



# Council Meeting

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**Wednesday, 21st  
October, 2020  
6pm – 9pm**

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## HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a virtual meeting of the Hastings Borough Council to be held on Wednesday, 21st October 2020 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

13 October 2020

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### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Announcements from the Mayor and Leader
5. Questions (if any) from:
  - a) Members of the public under Rule 11 (Questions including supplementary and answers to be in writing)
  - b) Councillors under Rule 12
6. Motion (Rule 14)  
Councillor Evans to propose:  
  
“(I move) That Hastings Borough Council mark the 75 years since the atomic bombing of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, instantly killing an estimated 185,000 civilians, which is more than double the population of Hastings, by a letter of solidarity and friendship to the municipal authorities of both cities.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Hastings Borough Council calls upon the UK government to reverse plans to spend £205bn on the upgrade of our national nuclear arsenal.

As the representatives of our community it is our patriotic duty to ask for this money to be spent on guaranteeing the citizens of deprived coastal towns, such as Hastings, have access to world class health, education and housing.

It is our obligation as the stewards of our local environment to call on the government to spend this money in protecting our local, national and global environment.

We recognise the horrors of war for everyone unfortunate enough to be caught up in one, witnessing and experiencing violence which undoubtably scare people for life, both mentally and physically. Many of the homeless people on our streets bravely served in British wars, while refugees from those very same wars now flee for their lives and end up on our shores in Hastings. There are many victims of war.

To this end we resolve to write to the S-of-S for Defence asking for absolute guarantees that our serving citizens are in receipt of the very best to guarantee their safe return from active duty to family and into satisfying future employment.

We also resolve to write to the Home Office asking for Britain to take its fair responsibility for people displaced in war, which this country has been actively involved with, acknowledging international human rights.

From Hastings, a small town on a global stage, we can still reach out to unite with other voices to promote peace and reconciliation by supporting a Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Treaty. Therefore, we call on our government to sign and ratify it.”

7. Motion (Rule 14)

Councillor Marlow-Eastwood to propose:

“Recognition for posterity, of the outstanding achievements by the frontline workers of Hastings Borough.

Considering the incredible hard work, under the most difficult circumstances that most of us have ever had to face in our lifetimes. I would like to propose a motion, to recognise the phenomenal ongoing effort, that the many people of our Borough, working on the frontline have made and are continuing to deliver; supporting us during this most devastating time. By erecting in a prominent place, a permanent reminder, recognising and thanking them ALL, on our behalf.”

8. Motion (Rule 14)

Councillor Louise to propose:

“Hastings is a Community of Sanctuary and a town with increasingly diverse communities and residents. This Council recognises that it needs to lead by example on anti-racist conduct and the growing tide of antisemitism we are seeing in this country. Hate crime figures show that antisemitic hate crimes, along with all religious hate crimes, have risen alarmingly in the last five years.

In 2018 – 2019, antisemitism accounted for 18% of all religious hate crime in the UK, despite the Jewish population being less than 0.5% of the total population. The IHRA definition is the most widely accepted and recognised definition of anti-Jewish racism, and the vast majority of the Jewish community welcomes it as providing the protection they need. Therefore this Council resolves to join with 260 other local authorities, and the national Conservative and Labour Parties, to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism with all its working examples, to be included in the Council’s policy and practices.

The IHRA Definition

Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

The following examples may serve as illustrations:

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the

media, economy, government or other societal institutions.

- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.”

9. Motion (Rule 14)

Councillor Cox to propose:

“Hastings Borough Council has already made clear its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy, and continues with its ambitious target to make Hastings carbon neutral by 2030.

Further to this, we recognise...

- that very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity

generators to do so,

- that making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would enable and empower new local businesses, or councils, to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local customers, and
- that revenues received by new local renewable electricity providers could be used to help improve the local economy, local services and facilities and to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions;

We therefore resolve to support the Local Electricity Bill, currently supported also by 210 MPs from all political parties, 56 local authorities, 56 national charities and other national organisations including big energy suppliers. The bill, if made law, would establish a Right to Local Supply which would promote local renewable electricity supply companies and co-operatives by making the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply operation; and

We further resolve to:

- inform the local media of this decision,
- write to local the MP, asking her to support the Bill, and
- write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, expressing our support."

#### 10. Motion (Rule 14)

Councillor Rogers to propose:

"Hastings has a long tradition of welcoming people from a range of diverse backgrounds and celebrating difference, something which we all should be proud. Just some of the things we as a town have been support are:

City of Sanctuary, Lift the Ban, Black History month, International Women's Day, Holocaust Memorial Day, One Hastings Many Voices.

We work closely as a council to support and engage with the numerous faith groups right across the Borough with strong links for example to the Hastings Mosque, the Inter Faith Forum and the Chinese Community where we join together every year to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

Our festivals which the council are proud to be involved in include Hastings Pride, Jack in the Green, Bonfire celebrations, Hastings Old Town Week and Carnival, Hastings Week, Storytelling Festival and these help to bring together our community.

The advent of COVID, unprecedented in our lifetime, saw our town come together to set up things like the food hub, and provide accommodation for the homeless to ensure that people at the margins of our society were protected. We can be proud of our town's response.

Unfortunately, COVID has also served to highlight the inequalities in our society. The poorest and most economically disadvantaged are likely to be the hardest hit by this terrible disease. We also know that people from a BAME background have suffered higher mortality rates than the general population and keenly await the outcomes of ongoing research looking to explain these differences.

During this time the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement has been a stark reminder also of the inequalities that people of a BAME background still face. Hate crimes of homophobia and towards religious groups continue to rise.

Unfortunately, there is evidence to suggest that some groups are looking to exploit these differences and divide communities. We cannot afford to let the rich fabric of our town to be torn apart by letting such ideas take hold.

While we must await the outcomes of varying pieces of research and the government's commitment to a public enquiry on COVID with interest – there remain practical steps we can take now to help ensure the diverse communities of Hastings & St Leonard's continue to not only survive and but also to thrive. This motion, therefore, commits the council to the following practical steps:

1. The council reaffirms its commitment to combat, racism and prejudice in all its forms. In order to ensure that every individual feels safe, protected and comfortable we will look to work closely with the diverse range of communities in our town.
2. As part of our commitment to the above the council will formally adopt the *International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)'s working definition on antisemitism which defines antisemitism thus:*

*“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”*

3. We will continue to work as part of a City of Sanctuary to press local and national leaders to Lift the Ban on refugees being able to work

4. We will work with the Local Strategic Partnership to bring forward an Equalities Charter that is updated and refreshed to account for the issues raised by COVID and the BLM movement – which will include an associated action plan
5. The council will produce its initial interim report in this regard no later than February 2021
6. The council will look to have the renewed charter and any associated policy changes in place by no later than August 2021
7. The council will ensure that the new charter, once in place, is subject to a review every two years.”

11. Membership of Committees

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

12. 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.

<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Cabinet Member / Chair</b>
<b>CABINET – 2 MARCH 2020</b>		
246.	Local Development Scheme	Forward
248.	Reducing Rough Sleeping	Batsford
<b>CABINET (Decisions made under emergency powers) – 23 MARCH 2020</b>		
250.	Energy Procurement	Chowney
251.	Selective Licensing 2020	Batsford

252.	Climate Emergency Plan	Evans
<b>CABINET – 8 JUNE 2020</b>		
256.	COVID-19 response update	Forward
258. (E)	Dangerous Structure at 2 - 12 Battle Road	Forward
<b>CABINET (Decisions made under emergency powers) – 9 JUNE 2020</b>		
2.	Discretionary Business Grant Scheme Policy	Chowney
<b>CABINET – 6 JULY 2020</b>		
262.	Planning Enforcement Policy Updated	Forward
263.	Financial Implications Arising From Covid-19	Chowney
264.	Housing and Homelessness Recovery Plan	Batsford
265. (E)	Freedom Leisure Financial Support	Chowney
267. (E)	Potential Development - Cornwallis Street Car Park	Chowney
<b>CABINET – 1 SEPTEMBER 2020</b>		
271. (C)	Annual Treasury Management Outturn Report 2019/2020	Chowney
272.	Accelerated Town Fund Project – Investing in electric vehicle charging infrastructure in town centre public car parks	Evans
<b>CABINET – 5 OCTOBER 2020</b>		
276.	Medium Term Financial Strategy	Chowney
277.	Planning for recovery: HBC priorities and actions	Forward
278.	Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery	Batsford
279.	Next Steps Accommodation Programme (Recommendations 1-5)	Batsford
279. (C)	Next Steps Accommodation Programme (Recommendation 6)	Batsford
280.	Museum Committee Recommendations	Fitzgerald
281.	Hastings Town Fund £1m	Fitzgerald

	Accelerated Fund Projects	
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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 12a) above. Any such discussion shall be deferred to item 13 on the agenda.
13. 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 Agendas**

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