



FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council held on Thursday 21 May 2026 at 6.00 pm in Council Chamber, Third Floor, Southwater One, Telford, TF3 4JG

Present: Councillors E Aston, S Bentley, K T Blundell, M Boylan, A J Burford, S P Burrell, E M Callear, L D Carter, C Chikandamina, G H Cook, P Davis, F Doran, A J Eade, A R H England, N A M England, S Handley, Z Hannington, C Healy, T L B Janke, A S Jhavar, J Kaur, L Lewis, G Luter, A D McClements, R Mehta, K Middleton, H Morgan, T J Nelson, R A Overton, N Page, L Parker, I Preece, S J Reynolds, S A W Reynolds, H Rhodes, R Sahota, P J Scott, S Syrda, G Thomas, P Thomas, J Thompson, K L Tomlinson, W L Tomlinson, K Tonks, R Tyrrell, J Urey, O Vickers, P Watling and D R W White

In Attendance: A Lowe (Director: Policy & Governance) and D Sidaway (Chief Executive)

Apologies: Councillors E Davies, N A Dugmore, J Jones and G C W Latham-Reynolds

1 Declaration

Councillor J Kaur read the following declaration:

“Colleagues, aware of our responsibilities to promote democracy and the well-being of all local people, on behalf of the Council, I make this commitment to our office as elected representatives. Elected to serve the public good, we recognise that public office is a privilege granted by the people and not a right. We, elected representatives of the people of Telford and Wrekin, declare that we will, to the best of our ability, uphold the Council’s constitution and serve the community above any private or personal interest.”

Members signified their affirmation of the Declaration.

2 Prayers and Reflections

Eve Clevenger and Cathy Landau of the Jewish Community, led the Council in prayers.

3 Presentation of Special Recognition Award

Councillor Carolyn Healy, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning and Sustainability moved, seconded by Councillor R A Overton, that a Special



Recognition Award be presented to Mark Pemberton OBE, Chair of Trustees, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, in recognition of distinguished public service and a significant contribution to safeguarding the preservation of the Borough's industrial heritage.

Mr Pemberton was unable to attend this evening's meeting in person.

RESOLVED - that a Special Recognition Award be presented to Mark Pemberton OBE, at a future meeting of the full Council.

4 Election of Mayor

It was moved by Councillor E Callear, seconded by Councillor N England, that Councillor N Page be elected as Mayor of the Council for the 2026-2027 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED - that Councillor N Page be elected as Mayor of the Council for the 2026-2027 Municipal Year.

5 Election of Speaker

It was moved by Councillor K Middleton, seconded by Councillor DRW White, that Councillor ARH England be elected as Speaker of the Council for the 2026-2027 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED - that Councillor ARH England be elected as Speaker of the Council for the 2026-2027 Municipal Year.

6 Election of Deputy Speaker

It was moved by Councillor A S Jhavar, seconded by Councillor R Mehta, that Councillor J Kaur be elected as Deputy Speaker of the Council for the 2026-2027 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED - that Councillor J Kaur be elected as Deputy Speaker of the Council for the 2026-2027 Municipal Year.

7 Election of Deputy Mayor

It was moved by Councillor I Preece, seconded by Councillor A S Jhavar, that Councillor R Mehta be elected as Deputy Mayor of the Council for the 2026-2027 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED - that Councillor R Mehta be elected as Deputy Mayor of the Council for the 2026-2027 Municipal Year.



8 Vote of Thanks to Retiring Mayor

A vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor E Callear, was proposed by Councillor C Healy and seconded by Councillor G Luter.

RESOLVED - that the Council record its thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Eileen Callear, for her service throughout the 2025-2026 term of office.

9 Reply to Vote of Thanks

In response, the retiring Mayor thanked Members for their kind messages and stated that it had been a great honour to serve as Mayor. She showed a short video of a recent skydive she had undertaken to raise money for her charities and highlighted a number of engagements that she had attended with businesses, dignitaries and charities.

10 Declarations of Interest

None.

11 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 February 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

12 Announcements

The Leader welcomed those visitors who had attended this evening's meeting.

The Leader said it was always a privilege to address this Chamber, especially this evening, but more importantly, it was a responsibility and that leadership was not about titles or ceremony but always delivering for the people that Councillors served.

Looking back over the past year, progress and ambition had been turned into action for the borough's residents and had stood tall which resulted in it being formally recognised last year as Council of the Year for the second time.

The Council had kept a strong financial footing and had continued to invest while facing difficult decisions head on.

At Station Quarter, there was a bold vision now taking shape with new homes, new businesses, new education facilities, new opportunities and it would be a



development that was not just transforming a place but transforming life chances.

In Wellington, a high street with history had been secured for the future with a market that had served generations now modernised and thriving again, not by accident, but through deliberate investment and commitment.

In Oakengates, a transformation was underway with a new theatre built to last for the next two generations now taking shape and would provide new energy and a renewed identity for that community.

In the south of Telford, in Sutton Hill, the first community and health hub would be built for the borough, which would bring new opportunities for that community.

The Council's vision for a child-friendly Telford mattered so much, because it said something fundamental about who the people of the borough were, a borough that believed every child mattered and a borough that invested in future generations.

The Council had expanded family hubs, increased its support for families and was creating more school places where these were needed, which included 100 new special educational needs places.

It was supporting residents through the lowest council tax in the region, on average £600 pounds less than neighbouring Shropshire, Staffordshire and Walsall, and there remained an ongoing commitment to keep it the lowest.

Also, the Council was keeping transport affordable by extending a £2 bus fare cap across the entire network.

The Council would maintain its commitment to its local high streets by investing and driving footfall to support local businesses. It was investing in safer communities, to ensure residents felt safe in their neighbourhoods and was reacting rapidly for any problems to be fixed, such as two hours for a litter pick, 24 hours for some fly tips; offensive graffiti in two hours; reported potholes responded to within seven days; next day replacement of household bin when needed etc.

The Council was taking its services to the streets with a new Here to Help bus and was supporting young people through youth provision, activities and opportunities and was expanding youth clubs from the 32 already in play.

The Council was also delivering for veterans. The Christopher Turley Armed Forces hub in Dawley, had already been named the only VALOUR hub in the region, with 10 homes for veterans to be delivered soon.



The Council was also investing in health and supporting projects such as the new cancer treatment centre to bring care closer to residents in Telford and Wrekin.

The Leader went on to talk about pride, which was equally important. Over the past year, communities had come together to celebrate where they lived and taking ownership of their place.

There remained the ambition to become the UK's first town of culture which reflected a confidence the Council and residents had in its borough and what could still be achieved. A borough where every child had the opportunity to thrive. A borough where communities felt proud, where they felt safe, and where they felt connected. A borough where opportunity was not limited by background but lifted by ambition.

The next chapter would not be written by chance, but by people who cared about the borough, who believed in its potential and who were prepared to put in the hard work to realise it.

He urged that the Council go forward with confidence in what it had achieved, in what it stood for and in what it could become. This borough did not stand still, it moved forward, stronger, fairer, more ambitious with every step and that his administration would be there, leading with honesty, serving with purpose and delivering and always on the side of its residents.

The Leader of the Conservative Group

Councillor Eade said it was the Council's duty to protect its communities, its countryside, its well-being, and to be on the side of the borough's residents yet applications had already been submitted to rip up the local countryside, even before plans to do so had been approved by the Government's inspectors.

He questioned why the Administration had not sought help or even represented tenants and homeowners that faced high and sometimes increasingly extortionate estate management fees for unadopted roads, footpaths and maintenance while having to pay Council Tax for the same services?

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Councillor Tomlinson said he would like the pledge taken by Councillors at the Annual Meeting to include that, as individual Councillors and as political groups, a pledge to make Councillors' own wards and borough a better place



for everyone to live in and that they work strenuously to that point to see if that could be achieved.

He took the opportunity to thank the officers on the Council for the sterling work they did. They tried their hardest with fewer resources and he recognised it was not an easy task.

He referenced the Council of the Year Award, its Children's Social Services Team, which had been recognised as “outstanding” again and its Adult Services which had been recognised as “good.”

Not many authorities around the country could say this and as well as thanking all the officers for all the work that they did, he particularly wanted to recognise the valuable contributions made by those voluntary groups that worked within the borough, for no financial reward.

He spoke of individuals, families and groups who were trying to play their part voluntarily and hoped the Council would pledge not just to be the traditional Council of the past, which provided services, but that it also use its funding with discretion to help those voluntary groups, the Council's partners, in supporting them and promoting them in all that they did.

He hoped for a much more positive approach to Council meetings, with less vitriol thrown around on all sides and that the business carry on as it had to carry on, whilst challenging everything it did.

13 Appointment of Cabinet

Councillor L Carter, Leader of the Council, notified the meeting of his appointments to Cabinet for the 2026-27 Municipal Year, as follows:

Cabinet Member	Area of Responsibility
Cllr Richard Overton	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Safer Streets and Better Housing
Cllr Paul Davis	Cabinet Member for Strong Communities, Local Pride and Veterans
Cllr Zona Hannington	Cabinet Member for Finance and Resident Services
Cllr Carolyn Healy	Cabinet Member for Planning, Neighbourhoods and Sustainability
Cllr Angela McClements	Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism and Leisure



Cllr Kelly Middleton	Cabinet Member for Public Health and Unlocking Opportunities for All
Cllr Shirley Reynolds	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Education and Skills
Cllr Paul Watling	Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Independent Living
Cllr Ollie Vickers	Cabinet Member for Jobs, Transport and Digital Connectivity

14 Delegation Scheme

It was proposed by Councillor Z Hannington and seconded by Councillor R Overton that the Council reassert the delegation scheme as detailed in the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED - that the discharge of Council functions by Committees, as set out in the Council's Constitution dated 5 March 2020, be approved under the provisions of Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972.

15 Appointment to Boards and Committees

Councillor L Carter moved and Councillor Z Hannington seconded the Appointments to Boards and Committees (Governance update.)

RESOLVED - that:

- a) the Committees and Boards, as detailed at Appendix A to the report, for the 2026/2027 Municipal Year, together with the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair for each body, be approved.
- b) the Monitoring Officer be authorised to give effect to nominations to Committees and Boards notified to her, in writing, by Group Leaders.
- c) the approval of the Terms of Reference for each Committee and Board be delegated to the relevant Committee or Board.

16 Programme of Ordinary Meetings of the Council

The programme of dates for ordinary meetings of the Council for the 2026-2027 to 2027-2028 Municipal Years, were set out in the report.



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

**Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough**

The meeting ended at 7.29 pm

Chairman:

Date: Thursday 16 July 2026