

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Warwick District Council held at Shire Hall, Warwick, on Wednesday 17 June 2024, at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Margrave (Chairman); Councillors Aizlewood, Barton, Billiald, Browne, Chilvers, Davison, K Dickson, Dray, Falp, Gorman, J Harrison, Kenndey, King, Kohler, Milton, Payne, Phillips, Redford, Roberts, Rosu, Russell, Sinnott, Sullivan, Syson, Tangri, C Wightman, P Wightman and Yellapragada.

15. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Armstrong, Boad, Collins, Cron, Davidson, Day, R Dickson, B Gifford, C Gifford, Hales, D Harrison, Luckhurst, Matecki, and Williams.

16. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

17. Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 May 2024 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

18. Communications & Announcements

The Chairman stated that there would be no business to consider under agenda under Item 5 Petitions and Item 6 Notice of Motion.

The Chairman thanked the; Leader and Portfolio Holders not to make statements this evening under Item 7; and Group Leaders in respect of Councillors not asking questions under item 8 due to the focus this evening being on the Cabinet report from 5 June 2024.

The Chairman informed Council that there was an urgent item for consideration this evening in respect of a request for dispensation from Councillor Davison. While this was normally a matter for consideration by the Audit & Standards Committee, this item was accepted under the powers as Chairman, as Council was the parent body and could take decisions of Committees. Although not present at this meeting, Councillor Hales was supportive of this approach as it removed the need for an additional meeting of that Committee.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that the confidential report of the Cabinet meeting on 5 June 2024 would be heard to enable the purchase of these properties to be completed, if agreed.

The Chairman informed Council that Councillor Falp had now completed over 20 years of service as a Councillor. He took the opportunity to thank Councillor Falp for her work and presented her with a long service certificate.

19. **Cabinet Report**

The recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5 June 2024 in respect of West Midlands Investment Zone minute number 144 and the updated recommendations laid out in the addendum, circulated at the meeting were proposed by Councillor Davison and seconded by Councillor Harrison.

Councillors Redford, Kennedy, King, and Davison spoke on this item.

Resolved that recommendations contained in minute number 144 headed "West Midlands Investment Zone" as set out in the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 5 June 2024 and in the addendum, be noted, and approved.

20. **Urgent Item - Request from Councillor Davison for Dispensation**

Within the Constitution, the Audit & Standards Committee was responsible for considering and determining requests for dispensation from requirements of the adopted Members' Code of Conduct. This request only became appropriate if Council appoints Councillor Davison as the Council's representative to the West Midlands Combined Authority and West Midlands Investment Board. Therefore, Councillor Hales was agreeable, in this specific situation, for Council to consider this request, as parent body to the Audit & Standards Committee.

Dispensations for Members to participate could be granted (in certain circumstances) for up to four years allowing a member to speak and or vote where they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

Dispensation had been granted for the 2023-2027 Council, as per the recommendation, to all Councillors who would have an interest by virtue of them being in receipt of an allowance from another local authority or being a member of another authority. Therefore, it was considered reasonable that as Councillor Davison would be in a similar position be granted the same dispensation to enable them to effectively represent the community they represent.

In terms of alternative options, the Council could consider decline the request however officers believe that the recommended dispensation enables the Council to function more effectively and does not compromise the Council's transparency.

It was proposed by Harrison, seconded by Councillor Chilvers and

Resolved that the Council Committee grants dispensations until the elections for the Council in May 2027, that where Councillor Davison has Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or other interest in a matter relating to West Midlands Combined Authority or Investment Zone by virtue of the fact that either he is a Member of that other authority and/or in receipt of an allowance from that other authority, but only in the circumstances set out in (a) and (b) below:

- (a) Where the issue is a matter of dispute between the District Council and the other authority and the matter would affect the financial position of that other authority, the Councillor may speak on the matter provided they then immediately

withdraw from the meeting room, unless it relates to the future structure of local government; and

- (b) In relation to other matters (including the future structure of local government) affecting that other authority, the District Councillor may speak and vote.

21. **Public & Press**

The Chairman proposed, and it was duly seconded that the Council move into Confidential Session to consider a confidential Cabinet report from 5 June 2024, and

Resolved that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

22. **Urgent Item – Confidential Cabinet Report**

The recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5 June 2024 in respect of Local Authority Housing Fund Award Round 3 and Purchase of 3 further properties at The Priors, Warwick Minute Number 152 were proposed by Councillor Wightman and seconded by Councillor King.

Resolved that recommendations contained in minute number 152 headed "Local Authority Housing Fund Award Round 3 and Purchase of 3 further properties at The Priors, Warwick" as set out in the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 5 June 2024, be noted, and approved.

23. **Common Seal**

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Davison and

Resolved that the Common Seal of Warwick District Council be affixed to such documents as it may be required for implementing decisions of the Council arrived at this day.

(The meeting ended at 6.28pm)

CHAIRMAN
24 July 2024