



Worcester
CITY COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Date: Tuesday, 9th February, 2021

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Remote Meeting

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Information for Members of the Public

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic Worcester City Council will be holding this meeting in accordance with the relevant legislative arrangements for remote meetings of a local authority. For more information please refer to: Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Please note that this is a public meeting, conducting remotely by videoconferencing between invited participants and live streamed for general access by audio via the Council's website.

Part I of the Agenda includes items for discussion in public. You can listen to a live audio stream of the meeting via the City Council website www.worcester.gov.uk/councillors-democracy. You have the right to inspect electronic 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.

Members of the public and press are permitted to report on the proceedings. "Reporting" in the context of this remote meeting includes making an audio recording of the live streamed audio 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.

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. Participation in remote meetings will extend to video and/or audio participation or written submission read aloud at the appropriate point in the meeting by the Chairman. Participants need to indicate that they wish to take part in a remote meeting by 4.30 p.m. on the last working day before the meeting by telephoning or E-Mailing the officer mentioned below. A Democratic Services Officer will then contact to advise how to participate in the remote meeting, by invitation. Requests to participate received later than this cut-off time may not be accommodated.

If a member of the public chooses to speak at a meeting of the City Council, he/she will be deemed to have given their consent to being recorded and audio being published live to the Council's website. The Chairman of the meeting, can at their discretion, terminate or suspend recording, if in their opinion, continuing to do so would prejudice the proceedings of the meeting or if they consider that continued recording might infringe the rights of any individual, or breach any statutory provision.

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 Julian Pugh, Democratic Services Administrator, Democratic Services, Guildhall, Worcester WR1 2EY Telephone: 01905 722027 (direct line). E-Mail Address: committeeadministration@worcester.gov.uk

This agenda can be made available in large print, braille, on PC disk, tape or in a number of ethnic minority languages. Please contact the above-named officer for further information.

**Policy and Resources Committee
Tuesday, 9 February 2021**

Members of the Committee:-

Chairman: Councillor Louis Stephen (G)

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Marc Bayliss (C) and Councillor Adrian Gregson (L)

Councillor Patricia Agar (LCo)

Councillor Roger Berry (LCo)

Councillor Simon Geraghty (C)

Councillor Jo Hodges (L)

Councillor Mrs. Lucy Hodgson (C)

Councillor Steve Mackay (C)

Councillor Chris Mitchell (C)

Councillor Jabba Riaz (L)

Councillor Joy Squires (L)

Councillor James Stanley (C)

C = Conservative

G = Green

L = Labour

LCo = Labour and Co-operative

LD = Liberal Democrat

AGENDA

Part 1

(ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION IN PUBLIC)

1. **Appointment of Substitutes**

To receive details of any Member nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of interest.

3. **Public Representations**

Up to a total of fifteen minutes can be allowed, with each speaker being allocated a maximum of five minutes, for members of the public to present a petition, ask a question or comment on any matter on the Agenda or within the remit of the Committee.

4. **Minutes**

Page(s): 1 - 4

Of the meeting held on 25th January 2021 to be approved and signed.

5. **Draft Budget 2021/22 and Draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2021-2026 - Consultation With Policy Committees**

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Shane Flynn, Corporate Director, Finance and Resources

Tel: 01905 722536

That the Committee consider the proposed amendments to the draft budget for the Council for the financial year 2021/22 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2021-2026.
(Report to follow)

6. **Proposed Budget 2021/22 And Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 - 2025/26**

Page(s): 5 - 28

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Shane Flynn, Corporate Director, Finance and Resources
Tel: 01905 722536

1. That the Committee endorses the proposed Budget and Council Tax for 2021/22 and the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan for the next five year period 2021/22 – 2025/26, and recommends them to Full Council on 23 February 2021 including the following resolutions:
 - a. That the Budget Requirement for Worcester City Council (excluding Parish Precepts) 2021/22 be set at £11.975m;
 - b. That the Council Tax Requirement for Worcester City Council (excluding Parish Precepts) 2021/22 be set at £6.292m; and
 - c. That the Band D Council Tax for Worcester City Council (excluding Parish Precepts) be set at £195.88;
2. That the Committee approves the Treasury Management Strategy at Appendix 5 including the MRP policy statement and the prudential indicators set out in the Strategy; (*Appendix 5 to follow*)
3. That the Committee approves the transfer of £712,000 from the Risk reserves to the 2021/22 revenue budget to mitigate the estimated loss of income due to the pandemic and to transfer a further £305,000 to the City Plan Fund to eliminate the deficit in its funding; and
4. That the Committee considers the proposals brought forward by the Policy Committees during January 2021 and includes those approved in the recommendations to Full Council.

7. **Fees and Charges 2021/22**

Page(s): 29 - 30

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Mark Baldwin, Head of Finance
Tel: 01905 722007

1. That the Committee receives the report of the review of Fees and Charges for 2021/22 from the Income Generation Sub-committee and recommends its approval to Full Council on 23 February 2021; and
2. That the Committee approves the amendment in respect of S106 Monitoring Fees.

8. **Town Centre Regeneration - Acquisition of Strategic Assets**

Page(s): 31 - 38

Ward(s): Cathedral

Contact Officer: Kevin Moore, Head of Property and Asset Management, Andrew Round, Corporate Director - Place
Tel: 01905 722251, Tel: 01907 722524

That the Committee:

1. Approves the acquisition of the freehold interest in the Corn Exchange 8/9 Crown Passage on the terms set out in the private report in support of the Council's Future High Street Fund proposals;
2. Approves the acquisition of the various property leasehold interests in nos 54, 55 and 56 Foregate Street on the terms set out in the private report in support of The Arches project; and
3. Delegates authority to the Corporate Director Place, the Corporate Director Finance and Resources and the Deputy Director Governance in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee to conclude negotiations and enter into all necessary legal agreements to complete the proposed acquisitions.

9. **Governance Arrangements for Delivery of Major Programmes**

Page(s): 39 - 46

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Sian Stroud, Deputy Director - Governance
Tel: 01905 722017

That the Committee:

1. Approves the governance arrangements for the delivery of the Council's major programmes, set out in section 3 of this report; and
2. Delegates authority to the Managing Director and Deputy Director -Governance in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chairs of Policy and Resources Committee to approve the terms of reference of the Major Programmes Member Reference Group.

10. **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: Update**

Page(s): 47 - 52

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Sian Stroud, Deputy Director - Governance
Tel: 01905 722017

That the Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report and the recommended actions to bring a renewed focus on equality, diversity and inclusion at the Council;
2. Approves for publication the Council's Equality Objectives for 2021 as set out in section 3 below;
3. Agrees that a Member working group should support officers in completing a self-assessment of the Council's performance under the Local Government Association's Equalities Framework facilitated by the Deputy Director Governance; and
4. Requests that the Personnel and General Purposes Sub-Committee oversee the work programme set out at section 3 and considers the scope of a new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy for referral back to Committee later this year.

11. **Covid-19: Decisions Under Urgency Powers**

Page(s): 53 - 58

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: David Blake, Managing Director
Tel: 01905 722203

That the Committee notes the decisions, since the last report to Committee which have been taken by the Managing Director under urgency powers in response to the Covid-19 emergency incident.

12. **Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring Report 2020/21**

Page(s): 59 - 80

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Mark Baldwin, Head of Finance
Tel: 01905 722007

1. That the Committee reviews the financial monitoring details including budget variances and performance indicators for the 3rd quarter ended 31 December 2020; and
2. That the Committee reviews the proposed write-offs of Council Tax and Business Rates for the quarter and approves the amounts noted.

13. **Quarter 3 Performance Report for 2020/21**

Page(s): 81 - 96

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Joanna Payne, Corporate Policy and Strategy Officer
Tel: 01905 722407

That the Policy and Resources Committee notes the Council's Quarter performance for 2020/21.

14. **Annual Survey 2020 Results**

Page(s): 97 - 136

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Joanna Payne, Corporate Policy and Strategy Officer
Tel: 01905 722407

That the Committee notes the results of the Annual Survey 2020.

15. **Any Other Business**

Which in the opinion of the Chairman is of sufficient urgency as to warrant consideration.

16. **Items Involving the Disclosure of Exempt Information**

The Committee are invited to pass the following resolution:-

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act.

PART II
(ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION IN PRIVATE)

17. **Minutes (Exempt Items)**

Page(s): 137 - 138

Of the meeting held on 25th January 2021 to be approved and signed.

18. **Fees and Charges 2021/22 (Exempt Items)**

Page(s): 139 - 140

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Mark Baldwin, Head of Finance
Tel: 01905 722007

To consider the proposed Fees and Charges for Building Control.

19. **Town Centre Regeneration - Acquisition Of Strategic Assets**

Page(s): 141 - 148

Ward(s): Cathedral

Contact Officer: Andrew Round, Corporate Director - Place, Kevin Moore, Head
of Property and Asset Management
Tel: 01907 722524, Tel: 01905 722251

That the Committee note the contents of this report in its consideration of the report in the public agenda.