

COUNCIL - 11 October 2022

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: A Adeyemo, M Allen, S Ashraf MBE, M Brain, A Burrow, J Butler, M Carthew, S Caudwell, Y Clements, I Courts, T Diccico, B Donnelly, A Feeney, S Gethen, D Gibbin, M Gough, K Grinsell, R Grinsell, B Groom, J Hamilton, K Hawkins, A Hodgson, P Hogarth MBE, Mrs D Holl-Allen MBE, R Holt, D Howell, A Mackenzie, A Mackiewicz, K Macnaughton, L McCarthy, M McCarthy, M McLoughlin, K Meeson, N Moses, J O'Nyons, M Parker, D Pinwell, W Qais, A Rebeiro, J Ryan, S Rymer, A Sandison, R Sexton, S Sheshabatter, Mrs G Sleigh, R Sleigh OBE, K Thomas, J Tildesley, A Wilson and M Wilson

1. APOLOGIES.

No apologies were received. With the Mayor's permission Cllr Long attended the meeting virtually.

2. COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5th July 2022 be approved.

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR CONFLICTING INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr R Sleigh declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was named in the West Midlands Combined Authority minutes.

4. PETITIONS

The following petitions were submitted:

Cllr Allen – The Sir Josiah Mason Trust and 58 residents of Mason House request the provision of a pedestrian crossing across Green Lane between Mason House and the Baptist Church. Mason House is a scheme of 70 flats for the over 55's and residents find it very difficult when crossing Green Lane in order to access local shops, the train station and bus stop opposite. Some residents have mobility issues and feel they take their lives in their hands when trying to cross this road which can be extremely busy at times.

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Cllr Carthew - presented a petition on behalf of residents of Meadow Grove to add appropriate parking restrictions, such as those seen on Braemar Road and Brookvale Grove.

Cllr Carthew – presented a petition on behalf of residents of Stoneleigh Road to add appropriate parking restrictions, such as those seen on Braemar Road, and Stoneleigh Road to gain parking restrictions which prevent corner parking particularly at the hook end of the road (No's 63-75 and 70-104).

Cllr Tildesley - presented a petition to request that planning application No's 2022/01203, at 23-27A, Alderbrook Rd, Solihull and the building of four new detached dwellings in the gardens be refused.

Cllr B Sleigh -presented a petition from residents of Coleshill Rd, Marston Green and nearby roads requesting that the Council develop proposals to reduce the speed of traffic along Coleshill Rd.

Cllr Hawkins - presented a petition requesting that the planning application 2022/01866/PPFL relating to the demolition of existing outbuildings, erection of nine detached dwelling houses, formation of pedestrian access point onto Dickens Heath Road and associated works at Wharf Farm 123 Dickens Heath Rd, Dickens Heath Solihull B90 1QG be refused.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made a number of announcements which in summary included: -

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II - Following the death of Queen of Elizabeth II, the Mayor proposed that the Council send a message to the King, and in doing so the Group Leaders Cllrs Court, McLoughlin and L McCarthy, and Cllr Rebeiro on behalf of the Independents on Council were invited to support the proposal and share their thoughts on the passing of her Majesty. Council unanimously supported the proposed message which read:

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council wishes to place on record its thanks for the long and dedicated service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

We recall with pride her visits to Solihull in 1962 for the opening of the Civic Hall; in 1971 to Chelmsley Wood shopping centre; to officially open the National Exhibition Centre in 1976, where she returned to open a further 3 halls in 1989, and as part of her Golden Jubilee Tour in 2002 to the new Touchwood shopping centre and Jubilee Gardens, where she unveiled a plaque marking the renaming of the latter as "Golden Jubilee Gardens".

On behalf of the whole Borough, we also express our greetings and our loyalty to His Majesty King Charles III on his accession as Sovereign, together with our wishes for good health and happiness throughout his reign.

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Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – Training session for all Councillors, 27 October 2022- The rescheduled session aimed to provide a brief overview of some of the different types of Special Educational Needs, the picture in Solihull and the impact of diagnosis and support.

Solihull Council and Solihull Community Housing are Jointly marking Black History month – Black history had been celebrated in the UK since 1987, with the purpose of raising awareness, promote and celebrate the contributions of African, Asian, and Caribbean people to British society and to foster an understanding of Black History. The theme for the Black History Month was “Time for Change: Action not Words”.

6. QUESTIONS AND DEPUTATIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9 AND 12

The Mayor advised Members that no questions under Standing Order 9 had been received. Two requests had been received to make a deputation under Standing Order 12.

Mr Shabir a local resident was introduced by Cllr Carthew. Mr Shabir raised the issue of hazardous parking by parents on Stoneleigh Road cul-de-sac. Cllr Hawkins the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure responded to the deputation.

Ms Rolfe a local resident was introduced by Cllr McLoughlin. Ms Rolfe raised the issue of enforcement action being taken over a building constructed without planning permission. Cllr Mackiewicz the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning and Housing responded to the deputation.

7. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

Cllr Caudwell to Cllr Bob Sleigh OBE Cabinet Member for Resources

Can the Cabinet Member for Resources set out what urgent actions are being taken to assess the Council's ongoing financial viability in light of the recent fiscal event and subsequent market adjustments?

The Cabinet Member responded. We have carried out a full assessment of the impact of inflationary pressures, increases in utility costs, the higher than budgeted pay award and the resources required to support the improvement plan in Children’s Services. The latest estimated additional cost in the current year is £6.8 million. This will be funded from the Budget Strategy Reserve. Along with the Business Rates Windfall monies, this shows the importance of holding this reserve as a key part of our Budget Strategy. The first meeting of the cross-party Budget Strategy Group takes place 12 October. The Group will be presented with a forecast of financial pressures for the next three years, as part of the initial update to our MTFs. The Group will meet on two more occasions in November and will agree what actions are needed to be able to set an updated budget. Details will then be presented to the Members Budget Seminar on 1st December. Final Budget proposals will be presented to Council

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in February 2023. In terms of increases in interest rates, the Council has £340 million of external borrowing which is all at fixed rates. The average rate of interest paid on this borrowing is 3.65%. The last borrowing taken out by the Council, in April 2021, was for £40 million at 2.01%, fixed for 50 years

Cllr Thomas to Cllr Grinsell Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Partnership's and Wellbeing

We know from speaking to residents and support agencies as well as a significant increase in food bank usage, some people are facing tough choices between heating and eating. What steps are being taken with SCH to tackle an increase in damp problems this winter, arising from people choosing to eat rather than heat? Simply telling people to turn their heating on will not work and much heating support is aimed at emergencies not a whole winter of bills.

The Cabinet Member responded. Solihull Community Housing is working closely with the Council and there is a cost-of-living plan which is coordinating a range of practical advice and help available to homeowners/householders throughout the winter. Some of that will be for SCH tenants experiencing financial hardship and who are obviously concerned about heating their homes, but it will also extend to all households who need support. Through the Council's domestic energy partner Act on Energy there will be practical advice for heating all homes and practical help on reducing energy usage and we've been putting information out on the Here 2 Help website and also through their phone line. Advice will be offered in relation to financial help to households with fuel bill debt and prepayment metres. SCH also has additional funding in its emergency hardship fund so there's already additional funds going into there that can help some of the larger numbers of tenants who are finding difficulty with fuel bills, prepayment metres as well as with food and household essentials.

Cllr Thomas questioned whether the help described would be sufficient to allow people to heat their homes and avoid any damp issues. The Cabinet Member advised that tenants experiencing issues with damp, could follow up on the help and advice available.

Cllr McLoughlin to Cllr Courts Leader of the Council

Can the Leader intervene, in any way, to prevent the demolition of The Annex at 18 Kingswood Close, in Shirley South?

The Leader responded. Cllr McLaughlin will be aware that Cllr Mackiewicz has made a response to a deputation which in effect was seeking the same outcome that Cllr McLaughlin is requesting. Members will be aware therefore of the legal sensitivities associated with this case. I am unable to add anything further to the comments made by Cllr Mackiewicz".

Cllr McLoughlin noted that this was a very emotive subject and referred to the reputational damage to the Council for demolishing someone's home at this time. As the Council is the enforcement body could the Leader not ask for no enforcement action at least during winter whilst there is a reprieve or time

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where alternative solutions can be found. The Leader advised that it would not be appropriate for him to intervene in a statutory process.

Cllr McLoughlin followed up by asking the Leader to have a conversation with the Chair of Planning Committee or Head of Planning to see if there are any further allowances that can be made so that we do not demolish a good home this winter. The Leader once again advised it would not be appropriate for such political intervention to be taken.

Cllr Thomas to Cllr Gough Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Education

What symptoms does a young person need to be experiencing in order to be accepted by Solar and what other avenues should they have explored for treatment first?

The Cabinet Member advised that it was a very difficult question to answer in simple terms as you can appreciate mental health symptoms are very wide-ranging and sometimes very complex in nature. It's also recognised that life can be challenging at times, and it was important to consider how daily life could be affected such as the ability to undertake daily activities and the amount of distress and discomfort this causes. From April 2022 to the end of August 2022 Solar accepted 767 of the 858 referrals it received that being around 89%. Referrals that were not accepted are generally because other services are more appropriate as an example a child being assessed and diagnosed with ADHD or ASD. The main point is that if somebody feels that they need support tell them to get in touch with Solar and at the very least they can get some advice and maybe be signposted if Solar is not the appropriate service.

Cllr Thomas questioned whether the Cabinet Member would expect a child experiencing suicidal thoughts to be seen or accepted by Solar. The Cabinet Member confirmed he would and offered to discuss with Cllr Thomas a specific case if that's what she was alluding to.

Cllr Groom to Councillor Dicicco Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

While the draft carers' strategy has been through scrutiny on Thursday 22 September, the Chancellors' 'fiscal event' took place a day later, so I ask, will we be seeking to ensure that our valued carers, who do so much to look after those in need and add so much unseen value to our economy, will be protected from the drive to force part time workers to increase their hours or lose support from the state, as this will disproportionately punish those with caring responsibilities?

The Cabinet Member responded. First of all, I would like to pay tribute to all those people in Solihull who are carers, some 27,000 people. As someone who has been a part-time carer myself, I understand how hard and draining caring for someone else can be. That's why I was so happy as the Cabinet Portfolio

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Holder for Adult Social Care and Health to champion the Carers' Strategy – as a Council, it is right that we do all we can to help make carers' lives better.

The new rules for those working part time and claiming universal credit mean that their minimum hours of work will increase from 9 hours to 12 hours per week, and this will further increase to 15 hours in January 2023. To avoid sanctions, claimants will be expected to take steps to increase their hours or their earnings. There is a possibility that those who work part time because of caring responsibilities may not have the capacity to do this and also fulfil their caring role. But as you know, the rules for benefits are set nationally and not subject to local discretion.

However, Solihull Council is taking steps to make sure that residents are aware of the changes. As well as all the usual routes for support, the '**Here to Help**' webpages on the Council's website bring together all the key information on the support available to people who may be struggling at this difficult time.

Cllr Thomas to Cllr K Grinsell Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and Wellbeing

What temporary accommodation provision do we have outside of north Solihull for people presenting as homeless? Is any of this suitable for families?

The Cabinet Member responded. Solihull Community Housing uses a range of temporary accommodation options including self-contained units, shared supported accommodation and hotel provision. Our self-contained units are suitable for families and single people while our shared supported accommodation is designated for single people. Although a high proportion of our temporary accommodation units are situated in north Solihull, our temporary accommodation units are distributed across the Borough, with units in south Solihull for those with and without dependents. Solihull Community Housing ensure that all temporary accommodation placements are safe and suitable for each household they are supporting.

Cllr Thomas followed up by asking what the specific numbers there were in the south. The Cabinet advised that we have 126 units in the north and 38 in the South.

Cllr Thomas questioned why offering temporary accommodation in Perry Barr was suitable for a family who were homeless going through 56-day statutory period of investigation. The Cabinet Member advised that it depend on the circumstances of the case. If a family presented themselves to Solihull Community Housing on a Friday afternoon at 4:00pm it might be the only nearest suitable accommodation available.

Cllr Ashraf OBE to Cllr Hawkins Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure

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Can the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure advise on when Stretton Road will be resurfaced, as significant potholes exist on the far side of several speed bumps, meaning that they present significant risk to damage and insurance claims against the Council, and repeated attempts to patch them have seen them fail again the next year?

The Cabinet Member responded that it was proposed to include this work in the 2023/2024 highways programme.

Cllr Carthew to Cllr K Grinsell Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and Wellbeing

What is the current noise compliant procedure for residents reporting noise disturbances to Solihull Council?

The Cabinet Member responded that in terms of noise from commercial premises that should be reported to SMBC's Environmental Protection team to investigate if its domestic premises it should be reported to SCH. The Cabinet Member then described the process which is followed in gaining evidence.

Cllr Carthew questioned the process in relation to noise complaints outside in the garden. The Cabinet Member offered to speak to Cllr Carthew outside of the meeting, as well as encouraging Cllr Carthew to follow up with the case officer.

Cllr Ashraf OBE to Cllr Hawkins Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure advise what the policy is for root damage to private property, caused by Council owned trees, and whether it is being applied to 109 Loxley Avenue? The tree has made a wall adjacent to the pavement very unstable and if repairs aren't undertaken, and future damage prevented, there is a risk of the wall falling on a resident or pet.

The Cabinet Member responded that the Council has responsibility for trees on streets, highways and within properties owned by the Council, parks, and open spaces. Highways officers have previously advised the owners of the property in question that the roots of the tree will be inspected and where possible root pruning will be undertaken. Highways officers have also provided details about insurance claims that can be made.

Cllr Ashraf questioned whether the Council was taking proactive and preventative steps to prevent insurance claims against the Council on such matters? The Cabinet Member advised that in this case no insurance claim had been made to the Council, the householder had used private insurance cover. The Cabinet Member encouraged residents and Members to use the online reporting system to report damage caused by tress. The damage would be inspected and works carried out where possible. As a last resort trees would be removed.

Cllr Carthew to Cllr Courts Leader of the Council

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Why has work not yet started on the Westgate Development and are there any dates for commencement of work yet?

The Cabinet Member responded. The anticipated demand for the Westgate development was impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic. The market was recovering with a tendency towards smaller lettings of high quality as offered by the Westgate scheme. A prudent decision was taken to seek a pre-let arrangement of sufficient scale to underpin the development prior to commencement. Officers are currently in active discussions with two substantial businesses who have expressed an interest in the development and further marketing is planned.

Cllr Carthew asked whether there was scope to use the building for affordable homes. The Leader confirmed this site was for business use. It would be wrong to progress the project without the assurance of financial reward. It is too early to consider alternative use. There are other locations in the borough and town centre for housing.

Cllr Sheshabhattar to Cllr Howell Cabinet Member for Communities and Leisure

I've recently had to pursue West Midlands Police to follow up on three robberies at knifepoint that took place in the North of the Borough. Can the Cabinet member advise what they are doing to address the need for adequate policing of crimes in the North of Solihull?"

The Cabinet Member responded. Responsibility for police resources and the deployment of officers sits with the Chief Constable of West Midlands Police. However, we do meet regularly with the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner and the Commander of Solihull Police where we have the opportunity to raise issues and concerns specific to the borough. We are currently in discussion about the future of both Solihull Police Stations stressing the importance for more resources in both the North and South of the Borough.

The Stronger Communities and Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board does act as the Crime and Disorder Committee which has a statutory responsibility to hold the partners of the community safety partnership to account. Scrutiny Board members have the ability to call in partners to discuss specific issues and concerns and the next Scrutiny Board meeting that is dedicated to holding the community safety partnership to account is at the end of November.

Cllr Sheshabhattar asked whether the Council could do more, as residents in the north of the borough were very concerned by the rising levels of crime. The Cabinet Member advised that Multi agency work was key to tackling crime in all areas of the borough. The Community Safety Partnership is the ideal forum to do this.

Cllr L McCarthy to Cllr Mackiewicz Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Planning and Housing

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What action can the council take against private owners of garage sites in the borough who have allowed them to degrade to a position where they are a health and safety risk?

The Cabinet Member responded. In practice the approach that the authority takes depends on the particular issues in each case with officers from the three services Development Control, Building Control and Environmental Health working closely together. If Councillor L McCarthy has a specific address in mind, then officers can review the options available and that are applicable to the scenario.

Cllr L McCarthy questioned why no action had been taken in relation to Row Wood Drive site as officers were aware of the issues at this site. The Cabinet Member advised he would be happy to discuss this matter with Cllr L McCarthy outside the meeting.

8. COUNCIL TOPIC OF DEBATE

No topic of debate was received.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION

Two motions were submitted.

Cllr K Grinsell proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Cllr B Sleight:

“This Council welcomes the Prime Minister’s announcement on the unit cost limit on domestic gas and electricity prices for the next two years, which is predicted to reduce the average cost to households by one thousand pounds.

This Council also welcomes the equivalent limits on the costs to business for the next six months while reform to the energy market is considered.

This Council is committed to continue working on behalf of the people and businesses of Solihull to develop ways in which we can support them with advice and practical support through these difficult times, as it has before and throughout the Covid pandemic, and up to the present day.

This Council welcomes and supports government measures to stimulate the economy and especially the proposal for an investment zone for the area around the HS2 Interchange station enabling homes, jobs, and business in a sustainable location.

The leadership of this Council will work with our regional partners and the West Midlands Mayor to request further devolved funds, once again demonstrating that we are best placed to support our people and help our economy to grow.”

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr L McCarthy which was withdrawn following a short adjournment.

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Cllr Courts proposed an amendment which was seconded by Cllr L McCarthy which read:

“This Council welcomes the Prime Minister’s announcement on the unit cost limit on domestic gas and electricity prices for the next two years, which is predicted to reduce the average cost to households by one thousand pounds.

Council, however, acknowledges that the increase in the energy cost limit will continue to hit many families hard.

This Council also welcomes the equivalent limits on the costs to business for the next six months while reform to the energy market is considered.

This Council is committed to continue working on behalf of the people and businesses of Solihull to develop ways in which we can support them with advice and practical support through these difficult times, as it has before and throughout the Covid pandemic, and up to the present day.

This Council welcomes and supports government measures to stimulate the economy and especially the proposal for an investment zone for the area around the HS2 Interchange station enabling homes, jobs, and business in a sustainable location.

Council is also concerned about the impact of underfunding of services such as adults and children’s social care, as well as the increased service demand arising from increasing food and energy prices, mortgage, and other borrowing costs.

The leadership of this Council will work with our regional partners and the West Midlands Mayor to request further devolved funds, once again demonstrating that we are best placed to support our people and help our economy to grow.”

The motion as amended was debated, put to the vote, and carried.

RESOLVED that:

“This Council welcomes the Prime Minister’s announcement on the unit cost limit on domestic gas and electricity prices for the next two years, which is predicted to reduce the average cost to households by one thousand pounds.

Council, however, acknowledges that the increase in the energy cost limit will continue to hit many families hard.

This Council also welcomes the equivalent limits on the costs to business for the next six months while reform to the energy market is considered.

This Council is committed to continue working on behalf of the people and businesses of Solihull to develop ways in which we can support them with advice and practical support through these difficult times, as it has before and throughout the Covid pandemic, and up to the present day.

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This Council welcomes and supports government measures to stimulate the economy and especially the proposal for an investment zone for the area around the HS2 Interchange station enabling homes, jobs, and business in a sustainable location.

Council is also concerned about the impact of underfunding of services such as adults and children's social care, as well as the increased service demand arising from increasing food and energy prices, mortgage, and other borrowing costs.

The leadership of this Council will work with our regional partners and the West Midlands Mayor to request further devolved funds, once again demonstrating that we are best placed to support our people and help our economy to grow."

The second motion was from Cllr Caudwell and seconded by Cllr McLoughlin and read:

"The Council acknowledges the challenges many residents may face with rising energy bills. We do not accept that fuel poverty should endanger any lives of Solihull residents. The Council stands ready to support, within our means, any residents struggling to stay warm this winter. In supporting residents, we will account for the safety and dignity of those impacted, and any employees supporting these efforts. Whilst we recognise the pressures on Local Government finances, we accept that we have a responsibility to coordinate and deliver additional support to those in greatest need.

This Council:

- a. Agrees that no resident of our Borough should be unable to stay warm this winter.
- b. Notes the well-documented relationship between fuel poverty and adverse health outcomes; and
- c. Acknowledges the steps taken by similar Councils throughout the country to make public buildings and partner facilities available to their residents, to provide safe shelter this winter.

This Council therefore **resolves** to:

- d. Direct the Chief Executive to provide officer and infrastructure support as necessary to ensure the warmth and safety of our residents this winter; and
- e. Provide updates on progress through the Stronger Communities and Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board and the Cabinet."

On the question of whether to debate the motion or refer it on, Cllr Courts seconded by Cllr B Sleigh proposed to refer the motion on to Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board on 7 November. Cllr Caudwell confirmed he

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could not accept the referral as this was a matter of urgency and needed to be debated now.

A vote was taken on whether to refer the motion on.

RESOLVED:

That motion detailed above and proposed by Cllr Caudwell be referred to Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board on 7 November 2022.

10. RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET

The Leader presented the proposed Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme from April 2023.

RESOLVED:

That the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2023/24 be approved.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

Cllr Long moved the recommendation from Audit Committee 26 September 2022 - Minute 6 2022/2023 Mid-Year Treasury Management Strategy Review

RESOLVED:

That the revised forecasts for the 2022/23 Capital Financing Requirement of £490.060 million, Authorised Limit of £510.194 million be approved and noted the Operational Boundary and treasury activity to date.

Cllr Hogarth moved the recommendation from Governance Committee 29 September 2022 - Minute 7 Calendar of Meetings 2023/24

RESOLVED:

That the Calendar of meetings for 2023/2024 be approved.

12. REPORTS FROM CABINET

The Council received a summary of decisions, reports and dealt with any subsequent questions in relation to the following Cabinet Portfolios:

Leader of the Council and Lead Member for the Economy

The Leader of the Council presented his report. Cllr L McCarthy informed the Leader there were two different figures for the number of visitors to Love Solihull's website and asked him to clarify which of the figures was correct. The Leader would provide a written response.

Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Partnerships and Wellbeing

The Cabinet Member presented her report, there were no questions.

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Cabinet Member for Resources

The Cabinet Member presented his report, there no questions.

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Communities and Leisure

The Cabinet Member presented her report, there were no questions.

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Climate Change Planning and Housing

The Cabinet Member presented his report. Cllr R Grinsell thanked the Cabinet Member for work that had started on the delivery of ECO4 with help initially directed towards households in the Lyndon and Olton Wards. He asked the Cabinet Member if properties with single skinned walls will be part of the initiative? The Cabinet Portfolio Holder informed Cllr R Grinsell that they will be and set out the criteria.

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Education

The Cabinet Member presented his report and in doing so he thanked Tim Browne, Interim Director of Children Services, for his work in the role and reminded Council that the new Director of Children Services, Pete Campbell, started his role on Thursday 13th October. There were no questions.

Cabinet Portfolio for Environment and Infrastructure

The Cabinet Member presented his report. There were no questions.

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing

The Cabinet Member presented his report. There were no questions.

13. MINUTES OF SCRUTINY BOARDS

The minutes of the following Scrutiny Boards were presented for information only with Members asking questions of the relevant Chairman of the Boards:

- a) Resources and Delivering Value 11 July and 5 September
- b) Health and Adult Social Care 18 July, 4 August, 22 September
- c) Children's Services, Education and Skills 12 September
- d) Economic Development and Managed Growth 13 September
- e) Stronger Communities and Neighbourhood Services 14 September

RESOLVED:

The minutes were noted.

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14. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

The minutes of the following Committees were presented for information:

- a) Remuneration Committee 6 July
- b) HS2 Implementation Advisory Group 19 July
- c) Audit Committee 25 July and 26 September
- d) Governance Committee 27 July and 29 September

RESOLVED:

The minutes of Committees were noted.

15. JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Members received for information the WMCA Overview and Scrutiny 4th Annual Report and the WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Minutes of 7 March and 11 July.

Members questioned whether they could receive more regular reports from Members who attended the WMCA meetings. The Mayor informed Members that all the minutes of the meetings that the WMCA hold can be viewed on their website.

16. QUESTIONS BY LEADERS OF POLITICAL GROUPS UNDER SO5 (2) (T)

The Council dealt with any questions by leaders of political groups to the Leader of the Council, a member of the Cabinet, a Chairman of a Committee, Board, Sub-Committee or Task and Finish Group. The following questions were asked:

Cllr L McCarthy asked the Leader of the Council, Cllr Courts, whether he could update Council on the peer review that was undertaken four years ago and what progress had been made against the recommendations? Cllr I Courts agreed to provide a written response.

Cllr McLoughlin asked Cllr K Hawkins if he would follow up on a written response he had agreed to provide from the previous meeting. Cllr K Hawkins agreed.

Cllr McLoughlin asked Cllr Parker if he could give assurances that the motion that had been referred on to his Scrutiny Board would fully explore the motion and assure Members that there would be no risk to residents or loss of life in the time between the Full Council meeting and the next Board meeting? Cllr Parker reassured Cllr McLoughlin that his Scrutiny Board would fully look into the work the Council was doing and would welcome all Members of the Board having an input.

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Cllr McLoughlin asked the Leader of the Council, Cllr I Courts, if he would agree to removing Berkswell Windmill as a heritage asset on the Council's website as requested by the owner? The Leader agreed to look into this.

17. CHIEF EXECUTIVE URGENT MATTERS

There were no urgent matters.

18. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

All questions under Standing Order 8 had been dealt with under Item 7 on the agenda.

19. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

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. PRIVATE MINUTES

The Council received and noted the minutes of:

- a) Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board 11 July and 5 September
- b) Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board 6 September
- c) Audit Committee 26 September

9.50 pm