

# Agenda Council

**You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, to be held on Tuesday, 24 October 2023 at 6.15 pm (or on the rising of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council) for the purpose of transacting the following business:-**

**The Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Bill Gavan, In the Chair**

- |          |  |                |
|----------|--|----------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Apologies for Absence</b>   | <b>11 - 12</b> |
|          | To receive apologies for absence (if any).                                       |                |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Declarations of Interest</b>  | <b>13 - 14</b> |
|          | Members to declare any interests in matters to be discussed at the meeting.      |                |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Minutes</b>   | <b>15 - 30</b> |
|          | To confirm as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2023. |                |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Urgent Business</b>   | <b>31 - 32</b> |
|          | To consider any urgent business (with prior approval by the Mayor).              |                |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Announcements</b>   | <b>33 - 34</b> |
|          | To receive announcements from the Chief Executive and the Mayor.                 |                |



6      **Petitions**      35 - 36

To receive petitions under Standing Order No. 8.

7      **Written Questions**      37 - 40

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	<b>Proposals for the introduction of a shadow cabinet</b>	41 - 58
	To consider the establishment of a shadow cabinet.	
9	<b>Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-2023</b>	59 - 84
	To receive the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2022-2023.	
10	<b>Audit and Risk Assurance Committee Annual Report 2022-2023</b>	85 - 96
	To receive the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee Annual Report 2022/23.	
11	<b>Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985 Update</b>	97 - 142
	To receive updates from the Council's lead representatives on:-  (a) West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority; (b) Transport for West Midlands; (c) West Midlands Police and Crime Panel; (d) West Midlands Combined Authority.	
12	<b>Political Balance of Committees and Boards</b>	143 - 148
	To consider the political balance for the remainder of the 2023-24 municipal year.	
13	<b>Revisions to Committees, Boards and Other Bodies</b>	149 - 160
	To consider revisions to Committees, Boards, and other bodies.	

- 14      **To receive the minutes of Cabinet**      161 - 254
- To receive the minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 21 June, 12 July and 13 September 2023 and consider the recommendation arising from the meeting in relation to:-
- (a)    Levelling Up Partnership – exception to Financial Regulations.
- 15      **To receive the minutes of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Board**      255 - 260
- To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board held on 27 July 2023.
- 16      **To receive the minutes of the Governance and Constitution Review Committee**      261 - 284
- To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Governance and Constitution Review Committee held on 21 September 2023 and consider the recommendations arising in relation to:-
- (a)    Changes to Scrutiny Procedure Rules – Call-in;
- (b)    Protocol for nomination to Mayor/Deputy Mayor.
- 17      **To receive the minutes of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee**      285 - 328
- To receive the minutes of the meetings of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee held on 3 August, 22 September and 12 October 2023 and consider the recommendations arising in relation to:-
- (a)    Local Government Boundary Commission Periodic Electoral Review of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.

18 **To receive the minutes of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee** 329 - 336

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee held on 20 July 2023.

19 **To receive the minutes of the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee** 337 - 342

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee held on 4 July 2023.

20 **Notices of Motion**

To consider the following motions received under Standing Order No. 12:-

20(a) **Celebrating Black History Month, Promoting the Adoption of the Halo Code and Ending Hair Discrimination in Sandwell Council**

Proposer: Councillor Lewis

Seconder: Councillor Kalebe-Nyamongo

- Black History Month is an annual observance dedicated to celebrating the achievements, contributions and history of the Black community.
- This year's theme is 'Saluting our Sisters,' emphasising the role and accomplishments of Black women.
- The Halo Code (work), the UK's first Black Hair code, explicitly protects employees who embrace natural hair and protective hairstyles associated with their racial, ethnic, and cultural identities.
- The code embraces Afro-textured hair as an important part of Black employees' racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious identities.
- The code celebrates Afro-textured hair in all its styles, including but not limited to afros, locks, twists, braids, cornrows, fades, hair

straightened through the application of heat or chemicals, weaves, wigs, headscarves, and wraps.

- By adopting the Halo Code (work), Sandwell Council proactively stands against hair discrimination, ensuring that no member of our workforce faces barriers or judgments due to their hair.

Benefits:

- Promoting the adoption of the Halo Code within Sandwell Council supports the rights and dignity of Black individuals in our organisation.
- Fosters a more inclusive and equitable environment, aligning with the spirit of Black History Month and its theme 'Saluting our Sisters.'
- Sets a positive example for other local authorities and organisations within Sandwell.

Council resolves to adopt the Halo Code and reaffirms the Council's commitment to inclusivity and aims to end hair discrimination, ensuring that all individuals in Sandwell Council can embrace their natural hair and cultural identities without facing barriers or judgments.

## 20(b) **Sandwell Litter Bin Strategy**

Proposer: Councillor Gill

Secunder: Councillor Fisher

That this Council recognises the concerns of elected members and local residents with regards to the current number and use of litter bins, and is concerned that a new Litter Bin strategy is to be developed with the "intent of removing a proportion" of Sandwell's 1660 litter and dog bins.

That this council further recognises the concerns from residents regarding an epidemic of litter across the Borough which may be exacerbated by the removal of some bins which are well used by our community.

That this Council acknowledges the concerns of the elected members who have been unable to request new bins in locations across their wards as a result of the Litter Bin Audit which has been ongoing for many months.

Accordingly, Council invites the Executive to: -

- (i) pledge that none of the current bins in Sandwell are removed and instead work with SERCO to replace bins that are missing or damaged as a matter of urgency; and
- (ii) with SERCO, meet with all elected members to deliver a community-led allocation of litter bins across Sandwell which ensures they are placed in the most effective locations - including parks, nature reserves, housing estates and around schools.

## 21 **Exclusion of Public and Press**

That the public and press be excluded from the rest of the meeting. This is to avoid the possible disclosure of exempt information under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, relating to any individual, likely to identify an individual and the financial or business affairs of any person, including the authority holding that information.

## 22 **New Leadership Team Structure**

343 - 358

To consider and approve the new Leadership Team structure.

**Dated: 16 October 2023**



**Shokat Lal**

**Chief Executive**

Sandwell Council House

Freeth Street

Oldbury

West Midlands

**Distribution**

All Members of Council

Contact: [democratic\\_services@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk)



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