

Meeting of the Council

**Monday, 28th February, 2022 at 6.00pm
in the Council Chamber
at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley**

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the numbered agenda items listed below.

Agenda - Public Session (Meeting open to the public and press)

Prayers

1. Apologies for absence
2. To receive any declarations of interest under the Members' Code of Conduct
3. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 29th November, 2021 as a correct record
4. Mayor's Announcements
5. Petition for Debate – "Charges for Green Waste Collection and Improve Recycling Facilities in Dudley."
6. To receive reports from meetings as follows:

Meetings of the Cabinet dated 15th December, 2021 and 17th February, 2022

Councillor P Harley to move:

- (a) Council Plan 2022-2025 Update (Pages 1- 4)
- (b) Capital Programme Monitoring (Pages 5 - 46)
- (c) Dudley Council Pay Policy 2022/23 (Pages 47 -64)
- (d) Annual Review of the Constitution (Pages 65 - 96)

Councillor K Shakespeare to move:

- (e) Section 141 Policing and Crime Act 2017 Review of Cumulative Impact Assessment Policy 2022 (Pages 97 – 124)
- (f) Review of Gambling Policy (Statement of Principles) (Pages 125 - 160)

Councillor L Taylor-Childs to move:

- (g) Deployment of Resources: Housing Revenue Account and Public Sector Housing Capital (Pages 161 - 186)

Councillor S Clark to move:

- (h) Invitation to Become an 'Opted In' Authority – Public Sector Audit Appointments (Pages 187 - 194)

Meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee dated 7th February, 2022

Councillor A Taylor to move:

- (i) Treasury Management (Pages 195 - 213)

7. Notices of Motion

- (a) Impact of Austerity

To consider the following notice of motion received from Councillor P Lowe on 29th September, 2021:

“This Council recognises the impact that austerity continues to have on our Council and the people that we represent.

This Council further notes that Government funding cuts continue to have a detrimental impact on our ability to address the crisis that we have in social care provision, housing, and many other essential Council services.

Dudley Council believe that the 72 Councillors have a duty to represent the interests of the people that we are elected to serve.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Jointly write to the Government to demand additional funding so that we can invest in rebuilding our communities.



- Re-ignite the Fair Deal for Dudley campaign that highlighted the multi-million cuts to our funding since 2010.
- Re-establish and build on our local procurement promise building a 'Dudley model' using the principles of the Preston model.

Additionally, we recognise the impact that austerity is having on the working conditions of thousands of people employed in our borough. Many are threatened with being fired and re-hired if they refuse to accept less pay and worse conditions. This is no way to treat hard working Dudley residents after months of pandemic hardship.

We note that this practice has been banned in Ireland, Spain and France and believe it should be banned here in the UK to defend Dudley workers.

We therefore resolve to write to the Government:

- in the spirit of our Fair Deal for Dudley campaign, to demand additional funding
- stating our position on the use of fire and rehire and to call upon Government to act in respect of unscrupulous employers that adopt this practice.”

NB: The above motion was moved by Councillor P Lowe and seconded by Councillor S Ridney at the Council meeting on 11th October, 2021.

The following amendment was subsequently moved by Councillor S Clark and seconded by Councillor L Taylor-Childs:

“This Council recognises the importance of responsible financial management of Local Authority Finances. It is well known that pressures on services are increasing, from Mental Health to road repairs, and it is vital that Local Authorities adapt to the changing nature of Local Government financing.

Since 2018 this administration has creatively and responsibly managed the finances of this Authority which has not only led to the residents of Dudley receiving high quality front line services, enhanced green care and increased mental health services, but is seeing the most aspirational regeneration programme of our generation.

To further enhance the financial position of this authority, this administration is committed to local wealth creation by encouraging investment into our borough along with ensuring that Dudley is an attractive place for leisure and tourism.

This Council resolves to:

- Acknowledge that this administration has a duty to responsibly manage the finances of this authority to protect the wellbeing of the residents of this borough.
- Acknowledge that total reliance on Government Funding is wholly irresponsible and recognise the significant benefits to the borough which have been brought about by this administration taking a commercial approach to generate income and drive efficiencies.”

(b) Her Majesty The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

To consider the following notice of motion received from Councillor P Dobb on 14th January, 2022:

“On 6th February, 2022, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years since she ascended to the throne. In doing so, Her Majesty became the first British monarch to do so.

Festivities will take place in June 2022 to celebrate this monumental milestone in British history. This includes a four-day weekend from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June.

Residents in Dudley Borough will be marking the Jubilee in various ways but will also be coming together after an incredibly difficult two years in the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

To help Dudley Borough residents celebrate the Jubilee and come together once again, this Council resolves to waive any temporary road closure license fees or associated charges to enable communities to organise street parties in residential roads.

This Council instructs the Deputy Chief Executive to undertake the necessary actions to ensure this swift implementation of this decision in time to allow sufficient notice of temporary road closures before the Jubilee festivities take place in June.”

(c) High Oak Surgery

To consider the following notice of motion received from Councillor J Foster on 25th January, 2022:

“This motion calls on the support of the Council to maximise its engagement in the process that will determine the future of High Oak surgery based on High Street Pensnett for the benefit of Pensnett residents and the wider population.

In 2020, at the outset of the pandemic High Oak surgery, based at its original location on High Street Pensnett was closed to patients, without notice, for covid pandemic related use. GP and other services were moved to Brierley Hill Health Centre on Venture Way. almost 2 miles away.

Councillor Judy Foster and previous Councillor John Martin were concerned about the lack of communication to residents and Councillors about the move. We, alongside many residents and service users, were concerned to hear that the future of High Oak surgery's location at High Oak was under review and also to be contacted by a local Pharmacist who had made a serious offer to build a new facility on the High Street for the same cost of hiring the current building, to which he had not received a response. Consequently, former Councillor John Martin and I undertook a door-to-door consultation exercise with residents as well as circulating a petition for their support. We then presented the petition to the CCG in which hundreds of residents called for GP services to remain at Pensnett High Street, including the prospect of a state of the art medical facility, in which the offer made by the local Pharmacist would be considered as an option.

Regretfully, due to the prolonged pandemic and the transition to a new governance structure within the NHS, little progress has been made since.

However, John Martin and I kept up the pressure and from late 2020 and during 2021 several meetings were initiated with health bosses regarding concerns patients had raised with us about the change in location of their surgery. These included:

- poor access to the facilities in Brierley Hill by a population known to have low car and IT usage and poor bus links to the Brierley Hill surgery, which meant for many 2 bus rides or an expensive taxi journey or a steep walk uphill and crossing over a very busy road.
- the 'listening exercise' undertaken by the predecessor organisations to the Trust was largely left to word of mouth and to individuals like ward councillors and a few community campaigners to knock doors and consult residents near the surgery without the benefit of a patient list that would have helped identify those most affected.
- the offer made by the local pharmacist to build a new medical facility, to include a surgery, at Pensnett which was not being given serious consideration.

Since the use of High Oak as a pandemic related centre ended, a limited range of services has returned to the High Oak location but these are insufficient for a diverse population, which is increasing in size by the day.



Ward Councillors met with the new Trust in recently and were assured that full, proper and inclusive consultation on the future of the surgery at it's High Street location will take place. I had also consulted Healthwatch and urged the new Trust give a commitment that Healthwatch will be invited to all meetings. The involvement of Healthwatch, which includes playing a leading role in consulting with residents, also provides some reassurance

We were also notified at the meeting that the item would be considered at the next Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee which will meet in March.

It is considered that the location of and facilities at their GP surgery is an integral issue for the people of Pensnett. The area has a growing population and significant health challenges warranting proper facilities in the immediate locality. The absence of them creates pressures elsewhere. It is therefore important that consultation is as inclusive as possible and that all voices are heard. The Council's scrutiny structure has an important role and I consider this matter suitable for a dedicated scrutiny exercise. It is not an issue that can be given proper consideration if it is one of many items on the agenda of one meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee.

This Council therefore resolves to undertake a dedicated Scrutiny Exercise to examine all factors relating to the future of High Oak surgery, and to give all interested parties a voice- especially the surgery patients and residents of Pensnett and to make recommendations as part of the Council's response accordingly."

(d) Community Defibrillators

To consider the following notice of motion received from Councillor J Foster on 25th January, 2022:

"This Council recognises the importance of improving the safety of all residents in all communities across our Borough and is committed to help improve the health and well-being of local residents.

An Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses life-threatening sudden cardiac arrest in a patient and is able to treat them through Defibrillation. Defibrillation is one of the four links in the 'chain of survival' – a series of actions that improve a person's chances of surviving cardiac arrest. The four links are:

- Early recognition
- Early cardio-pulmonary resuscitation

- Early defibrillation
- Post resuscitation care

There are a number of different providers and types of AED but essentially they all do the same thing:

- Analyse the victim's heart rhythm
- Determine if a shock is required
- Provide voice and/or visual prompts to assist the rescuer.

Up to seven out of 10 people who suffer a cardiac arrest could survive if they are treated with a defibrillator within the first five minutes.

Although some defibrillators are available across the Borough, their distribution is uneven, leaving gaps in the network.

Therefore this Council resolves to:

- Review its provision of defibrillators across its entire public estate;
- Review and commit to installing 1 AED in each of the 24 wards across the Borough, looking at appropriate premises in public spaces, community centres, leisure facilities and areas of high public footfall;
- Undertake a programme of training for staff who have daily contact with the public in the use of Defibrillators and Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR);
- Instruct Officers to work with colleagues in the NHS to identify gaps in the existing network and to seek any necessary funding approvals to implement this motion;
- Request that the Mayor in her civic leadership role bring together charities and campaign groups working in this field along with other key stakeholders to shape an action plan for adequate training in the community in locations where the new provision is introduced, ensuring that all local residents are aware of the Public Access Defibrillators and how to use them.”

(e) Wi-Fi for Community Centres

To consider the following notice of motion received from Councillor J Foster on 25th January, 2022:

“In Dudley Borough there are 31 Community Centres covering the area. The impact of austerity means that many people in Dudley rely on Community Centres for work-based support and leisure activities,

including hire for events such as wedding receptions, wakes and birthday parties at low cost compared to private commercially run venues. They also host many friendship clubs which help tackle the problem of loneliness faced by many older people in our communities who are on fixed incomes and cannot afford to engage in most privately-run age appropriate leisure activities.

However, with the rising cost of maintenance and energy bills, many Community Centres struggle to make ends meet. Due to cuts in its own budget, the Council can only afford to provide limited advice and support. These factors place these essential facilities at risk of loss to the very communities that rely on the activities and services they provide the most.

One type of support the Council could offer is the provision of free Wi-Fi to the 14 Community Centres that currently do not have Wi-Fi facilities. The installation of Wi-Fi would enable Community Centres to extend their hire offer to a wider range of customers, for example, training providers and local companies looking for a cost-effective venue for a business meeting. Community Centres could therefore generate more income that will enable them to be financially sustainable for the long term and sufficiently viable to continue to offer activities and services to those in their communities that need them most.

Should all Community Centres currently without provision take up this offer, there would be a total one off installation cost of £49,000 and, for each Centre, annual costs of between £2,200 and £3,500.

This Council therefore instructs officers to bring forward detailed proposals as part of the budget process to offer free Council Wi-Fi facilities to all Community Centres currently without provision.”

8. Questions from Members under Council Procedure Rule 11
9. To consider any business not on the agenda which by reason of special circumstances the Mayor is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972

Distribution: All Members of the Council



Chief Executive

Dated: 17th February, 2022

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Covid-19 Secure Working

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- Hand sanitiser and antibacterial wipes are available at various locations.
- All persons entering or working in the Council House are encouraged to wear face masks in communal areas and when moving around the building. The Council has a supply of surgical masks for use in meetings.
- Face masks may be removed when you are participating in the meeting.
- All people attending are encouraged to undertake Lateral Flow Tests twice a week (a supply of kits is available at the Council House). Anyone testing positive should not attend and should seek further advice including self-isolation and taking a PCR test.
- Do not attend if you feel unwell; if you have tested positive for Covid-19; if you are self-isolating or if you suspect that you are symptomatic.
- All people are encouraged to be double vaccinated to limit any potential ill-health effects.
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General

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