

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

**14th January, 2020 at 6.16pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Her Worship The Mayor Councillor Dr Jaron (in the Chair);
Deputy Mayor Councillor Hartwell;

Councillors Ahmed, Akhtar, Ali, Allcock, Allen, Ashman, Bawa, Bostan, Carmichael, Cherrington, Chidley, Crompton, S Davies, Y Davies, Dhallu, Downing, Eaves, Edwards, E A Giles, E M Giles, L Giles, M Gill, Hackett, Hadley, Hevican, P Hughes, M Hussain, Z Hussain, Jarvis, I Jones, O Jones, R Jones, S Jones, Kausar, Khatun, Mabena, McVittie, Melia, Millar, Millard, Moore, Padda, Phillips, Piper, Preece, Rouf, Shackleton, Shaeen, Simms, Singh, Taylor, Tranter, Underhill, Webb, White and Worsey.

David Stevens – Interim Chief Executive;
Surjit Tour – Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer.

Apologies: Councillors Costigan, Crumpton, Gavan, G Gill, Horton, P M Hughes, M Y Hussain, Lewis, Rollins, Sandars, Tagger and Trow.

2/20 Minute Silence

The Council stood in silent tribute to mark the passing of former serving councillor June Newell.

Mrs Newell had served the Princes End Ward in 2000 and retired in 2006.

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Members joined the Mayor in extending their condolences to the family.

3/20 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hadley declared an interest in Minute No. 16/20 (Cabinet Minute No. 124/19 – Brandhall Golf Course). No discussion took place on this particular item.

Councillor Khatun declared an interest in Minute No. 16/20 (Cabinet Minute No. 142/19 – Grant Funding for Advice Service). No discussion took place on this particular item.

The Interim Chief Executive, David Stevens, declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Minute No. 13/20 (Minutes of Chief Officers Terms and Conditions Committee) and subsequently left the room during consideration of the item.

4/20 Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 15th October, 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5/20 Mayor's Announcements

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

The Mayor wished to place on records thanks to everyone who had donated Christmas gifts for the care experienced young people.

6/20 Petitions Under Standing Order No. 5

No petitions were received under Standing Order No. 5.

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7/20 **Questions Under Standing Order No. 6**

No questions were received under Standing Order No. 6.

8/20 **Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2020-2021**

Council considered the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2020-2021.

Resolved:

That the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2020/21 be approved.

9/20 **Council Tax Base 2020-2021**

Council considered a report outlining the proposed Council Tax base for 2020-2021. The actual levels of Council Tax for 2020/2021 would be dependent upon final decisions yet to be taken on both Sandwell budgets and those of the precepting bodies, together with consideration of any surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund.

Resolved:

- (1) That the Council Tax Base for 2020/2021 be set at 74,280.91;
- (2) That the Executive Director - Resources adjusts the Council Tax Base as required following approval of the 2020-2021 Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

10/20 **Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2018-19**

Council received the Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2018-19.

The Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board was required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding in the area served by the Board.

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The annual report detailed the Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board's activities during 2018/19 and provided an overview of the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Sandwell during that period.

11/20 Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2018-19

Council received the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2018-19.

The annual report was a transparent assessment on the effectiveness of the Corporate Parenting Board in delivering improved outcomes for the children in Sandwell's care and care experienced young people and highlighted the work of the Corporate Parenting Board during the academic year September 2018 to August 2019.

12/20 Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018-2019

Council received the Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018-2019.

The Safeguarding Adults Board had a responsibility to ensure that all agencies worked together to safeguard and promote the welfare and wellbeing of adults with support needs. The Board was responsible for developing shared plans for safeguarding with partner agencies and working with local people to enable adults with support needs/adults at risk, whether they were known to local services, to work in partnership to stay safe.

13/20 Minutes of the Chief Officers Terms and Conditions Committee

Council considered the recommendations of the Chief Officers Terms and Conditions Committee in relation to the appointment to the post of Chief Executive (including Head of Paid Service, Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer).

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Resolved:

That, the recommendation of the Chief Officers Terms and Conditions Committee be approved and that Mr David Stevens be appointed as Chief Executive, (including the statutory roles of Head of Paid Service, Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer).

14/20 **Scrutiny Boards Update**

Council considered an overview of the work of the Council's Scrutiny Boards and the minutes of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board meetings held on 6th November and 4th December 2019.

15/20 **Appointment to Committees/Boards and Roles**

Council considered appointments to Committees, Boards and champion roles.

Resolved:-

- (1) that Councillor I Jones be appointed to Planning Committee, replacing Councillor Shackleton, for the remainder of the municipal year;
- (2) that Councillor Millar be appointed to the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board, replacing Councillor Allen, for the remainder of the municipal year;
- (3) that the Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economic Growth be appointed as the Council's Heritage Champion;
- (4) that Councillor Melia be appointed as the Council's Armed Forces Champion.

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16/20 **Minutes and Policy/Strategic Recommendations of the
Cabinet**

The Council received the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 9th and 30th October and 20th November 2019.

17/20 **Minutes of the Ethical Standards and Member Development
Committee**

Council received the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 4th October 2019.

18/20 **Minutes of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee**

Council considered the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee held on 19th December 2019.

(The meeting ended at 7.18pm)

This meeting was webcast live and is available to view on the Council's website (<http://sandwell.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>).

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