



Agenda for a meeting of the WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL to be held at the SHIRE HALL, WARWICK on TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2006 at 10.00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence.

(2) Members' Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their personal interests at the commencement of the item (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a prejudicial interest the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.

Personal interests relating to any item on the agenda arising by virtue of the members serving as district/borough councillors are declared at the end of this agenda.

(3) Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2006 (copy enclosed).

(4) Chair's Announcements, Correspondence, Petitions.

2. Value For Money Presentation

Presentation from the Strategic Director of Resources

This will be a short presentation (no report).

3. Building Sustainable Neighbourhoods

Presentation from Strategic Director of Environment and Economic Development.

This will be a short presentation (no report).

4. Local Democracy Week – 16- 20 October 2006

Report from the Strategic Director of Performance and Development (enclosed). This summarises the activities undertaken during Local Democracy Week and the plans for further events.

5. Review of Overview and Scrutiny

Report from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group.

The enclosed Report from the Strategic Director of Performance and Development. This summarises the outcomes from the review of overview and scrutiny and proposes a number of ways in which the overview and scrutiny process can be enhanced.

6. Review of Financial Standing Orders

Report of the Strategic Director of Resources enclosed. This proposes amendments to the Council's Financial Standing Orders. The main amendments are needed to take account of changes to the officer structure.

7. Notices of Motions (Standing Order 5)

To consider the following motion:

(1) Advancement of Closure of the Peugeot Works at Ryton

Proposer: Councillor Heather Timms
Seconder: Councillor Gordon Collett

"The Council views with concern the announcement of advancement of the closure of the Peugeot works at Ryton and:

- a) The Chief Executive is instructed to write to the Sub Regional Peugeot Partnership with a clear message that its support plans for displaced workers are immediately updated in the light of the company's decision.
- b) In conjunction with rugby Borough Council, this Council's economic development and planning officers are now asked to work together with the greatest possible urgency to secure the long term future of the site for employment purposes.
- c) The Council looks at ways to enable displaced Peugeot workers to be more regularly aware of its job vacancies".

(2) Energy Review

Proposer: John Whitehouse

Seconder: Peter Barnes

“That this Council notes the Government’s Energy Review, published in July 2006, and:

1. Expresses its concern at the Government’s failure to go further and faster on energy efficiency, renewables, decentralised energy generation and other cleaner, sustainable energy technologies, including clean coal and carbon capture and storage.
2. Expresses its alarm at proposals to encourage a new generation of nuclear power stations, with the resultant need to find safe storage for an increased amount of nuclear waste.
3. Further notes the health and environmental risks posed by transporting nuclear waste in addition to storing it due to the possibility of accidents or terrorist action.
4. Confirms its opposition to the disposal in or transportation through Warwickshire of nuclear waste.
5. Supports a low carbon, non-nuclear sustainable energy strategy, based on energy demand reduction, greater energy efficiency, the use of economic instruments, combined heat and power, micro-generation and community-based forms of generation and a mix of renewable energy sources that includes biomass, wind, wave, tidal, and solar, within a more fully liberalised EU energy market.

This Council further notes the Government’s consultation currently taking place on the Policy Framework for New Nuclear Build, which is due to close on 31 October 2006, and expresses its concern that there should be no undermining of local planning enquiry processes in reviewing possible new nuclear builds.

This Council resolves to:

- a) Campaign for these aims and encourage members of all parties and Warwickshire’s MPs to campaign and use their influence wherever possible.
- b) Write to the Secretary of State expressing the concerns outlined in this motion.
- c) Respond accordingly to the Government’s consultation on the Policy Framework for New Nuclear Build”.

(3) Small Shops and Post Offices

Proposer: Peter Barnes
Seconder: David Booth

“That this Council reaffirms its support of local shops and post offices and continues to recognise their importance in the community as a lifeline for older and vulnerable people.

In particular, this Council notes with disappointment the uncertainty facing rural post offices as the rural subsidy provided by the Government runs out in March 2008. The rural subsidy of £150 million per year helps around 8,000 rural post offices to stay open and continue providing essential post office services.

This Council resolves to:

- a) Write to local MPs, the Secretary of State and the Post Office Ltd, asking each to use their respective influence to ensure that a long-term strategy is developed, which will secure the future of the post office network, including the continuation of the rural subsidy beyond March 2008.
- b) Ensure that methods to support local shops and post offices in Warwickshire are included in the Council’s own rural strategy”.

(4) A45 (Dunchurch to Warwickshire/Northamptonshire Border

Proposer: Councillor Gordon Collett
Seconder: Councillor Heather Timms

“That this Council is concerned by the extremely poor accident record of the A45 between Dunchurch and the Warwickshire/Northamptonshire border and asks that a letter be sent to Rugby borough Council confirming Warwickshire County Council’s commitment to take necessary steps to improve the safety of this stretch of road, as a matter of urgency”.

(5) Energy Saving Trust

Proposer: Councillor Joan Lea
Seconder: Councillor TBA

“That this Council notes that, through a reversal of policy by HM Revenue and Customs, the Energy Saving Trust (EST) must now pay VAT on goods and services bought in relation to its provision of grants.

The EST advises households on reducing energy consumption and works closely with local authorities. It has stated that of the £25m that it currently spends each year on energy efficiency measures and reducing carbon, £5m will now have to be returned to the Treasury. Of that £5m, £2m would have been invested in helping local authorities to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions.

In light of the publication by the government of the Energy Review Report in July 2006, which rightly identifies energy issues as critical to the country's future prosperity and the health of our planet, we believe this decision highlights, at the least, a lack of coordinated thinking between government departments.

This council resolves that a letter be sent to:

- 1) HM Revenue and Customs expressing its concerns, as stated above, and a copy sent to each of Warwickshire's MPs.
- 2) EST expressing its support for its work and informing it of the letter sent to HM Revenue and Customs."

8. Member Question Time (Standing Order 7)

Cabinet portfolio holders and Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Area Committees will be invited to respond to any questions from members. A period of up to one hour is allocated for question time. Extension beyond this time is at the discretion of the Chair.

9. Any other items of urgent business

To consider any other items that the Chair considers are urgent.

JIM GRAHAM
Chief Executive
Shire Hall,
October 2006.

Enquiries regarding these agenda papers should be made to Janet Purcell, Member Services Manager, Performance and Development Directorate. Tel: 01926 412320
Email: janetpurcell@warwickshire.gov.uk

The agenda and reports are available in large print if requested.

**WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO ARE ALSO
BOROUGH AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Personal interests relating to any item on the agenda arising by virtue of the members serving as district/borough councillors are declared below:

Councillors	Member of District/Borough Council
John Appleton	Stratford on Avon District Council
Peter Barnes	Stratford on Avon District Council
Les Caborn	Warwick District Council
Tom Cavanagh	Rugby Borough Council
Alan Cockburn	Warwick District Council
Gordon Collett	Rugby Borough Council
Jose Compton	Warwick District Council
Chris Davis	Warwick District Council
Richard Dodd	Rugby Borough Council
Michael Doody	Warwick District Council
Peter Fowler	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Eithne Goode	Warwick District Council
Colin Hayfield	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Pat Henry	Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council
Richard Hobbs	Stratford on Avon District Council
Bernard Kirton	Warwick District Council
Joan Lea	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Susan Main	Stratford on Avon District Council
Brian Moss	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Mike Perry	Stratford on Avon District Council
Jerry Roodhouse	Rugby Borough Council
John Ross	Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council
Chris Saint	Stratford on Avon District Council
Izzi Seccombe	Stratford on Avon District Council
Dave Shilton	Warwick District Council
Mick Stanley	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Bob Stevens	Stratford on Avon District Council
Ray Sweet	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Heather Timms	Rugby Borough Council
Sid Tooth	North Warwickshire Borough Council