

To all Members of the County Council

An ordinary meeting of the County Council will be held at **10.30 am** on **Friday, 16 December 2022** at **County Hall, Chichester PO19 1RQ**.

Agenda

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Appointment of Vice-Chairman for the meeting**

To appoint a vice-chairman for the meeting.

3. **Members' Interests**

Members are asked to disclose any pecuniary or personal interests in matters appearing on the agenda.

4. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 28)

The Council is asked to confirm the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the County Council held on 14 October 2022.

5. **Review of Proportionality** (Pages 29 - 30)

The County Council must, following a change in group affiliation, review the proportionality of the allocation of seats on its committees. An explanation of the proportionality rules and how they are applied is attached. A table showing the number of seats on committees will follow.

6. **Appointments**

Following the review of proportionality, to consider any proposed changes to appointments. Proposals will be circulated. Changes will take effect from the end of the meeting.

7. **Address by a Cabinet Member**

At the discretion of the Chairman, to receive an address by a Cabinet Member on a matter of urgency and/or significant interest to the County Council and which relates to the powers and responsibilities of the County Council or which affects the Council.

8. **Standards Committee: New Councillor Code of Conduct**
(Pages 31 - 46)

The Council is asked to consider a proposed new Code of Conduct, based on the Local Government Association's Model Code, in the light of a report by the Standards Committee.

9. **Report of Urgent Action** (Pages 47 - 48)

To note urgent action taken under regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

10. **Question Time** (Pages 49 - 56)

Questions to the Leader and Cabinet Members on matters in the Cabinet report, written questions and any other questions relevant to their portfolios. Members may also ask questions of the Leader on anything current, relevant to the County Council. The report covers portfolio-related business since the meeting of the Council on 14 October 2022. A supplementary report may be published.

(2 hours is allocated for Question Time)

Lunch (In the event that morning business is finished before lunch afternoon business will be brought forward.)

11. **Notices of Motion**

(a) **Motion on Skills**

To debate the following motion, submitted by Cllr Sparkes, notice of which was given on 29 November 2022.

'Since Covid attitudes towards traditional careers and ways of working have changed and some people might prefer to follow a career path outside an office setting, particularly in areas that will contribute to a more environmentally friendly and carbon neutral future.

Would the Cabinet Members for Learning and Skills and Support Services and Economic Development consider setting up a Task and Finish Group to explore working with local enterprises such as the South Downs National Park Authority, district and borough councils, the Local Enterprise Partnership and similar organisations involved with promoting the economy of West Sussex so as to help in the provision of apprenticeships and internships throughout the county.'

(b) **Motion on Elections**

To debate the following motion, submitted by Cllr Lord, notice of which was given on 28 November 2022.

'Following the introduction of compulsory voter identification for the local elections next May, this Council:

- Notes the low level of alleged voter fraud, and zero convictions in 2021, across the country.
- Notes the concerns of the Electoral Commission and Association of Electoral Administrators about the challenging timelines for implementation of voter identification.
- Notes the limited number of identification options for younger people relative to older people and the possible asymmetrical impact this will have on voter turnout in younger age groups.
- Notes the need to ensure all West Sussex residents are made aware of the need for voter identification prior to the May 2023 elections.

This Council therefore calls on the leader to:

- (1) Write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to request that implementation be delayed to allow for further consideration of the necessity of compulsory voter identification and, if he still chooses to proceed, request that he reconsiders the timelines for implementation and allows a broader range of identification than currently proposed to ensure younger voters are not disproportionately impacted.
- (2) Request that district and borough councils:
 - (a) Prepare information on the requirement for voter ID, details on how to obtain free voter cards and details on registering for postal votes; and
 - (b) Prepare for this to be included in the Council Tax bills being sent to residents in Spring 2023 should implementation of voter identification proceed as proposed.'

County Council concludes

Items not commenced by 4.15 p.m. will be deferred to the following meeting.

Director of Law and Assurance
7 December 2022

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