

Agenda Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, to be held on Tuesday, 12 December 2023 at 6.00 pm for the purpose of transacting the following business:-

The Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Bill Gavan, in the Chair

- | | | |
|---|--|---------|
| 1 | Apologies for Absence | 11 - 12 |
| | To receive apologies for absence (if any). | |
| 2 | Declarations of Interest | 13 - 14 |
| | Members to declare any interests in matters to be discussed at the meeting. | |
| 3 | Minutes | 15 - 34 |
| | To confirm the minutes of the extraordinary and ordinary meetings of Council held on 24 October as a correct record. | |
| 4 | Urgent Business | 35 - 36 |
| | To consider any urgent business (with prior approval by the Mayor). | |
| 5 | Announcements | 37 - 38 |
| | To receive announcements from the Chief Executive and the Mayor. | |



6 **Petitions** 39 - 40

To receive petitions under Standing Order No. 8.

7 **Written Questions** 41 - 46

To consider written questions under Standing Order No. 9 from

- (a) Elected Members
- (b) Members of the Public

to:-

- (i) the Mayor;
- (ii) the Leader of the Council;
- (iii) any other member of the Cabinet;
- (iv) any person appointed to preside at a committee, sub-committee or panel;
- (v) 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 Jalil);
 - (iii) Transport for the West Midlands (Councillor Choudhry);
- (vi) 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.

8	Designation of Interim Statutory Chief Officer	47 - 50
	To confirm the designation of the Section 151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer.	
9	Sandwell Council Improvement Plan	51 - 110
	To consider the latest update on the Improvement Plan and submission to the Secretary of State.	
10	Code of Corporate Governance	111 - 136
	To approve the revised Code of Corporate Governance.	
11	Consideration of Special Responsibility Allowance for Shadow Cabinet Members	137 - 148
	To consider special responsibility allowance for Shadow Cabinet Members.	
12	Proposed Departure from the Development Plan at West Midlands Foundry Co Limited, Blakemore Road, West Bromwich	149 - 154
	To consider a proposed departure from the local development plan in relation to Planning Application DC/23/68467.	
13	Proposed departure from the Development Plan at Locarno Works, Locarno Road, Tipton	155 - 160
	To consider a proposed departure from the local development plan in relation to Planning Application DC/23/68518.	
14	Proposed departure from the Development Plan at Tata Cargo Ltd, Rigby Street, Wednesbury	161 - 166
	To consider a proposed departure from the local development plan in relation to Planning Application DC/22/67520.	

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 15 | Proposed departure from the Development Plan at land at corner of Cleton Street and Sedgley Road East/Tipton Road, Tipton | 167 - 172 |
| | To consider a proposed departure from the local development plan in relation to Planning Application DC/23/68624. | |
| 16 | Planning Delegations Agreement | 173 - 180 |
| | To approve the revised Planning Delegations Agreement | |
| 17 | Political Balance of Committees and Boards | 181 - 186 |
| | To consider the political balance for the remainder of the 2023-24 municipal year. | |
| 18 | Revisions to Committees, Boards and Other Bodies | 187 - 190 |
| | To consider revisions to the appointments of Committees, Boards, and other bodies. | |
| 19 | To receive the minutes of the Cabinet | 191 - 620 |
| | To receive the minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 18 October and 15 November 2023 and consider the recommendations arising from the November and December meetings in relation to:- | |
| | (a) Medium Term Financial Strategy – Autumn 2023; | |
| | (b) Council Tax Base 2024/25; | |
| | (c) Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024/25; | |
| | (d) The review of council tenant rents and housing related property charges; | |
| | (e) 10 Year Business Rates Retention Agreement. | |

- 20 **To receive minutes of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board** 621 - 634
- To receive the minutes of the meetings of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board held on 28 September and 5 October 2023.
- 21 **To receive the minutes of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee** 635 - 660
- To receive the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee held on 4 December 2023 and consider the recommendations arising in relation to:-
- (a) Statutory Polling District and Polling Place Review 2023.
- 22 **To receive the minutes of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee** 661 - 666
- To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee held on 21 September 2023.
- 23 **To receive the minutes of the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee** 667 - 670
- To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee held on 7 November 2023.
- 24 **Notices of Motion**
- To consider the following motions received under Standing Order No. 12:-

24(a) Modern Slavery

Proposer: Councillor Dunn

Seconder: Councillor Trumpeter

Council recognises progress made across the West Midlands to eradicate modern slavery but acknowledges that there is an estimated 4197 survivors of Modern Slavery in the Combined Authority area.

Council further acknowledges and reaffirms the importance of vigilance for all Sandwell Council employees and elected members when dealing with supplier contracts with high-risk sectors being construction, agriculture, hospitality, and care.

Council therefore reaffirms its duty to ensure Sandwell is Slavery Free and, recognising the importance of partnership work in the fight against Modern Slavery, resolves to –

1. Request the Leader and Cabinet develop a deliverable 'Slavery Free Sandwell Strategy Plan' with achievable goals which will enable regular assessment of progress and scrutiny of areas which may require improvement.
2. Request the Chief Executive convene a West Midlands Anti-Slavery Summit - inviting all of the local authorities in the Combined Authority region, the Mayor of the West Midlands, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and our region's Members of Parliament, as well as relevant charitable organisations like the Black Country Women's Aid where partners can share best practices as well as improve collaboration among regional partners.
3. Continue to engage all stakeholders, including employees, contracted partners and elected members through regular awareness campaigns and reports on our Modern Slavery strategy being delivered to

Council regularly and reaffirms the principle of ensuring that all members of this authority are clear in knowing it is our duty to highlight concerns to ensure the Council can fulfil its role as a First Responder Organisation to refer potential victims.

24(b) End Violence Against Women and Girls (White Ribbon Day)

Proposer: Councillor W Gill

Seconder: Councillor Fisher

Council acknowledges the concerns of women and girls regarding their safety on public transport particularly whilst engaging in the night-time economy and welcomes the work done by local community organisations to raise awareness of violence against women and girls.

Council notes and welcomes the Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Bill 2022-23 which introduces a new offence of causing alarm, distress, or intentional harassment to a person in public because of their sex.

Council therefore resolves to –

1. Request the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition write a joint cross-party letter to the Mayor of the West Midlands requesting a progress update on the WMCA's recommendations set out for transport in the Combined Authority's Violence against Women and Girls Strategy.
2. Call on all male Councillors to take the White Ribbon pledge, never to take part in, condone or stay silent about violence against women.
3. Request the Leader and Cabinet to work towards White Ribbon accreditation, joining the large number of public sector bodies which have already done so, with the Chief Executive as the authorities' White Ribbon

accreditation co-ordinator and for a cross-party working group to be established as our 'action plan steering group' during the accreditation process, with all members of the working group to sign up for the White Ribbon Ambassador program.

Request that Council mark White Ribbon Day on 25 November each year and encourage participation among Councillors, council staff and local primary and secondary schools.

24(c) Community Policing
Proposer: Councillor A Williams
Seconder: Councillor Chapman

Council recognises the importance of community-focused policing in towns across Sandwell.

Whilst welcoming the positive news of the retention of Tipton Police Station, Council expresses its strongest concerns in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) proposals to dispose of the other stations in the Borough which will have a significant detrimental impact on our communities.

Council welcomes West Midlands Mayor, Andy Street's pledge to halt the police station closures through the enforcement of a moratorium until a rigorous review can be undertaken.

Council further notes it's disappointment with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, as the force has been taken into special measures as a result of a failure in senior leadership and failures in key areas including; effective investigations, keeping vulnerable people safe and in managing the risk posed to the public by child abusers and registered sex offenders, which in turn may undermine our resident's trust in the force.

Council therefore resolves to –

1. Request the Leader of the Council write to the Police and Crime Commissioner, Simon Foster, to call on him to U-turn on his proposed disposal plans to ensure there is a visible deterrent and Police Presence in our communities.
2. Request the Leader of the Council write to the Home Secretary to place on record this Council's support of the proposal to merge the role of PCC into the Office of the Mayor, in order to save taxpayer money and to ensure there is proper accountability of the force which will help reduce crime rates and ensure people in our area feel safe.



Shokat Lal
Chief Executive
Sandwell Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury
West Midlands

Distribution
All Members of the Council
democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

Information about meetings in Sandwell



If you are attending the meeting and require assistance to access the venue, please contact Democratic Services (democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk).



If the fire alarm sounds, please follow the instructions of the officers present and leave the building by the nearest exit.



Only people invited to speak at a meeting may do so. Everyone at the meeting is expected to be respectful and listen to the discussion.



Agendas with reports with exempt information should be treated as private and confidential. It is your responsibility to ensure that any such reports are kept secure. After the meeting confidential papers should be disposed of in a secure way.



This meeting may be recorded and broadcast on the Internet. If this is the case, it will be confirmed at the meeting and further information will be provided.



You are allowed to use devices for the purposes of recording or reporting during the public session of the meeting. When using your devices they must not disrupt the meeting – please ensure they are set to silent.



Members who cannot attend the meeting should submit apologies by contacting Democratic Services (democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk)



All agenda, reports, minutes for Sandwell Council's meetings, councillor details and more are available from our website (<https://cmis.sandwell.gov.uk/cm5/>)

