

## **Meeting of the Council**

**Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 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 meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 as a correct record.
4. Mayor's Announcements
5. To receive reports from meetings as follows:

Meeting of the Cabinet dated 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

Councillor P Harley to move:

- (a) Capital Programme Monitoring.

Meeting of the Appointments Committee dated 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2023:

Councillor P Harley to move:

(b) [Appointment of Director of Public Health and Wellbeing.](#)

6. Notices of Motion

(a) Telecommunication Companies – Planning Issues

To consider the following notice of motion received from Councillor R Priest on 21<sup>st</sup> 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.”

*NB: The above motion was moved by Councillor R Priest and seconded by Councillor A Tromans at the Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.*

*An amendment in the following terms was subsequently moved by Councillor C Eccles, duly seconded and debated at the Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2023:*

“That the Council note that issues concerning the activities of telecommunication companies have already been raised extensively with the Chief Executive, the Deputy Chief Executive, Government Ministers and Shadow Ministers (with Digital, Culture, Media and Sport portfolios), BT Openreach and Ofcom, in the context of the Electronic Communications Code, with a view to making sure that all providers are meeting their requirements to consult with residents prior to installing any infrastructure.”

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

To consider the following notice of motion received from Councillor S Ali on 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.”

(c) **Glass Industry**

To consider the following notice of motion received from Councillor K Westwood on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2023:

“This Council recognises the significant, beneficial impact of the Glass Industry to our borough.

It has helped shape our history, places an important role in our current culture and heritage agenda, and can be an integral part of our future.

The Council notes that:

- The glass industry has dominated the area for over 400 years, a huge part of our local culture, and has been instrumental in keeping this rich part of Britain’s heritage alive, a continuing source of inspiration and education for future generations.
- With 3 major tourist glass related attractions in the space of 1 mile plus other local glass attractions we are able to showcase glass manufacturing past and present helping communities to connect with the legacy of generations of family members who made Stourbridge glass recognised the world over.

This Council resolves to:

- work with all our partners (including the Arts Council and appropriate revenue organisations) to ensure the International Festival of Glass and the Biennale remains in Stourbridge due to its historical importance, its positive economic impact and the huge footfall and cultural and historic benefits to the Borough.
  - Do all it can to maintain a local Festival of Glass to our local community so it becomes a legacy for future generations.
  - Issue a media release so that all local residents are aware of the importance of the festival remaining in the area.”
7. Questions from Members under Council Procedure Rule 11
8. 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



**Chief Executive**

**Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2023**

## **Meetings at Dudley Council House:**

### **Health and Safety**

- In view of ongoing health and safety requirements in the workplace, you are asked to comply with any safety instructions applicable to the venue. Various mitigating actions are in place to minimise any risks and to ensure we adhere to the latest guidance.

### **Public Gallery**

- Seating in the public gallery is subject to limits on capacity and will be allocated on a 'first come' basis.

### **Toilets**

- Toilet facilities are available on site and are subject to safety measures that are in place. All the toilets have hand washing facilities.

### **No smoking**

- There is no smoking on the premises in line with national legislation. It is an offence to smoke in or on the premises. You cannot use e-cigarettes and/or similar vaping devices.

### **In Case of Emergency**

- In the event of the alarms sounding, please leave the building by the nearest exit. There are Officers who will assist you in the event of this happening, please follow their instructions.

### **Submitting Apologies for Absence**

- Elected Members can submit apologies by contacting Democratic Services (see our contact details below).

## **Private and Confidential Information**

- Any agendas containing reports with 'exempt' information should be treated as private and confidential. It is your responsibility to ensure that information containing private and personal data is kept safe and secure at all times. Confidential papers should be handed to Democratic Services for secure disposal. If you choose to retain the documents you should ensure that the information is securely stored and destroyed within six months.

## **Recording and Reporting**

- The use of mobile devices or electronic facilities is permitted for the purposes of recording/reporting during the public session of the meeting. The use of any such devices must not disrupt the meeting – Please turn off any ringtones or set your devices to silent.
- The public session of this meeting will be recorded and broadcast on the Council's [YouTube Channel](#)

## **General**

- Public Wi-Fi is available.
- Information about the Council and our meetings can be viewed on the website [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk)

## **If you need advice or assistance**

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

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