

22 February 2019

To: **All Members of the Council**

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the North East Derbyshire District Council to be held **on Monday, 4 March 2019 at 2.00 pm in the Council Chamber**, District Council Offices, 2013 Mill Lane, Wingerworth, Chesterfield.



Joint Head of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1 For Members' information the following room arrangements have been made for Group Meetings prior to this Council meeting:

Labour Group	-	Council Chamber
Conservative Group	-	Executive Meeting Room
- 2 Members are requested to bring their laptops and iPads to the meeting where assistance will be provided to anyone who may require it in order to follow the meeting electronically.
- 3 Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 4 Any Members who are tenants of a Council property should declare an interest in respect of Item 8 but have an automatic dispensation to remain in the room, speak and vote on the item.
- 5 The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 require a recorded vote to be taken on any proposals relating to the budget and Council Tax.

AGENDA

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interest and/or other interests, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

3 Chair's Announcements (if any)

4 Apprentices

To receive a presentation on the above from the Joint Strategic Director – Place.

5 Public Participation

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 8 to allow members of the public to ask questions about the Council's activities for a period up to fifteen minutes. The replies to any such questions will be given by the appropriate Cabinet Member. Questions must be received in writing or by email to the Monitoring Officer by 12 noon seven clear working days before the meeting.

No questions have been submitted under Procedure Rule No 8 for this meeting.

6 To answer any questions from Members asked under Procedure Rule No 9.2

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 9.2 to allow members to ask questions about Council activities. The replies to any such questions will be given by the Chair of the Council or relevant Committee or the appropriate Cabinet Member. Questions must be received in writing or by email to the Monitoring Officer by 12 noon seven clear working days before the meeting.

Question submitted by Councillor Charlotte Cupit to Councillor Michael Gordon, Portfolio Holder for Environment:-

What action is this Council taking to encourage progress on unfinished building infill plots?

7 To consider any motions from Members under Procedure Rule No 10

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 10 to consider motions on notice from members. Motions must be received in writing or by email to the Monitoring Officer by 12 noon seven clear working days before the meeting.

Motion submitted by Councillor Alex Dale:

On Monday, 18 February 2019, the Labour Leader informed the Council of a recent customer service inspection which he contends had been positive.

Council notes that this is just one assessment on a particular aspect of the authority. As we approach the end of the current administration's term of office, and in the interests of balance, Council also notes the authority has been on the receiving end of a wide range of criticism from local residents and other external agencies, including over the following:-

- The Council's failure to put a new Local Plan in place over several years, which has meant that hundreds and hundreds of homes have been approved in entirely inappropriate locations, much to the frustration of local residents who care passionately about protecting the identity of their communities. Rightly so, the Secretary of State has nationally shamed this Council for being one of the worst performing in the Country for being so slow to act to put a Local Plan in place and for failing to fulfil its duties to the residents it serves.*
- The Council has ridden roughshod over the views of residents living in the District's northern communities in seeking to concrete over an equivalent of 96 football pitches worth of green belt land to build over 1,000 houses. It received feedback from over 4,000 residents who were strongly opposed to the plans in the form of a petition. Rather than giving the petition the consideration it deserved, this administration went to the extraordinarily anti-democratic lengths of amending the Constitution so that it could be ignored instead.*
- More recently, the Council has attracted severe criticism for its failure to adequately defend important planning appeals in the south of the District and has uniformly rejected several opposition calls for an urgent review to fix some of the problems within our local planning system.*
- The Council has ignored opposition calls to better promote Neighbourhood Plans to give local communities more of a say over the development of their areas. Worse still, some of those communities who have already pursued Neighbourhood Plans have fed back that that Council has been purposefully obstructive to them.*
- Earlier this year, the Council announced new proposals for traveller sites in the District, without giving the local communities affected any prior notice and only a relatively short window of opportunity to comment. At such a late stage in the Local Plan process, this is unforgivable and the Council's dire handling of this sensitive subject has contributed to the groundswell of opposition we have seen.*
- The Council has received scathing criticism from some Parish Councils for the significant reduction in the support it offers them, despite this being contrary to Government policy.*
- Under this administration, Council Tax has risen significantly in each of the last four years at the same time that millions of pounds have been put into reserves. The Council has failed to adequately justify why the increases were necessary when savings to offset them could have easily been found.*

- *The Council has ignored opposition calls for improved enforcement action against flytippers, despite this being a key concern for lots of our communities and an issue which is regularly fed back to Members.*
- *East Midlands Councils has refused to give the Council accreditation on member development because the administration refuses to work constructively with opposition parties.*
- *The Council also notes that North East Derbyshire District Council has continued to let residents down and should do more to rely on what they tell us and act accordingly.*

8 Report of Councillor P R Kerry, Portfolio Holder for Finance

Level of Council Tax 2019/20

9 Report of the Joint Head of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer

Joint Employment Committee & Joint Appeals Committee - Terms of Reference
