

Meeting of the Council

Monday, 10th July, 2023 at 6.30pm
(or upon conclusion of the Extraordinary Meeting)
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)**

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 Annual Meeting held on 18th May and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 20th June, 2023 as correct records (Pages 6 - 25)
4. Mayor's Announcements
5. To receive reports from meetings as follows:

Meetings of the Cabinet dated 28th June and 6th July, 2023

Councillor P Harley to move:

- (a) Capital Programme Monitoring and Medium Term Financial Strategy (Pages 26 – 50)

Councillor R Clinton to move:

- (b) Energy Development Fund (Pages 51 - 55)

6. Annual Report of the Audit and Standards Committee 2022/23 (Pages 56 - 65)
7. Constitution and Related Matters (Pages 67 - 72)
8. Notice of Motion
 - (a) Bring Dudley Town Football Club back home

To consider the following notice of motion received from Councillor S Ali on 20th June, 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 September 29th, 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 to:

- (1) Bring Dudley Town Football Club back to their hometown of Dudley and work with the club to identify a suitable location for their home ground.
- (2) Organise arrangements to celebrate the club's promotion to the Midlands Football League, Premier Division and express appreciation for their hard work and dedication throughout the years.
- (3) Ensure that the Council regularly acknowledges and celebrates significant achievements of individuals and sports clubs across the borough, recognising that each accomplishment is a source of pride for our community.
- (4) Establish a cross-party working group, supported by Council officers and involving key sports clubs and individuals, to develop an ambitious sports strategy that fosters the growth and promotion of sports across the borough, catering for people of all ages, genders, and abilities.”

9. Questions from Members under Council Procedure Rule 11

10. 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: 30th June, 2023

Meetings at Dudley Town Hall:

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. The webcast can be viewed by clicking on the following link <https://www.youtube.com/user/dudleymbc>

General

- Public Wi-Fi is available.
- 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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