

## Attendance

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

### Labour

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

### Conservative

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

### Employees

Tim Johnson	Chief Executive
David Pattison	Director of Governance
Mark Taylor	Deputy Chief Executive
Emma Bennett	Director of Children's Services
Ross Cook	Director of City Environment
John Denley	Director of Public Health
Ian Fegan	Director of Communications and External Relations
Charlotte Johns	Director of Strategy
Richard Lawrence	Director of Regeneration
Claire Nye	Director of Finance
Denise Pearce	Head of Human Resources
Laura Phillips	Head of Democratic and Support Services
David Watts	Director of Adult Services
Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Services Manager
Fabrica Hastings	Democratic Services Assistant

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The proceedings opened with Prayers

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*Item No.*    *Title*

**1        Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Payal Bedi-Chadha, Rashpal Kaur, Phil Page, John Rowley, Jane Stevenson and Jonathan Yardley.

**2        Declarations of interest**

There were no declaration of interests 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 29 January 2020, be agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Mayor.

**4        Communications**

**1. Councillor Peter Bilson.**

The Mayor was saddened to announce the death of long-serving City of Wolverhampton Councillor Peter Bilson, who sadly passed away at Russells Hall Hospital on Saturday 15 February following a period of illness.

The Mayor added that Peter was first elected in 1982 and had represented the Bushbury South and Low Hill ward. He had a wealth of experience and was involved in various roles in Local Government, the Fire Service and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

The Mayor added that during Peter's long career as Councillor, Peter had chaired the Personnel, Housing, Leisure, Environmental Health and Economic Development functions of the Council and he also served on a number of Regional and National Bodies.

The Mayor advised that Peter was originally employed as a Firefighter, then as a Trade Union Official, he went on to serve as the Chair of the Regional Fire Authority (WMFCDA) before becoming the Millennium Mayor of Wolverhampton for 1999-2000.

The Mayor informed Council that the funeral would take place on Wednesday 11 March at 1200 at St Peter's Collegiate Church.

The Mayor extended the deepest sympathies of the Council to Peter Bilson's family at this very sad time.

The Council stood in silent tribute to the late Peter Bilson.

**2. Elias Mattu Avenue**

The Mayor was honoured to join Councillor Asha Mattu, the widow of former Mayor, Elias Mattu, this Monday for the opening of a new road named after the late and much-missed councillor. Elias Mattu Avenue was in the heart of

Graiseley and would be a lasting memorial to a very popular man who did so much for our city.

### **3. Knife Angel**

The Mayor informed Council that the Knife Angel – a powerful symbol of hope and cohesion, and a salient warning of the dangers of carrying and using bladed weapons was coming to Wolverhampton. The Knife Angel would go on display in Queen Square in the city centre for 28 days from Monday 30 March as part of a nationwide anti-violence tour.

The Mayor added that whilst the Knife Angel was in Wolverhampton, a knife amnesty would also be taking place. All knives surrendered through this amnesty would be used to create a new sculpture for Wolverhampton as part of the Angel's legacy, through the joint efforts of partners in Wolverhampton and the British Ironwork Centre.

### **4. Dementia Friendly Community Status**

The Mayor reported that Wolverhampton had once more been recognised as a dementia friendly city – demonstrating that organisations were working together to make people living with the condition feel better understood, respected and supported.

The Mayor added that The Alzheimer's Society had granted Wolverhampton Dementia Friendly Community Status for the third year running after recognising the work taking place to improve services for people living with dementia, and their families and carers.

### **5. National Exploitation Awareness Day**

The Mayor reported that the Council would once again be raising awareness of child and adult sexual exploitation on the 18<sup>th</sup> through to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The day aims to encourage everyone to think, spot and, most importantly, speak out against abuse. The Council was committed to tackling exploitation and supporting victims and their families who were subjected to the abuse.

## **5 State of City Address**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield, delivered his State of the City address. He introduced the video presentation played titled "Better outcomes for local people". He highlighted the achievements of the City, actions taken, future significant challenges and opportunities to come.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield announced:

- That a conditional agreement was now in place with Odeon Cinema for Westside,
- That from May 2020 both tips would be open seven days a week on a trial basis,
- That there would be a new city solar farm at Bowman's Harbour.

Councillor Wendy Thompson provided the principle speech in response to the State of the City Address.

## 6 Final Budget Report 2020-2021

Councillor Louise Miles presented the Final Budget Report 2020 – 2021 which encompassed the Capital Programme 2019-2020 to 2023-2024 quarter three review and 2020-2021 to 2024-2025 budget strategy, Treasury Management Strategy 2020-2021, Final Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-2021 to 2023-2024 and Council Tax Formal Resolutions for approval.

Councillor Louise Miles outlined the recommendations of the report, drawing Councillors attention to the challenges that the Council faced. She advised the proposed budget was balanced and that resources were aligned to key policies of the Council.

Councillor Louise Miles advised that the Council was committed to funding fire safety measures, investing in the city for regeneration projects, education, highways, climate change and young people.

Councillor Louise Miles advised that Council Tax would be increased by 1.99% and adult social care by 2%. She went on to outline the rationale for increasing these taxes.

Councillor Louise Miles commended the work of the Director of Finance and the Finance Team.

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

<b>Final Budget Report 2020 - 2021 (Resolution)</b>	
Councillor Claire Darke	For
Councillor Greg Brackenridge	For
Councillor Obaida Ahmed	For
Councillor Paul Appleby	Abstain
Councillor Harman Banger	For
Councillor Mary Bateman	For
Councillor Philip Bateman MBE	For
Councillor Simon Bennett	Abstain
Councillor Olivia Birch	For
Councillor Alan Bolshaw	For
Councillor Ian Brookfield	For
Councillor Paula Brookfield	For
Councillor Alan Butt	For
Councillor Craig Collingswood	For
Councillor Jacqui Coogan	For
Councillor Jonathan Crofts	Abstain

Councillor Jasbinder Dehar	For
Councillor Steve Evans	For
Councillor Valerie Evans	For
Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal	For
Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre	For
Councillor Christopher Haynes	Abstain
Councillor Celia (CeeCee) Hibbert	For
Councillor Keith Inston	For
Councillor Jasbir Jaspal	For
Councillor Milkinderpal Jaspal	For
Councillor Sohail Khan	Abstain
Councillor Roger Lawrence	For
Councillor Linda Leach	For
Councillor Hazel Malcolm	For
Councillor Asha Mattu	For
Councillor Barbara McGarrity QN	No vote recorded
Councillor Louise Miles	For
Councillor Beverley Momenabadi	For
Councillor Lynne Moran	For
Councillor Anwen Muston	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 Clare Simm	For
Councillor Gurmukh (Mak) Singh	For
Councillor Paul Singh	Abstain
Councillor Udey Singh	Abstain
Councillor Paul Sweet	For
Councillor Jacqueline Sweetman	For
Councillor Wendy Thompson	Abstain
Councillor Martin Waite	For
<b>Carried</b>	

The motion was **CARRIED** by 40 votes. There were eight abstentions.

Resolved:

1. That the revised medium term General Revenue Account capital programme of £368.4 million, an increase of £41.3 million from the previously approved programme, and the change in associated resources be approved.
2. That the authorised borrowing limit for 2020-2021 to support the capital strategy as required under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003 be set at £1,136.6 million (PI3, Appendix 3 to the Cabinet report); the forecast borrowing is below the authorised borrowing limit.
3. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020-2021 as set out in Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report be approved.

4. That the Annual Investment Strategy 2020-2021 as set out in Appendix 2 to the Cabinet report be approved.
5. That the Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators as set out in Appendix 3 to the Cabinet report be approved.
6. That the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement setting out the method used to calculate MRP for 2020-2021 as set out in Appendix 4 to the Cabinet report be approved.
7. That the Treasury Management Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices as set out in Appendix 6 to the Cabinet report be approved.
8. That 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 would be reported to the Cabinet Member for Resources and Cabinet (Resources) Panel as appropriate.
9. That the net budget requirement for 2020-2021 of £248.2 million for General Fund services as set out in paragraph 19.1 of the Cabinet report be approved.
10. That the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2020-2021 to 2023-2024 as detailed in Table 7 and the budget preparation parameters underpinning the MTFS as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report be approved.
11. That a Council Tax for Council services in 2020-2021 of £1,681.58 for a Band D property, being an increase of 3.99% on 2019-2020 levels, which incorporates the 2% increase in relation to Adult Social Care (paragraph 9.6 of the Cabinet report) be approved.
12. That work starts on developing budget reductions and income generation proposals for 2021-2022 onwards in line with the Five Year Financial Strategy (paragraph 19.5 of the Cabinet report).
13. That revisions to the local council tax support scheme to introduce a disregard of any compensatory payments that are similarly disregarded in the prescribed scheme, and any transitional payments made to compensate for the loss of the severe disability premium in Universal Credit (paragraph 10.5 of the Cabinet report) be approved.
14. That it be noted that the Council Tax base for the year 2020-2021 is calculated at 64,726.80 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act"), as reported to Cabinet on 22 January 2020.
15. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2020-2021 is £108,843,000.

16. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2020-2021 in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended:
- (a) £629,915,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
  - (b) £521,072,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
  - (c) £108,843,000 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) £1,681.58 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) £1,681.58 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.
17. That it be noted that 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 detailed in the report.
18. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts as detailed in the report as the amounts of Council Tax for 2020-2021 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.
19. 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 2020-2021 for each of the categories of dwellings as detailed in the report.

20. That a notice of the amounts payable in respect of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band for the year commencing on 1 April 2020 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.
21. That the Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2020-2021 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.
22. That as the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2020-2021 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992.
23. That it be noted that the authorised borrowing limit recommended in the report includes an increase of £5.0 million which has arisen due to changes in accounting treatment of leases.
24. That it be noted that the MRP charge for the financial year 2020-2021 would be £17.9 million; it is forecast to increase to £20.9 million in 2021-2022 (paragraph 2.13 of the Cabinet report).
25. That it be noted that Cabinet or Cabinet (Resources) Panel and Council would receive regular Treasury Management reports during 2020-2021 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 2.11 and Appendices 2 and 3 to the Cabinet report.

7

### **Electoral Review: Council Size Submission and Electoral Projections**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield presented the Electoral Review: Council Size Submission and Electoral Projections for approval. The report detailed the council size submission and electoral projections. The Council was proposing that number of Councillors for Wolverhampton remain at 60.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield added that as part of the next phase a review of ward boundaries would take place.

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

Resolved:

1. That the draft council size submission and draft electoral forecasts be approved for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.
2. That authority be delegated to the Director of Governance to make any minor amendments to the draft council size submission and draft electoral forecasts prior to submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.



**8 Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel Members**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield presented the Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel Members report for approval. The reason for special urgency was to ensure the Independent Remuneration Panel was properly appointed to so that any recommendations made were lawful.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield stated the Independent Remuneration Panel needed to be convened to consider the proposed governance arrangements.

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

Resolved:

That the appointment of Reverend David Wright, Miceal Barden and Sylvia Parkin to the Independent Remuneration Panel be approved.