

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council to be held at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley on Monday, 13th October, 2003, at 6.00 p.m. for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the agenda below.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

3rd October, 2003

AGENDA

PRAYERS

1. MINUTES

TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 21ST JULY, 2003 (PAGES CL/20 – CL/43).

2. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT.

3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

4. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS:-

	<u>PAGES</u>	
	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
(a) Meeting of the Executive held on 10th September, 2003:		
Councillor Caunt to move:		
(i) Capital Programme Monitoring	1	6
(ii) Scheme of Delegation	7	9
(iii) Confidential Reporting Policy	10	21

Councillor Powell to move:

- |      |  |    |    |
|------|--|----|----|
| (iv) | Revenue Budget Strategy 2004/05 to 2005/06 | 22 | 31 |
|------|--|----|----|

Councillor Evans to move:

- |     |                           |    |    |
|-----|---------------------------|----|----|
| (v) | Review of Housing Finance | 32 | 33 |
|-----|---------------------------|----|----|
- (b) Select Committee on the Environment held on 11th September, 2003:

Councillor Sheppard to move: 34 36

Policy Statement on Genetically Modified Food Crops and Feeding Stuffs

- (c) Audit Committee held on 29th September, 2003:

Councillor J R Davies to move:

Treasury Management 37 38

## 5. NOTICES OF MOTION

- (a) To consider the following Notice of Motion, received from Councillor Fraser-Macnamara on 23rd July, 2003.

This Council notes the proposed European Constitution being prepared by the European Convention will have huge implications for the governance of the United Kingdom, including local authorities like Dudley MBC. The Constitution will give the European Union 'shared competence' over home affairs, transport, energy, social policy, economic and social cohesion, consumer protection and the environment, meaning more legislation and guidance binding upon local government will be decided at a European rather than a national level.

Given that the Government has used referendums to approve other constitutional change affecting local and national government, including establishing regional assemblies and directly-elected mayors, this Council believes the people of Dudley should be able to have their say on these fundamental constitutional changes in a referendum. To this end, this Council therefore resolves to make a formal written submission to the Prime Minister, calling for a national referendum on the proposed European Constitution.

- (b) To consider the following Notice of Motion, received from Councillor Burt on 22nd September, 2003.

The present method of funding local government services does not give adequate levels of grant to Dudley MBC. The present system also exaggerates the impact of grant shortfall on Council Tax payers who have to make up the difference. A 1% shortfall in Government grant requires on average a 4% increase in Council Tax or equivalent cuts in services. In order to be fair to Council Tax payers Dudley Council calls on the Government:

1. To change the balance of funding with a new system for funding local services so that shortfall in central Government grant does not result in disproportionate rises in local Council Tax.
2. To replace Council Tax with a fair tax related to the ability to pay.

6. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- (a) Select Committee on Good Health (Pages 39 - 41)
- (b) Select Committee on Economic Vitality and Jobs (Pages 42 - 47)

7. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11

8. TO CONSIDER ANY BUSINESS NOT ON THE AGENDA WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE MAYOR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING AS A MATTER OF URGENCY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 100(B)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972