



Council

Membership: All Councillors

Members are invited to a meeting of **Council** in the **Conference Room, Riverside, Lowestoft** on **Wednesday, 21 February 2018 at 6.30 pm.**

An Agenda is set out below.

Part One - Open to the Public

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

3. Minutes

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the last meeting held on 24 January 2018. (Pages 1 to 23)

4. Communications

5. Announcements from the Chief Executive / Leader of the Council

6. Notices of Motion

Councillor Byatt has submitted the following Notice of Motion:

'This Council will urgently engage with Lowestoft Town Council and other stakeholders involved with the Heritage Action Zone, to prioritise the renovation and redesign of Lowestoft Town Hall, with a view to including a purpose built facility if needed, to relocate the Lowestoft Record Office.'

7. Questions from Members

The following questions have been submitted by Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11:

(a) Question from Councillor S Barker to the Cabinet Member for Community Health & Safety:

According to figures released recently by Public Health England in Waveney during 2016/17 21% of Year 6 pupils are obese and 4.6% severely obese. At the start of Secondary School in Waveney the percentage pupil figures are the same. This is the highest total across Norfolk and Waveney, equal to that in Gt. Yarmouth.

Can the Cabinet Member for Community Health & Safety give details to the Council about the initiatives that are being undertaken by Waveney District Council to reduce the childhood unhealthily overweight figures in Waveney?

(b) Question from Councillor L Gooch to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Merger & Communities

100 years ago in 1918 some women won the right to vote in Parliamentary elections, alongside some men; with this in mind the Women's Local Government Society have requested each Local Council appoint a Champion to help lead local celebrations and activities. The Waveney Labour Group requested this to be addressed by the administration in August, 2017. To date we have not received a reply.

Can the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Merger & Communities outline what plans he has to appoint a Champion?

8. Petitions

No petitions have been received.

9. Questions from the Electorate

The following questions have been submitted by the electorate in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10:

Questions from Mr R Chilvers to the Cabinet Member for Housing

With regard to the Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account Budget, which were considered last month:

- (a) Does Waveney District Council think that in consort with other local authorities responsible for local authority housing, that there is a good case for a review of the debt settlements under the auspices of the 2011 Localism Act regulations, which includes 2012 HRA Self Financing, in which this council was loaded with £68 million over a 30 year period of repayment because of the substantive changes of government policies over recent years, which have reduced substantially rental income: controlling housing benefit by decreasing rents, the rollout of universal benefit causing increased rent arrears now over £1 million as of December 2017, the spare room (bedroom) tax and the increasing discounts and encouragements allowed for Right to Buy (RTB)?
- (b) If agreed that there is a case to be answered under these regulations, what course of action and representation to government does Waveney District Council propose in pursuing this case for review?
- (c) Why has the Authority not taken up the option of borrowing the headroom of £11 million allowed under its borrowing cap of £87.26 million in order to increase, through its development programme, its housing stock and therefore its rental income, considering that the housing stock has decreased in March 2017 from 4,467 to December 2017 at 4,450?
- (d) Does the Authority, in the new housing developments at present being consulted upon, plan to directly invest in council housing at social, rather than affordable rents, which

would not only boost its rental income but cut the waiting lists which can be calibrated on the basis of the outrageous bidding figures seen in Gateway to Home Choice?

10. **General Fund Budget and Council Tax 2018/19 (REP1605)**
Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources (Pages 24 to 119)
11. **Authorisation of Officers: Magistrates Court (REP1822)**
Report of the Cabinet Member for Resources (Pages 120 to End)
12. **Presentation on Universal Credit from the Head of Customer Services**

Close



Stephen Baker, Chief Executive

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