

Attendance

Mayor Cllr Greg Brackenridge (Lab)
Deputy Mayor Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Obaida Ahmed
Cllr Qaiser Azeem
Cllr Mary Bateman
Cllr Philip Bateman MBE
Cllr Olivia Birch
Cllr Dr Paul John Birch J.P.
Cllr Ian Brookfield
Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Chris Burden
Cllr Alan Butt
Cllr Craig Collingswood
Cllr Claire Darke
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Cllr Steve Evans

Cllr Val Evans
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre
Cllr Celia Hibbert
Cllr Keith Inston
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Jaspreet Jaspal
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal
Cllr Rashpal Kaur
Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur (V)
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr Asha Mattu
Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN
Cllr Beverley Momenabadi

Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr Phil Page
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Susan Roberts MBE
Cllr Zee Russell
Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Clare Simm
Cllr Tersaim Singh
Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Gillian Wildman

Conservative

Cllr Simon Bennett
Cllr Adam Collinge
Cllr Jonathan Crofts
Cllr Wendy Dalton
Cllr Christopher Haynes
Cllr Stephanie Haynes
Cllr Sohail Khan
Cllr Andrew McNeil

Independent

Cllr Harman Banger

Employees

Tim Johnson
Mark Taylor
David Pattison
John Denley
Claire Nye
Laura Phillips

Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executive
Chief Operating Officer
Director of Public Health
Director of Finance
Deputy Director of People and Change

The proceedings opened with Prayers

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Paul Appleby.

2 Declarations of interest

Councillor Philip Bateman declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 (Capital Programme 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 Quarter Two Review) as an advisory board member on Canal and River Trust - West Midlands Partnership and a school governor for Ashmore Park Nursery School.

Councillor Stephen Simkins declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 (Capital Programme 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 Quarter Two Review) as a board member on Bradley Arm Canal Restoration Group.

Councillor Mary Bateman declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 (Capital Programme 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 Quarter Two Review) as school governor for Ashmore Park Nursery School.

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 3 November, be agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Mayor.

4 Communications

1. Ron Flowers MBE

The Mayor was saddened to report the passing of Wolves and England football legend Ron Flowers, at the age of 87. Ron was part of Stan Cullis's triple League Championship and 1960 FA Cup winning team. He also won 2 caps as an England Under 23 International, and 49 senior caps and took part in the 1966 World Cup.

The Mayor had the honour of representing the City Council at a Memorial Service held for Ron in St Peters Church and was able to pass on condolences to his widow Yvonne and family.

Council stood in silent tribute to the late Ron Flowers MBE.

2. Remembrance Events

The Mayor reported he attended several events of Remembrance over the weekend of 11th - 14th November. This included a small ceremony at the Cenotaph on the 11th, Armistice Day, the annual service at the site of the Dutch War Graves in Merridale Cemetery on the 13th. Finally, the Remembrance Sunday Services in the City Centre to pay our respects to the fallen of 2 World Wars and many other conflicts since.

3. Molineux Sleepout

The Mayor reported he took part in the Molineux Sleepout which aimed to raise funds and awareness to support the homeless and vulnerable in Wolverhampton. He took part in this event, along with other employees from the Council and Councillor Simon Bennett to spend a Friday night sleeping out in the open air at Molineux Stadium. He added so far, more than £38,000 has been raised according to the Wolverhampton Wanderers Foundation who organised the event.

4. Civic Reception for Olympians, Paralympians, Special Olympians and Officials

The Mayor reported on Thursday 18th November, he hosted a reception to congratulate Wolverhampton's competitors from the Olympics, Paralympics, Special Olympics and officials. He thanked the competitors for representing the City on the international stage so magnificently.

5. Transgender Day of Remembrance

The Mayor reported that Saturday 20th November marked International Transgender Day of Remembrance, to memorialise those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia. He added a Ceremony was held at the flagpole in St Peters Square with readings, poetry and people talking of their experiences before the Transgender Pride flag was raised.

6. Orange Campaign

The Mayor reported that this year's Orange Wolverhampton campaign was now running until 10th December, as the City says "NO" to interpersonal violence. The campaign was launched last Thursday with a flag-raising in St Peters Square, followed by a gathering in the City Suite.

7. Quiz Night in aid of the Mayoral Charity Trust

The Mayor reported he would be hosting a Quiz Night on Thursday 9th December, at 7pm in the City Suite. This was to raise money for his chosen charities. He added the Quizmaster for the night would be Dicky Dodd, and there were fantastic prizes to be won and encouraged all to enter.

8. Christmas Light Switch On

The Mayor was very delighted to host the City Centre Christmas Lights switch on, which was attended by 12,000 people. The Mayor's favourite boy band from the '90s, East 17, topped the bill, along with other entertainers including Father Christmas and one of his reindeer. The Mayor also attended the lights switch-on across the City in Wednesfield, Bilston, Tettenhall and Bantock Park, all of which were well attended by the public.

9. Santa Run

The Mayor reported that this years Santa Run in aid of the Beacon Centre would take place in West Park on Sunday 5th December at 09:45am. He added all participants would be dressed as Santa and encouraged all to participate.

10. World Aid Days

The Mayor report that today was World AID day which first started in 1988 to show solidarity with all people who were affected by HIV and to remember those who had died from this illness. The red ribbon was adopted as a global symbol to show support for those affected by HIV.

11. Happy Hanukkah

The Mayor reported the Jewish Festival of Light, Hanukkah, runs from this year from Sunday 28 November to the evening of Monday 6 December. The festival reminds Jews of a time over 2000 years ago when they won a battle against the Greeks to practice their religion freely. The Mayor wished Jews a Chag Chanukah Sameach.

5 Report of Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield, provided Council with an update on Wolves at Work 18 - 24 and asylum related issues.

The update was debated by Council.

6 Capital Programme 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 Quarter Two Review

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield present the report on Capital Programme 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 Quarter Two Review for approval. The report provided Council with an update on the 2021-2022 financial performance of the General Revenue Account and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programmes whilst also providing a revised forecast for 2021-2022 to 2025-2026 as at quarter two of 2021-2022.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield recommended revisions to the current approved capital programmes covering the period 2021-2022 to 2025-2026. He outlined the changes to the capital programme and the rationale for the change.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield proposed the recommendation and Councillor Stephen Simkins seconded the recommendation.

Resolved:

That the revised, medium term General Revenue Account capital programme of £298.1 million, an increase of £6.7 million from the previously approved programme, and the change in associated resources be approved.

7 Treasury Management Activity Monitoring - Mid Year Review 2021-2022

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield presented the report on Treasury Management Activity Monitoring - Mid Year Review 2021-2022 for approval. The report provided Council with a monitoring and progress report on treasury management activity for the second quarter of 2021-2022 as part of the mid-year review, in line with the Prudential Indicators approved by Council in March 2021.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield noted that the Council had not undertaken any new borrowing in the last two financial years.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield proposed the recommendations and Councillor Stephen Simkins seconded the recommendations.

The report was debated by Council.

Resolved:

1. That it be noted that a mid-year review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement had been undertaken and the Council had operated within the limits and requirements approved in March 2021, however due to the reprofiling of some capital programmes the authorised limit and operational boundary for commercial activities for 2022-2023 is forecast to be slightly in excess of the best estimate included in the Treasury Management Strategy presented to Council on 3 March 2021. This would be reviewed as part of the 2022-2023 Treasury Management Strategy.
2. That it be noted, the revenue underspends of £899,000 for the General Revenue Account and £706,000 for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) were forecast from treasury management activities in 2021-2022, arising as a result of rephasing of the capital programme and lower interest rates forecast on borrowing.

8 In Year Appointments for the 2021-2022 Municipal Year

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield presented the report In Year Appointments for the 2021-2022 Municipal Year for approval. The report recommended in year changes to Scrutiny Panels, Governance and Ethics Committee and an outside body.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield proposed the recommendations and Councillor Milkinder Jaspal seconded the recommendations and moved an additional recommendation that Councillor Phil Page be appointed to Kingswood Trust Board for a four year term of office. The additional recommendation was seconded by Councillor Stephen Simkins.

In response to Councillor Milkinder Jaspal's questions, the Chief Operating Officer, David Pattison agreed to provide Governance and Ethics Committee a report on whether background papers should be included for Council papers and review the term of office for appointments to outside bodies for city partnerships.

Resolved:

1. That the removal of Councillor Wendy Dalton from the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the Municipal year 2021/2022 be approved.
2. That the appointment of Councillor Mak Singh to the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the Municipal year 2021/2022 be approved.

3. That the removal of Councillor Tersaim Singh from the membership and Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee for the remainder of the Municipal year 2021/2022 be approved.
4. That the appointment of Councillor John Reynolds as Chair to the Governance and Ethics Committee for the remainder of the Municipal year 2021/2022 be approved.
5. That the appointment of Councillor Milkinder Jaspal to the Governance and Ethics Committee for the remainder of the Municipal year 2021/2022 be approved.
6. That the appointment of Councillor Tersaim Singh to the Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the Municipal year 2021/2022 be approved.
7. That the appointment of Councillor Lynne Moran on the Interpersonal Violence Board for the remainder of the Municipal year 2021/2022 be approved.
8. That Councillor Phil Page be appointed to Kingswood Trust Board for a four year term of office be approved.

9 Motions on Notice

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield moved the following motion:

“That this Council notes that the government plans to replace European Union ‘structural funds’ with a new UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), due to launch in April 2022. Indeed, in their 2019 general election manifesto, the Conservatives promised that their ‘new’ UKSPF would “at a minimum” match the level of EU spending in each of the four nations of the UK.

Prior to the introduction of the UKSPF, the government’s UK Community Renewal Fund (CRF) aims to support communities to pilot programmes and new approaches.

However, the early indications are that areas in need are not receiving the allocation they need from the CRF or that they reflect previous allocations of EU funding. On the contrary, wealthier, non-priority areas are getting relatively more. For example, a Priority 2 area like Coventry received more than some Priority 1 areas like Birmingham and Dudley.

The fact that areas like Devon are receiving more CRF funding (£9.3million) than the West Midlands (£5.3 million), not reflecting current EU allocations in those areas, raises serious questions about the government’s attempts at levelling up and the methodology they are using to allocate funds.

This Council, therefore, is instructed to use all available avenues to lobby the government to ensure it is fair, consistent and equitable in its approach in distributing UKSPF monies, now and in the future to reflect EU allocations, ensuring the areas with the greatest needs receive their fair share.”

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield outlined the rationale for the motion. Councillor Stephen Simkins seconded the motion.

Councillor Ellis Turrell moved the following amended motion:

After paragraph one, delete paragraphs two to five and insert:

This Council welcomes that the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund will remove much of the inefficiency associated with the previous EU funds, which was described in Parliament by the cross-party Work and Pensions Select Committee as being “mired in inordinate bureaucracy”.

Prior to the introduction of the UKSPF, the government’s UK Community Renewal Fund (CRF) aims to support communities to pilot programmes and new approaches.

This Council notes that so far this calendar year the UK Government has provided the following funding to Wolverhampton worth a total of at least £346.3 million:

November:

- *UK Community Renewal Fund (Wolverhampton VCS Partnership): £719,703*
- *Local Reform and Community Voices 2021 - 2022: £197,247*
- *War Pensions Disregard Grant 2021 - 2022: £31,573*
- *Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund (Adult Social Care): £931,990*

October:

- *Self-Employment Income Support Scheme: £2.7m*
- *Levelling Up Fund (City Learning Quarter): £20 million*
- *Homelessness Prevention Grant 2021 to 2022 Exceptional Winter Top-Up Allocations: £185,848*
- *Additional House Benefit Administration Subsidy: £97,170*
- *Pension Credit Uplift funding: £2,066*
- *Discretionary Housing Payments: £1,353,558*
- *Additional New Burdens (Welfare Reform Change) £129,395*
- *Payments for the Verify Earnings and Pensions Service: £35,084*
- *Housing Benefit Award Accuracy Initiative: £19,436.99*
- *Mid-year Discretionary Housing Payments: £1,904,278*
- *Housing Benefit Administration Subsidy (2021.22): £1,000,947*

September

- *Household Support Fund: £2,631,877.25*

August:

- *Traffic Signals Maintenance Grant Awards 2021/22: £500,000*

July:

- *Ockenden Review of Maternity Services: £182,462*
- *Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (Royal Wolverhampton) £4,887,705*
- *Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (Royal Wolverhampton) £5m*
- *LA Covid-19 Test and Trace Contains Outbreak Management Fund: £2,247,124*

June:

- *COVID Local Support Grant (Extension): £999,457*
- *Safer Streets Fund: £247,602*

May:

- *Local Council Tax Support Schemes for 2021 - 22: £3,298,187*
- *Wellbeing for Education Recovery: £32,149*
- *COVID Local Support Grant: £249,864*
- *Rough Sleeping Initiative £512,400*
- *Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (4th grant): £4.6m*

April

- *Culture Recovery Fund:*
 - *Wolverhampton Grand Theatre: £568,357*
 - *The Asylum Art Gallery: £12,500*
 - *Newhampton Arts Centre: £32,871*
 - *Boundary Way Project: £13,600*
- *Holiday Activities and Food Programme: £1,870,890*
- *Workforce Capacity Fund for Adult Social Care: £688,239*
- *Restart grant Allocations: £11,262,546*
- *Adult Social Care infection and Rapid Control Testing Fund: £1,923,805*

March:

- *Christmas Support Payment (wet-led pubs): £102,400*
- *Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed): 964,614*
- *Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open): £29,660,214*
- *Additional Restrictions Support Grant: £7,606,554*
- *Local Authority Public Health Grant: £21,159,004*
- *Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme: £140,000*
- *Staying Put Duty: £200,139*
- *Adult Weight Management Services Grant: £239,290*
- *Welcome Back Fund: £234,488 (plus additional support from the High Streets Taskforce)*
- *National Leisure Recovery Fund £267,638*
- *COVID Winter Support Scheme: £369,174*
- *Towns Fund: £25 million*
- *Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) Taskforce: £10 million.*
- *UK Community Renewal Fund: £20,000.*
- *Levelling Up Fund Capacity Allocation: £150,000*

February:

- *Sales, Fees and Charges Compensation Scheme: £4.27 million*
- *Domestic Abuse Victim Accommodation Support Fund: £650,902*
- *Former Independent Living Fund Grant: £948,777*
- *Settlement Funding Assessment: £102.3 million*
- *Improved Better Care Fund: £14.3 million*
- *New Homes Bonus: £1 million*
- *Social Care Grant: £11.4 million*
- *Lower Tier Services Grant: £500,000*

January:

- *Business Loan Schemes: £76,601,025*
- *E-Rostering (Pharmacy and AHP – Royal Wolverhampton): £491,000*
- *Community Champions Scheme (Covid-19): £474,943*

In light of the Government's levelling up agenda, this Council is instructed to use all available avenues to lobby the Government to ensure it is fair, consistent and equitable in its approach in distributing UKSPF monies, ensuring the areas with the greatest needs continue to receive their fair share.

Councillor Ellis Turrell outlined the rationale for the amended motion. Councillor Simon Bennett seconded the motion.

The amended motion was debated by Council. The amended motion was lost.

That the motion on UK Shared Prosperity Fund be agreed.

Councillor Adam Collinge moved the following motion:

"This Council notes the findings of the inspection of SEND services within Wolverhampton. Council agrees to the formation of a Review Group, outside of the existing scrutiny process, to monitor progress of SEND services and provide regular, dedicated scrutiny and support to assist in both the embedding of the strengths that exist within the service and to improve where weaknesses have been identified. Council agrees that the Review Group will have an independent chair, be politically balanced and may invite representatives from partner agencies.

Council delegates responsibility to the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel for the selection of both Review Group numbers and membership."

Councillor Adam Collinge outlined the rationale for the motion. Councillor Stephanie Haynes seconded the motion.

Councillor Dr Mike Hardacre moved the following amended motion:

In paragraph 2 after the word "agrees to" insert the word "*explore*" and after the word process insert the following wording "*in consultation with SEND Partnership Board and other partnership bodies and organisations*"

In paragraph 3 after the word "agrees that" replace the wording in the rest of the sentence with "*if the parties consulted agree that such an approach has merit, then proposals be brought forward to full Council for approval having consulted with the partners above*".

Councillor Dr Mike Hardacre outlined the rationale for the amended motion. Councillor Beverley Momenabadi seconded the motion.

The amended motion was debated by Council. The amended motion was carried.

Resolved: That the substantive motion on Inspection of SEND Services be agreed.

10 **Written Questions by Councillors**

The Deputy Leader: Inclusive City Economy, Councillor Stephen Simkins responded to questions put to him by Councillor Mary Bateman on Civic Halls. He also responded to a supplementary question on the same subject matter.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield responded to a question put to him by Councillor Wendy Thompson on Social Media. He also responded to a supplementary question on the same subject matter.

That the responses to written questions be noted.