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Brian Spears FCIH
Chief Executive

Ref: PN

21 February 2006

To: The Mayor and Members of the **COUNCIL**

Dear Sir/Madam

I hereby summon you to attend a Meeting of the **COUNCIL** to be held in the Town Hall, Durham, on **Monday 27 February 2006, at 5.30 pm.**

BUSINESS

1. Prayers.
2. To swear in Mr C Fenwick, Bede Lodge, Rehills Lane, Durham, as a Member of the Mayor's Bodyguard.
3. Apologies for Absence.
4. To approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 January 2006.
5. Mayor's Announcements (if any).
6. Council Procedure Rule No. 11
[Petitions by the Public – See Appendix 'A']
7. To answer questions under Council Procedure Rule No. 9.2
[Questions by Members – See Appendix 'B']
8. Notices of Motion.
 - (a) Notice has been given by Councillor Woods of her intention to move the following Motion:

That City of Durham Council
 - (i) expresses its concern at
 - the decline of local services and facilities which affects local communities and in particular the elderly and people on the lowest incomes;
 - the resulting decline of local jobs and local economies and the resulting extra traffic and pollution caused by the need to travel further
 - (ii) and notes that this combination of factors increases people's feelings of exclusion and lack of involvement; and so
 - (iii) supports measures to reverse this process and

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(iv) supports the concept of local sustainability as envisaged in the Sustainable Communities Bill, namely;

- the promotion of local economies
- the promotion of local services and facilities
- the protection of the environment
- the reduction of social exclusion and
- measures to increase involvement in the democratic process

(v) and accordingly resolves to support the Sustainable Communities Bill which

- requires the government to assist councils and communities in promoting local sustainability in ways decided by them; and
- sets up a participative process whereby councils and communities can drive the way in which government uses its power and influence to assist with the promotion of local sustainability; and
- recognises therefore that the Bill provides for a 'bottom-up' rather than a 'top down' one-size-fits-all process
- notes that this Bill is therefore fully in accord with current thinking in local government in that it impacts on central authorities and does not impose any new duties on councils but instead enables them to influence how government uses its resources and influence to help councils and communities; and
- specifically provides that where councils themselves decide to take action to promote local sustainability that they should be given the resources to do so; and so

(vi) and further resolves

- to inform the local media of this decision;
- to write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill; and sign EDM (Early Day Motion) No. 641; and
- to write to the Local Works Campaign (at 94 White Lion St, London N1 9PF) expressing its support .

Councillor Reynolds will second.

(b) Notice has been given by Councillor Syer of his intention to move the following Motion:

“This Council believes that Portfolio Holders must take responsibility for decisions made in their names and by Cabinet, and that they are paid accordingly. That duty includes allowing those decisions to be submitted to full and proper scrutiny. Council also believes that the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committee and Panels have an equivalent duty, for which they are also paid, to ensure that Cabinet and Portfolio Holders' decisions are fully and properly scrutinised.”

Councillor Bell will second.

(c) Notice has been given by Councillor Griffin of his intention to move the following Motion:

“This Council believes that motions to full Council meetings should be disallowed if they do not relate to a matter for which the Council has a responsibility or which uniquely or disproportionately affects the City of Durham, and resolves to introduce an amendment to the Council's Procedure Rule No. 8.5 accordingly.”

Councillor Cummings will second.

(d) Notice has been given by Councillor Rochford of her intention to move the following Motion:

“This Council welcomes plans to make the Town Hall fully accessible.”

Councillor Marsden will second.

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- (e) Notice has been given by Councillor Syer of his intention to move the following Motion:

This Council believes that the most serious risks identified in the new Swimming Pool Risk Register should be closely and meaningfully scrutinised by non-executive Members at the earliest opportunity.”

Councillor Robinson will second.

- (f) Notice has been given by Councillor Taylor of his intention to move the following Motion:

“This Council is ashamed of the shambles witnessed by a large number of members of the public at the Development Control Committee meeting on 15th February 2006.”

Councillor Rochford will second.

- (g) Notice has been given by Councillor Taylor of his intention to move the following Motion:

“This Council resolves to engage in full and meaningful consultation with residents before Cabinet decides to dispose of land for development and to submit planning applications for such development.”

Councillor Turnbull will second.

- (h) Notice has been given by Councillor Griffin of his intention to move the following Motion:

“Council affirms that all Members of Council should be informed of changes to the contact details of any of its Members and, especially, of any resignations from Council at the earliest opportunity.”

Councillor Bell will second.

9. Report of Director of Legal and Administration Services.

10. Report of Director of Strategic Services.

Yours faithfully

Chief Executive

Note: Refreshments for Members will be available in the Small Hall from 4.30 pm.

COUNCIL
27th JANUARY, 2006

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 9.2
QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

1. The following question was received, by the due date, from Councillor Taylor and was addressed to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Leisure.

“At the last meeting of Council, the Portfolio Holder made the sweeping statement that the people of Durham neither needed nor wanted ID cards.

While I respect her right to an opinion that the people of Durham don't need ID cards, I believe full Council should not be expected to make decisions that are not justified by reliable evidence.

Could Councillor Woods inform Council how many people she consulted, and by what methodology, to allow her to make such a bold statement?”
2. The following question was received, by the due date, from Councillor Crathorne and was addressed to the Leader of the Council.

“Will the Leader of the Council inform Members what progress has been made on the possible parishing of the unparished areas of the District?”
3. The following question was received, by the due date, from Councillor Robinson and was addressed to the Portfolio Holder for Community Development.

“Will the Portfolio Holder for Community Development please say why new application forms for financial assistance from the Flourishing Communities Fund have still not been introduced, and why applications are still being accepted on the old forms, despite it being said that these could no longer be used?”
4. The following question was received, by the due date, from Councillor Syer and was addressed to the Chairman of Development Control.

“Will the Chair of the Development Control Committee please say what effect on the Council's targets and on the amount of Planning Delivery Grant it can expect, as a result of Cabinet's decision not to hold any Development Control meeting between 2nd August and 20th September 2006?”
5. The following question was received, by the due date, from Councillor Taylor and was addressed to the Portfolio Holder for Housing.

“Recently at the request of a resident of Red Courts in Brandon I obtained a future works programme for properties in Brandon up to the year ending 2010.

Noting that Red Courts does not appear on the programme the resident has asked me to ask the Portfolio Holder, just when the residents of Red Courts can expect to see their properties receive much needed improvements?

I also have a Petition given to me and signed by every Council tenant in Red Courts to present to Councillor Southwell.”
6. The following question was received, by the due date, from Councillor Taylor and was addressed to the Leader of the Council.

“In early December 2005, an extremely upset resident who regularly uses the Sycamore Park Communal Hall in Brandon contacted me.

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The lady in question is a wheelchair user and she informed me that she had been waiting a considerable amount of time to have some handrails fitted to the toilets in the hall, to enable her and two other wheelchair users to use the toilets.

I contacted the Operations Manager, who as usual was extremely helpful and the handrails were fitted by the end of the month.

At the request of this lady I visited the hall only to find her in a state of much distress and I was shown that where the handrails had been installed was of no use to her and the two other residents.

I then spoke to the Technical Manager, who then had the work inspected and later informed me that the handrails could not be put in any other position and that the toilets would need to be properly adapted.

I am asking the Leader of this Council tonight, to release the finance to have these toilets properly adapted and take away the indignation and indeed embarrassment of these three Brandon residents.

Will the Leader of the Council give me an undertaking tonight to do that?"

7. The following question was received, by the due date, from Councillor Syer and was addressed to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Leisure.

"Will the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Leisure inform Council when Competition Line, referred to in the Executive Director's November 2005 report to the Risk Management Working Group as the "preferred partner" for the Health & Fitness Suite to be built as part of the new swimming pool, was appointed to that position, and by whom, and when other tenderers considered by Cabinet on 18th January 2006 were informed of that decision."

COUNCIL
27th FEBRUARY, 2006

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO.11
PETITIONS BY THE PUBLIC

1. The following petition was received, by the due date, from Mr. Tony Clarke, 11 Nickleby Chare, Merryoaks, Durham City, DH1 3QX.

Closure of Durham City Sports Centres' Main Facilities to the General Public on Friday Nights From 7pm – 9pm

Background Papers:

- *Letter and Petition from Mr. Tony Clarke, 11 Nickleby Chare, merryoadk, Durham City, DH1 3QX..*