

Council meeting: Wednesday, 7 September 2022

Notice is hereby given that an additional meeting of Warwick District Council will be held at the Town Hall, Parade, Royal Leamington Spa, on Wednesday, 7 September 2022 at **6.00pm**.

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members to declare the existence and nature of interests in items on the agenda in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct. Declarations should be disclosed during this item. However, the existence and nature of any interest that subsequently becomes apparent during the course of the meeting must be disclosed immediately. If the interest is not registered, Members must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days.

Members are also reminded of the need to declare predetermination on any matter.

If Members are unsure about whether or not they have an interest, or about its nature, they are strongly advised to seek advice from officers prior to the meeting.

3. Communications and Announcements

The Chair will take the opportunity to formally welcome officers and key partners who enabled the delivery of the Commonwealth Games within Warwick District.

4. Petitions

5. Notices of Motion

To consider a notice of motion proposed by Councillor Boad and seconded by Councillor Syson in respect of the cost of living crisis, that reads as follows:

"This Council recognises that we are in the middle of the worst cost of living crisis for 50 years. With inflation forecast to hit 18% next year and spiraling energy costs-many people are struggling to pay their household bills and having no alternative but to choose between either heating or eating.

Council notes the disastrous impact this year's increases in the energy price cap will have on local people:

- *On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54 per cent. This increased the typical energy bill by £693 a year to £1,971.*
- *In October the energy price cap rises again – increasing a typical energy bill to £3,549 per year- with a further increase due in January 2023.*

Council notes the decision taken by the Government in June 2022 to impose a Windfall Tax on the profits of giant oil and gas companies. This will be used to fund the Energy Bills Support Scheme, giving a £400 reduction in energy bills from October through to March 2023. But, given the significant increases in energy costs this will fall far short of what is required to prevent more families going into fuel poverty.

This Council welcomes the fact that our officers have been working on ways to support our residents helping to ensure they are claiming all of the benefits and financial assistance that they are entitled to.

However, we believe that further practical assistance will be required to support our most vulnerable residents in the very difficult times that lie ahead this winter. The Covid Pandemic brought our communities together to support each other, the Cost of Living Crisis is of a similar magnitude.

We therefore call upon the Council to urgently form a 'Task Group' of members and officers to develop and coordinate a district wide plan of action and practical support, ready to be implemented before the weather breaks in the autumn, working together with the County and Parish Councils, religious groups, business and the voluntary sector.

The practical support should include the creation of a network of Welcoming Spaces where residents can access warmth and socialise, whilst helping to keep the cost of bills at home down by utilising currently heated, but underused, space run by teams of volunteers."

6. Leader and Portfolio Holders' Statements

7. Questions to the Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holders

8. Cabinet Report

To consider the recommendation of the Cabinet from 10 August 2022

**(Pages 1 to 3)
(Addendum to Follow)**

9. Employment Committee report

To consider the recommendation of the Employment Committee of 6 September 2022

(To follow)

10. Common Seal

To authorise the affixing of the Common Seal of the Council to such deeds and documents as may be required for implementing decisions of the Council arrived at this day.



Chief Executive
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For enquiries about this meeting please contact Warwick District Council, Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 5HZ

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