



To the Members of the Borough Council

Dear Sir/Madam

Notice of a Meeting, to be held as a Virtual Meeting on Microsoft Teams in accordance with Regulation 5 of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 on **Thursday 15th April 2021 at 7.00 pm.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS VIRTUAL MEETING:-

Please note the public cannot physically “attend” a Virtual Meeting. However any member of the press and public may listen-in to proceedings at this ‘virtual’ meeting via a weblink which will be publicised on the Council’s website at www.ashford.gov.uk at least 24 hours before the meeting. Members of the press and public may tweet, blog etc. during the live broadcast as they would be able to during a regular Council meeting at the Civic Centre. It is important, however, that Councillors can discuss and take decisions without disruption, so the only participants in this Virtual Meeting will be the Councillors concerned, the Officers advising the Council and the Officers designated to address the Council on behalf of any members of the public who have registered in advance to ‘speak’ on the items to be considered. This will take the place of the usual procedure for public speaking at the Council’s regular meetings at the Civic Centre. In order to register for this, written notice must be given on the Council’s website at <https://www.ashford.gov.uk/councillors-meetings-and-elections/councillors-andmeetings/public-participation/application-to-speak-at-a-public-meeting/> or by email to membersservices@ashford.gov.uk by 10am on the Wednesday before the meeting.

Summary of the Scheme of Public Participation for Virtual Meetings (referred to as “VMs”)

The public cannot physically “attend” a VM.

H.M. Government has recently changed the public’s legal right to attend meetings into a right to hear, by means of technology, the Councillors attending the VM remotely.

Written notice of a wish to speak (by means of the procedure below) at a VM must be given, either to membersservices@ashford.gov.uk or on the Council’s website at <https://www.ashford.gov.uk/councillors-meetings-and-elections/councillors-andmeetings/public-participation/application-to-speak-at-a-public-meeting/> by 10:00 hours on the Wednesday before the VM – i.e. 10:00 a.m. on **Wednesday, 14th April 2021**

Those registered to speak must submit to membersservices@ashford.gov.uk by 10:00 hours on the day of the VM, a copy of their speech in written, legible English. It should be no longer than 400 words, on a single side of A4 paper, printed in 12-point non-italic sans-serif font (e.g. Arial). Any text above 400 words will not be read out.

Speeches received as above will be read to the VM by a competent Officer for and on behalf of the speakers, at the normal times and in the normal order during the VM (subject to the Chairman’s normal discretion).

IMPORTANT:

An Officer reading any speech on behalf of any speaker shall have discretion to omit/edit out any inappropriate language, information or statements.

If any defamation, insult, personal or confidential information, etc. is contained in any speech received from any speaker, and/or is read to the VM by an Officer, each speaker accepts by submitting their speech to be fully responsible for all consequences thereof and to indemnify the Officer and the Council accordingly.

Yours faithfully

Agenda

Page Nos..

1. **Apologies**
2. **To consider whether any items should be dealt with in private because of the likely disclosure of Exempt or Confidential Information**
3. **Declarations of Interest** 1 - 2
 1. To declare any interests which fall under the following categories, as explained on the attached document:
 - a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI)
 - b) Other Significant Interests (OSI)
 - c) Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests

See agenda item 3 for further details
4. **To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 4th March 2021** 3 - 32
5. **To receive any announcements from the Mayor, Leader or other Members of the Cabinet**
6. **To receive any petitions**
7. **To receive any questions from, and provide answers to, the public (being resident of the Borough) which in the opinion of the Mayor are relevant to the business of the Meeting**
8. **To receive the Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit Committee held on the 16th March 2021** 33 - 38
9. **To receive the Minutes of the Meetings of the Appointments Committee held on the 8th and 24th March 2021** 39 - 42
10. **To consider Motions of which Notice has been given pursuant to Procedure Rule 11**
11. **Questions by Members of which Notice has been given pursuant to Procedure Rule 10**

NOTE: - If debate on any item included within this Agenda gives rise to the need to exclude the press and public due to the likelihood of Exempt or Confidential information being disclosed the following resolution may be proposed and seconded and if carried, the press and public will be requested to leave the meeting for the duration of the debate.

That pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of this item as it is likely that in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure of exempt information hereinafter specified by reference to the appropriate paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Act, where in the circumstances the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

DS
7 April 2021

Queries concerning this agenda? Please contact Danny Sheppard Telephone (01233) 330349 Email danny.sheppard@ashford.gov.uk
Agendas, Reports and Minutes are available on: www.ashford.gov.uk/committees

