

**Minutes of the proceedings of the Council  
Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 at 6.00pm  
in the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley**

**Present:**

Councillor A Millward (Mayor)

Councillor S Greenaway (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors S Ali, A Aston, P Atkins, N Barlow, C Barnett, C Bayton, D Bevan, I Bevan, R Body, D Borley, P Bradley, R Burston, R Buttery, B Challenor, S Clark, J Clinton, R Collins, D Corfield, J Cowell, T Crumpton, A Davies, P Drake, P Dobb, M Evans, A Finch, J Foster, B Gentle, A Goddard, P Harley, S Henley, A Hopwood, Z Islam, S Keasey, I Kettle, E Lawrence, P Lee, P Miller, S Mughal, C Neale, N Neale, S Phipps, K Razzaq, S Ridney, J Roberts, M Rogers, P Sahota, S Saleem, K Shakespeare, D Stanley, W Sullivan, A Taylor, L Taylor-Childs, S Waltho, M Westwood and T Westwood together with the Chief Executive and other Officers.

**Prayers**

The Mayor led the Council in saying the international prayer for peace. Councillor D Stanley led the Council in saying the Lord's Prayer.

**35 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors K Ahmed, R Ahmed, M Aston, R Clinton, C Elcock, K Finch, M Hanif, D Harley, L Johnson, A Lees, K Lewis, P Lowe, E Taylor, D Vickers and Q Zada.

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**36 Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made by the following Members:

Councillor A Aston – Pecuniary interest in any matters directly affecting employment by the West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Councillor M Evans - Any matters relating to the Castle Hill development and all references to Dudley Zoo - Non-pecuniary interest as a member of Dudley and West Midlands Zoological Society Ltd.

Councillors D Stanley and A Taylor - West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) – Transport Delivery Committee - Non-pecuniary interests as Members of the Committee.

Councillor P Miller - Any matters relating to adult social care - Non-pecuniary interest as wife was receiving visits from Gateway Dementia Centre in Brettell Lane.

Councillor R Burston - Capital Programme Monitoring (Metro Complementary Measures, Dudley Interchange, Portersfield Link); Minutes of the Housing and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee (references to West Midlands Local Transport Plan (LTP) – Green Paper Engagement and LLP Programme) and any references to West Midlands Combined Authority - Pecuniary interest in any matters directly affecting employment.

Councillor I Bevan – Any references to Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust / Russells Hall Hospital – Pecuniary interest in any matters directly affecting employment.

Councillors N Barlow and P Miller – Any references to West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority - Non-pecuniary interests as Members of the Authority.

Councillor S Waltho - Minutes of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee - Non-pecuniary interest as a nominated Member of the Council of Governors on the Dudley Group of Hospitals.

Councillor C Neale - Minutes of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee - Non-pecuniary interest in view of wife's employment.

Councillor N Neale - Minutes of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee or health issues generally - Pecuniary interest in any matters directly affecting employment with Dudley Group of Hospitals (NHS) Foundation Trust.

Councillor Z Islam – Matters relating to Children's Services – Non-pecuniary interest due to daughter's employment with Fort Advocacy Services Ltd. who were occasionally commissioned by Children's Services to provide independent advocacy services and her involvement with the Dudley Advocacy Charity as an independent parent advocate.

Councillor C Bayton – References to the Black Country Plan – Non-pecuniary interest due to involvement with a petition and as a ward Councillor.

Councillor S Ali - Minutes of the Cabinet - Non-pecuniary interest as a Non-Executive Director at the Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Councillor A Goddard - Minutes of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee - Non-pecuniary interest in view of employment with Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

37 **Minutes**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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38 **Mayor's Announcements**

(a) **City Status Bid**

The Mayor reported on the Council's bid for City Status. The submission deadline was 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2021. Thanks were extended to Members, Officers, partner organisations and the general public for their engagement in the process of developing the bid.

(b) **Housing and Community Services – Homebuilder of the Year Award**

The Mayor announced that Housing and Community Services had recently won the Homebuilder of the Year at the UK housing awards. Following comments from Councillor L Taylor-Childs, the Council congratulated everyone involved in this outstanding achievement.

(c) **Changes to Programme of Meetings**

In view of timescales for setting the Council's budget, the Mayor reported on changes to the programmed dates of Cabinet and Council meetings in February and March 2022. The changes would be communicated to Members electronically.

(d) **Small Business Saturday**

The Mayor reported that the Council was promoting Small Business Saturday on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 to encourage people to support all types of small businesses across the Borough.

(e) **Black Country Bandanas**

The Mayor reported that she, along with several other Members, were wearing Black Country bandanas at this meeting in aid of charity and in support of a colleague who was undergoing medical treatment.

(f) Christmas Gifts for Care Leavers

The Mayor reported on the Christmas Gifts for Care Leavers Scheme and encouraged all Members to participate in their role as Corporate Parents. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People (Councillor R Buttery) undertook to arrange for an appropriate email to be circulated to Members of the Council.

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39 **Petition for Debate – Save our Greenbelt**

Pursuant to the Council's Petitions Scheme, a Petition for Debate containing over 3,000 signatures had been received. The petition related to the Draft Black Country Plan consultation in the following terms:

“We oppose the development of green belt land at south of Holbeache Lane and the Triangle (Swindon Road) in the Draft Black Country Plan. Site Ref: DUH 208 page 371 (Holbeache) and DUH 211 page 371 (The Triangle).”

The Petition Organiser, Mr S Cutler, attended the meeting and addressed the Council.

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14, the petition was the subject of a debate by the Council. At the conclusion of the debate, it was reported that the petition would be considered alongside all the representations received on the Black Country Plan

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40 **Capital Programme Monitoring**

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor P Harley, seconded by Councillor S Clark and

**Resolved**

- (1) That progress with the 2021/22 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendices A and B to the report, be noted.
  - (2) That the expenditure of £66,000 on Air Quality Monitoring Equipment be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report.
  - (3) That the urgent amendment to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report, be noted.
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41 **Notices of Motion**

The Mayor reported that, following consultation with Group Leaders, consideration of the notices of motion would be deferred until the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

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42 **Questions under Council Procedure Rule 11**

The Mayor reported that, following consultation with Group Leaders, the Question Time session would be deferred until the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

Any questions that could not reasonably be deferred could be sent by email to the Leader, Cabinet Members or Committee Chairs.

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43 **Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business for consideration at this meeting.

The Mayor wished everyone a happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and prosperous New Year.

The meeting ended at 6.50 pm

MAYOR