

Full Council

15 November 2023



Working in partnership with **Eastbourne Homes**

Quorum: 7

Published: Tuesday, 7 November 2023

To the Members of the Borough Council

You are summoned to attend an ordinary meeting of Eastbourne Borough Council to be held at the Court Room at Eastbourne Town Hall, Grove Road, BN21 4UG on 15 November 2023 at 6.00 pm to transact the following business.

Agenda

1 Minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2023 (Pages 7 - 14)

2 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) by members as required under Section 31 of the Localism Act and of other interests as required by the Code of Conduct (please see note at end of agenda).

3 Mayor's announcements. (Pages 15 - 18)

A list of the Mayor's announcements in respect of his activities since the last meeting is attached for information.

4 Notification of apologies for absence.

5 Public right of address.

The Mayor to report any requests received from a member of the public under council procedure rule 11 in respect of any referred item or motion listed below.

6 Order of business.

The Council may vary the order of business if, in the opinion of the Mayor, a matter should be given precedence by reason of special urgency.

7 Matters referred from Cabinet or other council bodies.

The following matters are submitted to the Council for decision (council procedure rule 12 refers):-

(a) Updating and Alignment of the Scheme of Delegations to Officers
(Pages 19 - 80)

Report of the Monitoring Officer.

Considered and referred from the meetings of the Audit and Governance Committee on 4 September 2023 and Cabinet on 1 November 2023.

(b) Housing delivery and asset update (Pages 81 - 96)

Report of Councillor Peter Diplock, Cabinet member for Housing and Planning, on behalf of the Cabinet held on 20 September 2023.

(c) War Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation Policy (Pages 97 - 102)

Report of Councillor Robin Maxted, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, on behalf of the Cabinet held on 1 November 2023.

8 Members' Allowances Scheme - Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) (Pages 103 - 156)

Report of the Head of Democratic Services (and Monitoring Officer).

9 Polling Station Review (Pages 157 - 206)

Report of the Head of Elections and Local Land Charges.

10 Motions.

The following motions have been submitted by members under council procedure rule 13:-

(a) Motion - Southern Water

The following motion has been submitted by Councillor Murray:

“Southern Water was responsible for 16,888 sewage spills in 2022. In Eastbourne during last year alone, sewage was discharged into the sea by Southern Water for a staggering 434 hours. It is time that we hold those responsible to task for this tsunami of human waste polluting our sea water.

This volume of waste and the frequency of discharges show that the discharges have become routine, rather than an emergency response to exceptional conditions.

The Government has stated that ‘Climate change has led to increased rainfall and water infrastructure has not kept pace with development growth’.

In addition to having a negative impact on local wildlife in our rivers and beaches, it is also having a devastating effect on our tourism and the health and wellbeing of our residents who use sea swimming to support their health.

We must work together to hold those responsible for these travesties to account, stop allowing them to profit at our expense and ensure that they improve the infrastructure to stop this happening in the future.

The Council:

1. Calls on the Government and Southern Water to accelerate the capital programme to stop the risks of untreated sewage discharges into our rivers and seas and to stop this assault on nature, our economy and our

basic human rights.

2. Calls on the Government and Southern Water to enable the widespread deployment of nature-based solutions for flood mitigation and improved water quality.
3. Calls on the Government:
 - a. To ensure a better resourced Environment Agency in its role as regulator, in order that enforcement and monitoring is improved.
 - b. To stop enforcing unrealistic housing numbers on local councils and force Southern Water to meet the costs of the required disposal of water from new homes once it is at street level, to improve the existing sewers to make them fit for purpose.
 - c. To reform the Regulated Asset Base model, and significantly reduce the weighted, adjusted cost of Capital, to stop rate Paying households underpinning company debts.
 - d. To make CEO's of water companies personally responsible for excessive sewage discharges.
4. Asks that the Chief Executive and Leader write to relevant Government Ministers and Southern Water to call for these changes.”

(b) Motion - Local Plan

The following motion has been submitted by Councillor Alan Shuttleworth:

“This Council recognises the work that our officers have taken in identifying all possible sites for residential development in accordance with the Government directive to meet the housing targets that they set for Eastbourne.

The Council notes that since this work was completed Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, has stated that it is for Local Authorities to decide on whether or not sites are included in their Local Plan.

As the current position with preparations for the Eastbourne Local Plan have reached a stage where detailed assessment of the sites identified is conducted to inform a decision on whether they should be included or excluded from the plan as it progresses:

The Council resolves to commence that work immediately, starting with the two sites closest to the Pevensey levels, giving due consideration of the impact on the drainage infrastructure and the risk of flooding with the proximity to the Pevensey Levels, site of Special Scientific Interest.

Whilst the Council recognises the need for additional housing within the Borough, in order to achieve this, the Council calls upon Government to:

- Take action to progress the development on the many sites that already have planning approval; and
- To provide the necessary grant funding to enable the development of

the Bedfordwell Road site to commence.”

(c) Motion - Housing and Homelessness Challenge

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Diplock:

“This Council notes:

Local Authorities spent £1.7bn on temporary accommodation in the last financial year.

Homeless presentations to the Borough have more than doubled over the last 3 years.

The net cost to the Borough has increased from £1.4m in 2021/22, to a projected figure of well over £3m this year.

Private sector rents are at their highest on record, with available housing supply at its lowest.

Lack of secure housing has a wider socio-economic impact on health, productivity and communities.

The recent cross-party summit hosted by this Authority alongside the District Councils’ Network and attended by 158 local authorities (half of all local authorities in England) to tackle the national crisis relating to homelessness and temporary accommodation.

Ordinary working families are caught up in a housing crisis that is no fault of theirs.

This Council urgently requests that the Government:

- Raises Local Housing Allowance rates to a level that will cover at least 30% of local market rent and commit to annual uprating.
- Provides urgent additional funding to local authorities for Discretionary Housing Payments of £100m in 2023-24 and £200m in 2024-25.
- Provides a £150m top-up to the Homelessness Prevention Grant for 2024-25.
- Reviews the cap for housing benefit subsidy rate for local authority homelessness placements.
- Develops new policy to stimulate retention and supply in the privately rented sector.
- Gives councils the long-term funding, flexibility and certainty

needed to increase the supply of social housing.”

(d) Motion - Bylaws

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Lamb:

“We confirm that Eastbourne Borough Council should enforce its bylaws.”

(e) Motion - Holocaust Memorial Day

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Small:

"Eastbourne Borough Council reaffirms its support for the International Holocaust Memorial Day event and commits the Council's events team to continue to offer direct support with the organisation and public engagement of the event."

11 Discussion on minutes of council bodies.

Members of the Council who wish to raise items for discussion (council procedure rule 14) on any of the minutes of the meetings of formal council bodies listed below must submit their request to the Head of Democratic Services no later than 10.00 am on the day of the meeting. A list of such items (if any) will be circulated prior to the start of the meeting.

The following are appended to this agenda:-

- (a) Minutes of Planning Committee - 21 August 2023** (Pages 207 - 212)
- (b) Minutes of Scrutiny Committee - 18 September** (Pages 213 - 218)
- (c) Minutes of Cabinet - 20 September 2023** (Pages 219 - 224)
- (d) Minutes of Audit and Governance Committee - 5 October 2023** (Pages 225 - 230)
- (e) Minutes of Cabinet - 1 November 2023** (Pages 231 - 234)

12 Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Council is 19 February 2024 at 6 pm.



Robert Cottrill
Chief Executive

Information for the public

Accessibility:

Please note that the venue for this meeting is wheelchair accessible and has an induction loop to help people who are hearing impaired. If you would like to use the hearing loop please advise Democratic Services (see below for contact details) either in advance of the meeting or when you arrive so that they can set you up with the relevant equipment to link into the system.

This agenda and accompanying reports are published on the Council's website in PDF format which means you can use the "read out loud" facility of Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Filming/Recording:

This meeting may be filmed, recorded or broadcast by any person or organisation. Anyone wishing to film or record must notify the Chair prior to the start of the meeting. Members of the public attending the meeting are deemed to have consented to be filmed or recorded, as liability for this is not within the Council's control.

Public participation:

Please contact Democratic Services (see end of agenda) for the relevant deadlines for registering to speak on a matter which is listed on the agenda if applicable.

Information for Councillors

Items for discussion:

Members of the Council who wish to raise items for discussion on any of the minutes of council bodies attached to the meeting agenda, are required to notify Democratic Services by 10am on the day of the meeting.

Disclosure of interests:

Members should declare their interest in a matter at the beginning of the meeting.

In the case of a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI), if the interest is not registered (nor the subject of a pending notification) details of the nature of the interest must be reported to the meeting by the member and subsequently notified in writing to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days.

If a member has a DPI or other prejudicial interest he/she must leave the room when the matter is being considered (unless he/she has obtained a dispensation).

Democratic Services

For any further queries regarding this agenda or notification of apologies please contact Democratic Services.

Email: committees@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

Telephone: 01323 410000

Council website: <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/>

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