

EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL

17th May 2022

Present: **The Mayor, Councillor Gregson, in the Chair**

Councillors Agar, Ali, Allcott, Altaf, A. Amos, Barnes, Bayliss, Bisset, Cleary, Cockeram, Cookson, Cronin, Denham, Desayrah, Ditta, Ditta, Geraghty, Gregson, Hassan, Mrs L. Hodgson, S. Hodgson, Lamb, Laurenson, Lawrance, Lewing, Mackay, Mitchell, Norfolk, Piotrowski, Riaz, Roberts, Stafford, Stanley, Stephen and Udall

19 Apologies for Absence

None.

20 Declarations of Interest

None.

21 Public Participation

None.

22 Notice of Motion

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion, which had been submitted by Councillor Stephen in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8.

The Mayor advised the Council that, should the Notice of Motion be agreed, the Notice of Motion which had been proposed by Councillor Denham, could not be considered as, in accordance with Part 4 of the Constitution, no resolution or decision of the Council shall be rescinded or varied during the period of six months after it was passed.

Amendments to the Constitution and Group Leader's Protocol

Since the introduction of the Committee system, Council has tried to increase the involvement of all councillors in decision making. Various changes to the Constitution have aimed to provide stability and strategic thinking beyond the normal electoral cycle, for Councillors, Council Officers, partners and residents. Council believes the Constitution should be sufficiently flexible to better reflect multi-party democracy in Worcester.

The Group Leaders Protocol stipulates that it should be reviewed every time there is a change in the political composition of the Council.

The Council therefore resolves to:

- i Amend article 6. 1a of the constitution so that, in circumstances of No Overall Control, two joint leaders of the Council will be elected by Council,

one from each of the two largest Political Groups, as set out in Appendix 1 to this Motion.

- ii Amend the existing Group Leaders Protocol to: a) specify who should deputise for the Leader if only one Leader has been appointed; b) simplify the rules for appointing Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees; c) alter the rules for appointing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor so that the roles rotate amongst all the Political Groups; all as set out in Appendix 2 to this Motion.
- iii To authorise the Monitoring Officer to make any other minor consequential changes to the Constitution that arise from these changes.
- iv To proceed to make appointments in accordance with these changes.

Appendix 1: Proposed Changes to the Articles

ARTICLE 6 - THE LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL THE

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

6.1 Election of the Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council will be a Councillor elected to the position of Leader of the Council. The Council will elect a Leader of the Council on an annual basis at its Annual meeting.

6.2 Term of Office

The Leader of the Council will hold office until:-

- (a) they resign from the office; or
- (b) they are suspended from being a Councillor or
- (c) they are no longer a Councillor; or
- (d) for one year from the date of election, save that they may be removed from office at an earlier date by resolution of the Council.

THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

6.3 Election of the Deputy Leader of the Council

The Deputy Leader of the Council will be a Councillor elected to the position of Deputy Leader of the Council. The Council will elect a Deputy Leader of the Council on an annual basis at its Annual meeting.

6.4 Term of Office

The Deputy Leader of the Council will hold office until:-

- (a) they resign from the office; or
- (b) they are suspended from being a Councillor or
- (c) they are no longer a Councillor; or
- (d) for one year from the date of election, save that they may be removed from office at an earlier date by resolution of the Council.

ARTICLE 6A - THE LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (NO OVERALL POLITICAL CONTROL)

THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (NO OVERALL POLITICAL CONTROL)

6.1A Appointment of the Leader(s) of the Council

In circumstances of no overall political control, the Council will elect two Leaders, one from each of the two largest political groups. The Council will elect the two joint Leaders of the Council on an annual basis at its Annual meeting. In the event that one of the two political groups eligible to nominate a Joint Leader elects not to do so, the Council shall elect one Leader only and the other Joint Leader position will be vacant.

6.2A Term of Office

In circumstances of no overall political control, each Leader of the Council will hold office until:-

- (a) they resign from the office; or
- (b) they are suspended from being a Councillor or
- (c) they are no longer a Councillor; or
- (d) for one year from the date of election, save that they may be removed from office at an earlier date by resolution of the Council.

Appendix 2: Proposed Changes to Group Leaders Protocol

2. The Leader of the Council

2.1 The Leader of the Council will be appointed annually by Council.

2.2 The Leader(s) of the Council will represent the Council at the Worcestershire Leaders' Board, the Local Enterprise Partnership and other external partnerships and boards.

2.3 When the Council is in overall political control, the Leader will be appointed from the largest Political Group.

2.4 When there is no overall political control, two Leader will be appointed, one from each of the two largest Political Groups. Where for any reason only one Leader has been elected instead of two, the Leader may ask the leader of any political group to deputise for them on an ad hoc basis when required.

3. Deputy Leader of the Council

3.1 The Deputy Leader of the Council will be appointed annually by Council.

3.2 In the event that the Leader of the Council is unable to attend or chair any external body as Leader, then the Deputy will chair or attend instead.

3.3 When there is no overall political control, there will be no Deputy Leader.

4. Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees

4.1 The Chairs and Vice Chairs of all Committees shall be equally responsible for agenda setting for their Committee, with equal access to Officers and information; all other members of a Committee may request that an item is included on the agenda of the Committee; statutory officers have the right to put an item on the agenda of any Committee.

4.2 The Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees will be appointed annually by Council in accordance with the following principles:

- The Chair and Vice Chair of each Committee will be from different Political Groups;
- There shall be two Vice Chairs of the Policy and Resources Committee, each from different Political Groups and different to the Political Group of the Chair;
- The roles of Chair and Vice Chair shall be allocated to Political Groups in proportion to the number of seats each Political Group has on the Council, subject to the rules on political balance.

5. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor

5.1 The Mayor and Deputy Mayor shall be appointed in accordance with the following principles:

- The Mayoralty shall rotate with a right of first refusal on an annual basis amongst the Political Groups;
- The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor shall not be from the same Political Group;
- The Mayor should normally have served at least one full term of office as a councillor;
- The Mayor should normally have served as the Deputy Mayor in the preceding year;
- The Mayor and Deputy Mayor must be willing to undertake the duties of Mayor and Deputy Mayor;
- Where there is more than one eligible candidate for appointment as Mayor or Deputy Mayor, the appointment may be based on seniority in terms of number of years served as a councillor.

The proposer, Councillor Stephen, spoke in support of the Motion. The Motion was seconded by Councillor Bisset.

Members of the Council proceeded to debate the Motion, following which the Motion was put to the vote. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7.2 a named vote was requested and supported by four Members.

RESOLVED: That the Council agree to:

- 1. amend article 6. 1a of the constitution so that, in circumstances of No Overall Control, two joint leaders of the Council will be elected by**

Council, one from each of the two largest Political Groups, as set out in Appendix 1 to this Motion.

- 2. amend the existing Group Leaders Protocol to: a) specify who should deputise for the Leader if only one Leader has been appointed; b) simplify the rules for appointing Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees; c) alter the rules for appointing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor so that the roles rotate amongst all the Political Groups; all as set out in Appendix 2 to this Motion.**
- 3. authorise the Monitoring Officer to make any other minor consequential changes to the Constitution that arise from these changes.**
- 4. proceed to make appointments in accordance with these changes.**

Record of Voting:

For: Councillors	Against: Councillors	Abstain: Councillors
Altaf, Amos, Bayliss, Bisset, Cleary, Cockeram, A. Ditta, S. Ditta, Geraghty, Hassan, Mrs L. Hodgson, S. Hodgson, Laurenson, Lewing, Mackay, Mitchell, Piotrowski, Roberts, Stafford, Stephen, Stanley	Agar, Ali, Allcott, Barnes, Cookson, Cronin, Denham, Desayrah, Gregson, Lamb, Lawrance, Norfolk, Riaz, Udall	
Total: 21	Total: 14	Total: 0

23 Election of Deputy Mayor

Consideration of this item had been deferred at the Annual Council meeting.

The Council proceeded to consider the appointment of the Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

It was proposed by Councillor Piotrowski and seconded by Councillor Bisset that Councillor Stephen be nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor. Both Councillor Piotrowski and Councillor Bisset spoke in support of the nomination.

There were no further nominations. On being put to the vote it was agreed and

RESOLVED: That Councillor Stephen be elected as Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

24 Appointment of Joint Leaders of the Council

Consideration of the appointment of a Leader and Deputy Leader had been deferred at the Annual Council meeting.

The Council were advised by the Mayor that, pursuant to resolution 1 of minute 22 above, the Council should now proceed to consider nominations for the appointment of two Joint Leaders, one from each of the two largest political groups, rather than the appointment of a Leader and Deputy Leader.

It was proposed by Councillor Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Hassan that Councillor Bayliss be nominated.

There were no further nominations.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7.2 a named vote was requested and supported by four Members.

RESOLVED: That the Council agree that Councillor Bayliss be elected to the position of Joint Leader of the Council.

Record of Voting:

For: Councillors	Against: Councillors	Abstain: Councillors
Altaf, Amos, Bayliss, Cleary, A. Ditta, S. Ditta, Geraghty, Hassan, Mrs L. Hodgson, S. Hodgson, Mackay, Mitchell, Roberts, Stafford, Stanley	Agar, Ali, Allcott, Barnes, Cookson, Cronin, Denham, Desayrah, Gregson, Lamb, Lawrance, Norfolk, Riaz, Udall	Bisset, Cockeram, Laurenson, Lewing, Piotrowski, Stephen
Total: 15	Total: 14	Total: 6

25 Appointment of Members to Committees and Sub-Committees and Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs Etc.

Consideration of this item had been deferred at the Annual Council meeting.

The Council received details of nominations from Group Leaders for the appointment of Members to Policy Committees, Regulatory Committees, Joint Committees and Other Bodies. The Council considered the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs to those Committees.

RESOLVED: That the Council approve the appointment of Members to Policy Committees, Regulatory Committees, Joint Committees and Other Bodies and the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs as set out in Appendix 1 of the minutes.

Duration of the meeting: 7.00p.m. – 8.00p.m.

17th May 2022 **7**

Chair at the meeting on
5th July 2022

26 **APPENDIX 1****Worcester City Council - Membership Schedule 2022/23****Policy Committees**

POLICY & RESOURCES - MEMBERSHIP OF 13 – Meets 7 times per annum			
CONSERVATIVE - 6	LABOUR - 4	GREEN - 2	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 1
Councillor Bayliss	Councillor Agar	Councillor Bisset (Chair)	Councillor Allcott
Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson	Councillor Denham (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Stephen	
Councillor Mackay	Councillor Gregson		
Councillor Mitchell	Councillor Riaz		
Councillor Stafford			
Councillor Stanley (Vice-Chair)			
COMMUNITIES – MEMBERSHIP OF 11 – Meets 5 times per annum			
CONSERVATIVE – 5	LABOUR - 4	GREEN - 2	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 0
Councillor Cleary (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Ali	Councillor Laurenson	
Councillor Shafaz Ditta	Councillor DeSayrah	Councillor Piotrowski	
Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson	Councillor Lamb		
Councillor Stephen Hodgson	Councillor Riaz (Chair)		
Councillor Mackay			

ENVIRONMENT – MEMBERSHIP OF 11 - Meets 5 times per annum			
CONSERVATIVE - 5	LABOUR - 4	GREEN - 2	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 0
Councillor Altaf	Councillor Cookson	Councillor Bisset	
Councillor Cleary	Councillor Cronin	Councillor Lewing (Vice-Chair)	
Councillor Hassan	Councillor Norfolk		
Councillor Roberts	Councillor Udall		
Councillor Stafford (Chair)			
HEALTH AND WELLBEING – MEMBERSHIP OF 11 - Meets 5 times per annum			
CONSERVATIVE - 4	LABOUR - 4	GREEN - 2	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 1
Councillor Shafaz Ditta	Councillor Ali	Councillor Cockeram	Councillor Lawrance
Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson	Councillor Denham (Chair)	Councillor Piotrowski	
Councillor Stephen Hodgson (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Norfolk		
Councillor Stanley	Councillor Udall		
PLACE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – MEMBERSHIP OF 11 - Meets 5 times per annum			
CONSERVATIVE - 5	LABOUR - 4	GREEN - 2	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 0
Councillor Bayliss	Councillor Cronin	Councillor Laurenson	
Councillor Allah Ditta	Councillor DeSayrah	Councillor Lewing	
Councillor Geraghty	Councillor Gregson		
Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson (Chair)	Councillor Norfolk (Vice-Chair)		
Councillor Stanley			
INCOME GENERATION SUB – MEMBERSHIP OF 5 - Meets 5 times per annum			
CONSERVATIVE - 2	LABOUR - 2	GREEN - 1	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 0
Councillor Mackay (Vice-Chair)	Councillor DeSayrah	Councillor Stephen	
Councillor Mitchell	Councillor Riaz (Chair)		

PERSONNEL & GENERAL PURPOSES SUB - MEMBERSHIP OF 7 - 4 Meets 4 times per annum			
CONSERVATIVE - 3	LABOUR - 3	GREEN - 1	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 0
Councillor Bayliss	Councillor Cookson	Councillor Bisset	
Councillor Mitchell	Councillor Denham (Vice- Chair)		
Councillor Stanley (Chair)	Councillor Riaz		

Regulatory Committees

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
PLANNING - MEMBERSHIP OF 11 – Meets 12 times per annum			
CONSERVATIVE - 5	LABOUR - 3	GREEN - 2	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 1
Councillor Amos	Councillor Agar (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Bisset	Councillor Allcott
Councillor Cleary	Councillor Barnes	Councillor Lewing	
Councillor Shafaz Ditta	Councillor DeSayrah		
Councillor Mitchell (Chair)			
Councillor Roberts			
LICENSING & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – MEMBERSHIP OF 11 – Meets 4 times per annum LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – Meets 12 times per annum			
CONSERVATIVE - 4	LABOUR - 4	GREEN - 2	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 1
Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson	Councillor Agar	Councillor Cockeram	Councillor Lawrance
Councillor Stephen Hodgson	Councillor Barnes	Councillor Stephen (Vice-Chair)	
Councillor Mitchell	Councillor Cronin		
Councillor Stafford	Councillor Udall (Chair)		
AUDIT & GOVERNANCE – MEMBERSHIP OF 7 - Meets 4 times per annum			
CONSERVATIVE - 3	LABOUR - 2	GREEN - 1	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 1
Councillor Amos (Chair)	Councillor Barnes (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Piotrowski	Councillor Lawrance
Councillor Bayliss	Councillor Lamb		
Councillor Mackay			
STANDARDS – MEMBERSHIP OF 7 (plus up to 3 Co-opted Members and 4 Parish Council Representatives, 2 from each Parish Council) - Meets 3 times per annum			
CONSERVATIVE - 3	LABOUR - 2	GREEN - 1	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 1
Councillor Amos	Councillor Desayrah	Councillor Laurenson	Councillor Allcott (Chair)

Councillor Roberts (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Lamb		
Councillor Stanley			
Independent Members			
Mr Ray Needham			
Parish Council Representatives			
St. Peter the Great Parish	-	Mr Roger Knight	
St. Peter the Great Parish	-	Mr John Renshaw	
Warndon Parish	-	Mr Dave Carney	
Warndon Parish	-	Mrs Dawn Merriman	

Other Bodies (Not included in the political balance calculations)

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
JOINT MUSEUMS COMMITTEE – MEMBERSHIP OF 2 – Meets 4 times per annum			
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson	Councillor Agar		
WORCESTERSHIRE REGULATORY SERVICES BOARD – MEMBERSHIP OF 2 – Meets 4 times per annum			
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Councillor Mitchell	Councillor Cronin		
JOINT CONSULTATIVE & SAFETY COMMITTEE – MEMBERSHIP OF 4 – Meets 4 times per annum			
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson Councillor Bayliss	Councillor Cookson Councillor Denham		