



Meeting of the Council

Minutes – 5 March 2014

Attendance

Mayor Cllr Milkinder Jaspal (Lab)
Deputy Mayor Cllr Michael Heap (Lib Dem)

Labour

Cllr Ian Angus
Cllr Harbans Bagri
Cllr Harman Banger
Cllr Phil Bateman
Cllr Peter Bilson
Cllr Alan Bolshaw
Cllr Ian Brookfield
Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Ian Claymore
Cllr Craig Collingswood
Cllr Susan Constable
Cllr Claire Darke
Cllr Bishan Dass

Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Cllr Steven Evans
Cllr Valerie Evans
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal
Cllr Valerie Gibson
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre
Cllr Julie Hodgkiss
Cllr Keith Inston
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Andrew Johnson
Cllr Roger Lawrence
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr Elias Mattu
Cllr Lorna McGregor

Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Philip Page
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr John Rowley
Cllr Judith Rowley
Cllr Sandra Samuels
Cllr Zahid Shah
Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz
Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Thomas Turner
Cllr Martin Waite

Conservative

Cllr Mark Evans
Cllr Barry Findlay
Cllr Matthew Holdcroft
Cllr Christine Mills
Cllr Neville Patten
Cllr Patricia Patten

Cllr Arun Photay
Cllr Paul Singh
Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Andrew Wynne
Cllr Jonathan Yardley

Liberal Democrat

Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett
Cllr Richard Whitehouse

Employees

Keith Ireland
Tim Johnson
Sarah Norman
Martyn Sargeant
Mark Taylor
Wendy Trainor
Simon Warren
John Wright

Strategic Director Delivery
Strategic Director Education and Environment
Strategic Director Community
Head of Democratic Services
Assistant Director - Finance
Chief Legal Officer
Chief Executive
Democratic Support Manager

Item Title
No.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Apologies**
Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Christopher Haynes.

2. **Declarations of Interests**
No declarations of interest were made

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting (18 December 2013)**

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Mayor and

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 December 2013 be approved as a correct record

4. **Mayor's Communications:**

The Late Lord Bilston

The Mayor referred to the recent death of Lord Bilston and asked the meeting to stand for a minute's silence in his memory.

DECISION ITEMS

5. **Budget for 2014/15**

It was moved by Cllr Lawrence and seconded by Cllr Johnson:

Medium Term Financial Strategy

1. That the net budget requirement for General Fund services for 2014/15 be £237.6 million
2. That the implementation of the additional savings proposals, subject to the outcome of appropriate scrutiny, consultation and equality analyses be approved.
3. That the Council Tax for council services in 2014/15 be £1,342.92 for a Band D property, being an increase of 1.99% on 2013/14 levels.
4. That the agreement and arrangements to phase the increased cost of pension contributions to West Midlands Pension Fund, following the results of the 2013 actuarial valuation, over the following six financial years, be approved.
5. That the Assistant Director Finance (Section 151 Officer) be given delegated authority to agree a composite employer's contribution rate with the West Midlands Pension Fund.
6. That the formal response to the budget consultation, and in particular the reinstatement of three Neighbourhood Warden posts, which had been reflected

in the 2014/15 net budget requirement, be approved.

7. That a minimum of £25 million of additional savings for 2015/16 be identified and reported to Cabinet in June 2014, in order to demonstrate that a balanced budget can be achieved and that general reserves can be partially replenished.
8. That additional savings for 2014/15 be identified and reported to Cabinet in June 2014 and Council in July 2014 in order to revise the 2014/15 budget and reduce the call on general reserves.
9. That a further £35 million of additional savings be identified, taking the total additional savings to be identified to £60 million, in order to address the projected budget deficit over the medium term to 2018/19.
10. That due to the extreme uncertainty facing the Council and the potentially significant impact that this has on the accuracy of financial projections the period of the medium term financial strategy ,should, for the foreseeable future continue to extend to 2018/19 only.
11. That the existing Wolverhampton City Council scheme for awarding Discretionary Rate Relief under Section 47 Local Government Finance Act 1988 be ended on 31 March 2015, in order that a new scheme can be implemented with effect from 1 April 2015.

Treasury Management

12. That the authorised borrowing limit for 2014/15 as required under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003 be set at £1,006.6 million.
13. That the Treasury Management Strategy 2014/15 be approved.
14. That the Annual Investment Strategy be approved.
15. That the Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators be approved
16. That the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement setting out the method used to calculate Minimum Revenue Provision for 2014/15 onwards be approved .
17. That the method used to calculate Minimum Revenue Provision for 2013/14 as set out in the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement, be amended to the method detailed in Appendix D to the report.
18. That the Treasury Management Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices be approved.
19. That Cabinet (Resources) Panel and Council continue to receive regular Treasury Management reports during 2014/15 on performance against the key targets and Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators in the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy
20. That the Assistant Director Finance be given delegated authority to amend the

Treasury Management Policy and Practices to ensure that they remain aligned with the Treasury Management Strategy, the Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators, the Investment Strategy and the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement and that any amendments made be reported to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Cabinet (Resources) Panel as appropriate.

Capital Programme

21. That the revised medium term General Fund (excluding housing revenue account) capital programme of £315.6 million for the period 2013/14 to 2018/19.
22. That additional capital resources, totalling £3.6 million, be approved for existing schemes over the medium term period to 2018/19.
23. That additional capital resources, totalling £5.3 million, be approved for new schemes over the medium term period to 2018/19
24. That the capitalisation of redundancy costs of £1.3 million under the capitalisation direction received from the Secretary of State on 17 January 2014 be approved.

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

For 41

The Mayor
Councillors

Angus	Evans (Steve)	Potter
Bagri	Evan (Val)	Reynolds
Banger	Gibson	Rowley (John)
Bateman	Hardacre	Rowley (Judith)
Bilson	Hodgkiss	Samuels
Bolshaw	Inston	Shah
Brookfield (Ian)	Jaspal (J K)	Siarkiewicz
Brookfield (Paula)	Johnson	Simkins
Claymore	Lawrence	Sweet
Collingswood	Leach	Sweetman
Constable	Mattu	Turner
Darke	McGregor	Waite
Dass	O'Neill	
Dehar	Page	

Against 13

Councillors

Evans (M)	Mrs Mills	Paul Singh
Findlay	Patten (N)	Thompson (Mrs)
Gwinnett	Patten (Mrs P)	Whitehouse

Holdcroft

Photay

Wynne
Yardley

Abstain 1
Councillor

Heap

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