



## **SUMMONS**

### **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 22 February 2023**

**Council Chamber, The Forum**

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You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the Dacorum Borough Council in the County of Hertfordshire to be held in the Council Chamber, The Forum on Wednesday 22 February 2023 at 7.30 pm to transact the business set out below.

**CLAIRE HAMILTON  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Contact: Corporate & Democratic Support  
ext 2209**

# AGENDA

## 1. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 17)

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting of the council

## 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:

Councillor Williams	Leader of the Council
Councillor Banks	Communities
Councillor Anderson	Place
Councillor Elliot	Corporate Services
Councillor Griffiths	Housing Services
Councillor Williams	Commercial Strategy and Delivery
<i>Councillor Barrett</i>	Neighbourhood Services

## 5. MOTIONS

## 5.1 MOTION ONE – Proposer Cllr Anderson

The Government's furlough scheme supported many businesses and individuals and saved the economy during the covid crisis, and the Government has provided welcome support with energy bills during the cost of living crisis.

However, energy bills have still risen by 80 to 100%, whilst wholesale energy prices have fallen away dramatically, and energy exploration profits have risen sharply.

The Council supports the introduction of a tax on the windfall profits made by energy firms as a result of high prices, but, with the reduction in wholesale prices, and the review of the price cap due at the end of March, the Council is keen to ensure that measures are put in place to support households and businesses, including where appropriate a reduction in energy costs.

The Council therefore calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Grant Shapps MP, to ask for this help.

## 5.2 MOTION TWO – Proposer Cllr Sheron Wilkie

### Female firefighters and police officers suffering sexist and misogynistic treatment.

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service have launched an independent review amid damning testimony shared with ITV News from female firefighters claiming sexist and misogynistic treatment within the organisation. This follows an investigation into South Wales Fire Service where comparable complaints were raised. A similar review was undertaken by the London fire brigade last year that revealed incidents of misogyny racism and bullying in UK's largest firefighting service.

Several female firefighters told ITV News of experiencing persistent sexual harassment, including one male firefighter demanding sexual favours at the scene of a fire. The women also revealed dozens of explicit photographs and unsolicited messages they had been sent by male colleagues, including demands for sex.

The former Chief Crown Prosecutor for the North-West, Nazir Afzal OBE, has said 'This isn't a London problem — it's a nationwide problem, and I think what we are seeing now is the Fire Service's #MeToo moment.'

There are parallel issues in the police force with an official report from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary stating that defective vetting and leadership failures have allowed a 'prevalent' culture of potentially thousands of officers who are 'predatory' towards women to join ,and stay in, the force.

Officers carried out unwarranted stops on women in an abuse of power known as 'booty patrols', with crimes such as sexual assault and large-scale harassment of female officers and members of the public, either ignored or covered up.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.itv.com/news/2023-01-31/police-investigate-claims-firefighters-took-photos-of-dead-women-in-car-crashes>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11711937/Sickening-allegations-emerge-firefighters-sharing-photos-dead-women.html>

<sup>1</sup> [His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services \(HMICFRS\) – Home \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/)

Within this context this Council:

1. Unequivocally condemns any such behaviour in Hertfordshire Fire Service and Hertfordshire Police Service and will take the following actions :
2. That the Leader of the Council write to the Chief Fire Officer for Hertfordshire Fire Service, to support the actions being taken to ensure that all complaints of sexual harassment and misogynistic behaviour within the Service are fully investigated and that any such complaint will immediately result in the suspension of that officer pending investigation.
3. That the Leader of the Council writes to the Police and Crime Commissioner to ask what steps he intends to take to ensure that female Police Officers are able to make complaints of sexual harassment and misogynistic behaviour and that any such complaint will immediately result in the suspension of that officer pending investigation.
4. That DBC give clear and accessible routes for any female firefighters or police officers to make a complaint , and ;
5. To support and assist any female firefighters and police officers in their complaint process.

**6. BUSINESS FROM THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING** (Pages 18 - 19)

To consider any business referred from the previous meeting

**7. CABINET REFERRALS** (Pages 20 - 28)

To consider the following referrals from Cabinet:

24<sup>th</sup> January 2023

7.1 CA/08/23 COMMITTEE TIMETABLE

7.2 CA/09/23 TREASURY MANAGEMENT

14<sup>th</sup> February 2023

7.3 CA/18/23 QUARTER 3 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT 2022-23

7.4 CA/20/23 BUDGET REPORT

7.5 CA/25/23 RELEASE OF COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY CORE FUNDS

**PART 2**

7.6 CA/27/23 LEADERSHIP TEAM (TIER 2) AND CORPORATE SUPPORT RESTRUCTURE

**8. COUNCIL TAX REPORT** (Pages 29 - 36)

**9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REFERRALS**

There were no Overview & Scrutiny referrals

**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. CALL IN AND URGENCY PROCEDURE**

To inform the Council of an urgent Portfolio Holder Decision.

This is for information purposes only

PH-002-23 - Business Rate Relief