

Crawley Borough Council

Agenda for the Full Council

To: The Mayor and Members of the Council

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the **Full Council** which will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Crawley, on **Wednesday 23 October 2013 at 7.30 p.m.**

Nightline Telephone No. (01293) 551636



Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Please contact Roger Browning (Legal and Democratic Services Division) if you have any queries regarding this agenda.

Telephone number: 01293 438549

Email: democratic.services@crawley.gov.uk

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Emergency procedure for meetings will be circulated to Members and visitors attending this meeting. Please familiarise yourself with these procedures and the location of fire exits.

Duration of the Meeting

If the business of the meeting has not been completed within two and a half hours (normally 10.00 p.m.), then in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2, the Mayor will require the meeting to consider if it wishes to continue for a period not exceeding 30 minutes. A vote will be taken and a simple majority in favour will be necessary for the meeting to continue. (Following the meeting's initial extension, consideration will be given to extending the meeting by further periods not exceeding 30 minutes in each case).

Business - Part A

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. Members' Disclosures of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, members of the Council are reminded that it is a requirement to declare interests where appropriate.

3. Communications

To receive and consider any announcements or communications.

4. Presentation of Long Service Badges

The Mayor will present each of the following Members with a badge commemorating their long service as a Member of Crawley Borough Council:-

AWARD	NAME
15 Years	Councillor Quinn
10 Years	Councillor Burke

5. Public Question Time

To answer public questions under Council Procedure Rule 9. The questions must be on matters which are relevant to the functions of the Council, and should not include statements.

One supplementary question from the questioner will be allowed.

Up to 30 minutes is allocated to Public Question Time.

6. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings of the Full Council held on:-

(i) 24 July 2013. (The minutes are on pages 1 to 23 in the Book of Minutes Report, which Members will have before them).

(ii) 26 September 2013. (The minutes are on pages 24 to 33 in the Book of Minutes Report).

7. Items for debate (Reserved Items)

Prior to the introduction of the Reports of the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Committees (as contained in the Book of Minutes), Members will be given the opportunity to indicate on which items they wish to speak.

These Reserved Items will then be the only matters to be the subject of a debate.

8. Reports of the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Committees

- (1) To receive the following reports of the meetings of the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Committees.
 - (a) Development Control Committee – 15 July 2013.
 - (b) Development Control Committee – 5 August 2013.
 - (c) Development Control Committee – 2 September 2013.
Including Recommendation 1 relating to the Updating of the Council's Code of Conduct on Planning Matters.
 - (d) Licensing Committee – 4 September 2013.
Including Recommendation 2 relating to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013.
 - (e) Overview and Scrutiny Commission – 9 September 2013.
 - (f) Cabinet – 11 September 2013.
Including Recommendation 3 relating to the Quarterly Budget Monitoring 2013-2014 Quarter 1.
 - (g) Development Control Committee – 23 September 2013.
 - (h) Audit and Governance Committee – 30 September 2013.
 - (i) General Purposes Committee – 1 October 2013.
Including Recommendation 4 relating to Changes to the Constitution.
 - (j) Overview and Scrutiny Commission – 7 October 2013.
 - (k) Cabinet – 9 October 2013.
Including Recommendation 5, 6 and 7 relating to the Amendment to the Housing Allocations Scheme in response to Opportunities offered through the Localism Act 2011, the Review of Pension Discretions and the Amenity Services Local Pay Agreement.
- (2) To adopt the recommendations to full Council, which have not been reserved for debate.

9. Reserved Items

To deal with items reserved for debate including any recommendations, which have been identified by Members under Agenda Item 7.

Councillors who have reserved items for debate may speak on an item for no more than 5 minutes.

10. Notice of Motion

To consider, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12, the following Notice of Motion to be moved by Councillor Lamb and seconded by Councillor Joyce:-

“This council notes with concern the reductions in housing benefit for tenants in social housing on the basis of ‘under occupancy’, popularly known as the ‘Bedroom Tax’.

Tenants hit by the Bedroom Tax are often on the lowest incomes and, according to the Government’s own impact assessment, two-thirds of the households affected contain at least one disabled member.

Even before the introduction of the Bedroom Tax, the demand for smaller social rented properties in Crawley was considerably greater than the demand for larger properties and vastly greater in the case of one-bedroom properties.

Whatever the intentions of the scheme, the shortage of smaller properties in the town and the low incomes of those affected means that increasing homelessness is an inevitable consequence of the Government’s policy.

The impact of enforcing this policy locally comes at a financial cost to the council and a much greater social cost to the wider community.

This council also notes the actions taken by other local authorities to protect their residents from the Bedroom Tax and the recent announcement that, if elected in 2015, the Labour Party will make ending the policy a matter of priority.

As a result, this council resolves:

- (1) To call on the Government to reverse the changes to housing benefit, changes which cut housing benefit from some of Crawley’s most vulnerable residents on the grounds of ‘under occupancy’;
- (2) To instruct officers to investigate the ways other local authorities have protected their residents from the Bedroom Tax (including the re-classification of bedrooms in a property) and bring forward a scheme to that effect at the next meeting of Full Council;
- (3) To require that Crawley Homes officers make every conceivable effort to find alternatives to evicting families who cannot afford to pay the Bedroom Tax.”

11. Members’ Written Questions

To answer Members’ written questions under Council Procedure Rule 10.3.

12. Announcements by Cabinet Members

An opportunity for Cabinet Members to report verbally (if necessary) on issues relating to their Portfolio not covered elsewhere on the agenda and deal with questions relating to these issues.

13. Questions to Cabinet Members

To answer questions to Cabinet Members under Council Procedure Rule 10.1.

Up to 15 minutes is allocated for questions to Cabinet Members.

14. Questions to Committee Chairs

To answer questions to Committee Chairs.

Up to 15 minutes is allocated for questions to Committee Chairs.

15. Supplemental Agenda

Any urgent item(s) complying with Section 100(B) of the Local Government Act 1972.

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