

## **Minutes of the meeting of Council held at Herefordshire Council Offices, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0LE on Friday 24 May 2024 at 10.30 am**

**Present:** Councillor Roger Phillips (chairperson)  
Councillor Stef Simmons (vice-chairperson)

**Councillors:** Polly Andrews, Bruce Baker, Jenny Bartlett, Chris Bartrum, Graham Biggs, Dave Boulter, Harry Bramer, Jacqui Carwardine, Ellie Chowns, Simeon Cole, Frank Cornthwaite, Clare Davies, Dave Davies, Barry Durkin, Mark Dykes, Matthew Engel, Toni Fagan, Elizabeth Foxton, Carole Gandy, Catherine Gennard, Peter Hamblin, Liz Harvey, Helen Heathfield, Robert Highfield, Dan Hurcomb, Terry James, Jim Kenyon, Jonathan Lester, Nick Mason, Bob Matthews, Ed O'Driscoll, Aubrey Oliver, Rob Owens, Justine Peberdy, Ivan Powell, Philip Price, Ben Proctor, Adam Spencer, Louis Stark, Pete Stoddart, John Stone, Elissa Swinglehurst, Richard Thomas, Kevin Tillet, Diana Toynbee, Allan Williams, Rob Williams and Mark Woodall

**Officers:** Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, Corporate Director - Economy and Environment, Director of Governance and Law and Democratic Services Manager.

### **1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

*(The Vice-Chairperson of the Council assumed the Chair during the election of the Chairperson of the Council)*

Councillor Polly Andrews proposed and Councillor Peter Stoddart seconded the nomination of Councillor Roger Phillips as Chairperson of the Council.

A vote was taken and Councillor Phillips was elected Chairperson of the Council.

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Roger Phillips is elected Chairperson of the Council for the forthcoming municipal year.**

Councillor Phillips made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

*(Councillor Phillips assumed the Chair of the meeting as the Chairperson of the Council)*

### **2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

Councillor Ellie Chowns proposed and Councillor Roger Phillips seconded the nomination of Councillor Stef Simmons as Vice-Chairperson of the Council.

A vote was taken and Councillor Simmons was appointed Vice-Chairperson of the Council.

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Stef Simmons is appointed Vice-Chairperson of the Council for the forthcoming municipal year.**

Councillor Simmons made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

### 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pauline Crockett, David Hitchiner and Dan Powell.

### 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 5. MINUTES

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

### 6. CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council noted the Chairman's and Chief Executive's announcements as printed in the agenda papers.

### 7. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst proposed and Councillor Barry Durkin seconded the nomination of Councillor Jonathan Lester as Leader of the Council.

A recorded vote was taken and Councillor Lester was elected as Leader of the Council.

FOR (25): Councillors Baker, Biggs, Bramer, Cole, Cornthwaite, Clare Davies, Dave Davies, Durkin, Gandy, Hamblin, Highfield, Hurcomb, Kenyon, Lester, Mason, Matthews, Phillips, Ivan Powell, Price, Stoddart, Stone, Swinglehurst, Thomas, Allan Williams and Robert Williams.

Against (1): Councillor Spencer

Abstentions (24): Andrews, Bartlett, Bartrum, Boulter, Carwardine, Chowns, Dykes Engel, Fagan, Foxton, Gennard, Harvey, Heathfield, James, O'Driscoll, Oliver, Owens, Peberdy, Proctor, Simmons, Stark, Tillett, Toynbee and Woodall.

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Jonathan Lester is elected Leader of the Council for the forthcoming municipal year.**

### 8. APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Council considered a report by the solicitor to the Council relating to appointments to committees of the Council and outside bodies in line with the rules of political proportionality. The Chairman outlined the supplement published on 23 May to include a change to the recommended allocation of seats under paragraph 11 of the report. Council also noted the publication of a supplement on 24 May 2024 containing an updated appendix 2 with details of the number of these seats on the scrutiny management board and the allocation of seats to political groups.

Recommendation (a)

Councillor Roger Phillips proposed and Councillor Dan Hurcomb seconded recommendation (a) which was carried.

**RESOLVED: That the list of ordinary committees listed at paragraph 10 are confirmed with their terms of reference as set out in the council's constitution.**

Recommendation (b)

Councillor Roger Phillips proposed and Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst seconded recommendation (b) – as updated by the supplement published on 23 May 2024 –which was carried.

**RESOLVED: That the number of seats on each committee as set out in the supplement of 23 May 2024 is approved.**

Recommendation (c)

Councillor Roger Phillips proposed and Councillor Barry Durkin seconded recommendation (c) which was carried.

**RESOLVED: That the allocation of seats on outside bodies to political groups as set out in paragraph 13 is approved.**

Recommendation (d)

Councillor Roger Phillips proposed and Councillor Toni Fagan seconded recommendation (d) which was carried.

**RESOLVED: That the appointment of five co-opted members of children and young people scrutiny committee is approved as follows:**

- i. one representative as nominated by the diocese of Hereford
- ii. one representative as nominated by the archdiocese of Cardiff
- iii. three parent governors as elected from the school sector

Recommendation (e)

Councillor Roger Phillips proposed and Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst seconded recommendation (e), the recommendation was carried with no votes against.

**RESOLVED: That the suspension of the rules of proportionality in respect of the standards panel, the River Lugg Drainage Board and the Wye Valley National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee is approved.**

Recommendation (f)

Council noted the table of committee membership (in appendix 1 to the report) which outlined the current chairpersons and vice chairpersons of Council committees. The Chairman invited any alternative nominations to the chairpersons and vice chairpersons of Council committees as listed in appendix 1.

Chairperson of Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Terry James proposed and Councillor Ben Proctor seconded the nomination of Councillor Ed O'Driscoll as Chairperson of Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Liz Harvey proposed and Councillor Diana Toynbee seconded the nomination of Councillor Ellie Chowns as Chairperson of Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee.

A vote was taken and Councillor O'Driscoll was elected Chairperson of Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED: That Councillor O'Driscoll is elected Chairperson of Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee for the forthcoming municipal year.**

Vice-Chairperson of Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Kevin Tillett proposed and Councillor Rob Owens seconded the nomination of Councillor David Hitchiner as Vice-Chairperson of Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Jim Kenyon proposed and Councillor Richard Thomas seconded the nomination of Councillor Frank Cornthwaite as Vice-Chairperson of Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee.

A vote was taken and Councillor Cornthwaite was elected Vice-Chairperson of Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Cornthwaite is elected Vice-Chairperson of Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee for the forthcoming municipal year.**

Vice-Chairperson of Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Ellie Chowns proposed and Councillor Toni Fagan seconded the nomination of Councillor Justine Peberdy as Vice-Chairperson of Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee.

A vote was taken and Councillor Peberdy was elected Vice-Chairperson of Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Peberdy is elected Vice-Chairperson of Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee for the forthcoming municipal year.**

Vice-Chairperson Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Terry James proposed and Councillor Kevin Tillett seconded the nomination of Councillor Polly Andrews as Vice-Chairperson of Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

A vote was taken and Councillor Andrews was elected Vice-Chairperson of Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Andrews is elected Vice-Chairperson of Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for the forthcoming municipal year.**

Chairperson of Scrutiny Management Board

Councillor Terry James proposed and Councillor Ed O'Driscoll seconded the nomination of Councillor Ben Proctor as Chairperson of Scrutiny Management Board.

Councillor Ellie Chowns proposed and Councillor Dave Boulter seconded the nomination of Councillor Liz Harvey as Chairperson of Scrutiny Management Board.

A recorded vote was taken and Councillor Proctor was elected as Chairperson of Scrutiny Management Board.

PROCTOR (32): Councillors Andrews, Baker, Bartrum, Biggs, Bramer, Carwardine, Cole, Cornthwaite, Dave Davies, Durkin, Dykes, Gandy, Hamblin, Highfield, Hurcomb, James, Kenyon, Lester, Mason, O'Driscoll, Oliver, Owens, Price, Proctor, Stark, Stoddart, Stone, Swinglehurst, Thomas, Tillett, Allan Williams and Robert Williams.

HARVEY (13): Councillor Bartlett, Boulter, Chowns, Engel, Fagan, Foxton, Gennard, Harvey, Heathfield, Peberdy, Simmons, Toynbee and Woodall.

ABSTENTION (5): Councillors Clare Davies, Matthews, Phillips, Ivan Powell and Spencer.

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Proctor is elected as Chairperson of Scrutiny Management Board for the forthcoming municipal year.**

Vice-Chairperson of Audit and Governance Committee

Councillor Ellie Chowns proposed and Councillor Kevin Tillett seconded the nomination of Councillor Mark Woodall as Vice-Chairperson of Audit and Governance Committee.

A vote was taken and Councillor Woodall was elected Vice-Chairperson of Audit and Governance Committee.

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Woodall is elected Vice-Chairperson of Audit and Governance Committee for the forthcoming municipal year.**

The Chairman informed Council that:

- Councillor Polly Andrews required inclusion on the list of current Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons as the Chairperson of the Licensing Sub-Committee.
- Following Councillor Bartlett's indication that she would not continue as the Vice-Chairperson of Scrutiny Management Board, Councillor Louis Stark had been nominated to the position and required inclusion on the list of current Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons as the Vice-Chairperson of Scrutiny Management Board.

Councillor Roger Phillips proposed and Councillor Barry Durkin seconded the table of committee membership including the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of Council committees as amended by the votes and updates above. The table in appendix 1, as amended, was put to the vote and was carried.

**RESOLVED: That the appointment of committee chairpersons and vice chairpersons for the forthcoming municipal year is approved as follows:**

Committee	Position	Councillor
Audit and governance committee	Chairperson	Councillor David Hitchiner
	Vice Chairperson	Councillor Mark Woodall
Children and young people scrutiny committee	Chairperson	Councillor Toni Fagan
	Vice Chairperson	Councillor Liz Harvey

Connected communities scrutiny committee	Chairperson	Councillor Ed O’Driscoll
	Vice Chairperson	Councillor Frank Cornthwaite
Employment panel	Chairperson	Councillor Jonathan Lester
	Vice Chairperson	Councillor Ellie Chowns
Environment and sustainability scrutiny committee	Chairperson	Councillor Louis Stark
	Vice Chairperson	Councillor Justine Peberdy
Health, care and wellbeing scrutiny committee	Chairperson	Councillor Pauline Crockett
	Vice Chairperson	Councillor Polly Andrews
Planning and regulatory committee	Chairperson	Councillor Terry James
	Vice Chairperson	Councillor Clare Davies
Licensing sub-committee	Chairperson	Councillor Polly Andrews
Scrutiny management board	Chairperson	Councillor Ben Proctor
	Vice Chairperson	Councillor Louis Stark

Recommendation (g)

Councillor Roger Phillips proposed and Councillor Barry Durkin seconded the size and allocation of seats on the scrutiny management board, recommended in the tabled supplement of 24 May, which was put to the vote and was carried.

**RESOLVED: That the size and political allocation of seats of the scrutiny management board is agreed as below:**

Conservatives	Independents for Herefordshire	Liberal Democrats	The Green Party	True Independents	Not aligned	Total committee seats
5	1	3	2	1	0	12

**9. HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PLAN 2024-2028**

Council considered a report by the Leader of the Council to agree proposals for the Herefordshire Council Plan 2024 – 2028.

The Cabinet Member Finance and Corporate Services proposed the recommendations and introduced the report.

The Leader of the Council seconded the recommendations in the report.

Council debated the report.

The approval of the Herefordshire Council Plan 2024 – 2028 was put to the vote and was carried by a simple majority.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (a) The Herefordshire Council Plan 2024-2028, as set out at appendix A be approved; and**
- (b) Authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council to make minor grammatical, formatting, and design amendments necessary to finalise and present the Herefordshire Council Plan for publication.**

The meeting ended at 12.05 pm

**Chairperson**

