



Worcester
CITY COUNCIL

EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL

AGENDA

Date: Tuesday, 16th May, 2023

Time: On the rising of the meeting of the Annual Council, which will start at 7.00p.m.

Venue: The Guildhall, High Street, Worcester WR1 2EY

EXTRA ORDINARY 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.

**Extra Ordinary Council
Tuesday, 16 May 2023**

Members of the Council:-

Chair: The Mayor

Councillor Patricia Agar (LCo)	Councillor Jessie Jagger (LD)
Councillor Basharat Ali (L)	Councillor Matthew Lamb (L)
Councillor Mel Allcott (LD)	Councillor Neil Laurenson (G)
Councillor Mohammad Altaf (C)	Councillor Karen Lawrance (LD)
Councillor Alan Amos (C)	Councillor Karen Lewing (G)
Councillor Marjory Bisset (G)	Councillor Sarah Murray (LD)
Councillor Owen Cleary (C)	Councillor Robyn Norfolk (L)
Councillor Steve Cockeram (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 Andrew Roberts (C)
Councillor Lynn Denham (L)	Councillor Elena Round (G)
Councillor Jill Desayrah (L)	Councillor Atif Sadiq (L)
Councillor Shafaz Ditta (C)	Councillor Sue Smith (L)
Councillor Simon Geraghty (C)	Councillor James Stanley (C)
Councillor Adrian Gregson (L)	Councillor Louis Stephen (G)
Councillor Stephen Hodgson (C)	Councillor Richard Udall (L)

C= Conservative G = Green L = Labour LCo = Labour and Co-operative
LD = Liberal Democrat

Plus one vacancy

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, 16th May, 2023 on the rising of the meeting of the Annual Council, which will start at 7.00p.m., 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. Public Participation**

Up to a total of fifteen minutes can be allowed, each speaker being allocated 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.

4. **Notice of Motion**

Page(s): 1 - 12

Ward(s): All Wards

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

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8:

Changes to the Constitution and Appointments of Members

Proposed by: Councillor Denham

David Blake
Managing Director
Guildhall
Worcester WR1 2EY
Date: 5th May 2023

Motion to Council 16 May 2023**Cllr Lynn Denham****Changes to the Constitution and appointments of Members****Introduction**

Following the elections on 4 May, the Council remains in a position of no overall control but the political composition of the Council has changed.

This Motion proposes certain amendments to the Constitution and consequential appointments of Members to reflect power-sharing arrangements which are considered appropriate to the resulting political composition of the Council.

The Group Leaders Protocol stipulates that it should be reviewed every time that the political balance of the Council changes.

This Motion also proposes the cessation of the Income Management Sub-Committee with immediate effect. This is proposed as a measure to reduce the administrative burden of the committee meeting cycle on councillors and officers.

Amendments

The amendments proposed to the Articles (Part 2), Group Leaders Protocol (Part 15) and Responsibility for Functions (Part 3) are set out in the Appendices to this Motion. In summary the purpose of the amendments is:

- (1) To reinstate the principle, removed from the Constitution last May, that the Council should have a Leader and Deputy Leader, even in cases of no overall control. Accordingly, to remove the principle of Joint Leaders;
- (2) To ensure that, when there is no overall control, the Leader of the Council is appointed by Council from the largest Political Group;
- (3) To ensure that the Deputy Leader of the Council is appointed on a basis of a vote of Council, irrespective of whether there is political control or no overall control;
- (4) To delete references to the Income Management Sub-Committee in the Constitution's Part 3 - Responsibility for Functions. Because it is a sub-committee of Policy and Resources Committee, there is no need to re-state its functions anywhere else in the Constitution.

Therefore, Council agrees that, with immediate effect:

1. The Articles, Part 2 of the Constitution, be amended in the terms set out in Appendix 1, so as to remove the references to Joint Leaders and instead insert new references to the process for appointment of the Leader and Deputy Leader even in cases of no overall control;

2. The Group Leaders Protocol, Part 15 of the Constitution, be amended in the terms set out in Appendix 2, to reflect the new political balance of the Council;
3. The Responsibility for Functions, Part 3, be amended to remove all references to the Income Management Sub-Committee and its functions;
4. The Monitoring Officer is instructed to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution to give effect to these decisions;
5. The Council now proceed to make the requisite Member appointments in accordance with these new arrangements.

Appendix 1**Articles (extract)**

Proposed amendments shown in track changes

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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 from the largest Political Group 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.~~

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Appendix 2

Group Leaders Protocol

Proposed amendments shown in track changes

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PART 15

GROUP LEADERS' PROTOCOL

WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL
GROUP LEADERS' PROTOCOL

1. Scope

- 1.1 This protocol shall be used to provide political stability at Worcester City Council and to assist in the management of the corporate governance of the Council, supporting the effective operation of the Committee system. These conventions reflect the agreement of the Political Groups as to the general conduct of Council business. This version of the protocol shall take effect from the meeting of Annual Council on ~~17-16~~ May ~~2022~~2023.
- 1.2 This protocol forms part of the Council's Constitution and it is intended that it remains in force until the Council resolves to amend or revoke it. It is intended to set out binding commitments but it shall always be read in conjunction with the Articles and other provisions of the Constitution. In the event of any conflict of interpretation, the Articles shall take precedence.
- 1.3 This protocol may be reviewed at any time at the request of any of the Political Groups and shall in any event be reviewed by Council at any time when the political balance of the Council changes.

2. The Leader of the Council

- 2.1 The Leader of the Council will be appointed annually by Council from the largest Political Group.
- 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.

6. Distribution of Seats on Committees and Sub-committees

6.1 Seats on the Council's Committees are allocated on a proportionate basis in accordance with the political balance calculations.

7. Shared Services Joint Committees

7.1 Seats on the Joint Committees are allocated to constituent members on a pro-rata basis.

8. Political Group briefings with the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT)

8.1 The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council will meet with and receive briefings from CLT and other officers as frequently as required. In addition, wider briefings for all Political Groups will provide the opportunity for a regular update and discussion on key issues facing the Council, with the overall aim of supporting the Committee agenda planning process.

8.2 Political Groups/CLT briefings are a non-decision making forum operating without delegated powers. Any formal decisions that are required will need to be referred to the relevant Committee. Meetings shall be held at least monthly to a pre-agreed schedule.

- 8.3 Political Group/CLT briefings shall be attended by the Leaders of all Political Groups and their deputies and members of CLT. The meetings shall be chaired by the Leader of the Council.
- 8.4 Briefings to Political Groups/CLT are prepared by members of CLT or relevant officers within their service areas. Other officers may be invited to Political Groups/CLT briefings by the relevant CLT member.
- 8.5 It has been a long-standing convention that Political Groups/CLT meetings are confidential and that agendas and reports from these briefings will not be available to anyone other than those attending the meeting. Furthermore, items on the agenda are not to be the subject of press comment without prior agreement of the Leader/Deputy Leader/CLT.

9. Media and Communications; Resources

- 9.1 The Leader and the Deputy Leader have the authority to speak on behalf of the Council in relation to media enquiries, with advice from the Council's Communications Team and CLT.
- 9.2 Press releases are to be prepared by the Council's Communications Team in consultation with the Chair and the Vice Chair of the relevant Committee working together. The Leader/ Deputy Leader are to sign off to meet press deadlines unless they have agreed to delegate the sign off to the Chair and Vice Chair of the relevant committee. Where sign off cannot be obtained by the Leader/ Deputy Leader within the requested time frame, the Managing Director shall be required to sign off the press release.
- 9.3 Where a member of a Political Group chooses to speak to the media in relation to Council business, the member must make it clear in which capacity they are speaking.
- 9.4 Communications from central government and other public sector partners, the Local Government Association and invitations to external events (i.e. LGA conference, SOLACE etc.) shall be shared with the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Leader of the Council and with other Political Groups where appropriate.
- 9.5 When there is no overall political control, the following principles for media briefings and press releases will be applied:
- Media briefings and press releases will be shared on an equal and fair basis;
 - Media briefings and press releases should, wherever possible, include a quotation from the Leader and the Deputy Leader, or Chair and Vice Chair of the relevant Committee as appropriate;
 - Broadcast media may only have an opportunity for one spokesperson on a particular matter. Such opportunities shall be offered by the Communications Team on a rotational basis.
- 9.6 When there is no overall political control, the Leader and the Deputy Leader shall have an equal right to coverage in City Life Magazine. The Chairs of Committees shall, following consultation with the Leader and the Deputy Leader, be entitled to coverage in City Life Magazine.

9.7 When there is no overall political control, the Leader and Deputy Leader shall have an equal right to the use of office accommodation at the Guildhall and an equal right to administrative support in the discharge of their duties.

10. Corporate priorities and initiatives

10.1 The Political Groups shall work collaboratively on existing corporate priorities and initiatives where there is common ground.

10.2 The Political Groups shall work together to identify and agree new initiatives and priorities where there is a common interest.

11. Code of Conduct

11.1 The Party Leaders have agreed that to re-emphasise the importance of high standards of Members Conduct that Party Leaders will personally support the enforcement of high standards of Member Conduct and this agreement is intended to emphasise the importance of the Member/Officer Protocol and the Local Code of Conduct for Members and the desire to see them rigorously upheld.

In recognition of the need to maintain political stability at Worcester City Council and to assist in the management of the corporate governance of the Council, we the undersigned shall uphold these conventions.

Signed by	Signed by	Signed by	Signed by
Marc Bayliss Conservative Party	Lynn Denham Labour Party	Louis Stephen Green Party	Mel Allcott Liberal Democrats
Date	Date	Date	Date

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