

Meeting of the Council

**Monday, 27th February, 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 meeting held on 28th November, 2022 as a correct record (Pages 9 - 13)
4. Mayor's Announcements
5. To receive reports from meetings as follows:

Meeting of the Cabinet dated 16th February, 2023

Councillor P Harley to move:

- (a) Capital Programme Monitoring (Pages 14 – 59)
- (b) Annual Review of the Constitution (Pages 60 – 65)

Councillor L Taylor-Childs to move:

- (c) Deployment of Resources: Housing Revenue Account and Public Sector Housing Capital (Pages 66 to 81)

Councillor S Keasey to move:

- (d) Dudley Council Pay Policy Statement 2023/24 (Pages 82 to 99)

Meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee dated 13th February, 2023

Councillor A Lees to move:

- (e) Treasury Management (Pages 100 to 121)

6. Notices of Motion

- (a) Planning Regulations – Renewable Energy

To consider the following notice of motion received from Councillor R Buttery on 9th June, 2022:

“That this Council, being mindful of the environment and the impact of fuel bills on homes and businesses, notes that as a borough we are constantly striving to find innovative ways to support our residents and our environment.

That representations be made to the Government requesting that national planning regulations are updated so that any domestic or commercial property, be it a new build or an extension that involves new roof space, be required to fit solar panels to the roof to a minimum of 30% roof area. This would help to generate electricity for that domestic or commercial property, thus reducing the bills for the user of the property and having a positive impact on the environment.

That the Director of Regeneration and Enterprise submit a report to the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee outlining the existing position and the planning policies Dudley currently has in place in relation to renewable energy.”

NB: The above motion was moved by Councillor R Buttery and seconded by Councillor T Russon at the Council meeting on 10th October, 2022.

The following amendment was subsequently moved by Councillor K Casey and seconded by Councillor J Foster at the Council meeting on 10th October, 2022:

“This Council wholeheartedly supports the need to move to more sustainable and environmentally friendly methods of energy generation, both locally and nationally, ensuring that as a borough and a country we are able to achieve our Net Zero targets as quickly as possible.

Therefore, in addition to the updating of planning laws to ensure new builds and extensions have a requirement for solar panels, and in line with our aims to reduce carbon emissions and meet our Net Zero targets, this Council wishes to express its deep concern and opposition to the Government’s recent lift on the ban relating to fracking activities and calls on them to re-evaluate and reverse their decision.

In line with our declaration of a climate emergency, this council recognises the seriousness of the climate crisis and that increasing our reliance on fossil fuels, not reducing it, which fracking does, is not a sensible way forward, and is one that will ultimately hinder our Net Zero ambitions.

The Council also acknowledges the very serious and wide range of concerns that residents have on this issue, the potential for Dudley and the Black Country to be a real focus for fracking activity in the coming 12 months given identified oil and gas reserves in what is known as the Worcester Basin, and the issues fracking activities have raised in areas where trials have already been taking place.

Therefore, instead of extending activities linked to fossil fuels, we call on the Government to reverse the lift on the ban and further accelerate investment and support for renewable methods of energy generation.

If this issue is to be taken as seriously as it needs to be, we also collectively make a call on Government to outline clearly what further investment and funding can be committed for local councils to assist with meeting Net Zero targets.

Dudley Council resolves to write to Government to:

- Outline our concerns and opposition to the lifting of the ban on fracking activities.
- Make a call that they look again and reverse their recent decision, and instead of extending fossil fuel exploration and usage, further accelerate investment in sustainable and renewable energy generation.
- Set out in detail what further financial support can be given to local councils like Dudley to ensure that we are able to achieve the collective aim of reaching Net Zero as quickly as possible.”

(b) 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.”

(c) 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.”

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: 17th February, 2023

Meetings at Dudley Town Hall:

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- Hand sanitiser and antibacterial wipes are available at various locations.
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General

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