

EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL

14th May 2024

Present: **The Mayor, Councillor Mel Allcott, in the Chair**

Councillors Agar, Ali, Amos, Barnes, Cockeram, Collier, Cookson, Cooper, Cross, Denham, Desayrah, Gregson, Hussain, Jagger, Kimberley, Kinnersley, Lamb, Laurenson, Lawrance, Lewing, Mace, Murray, Norfolk, Pingree, Riaz, Round, Rudge, Sadiq, Scott, Smith, Sobczyk, Stephen, Udall and Willmore

17 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

18 **Public Participation**

None.

19 **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:

Motion 1 - Changes to the Constitution and Appointments of Members: Motion on the Appointment of Leader and Deputy Leader

Introduction

Following the elections on 2 May, the political composition of the Council has changed. This Motion proposes certain amendments to the Constitution and consequential appointments of Members to reflect leadership 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.

Amendments

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

- (1) To remove the concept of, and all references to, Joint Leaders of the Council and remove related provisions relating to the rights and responsibilities of Joint Leaders;
- (2) To ensure that, when there is no overall political control, the Leader of the Council is appointed solely on a basis of a vote of Council, and to remove the qualifying requirement that the Leader should be appointed from the largest Political Group on the Council;

- (3) To ensure that, when there is no overall political control, the Deputy Leader of the Council is appointed solely on the basis of a vote of Council and to remove the qualifying requirement that the Deputy Leader should be appointed from the second largest Political Group on the Council;

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 delete Article 6A. This will have the effect of removing all references to Joint Leaders and reinstating one process for the appointment of the Leader and Deputy Leader, on a simple vote of Council, which applies irrespective of the overall political control of the Council;
2. The Group Leaders Protocol, Part 15 of the Constitution, be amended in the terms set out in Appendix 2, to remove all of the provisions which relate to Joint Leaders;
3. The Monitoring Officer is instructed to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution to give effect to these decisions;
4. 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. In accordance with the rules set out in the Constitution, Councillor Denham stated that she wished to make an amendment to the Motion by adding the following words:

5. The Council amends the adopted Members' Allowance Scheme to reintroduce a reference to the Deputy Leader and to stipulate that the Deputy Leader of the Council receives a special responsibility allowance in the same terms as has been previously applied to this role, that is 2 times the basic Members' Allowance.

The proposer, Councillor Denham, spoke in support of the amended Motion. The Motion was seconded by Councillor Udall.

Members of the Council proceeded to debate the Motion, following which the Motion was put to the vote.

RESOLVED: That the Council agree the following, with immediate effect:

- 1. The Articles, Part 2 of the Constitution, be amended in the terms set out in Appendix 1, so as to delete Article 6A. This will have the effect of removing all references to Joint Leaders and reinstating one process for the appointment of the Leader and Deputy Leader, on a simple vote of Council, which applies irrespective of the overall political control of the Council;**
- 2. The Group Leaders Protocol, Part 15 of the Constitution, be amended in the terms set out in Appendix 2, to remove all of the provisions which relate to Joint Leaders;**
- 3. The Monitoring Officer is instructed to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution to give effect to these decisions;**

4. **The Council now proceeds to make the requisite Member appointments in accordance with these new arrangements; and**
5. **The Council amends the adopted Members' Allowance Scheme to reintroduce a reference to the Deputy Leader and to stipulate that the Deputy Leader of the Council receives a special responsibility allowance in the same terms as has been previously applied to this role, that is 2 times the basic Members' Allowance.**

Motion 2 - Changes to the Constitution and Appointments of Members: Motion on the Remit of Sub-Committees

Introduction

Following the elections on 2 May, the political composition of the Council has changed.

A review of the Council's governance arrangements is now due, it having been 7 years since the last review was undertaken. This governance review should take place over the next few months and be subject to further debate at future meetings of Council.

In the meantime, this Motion proposes certain amendments to the Constitution to make immediate changes to the operation of sub-committees. This is to ensure that the new Municipal year starts from the principle that sub-committees of the Council should not consume unnecessary resources. The functions of all committees and sub-committees should be a topic for the governance review.

The Council has been operating with an Income Management Sub-Committee and a Personnel and General Purposes Sub-Committee. Both of these sub-committees have had their own scheduled programme of meetings and their Chairs have been entitled to special responsibility member allowances.

I believe that this is an unnecessary use of Council resources.

Therefore, Council agrees that, with immediate effect:

1. The Income Management Sub-Committee be abolished;
2. The Chair of a Sub-Committee should be the Chair of the parent Committee and that no special responsibility Members allowance should be paid for Sub-Committee duties;
3. Meetings of Sub-Committees should only be called when there is a specific matter which is solely within the remit of that Sub-Committee to determine;
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 Norfolk.

Members of the Council proceeded to debate the Motion, following which the Motion was put to the vote.

RESOLVED: That the Council agree that, with immediate effect:

- 1. The Income Management Sub-Committee be abolished;**
- 2. The Chair of a Sub-Committee should be the Chair of the parent Committee and that no special responsibility Members allowance should be paid for Sub-Committee duties;**
- 3. Meetings of Sub-Committees should only be called when there is a specific matter which is solely within the remit of that Sub-Committee to determine;**
- 4. The Monitoring Officer is instructed to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution to give effect to these decisions;**
- 5. The Council now proceeds to make the requisite Member appointments in accordance with these new arrangements.**

20 Appointment of Leader 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 a Leader, in accordance with the Constitution, as amended by virtue of the decision taken under the preceding item.

It was proposed by Councillor Riaz and seconded by Councillor Scott that Councillor Denham be nominated. Both Councillor Riaz and Councillor Scott spoke in support of the nomination.

There were no further nominations.

On being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED: That the Council agree to elect Councillor Denham as Leader of the Council.

21 Appointment of Deputy Leader 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 a Deputy Leader, in accordance with the Constitution, as amended by virtue of the decision taken under the preceding item.

It was proposed by Councillor Gregson and seconded by Councillor Sadiq that Councillor Riaz be nominated. Both Councillor Gregson and Councillor Sadiq spoke in support of the nomination.

It was proposed by Councillor Lewing and seconded by Councillor Mace that Councillor Stephen be nominated. Both Councillor Lewing and Councillor Mace spoke in support of the nomination.

Other Councillors spoke on the nominations.

The Mayor then requested the Council to proceed to the vote. Members were advised that they had one vote only, either for Councillor Riaz or for Councillor Stephen.

Upon being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED: That the Council agree to elect Councillor Riaz as Deputy Leader of the Council.

22 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 2024/25.

It was proposed by Councillor Denham and seconded by Councillor Riaz 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 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 1 of the minutes.

23 Appointment of Members to Committees and Sub-Committees, Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs and Outside Bodies Appointments

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 also considered the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs to those Committees and appointments to a number of outside bodies.

On being put to the vote it was

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, and appointments to Outside Bodies, as set out in Appendix 2 of the minutes.

Duration of the meeting: 7.31p.m. – 8.31p.m.

Chair at the meeting on
9th July 2024

25 **APPENDIX 2****Worcester City Council – Committee Membership Schedule 2024/25****Policy Committees**

POLICY & RESOURCES - MEMBERSHIP OF 13 – Meets 7 times per annum			
LABOUR - 6	GREEN - 5	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 2	CONSERVATIVE - 0
Councillor Pat Agar	Councillor Steve Cockeram	Councillor Mel Allcott	
Councillor Lynn Denham (CHAIR)	Councillor Karen Lewing	Councillor Jessie Jagger (VICE CHAIR)	
Councillor Adrian Gregson	Councillor Alex Mace		
Councillor Robyn Norfolk	Councillor Elena Round		
Councillor Jabba Riaz	Councillor Louis Stephen (VICE CHAIR)		
Councillor Adam Scott			
COMMUNITIES – MEMBERSHIP OF 11 – Meets 5 times per annum			
LABOUR - 5	GREEN - 3	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 2	CONSERVATIVE - 1
Councillor Basharat Ali	Councillor Katie Collier	Councillor Karen Lawrance	Councillor Alan Amos
Councillor Jill Desayrah (VICE CHAIR)	Councillor Neil Laurenson	Councillor John Rudge	
Councillor Matt Lamb	Councillor Alex Mace		
Councillor Jabba Riaz (CHAIR)			
Councillor Elaine Willmore			

ENVIRONMENT – MEMBERSHIP OF 11 - Meets 5 times per annum			
LABOUR - 5	GREEN - 4	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 2	CONSERVATIVE - 0
Councillor Zoe Cookson (CHAIR)	Councillor Hannah Cooper	Councillor Karen Lawrence	
Councillor Atif Sadiq	Councillor Andrew Cross	Councillor John Rudge	
Councillor Adam Scott	Councillor Karen Lewing (VICE CHAIR)		
Councillor Sue Smith	Councillor Paul Sobczyk		
Councillor Richard Udall			
HEALTH & WELLBEING – MEMBERSHIP OF 11 - Meets 5 times per annum			
LABOUR - 6	GREEN - 4	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 1	CONSERVATIVE - 0
Councillor Lynn Denham	Councillor Steve Cockeram	Councillor Sarah Murray	
Councillor Naz Hussain	Councillor Alex Kinnersley		
Councillor Edward Kimberley	Councillor Neil Laurenson		
Councillor Atif Sadiq	Councillor Elena Round (CHAIR)		
Councillor Richard Udall			
Councillor Elaine Willmore (VICE CHAIR)			
PLACE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT– MEMBERSHIP OF 11 - Meets 5 times per annum			
LABOUR - 6	GREEN - 4	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 1	CONSERVATIVE - 0
Councillor Jenny Barnes	Councillor Katie Collier	Councillor Mel Allcott	
Councillor Jill Desayrah	Councillor Hannah Cooper (VICE CHAIR)		
Councillor Adrian Gregson	Councillor Tor Pingree		

Councillor Edward Kimberley	Councillor Louis Stephen		
Councillor Robyn Norfolk (CHAIR)			
Councillor Jabba Riaz			

Regulatory Committees

PLANNING - MEMBERSHIP OF 11 – Meets 12 times per annum			
LABOUR - 5	GREEN - 4	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 1	CONSERVATIVE - 1
Councillor Pat Agar (VICE CHAIR)	Councillor Andrew Cross	Councillor John Rudge	Councillor Alan Amos
Councillor Jenny Barnes	Councillor Alex Kinnersley		
Councillor Edward Kimberley	Councillor Karen Lewing (CHAIR)		
Councillor Sue Smith	Councillor Louis Stephen		
Councillor Richrd Udall			
LICENSING & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – MEMBERSHIP OF 11 – Meets 4 times per annum; LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – Meets 12 times per annum			
LABOUR - 6	GREEN - 3	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 2	CONSERVATIVE - 0
Councillor Jill Desayrah	Councillor Hannah Cooper	Councillor Karen Lawrance (VICE CHAIR)	
Councillor Robyn Norfolk	Councillor Alex Kinnersley	Councillor Sarah Murray	
Councillor Jabba Riaz	Councillor Paul Sobczyk		
Councillor Adam Scott			
Councillor Sue Smith			
Councillor Richard Udall (CHAIR)			

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE – MEMBERSHIP OF 7 - Meets 4 times per annum			
LABOUR - 4	GREEN - 2	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 1	CONSERVATIVE - 0
Councillor Jenny Barnes	Councillor Neil Laurenson (CHAIR)	councillor Jessie Jagger	
Councillor Zoe Cookson	Councillor Alex Mace		
Councillor Jill DeSayrah			
Councillor Matt Lamb (VICE CHAIR)			

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 - 3	GREEN - 3	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - 1	CONSERVATIVE - 0
Councillor Basharat Ali (VICE CHAIR)	Councillor Steve Cockeram	Councillor Sarah Murray (CHAIR)	
Councillor Zoe Cookson	Councillor Katie Collier		
Councillor Matt Lamb	Councillor Tor Pingree		
Independent Member			
Mr Ray Needham			
Parish Council Representatives			
St. Peter the Great Parish – 2 Representatives			
Warndon Parish – 2 Representatives			

Other Bodies (Not included in the political balance calculations)

JOINT MUSEUMS COMMITTEE – MEMBERSHIP OF 2 – Meets 3 times per annum			
LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	CONSERVATIVE
Councillor Adrian Gregson	Councillor Hannah Cooper		

WORCESTERSHIRE REGULATORY SERVICES BOARD – MEMBERSHIP OF 2 –			
Meets 4 times per annum			
LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	CONSERVATIVE
Councillor Adam Scott		Councillor Karen Lawrance	
JOINT CONSULTATIVE & SAFETY COMMITTEE – MEMBERSHIP OF 3 –			
Meets 4 times per annum (NB MEMBERS SHALL BE THE POLITICAL GROUP LEADERS)			
LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	
Councillor Lynn Denham	Councillor Louis Stephen	Councillor Jessie Jagger	

Outside Bodies (Not included in the political balance calculations)

Body	Number of representatives	Term of Office and Frequency of Meetings	Representative Has to be a Councillor?	Nomination for 2024/25
Corporate Parenting Board	1	1 year Monthly on Fridays at County Hall	Yes, should be Children & Young Peoples' Champion	Councillor Matt Lamb
Hopmarket Charity	Not more than 7 Councillors	1 year 2-3 meetings per annum at the Guildhall	Yes, there are also 3 independent trustees, whose term of office is not due to expire this year. They are Bill Simpson, Jenny Barnes and Jo Hodges.	Councillor Jenny Barnes Councillor Lynn Denham Councillor Adam Scott (Further appointments to be considered by Policy and Resources Committee on 21 May 2024)
LGA General Assembly	Each Council may send up to 4 Members to the LGA Annual Conference. The Council is allocated 1 vote at the General Assembly and only 1 Member may vote	1 year Annual Conference is held first week in July	Yes, Group Leaders	Councillor Jessie Jagger Councillor Karen Lewing Councillor Jabba Riaz
South Worcestershire Development Plan Joint Advisory Panel	5	1 year Meets online 12 times per annum	Yes, must have attended Planning Training	Councillor Pat Agar Councillor Andrew Cross Councillor Karen Lewing Councillor Robyn Norfolk Councillor Adam Scott
Town Deal Board	2	1 year	Yes, Leader	Councillor Lyn Denham

		Meets online twice per annum in June and December		
West Mercia Police and Crime Panel	1	1 year Meets 4 times per year, meetings may be in different parts of West Mercia area	Yes, Panel has to be politically proportionate. Appointment should be Labour.	Councillor Richard Udall
Worcestershire County Council Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee	1	1 year Meets 6 times per year at County Hall	Yes	Councillor Richard Udall (Provisional)
Worcestershire County Council Health & Wellbeing Board	1 + substitute	1 year 4 public meetings and 5 private meetings a year at County Hall	Yes	Councillor Elena Round Councillor Elaine Willmore
Worcestershire Leaders Board	1	Monthly	Leader	Councillor Lynn Denham