

**GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**



**BARKER  
MAYOR**

Contact Officer:

John Armstrong,  
Democratic Services and Elections Manager  
Tel: 01483 444102

30 September 2024

To the Councillors of Guildford Borough Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council for the Borough of Guildford to be held in the **Council Chamber, Millmead House, Millmead, Guildford, Surrey GU2 4BB** on **TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2024** commencing at 7.00 pm.

Susan Sale  
Joint Strategic Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Millmead House  
Millmead  
Guildford  
Surrey GU2 4BB

**[www.guildford.gov.uk](http://www.guildford.gov.uk)**



**Guildford Borough Council**

Millmead House, Millmead, Guildford, Surrey GU2 4BB

### **WEBCASTING NOTICE**

This meeting will be recorded for live and/or subsequent broadcast on the Council's website in accordance with the Council's capacity in performing a task in the public interest and in line with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014. The whole of the meeting will be recorded, except where there are confidential or exempt items, and the footage will be on the website for six months.

If you have any queries regarding webcasting of meetings, please contact Democratic Services.

## **The Council's Corporate Strategy (2024- 2034)**

Our vision: To make Guildford borough a thriving place to live, work and do business.

Our Corporate Strategy sets out the priorities we want to achieve as we strive to make Guildford borough a thriving place to live, work and do business. It sets out what we will focus on over the next ten years and will inform our strategies, decisions and plans. We are dedicated to making Guildford borough:

- a more sustainable,
- more prosperous and
- a more inclusive place,
- with decent and affordable homes for our residents and tenants;
- we will achieve all of this by ensuring we are a resilient and well-managed council.

Our focus over the ten-year period of the Strategy will be on delivering outcomes that help us to pursue these five strategic priorities.

<b>Time limits on speeches at full Council meetings:</b>	
Public speaker:	3 minutes
Response to public speaker:	3 minutes
Questions from councillors:	3 minutes
Response to questions from councillors:	3 minutes
Proposer of a motion:	6 minutes
Seconder of a motion:	4 minutes
Other councillors speaking during the debate on a motion:	4 minutes
Proposer of a motion's right of reply at the end of the debate on the motion:	4 minutes
Proposer of an amendment:	4 minutes
Seconder of an amendment:	4 minutes
Other councillors speaking during the debate on an amendment:	4 minutes
Proposer of a motion's right of reply at the end of the debate on an amendment:	4 minutes
Proposer of an amendment's right of reply at the end of the debate on an amendment:	4 minutes

## **A G E N D A**

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

To receive and note any disclosable pecuniary interests from councillors. In accordance with the local Code of Conduct, a councillor is required to disclose at the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) that they may have in respect of any matter for consideration on this agenda. Any councillor with a DPI must not participate in any discussion or vote regarding that matter and they must also withdraw from the meeting immediately before consideration of the matter.

If that DPI has not been registered, the councillor must notify the Monitoring Officer of the details of the DPI within 28 days of the date of the meeting.

Councillors are further invited to disclose any non-pecuniary interest which may be relevant to any matter on this agenda, in the interests of transparency, and to confirm that it will not affect their objectivity in relation to that matter.

- 3. MINUTES (Pages 9 - 38)**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 23 July and the extraordinary meeting held on 13 August 2024.

- 4. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

To receive any communications or announcements from the Mayor.

**5. LEADER'S COMMUNICATIONS**

To receive any communications or announcements from the Leader of the Council.

**6. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE STATUTORY OFFICERS**

To receive any announcements from the Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer and/or Monitoring Officer.

**7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

To receive questions or statements from the public. Details of any questions (including a written response to them) or requests to make statements received from the public will be set out in the Supplementary Agenda Pack which will be published on the day before the meeting.

**8. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

To receive any questions from councillors. Details of any questions from councillors (including a written response to them) will be set out in the Supplementary Agenda Pack which will be published on the day before the meeting.

**9. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN UPDATE (Pages 39 - 48)**

**10. CLIMATE CHANGE BOARD - CARBON EMISSIONS AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESS REPORT 2022-23 (Pages 49 - 110)**

**11. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24 (Pages 111 - 154)**

**12. UPDATE TO PAY POLICY STATEMENT (Pages 155 - 164)**

**13. PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOCAL CHOICE FUNCTIONS (Pages 165 - 174)**

**14. REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS RELATING TO COMPANIES (Pages 175 - 240)**

**15. NOTICE OF MOTION DATED 26 SEPTEMBER 2024: WINTER FUEL PAYMENTS AND THE SINGLE PERSON COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor Merel Rehorst-Smith to propose, and Councillor George Potter to second the following motion:

“Council notes the decision by the Labour Government to end universal winter fuel payments and restrict eligibility to only those in

receipt of Pension Credits and other benefits.

Though Council agrees that universal winter fuel payments are not necessary, Council is deeply concerned that many pensioners on low incomes will no longer be eligible to receive the benefit as winter approaches. In Guildford borough fewer than 1,500 pensioners will remain eligible to receive winter fuel payments, with 93.7% of pensioners losing their eligibility. The maximum income limit for receiving Pension Credit is £218.15 a week (or £332.95 a week for couples), which is significantly lower than the rate of the living wage, and only 63% of those eligible for Pension Credit actually receive it.

Council believes that, while some pensioners currently in receipt of the Winter Fuel Payment may not require it, the decision to means-test Winter Fuel Payments in this way, especially with such short notice and without adequate compensatory measures, is deeply unfair and will disproportionately affect the health and well-being of our poorest older resident, especially noting that the Energy Price Cap is due to rise by 10% in October.

Council also notes reports in the media that the Labour Government is additionally intending to abolish the Single Person Council Tax Discount in the autumn budget statement, which currently gives a 25% discount on council tax to households where only a single adult is liable for council tax, which is worth £506 a year for a typical Band C property in Guildford borough.

Council is deeply concerned that any withdrawal, or reduction, in the rate of the single person council tax discount would result in a large and punitive tax rise for many of those least able to afford it, including groups such as young adults, single and widowed parents, lone pensioners, and carers of disabled people, many of whom are already struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.

Council resolves to:

- (1) Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling for the policy on linking Winter Fuel Payments to Pension Credit receipt to be immediately paused and asking her to rule out any change to the Single Person Council Tax Discount in the autumn budget statement.
- (2) Call upon all MPs covering Guildford borough to give their

formal support to halting the changes to the Winter Fuel Payment eligibility and resisting any reduction in the Single Person Council Tax Discount.

- (3) Commit the Council to signing the 'Save the Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners' petition being run by Age UK and write to all members offering them the opportunity to sign the petition themselves.
- (4) Encourage local efforts to promote the uptake of Pension Credit (and other frequently under-claimed benefits) through council services and partnerships with local charities and community organisations to ensure that all eligible pensioners in Guildford borough are supported in claiming their entitlement."