

# COUNCIL AGENDA

**Monday, 17th July 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>

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

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|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 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](mailto: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](http://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](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](mailto:governance@braintree.gov.uk)

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

**Pages**

### **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 Council's Annual General Meeting held on 25th May 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. 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.

### **7. Issues Effecting the District Debate**

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| <b>Report Title: Issues affecting the District Debate</b>                    |                                     |
| <b>Report to:</b> Council  |                                     |
| <b>Date:</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2023                                      | <b>For:</b> Consideration           |
| <b>Key Decision:</b> No  | <b>Decision Planner Ref No:</b> N/A |
| <b>Report Presented by:</b> Councillor Graham Butland, Leader of the Council |                                     |
| <b>Enquiries to:</b> Kim Mayo, Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer     |                                     |

**1. Purpose of the Report**

1.1 This report sets out the process to be followed for this debate, to ensure that all Members have an opportunity to participate effectively.

**2. Overview**

2.1 Following the District Elections in May 2023, this is the first meeting of full Council, and the first opportunity the Members have had to bring forward matters for consideration.

2.2 As part of this item, Members are invited to participate in an open debate on matters which they consider important to the District or their Ward.

2.3 In order to aid the debate, Council will have regard to the provisions as set out in the Council's Constitution and in this report. For the purposes of this item only and to ensure fairness to all Members who wish to participate, the following provisions shall apply:

- a. Members will only be able to speak once during this item;
- b. There will be no right of reply, save for the Leader, as proposer of the report, will have a right of reply at the close of the debate;
- c. Members may not move a Motion seeking a decision of Full Council during this debate;
- d. Members will be expected to speak for no longer than 3 minutes; and
- e. Chairman may use their discretion to curtail excessive speeches.

2.4 The Leader of the Council will commence the debate, following which the other Group Leaders will be invited to speak, in order of the political group size. Thereafter the order of all other speeches will be at the discretion of the Chairman.