

# Minutes of Annual Council

**25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 6:00 pm**  
**Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

**Present:** Her Worship The Mayor, Dr Ann Jaron;

Councillors Abrahams, Ahmed, Akhtar, Akpoteni, Ali, Allcock, Allen, Anandou, Ashman, Bhullar, Bostan, Chambers, Chapman, Chidley, Costigan, Crompton, Dhallu, Fenton, Fisher, Gavan, E M Giles, E A Giles, L Giles, M Gill, S Gill, W Gill, Hackett, Hartwell, Hinchliff, Hughes, M Hussain, Z Hussain, Jalil, O Jones, R Jones, S Jones, Kalari, Kaur, Kausar, Mabena, McVittie, Melia, Millar, Millard, Owen, C Padda, I Padda, Phillips, Piper, Randhawa, Rouf, Shackleton, Shaeen, Simms, K Singh, R Singh, S Singh, Smith, Taylor, Webb and Williams.

**Also present:** David Stevens – Chief Executive and Surjit Tour – Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer.

## 53/21 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Akhter, Carmichael, G Gill, M Y Hussain, Khatun, Moore, Rollins and Tagger.

## 54/21 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors R Jones and McVittie declared a personal interest in Minute No. 64/21 – Independent Remuneration Panel Review of the Deputy Mayoral Allowance and succession process and left the meeting during this item.



55/21

## **Election of Mayor**

Dr Jaron, invited nominations for the office of Mayor of the Borough of Sandwell for the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

Councillor Mushtaq Hussain was nominated by Councillor Jalil and Councillor C Padda seconded the nomination.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried and it was

**Resolved** that Councillor Mushtaq Hussain be declared elected Mayor of the Borough of Sandwell for the ensuing Municipal Year 2021/22.

Councillor Mushtaq Hussain made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office required by law and was invested with the Mayoral chain and badge of office.

Councillor M Hussain took the Chair and made his speech of acceptance. The Mayor announced that, during his term of office, his chosen charity would be St. John's Ambulance.

The Mayor announced that his son, Mr Amar Mushtaq, and family friend, Mr Ijaz Ahmad would act as Mayor's Consorts for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Mr Mushtaq and Mr Ahmad were invested with the chain and badge of office of Mayor's Consort.

His Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Mushtaq Hussain, in the Chair.

56/21

## **Appointment of Deputy Mayor**

The Mayor invited nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Sandwell for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

Councillor Richard Jones was nominated by Councillor Bostan and Councillor Taylor seconded the nomination.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried and it was

**Resolved** that Councillor Richard Jones be declared elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Sandwell for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

Councillor R Jones made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office required by law and was invested with the chain and badge of office and made his speech of acceptance.

The Deputy Mayor announced that his partner, Councillor RichardMcVittie, would act as the Deputy Mayor's Consort for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor McVittie was invested with the chain and badge of office.

57/21

#### **Vote of Thanks to Retiring Mayor**

Councillor Piper moved a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Dr Jaron, on behalf of the Council, and Councillor Hinchliff seconded the motion.

In response, Dr Jaron thanked all members of the Council for giving her the opportunity to represent the Borough as Mayor andalso thanked her sister and Consort, the Deputy Mayor and Consort and the Members Services team.

58/21

#### **Vote of Thanks to Retiring Deputy Mayor**

Councillor Jalil moved a vote of thanks to the retiring DeputyMayor, Councillor Hartwell, on behalf of the Council, and Councillor Luke Giles seconded the motion.

In response, Councillor Hartwell thanked all members of the Council for giving her the opportunity to represent the Borough asDeputy Mayor, her partner and Consort and the Members Services team.

59/21

## **Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

60/21

## **Urgent business**

There were no items of urgent business.

61/21

## **Election of Leader of The Council**

It was moved by Councillor Ali and seconded by Councillor I Padda that Councillor Rajbir Singh be appointed as Leader of the Council for the four year period commencing 25 May 2021.

No other nominations were received.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried and it was

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that, pursuant to the Local Government Act 2000(as amended) and Articles 4.02(d) and 7.03 of the Council's Constitution, Councillor Rajbir Singh be appointed as Leader of the Council for a period of four years, ending with the Annual Meeting of Council in 2025, or for the remainder of his current term of office as councillor, subject to remaining as an elected member of the Council or otherwise not having been removed from office by a decision of the Council or resigned as leader;
- (2) that, pursuant to Local Government Act 2000 (as amended), Articles 7.04 and 7.06 of the Council's Constitution, it be noted that the Leader of the Council made the following executive appointments:
  - i. Councillor Maria Crompton be appointed to the position of Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strong and Resilient Communities;

- ii. Councillor Wasim Ali be appointed to the position of Cabinet Member for Finance, Council Sustainability and Transformation;
- iii. Councillor Karen Simms be appointed to the position of Cabinet Member for Best Start in Life;
- iv. Councillor Danny Millard be appointed to the position of Cabinet Member for Governance and Democracy;
- v. Councillor Iqbal Padda be appointed to the position of Cabinet Member for Strong and Inclusive Economy;
- vi. Councillor Suzanne Hartwell be appointed to the position of Cabinet Member for Living and Ageing Well;
- vii. Councillor Jackie Taylor be appointed to the position of Cabinet Member for Connected and Accessible Sandwell;
- viii. Councillor Zahoor Ahmed be appointed to the position of Cabinet Member for Quality Homes and Thriving Neighbourhoods.

- (3) that Council note the Executive appointments to bodies;
- (4) that Council note the Scheme of Delegations to Officers (executive side functions).

62/21

### **Appointment to The Constitution of Committees, Boards and Other Fora for 2021/22**

In accordance with the requirements of its Constitution, the Council considered proposals relating to the identification of the bodies it wished to carry out its function as a local authority and terms of reference for those bodies.

Consideration was given to the nominations to committees, boards and other fora which had been received from all political groups.

## **Resolved:-**

- (1) that, taking into account proportionality, the constitution of committees, board and other fora for 2021/22 be approved;
- (2) that the revised terms of reference of the committees, boards and other fora, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be noted and that the remainder of the terms of reference as set out in Part 3 of the Constitution be reaffirmed;
- (3) that the Scheme of Delegations to Officers be approved;
- (4) that, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, one nomination from each of the Church of England Diocese and Roman Catholic Archdiocese and two nominations for Parent Governor representatives to serve as non-elected members on the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board be invited, with voting rights conferred only on any matter with regard to education, whether in respect of schools or wider educational issues;
- (5) that the appointment of members to committees, boards and other fora established by the Council, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be approved;
- (6) that the programme of meetings for the 2021-22 municipal year be approved;
- (7) that, in connection with (2) and (3) above, the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer be authorised to update the Council's Constitution.

63/21

### **Appointment of Representatives to Other Bodies**

Consideration was given to the appointment or nomination of representatives to serve on outside bodies for the Municipal Year 2021/22. A schedule of nominations was circulated at the meeting.

The motion was put to the vote and carried.

**Resolved** that the appointments to outside/other bodies, as detailed in Appendix C to the report, be approved.

64/21

### **Independent Remuneration Panel Review of Deputy Mayor Allowance**

Deputy Mayor Councillor R Jones and Councillor McVittie, having declared an interest, left the meeting.

In 2019 the Council invited the Independent Remuneration Panel to consider recommendations in respect of the reintroduction of the allowance for Deputy Mayor.

The Independent Remuneration Panel recommended that the Deputy Mayor allowance be set at 40% of the Mayor's allowance.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

#### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the SRA for Deputy Mayor be set at 40% of the Mayor's allowance, including a clothing allowance;
- (2) that mayoral succession protocol be considered at a later date.

Meeting ended at 7.14 pm.

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