

COUNCIL

18th May 2021

Present: The Mayor, Councillor S. Hodgson, in the Chair

Councillors Agar, Allcott, Altaf, A. Amos, B. Amos, Barnes, Bayliss, Bisset, Carver, Cleary, Collins, Cronin, Denham, Ditta, Geraghty, Gregson, Griffiths, Hassan, Hodges, Mrs L. Hodgson, Johnson, Lamb, Laurenson, Lawrance, Lewing, Mackay, Mitchell, Norfolk, Riaz, Roberts, Stafford, Stanley, Stephen and Udall

17 Apologies for Absence

None.

18 Declarations of Interest

None.

19 Public Participation

None.

20 Motion by the Leader of the Council: Amendments to the Constitution and Consequential Member Appointments

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion, which had been submitted by Councillor Bayliss in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8:

This Motion proposes some changes to the Council's Constitution to reflect the new political arrangements, following the recent Council elections.

1. Committees

Firstly, it is proposed to enhance the Council's Policy Committees, by changing the Place and Economic Development sub-committee into a full Committee and introducing a new Committee for Health and Wellbeing.

Place and Economic Development Committee

Over the last couple of years the place shaping agenda, and specifically the resources from central government to support this policy area, has risen significantly. Worcester's success in winning the Cultural Development Fund has been followed up with £18m from the Future High Streets Fund and, potentially, by an even larger regeneration boost from the Towns Fund. Together these three regeneration initiatives equate to almost £50 million in place based regeneration and represent a game-changing opportunity for Worcester's future. The current PED sub-committee has done some important work over recent years in shaping our proposals for these competitive bids but the time has come to give this policy area the attention and prominence it deserves. It is therefore proposed that Place

and Economic Development becomes a full committee of the Council of equal standing with Environment and Communities and the newly proposed Health & Well-being Committees. It is proposed that the committee has 11 members and enjoys the same freedoms and flexibilities as other main committees.

Health & Wellbeing Committee

The pandemic has shown us just how important good health is not just for the individual but for community and society as a whole. There is also a growing awareness of health inequalities within and between groups in society and the important role that local authorities can play in improving outcomes for all.

Well-being is also an increasingly important aspect of public policy and while it is not easy to define it generally refers to both individual and community and health and happiness. Many councils are now citing well-being as part of their corporate objectives and it is in this spirit that well-being is being included within the remit of the proposed Health & Well-being Committee of the Council.

Both Health and Well-being currently form part of the remit of the Communities Committee but it is acknowledged that the wide range of topics covered by the committee mean that in reality there has been little time to focus upon these issues. It is proposed that this new committee is a full committee of the Council and enjoys the same freedoms and flexibilities as other main committees. It is further proposed that the committee has a membership of 11 with the Chair drawn from the majority group and the Vice Chair from the smaller parties.

In terms of policy areas it is proposed that the committee is responsible for:

- Mental and physical health and wellbeing outcomes for residents and customers of the Council;
- Disability access;
- Health inequalities;
- Worcestershire Integrated Care System;
- Health partnership working.

Member allowances for the new committees will be applied in accordance with the Council's approved allowances scheme.

2. Deputy Leader

Secondly, a change to the Articles is proposed in relation to the appointment of the Deputy Leader.

The current constitution was approved during a period of no overall control when it was important to ensure that political decisions and responsibilities were shared by the two largest groups on the Council. To that end, it was agreed as part of the Group Leaders Protocol that while the Leader would come from the largest group the Deputy Leader would be appointed by the next largest party. With the Conservatives now attaining a majority on the Council there is no longer a need for the sharing of the Leadership positions. It is therefore recommended to Council that the Articles be amended so that the requirement for the Deputy Leader to come from another party to the Leader is removed.

3. Deputy Mayor

Thirdly, a change to the Council Rules of Procedure is proposed in relation to the restriction on the Deputy Mayor being involved in the chairing of a committee. The role of Deputy Mayor is exactly that, to deputise for the Mayor when he or she is unable to fulfil their duties. Ordinarily, the Deputy Mayor is called on infrequently during the course of the Mayor's year.

Currently the Constitution prevents the Deputy Mayor from being chair or vice chair of a Council committee. It is proposed that this is too restrictive, in practice, and that therefore the Deputy Mayor should be permitted to serve as vice chair of a Council committee.

4. Group Leaders Protocol

The Group Leaders Protocol was adopted in 2017 when the Committee system was introduced with the aim of supporting effective political arrangements. Some changes to the Protocol are now proposed to reflect the new political balance while retaining the spirit of co-operation between Political Groups. The main changes proposed are:

- each Committee will be chaired by a Conservative councillor;
- Vice Chairs of the Policy Committees will be appointed from the other Political Groups; and
- the Deputy Leader may be appointed from the Conservative Group.

Therefore, Council agrees that, with immediate effect:

1. The Articles, Part 2 of the Constitution, be amended in the terms set out in Appendix 1, so that the requirement for the Deputy Leader to come from another party to the Leader is removed;
2. The Responsibility for Functions, Part 3 of the Constitution, be amended in the terms set out in Appendix 2, to create the Place and Economic Development Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Committee;
3. The Council Procedure Rules, Part 4 of the Constitution, be amended in the terms set out in Appendix 3, to enable the Deputy Mayor to be eligible to be vice chair of a Council committee;
4. The Group Leaders Protocol, Part 15 of the Constitution, is amended to reflect the new political control of the Council and the revised version set out in Appendix 4 is now adopted;
5. The Monitoring Officer is instructed to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution to give effect to these decisions;
6. The Council now proceed to appoint the Deputy Leader and the Members to Committees in accordance with these new arrangements.

The proposer, Councillor Bayliss, spoke in support of the Motion. By way of clarification, Councillor Bayliss stated that the Council was also recommended to

agree the payment of Special Responsibility Allowances to Members arising from the proposals.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Geraghty.

Members of the Council proceeded to vote separately on items 1 – 5 above. Each motion was put to the vote and was agreed and it was

RESOLVED: That the Council agree that:

- 1. The Articles, Part 2 of the Constitution, be amended in the terms set out in Appendix 1, so that the requirement for the Deputy Leader to come from another party to the Leader is removed;**
- 2. The Responsibility for Functions, Part 3 of the Constitution, be amended in the terms set out in Appendix 2, to create the Place and Economic Development Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Committee;**
- 3. The Council Procedure Rules, Part 4 of the Constitution, be amended in the terms set out in Appendix 3, to enable the Deputy Mayor to be eligible to be vice chair of a Council committee;**
- 4. The Group Leaders Protocol, Part 15 of the Constitution, is amended to reflect the new political control of the Council and the revised version set out in Appendix 4 is now adopted;**
- 5. The Monitoring Officer is instructed to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution to give effect to these decisions and that the Council agree any consequential changes to the payment of Special Responsibility Allowances to Members of Committees; and**
- 6. The Council now proceed to appoint the Deputy Leader and the Members to Committees in accordance with these new arrangements.**

21 Appointment of Deputy Leader of the Council

Consideration of this item had been deferred at the Annual Council meeting.

Pursuant to resolution 6 of item 20 above, the Council proceeded to consider the appointment of the Deputy Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2021/22. Nominations were sought for the position. It was proposed by Councillor Bayliss and seconded by Councillor Stanley that Councillor Mitchell be nominated for the position of Deputy Leader.

The Mayor asked for any further nominations. No further nominations were proposed. On being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED: That the Council agree that Councillor Mitchell be elected to the position of Deputy Leader of the Council.

22 Political Balance on Committees and Sub-Committees

Consideration of this item had been deferred at the Annual Council meeting.

The Council received the report of the Monitoring Officer seeking Council's approval of the allocation of seats between the political groups for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

RESOLVED: That the Council agree the allocation of seats between political groups for the Municipal Year 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1 of the minutes.

23 Appointment of Members to Committees and Sub-Committees and Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs Etc.

Consideration of this item had been deferred at the Annual Council meeting.

The Council received details of nominations from Group Leaders for the appointment of Members to Policy Committees, Regulatory Committees, Joint Committees and Other Bodies. The Council considered the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to those Committees.

RESOLVED: That the Council approve the appointment of Members to Policy Committees, Regulatory Committees, Joint Committees and Other Bodies and the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen as set out in Appendix 2 of the minutes.

Duration of the meeting: 8.30p.m. – 9.05p.m.

Chairman at the meeting on
13th July 2021

24 Appendix 1

Committee		Overall Allocations (Gateway 2)				Allocations by Committee (Gateway 3)			
						Con %	Lab %	Green %	Lib Dem %
Title	New Membership	Con	Lab	Green	Lib Dem				
Policy & Resources	13	7	4	1	1	53.8	30.8	7.7	7.7
Income Generation	5	3	1	1	0	60.0	20.0	20.0	0.0
Personnel & General Purposes	7	4	2	1	0	57.1	28.6	14.3	0.0
Communities	11	6	4	1	0	54.5	36.4	9.1	0.0
Environment	11	6	4	1	0	54.5	36.4	9.1	0.0
Health & Wellbeing	11	6	4	0	1	54.5	36.4	0.0	9.1
Place & Economic Development	11	6	4	1	0	54.5	36.4	9.1	0.0
Planning	11	6	3	1	1	54.5	27.3	9.1	9.1
Licensing & Environmental Health	11	6	3	1	1	54.5	27.3	9.1	9.1
Audit & Governance	7	4	2	1	0	57.1	28.6	14.3	0.0
Standards	7	4	1	1	1	57.1	14.3	14.3	14.3
Actual Seats	105	58	32	10	5				
Actual %	100.00%	55.2%	30.5%	9.5%	4.8%				
Target %	100.00%	51.4%	31.4%	11.4%	5.7%				

Group	Members	Target	Actual
Conservative	18	51.4%	55.2%
Labour	11	31.4%	30.5%
Green	4	11.4%	9.5%
Liberal Democrat	2	5.7%	4.8%

25 **Appendix 2****Policy Committees**

POLICY & RESOURCES - MEMBERSHIP OF 13			
CONSERVATIVE (7)	LABOUR (4)	GREEN (1)	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT (1)
Councillor Bayliss (Chair)	Councillor Denham	Councillor Stephen (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Allcott
Councillor Griffiths	Councillor Gregson (Vice-Chair)		
Councillor Lucy Hodgson	Councillor Hodges		
Councillor Mackay	Councillor Riaz		
Councillor Mitchell			
Councillor Stafford			
Councillor Stanley			
COMMUNITIES – MEMBERSHIP OF 11			
CONSERVATIVE (6)	LABOUR (4)	GREEN (1)	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Councillor Bill Amos	Councillor Collins	Councillor Bisset	
Councillor Carver	Councillor Denham		
Councillor Hassan	Councillor Lamb		
Councillor Stephen Hodgson	Councillor Riaz (Vice-Chair)		
Councillor Johnson			
Councillor Stanley (Chair)			

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
ENVIRONMENT – MEMBERSHIP OF 11			
CONSERVATIVE (6)	LABOUR (4)	GREEN (1)	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Councillor Altaf	Councillor Collins (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Laurenson	
Councillor Bill Amos	Councillor Cronin		
Councillor Cleary	Councillor Norfolk		
Councillor Griffiths	Councillor Udall		
Councillor Roberts			
Councillor Stafford (Chair)			
HEALTH AND WELLBEING – MEMBERSHIP OF 11			
CONSERVATIVE (6)	LABOUR (4)	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT (1)
Councillor Ditta	Councillor Denham (Vice- Chair)		Councillor Lawrance
Councillor Griffiths (Chair)	Councillor Norfolk		
Councillor Lucy Hodgson	Councillor Riaz		
Councillor Stephen Hodgson	Councillor Udall		
Councillor Johnson			
Councillor Mackay			
PLACE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – MEMBERSHIP OF 11			
CONSERVATIVE (6)	LABOUR (4)	GREEN (1)	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Councillor Alan Amos	Councillor Agar	Councillor Lewing	
Councillor Carver	Councillor Gregson		
Councillor Cleary	Councillor Hodges (Vice- Chair)		
Councillor Geraghty	Councillor Norfolk		
Councillor Lucy Hodgson (Chair)			
Councillor Stanley			

INCOME GENERATION SUB – MEMBERSHIP OF 5			
CONSERVATIVE (3)	LABOUR (1)	GREEN (1)	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Councillor Mackay (Chair)	Councillor Riaz (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Stephen	
Councillor Mitchell			
Councillor Stafford			
PERSONNEL & GENERAL PURPOSES SUB – MEMBERSHIP OF 7			
CONSERVATIVE (4)	LABOUR (2)	GREEN (1)	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Councillor Bayliss	Councillor Denham	Councillor Stephen	
Councillor Lucy Hodgson	Councillor Gregson (Vice-Chair)		
Councillor Mitchell (Chair)			
Councillor Stanley			

Regulatory Committees

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
PLANNING - MEMBERSHIP OF 11			
CONSERVATIVE (6)	LABOUR (3)	GREEN (1)	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT (1)
Councillor Alan Amos	Councillor Agar (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Bisset	Councillor Allcott
Councillor Bill Amos	Councillor Barnes		
Councillor Cleary	Councillor Hodges		
Councillor Ditta			
Councillor Johnson (Chair)			
Councillor Roberts			
LICENSING & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – MEMBERSHIP OF 11			
CONSERVATIVE (6)	LABOUR (3)	GREEN (1)	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT (1)
Councillor Carver	Councillor Barnes	Councillor Lewing	Councillor Allcott
Councillor Ditta (Chair)	Councillor Cronin		
Councillor Hassan (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Udall		
Councillor Mitchell			
Councillor Stafford			
Councillor Stanley			
AUDIT & GOVERNANCE – MEMBERSHIP OF 7			
CONSERVATIVE (4)	LABOUR (2)	GREEN (1)	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Councillor Alan Amos (Chair)	Councillor Agar	Councillor Laurenson	
Councillor Bayliss	Councillor Barnes (Vice- Chair)		
Councillor Hassan			
Councillor Johnson			

STANDARDS – MEMBERSHIP OF 7 (plus up to 3 Co-opted Members and 4 Parish Council Representatives, 2 from each Parish Council)			
CONSERVATIVE (4)	LABOUR (1)	GREEN (1)	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT (1)
Councillor Alan Amos	Councillor Lamb (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Stephen	Councillor Lawrance
Councillor Mackay			
Councillor Mitchell			
Councillor Roberts (Chair)			
Independent Members			
Mr Ray Needham			
Parish Council Representatives			
St. Peter the Great Parish	-	Mr Roger Knight	
St. Peter the Great Parish	-	Mr Alan Tidy	
Warndon Parish	-	Mr Dave Carney	
Warndon Parish	-	Mrs Dawn Merriman	

Other Bodies

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
JOINT MUSEUMS COMMITTEE – MEMBERSHIP OF 2			
Councillor Lucy Hodgson	Councillor Agar		
WORCESTERSHIRE REGULATORY SERVICES BOARD – MEMBERSHIP OF 2			
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Councillor Carver	Councillor Udall		
JOINT CONSULTATIVE & SAFETY COMMITTEE – MEMBERSHIP OF 4			
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Councillor Bayliss Councillor Lucy Hodgson	Councillor Denham Councillor Gregson		