

COUNCIL - 5 July 2022

MINUTES

Present: The Mayor Cllr K Meeson and 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, K Hawkins, A Hodgson, P Hogarth MBE, Mrs D Holl-Allen MBE, D Howell, R Long, A Mackenzie, A Mackiewicz, L McCarthy, M McCarthy, M McLoughlin, J O'Nyons, D Pinwell, W Qais, A Rebeiro, A Sandison, R Sexton, S Sheshabhatte, Mrs G Sleigh, R Sleigh OBE, K Thomas, J Tildesley, A Wilson and M Wilson

1. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hamilton Rymer, Holt, Parker, Ryan, Macnaughton and N Moses

2. COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of 5 April and 17 May 2022 be approved subject to an amendment to the 5 April minutes. The second motion was seconded by Cllr Long and the subsequent amendment was seconded by Cllr Brain.

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR CONFLICTING INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

4. PETITIONS

The following petitions were submitted:

Cllr Tildesley - That Council allow a road to be named after Mrs Pam Price in recognition of her outstanding contribution to Solihull.

Cllr Howell - Residents call upon Transport for West Midlands to reconsider the decision to terminate the number 89 bus contract and to engage in an open dialogue with residents and Councillors to understand the challenges faced by these rural communities in accessing vital services without a car.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Reminded all Members of training being held on 20 July and 19 September with regard to Special Educational Needs and Disability;
- The Mayor had recently attended the opening of the Armed Forces Garden in Hillfield Park;

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- The Shirley Sea Cadets had recently been awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service, and the St Johns Ambulance Cadets had recently celebrated their centenary; and
- The Mayor referenced a number of Jubilee events he had attended and the opening of the new SIAS Centre at Newington Green.

6. QUESTIONS AND DEPUTATIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9 AND 12

Cllr O'Nyons introduced Officers from Alcohol Anonymous who made a deputation to Council on the important work and support provided by the organisation. Cllr Dicicco responded to the deputation and acknowledged the valuable work undertaken by the AA.

7. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 8 (30 MINUTES)

Cllr Dr Sexton to Councillor Dicicco Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health

In a recent LGA survey, 98% of councils that responded did not have confidence that the funding earmarked for the Government's adult social care reforms is sufficient to deliver them. This is also listed as a red risk 9 on the council's risk register (alongside pressures in Children's services), and the mitigating actions for this item include "regular lobbying of Government for further funding".

Can you tell me, specifically, what actions this administration has taken to lobby Government for further funding for adult social care?

The Cabinet Member advised that the LGA survey sought responses from senior Councillors responsible for adult social care services. The LGA website reports that 80 Councillors replied, a response rate of 54% of Councils. A response was not sent from SMBC.

The Cabinet Member commented that the Council works with several bodies who have raised concerns about the adequacy of funding for social care reforms for example the afore mentioned LGA, as well as the County Councils' network and the recent Newton report. As national details come out with respect to implementation of the reform's Officers will continue to estimate the local impact and highlight issues and concerns through available routes such as the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and through stakeholder sessions such as those set up by the Department of Health and Social Care. The Cabinet Member confirmed that the Leader of the Council had regular meetings with government ministers and senior civil servants where requests for funding are discussed. As to the risk you raise this is an overall corporate risk for the medium term financial strategy with the Deputy Chief Executive and Director Resource as the risk owner. It takes account of all the Council pressures including those in children services. With respect to adult social care pressures specifically a number of mitigating actions are outlined in the corporate risk register with the Director of Adult Social Care as the risk owner.

Cllr Dr Sexton was concerned about the vagueness of the answer and wanted to know when the Cabinet Member would have more detailed plans. The Cabinet Member advised that the Council continued to work with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Department of Health and Social Care. The Leader and senior Council Officers had regular meetings with senior civil servants and ministers to

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discuss these issues and we will continue to lobby them for extra funding when and where it's required. At the moment we are happy that we can meet our requirements.

Cllr Dr Sexton inquired how can residents or their families who depend on our adult social care services be reassured that any shortfall in funding will not have to be borne by them. The Cabinet Member advised that the Council had an excellent record in providing very effective and good quality adult social care and we will continue to do that in the future.

Cllr Thomas to Cllr Hawkins Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Infrastructure

Wildlife Ways Route J was the creation of a cycle route along Keswick Road and Wells Green Road to link up with the purpose built cycle path through the Wagon Lane playing fields. No works have yet taken place and the signage planned on the signed off drawings has not yet been installed. What is the timing plan for the creation of this wildlife ways cycling route?

The Cabinet Member advised that an order has been raised with our contractor to address recommendations from the recent Stage 3 Road Safety Audit. These works have been prioritised as they are to address safety related issues and will take place over the summer period. These works had been prioritised and would be completed before the end of the year.

Cllr Thomas sought clarification on the nature of audit work being undertaken. The Cabinet Member advised that any work on roads was subject to an audit to ensure safety.

Cllr Allen to Cllr Courts Leader of the Council

I have received a request from a resident to ask the Council for its position, as Shareholder, on the performance of Birmingham Airport. The resident's experience when he travelled through the airport before the half term holiday, was that the management of security and check in were terrible and information on the website was wrong and misleading. He would like to know if the Council's shareholding is providing good value for residents, and does it consider a 49 percent pay rise for the Chief Executive appropriate at a time when so many families are in such dire financial straits?

The Leader of the Council advised he was sorry to hear of your residence experience as no one wants to wait in queues at airports especially for a holiday. I think predominately this is an airport matter. We have spoken to the airport about your resident's experience, and they've given us this response:

'Immediately following the ending of severe Covid travel restrictions in March 2022 the aviation industry was challenged in its recovery. This was evident at airports across the UK (and in Europe) during spring and early summer.

In June, the airport served more than a million passengers on outbound and inbound flights. Most had a perfectly acceptable, safe and enjoyable experience. Of course, there are moments, notably during peak travel periods, when queues build for check-in and pre-flight security screening, but in such circumstances, there is very limited risk of passengers missing flights. At the

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peak times, if a passenger's departure time gets close, we call them forward to ensure they arrive in good time at the departure gate.

As was ever the case, we remain susceptible to certain challenges including those caused by air traffic, industrial action and weather events across Europe. These incidents are always hard to manage and can often result in knock-on impacts for passengers such as baggage delays'.

The Leader commented that the airport has gone through a tough and challenging time in the last few years and it's in no short measure down to the Chief Executive that the airport remains strong. I was with the Chief Executive on several occasions at the time of the Afghan evacuation and watched him take direct and personal charge of operations to help the refugees that came through the airport. The calibre of leadership I saw was exceptional on that occasion.

Pre pandemic we were receiving a good dividend return from our shareholding and when passenger numbers return to pre pandemic levels further dividends will be received. The dividend from the airport has supported our finances and indeed our Council services on several occasions. Apart from the dividend it is important that we retain what influence we can with the airport even though we are a small shareholder, we would not want the influence that we currently have to be passed on to someone else.

In terms of the Chief Executive's pay, this will be in line with market rates and appropriate benchmarking will have been carried out.

Cllr Allen highlighted that the Chief Executives pay was £595,000 a year 30 times more than the lowest paid airport employee and questioned how this would address the inequality issues that we all maintain are so important?

The Leader advised that as a minor shareholder the Council does not control pay at the airport. The Council do want a vibrant airport. The Leader referenced the lack of support from the Green Party when they voted against support for the airport. The Leader reminded Members that 10,000's of people rely on the airport for work. We need a vibrant airport we need strong leadership and market forces dictate what people in the private sector are paid. It was worrying that because we are a minor shareholder, we should interfere with the sound management of the airport. I appreciate that inequalities exist in the world but what we need is a strong airport as that would contribute to the economy provide jobs and contribute to the living standards in the whole region.

Cllr Allen asked whether the £200,000 extra payment would be better used to help make lower paid positions at the airport more attractive and do something concrete to address the resource shortages that are affecting peoples travel plans. Even as a minor shareholder you could vote on that.

The Leader stated that the Council did not control the airport. Downgrading the pay of the CEO would make it harder to attract the calibre of management needed.

Cllr Dr Sexton to Cllr K Grinsell Deputy Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and Wellbeing

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We know that many of our residents are struggling with increases in the cost of living, including rising energy and food costs; and we also know that this is likely to have a substantial impact on health and wellbeing across the borough. Is the Council developing a strategy to help those most affected by this crisis? If so, how is this strategy being developed, and how can elected members get involved?

The Cabinet Member advised that we were currently going through a national crisis that is driven by international factors and something that affects us all. The Cabinet Member listed a number of strategies which the Council was developing. What was also important was the range of discretionary support that the Council has available and is offering to residents who experience financial hardship, and the Cabinet Member went on to provide a number of examples.

Cllr Dr Sexton looked for confirmation that as the strategy was developed that all Members would be invited to participate in those discussions. The Cabinet Member advised that a number of the strategies previously mentioned would be taken through Scrutiny Boards, and subject to the normal scrutiny process.

Cllr Dr Sexton asked what she could tell residents who were struggling to pay bills and were not eligible for support, what was the Council doing for them. The Cabinet Member referred to discretionary crisis funds.

Cllr Adeyemo to Cllr Karen Grinsell Deputy Leader Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and Wellbeing

Where urgent repairs are required to fencing and gates on council-owned residential properties in order to maintain security for residents and third parties, how long would the Cabinet Member say is reasonable to expect such work to be done?

The Cabinet Member advised that SCH deliver a repairs service to Council owned residential properties and this operates to prescribed timescales depending on the level of priority assigned to the repair in question. Detailed information about the categories and timescales for different repairs were available to customers on the SCH website. Emergency works were completed in 24 hours or less and urgent repairs were carried out in three, five or seven days based on nationally prescribed timescales and the level of priority associated with the repair item. Depending on the type of works required, especially for external repairs such as for fences, the need for a repair will have to take into consideration the ownership responsibilities in relation to the boundaries of the property. The priority allocated to a repair was explained to residents but where there is need for further clarity, this would be discussed with the resident. I understand that you have raised a particular enquiry with SCH in relation to fencing at a particular location and I can confirm that Officers will be responding to you separately in relation to this enquiry.

Cllr Adeyemo advised that the fence was blown down in February, the children at the property were vulnerable, and the issue needed to be resolved before the summer holidays. SCH were aware of the needs of the children. The Cabinet Member asked Cllr Adeyemo to share the details of the case and she would look into it in further detail.

Cllr Wilson to Howell Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Communities and Leisure

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Can the Cabinet Member tell us what is developing to ensure that Ward Meetings with officers are in place for elected members where they are wanted, as these are vital to providing specific services residents need, and getting the good work our officers do back to residents?

The Cabinet Member advised that the following opportunities were available for Members to meet with Officers in support of community casework and problem solving:

- At least three meetings per year, with representatives from Highways, Solihull Community Housing and Stronger Communities. These will be annual meetings with each service area to align and coordinate Ward priorities and activity. The planning of these meetings is in progress and Members can follow up with respective Heads of Service in the meantime if they need bringing forward.
- Members can also request meetings with officers at any time in response to emerging issues where a joint problem-solving approach might be needed. These are available to Members on a rolling basis and can be requested through the relevant service managers and Heads of Services, as set out in the communities and place service guides, which were recently sent out to all Members.
- An offer from West Midlands Police about how Members can more directly raise local issues with them.

Cllr Wilson raised the issue of the timing of meetings which were held during the day, which made it difficult for working Members to attend and represent their residents. The Cabinet Member advised that the timing of meetings needed to factor in the attendance of external partners. The Cabinet Member referenced what ways Members could join such meetings.

Cllr Dr Sexton to Cllr R Sleigh Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Resources

By directorate, how many agency or interim staff are contracted by the council?

The Cabinet Member advised that as of 1 July 2022 the number of agency and interim staff were:

Adult Care and Support	69
Children Services	76
Public Health	16
Economy and Infrastructure	21
Resources	37
Total	219

Cllr Dr Sexton queried what proportion of the children's social work staff were agency social care workers. The Cabinet Member responded that in Children's services 53 out of 76 agency workers were engaged as social workers, the headcount was 622 with 528 fte.

Cllr Dr Sexton felt the cost of agency staff was high and questioned whether it was financially sustainable and if not what the plan was to reduce costs. The Cabinet Member advised that the establishment for the Council was 2753 employees the number of agency staff was 10%. The total salary budget for the Council was around £90m. The Cabinet Member confirmed that recruitment in some areas was difficult and

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to be able to deliver services, agency staff were required. The Council was always keen to reduce the number of agency staff and replace them with full time equivalents.

Cllr Caudwell to Cllr Hawkins Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Infrastructure

I was approached recently by a resident who told me that they had recently taken rigid plastic to our waste facility at Bickenhill, only to be told that currently any plastics being brought to Bickenhill are being sent to landfill. Can the Cabinet Member confirm that we do currently have the facility to recycle all the plastic materials that come to our Bickenhill facility?

The Cabinet Member advised that in conjunction with our new contract partner Veolia, we are continually reviewing what materials are collected for recycling at Bickenhill HWRC and what may be feasible to offer. When reviewing our disposal options, we need to take into consideration the logistics of collection, material markets for different materials and the potential need for additional resources and potential costs to the authority as a result. Please be assured that where we have appropriate disposal routes for recycling material, we will always use them.

Cllr Caudwell queried when the results of the review will be seen in a Scrutiny Board or Cabinet Member decisions session. The Cabinet Member advised that the Council recycle some plastics but not all and provided a breakdown of how the figures were broken down.

Cllr Caudwell noted that the recycling rate was 44%, a target of 50% was set 12 years ago, when do we find out when we get from where we are now, to where we want to be. The Cabinet Member advised that at the Bickenhill centre the amount of recycling was stated at 75% and that did include some element of incineration which was turned into fuel. In some cases, it was difficult to find companies who would recycle some plastics. The position will improve once the mixed rate unit was in operation next year.

Cllr Sheshabhattar to Cllr Hawkins Cabinet Portfolio Holder Environment and Infrastructure

Can the Cabinet member tell us when Solihull Council will have a dedicated kerbside food waste collection?

The Cabinet Member advised he could not answer the question, but he confirmed that as an authority we have responded positively to the government's consultation on the Environment Act 2021. The consultation specifically asked a question with regards to the weekly collection of food waste, and I can confirm we have responded positively supporting this initiative. We await the outcome of the consultation and will be reviewing our waste strategy.

8. COUNCIL TOPIC OF DEBATE

No topic of debate was received.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION

Motion from Cllr L McCarthy

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This Council notes that:

- On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54 per cent.
- In light of the increased energy price cap, the average standard tariff energy bill will increase by £693 per year. The average pre-pay meter energy bill will increase by £708 per year (Ofgem, 2022).
- On 6 April 2022, the Government increased National Insurance by 1.25 percentage points, which is projected to cost the average family in Solihull an additional £600 a year.
- In 2021/22 Solihull Foodbanks distributed 2,201 food parcels (Trussell Trust, 2022)
- Council notes the decision taken in June 2022 to impose a 'Windfall Tax' on the super-profits of oil and gas companies and to redistribute this as a one-off payment of £400 to households later this year. Council notes that the Windfall Tax was first proposed by Sir Ed Davey MP, leader of the Liberal Democrats, in May 2022. Though the Windfall Tax is welcome, Council believes it does not go nearly far enough and the Government should be doing much more to support local people through the Cost of Living crisis.

This Council therefore declares a 'Cost of Living Emergency' and calls on the Government to:

- (i) Immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20 per cent to 17.5 per cent for one year, saving the average household in Solihull a further £600 this year;
- (ii) Immediately restore the Universal Credit supplement of £20, which was cancelled by the Government in September 2021;
- (iii) Council instructs the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to express the Council's demands for VAT to be cut to 17.5%, for the re-introduction of the pensions triple-lock and for the £20 Universal Credit supplement to be restored; and
- (iv) Finally, Council calls for a local Cost-of-Living Emergency Summit, with stakeholders, including Citizens Advice, Food Banks, Local Trades Unions, and Chambers of Commerce and will invite local MPs to attend this hybrid meeting.

Councillor Thomas seconded the motion.

The motion was debated and then Cllr L McCarthy proposed an amendment seconded by Cllr Thomas, the amendment read:

This Council notes that:

- On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54 per cent.
- In light of the increased energy price cap, the average standard tariff energy bill will increase by £693 per year. The average pre-pay meter energy bill will increase by £708 per year (Ofgem, 2022).
- On 6 April 2022, the Government increased National Insurance by 1.25 percentage points, which is projected to cost the average family in Solihull an additional £600 a year.

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- In 2021/22 Solihull Foodbanks distributed 2,201 food parcels (Trussell Trust, 2022)

This Council recognises the efforts made by local government Officers to help local residents. This Council declares a “cost of living emergency”

The amendment was then debated.

Cllr Courts submitted a further amendment seconded by Cllr Bob Sleigh which read:

This Council recognises the efforts made by the Council to help local residents and will continue to take steps to support residents, in this cost of living crisis.

The amendment was debated and then put to the vote.

The amendment was carried and then Council voted on the substantive motion and

RESOLVED:

That this Council recognises the efforts made by the Council to help local residents and will continue to take steps to support residents, in this cost of living crisis.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

Cllr Long moved the following recommendation of the Audit Committee:

That Council approves the Treasury Management Outturn Report 2021/22, attached at Appendix A to the minutes.

RESOLVED:

That the Council approves the Treasury Management Outturn Report 2021/22.

Cllr P Hogarth MBE moved the following recommendations from the Governance Committee:

1. That the nomination relating to Mr Stuart Davis be accepted, and
2. A Special meeting of the Council be convened immediately prior to the scheduled meeting on 11th October 2022 to confer on Mr Davis the title of Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Solihull.

RESOLVED:

1. The Council accepted the nomination relating to Mr Stuart Davis; and
2. Agreed that a Special meeting of the Council be convened immediately prior to the scheduled meeting on 11th October 2022 to confer on Mr Davis the title of Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Solihull.

11. REPORTS FROM CABINET

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

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Leader of the Council and Lead Member for the Economy

The Leader of the Council presented his report. No questions were asked.

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

The Deputy Leader of the Council presented her report.

Cllr Dr R Sexton asked a question relating to the Health & Wellbeing Board meeting and how the Council and Members can ensure the Health Inequality Strategy can be embedded into all the Council does. The Deputy Leader assured Cllr Dr R Sexton that it would be considered in all the Council does.

Cllr D Gibbin asked the Deputy Leader if she would support bringing the next Eurovision Song Contest to Solihull at the NEC to which the Deputy Leader highlighted the work that Andy Street had been doing to bring it to the West Midlands and that the Council would support hosting the contest here in Solihull.

Cabinet Member for Resources

The Cabinet Member presented his report.

Cllr A Adeyemo joined the Cabinet Member in welcoming the decision to progress talks regarding the re-provision of accommodation for the 1st Olton Scout Group and the Olton Park Guides.

Cabinet Member for Communities and Leisure

The Cabinet Member presented her report.

Cllr K Thomas welcomed the establishment of a walking orienteering programme within the borough and the Cabinet Member thanked her for supporting the initiative. Cllr P Hogarth asked the Cabinet Member about the management of the Table Tennis Tables in parks across the borough and who is responsible for the equipment. The Cabinet Member welcomed the extension of provision as laid down in the report and assured Cllr P Hogarth that they were a specialist design that can withstand a lot of use from the public.

Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning and Housing

The Cabinet Member presented his report.

Cllr D Holl-Allen MBE asked the Cabinet Member about issues pertaining to the number of houses in the Local Plan and whether Arden School was to be closed. The Cabinet Member responded saying the Local Plan was proceeding through the statutory process and that Arden School was not closing as the plan was clear that any loss of provision had to be replaced.

Cllr D Holl-Allen MBE asked the Cabinet Member about the status of the application for retirement living in the Arden Triangle. The Cabinet Member was aware of the proposals but confirmed no application had yet been received by the Council. He followed up by saying that unless and until the Local Plan is adopted the land will remain in the Green Belt and treated as such.

Cllr S Caudwell asked a question relating to 1.4.11 which talks about Electric Vehicles. He welcomed the Council looking at increasing the charging infrastructure in the borough but had noticed an increase in the level of private investment in the

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infrastructure which represent the latest technology. Do the Council have a view yet on what infrastructure it will invest in under the programme and the charging structure for users? The Cabinet Member said the strategy's focus was to first invest in getting the infrastructure in place for those that don't have drives. The scheme will look at using Council land to develop ECV points for example parks where users can park up and spend time in the park whilst the vehicle was charging.

Cllr A Feeney asked the Cabinet Member whether savings under the LED Street Lighting scheme were cumulative or in year savings? The Cabinet Member advised they were in year savings and the total saving was £2.5 million and that the scheme had also seen a reduction in the Council's Carbon Footprint.

Cllr W Qais asked the Cabinet Member about the Green Homes and Sustainable Warmth Scheme which had benefitted her ward. She highlighted how this was one of the ways the Council was taking practicable solutions to benefit those residents on low incomes and with homes that have poor energy performance. She asked for a timeline on delivering the scheme. The Cabinet Member advised the work had started and letters had gone out with work starting on site in September 2022 and work completing in March 2023.

Cllr K Thomas asked the Cabinet Member to clarify his comments on ECV points in parks and whether he had said park land would be given up to build new spaces. The Cabinet Member advised this was not the case and that ECV points would be installed in existing spaces, within the car park.

Cabinet Member for Children and Education

The Cabinet Member presented his report, no questions were received.

Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure

The Cabinet Member presented his report.

Cllr A Hodgson asked the Cabinet Member whether lessons learnt from implanting cycling schemes would be implemented for the Cranmore Boulevard scheme. The Cabinet Member advised that Councils across the Country were learning from other schemes and that they would take on board feedback. Cllr A Hodgson followed up with concerns on the level of consultation that had been carried out for the scheme to which the Cabinet Member recognised that the Covid-19 pandemic had had an impact on the level of consultation, but letter drops had been carried out before the work started.

Cllr K Thomas asked the Cabinet Member if the E-Scooters in parking enforcement were going to be used on the pavements and if it was to be through an approved scheme and therefore legal? The Cabinet Member responded as things stand e-scooters were unlawful in Solihull. He asked for clarification on the question and said he would come back to Cllr K Thomas on the issue.

Cllr J Tildesley wanted to place his thanks on the record to the Cabinet Member and officers for work that had been done for parking restrictions on Grandborough Drive.

Cllr M McLoughlin asked the Cabinet Member for clarification on item 1.4.4 on where the consultation had been posted relating to the Blossomfield Road route in relation to the final stage connecting Cranmore Boulevard to the A34 Stratford Road. The Cabinet Member advised he would provide a written response to the question.

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Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

The Cabinet Member presented his report.

Cllr K Thomas informed the Cabinet Member about a concern she had raised with authorities about a potential case of exploitation that she felt hadn't been taken seriously and asked the Cabinet Member what could be done to ensure that anyone who raised a concern felt it was taken seriously. The Cabinet Member responded in saying that should anyone feel their concern is not taken seriously to raise it with him directly so that it could be investigated.

12. MINUTES OF SCRUTINY BOARDS

The minutes of the following Scrutiny Board were presented for information with members asking questions of the relevant Chairman of the Boards.

- a. Resources and Delivering Value 31 March 2022 and 6 June
- b. Children's Services, Education and Skills 6 April and 9 June
- c. Stronger Communities and Neighbourhood Services 7 June
- d. Health and Adult Social Care 8 June
- e. Economic Development and Managed Growth 13 June

RESOLVED:

Minutes of the Scrutiny Boards were noted.

13. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

The minutes of the following Committees were presented for information:

- a. Audit Committee 20 June
- b. Governance Committee 23 June

Cllr A Sandison asked that the Audit Committee minutes reflect that she sent her apologies.

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the Committees were noted.

14. 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 to the Leader of the Council

Can the Leader inform the Council of what support the Government is giving the Council to help residents with the increase in the Cost of Living?

The Leader of the Council offered a written response.

Cllr Max McLoughlin to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure

Can the Cabinet Member inform the Council whether the Bike Hire Scheme and permission for Bikes to be on the Town Centre High Street had been removed?

The Cabinet Member offered a written response.

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Cllr M McLoughlin to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure

Does the Cabinet Member recognise that incineration is not recycling?

The Cabinet Member responded that items sent to incineration does not end up in landfill and is turned into energy that is fed back into the grid. He highlighted the revenue stream this creates for the Council and the potential the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) in Coventry will create for more materials to be sent there. He highlighted that recycling rates were very good in the borough and that weekly collections will remain.

Cllr M McLoughlin to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure

Does the Cabinet Member know where the Council are in the Local Authority League Tables for recycling rates?

The Cabinet Member responded saying for Local Authorities with weekly collections the Council was in the Top 5.

15. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- a) The Chief Executive sought Council approval to designate an officer as the statutory Director of Children's Services.

Cllr R Sleight OBE informed the Council that the papers reflected that he attended the Appointment Panel but it was in fact Cllr D Gibbin.

RESOLVED:

The Council ratified the decision of the Appointment Panel to appoint Pete Campbell to the position of Director of Children's Services in accordance with Section 18 (1) of the Children Act 2004.

- b) The Chief Executive asked the Council to appoint one member as a stakeholder governor to the Council of Governors of the University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

Cllr A Feeney was proposed by Cllr I Courts and Cllr D Gibbin.
Cllr A Adeymo was proposed by Cllr L McCarthy and Cllr K Thomas.

RESOLVED:

After a vote Cllr A Feeney was appointed as the Council's stakeholder governor to the Council of Governors of the University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

- c) The Chief Executive presented the Council Appointment – Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board report for information only.

The Council noted the appointment of the Chief Executive as a Partner Member of the Integrated Care Board (ICB)

16. CHIEF EXECUTIVE URGENT MATTERS

There were no Urgent Matters to report.

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17. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

All questions under Standing Order 8 were dealt with under Item 7.

18. 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.

19. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Council received and agreed a report on the Treasury Management Investment Strategy – Loan Agreement.

20. PRIVATE MINUTES

The Council received and noted the minutes of the Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board

The meeting ended at 9.04 pm