



Council Meeting

**Wednesday, 10th
February, 2021**

HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a virtual meeting of the Hastings Borough Council to be held on Wednesday, 10th February, 2021 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

2 February 2021

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
 - b) Councillors under Rule 12
6. Motion (Rule 14)
Councillor Davies to propose:

This Council continues to express its gratitude for the extraordinary effort undertaken by many in our Borough during the pandemic crisis that in turn has created a force for good. We are all proud of the response of our Council, our medical professionals, key workers, our

partners and the wider community effort across the Borough of Hastings and St. Leonards.

This Council believes that while the overwhelming majority of residents are playing their part in observing COVID regulations and a large number have taken on community volunteering roles, we are not 'all in this together'. When the pandemic is over the most vulnerable groups will still be vulnerable - economically, socially, academically and in their health and wellbeing outcomes. A resident living in one street will still be more likely to die 14 years earlier than a resident in the adjoining neighbourhood. We cannot accept this.

We are a council committed to narrowing the health gap. We are also a Council aware of the limits placed upon us. Therefore, whilst this Council welcomes the work already undertaken by ESCC Director of Public Health, before and during the pandemic, we remain acutely aware of the responsibility a phalanx of public bodies has for improving the health outcomes for our residents over the next decade.

We trust the result of this Motion will be to shine a spotlight beyond the well-rehearsed statistical recognition of health-inequality and onto the process by which these public bodies are forming and then acting upon a strategy to eradicate health-inequality from our Borough.

This motion is a challenge for all of us and especially those organisations whose very existence is predicated on improving the health and life-chances of our residents to act particular where there has been longstanding identified need.

The story of the primary care centre in the Ore Valley is a clear example of how desperate need does not lead to the prompt delivery of the required services, on time, to transform the health of our residents in Baird ward.

This motion calls on NHS England to deliver this primary care centre as a matter of necessity and as a clear signal of a new desire, the force for good extracted from the trauma of pandemic, to eradicate health inequality in our Borough by 2029.

This Council resolves to:

1. Lobby NHS England and the Secretary of State for Health to deliver on the primary health care centre for the Ore Valley;
2. Encourage formal and informal partnerships to contribute positively to reducing health inequality across the borough;
3. Promote the need for a unifying strategic plan to eradicate severe health inequality from our Borough by 2029;
4. Promote our Corporate Plan, our post-Covid recovery work and all other opportunities and agency as they become available to

us as a means to this end;

5. Request a twice-yearly report on the progress of measures, taken by organisations operating within the Borough, to reduce health-inequality using national, county and local profiles from the Director of Public Health
6. Instigate with partners specific locality measures with outcomes that raise the life chances of particular vulnerable groups or neighbourhoods;
7. Consider the impact on public health and inequality of our own decision-making, for example within the draft local plan;
8. Invite our MP to take up the mantle of reducing health inequality in the most deprived wards she represents.

7. Motion (Rule 14)

Councillor Levane to propose:

No cuts to Universal Credit – let families keep the £20 increase

Aim: To maintain the income of low and middle income families.

This council notes:

Next April the government plans to cut the benefit level for millions of claimants by ending the time limited increase to the basic rate of Universal Credit (and the tax credit equivalent) announced by the Chancellor on 20th March as part of his pandemic response package.

The £20 a week boost reflected the reality that the level of benefits were not adequate to protect the swiftly increasing number of households relying on them as the crisis hit. Exactly because that increase was a very significant and welcome move to bolster low- and middle-income families' living standards, its removal will be a huge loss.

Pressing ahead would see the level of unemployment support fall to its lowest real-terms level since 1990-91, and its lowest ever relative to average earnings. Indeed, the basic level of out-of-work support prior to the March boost was – at £73 a week (£3,800 a year) – less than half the absolute poverty line.

The increase in benefits has had a positive effect on the lives of thousands of local claimants who are better able to pay for life's essentials such as food, clothing and utilities.

The local economy has also benefited from the increase in benefit levels as claimants spend their money locally thereby supporting local businesses and jobs.

This council resolves to:

- Write to the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak and to the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson demanding that the £20 increase to Universal Credit is made permanent and extended to claimants on legacy benefits.
- Work with other local government organisations to form a coalition to pressure the government to make the £20 increase to Universal Credit permanent.

8. Motion (Rule 14)

Councillor Rogers to propose:

Hastings Borough Council calls upon this government to extend the legislation allowing councils to hold 'virtual' meetings beyond the end of April 2021 to allow for all council meetings in the future to be conducted face to face (when Covid restrictions are lifted) with the public present, but also to continue to be accessed via a virtual platform whilst being livestreamed to the public.

There are many councillors and officers who will welcome the return to face to face meetings but the role of local government is to reach out and engage with the whole community particularly those who for whatever reason are more isolated.

In Hastings councillors work hard to ensure that every resident feels that their views are heard and they feel they are a part of the democratic structure of the town. One of the ways that this can be achieved is to target the under represented groups and support them to become spokespeople for their communities and ultimately councillors.

One of the major barriers to many people feeling they are able to stand for election is their inability to be able to attend the required number of council meetings. There are many reasons for this from caring responsibilities, disability, work commitments, financial constraints and the establishing of hybrid meetings will allow members to join remotely and will give more people from our town a voice.

We ask that the Leader of the Council writes to the appropriate Minister to pass on our comments.

9. Membership of Committees

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

10. Appointment of Statutory Monitoring Officer

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.

Minute No.	Subject	Cabinet Member / Chair
CABINET – 4 JANUARY 2021		
298. (C)	Treasury Management – Mid-Year Report 2020/21	Chowney
299.	Hastings Draft Local Plan – Regulation 18 Consultation	Forward
300.	Housing Renewal Enforcement Policy	Batsford
301.	Hastings Country Park Visitor Centre Part 1	Evans
302. (E)	Hastings Country Park Visitor Centre Part 2	Evans
303. (E)	Cornwallis Street Car Park – Potential Development	Chowney
CABINET – 8 FEBRUARY 2021		
307. (C)	Pay Policy Statement 2021/22	Rogers
308.	Churchfields Business Centre – Incubator Units	Chowney

c)

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.
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 MINUTES

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