

Meeting of the Council

Minutes - 7 March 2018

Attendance

Deputy Mayor Cllr Phil Page (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Harbans Bagri
Cllr Harman Banger
Cllr Mary Bateman
Cllr Philip Bateman MBE
Cllr Payal Bedi-Chadha
Cllr Peter Bilson
Cllr Alan Bolshaw
Cllr Greg Brackenridge
Cllr Ian Brookfield
Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Craig Collingswood
Cllr Claire Darke
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Val Evans

Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal
Cllr Val Gibson
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre
Cllr Julie Hodgkiss
Cllr Keith Inston
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal
Cllr Andrew Johnson
Cllr Welcome Koussoukama
Cllr Roger Lawrence
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr Hazel Malcolm
Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr Louise Miles

Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr John Rowley
Cllr Judith Rowley
Cllr Zee Russell
Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE
Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz
Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Tersaim Singh
Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Martin Waite
Cllr Daniel Warren

Conservative

Cllr Barry Findlay
Cllr Christopher Haynes
Cllr Christine Mills
Cllr Arun Photay

Cllr Paul Singh
Cllr Udey Singh
Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Andrew Wynne

UKIP

Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett

Employees

Keith Ireland
Kevin O'Keefe
Claire Nye
Tim Johnson
Mark Taylor
Emma Bennett
David Watts
Meredith Teasdale
Colin Parr
Jaswinder Kaur

Managing Director
Director of Governance
Director of Finance
Deputy Managing Director/Strategic Director - Place
Strategic Director - People
Director of Children's Services
Director of Adult Services
Director of Education
Head of Governance
Democratic Services Manager

The proceedings opened with Prayers

The Council stood in silent tribute to the late Mayor Councillor Elias Mattu.

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ian Angus, Ian Claymore, Rupinderjit Kaur, Pat Patten and Mak Singh.

2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

3 Minutes of previous meeting

The Deputy Mayor proposed, the Leader seconded, and it was resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 31 January 2018, be agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Deputy Mayor.

4 Communications

1. The Late Mayor, Councillor Elias Mattu

The Deputy Mayor announced that it was with great sadness that we had learned of the death of, the Mayor Councillor Elias Mattu on the 23 February 2018. He added that Elias was elected to the borough of Wolverhampton in May 2000 and he had represented the Graiseley Ward from May 2000 – February 2018

The Deputy Mayor advised that he and the Deputy Mayoress would be attending the funeral service at St. Peter's Church. He added it was the express wish of Cllr Mattu's family that the service was open to all and they had encouraged as many people as possible to attend. He added with space inside the church limited, the service will be broadcast on a large screen outside.

The Deputy Mayor extended the Council's sincere condolences to the family.

The Leader of the Council - Councillor Roger Lawrence, Councillor Wendy Thompson and Councillor Malcolm Gwinnet paid tribute to the late Mayor Councillor Elias Mattu.

2. Mental Health Superstar shines at awards

The Deputy Mayor was delighted to report that a Wolverhampton community worker had been awarded the top award at the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Thrive Mental Health Commission Awards.

The Deputy Mayor announced Gurbax Kaur was named the region's Mental Health Superstar at the event, which took place at West Bromwich Albion FC and was attended by Mayor for the West Midlands Andy Street and prominent mental health campaigner Norman Lamb MP.

The Deputy Mayor added Gurbax was honored for her commitment to raising awareness of mental health issues, particularly among the city's South Asian community, where mental health can be considered a taboo subject.

The Deputy Mayor added as the founder of Positive Participation, Gurbax works tirelessly within the community to provide specialist support to the most vulnerable, as well as advocating for the importance of local mental health services.

3. Residents Programme

The Deputy Mayor urged residents to look out for over 50 opportunities for free support with living, learning and working in the City of Wolverhampton. He advised the residents programme of events runs from Wednesday 14 to Saturday 31 March which included free drop-in and bookable sessions to support people into work, to find an apprenticeship, to find the right home and improve their wellbeing. There were also events aimed at supporting families, supporting people to stay independent, and information on how you people can get more involved in our City. Residents were able to find further information on the website.

5 Budget 2018 - 2019

Councillor Andrew Johnson, presented the annual capital budget including the i9 Office Development – Investment Case, treasury management strategy and revenue budget and statutory formal Council Tax resolution. He went on to outline the recommendations of the report, drawing Councillors attention to the challenges that the Council faced. He advised that the proposed budget was balanced, despite the delay in implementing the waste and recycling strategy. He added that in addition to the budget reductions made over the previous seven financial years, the Council was faced with identifying further estimated reductions for 2019 - 2020.

Councillor Andrew Johnson outlined the rationale for increasing Council Tax by 1.99% and the Social Care precept by 2% and emphasised that these had not been increased to the maximum limit allowed. He advised that the precept raised for social care was ringed fenced to adult social care.

Councillor Andrew Johnson advised that the Council was in a greater financial position than neighbouring authorities. He added that the LGA Peer Review had recognised that the Council had made progress in achieving financial stability. He highlighted that the Digital Transformation Programme enabled the Council to make efficiencies and transform the way services were provided. He went onto to add the Council had also focused on income generation and borrowed money to invest in i10 and now i9.

Councillor Andrew Johnson highlighted that technical financing provided the Council with greater flexibility and the opportunity to achieve further savings.

Councillor Andrew Johnson commended the work of the Finance Team, Cabinet and the 3C's Scrutiny Panel.

Councillor Andrew Johnson proposed and Councillor Roger Lawrence seconded the recommendations.

Councillor Wendy Thompson provided the principle speech in response to the budget report.

The report was debated by Council.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 the votes were recorded as follows:

A recorded vote (Resolution)	
Councillor Phil Page	For
Councillor Harbans Singh Bagri	For
Councillor Harman Banger	For
Councillor Mary Bateman	For
Councillor Philip Bateman MBE	For
Councillor Payal Bedi-Chadha	For
Councillor Peter Bilson	For
Councillor Alan Bolshaw	For
Councillor Greg Brackenridge	For
Councillor Ian Brookfield	For
Councillor Paula Brookfield	For
Councillor Craig Collingswood	For
Councillor Claire Darke	For
Councillor Steve Evans	For
Councillor Valerie Evans	For
Councillor Barry Findlay	Abstain
Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal	For
Councillor Val Gibson	For
Councillor Malcolm Gwinnett	Abstain
Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre	For
Councillor Christopher Haynes	Abstain
Councillor Julie Hodgkiss	For
Councillor Keith Inston	For
Councillor Jasbir Jaspal	For
Councillor Milkinderpal Jaspal	For
Councillor Andrew Johnson	For
Councillor Welcome Koussoukama	For
Councillor Roger Lawrence	For
Councillor Linda Leach	For
Councillor Hazel Malcolm	For
Councillor Louise Miles	For
Councillor Mrs Christine Mills	Abstain
Councillor Lynne Moran	For
Councillor Anwen Muston	For
Councillor Peter O'Neill	For
Councillor Arun Photay	Abstain
Councillor Rita Potter	For
Councillor John C Reynolds	For
Councillor John Rowley	For
Councillor Judith Rowley	For

Councillor Zee Russell	For
Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE	For
Councillor Caroline Siarkiewicz	For
Councillor Stephen Simkins	For
Councillor Paul Singh	Abstain
Councillor Tersaim Singh	For
Councillor Udey Singh	Abstain
Councillor Paul Sweet	For
Councillor Jacqueline Sweetman	For
Councillor Wendy Thompson	Abstain
Councillor Martin Waite	For
Councillor Daniel Richard Warren	For
Councillor Andrew Wynne	Abstain
Carried	

The motion was **CARRIED** by 45 votes. There were nine abstentions.

Resolved:

1. That the revised medium term General Fund capital programme of £373.1 million, an increase of £33.8 million from the previously approved programme (paragraph 2.4 of the Cabinet report), reflecting the latest projected expenditure for the medium term be approved.
2. That the net additional General Fund resources of £33.8 million, identified for; 11 new projects totalling £12.6 million (paragraph 4.1 of the Cabinet report); Civic Halls, an existing project, of £23.7 million as approved by Council on 31 January 2018 (paragraph 3.23 of the Cabinet report); i9 Office Development, a new project, of £13.0 million (paragraph 4.5 of the Cabinet report); 23 existing projects net decrease totalling £15.5 million (paragraph 3.23 of the Cabinet report) be approved.
3. That the Investment Case for the i9 office development at Wolverhampton Interchange be approved.
4. That the allocation of up to £13 million capital investment by way of prudential borrowing to forward purchase the i9 office development be authorised.
5. That the proposal to declare the Council's land holdings at Railway Street car park as surplus to requirements to enable the office development be approved.
6. That the Council granting a headlease to ION and the grant of an underlease from ION to the Council be approved.
7. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Members for City Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Strategic Director for Place and Director of Finance for: -

- i. The appointment of ION (being the developer under the Master Development Agreement or their subsidiary) as developer to deliver the scheme;
 - ii. The entering into various legal agreements with ION including Funding/ Phase Agreements, collateral warranties, supplemental agreement to the Master Development Agreement for the Interchange, headlease, underlease, and any other ancillary documentation necessary in order to give effect to the recommendations in this report;
 - iii. Participating in the process for ION to procure and appoint a contractor to build i9;
 - iv. The approval of terms for lettings with occupiers;
 - v. The application for, and granting of, relevant licences to enable the construction of i9;
 - vi. Approval of the terms for the headlease to ION and the underlease to the Council subject to advice from Corporate Landlord;
 - vii. The Council establishing an investment company to hold the asset if this proves to be a preferential option.
8. That the use of the Council's powers under s.247 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to stop up parts of the highway at Railway Street to enable development be approved.
 9. That a further report be received regarding the appropriation of the development site for planning purposes (if appropriation was required).
 10. That the authorised borrowing limit for 2018-2019 as required under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003 be set at £1,087.5 million (PI 3, Appendix 3 to the Cabinet report) be approved.
 11. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2018-2019 as set out in Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report be approved.
 12. That the Annual Investment Strategy 2018-2019 as set out in Appendix 2 to the Cabinet report be approved.
 13. That the Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators as set out in Appendix 3 to the Cabinet report be approved.
 14. That the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement setting out the method used to calculate MRP for 2018-2019 onwards as set out in Appendix 4 to the Cabinet report be approved.
 15. That the Treasury Management Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices as set out in Appendix 5 to the Cabinet report be approved.
 16. That authority continued to be delegated to the Director of Finance to amend the Treasury Management Policy and Practices and any corresponding changes required to the Treasury Management Strategy, the Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators, the Investment Strategy and the Annual MRP Statement to ensure they

remain aligned. Any amendments would be reported to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Cabinet (Resources) Panel as appropriate.

17. That the net budget requirement for 2018-2019 of £229.1 million for General Fund services (paragraph 17.3 of the Cabinet report) be approved.
18. That the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018-2019 to 2019-2020 as detailed in Table 7 and the budget preparation parameters underpinning the MTFS as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report be approved.
19. That the budget allocation for Adult Social Care in 2018-2019 outlined in the report, making due consideration to the Minimum Funding Level for Adult Social Care (section 15.0 of the Cabinet report) be approved.
20. That a Council Tax for Council services in 2018-2019 of £1,540.21 for a Band D property, being an increase of 3.99% on 2017-2018 levels, which incorporates the 2% increase in relation to Adult Social Care (paragraph 7.5 of the Cabinet report) be approved.
21. That work starts on developing budget reductions for 2019-2020 and progress be reported to Cabinet in July 2018 (paragraph 17.4 of the Cabinet report) be approved.
22. That revisions to the local council tax reduction scheme to introduce: a disregard of bereavement support payment, a disregard of any payments made under 'We love Manchester Emergency Fund' (WLMEF) and the 'London Emergencies Trust' (LET) and to add wording to allow references to legacy benefits to include universal credit be approved.
23. That it be noted that the Council Tax base for the year 2018-2019 is calculated at 62,959.19 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act"), as reported to Cabinet on 20 February 2018.
24. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2018-2019 is £96,970,000.
25. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2018-2019 in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended:
 - (a) £622,058,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
 - (b) £525,088,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £96,970,000 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).

- (d) £1,540.21 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T(section 1 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- (e) £0 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (f) £1,540.21 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.
26. That it be noted that West Midlands Police and Fire Authorities had issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.

Precepting Authority	Valuation Band							
	A 6/9	B 7/9	C 8/9	D 9/9	E 11/9	F 13/9	G 15/9	H 18/9
West Midlands Fire Service	39.23	45.77	52.30	58.84	71.92	84.99	98.07	117.68
West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner	85.70	99.98	114.27	128.55	157.12	185.68	214.25	257.10
Total Precepts	124.93	145.75	166.57	187.39	229.04	270.67	312.32	374.78

27. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables as the amounts of Council Tax for 2018-2019 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Billing Authority	Valuation Band							
	A 6/9	B 7/9	C 8/9	D 9/9	E 11/9	F 13/9	G 15/9	H 18/9
City of Wolverhampton Council	1,026.81	1,197.94	1,369.08	1,540.21	1,882.48	2,224.74	2,567.02	3,080.42
Total Billing	1,026.81	1,197.94	1,369.08	1,540.21	1,882.48	2,224.74	2,567.02	3,080.42

28. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (3) (f) and (4) above, the City Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of the Council Tax for the year 2018-2019 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Authority	Valuation Band							
	A 6/9	B 7/9	C 8/9	D 9/9	E 11/9	F 13/9	G 15/9	H 18/9
Total Precepts	124.93	145.75	166.57	187.39	229.04	270.67	312.32	374.78
Total Billing	1,026.81	1,197.94	1,369.08	1,540.21	1,882.48	2,224.74	2,567.02	3,080.42
Total Council Tax	1,151.74	1,343.69	1,535.65	1,727.60	2,111.52	2,495.41	2,879.34	3,455.20

29. That a notice of the amounts payable in respect of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band for the year commencing on 1 April 2018 be published in at least one local newspaper and that in accordance with Section 3(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, this notice shall also make reference to the National Non-Domestic Rating Multiplier set by the Secretary of State, and

specify that the Council Tax and the non-domestic rate demands are annual demands which cover the full financial year.

30. That the Council had determined that its relevant basic amount of Council for 2018-2019 was not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.
31. That as the billing authority, the Council had not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2018-2019 was excessive and that the billing authority was not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992.
32. That the MRP charge for the financial year 2018-2019 would be £7.8 million increasing to £14.7 million in 2019-2020 (paragraph 2.16 of the Cabinet report) be noted.
33. That Cabinet (Resources) Panel and Council would receive regular Treasury Management reports during 2018-2019 on performance against the key targets and Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators in the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy as set out in paragraph 2.14 and Appendices 2 and 3 to the Cabinet report be noted.
34. That the detailed guidance notes for the new Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the Prudential Code were still to be published by CIPFA and therefore the current statements were based on the Council's interpretation of these Codes be noted.
35. That the revised guidance on Local Government Investments and Minimum Revenue Provision was issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on 2 February 2018. The new guidance is currently being reviewed by the Director of Finance and updates would be provided to Councillors in due course be noted.