



# Council Meeting

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**Wednesday, 26th  
April, 2023**

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## 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. Please enter the building through the Contact Centre entrance via the seafront., on Wednesday, 26th April, 2023 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

18 April 2023

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

a. notes that:

- (i) Hastings is proud of our history of welcoming people seeking safety in our town.
- (ii) there are significant problems with the UK asylum system that affect people in Hastings, including a record backlog of cases awaiting a decision, a de facto ban on working, and enforced poverty and homelessness;
- (iii) the Nationality and Borders Act does not address these issues, and has instead created a two-tier system, punishing people seeking safety based on the journeys they make;
- (iv) under these laws, people seeking safety will be criminalised and threatened with removal to Rwanda;
- (v) people will be warehoused in large accommodation centres, segregated from communities and denied support;
- (vi) many recognised refugees will receive a temporary and precarious status;
- (vii) over 400 charities and faith groups have signed a national pledge to 'Fight the 'Anti-Refugee Laws'.

b. believes that:

- (i) everyone's claim for asylum should be treated equally and fairly;
- (iii) these are fundamentally 'anti-refugee' laws that undermine internationally recognised rights for people fleeing war and persecution to seek safety;
- (iv) these measures will create ever-longer delays in the asylum process, lead to greater poverty and homelessness in Hastings and will undermine people's ability to rebuild their lives;
- (v) people seeking safety should be accommodated as our neighbours and as a part of our communities;
- (vi) the UK needs an asylum system that empowers people seeking safety to rebuild their lives and enables communities to welcome them;

c. resolves to:

(i) defend the right to seek safety from war and persecution in the UK and sign the national 'Fight the Anti-Refugee Laws' pledge;

(ii) call on the UK Government to withdraw the UK-Rwanda agreement, repeal the Nationality and Borders Act, and work with Local Authorities and communities to build a refugee protection system that treats all people with dignity and compassion;

(iii) work with local organisations and people with lived experience of the asylum system to identify ways to mitigate the effects of these measures in Hastings;

(iv) Continue as members of City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network which promotes the inclusion and welfare of people who are fleeing violence and persecution and continue being a Council of Sanctuary.

7. Motion (Rule 14)

Councillor Carr to propose:

This Council recognises that as the 13<sup>th</sup> most deprived town in England on the Indices of Deprivation many children in our town often go hungry, impacting on their education, health, general wellbeing and happiness.

As a Council we want to do all that we can to make sure no child is hungry and to that end we ask that the Leader of this Council writes to East Sussex County Council, who manages free school meals for this area, to ask that they engage with Feeding Britain to discuss enrolling the area in their new trial aimed at increasing the uptake of free school meals for eligible families, and that Hastings is prioritised for any such pilot due to the extreme level of local need – this would hopefully not just lead to more local children receiving a free school meal but would increase linked funding for our local schools that could benefit the most disadvantaged children in our town.

Further, this Council asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister asking that there be a review of the systems for free school meals, making it an opt out rather than an opt in system so meals are more easy to access, and also that he seeks to find the funds so that all children in England receive a free school meal or at the very least that he extends the programme to all children in households receiving Universal Credit or similar benefits. This action could make sure that the poorest children in our society are enabled to

receive a free meal and be ready to learn and live a happier and healthier life rather than suffering the daily hunger that impacts the lives of so many children in our town currently.

8. Motion (Rule 14)

Councillor Carr to propose:

St Mary in the Castle is a well-loved and significant part of Hastings' historic and cultural heritage and has recently been listed as an Asset of Community Value.

Its future is of concern to residents from all parts of Hastings and St Leonards and to their representatives across all political parties here at Hastings Borough Council.

This council believes that any decision made about the future of St Mary in the Castle is too important and impactful a decision to be made by a portfolio holder, the cabinet and one political party, or by officers alone.

This Council therefore resolves that the final decision to let or sell St Mary in the Castle will become a full council decision following an officer report on the viable option (s) identified that secures the buildings long term future.

This Council believes this process will allow for a greater level of openness and transparency and gives councillors the best opportunity to make an informed decision about the future of this iconic building on behalf of the town and residents they represent and achieve the best possible outcome for the local community we all serve.

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. Interim appointment of directors to the Hastings Housing Company

11. Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

12. Appointment of Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

13. 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 – 6 MARCH 2023</b>		
522.	Reviewing the Need for a Dog Control Public Space Protection Order	Rogers
523.	To Appoint a Vice-Chair of the Country Park Management Forum	Barnett
<b>CABINET – 3 APRIL 2023</b>		
527.(C)	Review of the Hastings Borough Council Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles	Roark
528.(C)	Town Living Project	Evans
589	Energy Procurement – Electricity	Willis
530	Museum Committee Recommendations	Batsford

C= Council decision  
E= Exempt from publication

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 13a) above. Any such discussion shall be deferred to item 14 on the agenda.
14. 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.

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