

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 11 September 2019

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT

RECORDING NOTICE

Please note: this meeting may be recorded.

At the start of the meeting the Mayor will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being audio recorded. The whole of the meeting will be recorded, except where there are confidential or exempt items.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act. Data collected during this recording will be retained in accordance with the Council's data retention policy.

Therefore by entering the Chamber and speaking at Committee you are consenting to being recorded and to the possible use of those sound records for training purposes.

If you have any queries regarding this please contact Democratic Services.

Quorum = 16

	Pages
1. Prayers	
2. Emergency Evacuation Procedure	
<p>The Mayor will advise the meeting of the evacuation procedures to follow in the event of an emergency. This is particularly important for visitors and members of the public who will be unfamiliar with the building and procedures.</p>	
<p>The Mayor will inform the meeting whether there is a planned evacuation drill due to take place, what the alarm sounds like (i.e. ringing bells), where the closest emergency exit route is, and where the second closest emergency exit route is, in the event that the closest exit or route is blocked.</p>	
<p>The Mayor will inform the meeting that:</p>	
<p>(a) in the event of the alarm sounding, everybody must leave the building via the nearest safe available exit and gather at the Assembly points at the far side of the Car Park. Nobody must leave the assembly point until</p>	

everybody can be accounted for and nobody must return to the building until the Mayor has informed them that it is safe to do so; and

(b) the lifts must not be used in the event of an evacuation.

Any officers present at the meeting will aid with the evacuation.

It is important that the Mayor is informed of any person attending who is disabled or unable to use the stairs, so that suitable arrangements may be made in the event of an emergency.

3. Apologies for Absence

4. Minutes

To approve the [Minutes](#) of the Meeting held on 24 July 2019 (Minute Nos. 151 - 161) as a correct record.

5. Declarations of Interest

Councillors should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves or their spouse, civil partner or person with whom they are living with as a spouse or civil partner. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

The Mayor will ask Members if they have any interests to declare in respect of items on this agenda, under the following headings:

(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) under the Localism Act 2011. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. After declaring a DPI, the Member must leave the meeting and not take part in the discussion or vote. This applies even if there is provision for public speaking.

(b) Disclosable Non Pecuniary (DNPI) under the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council in May 2012. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. After declaring a DNPI interest, the Member may stay, speak and vote on the matter.

(c) Where it is possible that a fair-minded and informed observer, having considered the facts would conclude that there was a real possibility that the Member might be predetermined or biased the Member should declare their predetermination or bias and then leave the room while that item is considered.

Advice to Members: If any Councillor has any doubt about the existence or nature of any DPI or DNPI which he/she may have in any item on this agenda, he/she should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer, the Head of Legal or from other Solicitors in Legal Services as early as possible, and in advance of the Meeting.

6. Mayor's Announcements

7. Questions submitted by the Public

To consider any questions submitted by the public. (The deadline for questions is 4.30 pm on the Wednesday before the meeting – please contact Democratic Services by e-mailing democraticservices@swale.gov.uk or call 01795 417330).

8. Questions submitted by Members

To consider any questions submitted by Members. (The deadline for questions is 4.30 pm on the Monday the week before the meeting – please contact Democratic Services by e-mailing democraticservices@swale.gov.uk or call 01795 417330).

9. Motion submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 15

Proposed by Councillor Hannah Perkin and seconded by Councillor Ben J Martin.

1. This council notes that:

- a) Women and minority groups face discrimination and disadvantage on a daily basis.
- b) Hate crime across different minority groups has risen by 123% in the last eight years.
- c) Minority groups are underrepresented as councillors both nationally and locally:
 - a. Fewer than one-third of councillors nationally are female, while in Swale the figure is less than one-fifth.
 - b. Nationally fewer than a quarter of councillors are aged between 18 and 49, whereas this same age range makes up approximately half of the general population.
 - c. A significantly smaller proportion of councillors nationally have a disability or other long-term health problem than is the case for the whole population, notwithstanding councillors' high average age compared to the general population.
- d) The pace of change in improving the representativeness of elected representatives is negligible.

2. This council believes that:

- a) All forms of hate crime are abhorrent.
- b) We should condemn all forms of discrimination based on personal characteristics.
- c) We should provide all our members with the training and support needed to eradicate discrimination and champion diversity.
- d) We should welcome and support people from underrepresented groups to stand as councillors, because more inclusive councils

bringing more diverse perspectives are better equipped to represent the interests of their communities.

3. This council therefore resolves:

- a) To agree that members will work actively with each other to encourage a safe and fair working environment for all members, by advocating robustly and actively for minority groups and by condemning incidences of discrimination in their role as a councillor, whether in the chamber or out in their communities.
- b) To support members and officers in speaking out against and condemning any form of discrimination based on personal characteristics, whether this be racism, sexism, ageism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, maternity-, paternity- or faith-based discrimination, or any other form of discrimination.
- c) To encourage greater diversity within our council by working to understand and break down barriers for underrepresented people wanting to stand for election.
- d) To recall its adoption in 2017 of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of anti-Semitism, and to adopt the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia as follows:

Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness.
- e) To implement compulsory training for all members on diversity and equality, including unconscious bias, and to request officers to consider how the allocation of seats on some committees could be restricted to those who have completed the training.
- f) To call on those charged with providing pastoral care to members (including group leaders and senior officers) to be sensitive to diverse members' needs and ready to signpost to sources of help and support.
- g) To call on the standards committee to ensure that incidents of harassment and discrimination in any form are dealt with appropriately.
- h) To request officers to produce an action plan for improving equality and diversity among members, to include policies on disability as well as maternity, paternity and adoption.

10. Leader's Statement

11. Audit Committee Annual Report

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Issued on Monday, 2 September 2019

The reports included in Part I of this agenda can be made available in **alternative formats**. For further information about this service, or to arrange for special facilities to be provided at the meeting, **please contact DEMOCRATIC SERVICES on 01795 417330**. To find out more about the work of Council, please visit www.swale.gov.uk

**Chief Executive, Swale Borough Council,
Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT**