



Council Meeting

**Council Offices
White Cliffs Business Park
Dover**

Wednesday, 29 January 2025

Summons and Agenda

Nadeem Aziz
Chief Executive



Democratic Services
White Cliffs Business Park

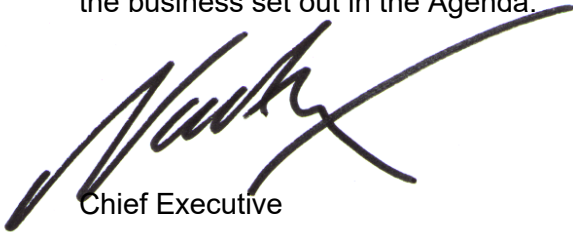
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21 January 2025

To the Members of the Council,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **COUNCIL** to be held in the Council Chamber at these Offices on Wednesday 29 January 2025 at 6.00 pm for the transaction of the business set out in the Agenda.



Chief Executive

Members of the Council:

G Cowan (Chairman)	M F Hibbert	D J Parks
D G Cronk (Vice-Chairman)	S Hill	M P Porter
J S Back	N S Kenton	J L Pout
T J Bartlett	R M Knight	O C de R Richardson
M Bates	J P Loffman	M W Rose
D G Beaney	S M S Mamjan	C A Vinson
S H Beer	S C Manion	H M Williams
E A Biggs	K Mills	C F Woodgate
S B Blair	M W Moorhouse	L M Wright
P M Brivio	D P Murphy	C D Zosseder
D R Friend	M J Nee	

AGENDA

1 **APOLOGIES** (Page 8)

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 **MINUTES** (Page 9)

That Council be asked to agree an amendment to the Minutes of the full Council meeting held on 17 July 2024 at Minute No. 74 as set out in the agenda papers.

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2024 (to follow).

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** (Page 10)

To receive any declarations of interest from Members in respect of business to be transacted on the agenda.

Members are reminded that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to the report on the Council Tax Base and Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2025/26. If any member of the Council who is present at the meeting at which this report is considered owes any sum in respect of council tax which has remained unpaid for at least two months, they shall at the meeting and as soon as practicable after its commencement disclose the fact that section 106 applies to them and shall not vote on any question with respect to the matter.

4 **ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Page 11)

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

5 **LEADER'S TIME** (Page 12)

To receive an oral report at the meeting from the Leader (and Cabinet) on the business of the Executive or on any topic or subject that it is felt should be brought to the attention of the Council.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 (Leader's Time):

- (a) The Leader (and Cabinet) shall have up to 15 minutes to make within this report any statements that they wish on any topic or subject that they feel should be drawn to the attention of the Council.
- (b) The Leader of the Main Opposition Group (or their nominee) shall be allowed up to 10 minutes to respond.
- (c) The Leader of the Council shall be allowed up to 5 minutes to exercise a right of reply (or 25% of the time given to the Opposition Group Leader(s), whichever is the greatest).

6 **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC** (Pages 13 - 14)

To receive answers in respect of questions from the public to Members of the Executive asked in accordance with Rule 11 of the Council Procedure Rules.

- (a) Questions will be asked in the order in which notice of them was received, except that the Chairman may group together similar questions.
- (b) The period for questions by the public shall be limited so that no further questions shall be put after the elapse of 15 minutes from the commencement of the first question.
- (c) A maximum of three minutes is allowed for the each question to be read.
- (d) A questioner who has put a question in person may also put one supplementary question without notice to the member who has replied to his or her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply.
- (e) Afterwards, any other Member at the Chairman's discretion may speak for up to two minutes on a question or reply.

Questions from the Public

The questions received during the notice period are set out in the agenda papers.

7 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS** (Pages 15 - 17)

Up to 60 minutes is allowed for this part of the meeting unless extended by the Chairman of the Council or on a motion moved, duly seconded and approved by the Council. Members may ask one supplementary question in addition to their original question.

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The questions received are set out in the order received in the agenda papers.

8 **MOTIONS** (Pages 18 - 22)

Motions for which notice has been given are listed on the agenda in the order in which notice was received, unless the Member giving notice states, in writing, that they propose to move it at a later meeting or withdraw it.

If a Motion set out in the agenda is not moved by the Member who gave notice thereof it shall, unless postponed by consent of the Council, be treated as withdrawn and shall not be moved without fresh notice.

The Motions received are set out in the agenda papers.

9 **COUNCIL TAX BASE AND COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2025/26**

To consider the report of the Strategic Director (Finance and Housing)(to follow).

Recorded Vote

A recorded vote will be required in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.6 (Voting on Budget Decisions).

10 **REVIEW OF ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS 2025** (Pages 23 - 37)

To consider the Joint Report Of The Chief Executive And Monitoring Officer.

11 **DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2025/26** (Pages 38 - 47)

To consider the report of the Head of Corporate Services and Democracy.

12 **EAST KENT JOINT INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

To consider the report of the Head of Corporate Services and Democracy. (to follow)

13 **SECTION 24 BACKGROUND REPORT** (Pages 48 - 67)

To consider the attached report of the Strategic Director (Finance and Housing).

14 **GRANT THORNTON SECTION 24 STATUTORY RECOMMENDATIONS** (Pages 68 - 84)

To consider the report of Grant Thornton.

15 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC** (Page 85)

The recommendation is attached.

MATTERS WHICH THE MANAGEMENT TEAM SUGGESTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE AS THE REPORT CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION AS DEFINED WITHIN PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS INDICATED AND IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE PROPER OFFICER CONSIDERS THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN MAINTAINING THE EXEMPTION OUTWEIGHS THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN DISCLOSING THE INFORMATION

16 **CHANGES TO THE CHIEF OFFICER STRUCTURE** (Pages 86 - 91)

To consider the report of the Head of Paid Service.

17 **URGENT BUSINESS TIME** (Page 92)

To consider any other items deemed by the Chairman of the Council to be urgent in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.

Access to Meetings and Information

- Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Council, its Committees and Sub-Committees. You may remain present throughout them except during the consideration of exempt or confidential information.
- All meetings are held at the Council Offices, Whitfield unless otherwise indicated on the front page of the agenda. There is step free access via the Council Chamber entrance and an accessible toilet is available in the foyer. In addition, there is a PA system and hearing loop within the Council Chamber.
- In order to facilitate the broadcast of meetings there have been cameras set up in the Council Chamber that communicate with Microsoft Teams Live. This enables meetings held in the Council Chamber to be broadcast for public viewing through the Council's website.
- The meetings in which these cameras will be used include meetings of: (a) Council; (b) Cabinet; (c) Dover Joint Transportation Advisory Board; (d) General Purposes Committee; (e) Electoral Matters Committee; (f) Governance Committee; (g) Planning Committee; and (h) Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Only agenda items open to the press and public to view will be broadcast.
- These recordings will be retained for 30 days from the date of the meeting. The recordings will be uploaded to YouTube as soon as practicable after the day of the meeting. In normal circumstances this would be within 2 working days of the meeting. However, there may be circumstances where it will take longer. The recordings can be viewed on the Council's YouTube Channel - [Council meetings - YouTube \(@doverdc\)](#)

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- Members of the Committee may receive confidential information relating to personal data as part of an item of an exempt or confidential business on the agenda. It is each Member's responsibility to ensure that this information is handled securely and confidentially as required under data protection legislation. This information must only be retained for as long as necessary and when no longer required disposed of via a shredder or the Council's secure disposal arrangements.

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