

Agenda Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, to be held on Tuesday, 1 March 2022 at 6.00 pm for the purpose of transacting the following business:-

The Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Mushtaq Hussain, in the Chair

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| 1 | Apologies for Absence | 9 - 10 |
| | To receive apologies for absence (if any). | |
| 2 | Declarations of Interest | 11 - 12 |
| | Members to declare any interests in matters to be discussed at the meeting. | |
| 3 | Minutes | 13 - 24 |
| | To confirm as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 18 January 2022. | |
| 4 | Urgent Business | 25 - 26 |
| | To consider any urgent business (with prior approval by the Mayor). | |
| 5 | Mayor's Announcements | 27 - 28 |
| | To receive announcements from the Mayor. | |



6 **Petitions** 29 - 30

To receive petitions under Standing Order No. 5.

7 **Written Questions** 31 - 32

To consider written questions under Standing Order No. 6 to:-

- (a) the Mayor;
- (b) the Leader of the Council;
- (c) any other member of the Cabinet;
- (d) any person appointed to preside at a committee, sub-committee or panel;
- (e) the members of the Council nominated pursuant to Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985, on the discharge of the functions of the following Joint Authorities:-
 - (i) West Midlands Combined Authority (the Leader);
 - (ii) West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority (Councillor C Padda);
 - (iii) Transport for the West Midlands (Councillor Akhter);
- (f) a nominated member appointed by the Council to the Board of Sandwell Leisure Trust;
- (g) a member of the Council who is, as a result of action taken by or on behalf of the Council, a member or director of any company.

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| 8 | Council Finances & Council Tax Resolution 2022/23 | 33 - 372 |
| | To consider the Council Finances & Council Tax Resolution 2022/23. | |
| 9 | Pay Policy 2022 and Gender Pay Gap Reporting | 373 - 386 |
| | To approve the Pay Policy statement 2022 and the Gender Pay Gap data. | |
| 10 | Proposed Departure from the Development Plan on land at Summerton Road, Oldbury | 387 - 390 |
| | To consider a proposed departure from the development plan. | |
| 11 | Appointment to the Statutory roles of Electoral Registration Officer, Returning Officer and Deputy Electoral Registration Officer | 391 - 396 |
| | To consider appointments to statutory roles. | |
| 12 | Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985 Update | 397 - 448 |
| | To receive updates from the Council's lead representatives on:- | |
| | (a) West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority; | |
| | (b) Transport for the West Midlands; | |
| | (c) West Midlands Police and Crime Panel; | |
| | (d) West Midlands Combined Authority. | |
| 13 | The Air Quality (Domestic Solid Fuels Standards) (England) Regulations 2020 | 449 - 452 |
| | To consider an addition to the Scheme of Delegation for Officers. | |

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| 14 | Constitution and Political Balance of Committees and Boards and Appointment to Vacancies on Committee, Boards and Other Bodies | 453 - 462 |
| | To approve the political balance of the committees, boards and other fora for the remainder of the 2021-22 municipal year and nominations to vacancies on committees, boards and other bodies. | |
| 15 | Extension to Six Month Attendance Rule | 463 - 466 |
| | To consider requests for an extension to the six month attendance rule. | |
| 16 | To receive the minutes and recommendations of Cabinet | 467 - 516 |
| | To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12 January and 9 February 2022. | |
| 17 | To receive the minutes of Audit and Risk Assurance Committee | 517 - 526 |
| | To receive the minutes of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee held on 11 January 2022 and consider the recommendations arising from the meeting:- | |
| | (a) Appointment of External Auditor. | |
| 18 | To receive the minutes of the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee | 527 - 532 |
| | To receive the minutes of the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee held on 9 November 2021. | |

19 **To receive the minutes of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board**

533 - 538

To receive the minutes of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board held on 8 February 2021.

20 **Notice of Motion**

To consider the following motions received under Standing Order No. 7:-

20(a) **Armed Forces Bill 2021**

Proposer: Councillor Melia
Seconder: Councillor Moore

“This Council:

- Stands firmly behind our UK Armed Forces and fully supports the aims of the Armed Forces Covenant as amended.
- Welcomes the new Armed Forces Act but sees the legislation as a missed opportunity to improve the lives of veterans in the Birmingham and Black Country Area.
- Notes with disappointment that the Act which makes Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and local public bodies legally bound to have “due regard” to the Covenant when providing support to Forces communities but exempts central government from any such duty, creating a two-tier Covenant for veterans.
- Notes with further disappointment that Labour led proposals backed by the Royal British Legion and Ex-Service organisation chiefs to enshrine the Covenant fully into law but Conservative MPs voted down these plans to improve Armed Forces accommodation,

employment, support and pensions.

- Notes that Conservative MPs failed to end the scandal of visa-fees for Commonwealth and Gurkha personnel.
- Resolves to continue the campaign with Forces charities to see the Government strengthen the Covenant and improve vital services to veterans.”

20(b) **Equality and Diversity**

Proposer: Councillor McVittie

Seconder: Councillor Taylor

“Sandwell Council understands the harm caused to our LGBT+ community in the past by certain elements within society through the denial of rights and equal treatment and recognises that despite all the efforts to address such discrimination, it still exists today.

This Council recognises and opposes the ongoing harm the practice of so-called conversion therapy brings to LGBT+ people.

This Council calls on the Government to follow through on promises made for a number of years, to outlaw the practise of so-called conversion therapy.

This Council notes the ongoing Government consultation on this matter and requests that the Leader of the Council writes to Government and calls for the introduction of an effective ban on conversion therapy within England, supported by a programme of work to help tackle these practices in all their forms.

Furthermore this Council renews its commitment to highlight promote and improve the continued support, counselling

and advocacy our local groups provide to members of the LGBT+ Community.”

21 **Response to Notice of Motion**

539 - 544

To receive the response received from Paul Scully MP in relation to the Fireworks motion.



Kim Bromley-Derry CBE DL
Interim Chief Executive
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Freeth Street
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West Midlands

Distribution
All Members of the Council

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

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