

Meeting of the Council

**Monday, 17th April, 2023 at 6.00pm
at Dudley Town Hall, St James's 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 27th February and 6th March, 2023 as correct records (Pages 7 - 29)
4. Mayor's Announcements
5. To receive reports from meetings as follows:

Meeting of the Cabinet dated 16th March, 2023

Councillor P Harley to move:

(a) Capital Programme Monitoring (Pages 30 – 51)
6. Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report 2022/23 (Pages 52 - 93)

7. Notices of Motion

(a) Levelling Up

To consider the following notice of motion received from Councillor P Sahota on 29th June, 2022:

“On Monday 27th June, 2022, a report was presented to the Cabinet describing progress with levelling up bids made on behalf of the Borough's 5 MPs.

It was disappointing to note that the two opportunities - in the form of 2 rounds of bidding - have yet to produce any confirmed investment from Government.

It is particularly disappointing and of concern that for the two most deprived constituencies - Dudley South and Dudley North - there is even less detail about the steps being taken to address this and the success of levelling up investment arising from bids in a 'potential' round 3 is uncertain.

One reason given for this failure relates to the level of information and evidence required to justify each bid. Four of the 5 MPs belong to the party in Government, and include those holding party and Government positions, which would suggest they have significant access to information and guidance. Therefore, it is unclear why the criteria for successful bids was not known or foreseen.

The people of Dudley have been seriously let down by this failure and, instead of levelling up Dudley, it risks further decline in those areas badly in need of this investment.

This Council undertakes to write to the Government outlining our concerns and to seek an urgent meeting with Government representatives leading on the levelling up agenda for advice and support to ensure that any round 3 bids made are successful.”

NB: The above motion was moved by Councillor P Sahota and seconded by Councillor J Foster at the Council meeting on 27th February, 2023.

(b) Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty The Queen Consort

To consider the following notice of motion received from Councillor P Dobb on 13th October, 2022:

“His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty The Queen Consort will celebrate their Coronation on 6th May 2023.

Dudley Council has an important role to play in facilitating the celebrations that will take place associated to this historic occasion, much like it has done for previous events such as Jubilees. Therefore, this Council resolves to once again support the waiver of temporary road closure license fees to enable communities to celebrate together with traditional street parties.

Additionally, the Leader of the Council is requested to explore opportunities for a large-scale event to take place to mark the occasion within the Dudley Borough, enabling borough residents to gather and celebrate this occasion in a similar fashion to other events throughout the year, such as Armed Forces Day.”

(c) Dropped Kerb Funding for Disabled Residents

To consider the following notice of motion received from Councillor S Phipps on 28th February, 2023:

“Dropped kerbs can be very costly for local residents who wish to ensure that they can access their driveways legally and safely or convert existing gardens into driveways. With costs regularly exceeding £2,000 and only increasing, the financial burden on those who have no choice but to use a driveway is excessive.


Dudley Council currently charges local residents for the installation of dropped kerbs regardless of their circumstances. Whilst it is noted that providing this service free of charge would be unduly costly to the taxpayer, it is also noted that many residents who need a dropped kerb to ensure they can fully use disability adapted vehicles safely are priced out of doing so.

Therefore, this Council resolves to instruct the Deputy Chief Executive to prepare proposals for a dropped kerb disability support scheme trial to be submitted to Cabinet. The scheme would provide either the full funding for the installation of a dropped kerb, or a percentage depending on the applicant's financial circumstances. An assessment process would be carried out for applicants to determine the following:

- That the primary reasons for the residents requiring the installation of a dropped kerb is linked to their disability and will enable them to become more mobile;
- That the applicant does not have the financial means to afford the installation without causing undue financial hardship;
- Any other criteria as deemed necessary to ensure the effectiveness of the funding available.”

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



Chief Executive
Dated: 5th April, 2023

Meetings at Dudley Town Hall:

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- Do not attend if you feel unwell; if you have tested positive for Covid-19; if you are self-isolating or if you suspect that you are symptomatic.
- Windows/doors will be opened to provide adequate ventilation.
- Sanitise your hands when arriving and leaving the building and wash your hands regularly.
- Hand sanitiser and antibacterial wipes are available at various locations.
- People suffering from long term conditions or living with vulnerable people are encouraged to wear face masks in meeting rooms, communal areas and when moving around the building. Surgical masks are available at reception.
- All people are encouraged to be vaccinated to limit any potential ill-health effects.
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- 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.

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Submitting Apologies for Absence

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

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General

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

If you need advice or assistance

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

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