



Local Government Act 1972

I Hereby Give You Notice that an **Ordinary Meeting** of the **Durham County Council** will be held in the **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 18 October 2023** at **10.00 am** to transact the following business:-

1. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2023 (Pages 5 - 12)
2. To receive any declarations of interest from Members
3. Chair's Announcements
4. Leader's Report
5. Questions from the Public
6. Petitions
7. Report from the Cabinet (Pages 13 - 16)
8. Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme proposal for 2024/25 (Pages 17 - 34)
9. Report of the Audit Committee for the period September 2022 to August 2023 (Pages 35 - 50)
10. Request for Dispensation Under Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 - Report of Corporate Director of Resources (Pages 51 - 54)
11. Motions on Notice

Councillor C Martin to Move

Council notes that many people who experience long-term homelessness and transient housing may have multiple and complex needs, including mental health difficulties, family breakdown, trauma, past criminal offending, and substance dependency. Homelessness (in particular street homelessness) has serious adverse effects on mental and physical health.

Council supports the production of a revitalised homelessness strategy and believes that access to good quality housing is a human right.

Council believes that a key part of the strategy should include a 'Housing First' approach, so that those with multiple and complex needs are supported to prevent and relieve homelessness, in line with Housing Link's principles of Housing First. Providing this intense support to people with multiple and complex needs provides good value to the tax payer, as it is proven to be effective in reducing longer term demands on healthcare, policing, and other public services.

Therefore, Council would welcome a long-term commitment to commissioning of Housing First provision as the effective and efficient homelessness reduction strategy for multiple and complex needs in any new homelessness strategy brought for Council for approval.

Council requests that the portfolio holder and council officers, working with stakeholders, write to local MPs and the Secretary of State to support additional funding to deliver a joined-up policy of increasing Housing First provision across all councils in the UK.

Councillor S Deinali to Move

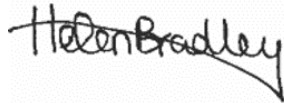
This Council condemns the Conservative Governments decisions since 2010 to cut capital spending on school improvements and its failure to adequately fund schools across County Durham.

The Council will write to the Secretary of State for Education outlining these views.

12. Questions from Members

And pursuant to the provisions of the above-named act, **I Hereby Summon You** to attend the said meeting

Dated this 10th day of October 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Bradley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Helen Bradley
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

To: All Members of the County Council