

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

23rd May 2023

Present: Councillor James Stanley in the Chair

Councillors Allcott, Bisset, Cockeram,
Denham, Gregson, Murray, Norfolk,
Piotrowski, Riaz and Round

Officers: David Blake, Managing Director
Shane Flynn, Corporate Director – Finance
and Resources
Lloyd Griffiths, Corporate Director –
Operations, Homes and Communities
Sian Stroud, Corporate Director –
Planning and Governance

Apologies: Councillors Hodgson and Roberts

1 Appointment of Substitutes

None.

2 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Riaz declared an interest in Medium Term Financial Plan – Progress Update (Minute 5) in relation to introducing a charge for entry to the Worcester Show as Chair of Worcester Mela.

3 Public Representations

None.

4 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5 Medium Term Financial Plan - Progress Update

The Committee considered a report on proposals for a savings plan to address the Council's budget gap over a three-year timescale. The Corporate Director – Finance and Resources presented the report and explained that savings in the region of 8-10% will be required to bring costs in line with income in overall terms. The approach to achieving the savings and/or generating increased income were set out in the report along with the principles underlining the approach and a timetable for progress.

One key stage was the need to introduce a voluntary redundancy programme and details of the scheme were set out in the report. Reserves of up to £400k would need to be identified to enable the process to be completed. However, should it be necessary to identify compulsory redundancies, further costs may be incurred and an allocation of £500,000 was therefore recommended.

Further details of potential reserves to be reallocated would be presented to the Committee at its July meeting.

Officers responded to questions and comments from Committee Members. In the ensuing discussion, it was clarified that opportunities to reduce revenue expenditure or increase income which have been discussed and agreed at Group Leaders/CLT meetings will be reported to this Committee for decision at its meetings throughout the year.

RESOLVED: That the Committee approve:

- 1. the proposals and timetable for closing the budget gap identified in the MTFP at its meeting of 7 February;**
- 2. the introduction of a Voluntary Redundancy Scheme and delegates authority to the Managing Director to implement the proposed Scheme in the terms outlined in this report; and**
- 3. the reallocation of up to £500,000 existing earmarked reserves to cover potential costs.**

6 Proposed Changing Places Toilet At The Cornmarket

The Committee considered a report on proposal to convert vacant space at the Cornmarket Public Conveniences into a Changing Places Toilet. The Corporate Director – Planning and Governance presented the report and explained that confirmation of a £60k Government grant was received in March 2022, including a contribution to servicing and maintenance in the initial years as well as conversion and fit out costs. Building costs had risen significantly since and with the inclusion of remedial work, an additional £20k was required from the Council's own funds, in order to be able to award the contract for works and successfully complete the project.

Committee Members expressed support for the scheme. In the ensuing discussion, a request was made for consideration to be given to allocating a disabled parking space close to the toilet. The Corporate Director stated that Officers will looking into whether this is feasible.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agree to recommend to Council:

- 1. the inclusion of the provision of a new Changing Places Toilet at the Cornmarket in the Council's Capital Programme; and**
- 2. that the Capital Programme is adjusted to include £60k of grant funding for the project and £20k supported by borrowing.**

7 Cost of Living Task & Finish Group - Closing Report

The Committee considered a closing report on the work of this Task and Finish Group, which held its last meeting on 29th March 2023, thereby concluding its work. The Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities presented the report and summarised the work of the Group and its key outcomes. This area of work would now be overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Committee.

In the ensuing discussion, it was clarified that the amounts allocated from the Department of Work and Pensions set out in paragraph 2.20 are for 2023/24.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agree to note:

- 1. the contents of this report and in particular the work undertaken by the Task and Finish Group; and**
- 2. the work of the Task and Finish group has concluded and oversight of the Council's role in responding to the cost of living crisis will be undertaken by Health & Wellbeing Committee.**

8 Corporate Risk Management Report - Quarter 4, 2022/23

The Committee considered a report on progress made against the corporate risks for quarters 3 and 4, covering the period October 2022 – March 2023. The Corporate Director – Finance and Resources presented the report and responded to questions and comments from Committee Members.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agree to note the Corporate Risk Management Report.

9 Quarter 4 and Annual Performance Report for 2022/23

The Committee considered report on the quarter 4 and annual performance report for the Policy and Resources Committee. The Corporate Director – Finance and Resources presented the report, which showed progress for the current priority projects and activities which support the delivery of the Council's City Plan and the corporate suite of key performance indicators.

Officers responded to questions and comments from Committee Members.

In the ensuing discussion, it was clarified that a report on the City Centre Transport Strategy, which has been undertaken jointly with the County Council, will be presented to this Committee to agree a draft for onward submission to the County Council. It was further clarified that proposals will be brought forward by the end of this year setting out the Council's response to the government's Air Quality Strategy. This piece of work will not be dependent on when the City Centre Transport Strategy is published.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agree to note the Council's quarter 4 and annual performance for 2022/23.

10 Proposed Committee Performance Scorecard for 2023/24

The Committee considered the proposed content of the Policy and Resources Performance Scorecard for 2023/24. The Corporate Director – Finance and Resources presented the report and explained that a draft version of the scorecard was considered by the Committee at its meeting in March 2023, but the final version was deferred pending agreement on key priorities for the coming year. The content of the Performance Scorecard has since been reviewed by the

Corporate Leadership Team and the version now presented included a number of new City Plan Projects and Activities.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agree the proposed content of the Policy and Resources Performance Scorecard for 2023/24.

11 Local Government Boundary Commission for England: Electoral Review - Warding Arrangements Further Consultation

The Committee considered a report on a further consultation on a number of specific warding arrangements for Worcester City Council, published by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, based on feedback from the initial consultation. The Corporate Director – Planning and Governance presented the report and summarised the proposals, which were appended to the report. The Commission proposed adjustments impacting on specific wards.

The further consultation period would run until 19 June. In view of the short timescale for response, it would not be possible to take a draft submission to full Council for debate. Therefore the report recommended that Officers work with the Political Group Leaders to produce a consultation response on behalf of the Council, which indicates to the Commission those aspects of its proposals which are supported by all of the Political Groups on the Council, and provides commentary on any aspects which are not universally supported. Political parties were also able to make their own submissions.

Committee Members expressed support for the proposed way forward.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agree to:

- 1. note the proposed further consultation on a number of specific warding arrangements for Worcester City Council, published by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England; and**
- 2. authorise the Corporate Director - Planning and Governance, to submit a consultation response on behalf of the Council which is confined only to points on which all four Political Group Leaders have reached consensus.**

12 Appointments To Outside Bodies 2023-24 And Member Champions

The Committee considered a report on appointments to various outside bodies and also the appointment of Member Champions for two roles, Heritage and Health and Safety. The Corporate Director – Planning and Governance presented the report and explained that, following the May 2023 City Council Elections, there was a vacancy for the role of Heritage Champion, which was previously held by former Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson.

Meanwhile, Councillor Stephen had stepped down from his role as Health and Safety Champion. The report explained that the appointment of a member of the Council to take the lead on health and safety matters was introduced in 2019. A new Health and Safety Policy was adopted in 2022 and Members may wish to consider whether this Champion role is still required, now that the new Policy and

a new Corporate Health and Safety Officer are in place. Councillor Stephen had indicated that in his view it was appropriate for the role to be retired.

The Corporate Director also presented nominations from Group Leaders for appointments to various outside bodies.

In the ensuing discussion, it was proposed and seconded that Councillor Gregson be appointed as Heritage Champion. There were no other nominations.

The Committee concluded that it was appropriate to retire the role of Health and Safety Champion, for the reasons set out above and in the report.

The Committee considered the recommendations from Group Leaders on appointments to outside bodies. In some cases, it was agreed to defer a decision to a future meeting in order to clarify the purpose of the appointment.

RESOLVED: That the Committee:

- 1. agree to appoint Councillor Gregson to the role of Heritage Champion;**
- 2. agree to recommend to Council that the role of Health and Safety Champion be retired; and**
- 3. confirm the appointments to outside bodies as set out in the schedule appended to the minutes.**

13 Any Other Business

None.

14 Items Involving the Disclosure of Exempt Information

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

15 Minutes (Exempt Items)

RESOLVED: That the minutes (exempt items) of the meeting held on 21st March 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Duration of the meeting: 7.00p.m. – 8.51p.m.

Chair at the meeting on
25th July 2023

16 Appendix - Appointments to Outside Bodies

Organisation	Appointment	Term of Office
Age UK	DECISION DEFERRED	1 Year
Angel Centre Committee	Councillor Riaz Allah Ditta Kerry Hughes	1 Year
Arches Worcester Steering Group	Councillor Gregson	1 Year
Armchair Project (Management Committee)	Richard Boorn	1 Year
Claines Charities (inc Susannah Jolly Charity)	Councillor Stanley Councillor Allcott	3 years to 01.07.2026 3 years to 12.07.2026
Comer Gardens Hall Association - Management Committee	Councillor Geraghty Councillor Pingree	1 Year
Conservation Advisory Panel	Councillor Gregson Councillor Stanley Vacancy	1 Year
Corporate Parenting Board	Councillor Lamb	1 Year
Cranstoun (Formerly Swanswell/Pathways to Recovery Worcestershire)	DECISION DEFERRED	1 Year
Disablement Information Advice Line (D.I.A.L)	Claire Badsey	1 Year
Disability Sport Worcester	DECISION DEFERRED	1 Year
Fairfield Centre: Management Board	Councillor Cleary Councillor Desayrah	1 Year
Herefordshire & Worcestershire Integrated Care Partnership Assembly	Councillor Denham (Deputy) Councillor Hodgson)	1 Year
Historic England	Councillor Gregson Councillor Lewing Councillor Piotrowski	1 Year

Organisation	Appointment	Term of Office
Hopmarket Charity	Councillor Denham Councillor Hodgson Councillor Lewing Councillor Round Councillor Stanley Bill Simpson (Independent) Jenny Barnes (Independent)	1 Year 1 Year 1 Year 1 Year 1 Year 4 Years to 30.05.27 4 Years to 30.05.27
Local Government Association General Assembly	Councillor Allcott Councillor Bisset Councillor Denham Councillor Stanley (Group Leaders to decide who the voting member will be)	1 Year
Lyppard Community Hub	Councillor Hodgson Councillor Murray	1 Year
Mary Hill Trust	Jenny Barnes	4 years to 01.07.2027
Mayor's Fund	The Mayor Deputy Mayor	1 Year
Museum of Royal Worcester	Councillor Stephen	1 Year
PATROL Adjudication Joint Committee	DECISION DEFERRED	1 Year
St. Richard's Hospice	Councillor Roberts	1 Year
Shopmobility: Management Committee	Claire Badsey	1 Year
South Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership	Councillor Riaz	1 Year
SWDP Joint Advisory Panel	Councillor Agar Councillor Bisset Councillor Stanley	1 Year
The Kiln CIC Board	Councillor Gregson	1 Year
Thomas Corbett Charity for the Visually Impaired	The Mayor (ex officio)	1 Year
Town Deal Board	Councillor Denham	1 Year

Organisation	Appointment	Term of Office
	Councillor Bisset	
Transition Worcester	Councillor Cleary Councillor Lamb Councillor Lewing	1 Year
West Mercia Police and Crime Panel	Councillor Piotrowski	1 Year
West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association	Councillor Agar Deputy – Councillor Riaz	1 Year
Worcester Arts Council	Councillor Hodgson Councillor Lamb Councillor Pingree Edward Kimberley	1 Year
Worcester BID Board	Councillor Norfolk	1/3 of Directors must resign each year on a rota basis but may seek re-election
Worcester Citizen's Advice Bureau/ Worcester Housing and Benefits Advice Centre	Councillor Cleary	1 Year
Worcester City Dementia Action Alliance	Councillor Denham	1 Year
Worcester City Parish Relief in Need Charity	Adrian Couper	4 years to 26.07.2027
Worcester Consolidated Municipal Charities	Roger Knight Tracey Biggs	4 years to 01.05.2027 4 years to 01.05.2027
Worcester Crematorium and Cemeteries Forum	Councillor Amos Councillor Bisset Councillor Riaz	1 Year
Worcester Theatres	Councillor Smith	1 Year
Worcester Play Council	DECISION DEFERRED	1 Year
Worcester Racecourse Ltd.	Councillor Riaz	1 Year
Worcester River Sports Association	Councillor Lawrance Adam Scott	1 Year

Organisation	Appointment	Term of Office
Worcester Trade Justice Network	DECISION DEFERRED	1 Year
Worcester Association	Twinning Councillor Gregson Councillor Murray	1 Year
Worcestershire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Udall	1 Year
Worcestershire County Council Health and Wellbeing Board	Councillor Denham (Sub Councillor Hodgson)	1 Year
Worcestershire Board	Leaders Councillor Bisset Councillor Denham (Joint Leaders to decide who will attend)	1 Year
Worcestershire Management Board	Waste Councillor Lewing	1 Year