

APOLOGIES Committee Services
Email: Committee.clerk@maldon.gov.uk

DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND
RESOURCES
Paul Dodson

07 February 2024

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the;

COUNCIL

on **THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2024** at **7.30 pm**

in the **Council Chamber, Maldon District Council Offices, Princes Road, Maldon.**

Please Note: All meetings will continue to be live streamed on the [Council's YouTube channel](#) for those wishing to observe remotely. Public participants wishing to speak remotely at a meeting can continue to do so via Microsoft Teams.

To submit a question in writing or attend in person please complete a [Public Access form](#) (to be received no later than 12noon two clear working days before the Council meeting). All requests will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis.

A copy of the agenda is attached.

Yours faithfully



Director of Strategy and Resources





AGENDA COUNCIL

THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2024

1. **Chairperson's notices**

2. **Apologies for Absence**

3. **Minutes - 14 December 2023** (Pages 7 - 16)

To confirm the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 December 2023 (copy enclosed).

4. **Declaration of Interest**

To disclose the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Registrable interests and Non-Registrable Interests relating to items of business on the agenda having regard to paragraph 9 and Appendix B of the Code of Conduct for Members.

(Members are reminded that they are also required to disclose any such interests as soon as they become aware should the need arise throughout the meeting).

Local Government Finance Act 1992 – Section 106

Will any Members affected by Section 106 please note that any declarations to that effect should be made on the commencement of the meeting or immediately on arrival if this is later. Under Section 106 a Member who has not paid an amount due in respect of their Council Tax for at least two months after it became payable is precluded from voting on any matters affecting the level of Council Tax or the arrangements for administering the Council Tax. (The Member is, however, entitled to speak).

5. **Public Questions**

To receive questions from members of the public, of which prior notification in writing has been received (no later than noon two clear working days before the day of the Council meeting).

Should you wish to submit a question please complete the online form at www.maldon.gov.uk/publicparticipation.

6. **Chairperson's Announcements**

7. **Minute Book**

To consider the recommendations coming forward from the Committees detailed below. Please note that the Minutes of these meetings are not enclosed as they have not been approved at Committee level.

- a) Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 7 December 2023 (Pages 17 - 20)

Member Scrutiny Request – Maldon Citizens’ Advice

Recommended that the findings of this scrutiny, as detailed in the briefing paper at **APPENDIX A**, be endorsed.

- b) Strategy and Resources Committee - 25 January 2023 (Pages 21 - 234)

Council Tax Support Scheme 2024 / 25

RECOMMENDED

- (i) That the following changes to the existing schemes are approved:
- a. a cost of living increase in line with the Department for Work and Pensions schemes be included in the Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) Scheme for 2024 / 25 for Pensioners only;
 - b. that any legislative changes being introduced to the Housing Benefit Scheme, for 2024 / 25 are mirrored in the Council’s LCTS Scheme to ensure consistency;
 - c. minor technical amendments to ensure that we are able to administer the Scheme reflecting current local and national guidance and that we may disregard anything determined to be a local welfare payment from our calculation;
- (ii) that these decisions have been made following Members careful reading of and regard to the Equality Impact Assessment at **APPENDIX 1**;
- (iii) that Members note the unchanged framework for the Hardship Provision at **APPENDIX 2**;
- (iv) that the Policy document at **APPENDIX 3** be approved;
- (v) that the Policy document at **APPENDIX 4** be approved.

Business Rate and Council Tax Discretionary Policies

RECOMMENDED

- (i) That the proposed Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief Scheme at **APPENDIX 5** be approved.
- (ii) That the proposed Empty Homes and Second Homes Premium Policy at **APPENDIX 6** be approved.

Please note that the following recommendations coming forward from the Strategy and Resources Committee are not for consideration at this point as they form part of Agenda Item 9 – 2024 / 25 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy, due to be considered at this meeting:

- Treasury Management Strategy 2024 / 25;
- Capital and Investment Strategies for 2024 / 25 and Minimum Revenue Statement 2024 / 25;

- 2023 / 24 Revised and Original 2024 / 25 Budget Estimates;
- Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024 / 25 – 2026 / 27;
- Income and Savings Proposals 2024 / 25 to 2026 / 27.

c) Strategy and Resources Committee - 1 February (Pages 235 - 242)

Pay Policy Statement

RECOMMENDED that the Pay Policy Statement attached at **APPENDIX 1** be agreed.

8. **Minutes of Meetings of the Council**

To note that since the last Council, up until Wednesday 7 February 2024 (Council agenda dispatch) the following Committees have met, and to receive any questions in accordance with Council and Committee Procedure Rule 6 (2).

North Western Area Planning Committee	6 December 2023
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	7 December
North Western Area Planning Committee	10 January 2024
Performance, Governance and Audit Committee	18 January
District Planning Committee	23 January
Strategy and Resources Committee	25 January
Strategy and Resources Committee (special meeting)	1 February

9. **2024 / 25 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy**

To receive a **Budget Statement from the Leader of the Council**, to consider the following reports of the Section 151 Officer (copies enclosed) and to determine the level of Council Tax.

Members' attention is drawn to the following Procedure Rules:

- **Voting** – Procedure Rule 13(5) set outs the requirement for any vote taken at a budget decision meeting (as defined by the Local Government Finance Act 1992) to be recorded in the Minutes.
 - **Budget Speech** – Procedure Rule 1(13)(a) sets out the time limits in relation to the budget speech and (b) details the requirements for making alternative proposal or amendment as part of the Budget and Council Tax setting.
- Treasury Management Strategy 2024 / 25 (Pages 243 - 294)
 - Capital and Investment Strategies for 2023 / 24 and Minimum Reserve Statement 2024 / 25 (Pages 295 - 334)
 - Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024 / 25 to 2026 / 27 (Pages 335 - 366)
 - Revised 2023 / 24 and Original 2024 / 25 Budget Estimates and Council Tax 2024 / 25 (Pages 367 - 410)
 - Council Tax 2024 / 25 (Pages 411 - 420)

10. **Questions in accordance with Procedure Rule 6(3) of which notice has been given**

11. **Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Election - 2 May 2024 - Polling Stations**
(Pages 421 - 422)
- To consider the report of the Director of Strategy and Resources (copy enclosed).
12. **Essex Wide Devolution Update**
- To receive a verbal update on Essex Wide Devolution.
13. **Business by reason of special circumstances considered by the Chairperson to be urgent**
14. **Exclusion of the Public and Press**
- To resolve that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that this satisfies the public interest test.
15. **Income and Savings Proposals 2024 / 25 to 2026 / 27** (Pages 423 - 430)
- To consider the report of the Interim Chief Finance Officer (copy enclosed).
16. **Corporate Leadership Review** (Pages 431 - 454)
- To consider the report of the Monitoring Officer, (copy enclosed).
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NOTICES

Recording of Meeting

Please note that the Council will be recording and publishing on the Council's website any part of this meeting held in open session.

Fire

In the event of a fire, a siren will sound. Please use the fire exits marked with the green running man. The fire assembly point is outside the main entrance to the Council Offices. Please gather there and await further instruction.

Health and Safety

Please be advised of the different levels of flooring within the Council Chamber.

Closed-Circuit Televisions (CCTV)

Meetings held in the Council Chamber are being monitored and recorded by CCTV.

Lift

Please be aware, there is not currently lift access to the Council Chamber.