

Meeting of the Council

Monday, 16th October, 2023 at 6.00pm
In the Council Chamber,
The Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the numbered agenda items listed below.

Agenda - Public Session **(Meeting open to the public and press)**

Prayers

1. Apologies for absence
2. To receive any declarations of interest under the Members' Code of Conduct
3. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 10th July, 2023 as correct records (Pages 11 – 21)
4. Mayor's Announcements
5. To receive reports from meetings as follows:

Meeting of the Cabinet dated 20th September, 2023

Councillor P Harley to move:

- (a) Capital Programme Monitoring (Pages 22 – 41)

Meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee dated 25th September, 2023:

Councillor A Lees to move:

(b) [Treasury Management \(Pages 42 – 51\)](#)

6. [Composition and Membership of Committees \(Pages 52 – 67\)](#)

7. Notices of Motion

(a) Automatic External Defibrillators and Bleed Control Kits

To consider the following notice of motion received from Councillor K Casey on 3rd July, 2023:

“This Council recognises the importance of improving community safety right across the borough and is committed to improving the health and well-being of residents.

An Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses life-threatening sudden cardiac arrest in a patient and is able to treat them through Defibrillation. Defibrillation is one of the four links in the ‘chain of survival’ – a series of actions that improve a person’s chances of surviving cardiac arrest. The four links are:

- Early recognition
- Early cardio-pulmonary resuscitation
- Early defibrillation
- Post resuscitation care.

Up to seven out of 10 people who suffer a cardiac arrest could survive if they are treated with a defibrillator within the first five minutes.

In addition to the importance of community defibrillators, the Council also recognises how crucial the minutes are in the aftermath of an accident or incident to ensure those injured are seen to, particularly in the event that someone could bleed to death whilst emergency services are called.

A Bleed Control Kit therefore can be used to seal wounds and stop bleeding whilst an ambulance is on its way, ensuring help is on hand immediately in the minutes following an accident or incident. These kits have been proven to save lives and need to be available publicly.

Although some defibrillators and bleed kits are available across the borough, their distribution is uneven, leaving gaps.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- (1) Review its provision of defibrillators and bleed control kits across its entire public estate.
- (2) Review and commit to installing 1 fully equipped dual public access defibrillator and bleed kit cabinet in each of the 24 wards across the Borough, looking at appropriate premises in public spaces, community centres, leisure facilities and areas of high public footfall.
- (3) Undertake a programme of training for staff who have daily contact with the public in the use of Defibrillators and Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as well as the use of Bleed Control Kits.
- (4) Instruct Officers to work with colleagues in the NHS to identify gaps in the existing network and to seek any necessary funding approvals to implement this motion, as well as ensuring a proper mapping exercise of all kits across the Borough to ensure alignment.
- (5) Commend the work of community organisations such as St John Ambulance and The Daniel Baird Foundation for their life-saving work and campaigns to improve community safety.
- (6) Request that the Mayor, in her civic leadership role, bring together charities and campaign groups along with other key stakeholders to shape an action plan for adequate training in the community in locations where the new provision is introduced, ensuring that all local residents are aware of the Public Access Defibrillator/Bleed Control Kit cabinets and how to use them.”

(b) Declining Unnecessary Traffic Restrictions and Charges in Dudley Town

To consider the following notice of motion received from Councillor D Corfield on 14th August, 2023:

“Restrictions on motorists in the form of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) and Clean Air Zones (CAZ) have been implemented by various councils, including neighbouring Birmingham City Council. Also, the Labour Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has implemented the unpopular Ultra Low Emission Zones (ULEZ) and Congestion Charge schemes.

These policies are anti-motorist, and we believe hardworking Dudley families should not face extra costs during the difficult times post-pandemic and instead we should stand on the side of all road users, including motorists.

Dudley stands as a dynamic hub surrounded by villages, market towns, and agricultural areas. Our connection with these neighbouring regions is vital for the economic, employment, and social growth of our borough. The introduction of a Congestion Charging Zone, LTNs, CAZ or other restrictions and charges on motorists impede the flow of crucial resources between our borough and Dudley Town.

The implementation of any of these schemes will only be counter-productive for business recovery on the Dudley Town High Street, due to it adding extra costs to customers and visitors.

We propose that instead of following the Labour Party on implementing restrictive and costly measures, we will look towards alternative measures to lower CO2 levels while preserving residents' freedom of movement.

Dudley already boasts a commendable record in implementing green policies such as following the brownfield-first policy which was endorsed by West Midlands Mayor Andy Street and Marco Longhi MP, and we should continue building upon these achievements.

Considering these factors, this Council resolves:

- (1) To formally decline the implementation of policies with restrictive vehicle movement measures, Low Emission Zones or Congestion Charges in Dudley Town.
- (2) To acknowledge that more productive strategies exist to reduce CO2 emissions and highlight Dudley's commendable track record in promoting sustainable policies in a more practical way."

(c) Telecommunication Companies – Planning Issues

To consider the following notice of motion received from Councillor R Priest on 21st September, 2023:

"This Council believes that proper consultation with residents regarding all types of development serves only to benefit both residents and developers.

The Council recognises the aggressive practice of BRSK as it rolls out its broadband offer across the Dudley Borough.

The Council believes that while BRSK is working within the framework of the law, there have been numerous cases where telegraph poles have been erected or have been proposed inappropriately, such as blocking public footpaths or on private property.

The Council believes it is a failure of national planning law that telecommunications companies are able to bypass the planning authority.

The Council therefore resolves to:

- Urgently publish a Q&A page on the Council's website detailing what residents rights are in regard to BRSK's roll out and how residents can object and comment on BRSK's development.

- Issue the same Q&A and advice in the next edition of Your Borough Your Home.
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities calling for the Government to support the Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill to ensure that telecommunications companies must follow regular planning procedure.
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Chief Executive of BRSK asking for their broadband rollout to be halted across the borough until a method of consultation can be found that is approved by Members.”

(d) **Bring Dudley Town Football Club Back Home**

To consider the following notice of motion received from Councillor S Ali on 2nd October, 2023:

“Dudley Town FC (The Robins) was established in 1888 and originally had a stadium adjacent to Dudley Cricket County ground, now known as Castle Gate Park. However, in 1985, a section of the football ground and subsequently the cricket ground experienced subsidence. Both grounds were closed. Several plans were proposed to make the old ground safe and facilitate the club's return, but unfortunately, these efforts were unsuccessful. In 1990, it was decided that the site would be redeveloped as a business and leisure park, known today as Castle Gate.

An article titled ‘The day a hole closed a football sports ground forever’ in the Birmingham Mail on 29th September, 2017 perfectly summarised the situation. The loss of these facilities undoubtedly had a significant impact on Dudley's presence in the world of football and cricket.

For the past 38 years, the club has been without a permanent home ground and has played at various venues, including Tividale, Halesowen, Gornal, Amblecote, and Brierley Hill. Over

the last 4-5 years, the club has been playing out of Dudley Borough in Willenhall as their temporary home.

After a successful season, the club has achieved a momentous milestone by securing promotion to the Midlands Football League, Premier Division, marking the end of a 38-year wait. This achievement is a testament to the club's resilience and determination to keep going, despite the challenges of finding a permanent location they can call home.

In light of the need to house Dudley Town Football Club in Dudley Town, the Council resolves:

- (1) To acknowledge the efforts of all politicians across the political spectrum to bring Dudley Town Football Club back to their hometown of Dudley by working with the club and the Council to identify a suitable location for both their temporary and permanent home ground.
- (2) To acknowledge the significant efforts made by Dudley Town's players, its coach, and its management in achieving the club's promotion and celebrate this momentous milestone by facilitating a walk down the market place with people lining the street so that this becomes part of clubs history.
- (3) To regularly celebrate significant achievements of our sporting heroes and sports clubs across the borough, recognising that each accomplishment is a source of pride for our community and borough.
- (4) To acknowledge the work done on the Dudley Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy and to progress this work that a cross-party working group, supported by Council officers, representatives of key sports clubs and sporting heroes is established to develop an ambitious overarching sports strategy that fosters the growth and promotion of sports across the borough, catering for people of all ages, genders, and abilities."

8. Questions from Members under Council Procedure Rule 11
9. 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 the Local Government Act 1972

Distribution: All Members of the Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Hooper', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chief Executive

Dated: 6th October, 2023

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General

- Public Wi-Fi is available.
- Information about the Council and our meetings can be viewed on the website www.dudley.gov.uk

If you need advice or assistance

- If you (or anyone you know) requires assistance to access the venue, or if you have any other queries, please contact Democratic Services - Telephone 01384 815238 or E-mail Democratic.Services@dudley.gov.uk

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