

COUNCIL AGENDA

Monday, 4th September 2023 at 7.15pm

**Council Chamber, Braintree District Council,
Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree, CM79HB**

THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Members of the public will be able to view and listen to this meeting via YouTube.
To access the meeting please use the link below:

<http://www.braintree.gov.uk/youtube>

Members of the Council are requested to attend this meeting to transact the business set out in the Agenda.

Councillor J Abbott	Councillor J Edwards	Councillor S Rajeev
Councillor D Abram	Councillor C Finch	Councillor R Ramage
Councillor M Ault	Councillor M Fincken	Councillor F Ricci
Councillor J Ayten	Councillor D Garrod	Councillor P Schwier
Councillor J Baugh	Councillor M Green	Councillor G Spray
Councillor J Beavis	Councillor J Hayes	Councillor M Staines
Councillor J Bond	Councillor P Heath	Councillor B Taylor
Councillor K Bowers	Councillor D Holland	Councillor W Taylor
Councillor L Bowers-Flint	Councillor A Hooks	Councillor M Thorogood
Councillor G Butland	Councillor L Jefferis	Councillor P Thorogood
Councillor J Coleridge	Councillor J Martin	Councillor R van Dulken
Councillor G Courtauld	Councillor S Mason	Councillor T Walsh
Councillor M Cunningham	Councillor A Munday	Councillor L Walters
Councillor T Cunningham	Councillor I Parker	Councillor E Williams
Councillor C Dervish	Councillor J Pell	Councillor T Williams
Councillor T Diamond	Councillor G Prime	Councillor J Wrench
		Councillor B Wright

Members unable to attend the meeting are requested to forward their apologies for absence to the Governance and Members Team on 01376 552525 or email governance@braintree.gov.uk by 3pm on the day of the meeting.

D GASCOYNE
Chief Executive

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS – DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), Other Pecuniary Interests (OPI), or Non-Pecuniary Interests (NPI).

Any Member with a DPI, OPI or NPI must declare the nature of their interest in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Members must not participate in any discussion of the matter in which they have declared a DPI or OPI or participate in any vote, or further vote, taken on the matter at the meeting. In addition, the Member must withdraw from the Chamber where the meeting considering the business is being held unless the Member has received a dispensation from the Monitoring Officer.

Public Question Time - Registration and Speaking

The Agenda allows for a period of up to 30 minutes for Public Question Time. Members of the public may ask questions or make a statement to the Council on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties, or which affects the district, and matters listed on the Agenda.

All questions or statements should be concise and should be able to be heard within the 3 minutes allotted to each speaker.

Anyone wishing to ask a question or make a statement is requested to register their interest by completing the Public Question Time registration [online form](#) by midday on the **second working day** before the day of the meeting.

For example, if the meeting is on a Tuesday, the registration deadline is midday on Friday, (where there is a Bank Holiday Monday you will need to register by midday on the previous Thursday). The Council reserves the right to decline any requests to register to speak if they are received after this time.

When registering for Public Question Time please indicate whether you wish to attend the meeting 'in person', or to participate remotely. People who choose to join the meeting remotely will be provided with the relevant link and joining instructions for the meeting.

Please note that completion of the on-line form does not guarantee you a place to speak during Public Question Time. You will receive email notification from the Governance Service confirming whether your request is successful.

The Chairman of the Council has discretion to amend the order in which questions or statements are presented to Full Council.

In the event that a registered speaker is unable to connect to the meeting, or if there are any technical issues, their question/statement may be read by a Council Officer.

Further information on Public Question Time is available on the [Council's website](#).

Health and Safety:

Anyone attending a meeting of the Council is asked to make themselves aware of the nearest available fire exit. In the event of an alarm sounding, you must evacuate the building immediately and follow all instructions provided by staff. You will be directed to the nearest designated assembly point where you should stay until it is safe to return to the building.

Documents

Agendas, Reports and Minutes may be accessed via www.braintree.gov.uk

Data Processing

For further information on how the Council processes data, please see the Council's Privacy Policy.

https://braintree.gov.uk/info/200136/access_to_information/376/privacy_policy

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched to silent during the meeting in order to prevent disturbances.

Webcast and Audio Recording

Please note that this meeting will be webcast and audio recorded. You may view webcasts for up to 6 months after the meeting using this link: <http://braintree.public-tv/core/portal/home> The meeting will also be broadcast via the Council's YouTube Channel.

Comments and Suggestions

We welcome comments to make our services as efficient and effective as possible. If you have any suggestions regarding the meeting you have attended you may send these to governance@braintree.gov.uk

PUBLIC SESSION

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1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

To declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, other Pecuniary Interest or Non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda having regard to the Code of Conduct for Members and having taken appropriate advice where necessary before the meeting.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 17th July 2023 (copy previously circulated).

4 Public Question Time

Only Registered Speakers will be invited by the Chairman to speak during public question time.
Please see the agenda notes for guidance.

5 To receive any announcements/statements from the Chairman and/ or Leader of the Council.

6 Motion by Councillor Frankie Ricci – Community and Business Support **5 - 6**

7 Motion by Councillor Lynette Bowers-Flint - Affordable Housing Delivery Programme **7 - 8**

8 Motion by Councillor Joanne Beavis - Delivering a balanced budget and quality services **9 - 9**

9 Questions to the Leader and Cabinet

The Chairman will invite Councillors to ask questions of the Leader and the Cabinet Members on matters which relates to the functions of the Leader and Cabinet Members, the powers and duties of the Council or matters pertaining to the District which are relevant to their respective portfolios which have taken place since the last meeting of the Council.

All Councillors are able to ask one question and questions will commence with the Leader of the Opposition. The order of all other questions will be at the discretion of the Chairman.

A period of up to 30 minutes is allowed for this item. Council Procedural Rule 12.13 applies.

Agenda Item: 6

Report Title: Motion by Councillor Frankie Ricci – Community and Business Support	
Report to: Council	
Date: 4 th September 2023	For: Debate
Key Decision: No	Decision Planner Ref No: N/A
Motion Presented by:	Councillor Frankie Ricci
Motion Seconded by:	Councillor Mary Cunningham
Motion Support by:	Councillors Charley Dervish, Sindu Rajeev and Justin Wrench
Enquiries to: Emma Wisbey, Governance and Members Manager	

1. Motion:

This council acknowledges the policies that have enabled it to support communities and businesses in difficult times and to help them bounce back together. The Council also appreciates that £1 million allocation to support residents with cost-of-living concerns, would not have been possible without sound financial management over several years. Likewise, Council support for communities and our businesses has been dependant on responsible finances and a resourceful approach to generating income and securing funding.

Following the unprecedentedly difficult start to this decade, this Council reaffirms its commitment to policies that maintain quality statutory services and give support to our communities and businesses. This Council will continue to play its part in looking after the most vulnerable and helping our District and its residents become more prosperous.

2. Constitution provisions:

Appropriate Notice of the Motion has been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedural Rule 12.17 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution.

Notice of Motion was received on Friday 18th August 2023 at 9:26 am giving 9 clear working days' notice and contains the names of five Councillors supporting the Motion including the Proposer and Seconder.

3. **Amendments to Motion on Notice:**

In accordance with Council Procedural Rule 12.20 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution, no amendments to the Motion shall be moved unless written notice has been given to the Chief Executive or the Monitoring Officer by 12 noon on the third working day before the meeting of Full Council, namely 12 noon on Wednesday 30th August 2023.

Agenda Item: 7

Report Title: Motion by Councillor Lynette Bowers-Flint – Affordable Housing Delivery Programme	
Report to: Council	
Date: 4 th September 2023	For: Debate
Key Decision: No	Decision Planner Ref No: N/A
Motion Presented by: Councillor Lynette Bowers-Flint Motion Seconded by: Councillor Gabrielle Spray Motion Support by: Councillors Charley Dervish, Jack Edwards, Richard van Dulken and Justin Wrench	
Enquiries to: Emma Wisbey, Governance and Members Manager	

1. Motion:

This Council acknowledges the achievement of its Affordable Housing delivery programme in recent times. After a record breaking 417 completions in 2021/22, it delivered another 288 completions in 2022/23, against the annual plan target of 250. With still a high number of affordable homes in the pipeline with planning consent and/or on site currently under construction, the Council is confident that the coming year’s annual plan target of 250 will be met once again.

Going forward the Council undoubtedly faces uncertainty with housing pressures in the district and acknowledges the challenges it will face with achieving its future year’s targets for affordable homes, especially with the slowdown of completion by developers, and so many landowners deciding to hang on to sites with planning permission and not starting building. The Council also acknowledges the strain on residents not being able to get private rented properties due to landlords deciding to sell rather than let.

The Council resolves to proactively seek opportunities to increase social and affordable house building to help ease the pressures of the housing market on those with low and medium incomes.

2. Constitution provisions:

Appropriate Notice of the Motion has been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedural Rule 12.17 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution.

Notice of Motion was received on Friday 18th August 2023 at 1.11pm giving 9 clear working days’ notice and contains the names of six Councillors supporting the Motion including the Proposer and Seconder.

3. **Amendments to Motion on Notice:**

In accordance with Council Procedural Rule 12.20 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution, no amendments to the Motion shall be moved unless written notice has been given to the Chief Executive or the Monitoring Officer by 12 noon on the third working day before the meeting of Full Council, namely 12 noon on Wednesday 30th August 2023.

Agenda Item: 8

Report Title: Motion by Councillor Joanne Beavis – Delivering a balanced budget and quality services	
Report to: Council	
Date: 4 th September 2023	For: Debate
Key Decision: No	Decision Planner Ref No: N/A
Motion Presented by: Councillor Joanne Beavis Motion Seconded by: Councillor James Abbott Motion Support by: Councillors Tom Walsh, Bob Wright and Wendy Taylor	
Enquiries to: Emma Wisbey, Governance and Members Manager	

1. **Motion:**

This Council will strive to deliver a balanced budget over the next 4 years by more fairly levelling up our district, with a focus on strengthening communities.

This Council will strive to deliver quality services and facility improvements equally for all our residents and businesses, in town and rural areas alike.

2. **Constitution provisions:**

Appropriate Notice of the Motion has been given to the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedural Rule 12.17 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution.

Notice of Motion was received on Friday 18th August 2023 at 2.23pm giving 9 clear working days' notice and contains the names of five Councillors supporting the Motion including the Proposer and Seconder.

3. **Amendments to Motion on Notice:**

In accordance with Council Procedural Rule 12.20 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution, no amendments to the Motion shall be moved unless written notice has been given to the Chief Executive or the Monitoring Officer by 12 noon on the third working day before the meeting of Full Council, namely 12 noon on Wednesday 30th August 2023.