

This meeting will be webcast live – please use this link to access the Full Council web page where you can access the link in the Media section - [Arun District Council](#)

Tel: (01903 737500)
Fax: (01903) 730442
DX: 57406 Littlehampton
Minicom: 01903 732765

e-mail: committees@arun.gov.uk

29 October 2024

COUNCIL MEETING

To all Members of the Council

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL to be held on **Wednesday 6 November 2024 at 6.00 pm** in the **Council Chamber, at the Arun Civic Centre, Maltravers Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5LF** to transact the business set out below:



Dawn Hudd
Chief Executive

Any members of the public wishing to address the Committee meeting during Public Question Time, will need to email Committees@arun.gov.uk by **5.15 pm** on **Wednesday, 30 October 2024** in line with current Council Meeting Procedure Rules.

For further information on the items to be discussed, or about attending the meeting or how to find the webcast link, please contact Committees@arun.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and Officers are invited to make any declarations of pecuniary, personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on this agenda, and are reminded that they should re-declare their interest before consideration of the item or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.

Members and Officers should make their declaration by stating:

- a) the item they have the interest in
- b) whether it is a pecuniary, personal and/or prejudicial interest
- c) the nature of the interest
- d) if it is a pecuniary or prejudicial interest, whether they will be exercising their right to speak under Question Time

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

To receive questions from the public (for a period of up to 15 minutes)

4. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS WITH PECUNIARY/PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

To receive questions from Members with pecuniary/prejudicial interests (for a period of up to 15 minutes)

5. PETITIONS

To consider any petitions received from the public.

6. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 9 July 2024, which are *attached*.

7. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive such announcements as the Chair may desire to lay before the Council.

8. URGENT MATTERS

To deal with business not otherwise specified in the Council summons which, in the opinion of the Chairman of the Council (in consultation with the Chief Executive), is business of such urgency as to require immediate attention by the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SERVICE COMMITTEES, REGULATORY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEES, AND FROM WORKING PARTIES

9. AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 23 JULY 2024 (Pages 9 - 42)

The Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee, Councillor Stanley, will present recommendations from the meeting of the Audit & Governance Committee held on 23 July 2024.

The minutes from the meeting are attached. The recommendations for the Council to consider can be found at Minute 159 [Treasury Management – Annual Report 2023/24]. The Officer's report with appendices is attached.

10. PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE - 26 SEPTEMBER 2024 (Pages 43 - 94)

The Chair of the Planning Policy Committee, Councillor Yeates, will present recommendations from the Meeting of the Planning Policy Committee held on 26 September 2024.

The minutes are attached. The recommendations for the Council to consider can be found at Minute 243 [Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP 2025-2027)] – the Officer's report with appendices is attached.

11. AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 3 OCTOBER 2024 (Pages 95 - 120)

The Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee, Councillor Stanley, will present recommendations from the meeting of the Audit & Governance Committee held on 3 October 2024.

The minutes from the meeting are attached. The recommendations for the Council to consider can be found at Minute 257 [Treasury Management – Quarter 1 Report 2024/25]. The Officer's report with appendices is attached.

12. STANDARDS COMMITTEE - 17 OCTOBER 2024 (Pages 121 - 130)

The Chair of the Standards Committee, Councillor Huntley, will present recommendations from the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 17 October 2024.

The minutes from the meeting are attached. The recommendations for the Council to consider can be found at Minute 204 [Recruitment of Independent Persons]. The Officer's report is attached.

13. CONSTITUTION WORKING PARTY - 21 OCTOBER 2024 (Pages 131 - 158)

The Chair of the Constitution Working Party, Councillor Yeates, will present recommendations from the meeting of the Constitution Working Party held on 21 October 2024.

The minutes from the meeting are attached. The recommendations for the Council to consider are at:

- Minute 6 [Recommendations from the Special Meeting of the Economy Committee – 12 September 2024]
- Minute 8 [Updates to the Council's Constitution] – the Officer's report is attached
- Minute 9 [Protocol for Councillor Contact with Applicants, Developers, Contractors, Agents and Investors] – the Officer's report with appendices is attached.

14. POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE - 24 OCTOBER 2024

The Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee, Councillor Lury, will present any recommendations from the meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee held on 24 October 2024.

The minutes from this meeting to include any recommendations to Council will be circulated separately to this agenda.

15. MOTIONS

The following Motions have been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 15.1 and 15.2.

MOTION 1

Proposer: Councillor Gunner

Seconder: Councillor Greenway

Changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance and Protecting Pensioners from Fuel Poverty

Council Notes:

- The Labour Government's recent decision to restrict the Winter Fuel Payment to only pensioners in receipt of means-tested benefits like Pension Credit, as announced by Chancellor Rachel Reeves, which impacts up to 32,000 people in Arun.
- The estimated impact of this decision, which Age UK says will mean 2 million pensioners who badly need the money to stay warm this winter will not receive it.
- The significant role that Winter Fuel Payments play in helping older residents of Arun and across the UK afford heating during the coldest months, thereby preventing 'heat or eat' dilemmas and safeguarding health.
- The criticism from Age UK, the Countryside Alliance and other charities, highlighting the social injustice and potential health risks posed by this sudden policy change.
- The additional strain this decision will place on vulnerable pensioners, many of whom do not claim Pension Credit despite being eligible, further exacerbating their financial hardship.
- That three of the four MPs whose constituencies include all or parts of Arun, voted in Parliament on 10 September 2024 to stop the removal of the Winter Fuel Allowance, but that one did not - the Labour MP for Worthing West.

Council believes:

- That the Winter Fuel Payment has been a lifeline for many older people across the UK and that restricting its availability solely to those on Pension Credit risks leaving many pensioners in financial hardship.
- While some pensioners currently in receipt of the Winter Fuel Payment may not require it, many thousands across Arun sit just above the cut-off for Pension Credit and will now lose their allowance.

- The decision to means-test Winter Fuel Payments, especially with such short notice and without adequate compensatory measures, is deeply unfair and will disproportionately affect the health and well-being of our poorest older residents.
- The Government's approach fails to consider the administrative barriers and stigma that prevent eligible pensioners from claiming **Pension Credit**, **leaving many without the support they desperately need.**

Council resolves to:

- Bring forward a Council-led local awareness campaign to alert those eligible of Pension Credit which in some respects will help access to the Winter Fuel Payment for those most in need.
- Request that the Leader of the Council write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment and asking the Government to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who do not claim Pension Credit, are protected from fuel poverty.
- Commit the Council to signing the 'Save the Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners' petition being run by Age UK, with the Leader signing on behalf of the Council, and write to all members offering them the opportunity to sign the petition themselves.
- Encourage local efforts to promote Pension Credit uptake through council services and partnerships with local charities and community organisations to ensure that all eligible pensioners in Arun are supported in claiming their entitlement.

MOTION 2

Proposer: Councillor R Bower

Seconder: Councillor Andy Cooper

In July, the Government announced the cancellation of the proposed Arundel Bypass improvement scheme. The Government took the decision without consulting the relevant local authorities or businesses and did not offer any other compensation measures to alleviate the growing congestion at Arundel and the consequent increasing pressure on the local road network in Arun and our villages. Improvements to the A27 at Arundel have been frequently cited by local businesses as their main priority in order to improve productivity and economic growth in our district. These issues will be compounded by Government proposals due to increased housing development targets.

This Council therefore agrees to request that the Leader, on behalf of the Council:

(1) Writes to the Prime Minister expressing the gravest concern of the Council and local businesses regarding the cancellation, including the lack of consultation and alternative measures to alleviate the issues caused by the lack of capacity on the A27 at Arundel.

(2) Requests a meeting between the District Council and other parties with the Highways Minister in order to discuss Government plans to provide real and lasting improvements to enable a long term resolution to congestion and safety issues on the A27 at Arundel and protect the character and environment of the villages and communities around the A27 from threats such as increased rat-running. This Council is to make it clear to the Minister and the Government that Arun District Council is open to any viable route that will alleviate the issues at Arundel.

16. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

To consider general questions from Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.3.

17. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Any changes to Committee Memberships that need noting by the Council will be reported at the meeting.

18. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council is asked to approve any changes to its representation on Outside Bodies.

Any changes will be reported verbally by the Leader of the Council.

Note : If Members have any detailed questions, they are reminded that they need to inform the Chair and relevant Director in advance of the meeting.

Note : Filming, Photography and Recording at Council Meetings – The District Council supports the principles of openness and transparency in its decision making and permits filming, recording and the taking of photographs at its meetings that are open to the public. This meeting may therefore be recorded, filmed or broadcast by video or audio, by third parties. Arrangements for these activities should operate in accordance with guidelines agreed by the Council and as available via the following link [PART 8 - CP - Section 5 Filming Photographic Protocol.pdf \(arun.gov.uk\)](#).