



Meeting of the Council

Monday, 1st December, 2014 at 6.00pm

in the Council Chamber at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the numbered agenda items listed below.

Agenda - Public Session (Meeting open to the public and press)

Prayers

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To receive any declarations of interest under the Members' Code of Conduct.
3. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 13th and 24th October, 2014 as a correct record (Pages CL/25 – CL/34).
4. Mayor's Announcements.
5. Leader of the Council (Pages 1 – 2)
6. To receive reports from meetings as follows:

Meeting of the Cabinet held on 29th October, 2014:

Councillor S Turner to move:

- (a) Medium Term Financial Strategy (Pages 3 – 5)

Councillor P Lowe to move:

- (b) Capital Programme Monitoring (Pages 6 – 13)

Councillor G Partridge to move:

- (c) Review of Housing Finance (Pages 14 – 29)

Councillor R Harris to move:

- (d) Annual Review of the Constitution (Pages 30 – 39)

7. Notices of Motion

To consider the following notices of motion:

- (a) Received from Councillor Q Zada on 24th October, 2014

This Council notes:

That the Council has a duty to procure goods in a responsible manner, given the economic, social and environmental impact of its decision making.

That the Council's Procurement Strategy is designed to promote equality and diversity and should not adversely impact on communities.

That the Council will develop its "Love Your Local Community" campaign and philosophy and where any procurement activity leads to outcomes which fall short of this aspiration, then the Council makes every effort to mitigate this risk.

That the Council welcomes any initiative that promotes further its recently adopted motion of Fair trade in December 2013 and that by carefully selecting suppliers, it can make a difference to the lives of people locally and beyond.

The Council therefore resolves to:-

Cease existing and future procurement of goods and services where there is a direct benefit to the State of Israel, including through the supply chain, subject to legal compliance with all relevant procurement, contractual, legislative and regulatory requirements until such time as the State of Israel complies with international law.

- (b) Received from Councillor P Brothwood on 11th November, 2014

Public Houses: The Council instructs that an immediate review is undertaken of the relevant policies, planning legislation and guidance concerning the change of use or redevelopment of a Public House, with a view to an assessment being undertaken of:

- a) A Viability report that demonstrates to the Council's satisfaction that the public house is no longer economically viable, including the length of time the public house has been vacant, evidenced by the applicant of active and appropriate marketing for a constant period of at least 36 months at the existing use value;

- b) The role the public house plays in the provision of space for community groups to meet and whether the loss of such space would contribute to a shortfall in local provision, including evidence that the premises have been offered to use or to hire at a reasonable charge to community or voluntary organisations over a 12 month period and there is no longer a demand for such use;
- c) The design, character and heritage value of the public house and the significance of the contribution that it makes to the streetscape and local distinctiveness, and where appropriate historic environment, and the impact the proposal will have on its significance;
- d) The ability and appropriateness of the building and site to accommodate an alternative use or uses without the need for demolition or alterations that may detract from the character and appearance of the building;

and that a report is submitted to the next available Development Control Committee.

- (c) Received from Councillor B Etheridge on 11th November, 2014

The Council notes the joint press statement dated 7th November, 2014 issued by the Leaders of the four Black Country Councils and Birmingham City Council concerning their agreement, in principle, to work as a Combined Authority.

There has been insufficient discussion of the implications of this key strategic issue at the Cabinet and the full Council. Councillors and local people have not been given the opportunity to engage in full and meaningful consultation on these proposals.

This Council therefore resolves:

- (1) That all work on the formation of a Combined Authority be suspended until such time as the implications have been fully debated; and
- (2) That a debate for all 72 Members concerning the Combined Authority proposals be organised to take place in this Council Chamber as a matter of urgency.

- 8. To answer questions under Council Procedure Rule 11.

Questions on the Minutes of the Cabinet and Committees, Community Forums and the Delegated Decision Summaries – these are contained in the separate book circulated to Members of the Council.

- 9. Strategic Director and Statutory Officer Appointments (Pages 40 – 42)
- 10. To consider any business not on the agenda which by reason of special circumstances the Mayor is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972.



Director of Corporate Resources

Dated: 21st November, 2014

Distribution: All Members of the Council

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- Information about the Council and our meetings can be viewed on the website www.dudley.gov.uk
- The Democratic Services contact officer for this meeting is Steve Griffiths, Telephone 01384 815235 or E-mail steve.griffiths@dudley.gov.uk