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Contact:
democracy@welhat.gov.uk

5 November 2024

You are requested to attend a meeting of the WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL to be held on Wednesday 13 November 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Campus East, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6AE.

AGENDA
PART 1

1. **MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2024 (previously circulated).

2. **APOLOGIES**

To receive apologies for absence, if any.

3. **PETITIONS**

The Mayor will receive petitions (limited to the first three petitions presented).

4. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

A period of thirty minutes will be made available for questions to be put by Members of the public to Members of the Cabinet on matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough.

5. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS**

To note declarations of Members' disclosable pecuniary interests, non-disclosable pecuniary interests and non-pecuniary interests in respect of items on the Agenda.

6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive any announcements from the Mayor, Leader of the Council, Member of the Cabinet or the Head of Paid Service.

7. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS (Pages 5 - 6)

For a period of up to thirty minutes, a Member of the Council who has given prior notice in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15, may ask (a) the Mayor, (b) the Leader of the Council or (c) a Member of the Cabinet a question on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the Borough.

The questions received for this meeting are attached. A Member asking a question may ask, without giving notice, one supplementary question of the Member to whom the first question was asked. The supplementary question must arise directly out of the reply.

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CABINET

To consider recommendations from the meetings of the Cabinet on 5th November 2024:

(a) FP2085 Council Tax Support Scheme 2025/26

The report can be found at Agenda Item 7a on the following link:
[Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday 5th November 2024, 6.30 pm – Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council](#)

(b) FP2081 Approval of the Gambling Act Policy

The report can be found at Agenda Item 14 on the following link:
[Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday 5th November 2024, 6.30 pm – Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council](#)

9. NOTICES OF MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 16

To consider notices of motions submitted under Procedure Rule 16 in such order as the Mayor shall direct. The motions received for this meeting are attached.

10. COMMITTEE TIMETABLE 2025/26 (Pages 7 - 12)

Report of the Assistant Director (Legal and Governance).

11. URGENT MATTERS

To consider any matters of urgency subject to the agreement of the Mayor in accordance with Procedure Rule 5.1(s).

Circulation: The Mayor and Members of the Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
Senior Leadership Team
Press and Public (except Part II Items)

If you require any further information about this Agenda please contact Democratic Services, Governance Services on or email – democracy@welhat.gov.uk

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING – 13th November 2024

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 15 QUESTIONS – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Notice of the following questions has been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 15:

1. Question to the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Kingsbury

The new contract for environmental enforcement with District Enforcement has raised significant concerns among local businesses. I am sure we all agree on the need for enforcement against fly-tipping and genuine environmental damage. However, in Welwyn, several businesses have been threatened with fines for minor, technical issues related to waste disposal—without warning or time to correct the situation—despite their efforts to act responsibly and in an environmentally friendly manner. Given that District Enforcement is paid based on the fines they issue, with the council also receiving a portion of the revenue, there appears to be an incentive to pursue minor infractions rather than focus on serious environmental offenders. Does the portfolio holder agree that enforcement should prioritise genuine environmental risks rather than penalising minor non-compliance, which risks harming the local economy and discouraging responsible businesses?"

2. Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Thusu

Following the recent release of an independent report, it is my understanding that this Borough council has had to yet again had to bear extensive costs on dealing with complaints involving a Labour councillor at Hatfield Town Council.

Given that thousands were spent in 2020 on dealing with bullying allegations by the former Labour leader of Hatfield town council, can we get confirmation how much public money has already been spent on a recent review into Hatfield Town Council and the behaviour of rogue councillors and an explanation why WHBC is having to foot the bill for misbehaving labour town councillors?

3. Question to the Executive Member for Housing from Councillor Bardett

Wilshere Road is one of a number of roads in Welwyn West that have service roads to access the rear of the properties and their garages, these service roads are in a poor state of repair. Maintenance of these roads is the responsibility of this council, and in 2023 works appeared to start with the marking of potholes to be repaired. Recent attempts through member casework to get an update on progress of the works elicited the response "... the maintenance of the road is within the remit of responsibility of Herts County Council" and the case was closed. When it was pointed out that this was incorrect the case was reopened the subsequent response was "that there is a quote in place do works to service roads across the borough", ..." At the moment this isn't part of any planned works."

Can the portfolio holder confirm when the quoted works to the service roads will be added to the planned works with a scheduled start and finish month and year.

Further can they advise where Wilshere Road lies on the priority list for the quoted works so that the residents can be advised accordingly.

4. Question to the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Walsh

For too long, our streets and greenways have been stained due to the actions of some who have used these public spaces as their own private dumping ground. A disgusting act which, despite the best efforts of our local volunteer community who go picking this up, continued to harm the proud image we should have of our towns and environs.

With this in mind, it has been very reassuring to see and hear of the actions of the litter enforcement team appointed by this council at no cost to this council in identifying culprits and issuing penalties.

Can I ask for an update on the performance of this new initiative

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL –

13 November 2024

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (LAW AND GOVERNANCE)

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2025/26

1 Executive Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to the timetable of meetings for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

2 Recommendation

2.1 That the timetable setting out dates of meetings for the Municipal Year 2025/26 as attached at Appendix A be approved.

3 Explanation

3.1 At the meeting of Council on 26 September 2019, Members agreed that the timetable of meetings can be approved at any ordinary Council meeting during the Municipal Year, rather than having to wait until the Annual Council meeting in May.

3.2 This facilitates effective forward planning both for Members and Officers in the transaction of Council business and as part of the modernisation of decision-making processes and procedures.

Implications

4 Legal Implication(s)

4.1 None.

5 Financial Implication(s)

5.1 None.

6 Risk Management Implications

6.1 None

7 Security and Terrorism Implication(s)

7.1 None

8 Procurement Implication(s)

8.1 None

9 Climate Change Implication(s)

9.1 None

10 Human Resources Implication(s)

10.1 None

11 Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)

11.1 None

12 Communication and Engagement Implication(s)

12.1 None

13 Link to Corporate Priorities

13.1 The committee timetable supports the corporate priorities under “A well-run Council which puts our customers first”.

14 Equality and Diversity

14.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was not completed because this report does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies.

Name of author	Clare Cade
Title	Governance Services Manager
Date	5 November 2024

Appendix A – Draft Committee Timetable 2025/26

ALCOHOL	Alcohol and Regulated Entertainment Sub-Committee
ANN. COUNCIL	Annual Council
AUDIT	Audit Committee
BANK HOLIDAY	
CABINET	Cabinet
CHP	Cabinet Housing Panel
CLIMATE	Climate Biodiversity Cabinet Panel
COUNCIL	Council
CPPP	Cabinet Planning and Parking Panel
CCP	Community Cabinet Panel
DMC	Development Management Committee
Elections	
GRANTS	Grants Board
Induction	
LICENSING	Licensing Committee
MD	Member Development Session
MDSG	Member Development Steering Group
OSC	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Pre-Cab	Pre-Cabinet Briefing
SPEC. CABINET	Special Cabinet
SPEC. COUNCIL	Special Council
STANDARDS	Standards Committee

		2025												2026				
		May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May				
Saturday																		
Sunday			1									1						
Monday			2			1			1			2						
Tuesday			3 Cabinet	1		2 Cabinet			2 Cabinet			3 Cabinet						
Wednesday			4	2		3 Audit	1		3			4 OSC	1					
Thursday	1	County Election	5	3		4			4	Grants	1	BANK HOLIDAY	2					
Friday	2		6	4	1	5	3		5		2		3	1				
Saturday	3		7	5	2	6	4	1	6		3		4	2				
Sunday	4		8	6	3	7	5	2	7		4	1	5	3				
Monday	5	BANK HOLIDAY	9	7	4	8	6	3	8		5	2	6	4				
Tuesday	6		10	8	5	9	7	4	9	Licensing	6	Council	7	5				
Wednesday	7		11	standards	6	10	8	5	10		7	Cabinet	8	6				
Thursday	8		12	OSC Workshop	7	11	9	6	11	Climate	8	OSC	9	7				
Friday	9		13	11	8	12	10	7	12	DMC	9		10	8				
Saturday	10		14	12	9	13	11	8	13		10	7	11	9				
Sunday	11		15	13	10	14	12	9	14		11	8	12	10				
Monday			16	14	11	15	13	10	15		12	9	13	11				
Tuesday	13		17	CHP	12	16	14	11	16		13	10	14	12				
Wednesday	14		18	Licensing	13	17	15	12	17		14	11	15	13				
Thursday	15		19	Grants	14	18	16	13	18		15	12	16	14				
Friday	16		20	18	15	19	17	14	19		16	13	17	15				
Saturday	17		21	19	16	20	18	15	20		17	14	18	16				
Sunday	18		22	20	17	21	19	16	21		18	15	19	17				
Monday	19	Annual Council	23	21	18	22	20	17	22		19	16	20	18				
Tuesday	20		24	22	19	23	21	18	23		20	17	21	19				
Wednesday	21		25	Audit	20	24	22	19	24		21	18	22	20				
Thursday	22		26	DMC	21	25	23	20	25		22	19	23	21				
Friday	23		27	25	22	26	24	21	26		23	20	24	22				
Saturday	24		28	26	23	27	25	22	27		24	21	25	23				
Sunday	25		29	27	24	28	26	23	28		25	22	26	24				
Monday	26	BANK HOLIDAY	30	28	25	29	27	24	29		26	23	27	25				
Tuesday	27			29	26	30	28	25	30		27	24	28	26				
Wednesday	28			30	27		29	26			28	25	29	27				
Thursday	29			31	28		30	27			29	26	30	28				
Friday	30				29		31	28			30	27		29				
Saturday	31				30			29			31	28		30				
Sunday					31			30						31				

All dates are subject to change

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