

EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL

16th May 2023

Present: **The Mayor, Councillor Louis Stephen, in the Chair**

Councillors Agar, Ali, Allcott, Altaf, Amos, Bisset, Cleary, Cockeram, Cookson, Cooper, Cross, Denham, Desayrah, Ditta, Geraghty, Gregson, Hodgson, Jagger, Lamb, Laurenson, Lawrance, Lewing, Murray, Norfolk, Pingree, Piotrowski, Riaz, Roberts, Round, Sadiq, Smith, Stanley and Udall

18 Apologies for Absence

None.

19 Declarations of Interest

None.

20 Public Participation

Francis Lankester spoke in respect of item 21 (Notice of Motion). In summary, he did not support the principle of Joint Leaders and he spoke in support of appointing a Leader and Deputy Leader.

21 Notice of Motion

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

Changes to the Constitution and Appointments of Members

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.

The proposer, Councillor Denham, spoke in support of the Motion. The Motion was seconded by Councillor Riaz, who also spoke. Members of the Council proceeded to debate the Motion.

In accordance with the rules set out in the Constitution, Councillor Bisset proposed the following amendment:

Delete items 1 and 2 above.

Amend item 3 above to read as follows: "The Income Management Sub-Committee shall be suspended and no appointment made to the Sub-Committee until there has been a review of its functions, which shall be reported back to Council after the by-election for Simon Cronin's seat has been held. The Monitoring Officer is instructed to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution to give effect to this decision."

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Piotrowski. Members then proceeded to debate the amendment. On being put to the vote, the amendment was lost.

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

Record of Voting:

For:	Against:	Abstain:
Councillors Bisset, Cockeram, Cooper, Cross, Laurenson, Lewing, Pingree, Piotrowski, Round, Stephen	Councillors Agar, Ali, Allcott, Altaf, Amos, Cleary, Cookson, Denham, Desayrah, Ditta, Geraghty, Gregson, Hodgson, Jagger, Lamb, Lawrance, Murray, Norfolk, Riaz, Roberts, Sadiq, Smith, Stanley, Udall	
Total: 10	Total: 24	Total: 0

Members then proceeded to debate the Motion, as submitted. On being put to the vote, the Motion was lost.

22 Appointment of Leader(s) of the Council

Consideration of the appointment of Leader(s) had been deferred at the Annual Council meeting. The Council proceeded to consider nominations for the appointment of two Joint Leaders, one from each of the two largest political groups, in accordance with the Constitution.

It was proposed by Councillor Riaz and seconded by Councillor Udall that Councillor Denham be nominated.

It was proposed by Councillor Laurenson and seconded by Councillor Piotrowski that Councillor Bisset be nominated.

There were no further nominations.

Upon being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED: That the Council agree that Councillors Denham and Bisset be elected as Joint Leaders of the Council.

The Mayor then proposed that the meeting be adjourned in accordance with the rules of debate for Council meetings as set out in the Constitution. The Council reconvened after an adjournment of 15 minutes.

23 Political Balance on Committees and Sub-Committees

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

The Council received the report of the Monitoring Officer seeking Council's approval of the allocation of seats between the political groups for the Municipal Year 2023/24. The Monitoring Officer clarified that the Income Management Sub-Committee would be included in the calculations, with a membership of 5. The allocation of seats was Labour 2, Green 2, Conservative 1.

It was proposed by Councillor Bisset and seconded by Councillor Piotrowski and on being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED: That the Council agree the allocation of seats between political groups for the Municipal Year 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 1 of the minutes.

24 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 2 of the minutes.

Duration of the meeting: 7.55p.m. – 9.29p.m.

Chair at the meeting on
11th July 2023

25 APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1 - POLITICAL BALANCE CALCULATIONS MAY 2023

Con Lab Green Lib-Dem Total
 8 12 10 4 34

Places per Committee

Percentage share (rule D):

	TOTAL	CON	LAB	GREEN	LIB-DEM		CON	LAB	GREEN	LIB-DEM	Total
Policy & Resources	13	3	4	4	2	13	23.1	30.8	30.8	15.4	100.0
P&GP	7	2	3	1	1	7	28.6	42.9	14.3	14.3	100.0
Income Management	5	1	2	2	0	5	20.0	40.0	40.0	0.0	100.0
Communities	11	3	4	3	1	11	27.3	36.4	27.3	9.1	100.0
Environment	11	2	4	4	1	11	18.2	36.4	36.4	9.1	100.0
Health & Wellbeing	11	2	4	4	1	11	18.2	36.4	36.4	9.1	100.0
Place & Econ. Dev.	11	3	4	3	1	11	27.3	36.4	27.3	9.1	100.0
Planning	11	3	4	3	1	11	27.3	36.4	27.3	9.1	100.0
Licencing	11	2	4	3	2	11	18.2	36.4	27.3	18.2	100.0
Audit & Governance	7	2	2	2	1	7	28.6	28.6	28.6	14.3	100.0
Standards	7	2	2	2	1	7	28.6	28.6	28.6	14.3	100.0
	105	25	37	31	12						

ACTUAL %

23.8 35.2 29.5 11.4

TARGET % (rule C)

23.5 35.3 29.4 11.8 23.5 35.3 29.4 11.8

DIFFERENCE

0.3 -0.1 0.1 -0.3

% difference

1% 0% 0% -3%

26 **APPENDIX 2**

APPENDIX 2 - WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL - APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES 2023/24

Policy Committees

POLICY & RESOURCES - MEMBERSHIP OF 13 - Meets 7 times per annum			
LABOUR - 4	GREEN - 4	CONSERVATIVE - 3	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 2
Lynn Denham - Vice Chair	Steve Cockeram	James Stanley - Chair	Mel Allcott
Jabba Riaz	Elena Round	Andy Roberts	Sarah Murray
Adrian Gregson	Tom Piotrowski	Stephen Hodgson	
Robyn Norfolk	Marjory Bisset - Vice Chair		
COMMUNITIES - MEMBERSHIP OF 11 - Meets 5 times per annum			
LABOUR - 4	GREEN - 3	CONSERVATIVE - 3	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 1
Jabba Riaz - Chair	Tom Piotrowski	Alan Amos	Karen Lawrance
Matt Lamb	Hannah Cooper	Shafaz Ditta	
Basharat Ali	Neil Laurenson - Vice Chair	Mohammad Altaf	
Jill DeSayrah			
ENVIRONMENT - MEMBERSHIP OF 11 - Meets 5 times per annum			
LABOUR - 4	GREEN - 4	CONSERVATIVE - 2	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 1
Richard Udall	Marjory Bisset	Andy Roberts	Jessie Jagger
Atif Sadiq	Hannah Cooper	Owen Cleary	
Sue Smith	Andrew Cross		
Zoe Cookson - Vice Chair	Karen Lewing - Chair		

HEALTH AND WELLBEING – MEMBERSHIP OF 11 - Meets 5 times per annum			
LABOUR - 4	GREEN - 4	CONSERVATIVE - 2	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 1
Lynn Denham - Chair	Neil Laurenson	Stephen Hodgson - Vice Chair	Sarah Murray
Richard Udall	Louis Stephen	Shafaz Ditta	
Atif Sadiq	Steve Cockeram		
Basharat Ali	Tor Pingree		
PLACE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT- MEMBERSHIP OF 11 - Meets 5 times per annum			
LABOUR - 4	GREEN - 3	CONSERVATIVE - 3	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 1
Adrian Gregson	Hannah Cooper	James Stanley	Jessie Jagger
Jabba Riaz	Elena Round	Owen Cleary - Vice Chair	
Robyn Norfolk - Chair	Karen Lewing	Simon Geraghty	
Jill DeSayrah			
INCOME MANAGEMENT SUB – MEMBERSHIP OF 5 – Meets 5 times per annum			
Adrian Gregson	Elena Round	James Stanley - Chair	
Jabba Riaz - Vice Chair	Tom Piotrowski		
PERSONNEL & GENERAL PURPOSES SUB – MEMBERSHIP OF 7 – Meets 4 times per annum			
LABOUR - 3	GREEN - 1	CONSERVATIVE - 2	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 1
Lynn Denham	Steve Cockeram - Chair	James Stanley - Vice Chair	Sarah Murray
Jabba Riaz		Simon Geraghty	
Zoe Cookson			

Regulatory Committees

PLANNING - MEMBERSHIP OF 11 – Meets 12 times per annum			
LABOUR - 4	GREEN - 3	CONSERVATIVE - 3	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 1
Pat Agar - Vice Chair	Karen Lewing – Chair	Alan Amos	Mel Allcott
Richard Udall	Andrew Cross	Shafaz Ditta	
Jill DeSayrah	Elena Round	Owen Cleary	
Sue Smith			
LICENSING & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – MEMBERSHIP OF 11 – Meets 4 times per annum; LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – Meets 12 times per annum			
LABOUR - 4	GREEN - 3	CONSERVATIVE - 2	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 2
Richard Udall - Chair	Louis Stephen	Stephen Hodgson	Mel Allcott – Vice Chair
Pat Agar	Andrew Cross	James Stanley	Karen Lawrance
Robyn Norfolk	Tor Pingree		
Sue Smith			
AUDIT & GOVERNANCE – MEMBERSHIP OF 7 - Meets 4 times per annum			
LABOUR - 2	GREEN - 2	CONSERVATIVE - 2	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 1
Matt Lamb	Tom Piotrowski – Vice Chair	Alan Amos – Chair	Jessie Jagger
Zoe Cookson	Tor Pingree	Owen Cleary	

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			
LABOUR - 2	GREEN - 2	CONSERVATIVE - 2	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 1
Matt Lamb	Marjory Bissett	Andy Roberts	Karen Lawrance - Chair
Jill DeSayrah – Vice Chair	Neil Laurenson	Mohammad Altaf	
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)

JOINT MUSEUMS COMMITTEE – MEMBERSHIP OF 2 – Meets 4 times per annum			
LABOUR	GREEN	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Pat Agar Adrian Gregson			
WORCESTERSHIRE REGULATORY SERVICES BOARD – MEMBERSHIP OF 2 – Meets 4 times per annum			
LABOUR	GREEN	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Jabba Riaz			Mel Allcott
JOINT CONSULTATIVE & SAFETY COMMITTEE – MEMBERSHIP OF 4 – Meets 4 times per annum			
LABOUR	GREEN	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Lynn Denham	Tom Piotrowski	Shafaz Ditta	Jessie Jagger

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