

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council**

18th July, 2017 at 6.00pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present:

The Mayor (Councillor Haque);
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Eaves);

Councillors Ahmed, Allcock, Allen, Ashman, Bawa, Cherrington, Costigan, Crompton, S Crompton, Dr T Crompton, K Davies, P Davies, S Davies, Y Davies, Dhallu, Downing, Edis, Edwards, Eling, Garrett, Gavan, E A Giles, E M Giles, Gill, Goult, Hackett, Hadley, Haque, Hartwell, Hevican, Hickey, L Horton, R Horton, D Hosell, S Hosell, P M Hughes, P Hughes, Hussain, Jarvis, I Jones, O Jones, S Jones, Khatun, Lloyd, Marshall, Meehan, Melia, Millard, Moore, Phillips, Piper, Preece, B Price, R Price, Rouf, Sandars, Shackleton, Shaeen, Tagger, Taylor, Tranter, Trow, Webb, White and Worsey.

Apologies:

Councillors Carmichael, Frear, Dr Jaron, Lewis, Sidhu and Underhill.

64/17

Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the annual meeting of Council held on 16th May, 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

65/17

Mayor's Announcements

Details of Mayoral engagements since the last meeting of the Council had been circulated to members.

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In particular, the Mayor made reference to the West Midlands Fire Service Schools Safety Challenge Final where St Francis Xavier School from Oldbury won first prize. The Mayor thanked Councillor Edwards for all of his support at the event.

The Mayor had also attended the ceremony for the New Midland Metropolitan Hospital in Grove Lane, Smethwick. The hospital was the way forward in advanced care and the Mayor was very proud that the new site was in Sandwell.

66/17 **Petitions Under Standing Order No. 5**

No petitions were received under Standing Order No. 5.

67/17 **Questions Under Standing Order No. 6**

No questions were received under Standing Order No. 6.

68/17 **A New Long Term Vision for Sandwell**

Cabinet received a report in December 2016 that commenced consultation and engagement around developing a new vision for Sandwell.

Ten ambitions were developed that focused on creating a resilient borough in terms of both Sandwell's people and the place. These ambitions provided the basis for consultation and engagement between January and March 2017.

To engage a wide range of stakeholders in the development of Sandwell's vision and priority areas, a communication and engagement plan was developed and endorsed by Cabinet on 7th December 2016. This plan used all existing internal and external networks and intelligence to engage fully with staff, members and stakeholders.

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A wide ranging series of engagement exercises was undertaken, including over 900 face to face interviews with residents in the six towns, an online survey and interactive group discussions with over 200 people.

Cabinet received a report on 19th April 2017 setting out the findings of the residents' survey and other stakeholder feedback and the implications of this for further developing the vision. At this point officers were requested to further refine the vision by liaising with key strategic partners across the borough, and to build the vision into the Council's business planning process. A further report was considered by Cabinet on 28th June 2017 to consider final proposals for a Vision for Sandwell.

In presenting the report the Leader took the opportunity to thank everyone who had been involved in the exercise, which he believed to be an exemplar of best practice for creating a new strategic direction for the Council which would make a difference to people's lives in Sandwell.

Resolved that Sandwell's Vision 2030 be approved.

69/17

Proposals to Depart from the Local Development Plan at 171 and 72 Rolfe Street, Smethwick

At the meeting of Planning Committee held on 14th June 2017, approval was given to planning application DC/17/60372 in relation to removal of a temporary consent and granting of permanent use for a wedding hall at 171 and 72 Rolfe Street, Smethwick, subject to conditions recommended by the Director – Regeneration and Planning.

As the site was allocated for future housing led regeneration within the Site Allocations and Delivery Development Plan Document, it was necessary for the Council to consider whether or not to grant an exception to its policy to allow the application to proceed.

Resolved that an exception to the local development plan be allowed in respect of planning application DC/17/60372 (Removal of Condition 2 of DC/14/57639 to continue use as a wedding hall at 172 and 71 Rolfe Street, Smethwick).

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70/17

Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/17

Councillor P Hughes presented the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2016/17.

The report outlined the key work programmes carried out during 2016/17 and some of the major changes that were occurring or being legislated for across services including the Education White Paper 'Education Excellence Everywhere', West Midlands Police 2020 'Changing the Face of Policing', Sustainability and Transformation Plans, Better Care Fund Policy Framework, Housing and Planning Act 2016 and ongoing Welfare Reform changes. Also, apart from continuing budgetary pressures, one of the main challenges facing the Council was the setting up of the Children's Trust.

The Chair identified the need for Scrutiny to continue to develop and react, creating new partnerships and ways of working to meet these changes. A major channel for this would be the Council's award-winning Facing the Future project and Long Term Vision for Sandwell. There was a need to be flexible and adopt to developments with shared services and relationships with the West Midlands Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee and also to remain at the forefront of the West Midlands Scrutiny Network and re-establishment of joint health scrutiny arrangements.

The key to good scrutiny was extensive research, comparative analysis, search for good practice and wide-ranging knowledge and appreciation of the whole spectrum of local government and wider public services within an everchanging landscape.

During 2016/17, Scrutiny Boards considered:-

- Annual Adults' and Children's Safeguarding reports;
- Budget Consultation and Outturn reports;
- Crime Reduction, Drugs and Alcohol reports;
- Health reports.

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In addition to the Board's work programme, several Chairs and Vice-Chairs developed work streams to provide in-depth investigation of the following topics:-

- Aids and Adaptations;
- Childhood Obesity;
- Domestic Abuse;
- Drugs and Alcohol in Young People;
- Female Genital Mutilation;
- Housing Allocations – Town Workshops;
- Impact and Planning Act 2016 and Welfare Reform Changes on Housing Provision;
- Recruitment and Retention of Social Workers.

The workstreams used a variety of methods to gather evidence, some formed small groups, some took the form of localised workshops, whilst others worked alone. The work carried out through some of these workstreams focused on specific areas of work which fell under the Board's remit and regular updates were reported back to the Boards. A number of workstreams also developed recommendations which were considered by the relevant Boards and subsequently referred and considered by Cabinet or relevant Director.

Scrutiny members were provided with training and development opportunities in order to strengthen their skills and knowledge, ensure that Scrutiny in Sandwell continued to deliver robust challenge, achieve outcomes that contribute to the Council's scorecard priorities and ensure that partnership arrangements and partner organisations were effectively scrutinised in line with statutory guidance. During the year Scrutiny Boards had received information about new initiatives and emerging legislation that scrutiny members felt would be useful for a wider audience. As a result, several recommendations were made to arrange training and awareness sessions for elected members and officers relating to the following:-

- Artemis training – Childhood Obesity;
- Artemis training – Female Genital Mutilation;
- "See Something Do Something" Campaign;
- Scams and Doorstep Crime;
- Hate Crime;

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- The Children’s Trust;
- Scrutiny in the West Midlands Combined Authority;
- Overview of the Housing Revenue Account.

A number of these sessions had also been included in the member training programme for 2017/18.

Resolved that the Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/17 be received.

71/17

Annual Reports of the former Licensing Committee/Licensing Panels and the former Licensing (Miscellaneous) Committee for the 2016/17 Municipal Year

The Chair of the Licensing Committee, Councillor Piper, introduced the former Chairs of the Licensing Committee and Licensing (Miscellaneous) Committee to present the annual reports of the former committees for the 2016/17 municipal year.

For the 2017/18 municipal year, the two former committees had been merged to create one single Licensing Committee responsible for discharging the functions of the Council in relation to the complete range of licences.

The former Chair of the Licensing Committee for 2016/17, Councillor Allen, presented the annual report of the Licensing Committee and in particular made reference to:-

- the introduction of immigration safeguards to the licensing regime for alcohol and late night refreshment in England and Wales prohibiting the issue of premises and personal licences for the sale of alcohol or provision of late night refreshment to anyone who was illegally present in the UK or not permitted to carry out work in a licensable activity;
- Trading Standards was part of the Community Alcohol Partnership, a national initiative delivered in local communities by bringing together local retailers, trading standards, police, public health, education providers and a range of community groups and service providers to tackle the problem of underage drinking and associated anti-social behaviour.

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In 2016/17 the Partnership had:-

- provided sessions for parents/carers on talking to their children about alcohol/drugs;
 - granted students with £500 to help set up a roller night for students that were not engaging in physical activity at school and at risk of asb after school;
 - granted money to purchase a go-kart, beer goggles and obstacles to help raise awareness of the risks associated with drink driving;
 - developed an interactive school programme working with local agencies to raise awareness of risks associated with alcohol misuse;
 - Tipton Community Alcohol Partnership, along with Tipton Police, were awarded a National Champion Award for the Restorative Justice Programme engaging with young people at risk, or already involved in low level asb and encouraging them to get involved in positive activities;
 - consulted with students and retailers in Tipton, Smethwick and Oldbury to identify current, changing trends and would bring stakeholders together to identify how to tackle any alcohol related issues;
 - attended a number of Sandwell Local Community Operational Groups to help provide and develop interventions to help reduce young people's alcohol related issues.
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- Trading Standards had carried out a series of undercover operations in relation to the sale of alcohol to persons under 18 years old;
 - Trading Standards had carried out a number of operations using specialist tobacco dogs where around 33750 cigarettes and 2kg of hand rolling tobacco were seized, worth more than £16,000. Three businesses were prosecuted, including one trader who received a suspended prison sentence, 200 hours of community service and order to pay £2000 in prosecution costs.

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The former Chair of the Licensing (Miscellaneous) Committee for 2016/17, Councillor Rouf, presented the annual report of the Licensing Committee and in particular made reference to:-

- The work the Council had put in place to strengthen the policies and guidelines governing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing in the borough;
- The work around child sexual exploitation had increased with the Council offering drivers and operators the opportunity to undertake training;
- All matters had been considered against the licensing regimes primary function, to protect the public. In order to maintain the integrity of the service, it was essential that members of the public could feel confident and safe when using private hire vehicles and hackney carriages in Sandwell.

Resolved that the annual reports of the former Licensing Committee/Licensing Panels and the former Licensing (Miscellaneous) Committee for the 2016/17 municipal year be received.

72/17

Minutes and Policy/Strategic Recommendations of the Cabinet

The Council received the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 19th April, 17th May, 14th and 28th June, 2017.

The Leader took the opportunity to welcome Councillor Costigan to her new role as Cabinet Member of Public Health and Protection.

The Leader also congratulated Councillor Gill following her success in her election to Parliament. This was a fantastic achievement for a member who had served Sandwell well. The Leader asked the Council to express its appreciation for the work Councillor Gill had done in Sandwell, both as elected member and Cabinet Member.

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Councillor Gill thanked the Council and wished to place on record her thanks to the Leader for his support, mentoring and the opportunities he had made available. Councillor Gill thanked the Cabinet, her colleagues and the people of Sandwell.

In response to a question in relation to minute no. 94/17, taken by Cabinet on 17th May 2017, with regard to timelines for demolition, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Investment thanked ward members who had lobbied and campaigned for the works to proceed. The Cabinet Member advised that it was expected that demolition works would commence towards the end of the year/early in the New Year. With regard to the former gas showroom at High Street, West Bromwich, the Council was liaising with the Black Country Living Museum and awaiting response with regard to a potential project. With regard to the multi-storey car park, this was part of a wider redevelopment and may be subject to further acquisitions. The Cabinet Member undertook to keep local ward members updated on all projects.

The Council considered the recommendation of the Cabinet on the following matters of strategic significance: -

72/17(a) **A New Long Term Vision for Sandwell**

See Minute No. 68/17 above.

73/17 **Minutes of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board**

The Chair of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board, Councillor P Hughes presented the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board held on 22nd June, 2017.

No questions were asked of the Chair.

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74/17 **Minutes of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee**

The Chair of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee, Councillor Dhallu, presented the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee held on 12th June, 2017.

No questions were asked of the Chair.

75/17 **Minutes of the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee**

The Vice Chair of the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee, Councillor Mrs S Crumpton, presented the minutes of the meeting of the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee held on 16th June, 2017.

No questions were asked of the Vice Chair.

76/17 **Key Decisions of the Chief Officer Terms and Conditions Committee**

The Leader presented the key decisions of the meetings of the Chief Officer Terms and Conditions Committee held on 10th and 30th May and 1st June, 2017 at which approval had been given to:-

- the appointment of Dr Alison Knight to the post of Executive Director – Neighbourhoods;
- an extension of the appointment of Mr Ajman Ali, Interim Director – Neighbourhoods, until September 2017;
- the appointment of Mr Surjit Tour to the post of Director – Monitoring Officer;
- formal recognition that Mr David Stevens, Executive Director – Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, would assume the responsibilities of the Chief Executive in times of his absence;
- confirmation that responsibility for Section 151/Finance Officer duties would formally rest with Mr Darren Carter, Executive Director – Resources;
- the appointment of Mr Alan Caddick, to the post of Director – Housing and Communities.

No questions were asked of the Leader.

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77/17

Request for Extension of Six Month Attendance Rule

An extension of the six month attendance rule was sought, under the Local Government Act 1972, to excuse the non-attendance of Councillor Sidhu at Council meetings for a period of six months, with effect from 7th September 2017, expiring on 7th March 2018.

In moving the recommendation, the Leader wished Councillor Sidhu a speedy recovery.

Resolved that, having regard to the circumstances of the absence of Councillor Sidhu from Council meetings, the requirements of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 be waived and an extension of the six month rule be approved for Councillor Sidhu for a period of six months, with effect from 7th September 2017, expiring 7th March 2018.

78/17

Appointment to Committees, Panel and Boards/Appointment of Representatives to Other Bodies

At Cabinet on 14th June 2017, the Leader announced that Councillor Costigan would assume the role of Cabinet Member for Public Health and Protection, with effect from 19th June 2017. It had therefore become necessary to make changes to the appointments approved at the Annual Meeting of Council on 16th May 2017 in respect of the Town Chair for Wednesbury and Vice Chair of Planning Committee and any positions which became vacant as a result of filling these positions. There would be no change to the membership of the Planning Committee, however, a new Vice Chair would be appointed for the remainder of the municipal year.

With regard to West Midlands Combined Authority Board, the Council nominated two members to the Board and two substitute members. It was now proposed to replace one of the substitute members (Cabinet Member for Public Health and Protection) with Councillor Khatun, Deputy Leader of the Council.

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Resolved:-

- (1) that Councillor P M Hughes be appointed as Wednesbury Town Chair for the remainder of the municipal year;
- (2) that Councillor Meehan be appointed as Wednesbury Town Vice Chair for the remainder of the municipal year;
- (3) that Councillor Rouf be appointed as Vice Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board for the remainder of the municipal year;
- (4) that Councillor Webb be appointed as Vice Chair of Planning Committee;
- (5) that Councillor Khatun be nominated as substitute to the Leader on the West Midlands Combined Authority Board.

(The meeting ended at 6.53pm)

<p>Contact Officer: Trisha Newton Democratic Services Unit 0121 569 3193</p>
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