed.
2. No discussion shall take place at this stage upon part II minutes covered by the resolution 11a) above. Any such discussion shall be deferred to item 12 on the agenda.

Minute No.	Subject	Cabinet Member / Chair
CABINET – 8 JULY 2019		
182. (C)	Constitution Change July 2019	Rogers
183. (C)	Sex Establishments Policy Review	Fitzgerald
184.	Lower Tier Residential Development	Batsford
185.	Proposed Variation of the Anti Social Behaviour Public Spaces Protection Order	Fitzgerald
186.	Development of Income Generation, Regeneration and Energy Initiatives	Chowney
187.	Final Accounts 2018/19	Chowney
188.	Corporate Plan retrospective report on performance during 2018/19 and proposed Performance Indicator targets for 2019/20	Forward
190.	Cabinet Appointments to Committees, Working Groups and Partnerships	Chowney
191. (C)	Annual Treasury Management Outturn Report 2018/19	Chowney

12. To consider the recommendations and decisions of committees (if any) which the Council has resolved should be discussed after the exclusion of the public from the meeting.

Appendix - Cabinet Agenda 8 July 2019

Note: Nothing contained in this agenda or in the attached reports and minutes of committees constitutes an offer or acceptance of an offer or an undertaking or contract by the Borough Council