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Brian Spears FCIH
Chief Executive

Ref: DW

19 September 2007

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 Studio, Gala Theatre, Durham, on **Thursday 27 September 2007, at 5.30 pm.**

BUSINESS

1. Prayers.
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. To approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 July 2007.
4. To present to Mr Boulton his Long Service Certificate for 25 years service with the Council.
5. Mayor's Announcements (if any).
6. AUDIT COMMISSION
(Audit Commission Report to be sent out under separate cover)
7. To answer questions under Council Procedure Rule No. 9.2
[Questions by Members – See Appendix 'A']
8. Notices of Motion.

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

"The City of Durham in its constitution states that under 2.3 B.4 that a back bench Member has deferred rights.
These are being denied due to the present procedural rules.
I therefore move that a procedure should be put in place where the Portfolio Holders are made to form a panel where Elected Members may ask questions on their Portfolio's on a bi-monthly timetable."

Councillor Moderate will second.

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

"This Council welcomes all those who come to live and work in our great City. This Council though is deeply concerned by recent remarks made by the Deputy Leader in which she attacked Durham's MP for her place of birth and made comments about "outsiders who threaten our jobs and services.

2.

This Council believes this sort of language is deeply unhelpful and damaging. It believes this kind of language can incite racism, gives the impression that Durham is not a welcoming City and models a politics of personal attacks rather than policy based debate.

Immediate action is therefore required to demonstrate that this Council does not support this kind of language or methods, believing them to be deeply unhelpful to constructive political debate and discussion.

So, this Council resolves to:

Call on the Deputy Leader to publicly apologise to the MP for her comments and to write to all those who received the leaflet apologising and retracting the statement and;

Publicly distance itself from the Deputy Leader's statement and widely publish the fact that these comments by the Deputy Leader in no way reflect the views of the Council, its employees or members."

Councillor Robinson will second.

(c) Notice has been given by Councillor Pitts of her intention to move the following motion:

"This Council congratulates all of the agencies, Councils, and staff involved in helping Durham City to win several recent prestigious travel and environmental awards and calls on local Councillors and MP's to promote the positive things about our wonderful City and District."

Councillor Reynolds to second

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

"This Council calls on the Government and our MP Roberta Blackmann-Woods to guarantee that if legal action fails and a Unitary Council is imposed on County Durham it will be a New Authority and not a Continuing one."

Councillor Reynolds to second.

9. Report of Officers Management Team
10. Report of Legal & Democratic Services Manager
11. Annual Scrutiny Report

Yours faithfully

Chief Executive

Note: Refreshments for Members will be available in Studio 2 from 5.00 pm.