

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council
Thursday, 16th May, 2024 at 6.00pm
in the Council Chamber, The Council House, Priory Road, Dudley**

Present:

Councillor A Goddard (Mayor)
Councillor P Lee (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors A Ahmed, S Ali, K Archer, A Aston, P Atkins, S Azad, F Barras, C Bayton, D Bevan, I Bevan, H Bills, P Bradley, K Casey, B Challenor, S Clark, J Clinton, E Cobb, B Collins, M Cook, D Corfield, J Cowell, T Creed, A Davies, K Denning, P Dobb, P Drake, C Eccles, S Edwards, J Foster, S Greenaway, J Griffin, L Hamblett, M Hanif, D Harley, P Harley, S Henley, J Hill, A Hopwood, M Hussain, L Johnson, S Keasey, I Kettle, K Khan, E Lawrence, K Lewis, W Little, C Littler, P Lowe, Q Mughal, S Mughal, S Phipps, R Priest, A Qayyum, K Razzaq, C Reid, S Ridley, D Roberts, T Russon, P Sahota, I Sandall, A Smith, D Stanley, A Taylor, E Taylor, J Thorne, A Tromans, S Turner, M Webb and K Westwood together with the Chief Executive and other Officers.

1 Election of Mayor

The Mayor invited nominations for election to the office of Mayor of the Borough for the 2024/25 municipal year.

Councillor H Bills was nominated by Councillor P Harley. The nomination was seconded by Councillor P Lowe.

Resolved

That Councillor H Bills be elected Mayor of the Borough for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

Councillor H Bills then made and subscribed to the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the Chair.

2 **Election of Deputy Mayor**

The Mayor invited nominations for election to the office of Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the 2024/25 municipal year.

Councillor P Lee was nominated by Councillor P Harley. The nomination was seconded by Councillor P Lowe.

Resolved

That Councillor P Lee be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

3 **Acceptance of Office of Deputy Mayor**

Councillor P Lee made and subscribed to the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Deputy Mayor.

The meeting was then adjourned for robing to take place.

4 **Address by the Mayor**

Following the adjournment, the Mayor addressed the Council expressing thanks upon her election.

5 **Tributes to the Retiring Mayor and Mayor's Consort and Presentation of Badges**

Tributes were paid to the retiring Mayor (Councillor A Goddard) and retiring Mayor's Consort (Councillor J Clinton), followed by the presentation of badges.

Councillor A Goddard addressed the Council and expressed thanks for all the support that had enabled her to carry out her duties as Mayor.

6 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor E Stafford.

7 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th April, 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

8 **Mayor's Announcements**

(a) **Mayor's Consort**

The Mayor's Consort for the 2024/25 Municipal Year was John Bills.

(b) **Deputy Mayoress**

The Deputy Mayoress for the 2024/25 Municipal Year was Gloria Lee.

(c) **Mayor's Charities**

The Mayor's Charities to be supported in the 2024/25 Municipal Year were:

Diabetes UK
Access in Dudley
Friends of Dudley Performing Arts

(d) **'At Home' Event**

To be held on a date to be arranged.

(e) **Armed Forces Day**

To be held on 30th June, 2024.

(f) Civic Sunday

To be held on a date to be arranged.

(g) Black Country Musicom Festival

To be held on 13th and 14th July, 2024.

(h) Mayor's Charity Cricket Match

To be held at 6.00pm on 26th July, 2024 at the Memorial Ground, Amblecote, Stourbridge.

(i) Newly Elected Councillors

The Mayor welcomed Members who had been elected to the Council at the municipal elections on 2nd May, 2024.

(j) Former Councillors

The Mayor paid tribute to the service given by former Councillors who were not re-elected at the municipal elections on 2nd May, 2024.

9 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were received in respect of any item to be considered at this meeting.

10 **Leader of the Council**

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

It was moved by Councillor P Bradley, seconded by Councillor S Clark and

Resolved

That Councillor P Harley be elected as Leader of the Council in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Constitution.

11 **Appointment and Membership of the Cabinet and Committees for 2024/25 and Related Matters**

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

It was moved by Councillor P Harley, seconded by Councillor P Bradley and

Resolved

- (1) That the information contained in the list circulated by the Leader concerning the appointment of the Deputy Leader and Members of the Cabinet for the 2024/25 municipal year, as set out below, be noted together with the designations of Cabinet Members:
 - (a) That Councillor P Bradley be appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.
 - (b) That the Leader of the Council and nine other Members comprise the Cabinet for the 2024/25 Municipal Year and that the names of the Members to serve for the year be as follows:-

Councillors P Atkins, I Bevan, P Bradley, S Clark, J Clinton, D Corfield, A Goddard, P Harley, S Phipps and D Stanley.
 - (c) That each of the other political groups be invited to nominate Members to attend meetings of the Cabinet to speak but not vote.
 - (d) That the assignment of Portfolios to the Cabinet Members and the names of the corresponding Main Opposition (Labour) Group Spokespersons be as set out below:-

Leader and Cabinet Members

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>
P Harley	Leader of the Council (Policy)
P Bradley	Deputy Leader (Communities, Climate Change and Economic Delivery)
A Goddard	Adult Social Care
D Stanley	Children's Services and Education
P Atkins	Corporate Strategy
S Clark	Finance, Legal and Human Resources
D Corfield	Highways and Environmental Services
I Bevan	Housing and Communities
J Clinton	Public Health
S Phipps	Without Portfolio

Opposition Group Spokespersons (Shadow Cabinet)

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

- (2) That the structure of Committees for 2024/25 be approved on the basis set out in the report and the lists circulated at the meeting.
- (3) That the terms of reference and functions of Committees, as set out in Part 3 of the Constitution, be approved subject to any consequential amendments arising from decisions made at this meeting.

- (4) That, with the exceptions referred to in the report, the composition and Membership of Committees for the 2024/25 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 shown below:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11	5	4	1	1
Adult Social Care Select Committee	11	5	6		
Children's Services Select Committee (Excluding Co-opted Members)	11	5	5	1	
Environment and Regeneration Select Committee	11	5	5	1	
Fit for the Future/Council Sustainability Select Committee	11	5	5	1	
Health Select Committee (Excluding Co-opted Member)	11	5	6		
Housing and Safer Communities Select Committee	11	5	5	1	
Appointments Committee	9	3	2		

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

- (5) That the appointment of Members to Committees for the 2024/25 municipal year be on the basis of the nominations made by political groups as follows:-

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

<u>Councillors</u> (Conservative)	<u>Councillors</u> (Labour)	<u>Councillor</u> (Liberal Democrat)	<u>Councillor</u> (Independent)
A Davies P Dobb J Hill E Lawrence W Little	K Archer C Bayton J Foster P Sahota	R Priest	S Keasey

Adult Social Care Select Committee

<u>Councillors</u> (Conservative)	<u>Councillors</u> (Labour)
A Davies	A Aston
A Hopwood	A Qayyum
L Johnson	C Reid
T Russon	A Smith
I Sandall	A Tromans
	S Turner

Children's Services Select Committee

<u>Councillors</u> (Conservative)	<u>Councillors</u> (Labour)	<u>Councillor</u> (Liberal Democrat)
D Bevan	K Archer	K Khan
S Greenaway	S Azad	
J Hill	Q Mughal	
K Lewis	S Ridley	
M Webb	D Roberts	

Together with provision for the appointment of 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 – vacancy

Church Representatives

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

Environment and Regeneration Select Committee

<u>Councillors</u> (Conservative)	<u>Councillors</u> (Labour)	<u>Councillor</u> (Liberal Democrat)
D Bevan	A Ahmed	K Khan
A Davies	C Bayton	
I Kettle	K Casey	
E Lawrence	C Eccles	
T Russon	P Sahota	

Fit for the Future / Council Sustainability Select Committee

<u>Councillors</u> (Conservative)	<u>Councillors</u> (Labour)	<u>Councillor</u> (Liberal Democrat)
P Dobb	S Ali	E Stafford
J Hill	P Drake	
T Russon	S Edwards	
J Thorne	J Griffin	
M Webb	S Mughal	

Health Select Committee

<u>Councillors</u> (Conservative)	<u>Councillors</u> (Labour)
B Collins	A Aston
P Dobb	E Cobb
I Kettle	M Cook
P Lee	M Hanif
I Sandall	C Reid
	K Westwood

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

Healthwatch Dudley – Chief Officer (J Griffiths)

Housing and Safer Communities Select Committee

<u>Councillors</u> (Conservative)	<u>Councillors</u> (Labour)	<u>Councillor</u> (Liberal Democrat)
B Challenor	J Cowell	E Stafford
T Creed	M Hussain	
S Greenaway	D Roberts	
K Lewis	E Taylor	
K Razzaq	K Westwood	

Appointments Committee

<u>Councillors</u> (Conservative)	<u>Councillors</u> (Labour)
P Bradley	J Foster
A Goddard	P Lowe
P Harley	

(NB: The appropriate Cabinet Member and Shadow Cabinet Member to be invited to attend meetings depending on the appointment(s) to be made).

Audit and Standards Committee

<u>Councillors</u> (Conservative)	<u>Councillors</u> (Labour)
T Creed	S Ali
S Henley	J Cowell
I Kettle	K Denning
W Little	J Foster
	A Qayyum

Together with provision for the appointment of up to two non-elected, independent members without voting rights.

Children's Corporate Parenting Board

<u>Councillors</u> (Conservative)	<u>Councillors</u> (Labour)
S Greenaway	K Archer
S Henley	S Azad
L Johnson	J Griffin
P Lee	C Littler
K Lewis	Q Mughal
D Stanley	S Ridney

Planning Committee

<u>Councillors</u> (Conservative)	<u>Councillors</u> (Labour)	<u>Councillor</u> (Independent)
B Challenor	A Ahmed	S Keasey
B Collins	P Sahota	
D Harley	E Taylor	
K Razzaq		
M Webb		

Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee

One ward Councillor from each of the following wards:

Cradley and Wollescote R Priest (Liberal Democrat)	Norton T Creed (Conservative)
Lye and Stourbridge North E Cobb (Labour)	Pedmore and Stourbridge East I Kettle (Conservative)
Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood J Cowell (Labour)	Wollaston and Stourbridge Town C Eccles (Labour)

Together with 3 non-elected co-opted members without voting rights:-

Friends of Stevens Park, Quarry Bank – Vacancy
Friends of Wollescote Park – J Jones
Friends of Mary Stevens Park – H Rogers

Licensing and Safety Committee

<u>Councillors</u> (Conservative)	<u>Councillors</u> (Labour)
F Barras	S Azad
B Collins	K Denning
P Lee	P Drake
W Little	C Littler
K Razzaq	D Roberts
A Taylor	E Taylor

Taxis Committee

<u>Councillors</u> (Conservative)	<u>Councillors</u> (Labour)
B Challenor	A Ahmed
D Harley	M Cook
A Hopwood	J Cowell
A Taylor	L Hamblett
J Thorne	

- (6) That the proposals for the appointment of co-opted representatives to serve on the relevant Committees and the arrangements for the filling of vacancies be approved.
- (7) That the Licensing and Safety Committee be appointed in 2024/25 to undertake the statutory Committee functions in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 and that the Committee comprise 12 Members.
- (8) That the Council confirm that the proportionality requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 shall not apply to Licensing Sub-Committees established by the Licensing and Safety Committee or to any Sub-Committee established by the Audit and Standards Committee to hear complaints against Members under the Members' Code of Conduct.
- (9) That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the following Committees be appointed for 2024/25:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Vice-Chair</u>
	Councillor	Councillor
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	S Keasey	R Priest
Adult Social Care Select Committee	S Turner	A Smith
Children's Services Select Committee	Q Mughal	Vacancy
Environment and Regeneration Select Committee	A Ahmed	C Eccles
Fit for the Future / Council Sustainability Select Committee	S Edwards	P Drake
Health Select Committee	M Hanif	C Reid
Housing and Safer Communities Select Committee	E Taylor	K Westwood
Appointments Committee	P Harley	P Bradley
Audit and Standards Committee	K Denning	A Qayyum
Children's Corporate Parenting Board	D Stanley	S Ridney
Planning Committee	D Harley	M Webb
Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee	J Cowell	C Eccles
Licensing and Safety Committee	K Razzaq	B Collins
Taxis Committee	A Hopwood	B Challenor

- (10) That the arrangements for substitutes on Committees, as set out in Council Procedure Rules, be reaffirmed for the 2024/25 municipal year.
- (11) That the Planning (Site Visits) Working Group be appointed for the 2024/25 Municipal Year to undertake visits to sites where the Committee has resolved that there should be a site visit and that the Working Group comprise all Members of the Planning Committee.
- (12) That Working Groups be appointed for the 2024/25 municipal year for Scrutiny/Select Committees, as appropriate, and that the membership of the Working Groups comprise all Members of the relevant Committees.
- (13) That the Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board be established in 2024/25 on the basis set out in the report.
- (14) That the 'Your Home, Your Forums' be re-established in 2024/25 on the basis previously approved by the Council.
- (15) That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Council's revised overview and scrutiny arrangements, including the terms of reference of the Scrutiny/Select Committees.
- (16) That the Director of Finance and Legal, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Legal and Human Resources, be authorised to amend the budget to reflect the Democratic Services resources and Special Responsibility Allowances arising from the revised structure of Committees.
- (17) That the Monitoring Officer be instructed to bring forward proposals for the designation of up to ten Member Champions and to take the necessary action to commence a review of the Members' Allowances Scheme, including the establishment of an Independent Remuneration Panel pursuant to statutory requirements.
- (18) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to take any necessary and consequential actions that are required to implement the proposals contained in the report and any other decisions taken at this meeting of the Council.

12 **Constitution and Scheme of Delegation**

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

It was moved by Councillor P Harley, seconded by Councillor P Bradley and

Resolved

- (1) That the Constitution and Scheme of Delegation be reaffirmed for the 2024/25 municipal year.
- (2) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any necessary and consequential amendments to the Constitution arising from decisions made by the Council and to reflect any ongoing restructuring activity, changes in legislative requirements, statutory provisions or associated regulations or guidance.
- (3) That all references in the Constitution to statutory provisions be taken to include any subsequent legislation, Statutory Instruments, Regulations, Orders or Guidance issued under those statutory provisions.
- (4) That the Council note that a further report will be submitted during this municipal year on the outcome of a review of the Constitution as part of the Fit for the Future Governance workstream.

13 **Programme of Meetings for 2024/25**

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 and responded to questions from Councillor C Bayton concerning the decision not to reconstitute the Climate Change Select Committee in the 2024/25 municipal year.

The motion was put to the meeting and it was

Resolved

- (1) That the recommendation in the report and the programme of meetings for the 2024/25 municipal year, as circulated at the meeting, be approved.
- (2) That the Lead for Law and Governance, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Main Opposition Group Leader and Committee Chairs, as appropriate, be authorised to make any necessary amendments to the programme of meetings during the municipal year.

14 **Appointments/Nominations to Other Bodies**

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

It was moved by Councillor P Harley, seconded by Councillor P Bradley and

Resolved

That the Lead for Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer), following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Main Opposition Group Leader, be authorised to make appointments/nominations to other bodies as required.

15 **Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business for consideration at this meeting.

The meeting ended at 6.55 pm

MAYOR