

Attendance

Mayor Cllr Phil Page (Lab)
Deputy Mayor Cllr Claire Darke (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Obaida Ahmed
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 Alan Butt
Cllr Craig Collingswood
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Cllr Steve Evans

Cllr Val Evans
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal
Cllr Val Gibson
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre
Cllr Celia Hibbert
Cllr Keith Inston
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal
Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur
Cllr Roger Lawrence
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr Hazel Malcolm
Cllr Barbara McGarrity
Cllr Louise Miles
Cllr Beverley Momenabadi

Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Susan Roberts MBE
Cllr Zee Russell
Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE
Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz
Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Clare Simm
Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Martin Waite

Conservative

Cllr Simon Bennett
Cllr Christopher Haynes
Cllr Sohail Khan
Cllr Paul Singh

Cllr Udey Singh
Cllr Jane Stevenson
Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Jonathan Yardley

Employees

Tim Johnson
Mark Taylor
Claire Nye
John Denley
David Watts
Tracey Christie
Jaswinder Kaur
Donna Cope

Managing Director
Strategic Director - People
Director of Finance
Director of Public Health
Director of Adult Services
Head of Legal Services
Democratic Services Manager
Democratic Services Officer

The proceedings opened with Prayers

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ian Angus, Asha Mattu, Arun Photay and John Rowley.

2 Declarations of interest

Councillor Louise Miles declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda Item 5 – Final Budget Report 2019-2020 (Capital Programme 2018-2019 to 2022-2023 quarter three review and 2019- 2020 to 2023-2024 budget strategy) as an employee of the University of Wolverhampton.

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 30 January 2019, be agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Mayor.

4 Communications

1. Signing of Armed Forces Corporate Covenant

The Mayor was pleased to announce that local employers PLT training, Flat World Works and Vacuum and Atmosphere Services Limited were showing their ongoing commitment to support the Armed Forces community in the Black Country by signing the Armed Forces Covenant last week, demonstrating they have Armed Forces-friendly policies in place.

The Mayor added the local employers were supported by the Council and the Black Country Chamber of Commerce to achieve this as part of a unique partnership arrangement which was recognised as national best practice.

The Mayor added last year the Council became one of only a handful of local councils nationwide to receive the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award – the highest recognition for employer support to the Armed Forces.

2. CSE Awareness Day

The Mayor reported the Council would once again be raising awareness of child sexual exploitation as the Council approached this year's CSE Awareness Day on 18 March. The day aims to encourage everyone to think, spot and, most importantly, speak out against abuse. The Mayor encouraged all fellow Councillors to visit the See Me, Hear Me campaign website at www.seeme-hearme.org.uk, which contains a wealth of information about CSE and the warning signs to look out for, as well as signposting people to help and support.

3. Residents' Programme

The Mayor reported that partners had come together to contribute to this year's Residents Programme, with events running throughout the whole of March 2019. The programme showcases what a 'great place the City was to live, learn, work and be healthy' and promotes the support available to residents so they can make the most of the opportunities in the City.

The Mayor requested Councillors to support promotion of the programme by sharing the website address live.learn.work.wolves.dot.com with your networks and audiences.

4. National Association of Civic Officers (NACO) annual conference and awards ceremony.

The Mayor reported the Council would host approximately 100 delegates from across the country this Thursday and Friday when the Council host the National Association of Civic Officers (NACO) annual conference and awards ceremony.

The Mayor added that representatives from far and wide would gather at the Civic Centre for the event which was held at a different location each year. The association was now regarded as the largest and most active organisation for civic staff in the country and was well respected amongst practitioners, government departments and think tanks.

5. Tersaim Singh

The Mayor reported that former Mayor and Councillor, Tersaim Singh had been in hospital following a by-pass operation. The Mayor and Mayoress had sent a card on behalf of the Council wishing him a speedy recovery.

5 Final Budget Report 2019-2020

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Roger Lawrence presented the Final Budget Report 2019 – 2020 which encompassed the Capital Programme 2018-2019 to 2022-2023 quarter three review and 2019-2020 to 2023-2024 budget strategy, Treasury Management Strategy 2019-2020, Final Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-2020 to 2023-2024 and Council Tax Formal Resolutions for approval.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Roger Lawrence outlined the recommendations of the report, drawing Councillors attention to the challenges that the Council faced. He advised the proposed budget was balanced, that the Council was operating under the authorised borrowing limit and that the general reserves had not been drawn upon.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Roger Lawrence advised that the budget was facing great financial challenges, there was uncertainty surrounding the allocation of funding, the regeneration of the City was progressing at a pace, a new pay model needed to be adopted and Adults and Children's Social Care also faced further challenges ahead.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Roger Lawrence proposed the recommendations and Councillor Louise Miles 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:

Final Budget Report 2019-2020 (Resolution)	
Councillor Phil Page	For
Councillor Claire Darke	For
Councillor Obaida Ahmed	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 Simon Bennett	Against
Councillor Peter Bilson	For
Councillor Alan Bolshaw	For
Councillor Greg Brackenridge	For
Councillor Ian Brookfield	For
Councillor Paula Brookfield	For
Councillor Alan Butt	For
Councillor Craig Collingswood	For
Councillor Jasbinder Dehar	For
Councillor Steve Evans	For
Councillor Valerie Evans	For
Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal	For
Councillor Val Gibson	For
Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre	For
Councillor Christopher Haynes	Against
Councillor Celia Hibbert	For
Councillor Keith Inston	For
Councillor Jasbir Jaspal	For
Councillor Milkinderpal Jaspal	For
Councillor Rupinderjit Kaur	For
Councillor Sohail Khan	Against
Councillor Roger Lawrence	For
Councillor Linda Leach	For
Councillor Hazel Malcolm	For
Councillor Barbara McGarrity	For
Councillor Louise Miles	For
Councillor Beverley Momenabadi	For
Councillor Lynne Moran	For
Councillor Anwen Muston	For
Councillor Peter O'Neill	For
Councillor Rita Potter	For

Councillor John C Reynolds	For
Councillor Susan Roberts MBE	For
Councillor Zee Russell	For
Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE	For
Councillor Caroline Siarkiewicz	For
Councillor Stephen Simkins	For
Councillor Clare Simm	For
Councillor Paul Singh	Against
Councillor Udey Singh	Against
Councillor Jane Stevenson	Against
Councillor Paul Sweet	For
Councillor Jacqueline Sweetman	For
Councillor Wendy Thompson	Against
Councillor Martin Waite	For
Councillor Jonathan Yardley	Against
Carried	

The motion was **CARRIED** by 46 votes. There were eight against.

1. That the City of Wolverhampton Council Capital Strategy be approved.
2. That the revised medium-term General capital programme of £337.8 million, a reduction of £1.3 million from the previously approved programme and the change in associated resources be approved.
3. That the authorised borrowing limit for 2019-2020 to support the capital strategy as required under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003 be approved to be set at £1,141.5 million (PI3, Appendix 3 of the Cabinet report); the forecast borrowing was below the authorised borrowing limit.
4. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2019-2020 be approved as set out in Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report.
5. That the Annual Investment Strategy 2019-2020 be approved as set out in Appendix 2 of the Cabinet report.
6. That the Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators be approved as set out in Appendix 3 of the Cabinet report.
7. That the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement setting out the method used to calculate MRP for 2019-2020 be approved as set out in Appendix 4 of the Cabinet report.
8. That the Treasury Management Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices be approved as set out in Appendix 6 of the Cabinet report.
9. 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.
10. That the removal of the Local Prudential Indicator LPI 2 – HRA limit on indebtedness from the 2018-2019 Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators approved by Council on 7 March 2018, be approved.
11. That the net budget requirement for 2019-2020 of £234.9 million for General Fund services be approved (as set out at paragraph 18.1 of the Cabinet report).
12. That the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2019-2020 to 2023-2024 as detailed in Table 10 and the budget preparation parameters underpinning the MTFs as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report be approved.

13. A Council Tax for Council services in 2019-2020 of £1,617.06 for a Band D property, being an increase of 4.99% on 2018-2019 levels, which incorporates the 2% increase in relation to Adult Social Care be approved (as set out at paragraph 7.5 of the Cabinet report).
14. That it be approved that work start on developing budget reductions and income generation proposals for 2020-2021 onwards in line with the Five Year Financial Strategy (as set out at paragraph 14.3 of the Cabinet report) and progress be reported to Cabinet in July 2019 (as set out at paragraph 18.8 of the Cabinet report).
15. That the revision to the Council Tax Charges on Empty Properties and Second Homes Policy with effect from 1 April 2019 to introduce additional charges (as set out at paragraph 8.3 of the Cabinet report) be approved.
16. That it be noted that the Council Tax base for the year 2019-2020 was calculated at 63,996.44 (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 2019.
17. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2019-2020 was £103,486,000.
18. 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) £627,862,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
 - (b) £524,376,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £103,486,000 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) £1,617.06 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) £1,617.06 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.
19. That it be noted 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 Service	40.40	47.13	53.86	60.60	74.07	87.53	101.00	121.20
West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner	101.70	118.65	135.60	152.55	186.45	220.35	254.25	305.10
Total Precepts	142.10	165.78	189.46	213.15	260.52	307.88	355.25	426.30

20. 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 2019-2020 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	1,078.04	1,257.72	1,437.39	1,617.06	1,976.40	2,335.75	2,695.10	3,234.12
Total Billing	1,078.04	1,257.72	1,437.39	1,617.06	1,976.40	2,335.75	2,695.10	3,234.12

21. 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 2019-2020 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	142.10	165.78	189.46	213.15	260.52	307.88	355.25	426.30
Total Billing	1,078.04	1,257.72	1,437.39	1,617.06	1,976.40	2,335.75	2,695.10	3,234.12
Total Council Tax	1,220.14	1,423.50	1,626.85	1,830.21	2,236.92	2,643.63	3,050.35	3,660.42

22. That a notice of the amounts payable in respect of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band for the year commencing on 1 April 2019 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 were annual demands which cover the full financial year.
23. The Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council for 2019-2020 was not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.
24. As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2019-2020 was excessive and that the billing authority was not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992.
25. That it be noted that the MRP charge for the financial year 2019-2020 would be £15.4 million; it was forecast to increase to £18.2 million in 2020-2021 (paragraph 2.14 of the Cabinet report).
26. That it be noted that Cabinet or Cabinet (Resources) Panel and Council would receive regular Treasury Management reports during 2019-2020 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 2.12 and Appendices 2 and 3 to the Cabinet report.
27. That it be noted that the statements for 2019-2020 reflect the new Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the Prudential Code and also the revised guidance on Local Government Investments issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG).