



Worcester
CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

AGENDA

Date: Monday, 17th October, 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

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**

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
Monday, 17 October 2022

Members of the Council:-

Chair: The Mayor

Councillor Patricia Agar (LCo)
Councillor Basharat Ali (L)
Councillor Mel Allcott (LD)
Councillor Mohammad Altaf (C)
Councillor Alan Amos (C)
Councillor Jenny Barnes (LCo)
Councillor Marc Bayliss (C)
Councillor Marjory Bisset (G)
Councillor Owen Cleary (C)
Councillor Steve Cockeram (G)
Councillor Zoe Cookson (L)
Councillor Simon Cronin (L)
Councillor Lynn Denham (L)
Councillor Jill Desayrah (L)
Councillor Allah Ditta (C)
Councillor Shafaz Ditta (C)
Councillor Simon Geraghty (C)
Councillor Adrian Gregson (L)

Councillor Nida Hassan (C)
Councillor Mrs. Lucy Hodgson (C)
Councillor Stephen Hodgson (C)
Councillor Matthew Lamb (L)
Councillor Neil Laurenson (G)
Councillor Karen Lawrance (LD)
Councillor Karen Lewing (G)
Councillor Steve Mackay (C)
Councillor Chris Mitchell (C)
Councillor Robyn Norfolk (L)
Councillor Tom Piotrowski (G)
Councillor Jabbar Riaz (L)
Councillor Andrew Roberts (C)
Councillor Andy Stafford (C)
Councillor James Stanley (C)
Councillor Louis Stephen (G)
Councillor Richard Udall (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 Monday, 17th October, 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 meetings held on 5th July and 11th September 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.

6. **South Worcestershire Development Plan Review: Publication Consultation (Regulation 19)**

Page(s): 19 - 348

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Duncan Rudge, Head of Planning

That the Council:

1. approves the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) Publication consultation (Regulation 19) set out in the Appendices, for consultation from 01 November 2022 for six weeks;
2. authorises the Corporate Director – Planning and Governance in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Place and Economic Development Committee to make minor amendments to the SWDP Publication Consultation (Regulation 19) material prior to publication;
3. subject to the outcome of the Regulation 19 Publication consultation raising no material issues of concern on the soundness of the Plan, authorises the Corporate Director - Planning and Governance in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Place and Economic Development Committee to make minor modifications and submit the SWDP Review for Examination, in accordance with Section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 22(3) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, to the Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities;
4. as part of the Examination process, authorises the Corporate Director – Planning and Governance in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Place and Economic Development Committee to formally request that the appointed Inspector make recommendations to the Council for any main modifications to the SWDP Review that are considered necessary to make the Plan sound as per Regulation 20 (7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

7. **South Worcestershire Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Policy and Site Allocations Development Plan Document (TTS DPD) Publication: Regulation 19**

Page(s): 349 - 800

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Duncan Rudge, Head of Planning

That the Council:

1. approves the South Worcestershire Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Policy and Site Allocations Development Plan Document ("DPD") Publication: Regulation 19 set out at Appendix 1 for consultation from 01 November 2022 for six weeks;
2. authorises the Corporate Director – Planning and Governance in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Place and Economic Development Committee to make minor amendments to the South Worcestershire Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Policy and Site Allocations Development Plan Document Publication: Regulation 19 material prior to publication;
3. subject to the outcome of the Regulation 19 Publication consultation raising no material issues of concern on the soundness of the DPD, authorises the Corporate Director - Planning and Governance in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Place and Economic Development Committee to make minor modifications and submit the DPD for examination, in accordance with Section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 22(3) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, to the Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities;
4. as part of the Examination process, authorises the Corporate Director – Planning and Governance in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Place and Economic Development Committee to formally request that the appointed Inspector make recommendations to the Council for any main modifications to the DPD that are considered necessary to make the DPD sound as per Regulation 20 (7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

8. **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.

9. **Notice of Motion**

To consider any Notices of Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8.

1. Bulky Waste Collection

Council is concerned about the cost-of-living crisis having a new impact on fly tipping, with the cost of bulky waste collection becoming a disincentive for many residents. Council calls upon the Managing Director to bring reports to the relevant Council Committees, to consider the costs, consequences and benefits of a universal, pre-booked, free household bulky waste collection service for Worcester residents, which will enable elected councillors to consider options and determine what action, if any, to take.

Proposed by: Councillor Udall

2. Bus Services Within the City Boundaries

Council calls upon the Managing Director to bring reports to relevant Council Committees to enable City Councillors to consider costs and options for either free or reduced price bus services within the city boundaries during December, including weekends and evenings, which would help promote bus use and support key workers, local retailers and their employees, and businesses.

Proposed by: Councillor Norfolk

3. Proportional Representation for General Elections

First Past the Post (FPTP) originated when land-owning aristocrats dominated parliament and voting was restricted to property-owning men. In Europe, only the UK and authoritarian Belarus still use archaic single-round FPTP for general elections. Meanwhile, internationally, Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect parliaments in more than 80 countries. Those countries tend to be more equal, freer and greener.

PR ensures all votes count, have equal value, and those seats won match votes cast. Under PR, MPs and Parliaments better reflect the age, gender and protected characteristics of local communities and the nation.

MPs better reflecting their communities leads to improved decision-making, wider participation and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.

PR would also end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. PR also prevents 'wrong winner' elections such as occurred in 1951 and February 1974.

PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. So why not Westminster?

Council therefore resolves to mandate the Managing Director to write to H.M. Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for general elections.

Proposed by: Councillor Allcott

4. Worcester Warriors Rugby Club

This Council notes with dismay the financial mismanagement of the Worcester Warriors Rugby Club that has come to light in recent months and has led to the ownership of the club being taken away and transferred to the Joint Administrators of Julie Palmer, Julian Pitts and Andrew Hook all of Begbies Traynor (Central) LLP.

Since the WRFC Trading Limited entered administration on 27th September horror stories have emerged of a complicated series of financial dealings that have transferred the property assets of WRFC Trading into the hands of a tangled web of Third Parties including Militibus Quanco (subsequently renamed Worcester Sport in August 2020), MQ Properties, and Link Corporate

Trustees. It has also emerged that the players and staff are employed by yet another company WRFC Players Limited, that was wound up by the High Court on 5th October leaving the playing staff unemployed.

In a rapidly developing situation welcome news was received on 6th October that the Joint administrators have confirmed they have seized Sixways land from club's co-owners and would be included as part the future sale of the Worcester Warriors Rugby Club. On the same day Premiership Rugby has confirmed that the club are suspended for remainder of the 2022/23 season and will be relegated to the Championship for the 2023/24 season.

Therefore, the Council agrees to:

1. Request the Managing Director to write to Julie Palmer and her fellow Administrators at Begbies Traynor (Central) LLP to thank them for their work in the handling the administration process
2. Request the Managing Director to write to Simon Massie-Taylor, the Chief Executive of Premiership Rugby to reconsider the decision to demote Worcester Warriors to the Championship for the 2023/24 season, and to allow the option of any future owners to field a team in the current playing season
3. Provide encouragement in supporting any potential investors to find a positive outcome for the future of Worcester Warriors
4. Request the Managing Director to write to Robin Walker MP to ask the DCMS to extend the scope of the proposed independent football regulator, to cover other professional spectator team sports including Rugby Union
5. Request the Managing Director to write to Steve Diamond, the Director of Rugby at the Worcester Warriors, to thank him for his efforts in helping the playing staff in these difficult times
6. That Worcester City Council will engage in some commercial activity to financially assist the club that is appropriate; this could include hiring club owned facilities, advertising boards at Sixways, advertisement in the matchday programme or on the big screens.

Proposed by: Councillor Stephen Hodgson

5. Climate and Ecology Bill

Worcester City Council resolves to:

1. Support the Climate and Ecology Bill;
2. Mandate the Managing Director to write to our local MP Robin Walker informing him that the motion has been passed and urging him to sign up to support the Bill;
3. Mandate the Managing Director to write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the Bill, expressing the Council's support for the Climate and Ecology Bill.

Proposed by: Councillor Lewing

6. Investment Zones

This Council believes a transition to a fairer, greener local economy can be achieved with targeted investment in renewable energy, building insulation,

public transport and nature recovery. We are concerned that Government plans for Investment Zones, far from supporting such a transition, could actually set them back, whilst undermining local control of planning. We note the Open Letter to the Prime Minister signed by 78 leaders of nature, conservation and humanitarian organisations and charities, which states that “proposals to weaken environmental planning rules in “Investment Zones” around the country would be... misconceived”.

This Council therefore resolves to call on Worcestershire County Council to:

- Make plain their commitment to local control of planning.
- Make plain that they will continue to insist on existing environmental protections and nature recovery rules – as a minimum.

Where council leaders insist on submitting ‘Expressions of Interest’ forms, we call on them to declare that they will:

- Not accept a reduction in affordable housing as a percentage of overall development in their area.
- Refuse to provide a simple ‘Yes’ to the question “Do you agree in principle to ensure outstanding planning matters impeding early delivery are brought to resolution to an accelerated timetable (enabling additional delivery within the next two years)?
- Refuse to provide a simple ‘Yes’ to the request to “confirm whether you will agree in principle to using a new streamlined overarching planning system”.

Open Letter to the Prime Minister: <https://www.wcl.org.uk/open-letter-to-pm-on-environmental-deregulation.asp>

Proposed by: Councillor Bisset

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.

10.1 Referral Report from Standards Committee - Standards Committee Annual Report

Page(s): 801 - 808

Ward(s): All Wards

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

That the Council receives the Standards Committee Annual Report 2021/22.

10.2 Referral Report from Income Generation Sub-Committee - Electrical Vehicle Charging Prices

Page(s): 809 - 814

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Kevin Moore, Head of Property and Asset Management
Tel: 01905 722251

That the Council approves the charges proposed within this report.

11. **Amendments to the Constitution**

Page(s): 815 - 818

Ward(s): All Wards

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

That Council approves, with immediate effect, the amendments to the Constitution set out in this report and authorises the Corporate Director - Planning and Governance to make the necessary drafting changes to the Constitution.

12. **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.

13. **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)**

14. **Any Exempt Issues**
To consider any exempt matters which might arise.

David Blake
Managing Director
Guildhall
Worcester WR1 2EY
Date: 7th October 2022