



**Worcester**  
CITY COUNCIL

# **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

## **AGENDA**

**Date:** Tuesday, 13th December, 2022

**Time:** 7.00 pm

**Venue:** The Guildhall

## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

### **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.

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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 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](mailto:committeeadministration@worcester.gov.uk).

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**Policy and Resources Committee  
Tuesday, 13 December 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 - 10

Of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to be approved and signed.

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

Page(s): 11 - 12

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

**6. Single Person and Childless Couples Recommissioning**

Page(s): 13 - 14

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Tom Mountford, Head of Homes and Communities

Tel: 01905 722529

To amend the decision of Policy and Resources Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022, recommendation 1.2, as follows:

That the Committee agrees to fund Worcester City Council's contribution, being £65,646 per annum for the first three years of the contract, from the Homeless Prevention Grant, and to receive subsequent reports to identify future funding for the rest of the contract term.

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

Page(s): 15 - 30

Ward(s): Cathedral

Contact Officer: Jamie Fox, FHSF Programme Manager

That the Committee:

1. Approves the submission of a revised planning application for the new Performance Arts Venue, as set out in this report;
2. Notes the current funding position and approves the continued exploration of additional funding routes, both private and public; and
3. Notes that the business case for the new Performance Arts Venue will be brought to Committee for consideration before the final terms of any construction contracts or funding package can be confirmed and that at this stage, the business case assumes the ongoing use of the Swan Theatre as a community-focused venue.

8. **Draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2023-2028 and Draft Budget & Council Tax 2023/24**

Page(s): 31 - 56

Ward(s): All Wards

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

1. That the Committee refers the Draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2023-2028, and the proposed Draft Budget & Council Tax for 2023/24, including the financial management priorities and key assumptions for the short term and medium-term planning horizon, to Members for consideration at the committee meetings in January 2023 and feed back to the Policy and Resources Committee on 7 February 2023;
2. That the Committee approves, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2003 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012, that the Council Tax Base calculation for the year 2023/24 will be 32,954.0 for Worcester City Council, including 3,976.6 for Warndon Parish Council and 2,179.3 for St Peter's Parish Council (as detailed in Appendix 3);

3. That the Committee notes that the proposals will be updated for any agreed changes following budget consultation with Members, and for any significant changes following the publication of the Local Government Finance Settlement. Formal adoption of the MTFP and the Budget & Council Tax 2023/24, will be recommended to Full Council for approval on 21 February 2023; and
4. That the Committee invites all political groups and/or individual Members to notify the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources no later than 31 December 2022 of any other budget proposals that they wish officers to explore and request the Corporate Director to include such proposals in the reports for consideration by Members at the January meetings of the relevant policy committees.

9. **Use of Managing Director's Urgency Powers**

Page(s): 57 - 90

Ward(s): All Wards

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

1. To note the use of urgency powers to agree to participate in the Worcestershire business Rates Pool for 2023/24 only;
2. To delegate to the Corporate Director – Finance and Resources authority to finalise the arrangements for the pool in consultation with the Chair and the Vice-chairs of the Policy and Resources Committee;
3. To note the use of urgency powers to implement a scheme for additional financial support for Ukrainian refugees; and
4. To note the use of urgency powers to allocate Household Support Grant funding for the period October 2022 to March 2023.

10. **Appointments to Outside Bodies**

Page(s): 91 - 92

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Julian Pugh, Democratic Services Administrator  
Tel: 01905 722027

That the Committee agrees appointments to the outside bodies listed in paragraph 3.1 of this report.

11. **Cinderella Ground Worcester - Underlease**

Ward(s): Bedwardine

Contact Officer: David Sutton, Deputy Director - Corporate Policy and Strategy  
Tel: 01905 722302

Report to follow.

12. **Any Other Business**

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

**PART II**  
**(ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION IN PRIVATE)**

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

The Committee 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.

14. **Minutes of Income Management Sub-Committee (Exempt Items)**

Page(s): 93 - 94

To receive the minutes (exempt items) of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022.