

## COUNCIL - 8 February 2022

### MINUTES

Present: The Mayor of Solihull Councillor Ken Meeson and Councillors: M Allen, K Allsopp, S Ashraf MBE, K Blunt, J Burn, S Caudwell, Y Clements, D Cole, I Courts, S Davis, T Diccico, D Gibbin, M Gough, K Grinsell, R Grinsell, B Groom, J Hamilton, K Hawkins, A Hodgson, T Hodgson, P Hogarth MBE, Mrs D Holl-Allen MBE, R Holt, D Howell, R Long, A Mackenzie, A Mackiewicz, L McCarthy, M McCarthy, M McLoughlin, K Meeson, N Moses, J O'Nyons, M Parker, D Pinwell, W Qais, A Rebeiro, A Rolf, A Sandison, R Sexton, R Sleigh OBE, K Thomas, P Thomas, J Tildesley and M Wilson

#### 1. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillors Butler, Macnaughton, and Sheshabhatteer.

Councillors Sheshabhatteer and Butler joined the meeting virtually.

#### 2. COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the two meetings held on 7 December 2021 were presented for approval.

##### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the two meetings held on 7 December be approved.

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR CONFLICTING INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

There were no declarations of pecuniary or conflicting interests from Members.

#### 4. PETITIONS

The following petitions were submitted:

- 1) From Cllr Allen – Public Toilets in Shirley – “We the undersigned call upon SMBC to install public toilets in the area of Shirley Park. We need people to visit Shirley and the lack of toilet facilities has an impact on elderly, very young, disabled people, our regular shoppers, those we want to attract for the first time and those who take advantage of the many attractions at Shirley Park.”
- 2) From Cllr L McCarthy – “Residents are asking Solihull Council to undertake a comprehensive investigation into speeding across Elmdon and measures to tackle this. This includes exploring the rollout of average speed cameras across Elmdon, implementation of 20mph speed limits, or else consulting with residents about their preferred

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method of traffic calming on the worst streets and implementing this. We are also asking West Midlands Police to increase the number of speed checks on Elmdon roads to deter excessive speeding.”

- 3) From Cllr L McCarthy – “Residents are asking Solihull Council to undertake another investigation into Rowood Drive with the view to installing average speed cameras to control the speeding or else consult with residents about their preferred method of traffic calming and implement this.”
- 4) From Cllr Gibbin – Speed Reduction/Traffic Calming Measures – “We the undersigned call upon SMBC to introduce speed reduction/traffic calming measures on Brook Lane.”
- 5) From Cllr Gibbin – Speed Reduction/Traffic Calming Measures – “ We the undersigned call upon SMBC to introduce speed reduction/traffic calming measures on Dovehouse/Lane.”
- 6) From Cllr K Thomas – “We, the undersigned, call on Solihull Council to renew the leases of The 1st Olton Scout Group and The Olton Park Guides, for their respective premises on Brackleys Way, ensuring that they have security of tenure for the foreseeable future.”
- 7) From Cllr B Grinsell – Road Safety Measures- “Following a fatal accident and other traffic incidents we the undersigned call upon SMBC to investigate suitable road safety options for the junction of Warwick Road and Grange Road as a matter of urgency. We also request that the yellow hatched “do not enter” box is repainted.”
- 8) From Cllr O’Nyons – “Petition requesting that SMBC investigate the issue of speeding on Pierce Avenue and in consultation with residents implement their preferred traffic calming measures.
- 9) From Cllr O’Nyons – “Petition requesting that SMBC investigate the issue of speeding on Dovehouse Lane and in consultation with residents implement their preferred traffic calming measures.”
- 10)From Cllr O’Nyons – “Petition requesting that SMBC investigate the issue of speeding on Marcot Road and in consultation with residents implement their preferred traffic calming measures”
- 11)From Cllr Sleight – “We the undersigned residents of Marston Green, call upon SMBC to develop and install measures to prevent excess speed from vehicles along Holly Lane, Marston Green.”
- 12)From Cllr Tildesley – “We the undersigned call upon SMBC to refuse Planning Application 2021/01581 in respect of 23 Alderbrook Road, Solihull and request that the Planning Committee confirm the earlier approved application at this location 2018/00941.”

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- 13) From Cllr K Grinsell – “We the undersigned call upon SMBC to include Coombe Road in their school streets programme. We ask for action to be taken against inconsiderate parking, speeding vehicles and to improve the general safety of children walking to school.”

### **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor announced that the LGBTQ+ Rainbow Flag would fly at the Council House as a mark of respect and to raise awareness of LGBTQ+ matters. LGBTQ+ History month focused on the celebration and recognition of LGBTQ+ people and culture.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning and Housing provided an update on the Draft Local Plan. It was confirmed that the evidence in public sessions had concluded and that the Council had satisfied its legal responsibilities to cooperate. There were some technical alterations which had been requested by the Planning Inspectorate. The Council would then be given the opportunity to consider these proposals and any changes would require appropriate decision making processes and consultation.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning and Housing also announced that Solihull Council had been ranked the fifth best local authority in their response to the Climate Emergency.

### **6. QUESTIONS AND DEPUTATIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9 AND 12**

No Questions or Deputations were received.

### **7. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 8**

Councillor O’Nyons to Councillor Holt Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Skills

As the future of both the Scout and Guides groups who currently occupy the Summerfield Site in my ward is so linked to the future use of the site, could the Cabinet Member who I understand currently hold the site, advise me when he believes the future of the site from the position of his directorate will be determined.

Councillor Rolf responded to Councillor O’Nyons in their answer to Councillor K Thomas’ question below\*.

Councillor K Thomas to Councillor Rolf Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Stronger and Safer Communities

Why are the Scouts and Guides huts on Brackleys Way, next to Olton Jubilee Park, still threatened with demolition, four years after promises were made that

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leases for both Groups would be renewed and they would be able to continue operating out of their current premises?

Will Solihull Council now stop obfuscating and renew the leases for both the 1st Olton Scouts and the Olton Parks Guides without any further delay?"

\*Councillor Rolf explained that the lease agreement had not progressed to date as the site was being considered for educational use and the building would fail to meet the Government's Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards. It had subsequently been confirmed that the site was unsuitable for planned education initiatives and therefore would not be required. It was understood that the Scout and Guide Group planned to make the necessary changes to meet the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards. The Council would work with the Group and a decision on the matter would be brought to Cabinet within the next six months, when the lease position was confirmed.

Councillor K Thomas asked what could be done to improve communication with the Scout and Guide Group as the matter progressed. Councillor Rolf accepted that communication had not been satisfactory to this point, however the key contacts would be informed as this issue advanced.

Councillor K Thomas queried what lessons could be learned from this matter to ensure other voluntary and community groups did not have similar experiences. Councillor Courts highlighted that the intent was to continue to support local community groups but recognised that there had been problems in this instance.

### Cllr Allen to Cllr Rolf Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Stronger and Safer Communities

Many people in Shirley have been complaining about the lack of public toilets in the high street. Shirley Park is the most popular park in the borough and hosts many community events. People often combine going to the shops with a visit to the park and can stay for several hours. However, the lack of public facilities affects the elderly, the very young, and disabled people and prevents them from taking full advantage of the opportunities on offer in Shirley.

Will the Cabinet Member consider reinstating public toilets in the area of Shirley Park?

Councillor Rolf outlined that there would not be the infrastructure or space to provide public toilet facilities in Shirley Park, and the historic changing room facility presented significant issues for nearby residential properties which contributed to the removal of this facility. There were public toilets within the Asda shopping centre near to the park.

Councillor Allen highlighted that there was limited signage for the public toilets in Asda and asked if it would be possible for signage to be improved. Councillor Rolf confirmed that this would be followed up with Officers.

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### Councillor O'Nyons to Councillor Hawkins Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Infrastructure

Often forgotten about is the Hobs Moat Ancient Monument situated within my ward, it is believed to be the remains of a ruined 12th century castle and home of the local lords of the manor and founders of the area that we now call Solihull. Arguably had there been no Hobs Moat, there would be no Solihull.

I would like to see the Monument given a new lease of life, therefore will the Cabinet Member and his officers commit to exploring with me possible internal and external funding opportunities, to finance much needed maintenance work and possibly new visitor signs/bins/benches etc., or maybe even a nature trail to help bring the woods back into the heart of the Lyndon community.

The Cabinet Member explained that the site was a key heritage asset within the Borough and they looked to engage with Historic England and other interested parties to identify funding opportunities to rejuvenate the site and understand restrictions at the location.

Councillor O'Nyons asked when these conversations would start to take place. Councillor Hawkins outlined that Officers were aware of this request and would engage with partners.

### Councillor Long to Councillor Courts Leader of the Councillor

Many residents in Elmdon have expressed concern at the launch of the Hub Prospectus Brochure (Brochure) on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022; which includes the promotion of the green belt land off Damson Parkway (referred to as UK2) for logistics development. This has also resulted in articles in the local press and social media; including the potential relocation of the Moors football ground.

The development plan in the Brochure would require a material relaxation of the justifications stated in the Local Plan for removal of the land from the green belt; leading to yet more significant adverse impact on residents. I spoke against such a change at the Examination in Public (EIP) hearings. Given that the EIP is not yet concluded, I believe it premature for a Brochure to be actively marketing the site based on such change. Moreover, it is concerning that as a partner in the Urban Growth Company, Solihull Council appears to be directly supporting such an approach.

I note your recent statement regarding the potential relocation of the Moors. Please can you also confirm that:

- a) A Conservative administration will not support such relaxation of the "exceptional circumstances" without additional local consultation;
- b) The Brochure will be withdrawn until the EIP is complete, so that the Council is not endorsing proposals that were not part of the consulted Plan;

Councillor Courts expressed concerns whether these issues had been passed to Officers. Councillor Long shared information about residents who had raised concerns with him, and asked whether the Council would agree to the

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relaxation of rules to enable the Solihull Moors site to be used for a logistics organisation.

Councillor Courts noted that it would be up to Solihull Moors how they chose to use their site. There had been no change in the position on this proposed employment site, unless the Planning Inspectors proposed changes and then appropriate decision making processes would be followed. The brochure referenced was a marketing tool developed by the Urban Growth Company and had no formal status, therefore it was confirmed that they would not request for the UGC to withdraw the brochure.

Councillor Long queried whether the brochure should make local residents concerned given the images suggested significant changes. Councillor Courts explained that residents should contact the Council if they were concerned.

### Councillor Groom to Councillor Hawkins Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Infrastructure

As Andy Street and members of this Cabinet have previously acknowledged, transport links in North Solihull are really problematic. Almost 4 years ago they announced that a new tram line will be built from Birmingham City centre to Heartlands Hospital, then on to Chelmsley Wood shopping centre and then to the Business Park and the NEC and will open in what is now less than 5 years' time. As trams are going to run every 6 minutes at peak times, this will be a revolution in North Solihull, transforming residents' ability to get to job opportunities, leisure and important health services, particularly for an area with much lower car ownership than the rest of Solihull.

Can the Cabinet Member update us as to the progress of building the new metro?

Councillor Hawkins explained that Transport for West Midlands was committed to the delivery of rapid mass transit schemes such as the metro, however this would be a long term project due in part to the affordability of new metro services. More immediate solutions to improve public transport and active travel provision had been undertaken.

Councillor Groom expressed concern that this scheme had been delayed and queried when it would be delivered to residents. Councillor Hawkins highlighted that there were significant problems to public transport caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The regional transport settlement had just been agreed and there remained an emphasis on active travel and public transport. The transport network continued to be kept open and prices had been frozen.

Councillor Groom asked if the Cabinet Member would support him to work with TfWM to identify any opportunities to improve the transport network in North Solihull. Councillor Hawkins agreed to this, as he recognised that improvements to the transport network would take time and there would need

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to be a business case for any changes. It was stressed that it was important to improve the whole transport network across the whole of the Borough.

### Councillor L McCarthy to Councillor Dicicco Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health

Local residents across the borough are still experiencing long delays trying to get in touch with a GP - with many Elmdon and Lyndon residents contacting my colleagues complaining that they cannot get through to Hobs Moat Medical Centre at all. How is the cabinet member working with GP surgeries to ensure that all Solihull residents are able to access a GP when they need medical treatment?

Councillor Dicicco noted that there had been unprecedented demand on GP services within the Borough over the previous two years. There had been problems at Hobs Moat Medical Centre due to staff shortages as a result of the Omicron COVID-19 variant in December 2021 and January 2022. The GP partner had identified a problem with their telephone line on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022 and would look into this further; a self-declaration to Birmingham and Solihull CCG was made due to the staff shortages. At present, there were no staffing problems, and they continued to resolve the backlog of work caused by the shortages. Hobs Moat Practice had approached the CCG for Peer Support assistance as the Practice Manager had left in January and the assistant was on long term sickness absence.

### Councillor McLoughlin to Councillor Hawkins Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Infrastructure

The bin outside the Convenience store on Tanworth Lane was provided by the business. They paid for a commercial waste contract that has since been terminated because of the dog waste that was put in there. Can dog waste bins be provided in this location, so that the business can resume their commercial contract for waste?

Councillor Hawkins confirmed that Officers had been requested to liaise with the shop owner to understand this problem and to provide a longer term solution.

Councillor McLoughlin expressed concern that there were not enough dog bins or collections in this area, and asked if this could be looked into by the Cabinet Member. Councillor Hawkins stated that it was not acceptable that dog bins were not collected. The Cabinet Member requested that Councillors report any instances of this to the Council. It was also outlined that it was not always the answer to introduce dog bins.

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Councillor McLoughlin asked whether they could have a conversation with the Cabinet Member about the dog bin at Shakespeare Drive. The Cabinet Member agreed to this.

### Cllr L McCarthy to Cllr Rolf Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Stronger and Safer Communities

In Elmdon we have a desperate shortage of community centre buildings where residents can meet. Given the council's stated mission to tackle social isolation, what is being done to ensure that Elmdon residents have a meeting place?

Councillor Rolf confirmed that they sought to identify how to make best use of the Council's land and property portfolio in Elmdon. Opportunities to undertake this through a partnership between Stronger Communities Portfolio and Strategic Land and the Property team was being considered. It was noted that the Community Development team already worked with a number of groups within the Elmdon area and welcomed any interest to develop community use of local facilities.

Councillor L McCarthy stated that a community group in Elmdon had been told they did not have the experience to run a community centre, and whether the Cabinet Member would look into this. Councillor Rolf clarified that it was important to find groups that could effectively manage a building, with sustainable usage and provide a public benefit. For the example referenced, Councillor Rolf agreed to work with Officers to confirm what additional requirements would need to be provided by this group.

### Cllr McLoughlin to Cllr Hawkins Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Infrastructure

A resident from the bungalows at the top of Lillington Road reported their bins hadn't been collected. An alternative collection was arranged, but they were informed that it wasn't collected as it wasn't on the pavement. The bin was where it has always been, less than 5 meters from the pavement. Has there been any change that would require residents to register for assisted collections that had not previously been registered?

Councillor Hawkins confirmed there had been no change to the service and that residents could apply for assisted collection service if those in the property would struggle to move the bin for themselves. Residents should leave their bins in a visible location at the front their property for crews to empty and return their bins to the same presentation point.

Councillor McLoughlin queried whether there would be service continuity as the contractor changed and that bins should not be moved into a location whereby it would block the pavements for pedestrians. Councillor Hawkins explained that in this instance, the resident may not have responded to the contractor by the Council to check they still required assistance. Further information was requested to share with Officers to investigate.



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### Cllr K Thomas to Cllr Dicicco Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health

With the West Midlands Ambulance Category 2 waiting times being an average of 48 Minutes against a target of 18 minutes in December and some patients in lower priority categories waiting 8-10 hours, what actions are the council taking to help get ambulance waiting times back on target?”

Councillor Dicicco reiterated the increased pressure on the health service as a result of the pandemic. It was confirmed that category two response times had increased over recent months in the West Midlands. The reasons for this include an overall increase in demand, an increase in the number of higher acuity calls which required a faster response time and delayed handovers. There are a number of steps to resolve this, linked to local acute provider and CCG recovery plans to reduce handover delays. A seven point action plan for the system had been agreed by system chief executives and was being implemented.

Councillor K Thomas asked how much of an impact the closure of the Minor Injuries Unit at Solihull Hospital had on handover times. Councillor Dicicco stated these figures would not be possible, however the concerns about urgent response was in relation to other sites such as Heartlands Hospital.

#### **8. COUNCIL TOPIC OF DEBATE**

No topic of debate was received.

#### **9. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Two motions were submitted for consideration.

#### **The first motion was from Cllr Gibbin which was seconded by Cllr Bob Grinsell and read:**

“On the 15 July 2021 Robert Cleverley sadly died as a result of a road traffic collision on the Warwick Road in Olton, Solihull.

At the time of the accident Robert was driving a quad bike legally on the road, but unfortunately was not wearing a helmet. He suffered catastrophic head injuries and as a result of those injuries died at the scene.

It is estimated that approximately 4 people a year die as a result of head injuries on roads in England whilst driving a quad bike and being involved in a road traffic accident. This obviously does not take into account those who suffer a head injury but survive.

Currently it is legal within England to drive on a public road on a quad bike without an approved helmet, although the Highway Code recommends that you do.

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As such this Council formally Resolves the following:

*“Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council formally resolves to petition the Secretary of State for Transport to introduce legislation pertaining to England and Wales that requires the driver of a quad bike on a public road/place within England to wear an approved helmet with an appropriate penalty for those who do not do so.”*

Cllr McLoughlin subsequently submitted an amendment, which following a short adjournment in the meeting, it was agreed that the following words be added to the end of the motion:-

*“and the Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service and Home Secretary to give the Police the resources to prosecute the illegal use of off-road vehicles”*

Following a debate the proposed amendment was put and carried.

The substantive motion was then put and carried so Council **RESOLVED:**

That Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council formally petition the Secretary of State for Transport to introduce legislation pertaining to England and Wales that requires the driver of a quad bike on a public road/place within England to wear an approved helmet with an appropriate penalty for those who do not do so and the Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service and Home Secretary to give the Police the resources to prosecute the illegal use of off-road vehicles.

### **The Second Motion was from Cllr Laura McCarthy and seconded by Cllr K Thomas and read:**

“Council Resolves to:

- (i) Recognises the vital role that police officers play in reducing crime, the impact of technology on types of crime, as well as prevention and detection and the need for the police to be accessible to the public.
- (ii) Acknowledges the need for a properly staffed police station in Solihull Town Centre.
- (iii) Recognises the impact that insufficient central government funding has had on Solihull, leading to our current police station being 80% vacant and a decision to close it by the WMPCC.
- (iv) Affirms its intention to work cooperatively with the WMPCC to agree a police station which can serve Solihull well into the future in Solihull Town Centre with modern facilities to enable the continuation of a customer facing police service in Solihull town centre and to add this new police facility/station to the Town Centre Master plan.”

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The following amendment (additional words in italics/bold) was proposed by Cllr Courts and seconded by Cllr Sleigh:

"Council Resolves to:

(i) Recognises the vital role that police officers play in reducing crime, the impact of technology on types of crime, as well as prevention and detection and the need for the police to be accessible to the public.

(ii) Acknowledges the need for a properly staffed police station in Solihull Town Centre.

(iii) Recognises the impact that insufficient ~~central government~~ funding **by successive governments and allocation decisions by the West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioners** has had on Solihull **policing**, leading to our current police station being 80% vacant and a decision to close it by the WMPCC.

(iv) Affirms its intention to **continue to** work cooperatively with the WMPCC to agree a police station which can serve Solihull well into the future in Solihull Town Centre with modern facilities to ~~enable~~ **include** the continuation of a customer facing police service in Solihull town centre and to **press the PCC to provide sufficient information to enable the Council to** add this new police ~~facility~~ station to the Town Centre Master plan."

**(v) Acknowledge the work done over a number of years by the Leaders and Cabinet of the Council and the Borough's two MPs to persuade the PCC to change his decision to close Solihull Police Station**

A debate then followed and it was requested if (v) could be removed from the proposed amendment. Councillor Courts and Sleigh agreed and the amendment minus (v) was put and carried.

The substantive motion was then put and carried so Council **RESOLVED to:**

(i) Recognises the vital role that police officers play in reducing crime, the impact of technology on types of crime, as well as prevention and detection and the need for the police to be accessible to the public.

(ii) Acknowledge the need for a properly staffed police station in Solihull Town Centre.

(iii) Recognises the impact that insufficient funding by successive governments and allocation decisions by the West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioners has had on Solihull policing, leading to our current police station being 80% vacant and a decision to close it by the WMPCC.

(iv) Affirm its intention to continue to work cooperatively with the WMPCC to agree a police station which can serve Solihull well into the future in Solihull Town Centre with modern facilities to include the continuation of a customer

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facing police service in Solihull town centre and to press the PCC to provide sufficient information to enable the Council to add this new police station to the Town Centre Master plan.”

### 10. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE

The Vice- Chairman of the Audit Committee of 4 January 2022 introduced the recommendation in relation to Minute 6 **Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23 to 2031/32** (page 126). In doing so he referenced that there was a minor error on page 152 of the Council agenda, in paragraph 13.4 where the second line says ‘reduce’, it should say ‘increase’

#### **RESOLVED**

That Full Council approves:-

The Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23 – 2031/32 including the Debt and Investment Strategy, and Treasury and Prudential Indicators contained within and specifically:

- The Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator detailed within paragraph 3.2.2 (Appendix A);
- The further Prudential Indicators for 2021/22 – 2031/32 contained within the extract from the Corporate Capital Strategy 2022/23 – 2031/32 (Appendix B); and
- The Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement contained within the extract from the Corporate Capital Strategy 2022/23 – 2031/32 (Appendix B).

### 11. REPORTS FROM CABINET

#### Leader of the Council and Lead Member for the Economy

The Leader advised Council of the decisions taken at the Cabinet meetings on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and provided a summary of the meetings and activities he had been involved in on behalf of Solihull and the West Midlands, as well as an update on the economic strategy responsibilities of his portfolio.

#### Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Partnership and Wellbeing including Solihull Health and Wellbeing Board minutes

The Cabinet Member presented their report and the minutes of the Solihull Health and Wellbeing Board on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Councillor L McCarthy asked what was being done to encourage male domestic violence survivors to access support. Councillor K Grinsell would encourage males to come forward. The strategy was also a live document and all comments would be welcomed.

#### Cabinet Member for Resources

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The Cabinet Member advised Council of the decisions taken at their decision sessions on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### Cabinet Member for Stronger and Safer Communities

The Cabinet Member advised Council of the decisions taken at their decision sessions on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

In reference to 1.4.4, Councillor K Thomas noted the significant increase in residents that requested additional support over the Christmas period, and asked if this had continued into January 2022. Councillor Rolf explained that the increase had been partly a result of the successful roll out of food vouchers. Further information would be provided to Councillor K Thomas. Councillor K Grinsell highlighted that an extra £30,000 of hardship funds had been made available to support local residents.

Councillor Groom asked if the Community Infrastructure Levy funds had been made available for Shirley Sea Cadets following written agreement from Shirley South Councillors. Councillor Rolf confirmed that the funds were now available.

### Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning and Housing

The Cabinet Member advised Council of the decisions taken at their decision sessions on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

Councillor Howell asked how the Cabinet Member could drive forward on the Council's climate change strategy. Councillor Mackiewicz stated that there would be more of a focus on delivery as the strategy was now in place.

Councillor Long queried when an update could be provided on the Solihull District Heating Scheme. Councillor Mackiewicz explained they were in the process of receiving offers with an intention to attend scrutiny before the decision would be considered at Cabinet.

### Cabinet Member for Children Education and Skills

The Cabinet Member advised Council of the decisions taken at their decision sessions on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure

The Cabinet Member advised Council of the decisions taken at their decision sessions on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Councillor R Grinsell thanked the Cabinet Member for their support to have 54 trees planted in Langley Hall Park to celebrate the nations of the Commonwealth.

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Councillor T Hodgson asked if the Cabinet Member was delighted that Shirley Park would take part in the Planting Our Future campaign. Councillor Hawkins concurred with these sentiments.

### Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

The Cabinet Member advised Council of the decisions taken at their decision sessions on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

Councillor K Thomas asked what difference the national grant money would make to care workers. Councillor Dicicco highlighted that this package of money aimed to promote care as a career and was part of a package to make carers feel valued.

### Cabinet Member for Leisure Tourism and Sport

The Cabinet Member advised Council of the decisions taken at their decision sessions on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

## **12. MINUTES OF SCRUTINY BOARDS**

The minutes of the following Scrutiny Boards were presented for information:

- a) Resources and Delivering Value 2 December 2021 and 4 January 2022
- b) Stronger Communities and Neighbourhood Services 6 January 2022
- c) Children's Services, Education and Skills 11 January 2022
- d) Economic Development and Managed Growth 12 January 2022
- e) Health and Adult Social Care 18 January 2022

Councillor K Thomas asked how the Building Safety Managers positions would be funded, which were referenced in the Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021. Cllr Parker as Chairman advised that a response would be sought for Councillor K Thomas.

## **13. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

The minutes of the following Committees were presented for information:

- a) HS2 Implementation Advisory Group 13 December 2021
- b) Audit Committee 4 January 2022
- c) Governance Committee 19 January 2022

## **14. JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

Cllr Dicicco presented the minutes of the WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Minutes for information of 8 November 2021 and 15 December 2021.

## **15. QUESTIONS BY LEADERS OF POLITICAL GROUPS UNDER SO5 (2) (T)**

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### Councillor Caudwell (Leader of Green Party Group) to Councillor Hawkins, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Infrastructure

“Council will be aware of recent media reports that a ballot has opened among GMB Union members for strike action over pay relating to the Strategic Environment Contract. What action is the Cabinet Member taking to avert that potential strike action affecting our bin collections and street cleaning services and what mitigations are in place to ensure service continuity should the industrial action not be avoided?”

Councillor Hawkins explained that Amey employ the workforce and deliver the Environmental Services Contract which includes refuse collections. It would be Amey’s responsibility to negotiate with the workforce, and therefore inappropriate to comment further or speculate on the outcome of the ballot.

## 16. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORTS AND DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

The Chief Executive presented four reports:-

### a) **Leader’s Scheme of Delegation to Officers**

To advise Council of amendments to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers made by the Leader of the Council, as required under the Cabinet Procedure Rules in the Council’s Constitution.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Leader’s Scheme of Delegation to Officers be noted.

### b) **Council Appointment – West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

Council was asked to appoint one member to represent the Council on the West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That Cllr M McCarthy be appointed to the West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

### c) **Appointment of Independent Member of Audit Committee**

Council was invited to approve the appointment of Mr Michael Burnett as an independent Member of the Audit Committee.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the appointment of Mr Michael Burnett be approved as an independent member of the Audit Committee for a four year term of office.

### d) **Pay Policy Statement 2022**

To present to Full Council the Council’s Pay Policy Statement for 2022 that was fully compliant with Section 38 (1) of the Localism Act.

## **COUNCIL - 8 February 2022**

### **RESOLVED:**

That the contents of the report be noted and that the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2022 be approved.

### **17. CHIEF EXECUTIVE URGENT MATTERS**

There were no urgent matters.

### **18. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 8**

No questions remained to be dealt with.

### **19. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

That, pursuant to Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting for the remainder of the business to be transacted, on the grounds that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information in terms of paragraph 3 of Part 9 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.

### **20. MINUTES**

The private minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were presented for approval.

#### **RESOLVED**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were approved.

The following private minutes were presented for information:

- Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board (4<sup>th</sup> January 2022)
- Audit Committee (4<sup>th</sup> January 2022)

The meeting finished at 8.15 pm