

**To: ALL MEMBERS OF THE WESTMORLAND AND FURNESS
COUNCIL**

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the Westmorland and Furness Council to be held at the Council Chamber, County Hall, Kendal LA4 9RQ, on Thursday, 23 November 2023 at 1.30 pm

Yours sincerely



**Linda Jones
Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer
Westmorland and Furness Council**

15 November 2023

**Enquiries and requests for supporting papers to: Jon Huck
Direct Line: 01229 876312
Email: jon.huck@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk**

A G E N D A

1. Roll Call and Apologies for Absence

To carry out the roll call and receive any apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

To receive declarations of interest by Members of interests in respect of items on this Agenda, and to consider any dispensations.

Members may however, also decide, in the interests of clarity and transparency, to declare at this point in the meeting, any such disclosable pecuniary interests which they have already declared in the Register, as well as any other registrable or other interests.

3. Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration on any item on the agenda.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To consider the minutes from the previous meeting held on 21 September 2023.

(Pages 7 - 24)

5. Public Participation

To receive any questions or statement which have been received from members of the public and to receive any petitions.

(note questions or statement must be received in writing (including email) by the Council at least 3 clear working days before the day of the meeting (not including the day of the meeting). So, for example, if the meeting is on Tuesday requests must be received by 11.59 pm on the previous Wednesday by the person named on the front of the agenda. Petitions must have been presented to the Monitoring Officer 9 working days before the date of this meeting to be valid).

6. Announcements

To receive any announcements from the Chair, Leader, Members of Cabinet or the Chief Executive.

7. Electoral Review of Westmorland and Furness

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England to give a short presentation on the Electoral Review process for Westmorland and Furness Council.

8. Minutes of the Cabinet - 17 October and 14 November 2023

Cabinet Minutes – 17 October 2023

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 17 October 2023 (copy enclosed).

The Leader will ask members if they have any questions on the minutes. Members should state clearly the minute number of the item concerned.

Cabinet Minutes – 14 November 2023

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 14 November 2023 (To follow).

The Leader will ask members if they have any questions on the minutes. Members should state clearly the minute number of the item concerned.

(Pages 25 - 42)

9. Questions by Members

(A) A Member may only ask a question under Rule 11.3 provided that notice in writing of the question has been given to the Monitoring Officer by noon on the fourth working day prior to the meeting.

(B) A Member of the Council may ask the Leader, relevant Cabinet Member of the Cabinet or the Chair of a committee a question without notice upon an item of the report or upon the minutes of meetings of the relevant body when the item is being received or under consideration by the Council.

10. Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024/25 and War Pension Disregard

To consider a report from the Cabinet Member for Finance (copy enclosed).

(Pages 43 - 194)

11. Capital Programme Update Report

To consider a report from the Cabinet Member for Finance (copy enclosed).

(Pages 195 - 220)

12. 2022/23 Treasury Management Outturn Report for Barrow Borough Council, Eden District Council, South Lakeland District Council and Cumbria County Council

To consider a report from the Cabinet Member for Finance (copy enclosed).

(Pages 221 - 254)

13. Remote Licensing Hearings

To consider a report from the Cabinet Member for Finance (copy enclosed).

(Pages 255 - 270)

14. Constitutional Update Report

To consider a report from the Cabinet Member for Finance (copy enclosed).

(Pages 271 - 318)

15. Urgency Report

To consider a report from the Leader of the Council (copy enclosed).

(Pages 319 - 322)

16. Notice of Motion

Cllr Mark Rudhall to move(Cllr Rupert Audland to second) the following:-

Removal of DVLA Services from the Post Office Network.

This Council notes with concern the announcement by the National Federation of Sub Postmasters on 9th June 2023 that the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) will end its contract with the Post Office on the 31st March 2024.

Currently the Post Office handles over 6 million DVLA transactions every year, with more than half being paid for by cash over the post office counter. If the contract is terminated, the only option for buying DVLA services will be online. Vulnerable people and those who are not digitally minded will be excluded and will be impacted by this loss of service.

This motion asks the Council to write to the Minister for Transport, to express the Council's dismay at the removal of DVLA services from Post Offices.

The decision to terminate the DVLA's contract with the Post Office Network would force road users to renew their driving licence or vehicle taxing online with no alternative.

It would be detrimental to many residents and especially so in rural areas where internet service can be poor or non-existent. Also, miles from anywhere, the most reliable presence is often the post office and when you have a question that isn't on the 'FAQ' list, you really are stuck.

The loss of the DVLA contract will have an impact on the Post Offices themselves, who would suffer a loss of business. Small towns would see less people coming in to the town centre, this will have a detrimental effect on local economies.

Council therefore resolves to:

Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport Mark Harper. The letter to urge him to reconsider his decision not to renew the contract for DVLA services with the Post Office Network and asking him to explain how vulnerable and digitally excluded residents and visitors in Westmorland and Furness are expected to renew their licenses and pay their road tax.

17. Urgent Items

To consider any urgent items of business.

PART II - ITEMS NOT CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

None for this meeting.