

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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**Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council
Monday, 10th July, 2023 at 6.00pm
at Dudley Town Hall, St James's Road, Dudley**

Present:

Councillor A Goddard (Mayor)
Councillor P Lee (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors S Ali, A Aston, M Aston, P Atkins, C Barnett, C Bayton, D Bevan, I Bevan, H Bills, D Borley, S Bothul, P Bradley, R Buttery, K Casey, B Challenor, S Clark, J Clinton, Dr R Clinton, R Collins, D Corfield, J Cowell, T Crumpton, A Davies, K Denning, P Dobb, P Drake, M Dudley, C Eccles, J Elliott, M Evans, J Foster, M Hanif, D Harley, P Harley, S Henley, A Hopwood, A Hughes, L Johnson, S Keasey, I Kettle, E Lawrence, A Lees, K Lewis, W Little, P Lowe, J Martin, P Miller, S Mughal, S Phipps, A Qayyum, S Ridley, M Rogers, P Sahota, D Stanley, C Sullivan, W Sullivan, A Taylor, E Taylor, A Tromans, M Webb, K Westwood, M Westwood and Q Zada together with the Chief Executive and other Officers.

Prayers

The Mayor led the Council in saying the Lord's Prayer.

20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors T Creed, M Howard, N Neale, K Razzaq, T Russon and L Taylor-Childs.

21 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

22 **Position of Leader of the Council**

A report of the Lead for Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) was submitted.

The following motion was moved by Councillor Q Zada and seconded by Councillor H Bills:

“That in accordance with the provisions of Article 7.03(d) of the Council’s Constitution, Councillor P Harley be removed from the office of Leader of the Council with immediate effect.”

At the end of a speech by Councillor S Keasey, Councillor R Collins moved a closure motion pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14.11(a), which was duly seconded by Councillor K Lewis, to the effect that the question be now put.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.11(b) the Mayor was of the opinion that, in all the circumstances, the motion had been sufficiently discussed. The closure motion was put to the vote and it was

Resolved

That the question be now put.

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 16.4 and, following a demand from more than six Members present at the meeting, the voting on the closure motion was recorded as follows:

For (38)

Councillors P Atkins, D Bevan, I Bevan, D Borley, S Bothul, P Bradley, R Buttery, B Challenor, S Clark, J Clinton, Dr R Clinton, R Collins, D Corfield, A Davies, P Dobb, M Dudley, J Elliott, M Evans, A Goddard, D Harley, P Harley, S Henley, A Hopwood, L Johnson, I Kettle, E Lawrence, P Lee, A Lees, K Lewis, W Little, P Miller, S Phipps, M Rogers, D Stanley, C Sullivan, W Sullivan, A Taylor and M Webb.

Against (27)

Councillors S Ali, A Aston, M Aston, C Barnett, C Bayton, H Bills, K Casey, J Cowell, T Crumpton, K Denning, P Drake, C Eccles, J Foster, M Hanif, A Hughes, S Keasey, P Lowe, J Martin, S Mughal, A Qayyum, S Ridney, P Sahota, E Taylor, A Tromans, K Westwood, M Westwood and Q Zada.

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14.9, Councillor Q Zada was afforded and exercised his right of reply to the debate.

The original motion was thereupon put to the vote and lost.

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 16.4 and, following a demand from more than six Members present at the meeting, the voting on the original motion was recorded as follows:

For (27)

Councillors S Ali, A Aston, M Aston, C Barnett, C Bayton, H Bills, K Casey, J Cowell, T Crumpton, K Denning, P Drake, C Eccles, J Foster, M Hanif, A Hughes, S Keasey, P Lowe, J Martin, S Mughal, A Qayyum, S Ridney, P Sahota, E Taylor, A Tromans, K Westwood, M Westwood and Q Zada.

Against (38)

Councillors P Atkins, D Bevan, I Bevan, D Borley, S Bothul, P Bradley, R BATTERY, B Challenor, S Clark, J Clinton, Dr R Clinton, R Collins, D Corfield, A Davies, P Dobb, M Dudley, J Elliott, M Evans, A Goddard, D Harley, P Harley, S Henley, A Hopwood, L Johnson, I Kettle, E Lawrence, P Lee, A Lees, K Lewis, W Little, P Miller, S Phipps, M Rogers, D Stanley, C Sullivan, W Sullivan, A Taylor and M Webb.

The meeting ended at 6.38 pm

MAYOR

CL/23

**Minutes of the proceedings of the Council
Monday, 10th July, 2023 at 6.50pm
in the Town Hall, St James's Road, Dudley**

Present:

Councillor A Goddard (Mayor)
Councillor P Lee (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors S Ali, A Aston, M Aston, P Atkins, C Barnett, C Bayton, D Bevan, I Bevan, H Bills, D Borley, S Bothul, P Bradley, R Buttery, K Casey, B Challenor, S Clark, J Clinton, Dr R Clinton, R Collins, D Corfield, J Cowell, T Crumpton, A Davies, K Denning, P Dobb, P Drake, M Dudley, C Eccles, J Elliott, M Evans, J Foster, M Hanif, D Harley, P Harley, S Henley, A Hopwood, A Hughes, L Johnson, S Keasey, I Kettle, E Lawrence, A Lees, K Lewis, W Little, P Lowe, J Martin, P Miller, S Mughal, S Phipps, A Qayyum, S Ridley, M Rogers, P Sahota, D Stanley, C Sullivan, W Sullivan, A Taylor, E Taylor, A Tromans, M Webb, K Westwood, M Westwood and Q Zada together with the Chief Executive and other Officers.

23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors T Creed, M Howard, N Neale, K Razzaq, T Russon and L Taylor-Childs.

24 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made by the following Members:

Councillor A Aston – Pecuniary interest in any matters directly affecting his employment by the West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Councillor M Evans and A Taylor - Any matters relating to Castle Hill development and all references to Dudley Zoo - Non-pecuniary interests as Members of Dudley and West Midlands Zoological Society Limited.

Councillors D Stanley and A Taylor - West Midlands Combined Authority – Transport Delivery Committee - Non-pecuniary interest as Members of the Committee.

Councillor P Miller - Any matters relating to adult social care - Non-pecuniary interest as his wife had visits from Gateway Dementia Centre in Brettell Lane.

Councillor K Casey – Any references to West Midlands Combined Authority – Pecuniary interest in any matters directly affecting his employment with West Midlands Combined Authority.

Councillor I Bevan – Any references to Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust/Russells Hall Hospital – Pecuniary interest in any matters directly affecting his employment.

Councillor Q Zada – Any references to health issues and any matters affecting his portfolio of property investments. Pecuniary interest in any matters directly affecting his employment or his portfolio of property investments.

Councillors I Kettle and W Little – Any references to West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority - Non-pecuniary interest as Members of the Authority.

Councillor E Taylor - Minutes of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee - Non-pecuniary interest as her daughter was employed at Russells Hall Hospital.

Councillor P Lee – Minutes of the former Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - Pecuniary interest as he was engaged as a Dudley Foster Carer.

Councillor J Cowell – Matters relating to Council housing - Non-pecuniary interest as a Council tenant.

25 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the annual meeting held on 18th May and the extraordinary meeting held on 20th June, 2023 be approved as correct records and signed.

26 **Mayor's Announcements**

(a) **Black Country Day and Dudley Grand Prix Cycling Event**

The Mayor reported that 14th July, 2023 was Black Country Day. The inaugural Dudley Grand Prix cycling event would take place in Dudley Town Centre.

(b) **Black Country Musicom**

The Mayor reported that the Black Country Musicom event would take place at Himley Hall on 15th and 16th July, 2023.

(c) **Councillor Ian Brookfield – Wolverhampton City Council**

The Mayor reported on the recent death of Councillor Ian Brookfield the Leader of Wolverhampton City Council. Sincere condolences were extended to Councillor Brookfield's family, friends and colleagues at this time.

27 **Capital Programme Monitoring and Medium Term Financial Strategy**

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

The recommendations of the Cabinet were moved by Councillor P Harley and seconded by Councillor P Bradley.

Following the debate, Councillor P Harley exercised his right of reply pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14.9.

The motion was put to the meeting and it was

Resolved

- (1) That the outturn position for 2022/23, as set out in paragraph 5 and Appendix A to the report, be noted.
- (2) That progress with the 2023/24 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be noted.
- (3) That the parks development budget of £200,000 be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report.
- (4) That the reallocation of car park infrastructure capital budgets of £130,000 to CCTV works at car parks be approved, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report.
- (5) That the transfer of capital budgets for Telecare services from Private Sector Housing to Adults Social Care be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 10 of the report.
- (6) That the new project of £25,000 funded by the Connected Services digital grant be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 11 of the report.
- (7) That the Family Hubs capital grant and expenditure of £47,000 and estimated values for future years be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 12 of the report.
- (8) That the additional budget of £60,000 for solar panels at Duncan Edwards Leisure Centre be approved and included in the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 13 of the report.
- (9) That a budget of £250,000 be approved and included in the Capital Programme for work on Dudley Town centre as set out in paragraph 14 of the report.
- (10) That the urgent amendment to the Capital Programme to improve tennis facilities in parks across Dudley for £284,000 be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 15 of the report.

- (11) That the recommendations from the Cabinet meeting on 6th July, 2023, concerning amendments to the Medium Term Financial Strategy, be confirmed as referred to in paragraphs 16 to 20 of the report.
-

28 **Energy Development Fund**

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

The recommendations of the Cabinet were moved by Councillor Dr R Clinton and seconded by Councillor P Bradley.

Following the debate, Councillor Dr R Clinton exercised his right of reply pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14.9.

The motion was put to the meeting and it was

Resolved

- (1) That up to £1m of Climate initiatives be included within the Capital Programme which are self-financing over the life of the projects.
 - (2) That, subject to the above, the Director of Finance and Legal be authorised, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Deputy Chief Executive, to approve individual schemes which have a business case incorporating a payback of less than 7.5 years.
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29 **Annual Report of the Audit and Standards Committee 2022/23**

The annual report of the Audit and Standards Committee for 2022/23 was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor A Lees, seconded by Councillor P Bradley and

Resolved

That the annual report of the Audit and Standards Committee for 2022/23 be received and noted.

30 **Constitution and Related Matters**

A report of the Lead for Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) was submitted.

The recommendations in the report were moved by Councillor P Harley and seconded by Councillor P Bradley.

Following the debate, Councillor P Harley exercised his right of reply pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14.9.

The motion was put to the meeting and it was

Resolved

- (1) That the updated Cabinet portfolios, as incorporated in Part 3 of the Constitution, be noted.
- (2) That the Overview and Scrutiny arrangements be submitted to the Council for approval following further consideration at the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (3) That the Monitoring Officer undertake a review of Council Procedure Rule 11 (Questions by Members), following consultation with the Group Leaders, and recommendations be presented to the Council as part of the Annual Review of the Constitution.
- (4) That, in accordance with statutory requirements, the Council establish an Independent Remuneration Panel comprising the three Independent Persons, namely Revd Adam Hadley, Richard Phillips and William Read.
- (5) That the Cabinet be authorised to consider and determine any matters in connection with West Midlands Combined Authority Devolution Deals and that Part 3 of the Constitution be amended accordingly.
- (6) That Councillor L Johnson be elected as the Chair and Councillor J Elliott be elected as the Vice-Chair of the Adult Social Care Select Committee for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year.

31 **Notice of Motion**

Bring Dudley Town Football Club Back Home

Following a speech by Councillor S Ali, the motion was withdrawn in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 12.4.

32 **Questions under Council Procedure Rule 11**

Written Questions

No written questions were submitted in advance.

Verbal Questions to the Leader, Cabinet Members and Chairs

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services (Councillor D Corfield) responded to a question from Councillor H Bills on matters concerning Halesowen in Bloom and Hurst Green Park.

The Leader of the Council (Councillor P Harley) responded to questions from Councillor J Cowell concerning the level of employee turnover and the publication of the MIPIM report.

The Chair of the Public Health Select Committee (Councillor J Clinton) and the Cabinet Member for Public Health (Councillor I Bevan) responded to a question from Councillor K Westwood concerning General Practitioner services at High Oak and a meeting to discuss health inequalities in the Brockmoor and Pensnett ward.

The Cabinet Member for Public Health (Councillor I Bevan) responded to a question from Councillor R Collins concerning the library service.

The Leader of the Council (Councillor P Harley) responded to a question from Councillor E Lawrence concerning the Black Country Plan and progress in relation to the local Dudley Plan.

The Leader of the Council (Councillor P Harley) responded to questions from Councillor P Sahota concerning the implications of the Council's vacancy rates, staff turnover levels, agency employees and comparisons with other Councils.

The Cabinet Member for Public Health (Councillor I Bevan) responded to a question from Councillor D Bevan concerning the Council's commitment to the future of the library service.

The Cabinet Member for Public Health (Councillor I Bevan) responded to questions from Councillor C Eccles concerning cuts that had been proposed to the library service.

The Cabinet Member for Public Health (Councillor I Bevan) responded to a question from Councillor M Westwood concerning cuts in hours relating to library services, with specific reference to Gornal library.

The Cabinet Member for Public Health (Councillor I Bevan) responded to questions from Councillor Q Zada concerning the importance of libraries as a community facility and the social value of library services.

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services (Councillor D Corfield) responded to questions from Councillor A Hughes concerning facilities for the disposal of brake pad oil, engine oil, filters and similar materials.

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Legal and Human Resources (Councillor S Clark) responded to questions from Councillor S Ali concerning proposed cuts to libraries and archives services included in the budget considered by the Council in March, 2023.

33 **Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business for consideration at this meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

MAYOR

Meeting of the Council – 16th October, 2023

Report of the Cabinet

Capital Programme Monitoring

Purpose

1. To report progress with the implementation of the Capital Programme.
2. To propose amendments to the Capital Programme.

Recommendations

3. The Council is recommended:
 - That progress with the 2023/24 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A, be noted.
 - That the new firewalls budget of £460,000 be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 6.
 - That the approval and inclusion within the Capital Programme of the budget of £26,000 for the Holiday Activities and Food programme funded fully by the grant, as set out in paragraph 7, be noted.
 - That the transfer between the ICT Strategy and Storage Area Network of £75,000 be approved, as set out in paragraph 8.
 - That the urgent amendment to the Capital Programme for additional costs in the Fire Suppression works contract for £70,000 be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 9.

Background

4. The table below summarises the *current* 3 year Capital Programme updated where appropriate to reflect latest scheme spending profiles.

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Public Sector Housing	65,158	50,816	44,114
Private Sector Housing	17,171	1,459	71
Environment	9,973	12,768	3,000
Transport	14,020	9,570	8,530
Regeneration and Corporate Landlord	21,304	22,249	11,359
Culture, Leisure and Bereavement	2,937	2,904	1,500
Schools and SEND	20,205	20,971	21,600
Social Care, Health and Well Being	2,607	300	0
Digital, Commercial and Customer Services	1,882	893	1,393
Total spend	155,257	121,930	91,567
Revenue	4,307	3,488	3,612
Major Repairs Reserve (Housing)	25,517	26,000	26,456
Capital receipts	24,193	17,344	21,610
Grants and contributions	41,235	23,586	17,448
Capital Financing Requirement	60,005	51,512	22,441
Total funding	155,257	121,930	91,567

Note that the capital programme is subject to the availability of Government funding.

- An update on progress with the Council's most significant capital schemes is shown in Appendix A. It is proposed that the current position be noted.

Firewall replacement

- In the Medium Term Financial Strategy an additional £90,000 per annum growth for firewall improvements was added to Digital, Customer and Commercial Services' revenue budgets. Following an appraisal it has been determined that it would be better to replace the firewalls and the costs of £460,000 will then be capitalised.

It is proposed that £460,000 is included in the 2023/24 Capital Programme and will be funded by revenue contributions from the growth provided in the revenue budget.

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Grant

7. The Council has been awarded £1,288,420 of Holiday Activities and Food Grant by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in 2023/24. Up to 2% of this grant may be capitalised which equates to £25,768. This amount is being added to the capital programme to set up a website and booking system to support the HAF programme. Amendments to the Capital Programme are in normal circumstances made by Council following approval by Cabinet. Owing to Procurement and implementation timescales this decision was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred to this meeting of the Council. It has been approved as allowed by the Council's Constitution in urgent circumstances.

£26,000 is being included in the 2023/24 Capital Programme and will be funded by the grant.

Storage Area Network

8. In October 2022 a decision was made to replace the Storage Area Network (SAN) for a system that would provide the opportunity to consolidate data centres and server requirements, at the time the estimated cost of this was £400k. Following a procurement exercise there is a requirement for an additional £75k to complete the replacement of the SAN.

It has been identified that within the ICT Strategy approved programme that this additional cost can be covered by the Server Refresh 2023/24 budget as the SAN has a direct relationship to the servers and results in a reduced Server Refresh budget requirement, therefore it is proposed that the SAN budget be increased from £400k to £475k and the ICT Strategy Budget be reduced by the corresponding £75k.

Urgent Amendments to the Capital Programme

9. A budget of £2,000,000 for fire Suppression works for the Energy From Waste plant were approved at the Council meeting of 28th November 2022. The final tenders for this work have now been received and the total cost is expected to be £2,069,567.53. Therefore, an urgent decision sheet was signed by the Leader in consultation with the Director of Finance and Legal (reference DFL/09/2023) for the additional £70,000 budget to be incorporated into the Capital Programme.

Finance

10. This report is financial in nature and information about the individual proposals is contained within the body of the report.

Law

11. The Council's budgeting process is governed by the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980, the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and the Local Government Act 2003.

Risk Management

12. Risks, and their management, are considered prior to proposals being brought forward to include projects in the Capital Programme. This includes risks relating to the capital expenditure itself, funding of that expenditure (e.g. grant availability and conditions), and ongoing revenue costs and/or income.

Equality Impact

13. These proposals comply with the Council's policy on Equality and Diversity.
14. With regard to Children and Young People:
 - The Capital Programme for Schools will be spent wholly on improving services for children and young people. Other elements of the Capital Programme will also have a significant impact on this group.
 - Consultation is undertaken with children and young people, if appropriate, when developing individual capital projects within the Programme.
 - There has been no direct involvement of children and young people in developing the proposals in this report.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

15. The proposals in this report do not have any direct Human Resources / Organisational Development implications.

Commercial / Procurement

- 16. All procurement activity will be carried out in accordance with the Council’s Contract Standing Orders, and the relevant officers will take the procurements through the Procurement Management Group to monitor compliance at the relevant Gateways.

Environment / Climate Change

- 17. Individual capital projects should be separately assessed for their environmental impact before they commence and major schemes with climate change impacts will include details of this in their progress reports going forward.

Council Priorities and Projects

- 18. Proposed capital projects are in line with the Council’s capital investment priorities as set out in the approved Capital Strategy.



.....
Leader of the Council

Progress with Major Capital Schemes**Public Sector Housing**New Council HousingProjects on site

- New Swinford Hall – conversion to 18 affordable apartments - completion September 2023
- Corporation Road B – 5 houses – Potential phased completion September to October 2023
- Whitegates Road – 3 houses - completion September 2023
- Beacon Rise – 11 homes - completion October 23 – with £605k Homes England Grant secured
- Lower Valley Road – 17 affordable homes, 14 apartments (mix of one and two beds) and 3 x two bedroom wheelchair bungalows. £935,000 Homes England Grant secured - completion January 2024
- Swan Street – 75 units – 54 Sheltered and 21 houses - £4m Homes England Grant secured, completion February 2026.

Planning approval has previously been secured to progress several sites under the brownfield land programme, the funding for which is managed by Walsall Council on behalf of the West Midlands Combined Authority. Due to the current pressures on the HRA Capital Programme the Council have retracted from the brownfield programme and are focusing on investment in the current stock.

Planning approval has been obtained, and a Compulsory Purchase Order has commenced to facilitate the redevelopment of 122 to 128 Colley Gate, Cradley, to deliver a new housing scheme of 8 units. The development was originally intended to be funded through the HRA capital programme but due to the pressures referenced above alternative options are now being considered, acknowledging that the redevelopment of the properties at Colley Gate remains a priority.

EnvironmentStevens Park, Quarry Bank Lottery & Council funded project

The refurbishment & extension of Tintern House including remedial works is complete and the final account has been agreed.

The Emily Jordan Foundation Projects are running their projects: 'Spokes' (Bicycle restoration & sales) 'Twigs' (Horticultural training & sales) & 'Go Green' (recycling).

The Community Development Officer is carrying out a series of events & activities until Autumn 2024.

Wrens Nest Wardens' Base

The acquisition of 113 and 115 Wrens Hill Road was completed on 6th August 2021.

Meetings over the course of 2022 culminated in Officers holding workshops in October and November with the Friends of Wrens Nest and architects from Corporate Landlords to develop a preferred design option for a Wardens Base and Visitor Facility.

A Feasibility Study has therefore been completed with costings. The project cost is currently estimated at £639k + £50k for contingencies and risk. Whilst £279k remains in the capital programme for the project, this leaves a shortfall of some £410k. The Heritage Lottery have been approached and recommend that an Expression of Interest is submitted for consideration.

Dudley Townscape Heritage

The Townscape Heritage (TH) programme is funded through the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) which offers grant assistance to carry out repair, reinstatement and refurbishment works to historic buildings, as well as a programme of complementary education and community engagement activities. The Phase 2 TH programme, operating with a grant budget of £1.178m from the NLHF and £300,000 match funding from the Council, commenced in February 2017. All projects are due for completion by the end of September. A deadline for submission of the evaluation and the final claim to the Heritage Fund by the end of the year is being agreed.

The programme focuses on buildings in the town centre's historic core. The work at 203/204 Wolverhampton Street, 216 Wolverhampton Street, 204a Wolverhampton Street and 14 New Street is complete, with Fountain Arcade at practical completion with only snagging items outstanding. Other properties within the programme include the following:

- 208 and 209 Wolverhampton Street: shopfronts have been installed and awaiting signage
- Plaza Mall: shopfront has been manufactured and is scheduled for installation from early September
- 207 Wolverhampton Street: project includes comprehensive repairs to the building and reinstatement of shopfront. Work to windows, re-rendering and reinstatement of shopfront continuing apace and due for completion August/September

A wide-ranging activities programme, running alongside the capital works programme, has been developed and delivered in conjunction with teams in Adult and Community Learning, Museums, Communications and Public Affairs and the Historic Environment Team. A revised programme was agreed with the Heritage Fund which was adapted in light of Covid-19 restrictions. Further activities were included in the programme working with delivery partners (Co Lab) who already have established links with the community of Dudley. This has seen the successful 'Growing up in Dudley' project, which has gathered images and oral reminiscences, and 'Dudley Days' which held workshops with a small group of participants to create music inspired by connections with Dudley. Teaching resources have been produced as part of the programme and have been shared with schools.

The project also works closely with the Historic Environment Team to produce information in the form of trails and leaflets to enhance understanding and appreciation of the historic environment, including a suite of guides to assist owners of historic buildings. The project continues to work with volunteers where possible and research has been carried out on the former Woolworth's building resulting in a new document which will be printed for the upcoming Heritage Open Day in September 2023. A further document about Fountain Arcade has been produced and will be added to the suite of building leaflets included on the Dudley Heritage Open Days webpage, where the virtual tours of a number of buildings are available, and the Historic Environment Team's webpage.

The exhibition display in the form of 4 pull-up banners about the history of Dudley have continued to be on display at the Museum and have also been used at other events including the recent National Gallery John Constable exhibition in the Churchill precinct and will be exhibited at the forthcoming Heritage Open Days at the Coroner's Court and at the Castle. The programme has included the installation of a blue plaque on the former School of Art to commemorate Percy Shakespeare, a 4-page insert in the autumn (2021) edition of the Home magazine and the printing of the City ID map for Dudley. Training sessions for bricklaying students at Dudley College have also taken place, where students received hands-on training from a conservation bricklaying specialist.

Preparations are currently underway to open the Coroner's Court for the Heritage Open Day on 9th September with other participating buildings including Top Church and The Crown. There will be a further reprint of the many trails and leaflets produced during the course of the Townscape Heritage programme in time for the Heritage Open Day, for distribution at the event and for wider distribution at the borough's many visitor attractions.

Brierley Hill High Street Heritage Action Zone

The High Street Heritage Action Zone Programme (HSHAZ) is a nationwide initiative designed to secure lasting improvements to historic high streets for the communities who use them. It is Government funded and run by Historic England with the aim of making the high street a more attractive, engaging and vibrant place for people to live, work and spend time. It is designed to unlock the potential of high streets across England, fuelling economic, social and cultural recovery. Brierley Hill High Street was one of 68 High Streets selected to receive a share of the fund.

The Brierley Hill High Street HAZ is a 4 year programme, due for completion by March 2024. At the start of the programme a grant of £1.8m was awarded by Historic England with £400,000 match funding coming from the Council, equating to an overall grant of 81.80% from Historic England and an overall budget of £2.2m. At the end of September 2021, this figure was increased with an additional grant of £242,171 from Historic England, which with the 18.20% match from the Council provides a total grant increase of £296,052.46 and an overall budget of just under £2.5m. The programme provides grant assistance to third parties to carry out repair, reinstatement and refurbishment works to historic buildings as well as grant assistance towards bringing vacant floorspace back into use. It also provides grant towards public realm improvements, plus there is a programme of complementary education and community engagement activities. The spend profile and the priorities for funding have been agreed and approved by Historic England.

Public Realm Programme and War Memorial

For years one and two, the priority has been works to the Brierley Hill War memorial. The works to the memorial have been divided up into two phases. Phase 1 commenced on-site in August 2021 and focused on installing lighting, repairs and architectural reinstatement works to the Brierley Hill War Memorial and its immediate setting and Phase 2 commenced on-site late November 2021 and focused on the War Memorial Garden where significant stabilisation works to the embankment have been undertaken along with structural repairs to the intermediate walls that runs through its centre plus the laying out of a soft landscaping scheme. Works on both phases are now complete. The Phase 1 parts of the scheme have been handed back over to responsible Council departments. With respect to the Phase 2 works, once the second campaign of weeding has been completed, this scheme will be handed over also.

In terms of public realm proposals for the Civic Hall Green and St Mary's Church and for the public realm proposals being delivered through the Future High Street Fund, the public were consulted on the proposals in October/November of 2022. The main contractor is on-site, all the new paving has been laid on the Market Side of the High Street and the contractor is now

working on the opposite side of the road laying new paving around the Civic Hall Green, excavating the tree pits and making a start on excavation of the new path in the Civic Hall Green. The paving is being installed at the southern end of the High Street, south of St Mary's Church in the splitter islands. Lighting columns have been redecorated and new street furniture has been ordered and will be installed shortly. The planning application has been submitted for the link space. For more information about the public realm proposals click on this link: <https://www.regeneratingdudley.org.uk/brierley-hill-projects> or look at the High Street HAZ webpage: <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/brierley-hill-haz>

Buildings Programme

This part of the programme is very dependent on the acceptance of grants by building owners and on contractors being appointed and being able to manage time pressures (imposed by the tight spend window for the project), significant rising costs and material delays.

As part of the original bid submission to Historic England, a number of historic buildings were identified to be a priority for grant assistance. Contact has now been established with the owners of all the priority projects and the majority of them are positively engaging with the Council and have now appointed a Conservation Accredited Architect in order to progress their proposals.

Grants have been offered and accepted on six projects:

- 2a and 2 Albion Street – works have commenced on-site and are nearing completion.
- 68 High Street – works have commenced on-site and are nearing completion.
- 101 High Street (Phase 1 – roof) - works have commenced on-site and are nearing completion.
- Brierley Hill Institute – contractor is due to start on-site soon
- 8 Mill Street – works have commenced on-site and are underway
- St Mary's Church (door) – grant accepted and works completed.

Several other priority projects are in the process seeking the necessary planning consents and drawing up tender documentation. Both Brierley Hill Market and 101 High Street (Phase - new shopfront) have live planning applications lodged with the local planning authority awaiting determination and their tender documentation is in the process of being prepared. For 123 High Street the tenders have been returned and are in the process of being assessed. 3-5 Church Street has been re-appraised, and consideration is being given to it being valued engineered and re-tendered. As it currently stands, if all these projects progress to completion all of the HAZ funding will be fully committed.

Community Programme

Community engagement and activities are also being positively progressed and developed in conjunction with Brierley Hill Community Forum, Friends of Marsh Park, Dudley Market, the Black Country Living Museum and also with teams in Adult and Community Learning (ACL), Museums, Communications and Public Affairs, Dudley Business First and the Historic Environment Team. There is in place an Activity Plan for the project. The main focus for this quarter has been getting ready for the September Heritage Open Day event on Saturday 16th September, for more information visit the this website:

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/printable-area-lists/town/Brierley%20Hill/detailed>

Cultural Programme

Other major element of the High Street Heritage HAZ is the development of a Cultural Programme in conjunction with Brierley Hill Community Forum. The Arts Council England, National Heritage Memorial Fund and Historic England are providing funding for the development and delivery of the HS HAZ Cultural Programme providing the total sum of £94,000 and this has to be delivered in accordance with an agreed Milestone and Instalment schedule.

Following a second call out for local creatives to submit new ideas for the final year of the programme, the following projects have been approved and are now in the process of being delivered. All the funding for this programme has been committed.

- Radio Public Library (social art project) – Workshop 24
- Pop Up Gallery and Shop – Dudley College
- Brierley Hill Song Book – Dan Whitehouse
- Great Big Green Week – Ekho Collective
- These People, This Place - Ekho Collective
- 100 Faces of Brierley Hill
- Comic Con – Brierley Hill Library

For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/brierleyhillculture>

Public Sector Decarbonisation

As previously reported the council was awarded a grant of approximately £4.4m through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) and managed by Salix, the purpose being to switch sites from carbon-intensive forms of heating such as oil and gas, to electrical forms of heating (air source heat pumps) with additional works including Solar photovoltaic (PV), battery storage and LED lighting upgrades where possible. The scheme covers Dudley Council House and Town Hall, Stourbridge Library, Himley Hall and

Ward House as well as the following schools: Amblecote, Caslon, Cotwall End, Glynne, Queen Victoria, Straits, Milking Bank and Wrens Nest Primary Schools.

Works commenced during the summer of 2021 with all the installations at the named schools and corporate sites. All works are now practically completed at the various locations (Education & Corporate) including Solar Panels LED Lighting and Air Source Heat Pumps. A Salix audit is currently taking place. Site visits occurred on 1st September with no issues raised. Audit of reporting and finance is to follow.

Low Carbon Place Strategy

The Council was awarded approximately £2.5m European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) to deliver a project that will reduce carbon emissions. This is a joint project between Housing and Corporate Landlord Services that will reduce carbon emissions from council owned homes as well as corporate buildings such as the Council House. £2.5m of match funding is being met from existing HRA budgets. In November 2021 the council appointed a new central heating installer for council housing as the previous went into administration.

The programme recommenced slowly in December 2021 as the contractor mobilised. A project change request has been granted requesting a further 18 months be added to the programme deadlines, to enable this resultant delay to be accommodated which affects the Housing side of the programme. It should also be noted that where homes are sold under the Right to Buy scheme, but have had the benefit of the grant, the council is required to refund the capital impact of the grant. The programme of energy efficiency improvements to the corporate estate is nearing completion. All outstanding work is now practically complete and final reports have been submitted to the funding body. No queries have been raised to date; however it is likely that an audit will take place on some sample sites in the near future.

Very Light Rail (VLR)

Following a detailed review of the various issues, delays and variations previously reported the project Quantity Surveyor, RLB, have now presented their assessment of the final account for the project which is indicating an overspend of approximately £1.1m against the available budget. This is based on formal project handover having taken place on 16 September 2022.

The final account has now been agreed and signed off with the contractor.

Works continue in closing out outstanding issues and building snagging.

The project team have completed the paperwork to receive an additional £400,000 of ERDF funding which will be used to fund some of the overspend.

Metro Complementary Measures

The £9.1 million budget is to fund the works associated with the delivery of the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Metro extension.

The legal agreement with Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) states that the Council will fund the complementary measures along the route including pedestrian crossings. The Council has also agreed with TfWM to fund the uplift of materials where the Metro is built through Dudley Town centre in order to provide high quality public realm. Large public realm interventions have been identified along the route at key stops, notably Station Drive (now Dudley Castle), Flood Street and Brierley Hill, to be funded by this programme of works. The £1million accelerated funding associated with the Towns Fund has been used to fund works to adopt Zoological Way, part of the works for the new loop road to access the Metro stop and some of the public realm work along the Zoo entrance on Castle Hill. Other public realm uplift works completed include those along the Metro route of Castle Hill to maintain and enhance the conservation character of the area, complementing the high-quality public realm at Market Square.

Midland Metro Alliance (MMA) are constructing the Metro extension for TfWM. In July 2022 the WMCA Board confirmed that costs had increased for the WBHE and therefore it will be phased. In June 2023 the WMCA board received and agreed a report on a package of funding which could facilitate delivery of the Metro to Waterfront (phase 2a), including Deeper Devolution Deal, WMCA funding and CRSTS. Funding is subject to business case development and assessment. Delivery of phases 2b and 2c (to Merry Hill and Brierley Hill respectively) are still subject to funding. The first phase finishes at Flood Street, Dudley and is planned to be open to passengers in December 2024.

The Council is continuing to work with TfWM to confirm the scope of the complementary measures, the uplift of materials and the public realm interventions given the change in delivery by TfWM.

Towns Fund

Full planning permission was granted for the scheme at November 2021 Planning Committee under application P21/1505. After a short period to confirm the application would not be called in by DLUHC the application planning consent was granted on 16 December 2021.

In the current macro-economic environment of high inflation, there are cost implications on the main construction period moving from 2023/24 to 2024/25.

Cost modelling undertaken by independent cost consultant showed a £3-5m shortfall in funding for the consented 4332 m² building.

The Alliance design team have moved on since this review and are currently looking at a design that matches the existing planning scheme with minimal amendments and within the available budget. This includes some reduction in areas and some reduction in the amount of internal fit out that is completed. The team are currently working to finalise project costs, design and budget by the end of November 2023 to allow a start on site in the spring of 2024. At this stage the team are progressing on the basis of no further funding being available from the NHS although should further funding be identified in the future flexibility will be built into the building to accommodate as needed.

Land assembly via negotiation, demolition and CPO continues to progress with demolition of the Hippodrome having commenced and the CPO for the remaining land having been sealed and published with an anticipated timeline of approximately 12 months.

At this stage all works are progressing in line with available budget.

CCTV

Phase 1 – Complete and operational.

Phase 2 - reflects the initial extension of coverage approved at the outset of the project. The main problems faced in this phase have been access to staff and materials throughout the last 18 months. Additional public realm cameras in this phase include:

- Cameras in Sedgley Bilston Street – completed.
- Wolverhampton Street Dudley – completed.
- Coronation Gardens – completed.
- Castle Gate – design work is complete. Columns have been erected, camera heads to be installed shortly. Waiting confirmation of power installations and fibre optic circuit. Expected to be completed July 2023, however, this depends on ongoing works associated with the installation of Tram lines which is affecting work permits to work in the same area which is impacting fibre installation. Only 2 cameras remaining to complete.
- The cameras to Lye town centre have been completed and are operational
- All 12 deployable cameras are now in use.

Phase 3 - work includes the additional cameras requested and approved at Council in 2021, to be sited at:

- Kent Street Upper Gornal – completed.

- Shell Corner Halesowen – completed, although needs to be revisited following a RTA which damaged a column that is now waiting replacement.
- Netherton High Street – completed.
- Wollaston traffic island – completed
- Toys Lane/Furlongs Road Colley Gate – completed.
- Queensway Pedmore – completed.
- Wynall Lane – completed.

Additional 12 deployable cameras have been ordered, expected to be operational in September/October 2023.

Dudley Interchange

Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) has secured all the funding for the Interchange. Gateley Hamer are appointed to manage the CPO process. Counsel advice recommended that the CPO is split into two - one for the Interchange and associated highways works and another for the Portersfield scheme and highway works.

At the September 2021 Cabinet it was agreed that DMBC will use its CPO powers to purchase Farm Foods, the Photographic Studio on Birmingham Street and the properties required for the associated highways. As a result of the need to CPO properties the start date for the Interchange has been moved to Spring 2024, Completion is expected Summer 2025. Work was delayed as counsel recommended that a single planning application is required for both the building and the highway works. New planning application has been submitted. Updated report in relation to the CPO was approved at June Cabinet. Approval was granted by Planning Committee on 12th September.

In December 2022 Gateley Hamer submitted the CPO to the Planning Casework Unit (PCU) for confirmation by the Secretary of State. The PCU have confirmed that objections to the scheme have been received and a Planning Inspector has now been appointed by the PCU and a CPO Inquiry is planned for early October 2023. A Statement of Case and rebuttal to the CPO objections are in preparation for submission to the Planning Inspector within the require timescales.

In parallel Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) have completed a value engineering exercise on the Interchange building design and design changes have been submitted to the Council for consideration.

Alternative temporary locations for the bus stops around Tower Street and Coronation Gardens during construction of the Interchange have been identified and this is currently being reviewed and costed by TfWM with support from the Council. The programme for the Interchange required the existing bus station to be closed early in 2024 so preparatory work for the temporary stops will commence in November / December this year.

Dudley Town Centre Highways Infrastructure (Portersfield Development)

As reported previously the WMCA has conditionally approved funding to support changes to the highways Infrastructure to create access to the Portersfield development site and improve access to the wider Town Centre. This funding amounts to £6.0m. In addition to early design work, some site clearance was carried out to allow for intrusive site investigation to provide information to support the design process. In terms of any land acquisition required for highway changes this will be covered under a CPO that will be required for the overall development of the site. Highway design work relating to realigning Trindle Road was previously frozen to avoid any abortive spend until the review of the overall development site has been completed.

As a result of the wider development review an alternative highway option to leave Trindle Road on its current alignment is now being developed which includes high quality sustainable access measures, to support walking, cycling and bus movements, and this will be integrated into the design to support the wider overall sustainable Portersfield development aspirations.

Black Country Blue Network 2

The Blue Network project is nearing completion. The European Regional Development Fund funded project finished on 30th June 2023. Sedgley Beacon, Holloway Street and Castle Hill are all completed with a few minor tidying up / snagging works on the latter two. Turlis Hill and Coseley projects led by Greencare are well underway and will be completed within timescales. We are forecasting that all outputs will be achieved and the scheme delivered within budget.

Refurbishment of Dudley Council House Campus

Phase 1 to the 1st floor of the Council House has been handed over from the contractor and senior leadership has reoccupied their new offices and associated spaces. Building work to Phase 2 on the Council House basement, parts of the 1st and 2nd floors of the Priory Street offices is due to complete in early September which will be followed by those rooms being furnished ready for occupation towards the end of September. As part of each phase work has been done to improve accessibility.

A new Phase 2a will immediately follow Phase 2 and this will see the refurbishment of the Old Police Building. This work now reflects the need to increase desk and meeting space as opposed to creating a collaboration hub. Further phases currently reflect:

- New Phase 3 - Ground floor including main reception – churn is planned for December 2023, then contractor will be expected to start on site Jan 2024 and complete by June 24
- New Phase 4 – Members car park – contractor would be expected to start in July 2024 and complete by end of September 2024

The forecast final cost (assuming remaining phases continue as originally anticipated) currently projects an overspend. Work is being undertaken to review the detail and consider options which may include identifying additional budget and/or re-scoping the remaining phases.

Brierley Hill (Future High Streets)

The Council secured £9.99m from the Future High Streets Fund in December 2020. This is to support a programme of activity at Brierley Hill, to be implemented in the period 2021 to 2026. The key objectives are to improve footfall, reduce vacancy rates and improve the diversity of shops and facilities. All Future High Streets Funding has to be drawn down by 2023/24. DMBC match funding, identified through existing approvals, will be used to fund projects within the latter part of the programme. The overall investment value of the programme is in the region of £44m.

Project summaries:

Public Realm and Connectivity Improvements (£4.75m) - Funding to connect the new Midland Metro terminus to the High Street, improve existing public realm connectivity between key buildings and provide new public spaces and pocket parks. Improvement works at the High Street commenced on site on 4 January 2023 and will run until the spring of 2024.

Key Retail Sites (£1.048m) - Support to restructure the Moor Centre shopping precinct. The private sector owner failed to secure planning approval for the works. As the result, the Council's investment to support redevelopment could not be progressed within the Future High Street spend timescales. Following consultation with the Department for Levelling Up, a formal Project Change Request was submitted in September 2022 to move funding from the Moor Centre to support the public library (£365k) and public toilet refurbishment works (£194k). Tenders for both of these projects were double the original estimates. This was the result of materials shortages, the high rate of inflation and transportation costs. The remainder of funding (£489k) would be transferred to the public realm programme where similar cost increases have

incurred. The Department for Levelling Up approved the Project Adjustment Request in January 2023.

Infrastructure and Air Quality Improvements (£255,000) - Future High Streets will provide support to amend two highway junctions at Venture Way. The intention is to improve pedestrian connectivity between the High Street and medical centre; reduce queuing traffic which has resulted in movement delays; and improved air quality levels. The works have now completed.

Addressing Housing Need (£3.55m) - Funding was secured to acquire and remediate 10 acres of brownfield land known as Daniels Land and the High Plateau. These are two long-term vacant sites, formerly part of the Round Oak Steel Works that have remained undeveloped for over 40 years. Dudley Council's Housing Department would then construct up to 220 new mixed tenure homes to meet local housing needs. An urban design study was prepared to inform an architect's brief for detailed design proposals to be progressed.

Discussions have continued with Sovereign Centros which is the managing agent acting on behalf of the site owners who also own the Merry Hill shopping centre. Early construction of the Metro viaduct and Embankment tram halt is key to delivery of the housing redevelopment project.

West Midlands Combined Authority's decision in July 2022 to delay the Metro link from Dudley to Brierley Hill has severely impacted upon the delivery programme. As the result, the proposed redevelopment works are unable to proceed within the FSHF timescale. The Housing Department's capital programme has been reduced and the redevelopment project is unable to be taken forward within this timescale. As the result, a second Project Adjustment Request accompanied by an economic appraisal, was submitted to the Department for Levelling Up in July 2023. This is to re-allocate the £3.55m of funding from Daniels Land and the High Plateau to a replacement schedule of projects within Brierley Hill town centre. Due to the large sum of money being re-allocated in the final year of the grant expenditure programme, a 12 month extension of the timescale to spend FHSF grant monies has been requested. The outcome of the Project Adjustment Request is expected in September 2023.

In parallel, discussions are being progressed for West Midlands Combined Authority and Homes England to acquire the sites. These are strategic acquisitions to support Metro delivery, fund remediation works and build new homes. Control of the sites will also provide the public sector with the opportunity to address the long-term severance within the strategic centre. This is caused by the poor direct connectivity between the High Street and Merry Hill.

Public Library (£308,000) - refurbishment of Brierley Hill public library and meeting room spaces. Scheme designs were the subject of community consultation and have been well received. Freeholder approval has been received for the refurbishment works. Tenders were significantly over budget due to inflation and increases in the cost of building materials. A Project Variation Request to move funding from the Key Retail sites project to the library was approved in January 2023. The refurbishment works to the library commenced in May 2023 and will complete in September 2023.

Public Toilets (£80,000) - Reopening of public toilets to support the High Street visitor return following the coronavirus pandemic, and the provision of welfare facilities for Metro tram drivers. Midland Metro Alliance is making an additional contribution of £38,000 to support the works. Feasibility designs were prepared and discussed with stakeholder groups. Tenders were significantly over budget due to inflation and increases in the cost of building materials. A Project Variation Request to move funding from the Key Retail sites project to the public toilets was approved in January 2023. The refurbishment works to the toilets commenced in April 2023 and will complete in August 2023.

In addition to the Future High Streets Fund award, the Council has secured further investment from the West Midlands Combined Authority. This is to acquire land to support implementation of the High Street Link. A funding agreement between WMCA and DMBC completed in March 2022. This is a long-term vacant gap site where there is the opportunity to provide a new connection from the High Street to the Metro terminus and Health Centre. The land acquisitions completed in June 2023. Site clearance and demolition works will complete in August 2023. A start on site for the pedestrianisation works is expected in the autumn of 2023.

A Town Board has now been established to oversee the various interventions underway in Brierley Hill. These include the Future High Streets Fund, Heritage Action Zone, and delivery of the Midland Metro. It includes Mike Wood MP, local Ward Members, DMBC and business, community, and educational sector representatives. The Town Board meets on a quarterly basis.

Schools

Schools Basic Need Projects

Now that the project at Wordsley School and Crestwood Schools are now complete, focus is now on ensuring there are sufficient secondary school places in the Halesowen area. Talks with Halesowen Secondary Heads is ongoing.

Numbers for both primary and secondary school places continue to be closely monitored and processes are in place to recommend capital projects to address any projected growth across both sectors.

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Projects

Informed by both the SCAP23 and Delivering Better Value in SEND programme, we are continuing the process of re-profiling our special school and mainstream provision to bring it more closely in line with the current SEND pupil cohort through development of Dudley's SEND Sufficiency Strategy, and the special provision capital funding is a key component in this process.

In addition to funds carried forward from previous years, we have received a further allocation of capital funding for SEND. Projects to be funded are still being scoped with the need for detailed feasibility studies to be undertaken but is likely to include further expansion within our maintained special schools. A tender process has now been completed to establish a further primary SEMH base. This tender has now been concluded and the base will be established at Caslon primary school. The base is now operational, and work continues to create an outside play area exclusively for the base.

A further five bases have now been allocated to schools and we are in the process of scoping the works that need to be carried out to classrooms and playgrounds.

Meeting of the Council – 16th October, 2023

Report of the Audit and Standards Committee

Treasury Management

Purpose

1. To outline treasury activity during the financial year 2022/23 and in the current financial year up to the end of July 2023.

Recommendations

2. That the report be received and noted.

Background

3. The Treasury Management strategy for 2023/24 has been underpinned by the adoption of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice (2021 edition).
4. Treasury Management entails the management of the Council's cash flows, its borrowings and investments, the management of the associated risks and the pursuit of the optimum performance or return consistent with those risks.
5. The Council undertakes treasury management activity on its own behalf and as administering authority for the West Midlands Debt Administration Fund (*WMDAF*). We are responsible for administering capital funding of approximately £730m on our own account and another £61m on behalf of other West Midlands councils in respect of the WMDAF. The treasury function is governed by the Council's Treasury Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices.

6. The Council has recently changed bank accounts from HSBC to Lloyds, the transition requires significant work from accountancy and services and this is ongoing. The project has gone smoothly to date with minimal impact on the business.

Treasury activity in 2022/23 on the Dudley fund

7. Our treasury activities were undertaken in the context of the Treasury Strategy Statement 2022/23 approved by the Audit and Standards Committee and Full Council in February 2022. The Strategy Statement stated:

“The primary factor in determining whether we undertake new long-term borrowing will be cash flow need. We will seek to minimise the time between borrowing and anticipated cash flow need, subject to the need to maintain day to day liquidity”.

8. In 2022/23 our investments averaged £20.6 million (with significant day to day variation as a result of cash flow). The average return on these investments was 2.33%. All investments were placed with institutions that satisfied the criteria for creditworthiness set out in the Treasury Strategy Statement 2022/23. Our investment activity for 2022/23 is set out in more detail in Appendix 1.
9. The average value of long-term borrowings in 2022/23 was £588.3 million. The average rate of interest on these borrowings was 3.75%. The loans were due to mature on dates ranging from 2023 to 2073. In 2022/23 we took out 11 long-term loans with the shortest having a duration of 2 years and the longest had a duration of 50 years.
10. Due to cash flow requirements in 2022/23, it was necessary to undertake short-term borrowing on 1 occasion. The value of this loan was £8.0m at a rate of 1.00% for a duration of 1 day.

Treasury activity in 2022/23 on the WMDAF

11. It was necessary to undertake short-term borrowing on 4 occasions for cashflow purposes for the WMDAF, at an average value of £2.63m at an average rate of 2.36% for an average duration of 150 days. Four investments were made in 2022/23 for the WMDAF at an average value of £4.25m at an average rate of 2.55% for an average duration of 10 days.

Performance comparisons 2022/23

12. Our treasury management advisors Link Asset Services have compared our treasury performance with their other clients using borrowing and investment data at financial year end. The results are summarised in the table below:

Performance Benchmarking

	Dudley	Client Average
Gross Borrowing (£M)	552.3	258.9
Investments (£M)	11.0	77.4
Net Borrowing (£M)	541.3	181.5
Gross average borrowing rate (the cost of borrowing, ignoring the return on investments)	3.90%	3.61%
Investment return rate (the return on investments, ignoring the cost of borrowing)	3.70%	3.17%
Net average borrowing rate (a combination of the above, representing the cost of borrowing net of the return on investments)	3.90%	3.80%

13. The data above is based on a snapshot of treasury portfolios as at 31 March 2023 and includes long and short term borrowing and investments.
14. It should be remembered that treasury performance measurement is not an exact science. These statistics represent the cumulative effect of decisions dating back over many years and the performance of other local authorities may have been achieved in circumstances different from our own.

Prudential indicators 2022/23

15. The 2021 Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities sets out a framework for the consideration and approval of capital spending plans. In so doing, it requires the Council to set a number of prudential indicators, some of which concern matters of treasury management. Appendix 2 outlines those indicators for 2022/23.

Treasury activity 2023/24 to July

16. Treasury activities in the current year have been undertaken in the context of the Treasury Strategy Statement 2023/24 approved by Audit and Standards Committee and Council in February of this year. In that document we anticipated that long term borrowing would be required in the next 12 months due to cash flow need.
17. Our investments up to the end of July have averaged £34.9 million (with significant day to day variation as a result of cash flow). The average return on these investments was 4.22%. All investments were placed with institutions that satisfied the criteria for creditworthiness set out in the Treasury Strategy Statement 2023/24. Our investment activity for 2023/24 is set out in more detail in Appendix 3.
18. The Monetary Policy Committee has increased the Bank of England base rate four times since the last report to this Committee (the previously reported rate was 4.00% as voted for in February 2023 and the latest rate change was agreed in August 2023 which put the rate to 5.25%). This is in response to inflationary pressures. Our treasury advisors, Link Treasury Services, expect the rate to rise once more in 2023 before coming down in the next financial year (with the first drop in September 2024 to 4.75%).
19. The average value of long-term borrowings up to the end of July has been £622.0 million. The average rate of interest on Dudley's loans is 3.84%. The maturity dates for the loans range from the current year to 2073. To the end of July no new loans have been taken out in 2023/24. There has been no short-term borrowing in 2023/24 in the period to the end of July 2023.
20. We are monitoring interest rates and cash flow closely and anticipate that some new long term borrowing may be required before the end of the current financial year. It is likely that this borrowing will be at higher rates than have been experienced in recent years and therefore our average rate of borrowing will increase and this will need to be reflected as a pressure in setting budgets.
21. On the WMDAF one loan has been arranged in 2023-24 up to the end of July at a value of £14m at a rate of 5.88% for a duration of 237 days. We have made 2 investments on the WMDAF to the end of July in 2023/24; one with a value of £13.5 million at a rate of 5.175% for a duration of 55 days and the other with a value of £0.5 million at a rate of 5.115% for a duration of 28 days.

Finance

22. Forecasts of performance against budget for treasury management activities are highly sensitive to movements in cash flow and interest rates.

Law

23. These matters are governed by Part IV of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, which empowers the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its various statutory functions.

Risk Management

24. Treasury Management, by its nature entails the management of financial risks, specifically credit risk for investments which is mitigated by limiting acceptable counterparties to those of the highest credit quality and imposing counterparty limits for non-government institutions; and interest rate risk which is mitigated by prudential indicators detailed in Appendix 2.

Equality Impact

25. The treasury management activities considered in this report have no direct impact on issues of equality.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

26. There are no Human Resources/Organisational Development implications associated with this report.

Commercial/Procurement

27. The over-riding purpose of the Council's Investment Strategy is day to day cash management and not income generation. The strategy prioritises security and liquidity of cash investments over yield. Once those are met, we aim to secure the maximum yield from our investments held with the small number of counterparties that meet the strict criteria laid out in our Annual Investment Strategy.

Council Priorities and Projects

28. Treasury Management supports the Council's capital investment priorities as set out in the approved Capital Strategy.



.....
Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee

Investment Activity 2022/23

Counterparty name	Number of investments	Average value £ million	Average rate %	Average duration (days)
Debt Management Office	244	13.92	2.29	9
Bank of Scotland	N/A	0.04	0.12	Call Account
HSBC Call Account	N/A	2.76	0.11	Call Account
HSBC 31 Day Notice	N/A	0.02	2.22	Deposit Account
Santander Call Account	N/A	3.55	0.89	Call Account
Santander 35 Day Notice	N/A	0.02	1.53	Deposit Account
Barclays Call Account	N/A	0.25	0.31	Call Account

Prudential indicators relating to treasury management 2022/23

External Borrowing

These indicators are intended to ensure that levels of external borrowing are affordable, prudent and sustainable. The authorised limit for external debt is a statutory limit (section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003) that should not be breached under any circumstances. The operational boundary is a lower threshold allowing for a prudent but not worst case scenario for cash flow.

	£m
Authorised limit for external borrowing	951
Operational boundary for external borrowing	837
Outturn - actual external borrowing	680

Interest rate exposures and maturity structure of borrowing and investments

These indicators allow the Council to manage the extent to which it is exposed to changes in interest rates.

Dudley MBC

	Indicator	Outturn
Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure	100%	100%
Upper limit for variable rate exposure	10%	0%
Upper limit of principal maturing in any one year for sums invested for over 364 days	£10m	Nil
Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing:-		
under 12 months	0-15%	4.4%
12 months and within 24 months	0-15%	2.6%
24 months and within 5 years	0-20%	5.5%
5 years and within 10 years	0-25%	14.3%
10 years and above	50-100%	73.2%

West Midlands Debt Administration Fund

	Indicator	Outturn
Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing:-		
under 12 months	0-26%	28.6%
12 months and within 24 months	0-20%	33.9%
24 months and within 5 years	0-54%	37.4%

Appendix 3

Investment Activity 2023/24 to July

Counterparty name	Number of investments	Average value £ million	Average rate %	Average duration (days)
Debt Management Office	127	29.06	4.47	10
Other Local Authorities	1	8.0	4.95	18
HSBC Call Account	N/A	0.65	0.36	Call Account
HSBC 31 Day Notice	N/A	0.00	1.68	Deposit Account
Santander Call Account	N/A	1.03	2.69	Call Account
Santander 35 Day Notice	N/A	0.02	3.78	Deposit Account
Barclays Call Account	N/A	0.05	0.00	Call Account
Lloyds Call Account	N/A	2.86	4.90	Call Account

Meeting of the Council – 16th October, 2023

Report of the Lead for Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Composition and Membership of Committees

Purpose of Report

1. To receive a report on the revised composition and membership of Committees for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year.

Recommendations

2. That the revised composition and membership of Committees for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year be determined in accordance with the political balance requirements of Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as set out in the Appendix.
3. That the appointment of the Vice-Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Planning Committee, as shown in the Appendix, be confirmed for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year.
4. That the revisions to the appointment of Lead Opposition Spokespersons (Shadow Cabinet Members), as shown in the Appendix, be noted.
5. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to take any necessary and consequential actions that are required to implement the proposals contained in this report.

Background

Appointment and Membership of Committees

6. At the Annual Meeting on 18th May, 2023, the Council determined the composition and membership of the Cabinet and Committees for the 2023/24 municipal year. This was based on the political composition of the Council at that time. During August, 2023, two by-elections took

place, the outcome of which necessitate a review of the composition and membership of Committees in accordance with the political balance requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

7. There are currently 2 political groups represented on the Council:-

Conservative (42 seats)

Labour (27 seats)

There is one Liberal Democrat Member and two independent Members. The proportionality Regulations provide that a political group is constituted where two or more Members of the Council give notice that they wish to be treated as a group.

8. Under Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council is required to provide for political balance on Committees. The revised composition of Committees, in accordance with political balance, is set out in the lists attached as an Appendix to this report.
9. The political balance 'rules' provide that political groups are entitled to be allocated seats on Committees in accordance with the proportion of seats they hold on the Council.
10. Section 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 authorises the Council to approve different arrangements (eg: not reflecting political balance) provided that no Member of the Council votes against them.

Lead Opposition Spokespersons (Shadow Cabinet Members)

11. Cabinet Procedure Rules provide that other political groups on the Council may nominate Members from their Group to attend meetings of the Cabinet. Such Members may speak at the meeting but may not vote. It is the Council's practice that all Shadow Cabinet Members are invited to attend formal Cabinet meetings.
12. On 14th September, 2023, the Labour Group gave notice to the Chief Executive that Councillor P Lowe had been appointed as the Leader of the Labour Group with immediate effect. Notice was also given of consequential changes to the appointment of Lead Opposition Spokespersons (Shadow Cabinet Members) and to the appointments made to various Committees. The updated lists are shown in the Appendix.

Changes to the Composition of Committees

13. Regulations made under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 require the Council's Committees to reflect the overall political balance of the Council and take account of the wishes of political groups when allocating Members to Committees. From time to time during the municipal year, it may be necessary for changes to be made in the allocation of Committee Memberships to reflect the wishes of the political groups. Under Article 4.02 of the Constitution, the Monitoring Officer is authorised to make any necessary changes to the composition of Committees that might arise from time to time in accordance with the requirements of the Leaders of political groups.

Finance

14. The financial implications arising from the proposals in this report are being met from existing resources during the 2023/24 financial year.

Law

15. The relevant statutory provisions regarding the Constitution and arrangements with respect to executive functions are contained in Part II of the Local Government Act, 2000, as amended, and the Localism Act 2011, together with Regulations, Orders and Statutory Guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
16. The power to appoint Committees and to delegate functions to Committees and Officers is set out in Sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972.
17. Seats on Committees must be allocated to political groups on a proportional basis in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.
18. If it so wishes, the Council may resolve not to apply the proportionality rules in respect of one or more Committees, but such a resolution must be passed with no Member of the Council voting against it (Section 17 of the 1989 Act).
19. The rules on proportionality do not apply to the Your Home Your Forums because the Forums are not Committees of the Council and they comprise all the Ward Councillors for the areas concerned.

20. The implications of the Localism Act 2011 have been reflected in this report, including the freedoms to consider governance structures.
21. The duty to allocate seats on a politically proportional basis does not apply to a Licensing Committee or to Sub-Committees established under the statutory requirements of the Licensing Act 2003. However, the proportionality duty does apply to the Licensing and Safety Committee in discharging other licensing functions not covered by the 2003 Act (eg functions under the Gambling Act 2005). The Council has previously agreed that the proportionality requirements of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 should not apply to the Licensing Sub-Committees established by the Licensing and Safety Committee, to enable them to deal with all licensing business requiring Member determination. This is also applied to any Sub-Committee established by the Audit and Standards Committee to consider complaints against Members under the Council's standards arrangements.

Risk Management

22. This report deals with the Council's governance arrangements, which will ensure that the Council considers any ongoing material risks as part of the Risk Management Framework.

Equality Impact

23. The requirements to consider the Council's policies on equality and diversity, along with duties under the Equality Act 2010, are fully reflected in the Council's governance structures and decision-making processes. Decisions taken by the Council, the Cabinet and Committees during the year on policy issues and the implementation of the Council Plan framework will involve actions to promote equality and diversity and in relation to children and young people.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

24. The Council's governance arrangements are being administered from existing resources during the 2023/24 financial year.

Commercial/Procurement

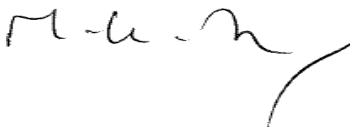
25. Decisions taken by the Council, the Cabinet and Committees will reflect the Council Plan objectives to maximise value from procurement, deliver social value and develop a commercial focus as appropriate.

Environment/Climate Change

26. Within our governance arrangements, the Council requires that all reports should include an assessment of the impact on the environment. The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and reports on individual proposals should address the impact on the Council's work to address Climate Change and achieve the Net Zero target by 2041. In addition, individual reports should consider how the proposals support the [United Nations sustainable development goals](#)
27. To reinforce the Council's commitment, the Leader has established a specific Cabinet portfolio for Climate Change. The Council has also established the Climate Change Select Committee for the 2023/24 municipal year.

Council Priorities and Projects

28. This report deals with the Council's governance arrangements to underpin the delivery of key Council priorities including the Borough Vision, Council Plan and Future Council Programme. Reports to meetings and decision takers will include details of how proposals impact on or contribute to Council priorities.



Mohammed Farooq
Lead for Law and Governance
(Monitoring Officer)

COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP
OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES 2023/24

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>CONSER- VATIVE</u>	<u>LABOUR</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>LIB DEM</u>
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11	6	5		
Adult Social Care Select Committee	11	7	4		
Children's Services Select Committee (Excluding Co-opted Members)	11	7	4		
Climate Change Select Committee	11	7	4		
Corporate and Economic Strategy Select Committee	11	7	4		
Highways and Environmental Services Select Committee	11	6	5		
Housing and Safer Communities Select Committee	11	7	4		
Health Select Committee	11	7	4		
Appointments Committee	9	5	4		
Audit and Standards Committee	9	6	3		

Children's Corporate Parenting Board	12	6	5	1
Planning Committee	9	6	3	
Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee (Excluding Co-opted Members)	6	4	2	
Licensing and Safety Committee	12	7	5	
Taxis Committee	9	5	4	

Council balance:

Conservative 42; Labour 27; Liberal Democrat 1; Independent 2

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS

2023/24

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>CHAIR</u>	<u>VICE-CHAIR</u>
	Councillor	Councillor
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	I Kettle	M Hanif
Adult Social Care Select Committee	L Johnson	J Elliott
Children's Services Select Committee	K Lewis	D Bevan
Climate Change Select Committee	P Dobb	T Russon
Corporate and Economic Strategy Select Committee	D Stanley	S Henley
Highways and Environmental Services Select Committee	E Lawrence	P Miller
Housing and Safer Communities Select Committee	A Davies	S Bothul
Health Select Committee	J Clinton	R Collins
Appointments Committee	P Harley	P Bradley
Audit and Standards Committee	A Lees	D Borley
Children's Corporate Parenting Board	R Buttery	S Ridney
Planning Committee	D Harley	M Webb
Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee	I Kettle	T Crumpton
Licensing and Safety Committee	K Razzaq	A Taylor
Taxis Committee	A Hopwood	B Challenor

CABINET 2023/24

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>
P Harley	Leader (Policy)
P Bradley	Deputy Leader (Communities and Economic Delivery)
M Rogers	Adult Social Care
R Buttery	Children's Services and Education
Dr R Clinton	Climate Change
P Atkins	Corporate Strategy
S Clark	Finance, Legal and Human Resources
D Corfield	Highways and Environmental Services
L Taylor-Childs	Housing and Homelessness
I Bevan	Public Health

OPPOSITION GROUP SPOKESPERSONS (SHADOW CABINET) 2023/24

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>
P Lowe	Leader (Policy and Performance, Heritage and Sport)
J Foster	Deputy Leader (Human Resources, EDI and Legal)
S Ali	Finance and Digital
A Aston	Health and Wellbeing (includes Adult Social Care)
S Ridney	Children's Services, Young People and Families
C Bayton	Climate Change and Environment (includes West Midlands Combined Authority)
J Cowell	Housing and Communities
K Casey	Highways, Transport and Street Scene
S Mughal	Commercialisation, Procurement and Audit
P Sahota	Regeneration, Skills, Employment and Leisure

CABINET 2023/24

Leader of the Council Councillor P Harley (Chair)

Cabinet Members
Councillor P Bradley (Deputy Leader - Vice-Chair)
Councillor P Atkins
Councillor I Bevan
Councillor R Buttery
Councillor S Clark
Councillor Dr R Clinton
Councillor D Corfield
Councillor M Rogers
Councillor L Taylor-Childs

Opposition Group

All Shadow Cabinet Members are invited to attend Cabinet meetings (to speak but not vote)

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2023/24

Conservative
Councillors (6)

I Kettle (Chair)
J Clinton
A Davies
P Dobb
E Lawrence
D Stanley

Labour
Councillors (5)

M Hanif (Vice-Chair)
S Ali
H Bills
J Foster
E Taylor

ADULT SOCIAL CARE SELECT COMMITTEE 2023/24

Conservative
Councillors (7)

L Johnson (Chair)
J Elliott (Vice-Chair)
S Bothul
R Collins
A Davies
A Hopwood
C Sullivan

Labour
Councillors (4)

A Aston
T Crumpton
M Hanif
A Qayyum

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE 2023/24

Conservative
Councillors (7)

K Lewis (Chair)
D Bevan (Vice-Chair)
R Collins
P Lee
D Stanley
C Sullivan
M Webb

Labour
Councillors (4)

C Bayton
T Crumpton
C Reid
S Ridney

Five statutory, non-elected co-opted members with voting rights in matters concerning education:-

Parent Governor Representatives

1. Secondary Schools – Vacancy
2. Primary Schools – Vacancy
3. Special Schools - C Collins

Church Representatives

4. Worcester Diocesan Board of Education – T Reid
5. Archdiocese of Birmingham – R May

CLIMATE CHANGE SELECT COMMITTEE 2023/24

Conservative
Councillors (7)

P Dobb (Chair)
T Russon (Vice-Chair)
D Borley
M Dudley
J Elliott
S Henley
N Neale

Labour
Councillors (4)

C Barnett
C Bayton
C Eccles
A Tromans

CORPORATE AND ECONOMIC STRATEGY SELECT COMMITTEE 2023/24

Conservative
Councillors (7)

D Stanley (Chair)
S Henley (Vice-Chair)
A Hopwood
L Johnson
E Lawrence
N Neale
T Russon

Labour
Councillors (4)

C Eccles
J Foster
S Mughal
P Sahota

HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE 2023/24

Conservative
Councillors (6)

E Lawrence (Chair)
P Miller (Vice-Chair)
D Borley
P Dobb
I Kettle
A Lees

Labour
Councillors (5)

K Casey
K Denning
P Drake
J Martin
K Westwood

HOUSING AND SAFER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE
2023/24

Conservative
Councillors (7)

A Davies (Chair)
S Bothul (Vice-Chair)
D Bevan
T Creed
I Kettle
K Lewis
M Webb

Labour
Councillors (4)

J Cowell
P Drake
J Martin
C Reid

HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE 2023/24

Conservative
Councillors (7)

J Clinton (Chair)
R Collins (Vice-Chair)
B Challenor
M Dudley
M Evans
D Harley
W Little

Labour
Councillors (4)

A Aston
J Foster
M Hanif
K Westwood

One non-elected co-opted member without voting rights:

Healthwatch Dudley – Chief Officer (J Griffiths)

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE 2023/24

Conservative
Councillors (5)

P Harley (Chair)
P Bradley (Vice-Chair)
R Buttery
D Corfield
L Taylor-Childs

Labour
Councillors (4)

J Foster
P Lowe
Labour Group nomination
Labour Group nomination

AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2023/24

Conservative
Councillors (6)

A Lees (Chair)
D Borley (Vice-Chair)
T Creed
M Evans
S Henley
W Little

Labour
Councillors (3)

S Ali
J Cowell
J Foster

CHILDREN'S CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD 2023/24

Conservative
Councillors (6)

R Buttery (Chair)
P Bradley
L Johnson
P Lee
K Lewis
D Stanley

Labour
Councillors (5)

S Ridney (Vice-Chair)
C Bayton
H Bills
M Howard
E Taylor

Independent
Councillor (1)

M Westwood

PLANNING COMMITTEE 2023/24

Conservative
Councillors (6)

D Harley (Chair)
M Webb (Vice-Chair)
S Bothul
B Challenor
P Miller
K Razzaq

Labour
Councillors (3)

H Bills
P Drake
E Taylor

ERNEST STEVENS TRUSTS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2023/24

Conservative
Councillors (4)

Labour
Councillors (2)

One Ward Councillor from each of the following wards:

Cradley & Wollescote –
T Crumpton (Vice-Chair)

Norton –
S Clark

Lye & Stourbridge North –
D Borley

Pedmore & Stourbridge East –
I Kettle (Chair)

Quarry Bank & Dudley
Wood –
J Cowell

Wollaston & Stourbridge Town –
A Hopwood

Three non-elected co-opted members without voting rights (3 year term):

1. Friends of Stevens Park Quarry Bank – D Sparks
2. Friends of Wollescote Park – J Jones
3. Friends of Mary Stevens Park – H Rogers

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE 2023/24

Conservative
Councillors (7)

K Razzaq (Chair)
A Taylor (Vice-Chair)
J Clinton
T Creed
M Evans
A Goddard
A Lees

Labour
Councillors (5)

J Cowell
K Denning
P Drake
M Howard
E Taylor

TAXIS COMMITTEE 2023/24

Conservative
Councillors (5)

A Hopwood (Chair)
B Challenor (Vice-Chair)
D Harley
W Little
A Taylor

Labour
Councillors (4)

M Aston
K Denning
M Howard
J Martin