

Meeting of the Council

Minutes - 2 March 2016

Attendance

Mayor Cllr Ian Brookfield (Labour)
Deputy Mayor Cllr Barry Findlay (Conservative)

Labour

Cllr Ian Angus	Cllr Steve Evans	Cllr Phil Page
Cllr Harbans Bagri	Cllr Val Evans	Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Harman Banger	Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal	Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Mary Bateman	Cllr Val Gibson	Cllr John Rowley
Cllr Philip Bateman	Cllr Keith Inston	Cllr Judith Rowley
Cllr Payal Bedi	Cllr Jasbir Jaspal	Cllr Sandra Samuels
Cllr Peter Bilson	Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal	Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz
Cllr Alan Bolshaw	Cllr Andrew Johnson	Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Greg Brackenridge	Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur	Cllr Tersaim Singh
Cllr Paula Brookfield	Cllr Welcome Koussoukama	Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Ian Claymore	Cllr Roger Lawrence	Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Craig Collingswood	Cllr Linda Leach	Cllr Martin Waite
Cllr Claire Darke	Cllr Elias Mattu	Cllr Daniel Warren
Cllr Bishan Dass	Cllr Lynne Moran	
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar	Cllr Peter O'Neill	

Conservative

Cllr Mark Evans	Cllr Arun Photay
Cllr Christine Mills	Cllr Paul Singh
Cllr Patricia Patten	Cllr Andrew Wynne

Liberal Democrat

Cllr Richard Whitehouse

UKIP

Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett

Employees

Tracey Christie	Head of Legal
Keith Ireland	Managing Director
Julien Kramer	Director of Education
Laura Phillips	Business Manager
Linda Sanders	Strategic Director - People
Martyn Sargeant	Group Manager - Corporate Administration
Mark Taylor	Director of Finance
Penny Williams	Interim Democratic Services Manager

The proceedings opened with Prayers

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hardacre, Haynes, Hodgkiss, Thompson and Yardley.

Apologies were also received from Kevin O’Keefe, Director of Governance.

2 Declarations of interest

The following Councillors declared the interests detailed below in respect of agenda item 8 Wolverhampton Homes Annual Delivery Plan 2016/17.

Councillor	Interest	Reason
Payal Bedi	Disclosable pecuniary	Landlord who lets a property to Wolverhampton Homes
Alan Bolshaw	Disclosable non-pecuniary	Member of the board of Wolverhampton Homes
Ian Claymore	Disclosable non-pecuniary	Council tenant
Dr Michael Hardacre	Disclosable non-pecuniary	Member of the board of Wolverhampton Homes
Linda Leach	Disclosable non-pecuniary	Leaseholder
Lorna McGregor	Disclosable non-pecuniary	Leaseholder
Peter O’Neill	Disclosable non-pecuniary	Council tenant
Rita Potter	Disclosable non-pecuniary	Member of the board of Wolverhampton Homes
Paul Singh	Disclosable non-pecuniary	Member of the board of Wolverhampton Homes
Tersaim Singh	Disclosable non-pecuniary	Member of the board of Wolverhampton Homes

3 Minutes of previous meeting

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

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 27 January 2017, be agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Mayor.

4 **Communications**

The Late Jonathon Webber MBE DL

Councillors stood in silent tribute to remember the late Jonathan Webber MBE DL. Councillors were advised of the funeral arrangements and wake. The Mayor extended the Council's sincere condolences to the family.

Mayoral Event for Volunteers

The Mayor reminded Councillors that they had been invited to nominate two volunteers from their ward to attend an event to recognise volunteering which would take place in the Mayoral Suite.

Beat the Streets Initiative

The Mayor reminded Councillors of the Beat the Streets initiative.

5 **Budget**

The Council received a report on the annual capital budget, treasury management strategy and revenue budget and statutory formal Council Tax resolution.

The report was moved by Councillor Lawrence and seconded by Councillor Johnson.

Councillor Lawrence outlined the content of the report, drawing Councillors attention to the challenges that the Council faced.

Upon being put to the meeting, and a division been required, voting thereon was as follows

It was moved by Councillor Lawrence and seconded by Councillor Johnson

For = 44
Councillors

Angus	Dehar	Page
Bagri	Evans (S)	Potter
Banger	Evans (V)	Reynolds
Bateman (M)	Gibson	Rowley
Bateman (P)	Inston	Rowley (Judith)
Bedi	Jaspal (J)	Samuels
Bilson	Jaspal (M)	Siarkiewicz
Bolshaw	Johnson	Simkins
Brackenridge	Kaur	Singh (T)
Brookfield (I)	Koussoukama	Sweetman
Brookfield (P)	Lawrence	Sweet
Claymore	Leach	Waite
Collingswood	Mattu	Warren
Darke	Moran	Whitehouse
Dass	O'Neill	

Abstain = 8
Councillors

Evans (M)	Mills	Singh (P)
Findlay	Patten	Wynne
Gwinnett	Photay	

Resolved:

1. The revised medium term General Fund capital programme of £246.0 million, an increase of £31.3 million from the previously approved capital programme, reflecting the latest projected expenditure for the medium term be approved.
2. The additional resources for six new and thirty one existing General Fund projects totalling £31.3 million be approved.
3. The authorised borrowing limit for 2016/17 as required under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003 be set at £1,008.6 million (PI 5, page 27) be approved.
4. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2016/17 as set out in appendix A to the report be approved.
5. The Annual Investment Strategy 2016/17 as set out in appendix B to the report be approved.
6. The Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators as set out in appendix C to the report be approved.
7. The Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement setting out the method used to calculate MRP for 2016/17 onwards as set out in appendix D to the report be approved.

8. The method used to calculate MRP for 2015/16 as set out in the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement approved by Council on 4 March 2015 be amended to the method as set out in appendix D to the report be approved.
9. The Treasury Management Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices as set out in appendix F to the report be approved.
10. That authority continues 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 will be reported to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Cabinet (Resources) Panel as appropriate.
11. The net budget requirement for 2016/17 of £217.4 million for General Fund services be approved.
12. The Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 to 2019/20 as detailed in Table 6 and the budget preparation parameters underpinning the MTFs as detailed in appendix B be approved.
13. A Council Tax for Council services in 2016/17 of £1,424.29 for a Band D property, being an increase of 3.99% on 2015/16 levels, which incorporates the newly permitted 2% increase in relation to adult social care be approved.
14. In principle the acceptance of the Government's offer of a four year settlement by 14 October 2016, noting that the Financial Plan and Efficiency Strategy will be reported to Cabinet and Council ahead of final acceptance of the offer.
15. The Efficiency Plan Relating to Capital Receipts Flexibility as detailed in appendix C be approved.
16. That work starts on developing budget reductions for 2017/18 and progress be reported to Cabinet in July 2016.
17. That it be noted that the Council Tax base for the year 2016/17 is calculated at 60,405.94 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act"), as reported to Cabinet on 13 January 2016.
18. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2016/17 is £86,036,000.
19. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2016/17 in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended:

- (a) £637,352,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
- (b) £551,316,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £86,036,000 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) £1,424.29 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) £1,424.29 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.

20. To note that West Midlands Police and Fire Authorities have 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 Authority	37.35	43.58	49.80	56.03	68.48	80.93	93.38	112.05
West Midlands Police	74.37	86.76	99.16	111.55	136.34	161.13	185.92	223.10
Total Precepts	111.72	130.34	148.96	167.58	204.82	242.06	279.30	335.15

21. 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 2016/17 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
Wolverhampton City Council	949.53	1,107.79	1,266.04	1,424.29	1,740.80	2,057.31	2,373.82	2,848.59

22. 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 2016/17 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	111.72	130.34	148.96	167.58	204.82	242.06	279.30	335.15
Total Billing	949.53	1,107. 79	1,266. 04	1,424. 29	1,740. 80	2,057. 31	2,373. 82	2,848. 59
Total Council Tax	1,061. 25	1,238, 13	1,415. 00	1,591. 87	1,945. 62	2,299. 37	2,653. 12	3,183. 74

23. That a notice of the amounts payable in respect of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band for the year commencing on 1 April 2016 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.

24. The Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council for 2016/17 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

25. As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2016/17 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992.

26. That it be noted as a result of the changes to the MRP policy approved and implemented during 2014/15, the MRP charge for financial years 2015/16 to 2017/18 will be zero increasing to £12.3 million in 2018/19.

27. That it be noted Cabinet (Resources) Panel and Council will receive regular Treasury Management reports during 2016/17 on performance against the key targets and Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators in the Treasury

Management Strategy and Investment Strategy as set out in appendices B and C to the report.

6 Creating the Combined Authority

The Council received a report the purpose of which was to present the draft statutory order for the creation of the West Midlands Combined Authority for consent, subject to minor and drafting amendments.

Councillor Lawrence moved and outlined the content of the report, this was seconded by Councillor Bilson.

Resolved:

1. To consent to the draft Statutory Order, to create the West Midlands Combined Authority, subject to minor and drafting amendments.
2. To delegate to the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Managing Director, final consent to the Order and the ability to agree with government any further drafting amendments to the Order that may prove necessary.
3. To note the progress made in establishing the West Midlands Combined Authority and the remainder of the relevant process to be followed.
4. The draft Combined Authority Constitution be noted.

7 Approval of the Devolution Deal

The Council received a report, the purpose of which was to inform Council on the progress of the devolution deal and to seek approval of the deal.

Councillor Lawrence moved the report and outlined the content explaining the progress that had been made, moreover he highlighted the significant investment that it would bring to the region.

The report was seconded by Councillor Bilson.

Resolved:

1. The West Midlands Combined Authority Devolution Agreement, including the creation of an elected Mayor, subject to agreement with Government of the scope and discharge of Mayoral functions be endorsed.
2. To receive a further report at the appropriate time on amendments to the Combined Authority resulting from the requirements of the devolution deal. Council instructs the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Managing Director, to take any further decisions necessary to bring about the implementation of the Agreement, working with the other members of the Shadow Combined Authority Board and the government.
3. That it be noted that the historic West Midlands devolution agreement signed on 17 November 2015 be recognised as the start of a process of devolution

with the potential for significant further steps. Council further notes that the subsequent work on a clarification process and an assurance process has been satisfactorily completed.

4. That it be noted that the subsequent work on a clarification process and assurance work has been satisfactorily completed.

8 **Wolverhampton Homes Annual Delivery Plan 2016/17**

Council received a recommendation from Cabinet on the Wolverhampton Homes Annual Delivery Plan 2016/17.

This was moved by Councillor Bilson and seconded by Councillor Johnson.

Resolved:

That the Wolverhampton Homes Annual Delivery Plan 2016/17 be approved.