



Worcester
CITY COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Date: Tuesday, 6th September, 2022

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: The Guildhall

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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 4.30 p.m. on the last working day before the meeting by writing, telephoning or E-Mailing the officer mentioned below.

If you have any general enquires or queries about this Agenda or require any details of background papers, further documents or information, or to discuss arrangements for the taking of photographs, film, video or sound recording please contact the Lead Officer, Julian Pugh, Democratic Services Administrator, 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.

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

**Policy and Resources Committee
Tuesday, 6 September 2022**

Members of the Committee:-

Chair: Councillor Marjory Bisset (G)

Vice-Chair: Councillor Lynn Denham (L) and Councillor James Stanley (C)

Councillor Patricia Agar (LCo)

Councillor Mel Allcott (LD)

Councillor Marc Bayliss (C)

Councillor Adrian Gregson (L)

Councillor Mrs. Lucy Hodgson (C)

Councillor Steve Mackay (C)

Councillor Chris Mitchell (C)

Councillor Jabbar Riaz (L)

Councillor Andy Stafford (C)

Councillor Louis Stephen (G)

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 - 8

Of the meeting held on 26th July 2022 to be approved and signed.

5. **Minutes of Income Generation Sub-Committee**

Page(s): 9 - 12

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 27th July 2022.

6. **Cost of Living Task & Finish Group - Update Report**

Page(s): 13 - 18

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Tom Mountford, Head of Homes and Communities

That the Committee:

1. Notes the work undertaken by the Cost of Living Task and Finish Group to date;
2. Approves the allocation of funding of £20,000 from the Council's Hardship Fund to Citizens Advice Worcester to provide increased staff capacity in order to manage increase in demand associated with the cost of living crisis;
3. Approves an extension until 30 September 2022 that eligible households can draw down the 4 weeks of free school meals support previously approved via Managing Director Urgency Powers; and
4. Delegates to the Corporate Director – Operations, Housing and Communities, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee, the option to award funding of up to £107,500 from the Hardship Fund to deliver further periods of free school meal provision during school holiday periods up until March 2023, where no such alternative provision is put in place.

7. **Future High Street Fund - Performance Arts Venue**

Page(s): 19 - 30

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Jamie Fox, FHSF Programme Manager

That the Committee:

1. approves the submission of a planning application for the new Performance Arts Venue, comprising the former Corn Exchange and Scala Theatre and the Angel Place public conveniences;
2. authorises officers to commence a procurement process to seek a construction partner to deliver the new Performance Arts Centre;
3. approves the acquisition of a long leasehold interest in 6 Angel Place to support the delivery of the new Performance Arts Centre with terms delegated to the Corporate Director – Finance & Resources in collaboration with the Chair and Vice Chairs of this Committee;
4. authorises officers to explore additional funding routes to meet the costs of the delivery of the new Performance Arts Centre;
5. notes that a further report will be brought to Committee for final decisions on the construction contract and funding package early next year; and
6. notes the plans for continuing the dialogue with community arts representatives regarding the future of the Swan Theatre.

8. **Freedom Leisure Contract Update - Rising Cost Pressures**

Page(s): 31 - 36

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Lloyd Griffiths, Corporate Director, Operations, Homes and Communities
Tel: 01905 722314

That the Committee:

1. Notes the contents of this report and in particular the increased costs faced by Leisure Operators across the UK linked to inflation and energy supply;
2. Approves financial support up to a maximum value of £255,000, to be taken from the Business Rates Risk Reserve, to cover additional energy costs for the period 1st October 2022 – 31st March 2023, to be paid monthly in arrears via a fully open-book process; and
3. Notes that a full options appraisal and recommendations for operations and future funding will be presented to the Committee as part of the budget-setting process.

9. **Process and Timetable for Preparation of Budget 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 -2027/28**

Page(s): 37 - 40

Ward(s): All Wards

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

That the Committee approves the proposed process and timetable for preparing the Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan.

10. **Outline Proposals for Annual Survey 2022**

Page(s): 41 - 58

Ward(s): All Wards

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

That the Committee approves the proposed annual survey and consultation timetable for 2022.

11. **Any Other Business**

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