

WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 12th March 2025

NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 16

Amendment proposed by Tony Kingsbury and seconded by Terry Mitchinson

In light of the accelerated timetable for Local Government Reorganisation as set out by the Government which is likely to see the abolition of ~~the~~ Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and the introduction of directly elected Mayors and Unitary Authorities by May 2028, ~~the~~^{is} Council recommends that a democratically elected Parish/Town council is established, **if consultation shows resident support**, for Welwyn Garden City and a review of the other Parish or Town Councils in the Borough be conducted, **with full involvement of relevant clerks from existing Parish Councils, Town Councils and Parish Meetings**. This would allow greater democratic control over local assets and keep their governance truly local. The Council should aim to have this set up by 30th April 2028 (or at least before this council is abolished).

This Council resolves to produce an initial report setting out how and when a Community Governance Review should be started, addressing the setting up of new Parish/Town councils where appropriate and detailing the process of asset transfer between the existing Borough Council and the new and existing Parish/Town Councils. This should be presented to cabinet as soon as possible thereafter during 2025. **Should the Community Governance Review go ahead a cross-party panel will be set up to guide the process.**