

# AGENDA

## COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 6 January 2021

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Virtual Meeting Via Skype

### RECORDING NOTICE

Please note: this meeting may be recorded.

At the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being audio recorded. The whole of the meeting will be recorded, except where there are confidential or exempt items.

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Therefore by entering the Chamber and speaking at Committee you are consenting to being recorded and to the possible use of those sound records for training purposes.

If you have any queries regarding this please contact Democratic Services.

Quorum = 16

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Pages

### Information for the Public

\*Members of the press and public can listen to this meeting live. Details of how to join the meeting will be added to the website after 4pm on 5 January 2021.

### Privacy Statement

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[dataprotectionofficer@swale.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotectionofficer@swale.gov.uk) or by calling 01795 417179.

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes

To approve the [Minutes](#) of the Meeting held on 11 November 2020 (Minute Nos. 224 – 238) as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillors should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves or their spouse, civil partner or person with whom they are living with as a spouse or civil partner. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

The Mayor will ask Members if they have any interests to declare in respect of items on this agenda, under the following headings:

(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) under the Localism Act 2011. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. After declaring a DPI, the Member must leave the meeting and not take part in the discussion or vote. This applies even if there is provision for public speaking.

(b) Disclosable Non Pecuniary (DNPI) under the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council in May 2012. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. After declaring a DNPI interest, the Member may stay, speak and vote on the matter.

(c) Where it is possible that a fair-minded and informed observer, having considered the facts would conclude that there was a real possibility that the Member might be predetermined or biased the Member should declare their predetermination or bias and then leave the meeting while that item is considered.

**Advice to Members:** If any Councillor has any doubt about the existence or nature of any DPI or DNPI which he/she may have in any item on this agenda, he/she should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer, the Head of Legal or from other Solicitors in Legal Services as early as possible, and in advance of the Meeting.

4. Welcome to the new Chief Executive

5. Mayor's Announcements

6. Leader's Statement

7. Questions submitted by the Public

To consider any questions submitted by the public. (The deadline for questions is 4.30 pm on the Wednesday before the meeting – please contact Democratic Services by e-mailing [democraticservices@swale.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@swale.gov.uk) or call 01795 417330).

8. Questions submitted by Members

To consider any questions submitted by Members. (The deadline for questions is 4.30 pm on the Monday the week before the meeting – please contact Democratic Services by e-mailing [democraticservices@swale.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@swale.gov.uk) or call 01795 417330).

9. Motion - Fireworks

In line with the RSPCA campaign this council agrees to :

- Encourage providers of public firework displays, notified through the Council's SAG process, to be advertised in advance of the event; allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people
- Promote a public awareness campaign at relevant points in the year about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks
- Write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays
- Commit to not using fireworks at Swale Borough Council events.

Proposed by: Councillor Hannah Perkin

Seconded by: Councillor Mike Baldock

10. Motion - To maintain the income of low and middle income families

**This Council notes:**

- Next April the Government plan to cut the benefit level for millions of claimants by ending of the time limited increase to the basic rate of Universal Credit (and the tax credit equivalent) announced by the Chancellor on 20th March as part of his pandemic response package.
- The £20 a week boost reflected the reality that the level of benefits were not adequate to protect the swiftly increasing number of households relying on them as the crisis hit. Exactly because that increase was a very significant and welcome move to bolster low and middle-income families living standards, its removal will be a huge loss.
- Pressing ahead would see the level of unemployment support fall to its lowest real-terms level since 1990-91, and its lowest ever relative to average earnings. Indeed, the basic level of out-of-work support prior to the March boost was – at £73 a week (£3,800 a year) – less than half the absolute poverty line.
- The increase in benefits have had a positive effect on the lives of thousands of local claimants who are better able to pay for life's essentials such as food, clothing and utilities.
- The local economy has also benefited from the increase in benefit levels as claimants spend their money locally thereby supporting local

businesses and jobs.

- We also note that there has been no such increase in carers allowance with many unpaid carers facing extreme financial hardship, many have been struggling for months, often relying on foodbanks to feed themselves and the people they care for.

**This Council resolves to:**

- Write to the Chancellor, Rushi Sunak and to the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson demanding that the £20 increase to Universal Credit is made permanent and extended to claimants on legacy benefits.
- Work with other local government organisations to form a coalition to pressure the government to make the £20 increase to Universal Credit permanent.
- Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, urging them to raise Carer's Allowance by £20 a week immediately, in line with the increase in Universal Credit, and copy in our local MP(s), asking for their support.
- Promote Young Carers Action Day on March 16th 2021 as widely as possible on an annual basis, particularly to young carers and their families.

Proposed: Councillor Tim Gibson  
Seconded: Councillor Steve Davey

11.	Climate and Ecological Emergency Annual report	5 - 68
12.	Treasury Management Half Year Report 2020/21	69 - 80
13.	Report from Standards Hearing Sub-Committee 26 November 2020	81 - 86
14.	Recommendations for Approval	87 - 88

Council is asked to note the recommendations from the following meetings:

General Purposes Committee held on 16 December 2020  
Cabinet held on 16 December 2020

**Issued on Tuesday, 22 December 2020**

The reports included in Part I of this agenda can be made available in **alternative formats**. For further information about this service, or to arrange for special facilities to be provided at the meeting, **please contact DEMOCRATIC SERVICES on 01795 417330**. To find out more about the work of Council, please visit [www.swale.gov.uk](http://www.swale.gov.uk)

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