

Attendance

Mayor Cllr Claire Darke (Lab)
Deputy Mayor Cllr Greg Brackenridge (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Obaida Ahmed	Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre	Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr Harman Banger	Cllr Celia Hibbert	Cllr Phil Page
Cllr Mary Bateman	Cllr Keith Inston	Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Philip Bateman MBE	Cllr Jasbir Jaspal	Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Alan Bolshaw	Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal	Cllr Susan Roberts MBE
Cllr Ian Brookfield	Cllr Rashpal Kaur	Cllr Zee Russell
Cllr Paula Brookfield	Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur	Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE
Cllr Alan Butt	Cllr Roger Lawrence	Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz
Cllr Craig Collingswood	Cllr Linda Leach	Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Jacqui Coogan	Cllr Hazel Malcolm	Cllr Clare Simm
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar	Cllr Asha Mattu	Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Steve Evans	Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN	Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Val Evans	Cllr Beverley Momenabadi	Cllr Martin Waite
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal	Cllr Lynne Moran	

Conservative

Cllr Paul Appleby	Cllr Udey Singh
Cllr Simon Bennett	Cllr Jane Stevenson
Cllr Jonathan Crofts	Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Christopher Haynes	Cllr Jonathan Yardley
Cllr Sohail Khan	

Employees

Tim Johnson	Managing Director
Tracey Christie	Head of Legal Services
Ross Cook	Director of City Environment
John Denley	Director of Public Health
Ian Fegan	Director of Communications and External Relations
David Watts	Director of Adult Services
Alison Shannon	Chief Accountant
Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Services Manager
Shelley Humphries	Democratic Services Officer

The proceedings opened with Prayers

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Payal Bedi-Chadha, Peter Bilson, Olivia Birch, Dr Paul Birch J.P., John Rowley and Paul Singh.

2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

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 15 May 2019, be agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Mayor.

4 Communications

1. The Friendship Agreement with Arjundhara Municipality, Nepal

The Mayor was pleased to be hosting a dinner for the council's distinguished guests at the conclusion of this meeting, together with local residents from the Nepalese community.

The Mayor added to celebrate the occasion, the Ambassador of Nepal had invited all Councillors, together with a guest, to attend a celebratory dinner at the Embassy of Nepal, in London this coming Saturday at 7pm.

2. The Queen's Birthday Honours

The Mayor was delighted to report that three people were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Mrs Amarjit Kaur Cheema was awarded an OBE for Services to Education in the West Midlands. Dr Helen Macpherson Hibbs was awarded an MBE for services to NHS Leadership and Christine Mary McGowan was awarded an MBE for services to developing the arts in Wolverhampton.

The Mayor had written to Amarjit, Helen and Christine on behalf of the City Council to extend the Council's sincere congratulations.

3. Armed Forces Day 2019

The Mayor was delighted to attend the new-style Armed Forces Day celebration at West Park. Over 5,000 people had attended to support the armed forces community.

4. Young Citizen of the Year

The Mayor was delighted to present the award for Young Citizen of the Year to Samuel Iwaye, from Moreton School. The two runners up were Jude Aston and Melvin Riley Samuel. Samuel was nominated for being a voice for young people

in the city and for trying to improve the lives of children in care. He was also extremely passionate about combatting knife crime.

5. Cricket

The Mayor congratulated the England Cricket Team for winning the world cup and added it was a great example of a diverse team working together to deliver success.

6. Pride Awards

The Mayor reported that the Pride Awards recognise employees' achievements and reward those who go the 'extra mile' to serve the City of Wolverhampton. This year more than 140 nominations had been received which was fantastic. The Pride Awards would take place on Monday 22 July at the Grand Theatre.

7. VJ Day commemorative events

The Mayor informed Councillors that the Central Branch of the City of Wolverhampton Royal British Legion and the Ex-Service Council would hold a service of remembrance on Thursday 15 August, at the Cenotaph, St Peter's Square, commencing at 11:30am.

8. Visitor Programme

The Mayor reported the 2019 Visitor Programme provided a platform for showcasing the city's great entertainment offer this July. The event showcased 33 events and activities to encourage visitors to the city. Details of all events and activities could be viewed at visitwolves.com The showpiece event, the 'City of Wolverhampton Festival of Food and Drink', took place last weekend and a short highlights video was played.

5 Parental Leave Policy

Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE presented the report on Parental Leave Policy for approval. She advised the policy would ensure that councillors with children and other caring responsibilities were supported as appropriate. At present there was no legal right to parental leave of any kind for people elected in public office.

She added the policy detailed leave periods, cover arrangements and the impact on basic and special responsibility allowances. The policy would also assist with retaining experienced councillors, particularly women by making public office more accessible.

Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE proposed the recommendation and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield seconded the recommendation.

Resolved:

That the Parental Leave Policy for Councillors be approved.

6 **Appointment of Councillor Champions**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield presented the report on Appointment of Councillor Champions for approval. He proposed that Councillor Champions be appointed for Digital Innovation, Climate Change and Wolverhampton for Everyone. The cost of additional Councillor Champions would be met from existing budget provisions.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield proposed the recommendations and Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE seconded the recommendations.

Resolved:

1. That Councillor Champions for Digital Innovation, Climate Change and Wolverhampton for Everyone be appointed.
2. That it be noted, the term IT would be removed from the Councillor Champion for Councillor Development and IT title to avoid any confusion.
3. That it be noted, the Councillor Champion for Climate Change would Chair the Sustainability Advisory Group which would be renamed Climate Change Advisory Group.

7 **Capital Budget Outturn 2018-2019 including Quarter One Capital Budget Monitoring 2019-2020**

Councillor Louise Miles presented the Capital Budget Outturn 2018-2019 including Quarter One Capital Budget Monitoring 2019-2020 report for approval. She advised the report provided an update on the outturn position for 2018-2019 and update on the 2019-2020 financial performance of the General Revenue Account and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programmes whilst also providing a revised forecast for 2019-2020 to 2023-2024 as at quarter one of 2019-2020. The report also recommended revisions to the current approved capital programmes covering the period 2019-2020 to 2023-2024.

She added the £16.7million change of funding was due to the projects now being funded by the Combined Authority.

Councillor Louise Miles proposed the recommendations and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield seconded the recommendations.

In response to Councillor Wendy Thompson questions, Councillor Louise Miles agreed to provide a more detailed written response on:

- When the legal agreements with Urban and Civic on the westside project would be completed.
- Whether the overall risk rating of amber included Civic Halls.
- Whether procurement spend with local people and businesses was currently maximised.
- Confirm whether the Newbridge playing fields were open for general use.

Resolved:

1. That the revised City of Wolverhampton Council Capital Strategy be approved.
2. That the revised medium term General Revenue Account capital programme of £334.2 million, a reduction of £7.9 million from the previously approved programme and the change in associated resources be approved.
3. That the revised Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme of £441.9 million be approved, a reduction of £609,000 from the previously approved programme and the change in associated resources.

8 Treasury Management-Annual Report 2018-2019 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2019-2020

Councillor Louise Miles presented the Treasury Management-Annual Report 2018-2019 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2019-2020 report for approval. She advised the report sets out the results of treasury management activities carried out in 2018-2019, together with performance against the Prudential Indicators previously approved by Council. She added the report also provided a monitoring and progress report on treasury management activity for the first quarter of 2019-2020, in line with the Prudential Indicators approved by Council in March 2019.

She added the activity had taken place in accordance with the required rules and regulations. Also that the changes of rules had impacted the minimal revenue provision.

Councillor Louise Miles proposed the recommendations and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield seconded the recommendations.

In response to Councillor Wendy Thompson question, Councillor Louise Miles agreed to provide a written response on the average cashflow balance for 2018/2019.

Resolved:

1. That it be noted, the Council operated within the approved Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators, and also within the requirements set out in the Council's approved Treasury Management Policy Statement during 2018-2019.
2. That it be noted, a revenue net overspend of £2.2 million for the General Revenue Account and an underspend of £195,000 for the Housing Revenue Account were generated from treasury management activities in 2018-2019.
3. That it be noted, a breakeven position for the General Revenue Account and an underspend of £910,000 for the Housing Revenue Account were forecast from treasury management activities in 2019-2020.

9 Youth Justice Plan 2019-2020

Councillor John Reynolds presented the Youth Justice Plan 2019-2020 report for approval. He advised the plan related to the work of the Youth Offending Team (YOT) partnership under the oversight of the YOT Management Board and the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership. The work of this plan was regularly reviewed by the YOT Management Board, which encompassed membership from City of Wolverhampton Council, West Midlands Police, The Royal Wolverhampton

Hospital Trust, Recovery Near You (substance misuse service), National Probation Service and the Chair of the Black Country Youth Court Bench.

He provided an overview of the three national indicators on which performance was measured and how Wolverhampton had performed against these indicators. It was noted Wolverhampton had performed well compared to the previous year and against national averages.

He also provided an overview of the key areas that would be given significant priority over 2019-2020.

Councillor John Reynolds proposed the recommendation and Councillor Dr Mike Hardacre seconded the recommendation.

In response to Councillor Wendy Thompsons question on the average time to be seen by CAMHS for a young person following a referral, Councillor John Reynolds agreed to provide a written response.

Resolved:

That the adoption of the Youth Justice Plan 2019-2020 be approved.

10 **Motions on Notice**

Councillor Jonathan Yardley moved the following motion:

“The collapse of Shaylor Group, and the sad loss of 200 jobs, throws the entire Civic Halls refurbishment project into question. The £38 million budget will undoubtedly rise, and the opening date will be pushed back, as the Council is forced to find another contractor to finish the job. Despite other businesses expressing concerns about Shaylor’s financial situation months ago, we note that as recently as May, the previous Cabinet Member for City Economy decided to approve a variation order with Shaylor’s instead of re-tendering the contract for Phase Two of the works. This Council therefore calls for an independent review into the whole project, further to the internal ‘lessons learned’ report in 2018.”

Councillor Jonathan Yardley outlined the rationale for the motion. Councillor Wendy Thompson seconded the motion.

The motion was debated by Council.

Resolved:

1. That the motion on Civic Halls Refurbishment Project was lost.

Councillors Wendy Thompson, Chris Haynes, Jonathan Yardley, Udey Singh, Simon Bennett and Jonathan Crofts left the Council Chamber at 18:53.

The Mayor proposed that in accordance with the Constitution, Full Council Meetings Procedure Rules, Council Procedure Rule 20.1 the usual procedure rules of debate be suspended to allow the Youth Council to speak. Councillor John Reynolds seconded the motion.

Resolved:

That in accordance with Full Council Meetings Procedure Rules of the Constitution and Council Procedure Rule 20.1 the procedure rules be suspended.

The Youth Council introduced a presentation on 'Our Views Matter'.

Following the presentation from the Youth Council the Mayor re-instated standing orders.

Councillor John Reynolds moved the following motion:

"That the Council notes:

- *That the impacts of climate change are already causing serious damage around the world.*
- *That the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018,*
 - a. *describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and*
 - b. *confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector.*
- *That all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies;*
- *That strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits.*

Therefore, in order to address this emergency, the Council commits to:

- *Declare a 'Climate Emergency' that requires urgent action;*
- *Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2028;*
- *Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning and regulatory decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2028;*
- *Support and work with all partners in the City towards making the city zero carbon within the same timescale;*
- *Ensure that all Council leadership teams embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities;*
- *The Council's Scrutiny Panels considering the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies;*

- *Work with, influence and inspire partners across the city, Black Country, Combined Authority and wider region, to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies and plans;*
- *Develop “Future Generations: Climate Change and Energy Strategy” and present this for agreement at Full Council in January 2020;*
- *Proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they are involved in the co-production and co-design of the Future Generations Strategy and have a voice in shaping the future of the City;*
- *Welcome the appointment of a Councillor Champion for Climate Change, and request the Sustainability Advisory Group to develop its role to provide oversight of the Future Generations Strategy;*
- *Report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that the West Midlands pension fund has, and request a review of the investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio;*
- *Ensure that all reports in preparation for forthcoming budget cycles take into account the actions the Council will take to address this emergency;*
- *Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise.”*

Councillor John Reynolds outlined the rationale for the motion. Councillor Steve Evans seconded the motion.

Councillor Jane Stevenson moved the following amended motion:

“That this Council:

- *Recognises that climate change is a reality and a worldwide effort is essential to cut greenhouse gas emissions in order to avoid a catastrophic temperature rise of more than 2 degrees Celsius.*
- *Acknowledges that local authorities, as well as national and regional governments, have a duty to act on helping to reduce carbon emissions, build low carbon communities and meet national climate commitments.*
- *Welcomes the Government’s strengthening of the Climate Change Act with a new national goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.*
- *Declares a ‘climate emergency’ with an aim to achieve net-zero carbon emissions from council activities by 2028.*

That this Council therefore agrees to:

- *Develop “Future Generations: Climate Change and Energy Strategy” and present this to Full Council in January 2020.*

- *As part of this new strategy, request that officers undertake the necessary reviews to achieve this aspiration, together with an assessment of the cost and technology implications, so that Cabinet and Council can make informed decisions.*
- *Set out a timetable of interim targets so that progress on the Climate Change and Energy Strategy can be clearly monitored.*
- *Support and work with all partners in the City towards making the city net-zero carbon.*
- *Work with businesses and public sector bodies across the region and country to deliver this ambitious goal through all relevant strategies and plans.*
- *Continue the important cross-party work undertaken by the Sustainability Advisory Group and the Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel on this issue, particularly in scrutinising the Future Generations strategy.*
- *Ensure that all Council leadership teams embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing carbon emissions resulting from their activities.*
- *Call on the Government to support councils in their work in meeting national climate change commitments through additional powers and resources. “*

Councillor Jane Stevenson outlined the rationale for the amended motion. Councillor Paul Appleby seconded the motion.

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

Resolved:

That the substantive motion on Declaring a Climate Change Emergency be agreed.

11 **Written Question to Cabinet Member**

Resolved:

That it be noted, the item on Written Question to Cabinet Member was not considered.