



**Worcester**  
CITY COUNCIL

## **EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL**

### **AGENDA**

**Date:** Tuesday, 17th May, 2022

**Time:** On the rising of the meeting of the Annual Council, which will start at 7.00pm

**Venue:** The Guildhall, High Street, Worcester WR1 2EY

## EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL

### Information for Members of the Public

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Part I of the Agenda includes items for discussion in public. You have the right to inspect copies of Minutes and reports on this part of the Agenda as well as background documents used in the preparation of these reports. Details of the background papers appear at the foot of each report. Part II of the Agenda (if applicable) deals with items of 'Exempt Information' for which it is anticipated that the public may be excluded from the meeting and neither reports nor background papers are open to public inspection.

Please note that this is a public meeting and members of the public and press are permitted to report on the proceedings. "Reporting" includes filming, photographing, making an audio recording and providing commentary on proceedings. Any communicative method can be used to report on the proceedings, including the internet, to publish, post or share the proceedings. Accordingly, the attendance of members of the public at this meeting may be recorded and broadcast. By choosing to attend this public meeting you are deemed to have given your consent to being filmed or recorded and for any footage to be broadcast or published.

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At the start of the meeting under the item 'Public Participation' up to fifteen minutes in total is allowed for members of the public to present a petition, ask a question or comment on any matter on the Agenda. Participants need to indicate that they wish to speak by 12 noon on the last working day before the meeting by writing, telephoning or E-Mailing the officer mentioned below.

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If you have any queries about this Agenda, require any details of background papers, or wish to discuss the arrangements for public participation please contact **Claire Chaplin, Democratic and Civic Services Manager, Democratic Services, Guildhall, Worcester WR1 2EY. Telephone: 01905 722005 (direct line); E-Mail Address: [committeeadministration@worcester.gov.uk](mailto:committeeadministration@worcester.gov.uk)**

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**Extra Ordinary Council  
Tuesday, 17 May 2022**

**Members of the Council:-**

Chair: The Mayor

Councillor Patricia Agar (LCo)  
Councillor Basharat Ali (L)  
Councillor Mel Allcott (LD)  
Councillor Mohammad Altaf (C)  
Councillor Alan Amos (C)  
Councillor Jenny Barnes (LCo)  
Councillor Marc Bayliss (C)  
Councillor Marjory Bisset (G)  
Councillor Owen Cleary (C)  
Councillor Steve Cockeram (G)  
Councillor Zoe Cookson (L)  
Councillor Simon Cronin (L)  
Councillor Lynn Denham (L)  
Councillor Jill Desayrah (L)  
Councillor Allah Ditta (C)  
Councillor Shafaz Ditta (C)  
Councillor Simon Geraghty (C)  
Councillor Adrian Gregson (L)

Councillor Nida Hassan (C)  
Councillor Mrs. Lucy Hodgson (C)  
Councillor Stephen Hodgson (C)  
Councillor Matthew Lamb (L)  
Councillor Neil Laurenson (G)  
Councillor Karen Lawrance (LD)  
Councillor Karen Lewing (G)  
Councillor Steve Mackay (C)  
Councillor Chris Mitchell (C)  
Councillor Robyn Norfolk (L)  
Councillor Tom Piotrowski (G)  
Councillor Jabbar Riaz (L)  
Councillor Andrew Roberts (C)  
Councillor Andy Stafford (C)  
Councillor James Stanley (C)  
Councillor Louis Stephen (G)  
Councillor Richard Udall (L)

C= Conservative      G = Green      L = Labour      LCo = Labour and Co-operative  
LD = Liberal Democrat

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the Worcester City Council to be held at The Guildhall, High Street, Worcester WR1 2EY on Tuesday, 17th May, 2022 on the rising of the meeting of the Annual Council, which will start at 7.00pm at which meeting the following business is proposed to be transacted.

## **AGENDA**

### **Part 1 (ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION IN PUBLIC)**

4. **Notice of Motion**

Page(s): 1 - 8

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Sian Stroud, Corporate Director, Planning and Governance  
Tel: 01905 722017

For the Council to consider amendments to the Constitution and consequential Member appointments, following the change in the political balance of the Council as a result of the local elections held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

**Notice of Motion 1 :**

**Amendments to the Constitution and Group Leaders' Protocol  
Proposed by: Councillor Louis Stephen**

**Notice of Motion 2 :**

**Changes to the Constitution and Appointments of Members  
Proposed by: Councillor Lynn Denham**

**Please note:**

**A clean copy of the proposed revised sections of the  
Constitution will follow.**

David Blake  
Managing Director  
Guildhall  
Worcester WR1 2EY

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Notice of Motion 1 :**  
**Amendments to the Constitution and Group Leader's Protocol**  
**Proposed by: Councillor Stephen**

Since the introduction of the Committee system, Council has tried to increase the involvement of all councillors in decision making. Various changes to the Constitution have aimed to provide stability and strategic thinking beyond the normal electoral cycle, for Councillors, Council Officers, partners and residents. Council believes the Constitution should be sufficiently flexible to better reflect multi-party democracy in Worcester.

The Group Leaders Protocol stipulates that it should be reviewed every time there is a change in the political composition of the Council.

The Council therefore resolves to:

- i Amend article 6. 1a of the constitution so that, in circumstances of No Overall Control, two joint leaders of the Council will be elected by Council, one from each of the two largest Political Groups, as set out in Appendix 1 to this Motion.
- ii Amend the existing Group Leaders Protocol to: a) specify who should deputise for the Leader if only one Leader has been appointed; b) simplify the rules for appointing Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees; c) alter the rules for appointing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor so that the roles rotate amongst all the Political Groups; all as set out in Appendix 2 to this Motion.
- iii To authorise the Monitoring Officer to make any other minor consequential changes to the Constitution that arise from these changes.
- iv To proceed to make appointments in accordance with these changes.

**Appendix 1: Proposed Changes to the Articles**

**ARTICLE 6 - THE LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**6.1 Election of the Leader of the Council**

The Leader of the Council will be a Councillor elected to the position of Leader of the Council. The Council will elect a Leader of the Council on an annual basis at its Annual meeting.

**6.2 Term of Office** The Leader of the Council will hold office until:-

- (a) they resign from the office; or
- (b) they are suspended from being a Councillor or
- (c) they are no longer a Councillor; or
- (d) for one year from the date of election, save that they may be removed from office at an earlier date by resolution of the Council.

THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

6.3 Election of the Deputy Leader of the Council

The Deputy Leader of the Council will be a Councillor elected to the position of Deputy Leader of the Council. The Council will elect a Deputy Leader of the Council on an annual basis at its Annual meeting.

6.4 Term of Office The Deputy Leader of the Council will hold office until:-

- (a) they resign from the office; or
- (b) they are suspended from being a Councillor or
- (c) they are no longer a Councillor; or
- (d) for one year from the date of election, save that they may be removed from office at an earlier date by resolution of the Council.

ARTICLE 6A - THE LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (NO OVERALL POLITICAL CONTROL)

THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (NO OVERALL POLITICAL CONTROL)

6.1A Appointment of the Leader(s) of the Council

~~In circumstances of no overall political control, the Council will elect two joint Leaders, one from each of the council drawn from the two largest political groups. The Council will elect the two joint Leaders of the Council on an annual basis at its Annual meeting. In the event that one of the two political groups eligible to nominate a Joint Leader elects not to do so, the Council shall elect one Leader only and the other Joint Leader position will be vacant. on an annual basis at its Annual meeting. drawn from the largest political group on the Council and who is elected to the position of Leader of the Council. Where the two largest political groups on the Council have the same number of seats on the Council then two councillors (one from each of the two largest political groups) are to be elected as co-leader.~~

6.2A Term of Office In circumstances of no overall political control, ~~the each~~ Leader(s) of the Council will hold office until:- (a) they resign from the office; or- (b) they are suspended from being a Councillor or (c) they are no longer a Councillor; or ~~(d) the two largest political groups control the same number of seats on the Council, in which case a co-leader will be elected in accordance with Article 6.1A;~~ or (de) for one year from the date of election, save that they may be removed from office at an earlier date by resolution of the Council.

THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (NO OVERALL POLITICAL CONTROL)

6.3 Election of the Deputy Leader of the Council

~~In circumstances of no overall political control, the Deputy Leader of the Council will be a Councillor drawn from **a different** the second largest group on the Council and who is elected to the position of Deputy Leader of the Council. Where the Council appoints a co-leader in accordance with Article 6.1A, then the Council shall not elect a Deputy Leader of the Council.~~

6.4 Term of Office In circumstances of no overall political control, the Deputy Leader of the Council will hold office until:- (a) they resign from the office; or (b) they are

suspended from being a Councillor or (c) they are no longer a Councillor; or (d) the two largest political groups control the same number of seats on the Council, in which case a co-leader will be elected in accordance with Article 6.1A; or (e) for one year from the date of election, save that they may be removed from office at an earlier date by resolution of the Council.

## Appendix 2: Proposed Changes to Group Leaders Protocol

### 2. The Leader of the Council

2.1 The Leader of the Council will be appointed annually by Council.

2.2 The Leader(s) of the Council will represent the Council at the Worcestershire

Leaders' Board, the Local Enterprise Partnership and other external partnerships and boards.

2.3 When the Council is in overall political control, the Leader ~~shall~~ will be appointed from the largest Political Group.

2.4 When there is no overall political control, two Leader(s) shall will be appointed, one from each of ~~from~~ the two largest Political Groups. Where for any reason only one Leader has been elected instead of two, the Leader may ask the leader of any political group to deputise for them on an ad hoc basis when required. ~~Where the two largest political groups on the Council have the same number of seats on the Council then two councillors (one from each of the two largest political groups) are to be elected as Co-Leader.~~

### 3. Deputy Leader of the Council

3.1 The Deputy Leader of the Council will be appointed annually by Council.

3.2 In the event that the Leader of the Council is unable to attend or chair any external body as Leader, then the Deputy will chair or attend instead.

3.3 ~~When the Council is in overall political control, the Deputy Leader will be appointed from the largest Political Group.~~

3.4 When there is no overall political control, there will be no Deputy Leader.

### 4. Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees

4.1 The Chairs and Vice Chairs of all Committees shall be **equally** responsible for agenda setting for their Committee, **with equal access to Officers and information**; all other members of a Committee may request that an item is included on the agenda of the Committee; statutory officers have the right to put an item on the agenda of any Committee.

4.2 ~~When the Council is in overall political control, The Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees will be appointed annually by Council in accordance with the following principles:~~

- The Chair and Vice Chair of each Committee will be from different Political Groups;
- There shall be two Vice Chairs of the Policy and Resources Committee, each from different Political Groups and different to the Political Group of the Chair;

- The roles of Chair and Vice Chair shall be allocated to Political Groups in proportion to the number of seats each Political Group has on the Council, subject to the rules on political balance.

~~The Chair of any Committee shall be appointed from the largest Political Group;  
There shall be two Vice Chairs of the Policy and Resources Committee, each from different parties and different to the party of the Chair  
The Vice Chairs of the Policy and Regulatory Committees may be shared between the Political Groups other than the largest Political Group.~~

~~4.3 Where there is no overall political control, the Chair and Vice Chairs of Committees will be appointed annually by Council in accordance with the following principles:~~

~~The Chair and Vice Chair of each Committee will be from different Political Groups;  
Each Committee shall have one Vice Chair except for Policy and Resources Committee which shall have two, appointed from the second and third largest Political Groups;~~

~~The Policy Committees shall be paired so that the Chair and Vice Chair is distributed in proportion to the size of each of the Political Groups;~~

~~The Regulatory Committees shall be paired so that the Chair and Vice Chair is distributed in proportion to the size of each of the Political Groups.~~

## 5. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor

5.1 The Mayor and Deputy Mayor shall be appointed in accordance with the following principles:

The Mayoralty shall rotate with a right of first refusal on an annual basis **amongst the Political Groups** ~~between the largest Political Group and the other Political Groups, so that the largest Political Group has the Mayoralty every other year;~~

The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor shall not be from the same Political Group; The

Mayor should normally have served at least one full term of office as a councillor;

The Mayor should normally have served as the Deputy Mayor in the preceding year;

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor must be willing to undertake the duties of Mayor and Deputy Mayor;

Where there is more than one eligible candidate for appointment as Mayor or Deputy Mayor, the appointment may ~~will~~ be based on seniority in terms of number of years served as a councillor.

**Proposed by: Councillor Stephen**



**Notice of Motion 2:  
Changes to the Constitution and Appointments of Members  
Proposed by: Councillor Denham**

Following the elections on 5 May, the Council has been returned to a position of no overall control. This Motion proposes certain amendments to the Constitution and consequential appointments of Members to reflect power-sharing arrangements which are considered appropriate to the resulting political composition of the Council.

The Group Leaders Protocol stipulates that it should be reviewed every time that the political balance of the Council changes.

The amendments proposed to the Articles and Group Leaders Protocol are set out in Appendix 1 and 2 to this Motion. In summary the purpose of the amendments is:

- (1) To ensure that, when there is no overall control, the Leader of the Council is appointed solely on a basis of a vote of Council, and to remove the qualifying requirement that the Leader should be appointed from the largest Political Group on the Council;
- (2) To ensure that, when there is no overall control, the Deputy Leader of the Council is appointed solely on the basis of a vote of Council and to remove the qualifying requirement that the Deputy Leader should be appointed from the second largest Political Group on the Council;
- (3) To ensure that appointments of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committee are fairly shared across all Political Groups in accordance with political balance allocations;
- (4) To ensure that each Political Group has the opportunity, by rotation, to nominate for the Mayoralty, retaining the existing principle that ordinarily the Deputy Mayor will become the Mayor the following year.

**Therefore, Council agrees that, with immediate effect:**

1. The Articles, Part 2 of the Constitution, be amended in the terms set out in Appendix 1, so as to remove the requirement for the Leader and Deputy Leader to come from the two largest political groups respectively;
2. The Group Leaders Protocol, Part 15 of the Constitution, be amended in the terms set out in Appendix 2, to reflect the new political balance of the Council;
3. The Monitoring Officer is instructed to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution to give effect to these decisions;
4. The Council now proceed to appoint the Leader and Deputy Leader, the Deputy Mayor and the Members to Committees in accordance with these new arrangements.

**Appendix 1: Proposed changes to Articles**

ARTICLE 6A - THE LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (NO OVERALL POLITICAL CONTROL)

THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (NO OVERALL POLITICAL CONTROL)

6.1A Appointment of the Leader of the Council

In circumstances of no overall political control, the Council will elect a Leader of the Council on an annual basis at its Annual Meeting ~~drawn from the largest political group on the Council and who is elected to the position of Leader of the Council. Where the two largest political groups on the Council have the same number of seats on the Council then two councillors (one from each of the two largest political groups) are to be elected as co-leader.~~

6.2A Term of Office

In circumstances of no overall political control, the Leader of the Council will hold office until:- (a) they resign from the office; or (b) they are suspended from being a Councillor or (c) they are no longer a Councillor; ~~or (d) the two largest political groups control the same number of seats on the Council, in which case a co-leader will be elected in accordance with Article 6.1A;~~ or (d) for one year from the date of election, save that they may be removed from office at an earlier date by resolution of the Council.

THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (NO OVERALL POLITICAL CONTROL)

6.3 Election of the Deputy Leader of the Council

In circumstances of no overall political control, the Council will elect a Deputy Leader of the Council on an annual basis at its Annual Meeting. ~~will be a Councillor drawn from a different the second largest group on the Council and who is elected to the position of Deputy Leader of the Council. Where the Council appoints a co-leader in accordance with Article 6.1A, then the Council shall not elect a Deputy Leader of the Council.~~

6.4 Term of Office

In circumstances of no overall political control, the Deputy Leader of the Council will hold office until:- (a) they resign from the office; or (b) they are suspended from being a Councillor or (c) they are no longer a Councillor; ~~or (d) the two largest political groups control the same number of seats on the Council, in which case a co-leader will be elected in accordance with Article 6.1A;~~ or (d) for one year from the date of election, save that they may be removed from office at an earlier date by resolution of the Council.

**Appendix 2: Proposed Changes to Group Leaders Protocol**

2. The Leader of the Council

2.1 The Leader of the Council will be appointed annually by Council.

2.2 The Leader of the Council will represent the Council at the Worcestershire Leaders' Board, the Local Enterprise Partnership and other external partnerships and boards.

~~2.3 When the Council is in overall political control, the Leader shall be appointed from the largest Political Group.~~

~~2.4 When there is no overall political control, the Leader shall be appointed from the largest Political Group. Where the two largest political groups on the Council have the same number of seats on the Council then two councillors (one from each of the two largest political groups) are to be elected as Co-Leader.~~

3. Deputy Leader of the Council

3.1 The Deputy Leader of the Council will be appointed annually by Council.

3.2 In the event that the Leader of the Council is unable to attend or chair any external body as Leader, then the Deputy will chair or attend instead.

~~3.3 When the Council is in overall political control, the Deputy Leader will be appointed from the largest Political Group.~~

~~3.3 When there is no overall political control, the Deputy Leader will be appointed from a different Political Group to the Leader~~

~~When a Co-Leader arrangement has been agreed, there will be no Deputy Leader.~~

4. Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees

4.1 The Chairs and Vice Chairs of all Committees shall be equally responsible for agenda setting for their Committee, with equal access to Officers and information; all other members of a Committee may request that an item is included on the agenda of the Committee; statutory officers have the right to put an item on the agenda of any Committee.

~~4.2 When the Council is in overall political control, The Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees will be appointed annually by Council in accordance with the following principles:~~

~~The Chair of any Committee shall be appointed from the largest Political Group; There shall be two Vice Chairs of the Policy and Resources Committee, each from different parties and different to the party from where the Chair is appointed; The Vice Chairs of the Policy and Regulatory Committees may be shared between the Political Groups other than the largest Political Group.~~

~~4.3 Where there is no overall political control, the Chair and Vice Chairs of~~

~~Committees will be appointed annually by Council in accordance with the following principles:~~

~~The Chair and Vice Chair of each Committee will be from different Political Groups;~~

~~Each Committee shall have one Vice Chair except for Policy and Resources Committee which shall have two, appointed from the second and third largest Political Groups;~~

~~The Policy Committees shall be paired so that the Chair and Vice Chair is distributed in proportion to the size of each of the Political Groups;~~

~~The Regulatory Committees shall be paired so that the Chair and Vice Chair is distributed in proportion to the size of each of the Political Groups.~~

## 5. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor

5.1 The Mayor and Deputy Mayor shall be appointed in accordance with the following principles:

~~The Mayoralty shall rotate on an annual basis such that each political group shall have, by rotation, a right of first refusal to nominate to the appointment of Mayor: between the largest Political Group and the other Political Groups, so that the largest Political Group has the Mayoralty every other year;~~

The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor shall not be from the same Political Group;

The Mayor should normally have served at least one full term of office as a councillor;

The Mayor should normally have served as the Deputy Mayor in the preceding year;

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor must be willing to undertake the duties of Mayor and Deputy Mayor;

Where there is more than one eligible candidate for appointment as Mayor or Deputy Mayor, the appointment will be ~~based on seniority in terms of number of years served as a councillor.~~ made by Annual Council.

**Proposed by: Councillor Denham**