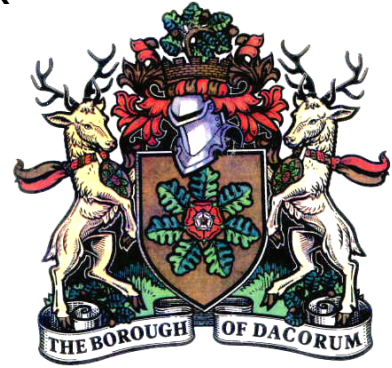


# Public Document Pack



## **SUMMONS**

### **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 22 January 2020**

### **DBC Council Chamber - The Forum**

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the Dacorum Borough Council in the County of Hertfordshire to be held in the DBC Council Chamber - The Forum on Wednesday 22 January 2020 at 7.30 pm to transact the business set out below.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally Marshall'.

**SALLY MARSHALL  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Contact: Jim Doyle**

**ext 2222**

# AGENDA

## 1. MINUTES

There are no minutes available to be signed at this meeting.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest.

## 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To consider questions (if any) by members of the public of which the appropriate notice has been given to the Assistant Director (Corporate and Contracted Services).

## 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive announcements and business brought forward by the Mayor, Leader, and Members of the Cabinet or the Chief Executive.

4.1 By the Mayor:

4.2 By the Chief Executive:

4.3 By the Group Leaders: Any apologies for absence

4.4 Council Leader and Members of the Cabinet:

Cllr Williams

Cllr Banks

Cllr Williams

Cllr G Sutton

Cllr Elliot

Cllr Mrs Griffiths

Cllr Anderson

Leader of the Council

Community and Regulatory Services

Corporate and Contracted Services

Planning & Infrastructure

Finance & Resources

Housing

Environmental Services

## 5. MOTION

To consider the following Motion from Councillor England:

1. This Council notes that Universal Credit, the single monthly benefit payment which replaces the six current working age benefits, has now been implemented across most of the country, but has yet to be rolled out to all benefits claimants in Dacorum.

2. This council further notes that within Dacorum the number of people affected is likely to be in the thousands and is concerned that the full implementation of Universal Credit in Dacorum is likely to prove seriously detrimental to the health and wellbeing of those thousands of local residents.

3. In recognition of this and of the fact that the move to full implementation of Universal Credit in other parts of the country has resulted in considerable financial hardship for many of those people moving onto this new system of benefit payments; council requests that before the full roll-out of Universal Credit across the Borough of Dacorum, measures are found to alleviate hardship caused by -

- a. The five week wait for claimants to receive their benefits.
- b. Payments going to one named member of a household.
- c. The rent element of benefit being included in payments to Claimants

4. To support the measures taken to alleviate hardship, the council requests that an additional financial provision be included in the budget for 2020/2021 to provide for hardship payments and/or loans.

5. In addition, Council requests that the Leaders of the Political Groups of the Council write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to urge that amendments to Universal Credit be introduced that will -

- a. End benefit sanctions as there is no evidence that sanctioning helps people into work.
- b. Allow all new claimants to apply for Universal Credit in job centres supported by trained job centre staff rather than forcing new claimants to apply on-line.
- c. Abandon the in-work conditionality for part-time or low paid workers.
- d. Increase the overall level to which Universal Credit is funded.

## **6. QUESTIONS**

To consider questions (if any) by members of the Council of which the appropriate notice has been given to the Assistant Director of Corporate and Contracted Services.

## **7. BUSINESS FROM THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING**

To consider any business referred from the previous meeting

## **8. CABINET REFERRALS (Pages 5 - 6)**

To consider the following referrals from Cabinet:

- |     |           |                  |                             |
|-----|-----------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 8.1 | CA/121/19 | 10 December 2019 | Committee Timetable 2020/21 |
| 8.2 | CA/122/19 | 10 December 2019 | Draft Corporate Plan        |

**9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REFERRALS**

None.

**10. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

To consider any proposals for changes to committee membership

**11. CHANGE TO COMMITTEE DATES**

To consider any proposals for changes to committee dates

**12. CONSTITUTION UPDATE (Pages 7 - 9)**

## **CABINET REFERRALS**

**10 December 2019**

### **8.1 CA/121/19 Committee Timetable 2020/21**

#### **Decision**

#### **Resolved to recommend:**

To approve the Meeting Timetable for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix A to the Cabinet report.

Corporate objectives

The various meetings of the Council, Cabinet and Committees support the achievement of the Council's Corporate Objectives.

#### **Deputy Monitoring Officer**

No comments to add to the report.

#### **Deputy S.151 Officer**

No comments to add to the report.

#### **Advice**

The Committee Diary for 20/21 was agreed with the following changes:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Cabinet meeting in April no longer needed
- Additional Council to be added Wednesday 17 June.
- MDSG Wednesday 17 June to be moved to Thursday 18 June.

### **8.2 CA/122/19 Draft Corporate Plan**

#### **Decision**

#### **Resolved to recommend**

**The adoption of the Corporate Plan 2020 to 2025.**

#### **Corporate objectives**

The Corporate Plan will support all five of the Council's corporate objectives:

1. A Clean and safe environment
2. Building strong vibrant communities
3. Ensuring economic growth and prosperity
4. Providing good quality affordable homes, in particular to those most in need
5. Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery

It sets out the updated priorities for the Council.

#### **Monitoring Officer**

No further comments to add to the report.

**Deputy S.151 Officer**

There are no direct financial consequences of this report. The Corporate Plan sets out the aims of the Council over the next five years and will help inform the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

**Advice**

Cllr Tindall commented that Council were to be congratulated on progress on affordable housing in the Borough and requested that the target in the Corporate Plan be increased further to help with the Council's waiting list, perhaps by increasing borrowing or additional government funding. Cllr Williams highlighted that the target states over 400 affordable homes will be delivered and this target was set as it is achievable, borrowing additional money would not be prudent, but if there is new mechanisms available under a new government the target may be increased. Cllr Williams added that the Corporate Plan should reflect what we are able to deliver. Cllr Tindall mentioned the ambition was just looking to increase the target if we can do more. Cllr Griffiths said we wouldn't want to promise something we can't deliver and clarified that we also work with other providers where the nominations go to the Council as we provide grant funding.

Cllr Williams advised that we would look to do as much as we can and S Marshall highlighted that the target says over 400 and if we can do more we will.

The Corporate Plan was agreed.



## AGENDA ITEM:

### SUMMARY

<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Council</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020</b>
<b>Part:</b>	<b>1</b>
If Part II, reason:	

<b>Title of report:</b>	Constitution update
Contact:	<p>Clr Andrew Williams, Leader of the Council</p> <p>Author/Responsible Officer:</p> <p>Mark Brookes, Assistant Director, Corporate and Contracted Services and Monitoring Officer</p>
Purpose of report:	To seek approval to amend the Constitution to change the rules on excluding Cabinet Members from membership of Regulatory Committees
Recommendations	<p>That Council agree to delete paragraph 2.1.3 at page 55 of Part 3 of the Constitution which reads:</p> <p>“A Member of the Cabinet is excluded from membership of any Regulatory Committee.”</p> <p>And insert a new clause 2.1.3 to read :</p> <p>“A Member of the Cabinet is permitted to be a member of any Regulatory Committee but shall not attend any committee meeting which is hearing an appeal or review against a decision which is made by a service which falls within their Portfolio”</p>
Corporate Objectives:	The Constitution supports all of the Council’s Corporate Objectives as they provide the governance framework for all decisions, strategic and operational.
Implications:	<u>Financial</u>

'Value For Money Implications'	<p>There are no financial implications arising from this report</p> <p><u>Value for Money</u></p> <p>There are no implications arising from this report.</p>
Risk Implications	<p>Failure to have an up to date and accurate Constitution could lead to legal challenge and operational, reputational and financial costs may follow if the challenge was successful.</p>
Community Impact Assessment	<p>There are no community impacts, which require assessing resulting from this report.</p>
Health And Safety Implications	<p>There are no Health and Safety implications connected to this report.</p>
Monitoring Officer/S.151 Officer Comments	<p><b>Monitoring Officer:</b></p> <p>There is no statutory prohibition on Executive Members being Members of Regulatory Committees and this is a matter of choice for each local authority.</p> <p><b>S.151 Officer</b></p> <p>There are no financial implications arising from this report.</p>
Consultees:	<p>Councillor Andrew Williams</p> <p>Councillor Ron Tindall</p> <p>Sally Marshall, Chief Executive</p>
Background papers:	<p>None</p>
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	<p>None</p>

## Background

1. The Monitoring Officer is under a continuous duty to review the Constitution to ensure that it is up to date and provides an appropriate governance framework for all Council decision making.
2. Proposals for change may be prompted not only by formal internal reviews, but also by the Monitoring Officer, the Cabinet, other Members or officers and by public opinion.



## REGULATORY COMMITTEES

3. The Constitution currently prevents Members of the Cabinet from membership of any Regulatory Committee, which includes acting as a substitute at those meetings.
4. The Regulatory Committees of the Council comprise:
  - The Development Management Committee
  - The Licensing and Health & Safety Enforcement Committee
  - The Licensing and Health & Safety Enforcement Sub Committee
  - The Licensing of Alcohol & Gambling Sub Committee
  - The Appeals and Reviews Committee
  - The Audit Committee
5. The Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party have recommended a change to this rule so that Members of the Cabinet can be Members of any Regulatory Committees if selected and agreed by Council. This would include the ability to act as a substitute at any Regulatory Committee if selected. The only exclusion proposed is to prevent Cabinet Members from attending a committee meeting which is hearing an appeal or review against a decision which is made by a service which falls within their Portfolio in order to avoid a possible conflict of interest.
6. It is therefore proposed to delete the current prohibition at paragraph 2.13 “A Member of the Cabinet is excluded from membership of any Regulatory Committee” and substitute it with “A Member of the Cabinet is permitted to be a member of any Regulatory Committee but shall not attend any committee meeting which is hearing an appeal or review against a decision which is made by a service which falls within their Portfolio”