



**Worcester**  
CITY COUNCIL

## **COUNCIL**

## **AGENDA**

**Date: Tuesday, 29th November, 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, 29 November 2022**

**Members of the Council:-**

Chair: The Mayor

Councillor Patricia Agar (LCo)	Councillor Nida Hassan (C)
Councillor Basharat Ali (L)	Councillor Mrs. Lucy Hodgson (C)
Councillor Mel Allcott (LD)	Councillor Stephen Hodgson (C)
Councillor Mohammad Altaf (C)	Councillor Matthew Lamb (L)
Councillor Alan Amos (C)	Councillor Neil Laurenson (G)
Councillor Jenny Barnes (LCo)	Councillor Karen Lawrance (LD)
Councillor Marc Bayliss (C)	Councillor Karen Lewing (G)
Councillor Marjory Bisset (G)	Councillor Steve Mackay (C)
Councillor Owen Cleary (C)	Councillor Chris Mitchell (C)
Councillor Steve Cockeram (G)	Councillor Robyn Norfolk (L)
Councillor Zoe Cookson (L)	Councillor Tom Piotrowski (G)
Councillor Simon Cronin (L)	Councillor Jabbar Riaz (L)
Councillor Lynn Denham (L)	Councillor Andrew Roberts (C)
Councillor Jill Desayrah (L)	Councillor Andy Stafford (C)
Councillor Allah Ditta (C)	Councillor James Stanley (C)
Councillor Shafaz Ditta (C)	Councillor Louis Stephen (G)
Councillor Simon Geraghty (C)	Councillor Richard Udall (L)
Councillor Adrian Gregson (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, 29th November, 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 meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 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.

Marilyn McCarthy, Chair, The Swan Food Project will ask:

"We invite Councillors with interests in wildlife, environment, culture, history and tourism to join us to explore ways to give the swan sanctuary, established by the City Council and the Cathedral in the early eighties, a more formal and organised identity. We propose the creation of a 'Worcester Swan Sanctuary Trust' to enhance swan welfare, infrastructure, visitor experience and community engagement. Will the City Council agree to meeting with us?"

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.

1. **Proposed Amendment to Council's Constitution**

The Council notes that:

1. Public participation in Committee meetings should offer a meaningful opportunity for residents to engage with local democracy. Residents should be able not only to raise questions and share their views on matters discussed by the Committees of this Council; they should be also entitled to receive responses to their questions raised in the Committee meetings.
2. The current Constitution does not guarantee that residents must receive answers to their questions and therefore it may create a serious doubt whether the Council listens to and seriously considers the views and suggestions raised by residents.
3. In order to rectify this democratic deficiency and enhance the sense of accountability of Elected Members and Council Officers, this motion asks the full Council to amend our Constitution where it states that 'Any question shall be directed at the Chair who **may reply** orally at the meeting, or in writing following the meeting or **who may decline** to reply; or who may ask an Officer so to reply on his or her behalf.' (Part 5 Committee Procedure Rules, 10.4.3).

4. The Council is therefore being asked to accept the material amendment resulting in the following wording: "**The Council values opinions and welcomes questions of the public.** Shall there be any questions directed at the Chair, **the Chair shall be obliged to reply orally at the meeting, or in writing following the meeting;** or shall ask an Officer so to reply on the Chair's behalf."
5. Furthermore, one may be under the impression that the Council's present Constitution does not give sufficient weight and acknowledgement to the importance of petitions put forward by members of public.
6. The relevant section of our Council's Constitution states that: 'Any petition shall be received by the Chair **without response**' (10.4.2).
7. Whereas it is right and proper to allocate sufficient time for considering petitions of residents, acknowledging the receipt of a petition should be an important and clear sign that the views of residents matter. Thus is the nature of democracy.
8. Therefore, the Council is happy to accept an amendment that would affect the wording regarding petitions from members of public by stating that: "Any petition shall be received by **the Chair who will who be obliged to acknowledge its receipt** and will endeavour to respond in writing to its content. The Chair may delegate the formal reply to the petition to an Officer."

Proposed by: Councillor Piotrowski

## **2. Voter ID**

In April 2022 the Elections Act came into effect. This rules that all voters for English or UK-wide general election must show photographic identification.

Voter ID is completely unnecessary and all the evidence indicates that it is likely to particularly suppress turnout amongst disadvantaged groups. Furthermore, there is specific concerns about its rollout for local election across England in May 2023.

Election officials as quoted by The Guardian on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 have expressed concern that a short timetable for implementation and lack of clarity about the rules could cause thousands of people to be disfranchised.

Council therefore resolves to mandate the Managing Director to write to H.M. Government calling for a delay to the introduction of compulsory voter ID pending a review of its likely impact.

Proposed by: Councillor Lamb

## **3. BBC Local Radio**

Council recognises and values the contribution to Worcestershire life and society made by BBC local radio stations, such as BBC Hereford and Worcester.

Council views with deep concern the possible impact of the government decision to freeze and then abolish the TV Licence Fee and the consequences it could have on future funding for local radio. Use of BBC local radio is an important and vital part of the Council's ability to communicate with local residents at times of emergency or natural disaster.

Council therefore mandates the Managing Director to write to the Secretary of State calling on her to ensure and secure future funding for BBC local radio in Worcestershire.

Proposed by: Councillor Allcott

#### **4. Additional Licensing for Houses in Multiple Occupation**

In May 2020, Worcester City Council adopted rules to require additional licensing for the creation of new HMOs in five wards of the city: St John, St Clement, Bedwardine, Cathedral and Arboretum.

In the context of a recession and a cost of living crisis, where housing and living standards are likely to decline, these rules are a necessary protection against exploitation.

All wards in the city would benefit from being covered by these rules.

Therefore, Council resolves to revoke the exemptions currently in place, and instead require additional licensing for HMOs across the whole of the city, regardless of the ward they happen to be in.

Proposed by: Councillor Riaz

#### **8. Matters Relating to the Leadership of the Council**

To consider the election of the Joint Leader(s) of the Council.

#### **9. Council Response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England: Draft Recommendations for New Electoral Arrangements for Worcester City Council**

Page(s): 19 - 32

Ward(s): All Wards

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

Council agrees the Response set out in Appendix 1 as its collective response to the draft recommendations published 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.

#### **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.

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: 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022