

# HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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## THE COUNTY COUNCIL

## SUMMONS AND AGENDA

for the meeting on Tuesday 25 November 2003 at 10.30 a.m. in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Hertford.

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### GROUP MEETINGS

<b>Conservative Group</b>	<b>9.15 a.m.</b>	<b>Committee Room 'B'</b>
<b>Labour Group</b>	<b>9.30 a.m.</b>	<b>Committee Room 'A'</b>
<b>Liberal Democrat Group</b>	<b>9.15 a.m.</b>	<b>Group Room</b>

### PRAYERS 10.20 a.m.

Prayers led by Father Henry Nevin of the Society of the Divine Saviour and Parish Priest of St Saviour's Roman Catholic Church, Abbots Langley

#### 1. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16 September 2003 (previously circulated).

#### 2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 3. QUESTIONS: HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY - STANDING ORDER 7(6)

To deal with any questions from Members of the Council on the discharge of the functions of the Hertfordshire Police Authority, directed to a person so nominated by that Authority (the Chairman of the Authority, I H Laidlaw-Dickson).

#### 4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS - STANDING ORDER 7(10)

To deal with any questions from any member of the public being resident in or a registered local government elector of Hertfordshire, to the Leader of the Council and Executive Members about any matter over which the Council has power, or which directly affects the county.

**5. PUBLIC PETITIONS - STANDING ORDER 14**

The opportunity for any member of the public, being resident in or a registered local government elector of Hertfordshire to present a petition relating to a matter with which the Council is concerned, containing 100 or more signatures of residents or business ratepayers of Hertfordshire.

Notification of intent to present a petition must have been given to the County Secretary at least 14 clear days before the meeting where an item relating to the subject matter of the petition does not appear in the agenda, or at least 3 clear days where the item is the subject of a report.

Notification of intent has been received from:-

Mrs Sarah Davies on behalf of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council relating to the Home to School Transport Policy which came into force in September 2003, and how this affects the rural community of Watton-at-Stone.

**Reports from Cabinet – 10 November 2003**

- 6. HERTFORDSHIRE SUBMISSION TO REGIONAL PLANNING PANEL ON DISTRICT LEVEL HOUSING FIGURES FOR RPG14**
- 7. PROPERTY PLAN 2003 ONWARDS**

**Reports from Scrutiny Committees**

- 8. REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14 OCTOBER 2003**
- 9. REPORT OF THE CHILDREN, SCHOOLS & FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 15 OCTOBER 2003**
- 10. REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 21 OCTOBER 2003**

**Report from the Standards Committee**

- 11. To receive the attached report from the Standards Committee held on 26 September 2003.**

## Reports from Officers

### 12. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

#### Report of the County Secretary

The Council is invited to approve the programme of meetings for September 2004 to July 2005, as set out in the attached draft.

### 13. KEY DECISIONS / FORWARD PLAN

To note the position of Key Decisions in the decision-making process shown in the current edition of the Forward Plan (circulated separately).

### 14. ITEMS OF BUSINESS REQUESTED BY MEMBERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 6 (2) (1)

None notified.

#### Other Items

### 15. NOTICES OF MOTION - STANDING ORDER 8 (5)

#### 15.1 Speed Limits on Residential Roads

J T Metcalf to move:-

*“That this Council welcomes the call from the Health Development Agency for speed to be cut to 20mph on residential roads to reduce children's deaths and injuries by 67% and the Council will therefore expect measures to reduce speeds to 20mph on residential roads wherever possible to be included in the Local Transport Plan.”*

#### 15.2 Council Tax

I Simpson to move:-

*“That this Council*

- a) *welcomes the willingness of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, in its initial response to the local authorities ‘Balance of Funding’ consultation, to investigate seriously, alternative methods of financing local government;*
- b) *regrets the major and unfair impact that successive council tax increases have had on our most vulnerable residents, especially households on low incomes, such as many of our pensioners;*

- c) *notes that since 1997, the average Band D council tax has risen by 70%.*

*and therefore calls on the Deputy Prime Minister to:*

- (i) scrap the unfair and non-progressive council tax and replace it with a locally set tax on income, which would be related to ability to pay, and provide a buoyant source of income for local government;*
- (ii) demolish the complicated and centrally set system of local government grants which disguises accountability, so that residents cannot be certain who is responsible for local tax increases;*
- (iii) introduce a fair and transparent equalisation mechanism with the sole purpose of ensuring that each authority is able to provide a similar service to its residents at a similar cost;*
- (iv) return business rates to local control;*
- (v) reduce centrally levied Income Tax in line with any savings in central expenditure arising from the above changes."*

## **16. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(1)**

To deal with any questions directed to the Leader of the Council and Executive Members about the discharge of their responsibilities. All such questions shall have been notified to the County Secretary at least 10 clear days before the meeting.

At the end of each reply the questioner may put one supplementary question to the person to whom the original question was put, who may reply orally or may undertake to reply in writing within 7 days.

The period allocated to questions shall not exceed 30 minutes. Any remaining after that period has elapsed shall be answered in writing within 7 days.

**ANDREW LAYCOCK**  
**County Secretary**