

MINUTES OF COUNCIL

23 APRIL 2025

PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor Ward), Councillors Bennett, Brown, C Edwards, S Edwards, Freeman, Garcia, Gillias, Harrington, Hassell, Henderson, Howling, Karadiar, D Keeling, J Keeling, Lawrence, Lewis, Livesey, McKenzie, Mistry, Moran, O'Rourke, Parker, Picker, Poole, Robinson, Roodhouse, Russell, Sandison, Sayani, Srivastava, Thomas, Timms and Willis.

97. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Barnett, Daly, Dumbleton, Maoudis, New, Simpson-Vince and Trimble.

98. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2025 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

99. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 8(a) of Part 1 – Notice of Motion- Councillor Sandison (non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of being a person with a disability).

100. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had been delighted to hold his Mayoral Charity Ball at the Benn Hall recently for the OurJay Foundation and in honour of Jamie Rees' incredible legacy. It was a real celebration of local talent and kindly supported by local businesses and residents. The event raised approximately £7,500 for the foundation which was incredible. The Mayor thanked everyone who supported the event.

The Mayor had attended the Sports Awards recently which had showcased some of the amazing local talent in the borough. The Mayor congratulated all award winners and nominees.

The Mayor congratulated Brinklow FC seniors who won the Bedworth Nursing Cup Final recently. He also wished to congratulate ROAR Cheer and Dance on being ranked 4th in the world competition they had competed in in America recently. This was an incredible achievement for the team, the club and something for the borough to be proud of.

The Mayor will be attending a tour of Leicester Rowing Club by Rugby's Olympic gold medalist and MBE Lauren Henry on the club's regatta day this weekend.

The Mayor was also looking forward to attending the Women's Challenge Cup final between Rugby Borough Women's FC and West Brom at the Bescot Stadium, Walsall on 29 April. Tickets are available online if anyone would like to attend the match and show their support.

The Mayor mentioned the Sports Diary podcast which promotes local sporting individuals as well as sports teams and clubs. The Mayor suggested that local sports organisations contact the podcast producers to promote what they do.

The Mayor would be attending the Spring Food and Drink Festival in the town centre this Saturday and looked forward to seeing as many residents there as possible. He would also be attending the Spring Bank Holiday Fair at Whitehall Recreation Ground on 5 May.

101. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

There were no questions.

102. REPORT OF CABINET – 8 APRIL 2025

RESOLVED THAT – the report be confirmed and adopted.

103. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

(a) Economic Strategy 2025-2035 adoption

Council considered the report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 7(a)) concerning the proposed adoption of an Economic Strategy for 2025-2035.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the Economic Strategy attached at Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report be approved for adoption; and
- (2) the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth & Investment and Digital & Communications be granted delegated authority to make minor amendments and corrections as necessary to the Economic Strategy prior to its publication.

(b) Appointment of interim Monitoring Officer

Council considered the report of the Acting Chief Executive (Part 1 – agenda item 7(b)) concerning the appointment of an interim Monitoring Officer for the Council.

Councillor Mistry, on behalf of the Labour Group, placed on record his thanks to Aftab Razzaq for his service to the Council in his role as Monitoring Officer and Chief Officer – Legal and Governance.

RESOLVED THAT – Ian Hunt be appointed as the Council’s interim Monitoring Officer and to hold the constitutionally delegated functions of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance from 7 May 2025.

104. NOTICES OF MOTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 11

Council considered the following motion, notice of which had been given in accordance with Standing Order 11.

(a) Councillor Sandison moved and Councillor Thomas, in the absence of Councillor Trimble seconded the following motion as set out at item 8(a) of the agenda:

“This Council recognises the significant impact changes to personal independence payments will have on both recipients, their carers and young people who are cared for. Being fit enough to work will be a big challenge for many people suffering from long-term disabilities and or have physical mobility problems, becoming able to take up paid employment or unpaid will be life changing in itself. Transferring to a different funding regime may require dependable benefit advice whilst cases are being reviewed.

This Council therefore supports local advice and support service for Rugby residents making those changes through a PIP advice and support services with ease of access for both service users, and sign posting towards appropriate providers.

This Council should try to ensure through its Partnership and Wellbeing portfolio that our residents shall not fall further into poverty as predicted by the Office for Budget Responsibility and work with community providers to minimise the impact on children, carers, and their households.”

Further to debate, the Mayor put the motion to the vote and declared it carried.

105. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC UNDER SECTION 100(A)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED THAT - under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds it involved the likely disclosure of information defined in paragraph 1, 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

106. PRIVATE REPORT OF OFFICERS

(a) Proposed purchase of land

Council considered the private report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes (Part 2 – agenda item 1(a)) concerning the proposed purchase of land.

RESOLVED THAT – the recommendation, as detailed in the report, be approved.

MAYOR