



**Worcester**  
CITY COUNCIL

## **COUNCIL**

## **AGENDA**

**Date: Tuesday, 5th July, 2022**

**Time: 7.00 pm**

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

## COUNCIL

### Information for Members of the Public

Access to the Guildhall is via the front entrance in the High Street. The nearest car park is Copenhagen Street (pay and display). If you are a wheelchair user or have restricted mobility, access to the Guildhall can be gained either through the door on the right side of the forecourt as you face the Guildhall, or through the sliding doors at the rear of the Guildhall. There is dedicated disabled parking space at the rear (access via Copenhagen Street). Most meetings are held on the ground floor, which can be reached by using a lift. If you are a wheelchair user or have restricted mobility and you wish to attend a meeting, please telephone or email the officer mentioned below in advance and we will make any necessary arrangements to assist your visit.

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.

Please note the Council records and live streams many of its meetings. These recordings are published on the relevant meeting pages of the Council's website. A notice to this effect will be posted in the meeting room. 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 Chair 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.

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.

Agendas and minutes relating to all City Council Committees and Council Meetings are also available electronically, click on the option "Committee Minutes and Documents", Website Address: [worcester.gov.uk](http://worcester.gov.uk)

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)**

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.

**Council**  
**Tuesday, 5 July 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, 5th July, 2022 at 7.00 pm at which meeting the following business is proposed to be transacted.

**AGENDA**

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

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**  
To receive any declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes**  
Page(s): 1 - 18  
Of the meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 to be approved and signed.
4. **Mayor's Communications**  
To receive any communications the Mayor may wish to make.

5. **Public Participation**

Up to a total of fifteen minutes can be allowed, 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 Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.

6. **Questions**

The Joint Leader of the Council or the Chair of any Committee or Sub-Committee to take any questions that may be submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.

7. **Notice of Motion**

To consider any Notices of Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8.

**Cost of Living**

This Council notes that:

On 1 April 2022 Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54 per cent. This means the average standard tariff energy bill will increase by £693 per year and the average pre-pay meter energy bill will increase by £708 per year. (1)

The Government has not applied the pensions "triple lock" for 2022/23 meaning that Worcester's pensioners will see a rise of just 3.1 per cent this year as opposed to 8.3 per cent under the triple lock formula. This year, this will cost a Worcester pensioner on the full new state pension an average of £487 and a Worcester pensioner on the full basic state pension an average of £373. (2)

Worcester Foodbank fed 10,838 people in 2021 and has seen a 22% rise in demand since 2020. More than 1 in 3 people fed by Worcester Foodbank are children. (3)

This Council therefore declares a 'Cost of Living Emergency' and requests the Managing Director to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and express this Council's wish for Government to:

Immediately remove the standard rate of VAT on fuel from 5 per cent to 0 per cent saving Worcester households £100 (£98.55 on the average standard tariff maximum and £100.85 on the average pre-pay meter energy bill);

Immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20 per cent to 17.5 per cent for one year further saving the average Worcester household £587.50 this year (4);

Immediately apply and backdate the pensions "triple lock" for this year (2022/23) to support Worcester's pensioners now.

- (1) Ofgem website announcement 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022
- (2) TUC statement 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- (3) Worcester Foodbank website statement 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022
- (4) Officer for Budget Responsibility October 2021 VAT Forecast

Proposed by: Councillor Allcott

### **Dines Green Community Police Post**

Council is concerned about the proposals by the Police and Crime Commissioner to close the Dines Green Community Police Post. Council opposes such a decision and believes the Commissioner should continue to provide a permanent police presence in St John's and west of the river, which would be responsive to local needs and would assist with community engagement and community safety. Council therefore mandates the Managing Director to request that the Police and Crime Commissioner reconsiders his proposal and to work with the City Council to consider alternatives to closure and disposal.

Proposed by: Councillor Udall

### **Protection and Engagement – Private Renters**

This Council is committed to protecting and engaging with private renters as no one should live in a home that is damp, in a poor state of repair, overcrowded or unaffordable. Private renters need to hear more from Worcester City Council about the rights they have and how to exercise them.

Council therefore resolves to instruct Officers to compile an Action Plan for consideration by the Council's Communities Committee identifying measures of how the Council can further protect and engage with private renters. Examples of such measures include:

The serving of compliance notices for excess cold in homes that fail Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards.

Training and information provided to Councillors on how the Council can help residents in rented properties.

Information Pack provided by the Council including how to access any help for private renters.

The feasibility of a confidential reporting system for tenants.

Proposed by: Councillor Denham

#### **8. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England: Electoral Review - Warding Arrangements Consultation**

Page(s): 19 - 62

Ward(s): All Wards

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

That the Council agrees the Warding Arrangements Submission set out in Appendix 1 as its collective response to the initial consultation being undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and authorises the Corporate Director - Planning and Governance to submit this document to the Commission, on behalf of the Council.

#### **9. Amendments to the Constitution**

Page(s): 63 - 66

Ward(s): All Wards

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

That the Council approves, with immediate effect, the amendments to the Constitution set out in this report and authorises the Corporate Director - Planning and Governance to make the necessary drafting changes to the Constitution.

10. **Report from the Relevant Committee on Matters which are Referred to Council for Decision**

To receive reports on matters which by law or in accordance with the Constitution are referred to Council for decision.

10.1 Referral Report from Policy and Resources Committee 24th May 2022 - Treasury Management Annual Report for 2021/22

Page(s): 67 - 80

Ward(s): All Wards

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

That the Council receives the Treasury Management Annual Report 2021/22.

10.2 Referral Report from Communities Committee 8th June 2022 - Provision of a new Artificial Grass Pitch at Perdiswell

Page(s): 81 - 90

Ward(s): All Wards

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

That the Council agrees an 'in principle' capital allocation of £200k to unlock specialist support from the Football Foundation to facilitate the development of a business case and detailed design.

10.3 Referral Report from Policy and Resources Committee 4th July 2022 - Termination of Revenues and Benefits Management Contract

Page(s): 91 - 100

Ward(s): All Wards

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

That the Council approves the return of the Revenues and Benefits to an in-house shared service, with staff employed by Malvern Hills District Council, noting that further reports will be brought to the Policy and Resources Committee once the transfer has been completed and a review of the service has commenced.

11. **Report from the Joint Leader of the Council on any matters which he is of the opinion require urgent consideration by The Council**

To receive a report, if necessary.

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

The Council is 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)**

13. **Any Exempt Issues**

To consider any exempt matters which might arise.

David Blake  
Managing Director  
Guildhall  
Worcester WR1 2EY  
Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022