

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, 10th November, 2003 at 6.00 p.m. for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the agenda below.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

7th November, 2003

AGENDA

PRAYERS

1. MINUTES

TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13th OCTOBER 2003 (PAGES CL/ – CL/).

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:

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From To

(a) Meeting of the Executive held on 15th October, 2003:

Councillor Caunt to move:

(i) Capital Programme Monitoring

Councillor Powell to move:

(ii) Capital Strategy

Councillor Mrs Shakespeare to move:

(iii) Policy Statement on Flood Defences

Councillor J Woodall to move:

(iv) Midland Metro Line 2 – Halesowen Spur

(b) Standards Committee held on 30th September, 2003:

Councillor Powell to move:

Members Allowance Scheme

5. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) To consider further the following Notice of Motion received from Councillor Fraser-Macnamara on 23rd July 2003 which was seconded by Councillor Jones at the meeting of the Council held on 13th October 2003, together with the amendment thereto moved by Councillor Burt and seconded by Councillor Sheppard at that meeting of the Council.

Motion

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 that 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.

Amendment

That the word "will" in lines 2, 4 and 8 of the first paragraph of the motion be replaced by the word "may" and that the words "calling for" in line 7 of the second paragraph of the motion be replaced by the words "asking him to consider".

- (b) To consider the following Notice of Motion received from Councillor Burt on 22nd September, 2003, which remains outstanding from the meeting of the Council held on 13th October, 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 fairer 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 ANSWER QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11
7. 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