



Worcester
CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

AGENDA

Date: Tuesday, 20th February, 2024

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. For evening meetings, please use the accessible entrance door on the right side of the forecourt. The nearest car park is Copenhagen Street (pay and display). The nearest bike stand for cyclists is in Copenhagen Street, opposite The Kiln.

If you are a wheelchair user or have restricted mobility, access to the Guildhall can be gained through the accessible entrance door on the forecourt. There is dedicated accessible parking at the rear (access via Copenhagen Street). Most meetings are held on the ground floor, which can be reached by using a lift.

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: worchester.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@worchester.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
Tuesday, 20 February 2024

Members of the Council:-

Chair: The Mayor

Councillor Patricia Agar (LCo)	Councillor Stephen Hodgson (C)
Councillor Basharat Ali (L)	Councillor Jessie Jagger (LD)
Councillor Mel Allcott (LD)	Councillor Matthew Lamb (L)
Councillor Mohammad Altaf (C)	Councillor Neil Laurenson (G)
Councillor Alan Amos (C)	Councillor Karen Lawrance (LD)
Councillor Marjory Bisset (G)	Councillor Karen Lewing (G)
Councillor Owen Cleary (C)	Councillor Sarah Murray (LD)
Councillor Steve Cockeram (G)	Councillor Robyn Norfolk (L)
Councillor Katie Collier (G)	Councillor Tor Pingree (G)
Councillor Zoe Cookson (L)	Councillor Tom Piotrowski (G)
Councillor Hannah Cooper (G)	Councillor Jabbar Riaz (L)
Councillor Andrew Cross (G)	Councillor Elena Round (G)
Councillor Lynn Denham (L)	Councillor Atif Sadiq (L)
Councillor Jill Desayrah (L)	Councillor Sue Smith (L)
Councillor Shafaz Ditta (C)	Councillor James Stanley (C)
Councillor Simon Geraghty (C)	Councillor Louis Stephen (G)
Councillor Adrian Gregson (L)	Councillor Richard Udall (L)
	Councillor Elaine Willmore (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 Tuesday, 20th February, 2024 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 - 22
Of the meeting held on 28th November 2023 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. **Questions**

The Joint Leaders 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.

7. **Notice of Motion**

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

Flooding

This council notes that:

1. Climate change means that Worcester and the River Severn catchment experience periods of more intense rainfall causing more frequent and costly floods;
2. The flooding disrupts residents trying to go about their daily lives, and afterwards, when the water has receded, buildings need to dry out and the public realm and street infrastructure need to be cleaned. This work diverts council staff from their usual roles and, as floods become more frequent and more severe, other council services are increasingly impacted; and
3. The financial support from the government for the public sector to carry out this work is not adequate. Sometimes no funding is made available at all. It is not fair for the council to have to use our ever-dwindling reserves.

This council therefore resolves to:

Ask the Managing Director to write to the government:

- a) to ask the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to overhaul the funding arrangements and provide guaranteed levels of flood recovery funding for our city with the level of funding to be regularly reviewed in line with the frequency of flooding;
- b) to ask the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs to implement natural flood management techniques along the length of the Severn so that rainwater can be absorbed rather than flow out to sea; and
- c) to call for the River Severn Partnership to be given a renewed purpose and funding base which can benefit Worcester at a local level, or otherwise look into setting up another cross-council working group of stakeholders to actively involve Worcester in discussions with other frequently flooded towns and cities along the River Severn (such as Shrewsbury, Bewdley and Tewkesbury), to bring together

experience and voices to work together, to implement meaningful and rapid local improvements while working together on long-term changes throughout the River Severn valley.

Proposed by: Councillor Lewing

Debate Not Hate

The increasing intimidation and abuse of councillors, both in person and online, is eroding democratic principles. Such behaviour undermines the ability of elected representatives to serve their communities effectively, dissuades potential candidates from participating in elections, and corrodes the democratic processes that form the foundation of public life.

This Motion is brought to seek commitment from across the Council Chamber to civility in public life and a safe and respectful working environment for councillors.

This Motion is aligned with the principle of fostering a healthy, respectful, and inclusive political environment. It upholds the values of safeguarding democracy, ensuring elected officials can perform their roles without fear, and promoting civic engagement free from harassment and intimidation. Alongside this it supports our goals of equality and diversity in local politics by ensuring that all candidates feel safe and supported when standing for election.

Recent training for Worcester city councillors on civility in public life has highlighted the Local Government Association's current national campaigns as well as the important role that we can all play as individuals to set the right standards of respectful debate.

This Council resolves:

- (1) To actively support the LGA's Debate Not Hate campaign and their ongoing work on Civility in Public Life. The LGA campaigns aim to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in local communities, encourage healthy debate, and improve the response to and support those in public life facing abuse and intimidation;
- (2) To ask the Council's Standards Committee to ensure there are clear reporting and review mechanisms in relation to the abuse, intimidation and public safety of councillors, and that information is shared with other agencies as appropriate so that decisive actions can be taken; and
- (3) To ask the Council's four Political Group Leaders to show their support of a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of councillors and officers, and their support to promoting respectful debate and civility in public life.

Proposed by: Councillor Collier

8. **Report from the Relevant Committee on Matters which are Referred to Council for Decision**

To consider motions to adopt reports on matters which by law or in accordance with the Constitution are referred to Council.

8.1 Referral Report from Policy and Resources Committee 6th February 2024 - Proposed Budget 2024/25 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-2029

Page(s): 23 - 118

Ward(s): All Wards

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

1. That Council approves the proposed Budget and Council Tax for 2024/25 as set out in this report. In particular:-
 - a. The Budget Requirement for Worcester City Council (excluding Parish Precepts) 2023/24 at £12,728,175;
 - b. The Council Tax Requirement for Worcester City Council (excluding Parish Precepts) 2023/24 at £7,021,078; and
 - c. The Band D Council Tax for Worcester City Council (excluding Parish Precepts) at £213.08.
2. That Council approves the Council Tax Resolution 2024/25 set out at Appendix 9 (*to follow*).
3. That Council approves the proposed Budget for 2024/25 as detailed in the following appendices:
 - i. the summary budget 2024/25 as set out at Appendix 1
 - ii. the detailed Budget 2024/25 as set out in the Budget Book at Appendix 2
 - iii. the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 3
 - iv. the Pay Policy Statement 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 4
 - v. the detailed Fees and Charges 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 5 and in Appendix 5a (exempt item).
4. That Council approve the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan for the next five-year period 2024/25 – 2028/29 as detailed in Appendix 1 and the forecast Earmarked Reserves balance at 31 March 2024 as set out in Appendix 7.
5. That Council approve the proposed Capital Programme and Capital Financing as set out in Appendix 6.
6. That Council endorse the list of revenue projects proposed by the Policy Committees in Appendix 8.

8.2 Referral Report from Policy and Resources Committee 6th February 2024 - Savings Plan - St Martin's Gate Multi Storey Car Park - LED Lighting Retrofit

Page(s): 119 - 124

Ward(s): Cathedral

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

That the Council agrees an adjustment to the Capital Programme to include £55k funding for this project.

8.3 Referral Report from Policy and Resources Committee 6th February 2024 - Council Tax - Second Homes Premium

Page(s): 125 - 130

Ward(s): All Wards

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

That the Council agrees that from 1 April 2025 properties classed as second homes be charged a Council Tax premium equivalent to 100% of the Council Tax and that the Corporate Director - Finance and Resources be authorised to agree individual exemptions based on government guidance.

8.4 Referral Report from Joint Consultative and Safety Committee 29th November 2023 - Employees' Code of Conduct

Page(s): 131 - 154

Ward(s): All Wards

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

That the Council agrees to adopt the amended Employees' Code of Conduct at Appendix 1, as part 14 of the Constitution.

9. **Independent Remuneration Panel Recommendation for Members' Allowances 2024/25**

Page(s): 155 - 172

Ward(s): All Wards

Contact Officer: Claire Chaplin, Democratic and Civic Services Manager
Tel: 01905 722005

1. That the Council note and consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Members' Allowances; and
2. That the Council adopt a Scheme for Members' Allowances from 1st April 2024.

10. **Appointment of a Member to Planning Committee**

Page(s): 173 - 174

Ward(s): All Wards

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

That the Council agree a change to appointments of members to Committees for 2023/24.

11. **Report of the Heritage Champion**

Page(s): 175 - 178

To receive the report of the Heritage Champion.

12. **Report from the Joint Leaders of the Council on Any Matters Which They Are of the Opinion Require Urgent Consideration by the Council**
To receive a report, if necessary.
13. **Any Exempt Issues**
To consider any exempt matters which might arise.
14. **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)**

15. **Fees and Charges 2024/25 (Exempt Items)**
Page(s): 179 - 182
Ward(s): All Wards
Contact Officer: Shane Flynn, Corporate Director – Finance and Resources
Tel: 01905 722536

To consider the proposed fees and charges for Building Control, Trade Refuse and some Licensing charges which are classed as exempt items as they are commercially sensitive.

(Exempt – not for publication because the items contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the authority holding that information – Paragraph 3).

David Blake
Managing Director
Guildhall
Worcester WR1 2EY
Date: 12th February 2024