

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council to be held at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley on Monday, 16th April, 2007 at 6.00 pm for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the agenda below.

John Pryor

DIRECTOR OF LAW AND PROPERTY

4th April, 2007

A G E N D A

PRAYERS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.
2. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT.
3. MINUTES
TO APPROVE AS CORRECT RECORDS AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 26TH FEBRUARY AND 5TH MARCH, 2007 (PAGES CL/61 - CL/79).
4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.
5. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS:

PAGES

From To

Meeting of the Cabinet held on 21st March, 2007.

Councillor Caunt to move:

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| (a) Comprehensive Performance Assessment 2006. | 1 | 5 |
| (b) Council Plan Review 2007/10. | 6 | 11 |

- (c) Capital Programme Monitoring and Bids for External Funding. 12 18

Councillor Knowles to move:

- (d) Dudley Borough Economic Strategy 2007/08. 19 30

6. NOTICES OF MOTION:-

- (a) To consider the following Notice of Motion received from Councillor Simms on 27th February, 2007:-

“This Council respectfully calls upon the Department for Communities and Local Government to undertake an urgent review of the current planning appeals process with a view to making the process more transparent, equitable and democratic for local residents. This Council believes that, at present, the legislation and process for planning appeals is weighted too heavily in favour of applicants and does not offer sufficient scope for public objectors to participate fully and have their views taken into account in accordance with their democratic rights”.

- (b) To consider the following Notice of Motion received from Councillor Lowe on 30th March, 2007:-

“This Council notes that the Fairtrade Foundation, established in the UK in 1992, seeks to achieve the following:

- To alleviate poverty in developing countries by encouraging industry and consumers in the UK to support fair-trade.
- Through the Fairtrade Mark to guarantee standards for prices and working conditions for Third World producers and growers of products bearing the Mark.

This Council welcomes the initiatives by the Stourbridge Fairtrade Town Status Steering Group and by other groups in Dudley Metropolitan Borough to encourage the sale and use of Fairtrade goods. The increased sale of such goods in the UK directly reduces poverty and supports sustainable community development in the Third World.

There are now over 250 Fairtrade Towns, Cities, Boroughs and Villages in the UK. This Council understands that one of the requirements for Stourbridge and other towns to achieve Fairtrade Town Status is that a resolution must be passed by Dudley MBC in support of Fairtrade and with a commitment to offering Fairtrade tea and coffee at meetings, in its offices, and canteens.

Dudley Council, as an important consumer and opinion leader, should research, develop, and support a strategy, to facilitate the promotion and purchase of foods with the Fairtrade mark, as part of its commitment to promote and support sustainable development and give producers a fair deal.

Accordingly, this Council resolves to establish a working party with two members from each Group. The working party will consult interested community groups, working with designated council officers to:

- Develop activities by Dudley Borough Council supportive of Fairtrade.
- Present recommendations to the Cabinet for passing a supportive Fairtrade Resolution thereby facilitating Stourbridge and other towns in the Borough to seek to achieve Fairtrade Town Status during the 2007/8 Council year.”

7. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11.
8. 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 SECTION 100(B)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972.