

MINUTES OF COUNCIL

9 JULY 2025

PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor Brown), Councillors Barnett, Bennett, Daly, C Edwards, S Edwards, Freeman, Garcia, Gillias, Harrington, Hassell, Henderson, Howling, Karadiar, J Keeling, Lawrence, Lewis, Livesey, Maoudis, Mistry, Moran, New, O'Rourke, Poole, Robinson, Roodhouse, Russell, Sayani, Simpson-Vince, Thomas, Timms, Trimble, Ward and Willis.

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Dumbleton, D Keeling, McKenzie, Parker, Picker, Sandison, Srivastava and Thompson.

11. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2025 and the annual meeting held on 15 May 2025 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

13. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed the Council that she had had the privilege of carrying out at least 46 engagements during her first seven weeks in the role.

The Mayor mentioned the success of the Love Rugby Festival in building strong and growing connections between the town, its citizens and the Council. Highlights of the Festival included the events day in Caldecott Park, the "Learn to Run Faster" event on the athletics track and the 5K Fun Run throughout the town in a tropical downpour. She congratulated the many officers, councillors and volunteers who helped this happen.

The Mayor had recently attended exhibitions at the Art Gallery and Museum, where there were displays of local artistry, including the new acquisition which she encouraged everyone to go and view.

The Mayor highlighted the role of local organisations, such as the Bradby Club, in working with children and young people to build up their self-worth. The Mayor of Rugby is the president of the club during their year. The Mayor would be seeking ways to fundraise to help upgrade the boxing gym at the Bradby Club. The Mayor also mentioned that she would be seeking the Council's support in a number of ways to fundraise for her two charities.

The Mayor was proud to announce that the Council had received the Silver Award for the Armed Forces Covenant, which is a valued award. The Council places great importance on helping ex-service people and their families to adjust to circumstances when they leave active service.

The Mayor also announced that she was planning to start a blog during her mayoral year.

14. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

This item was deferred to the next meeting of Council.

15. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

There were no questions.

16. REPORT OF CABINET – 24 JUNE 2025

RESOLVED THAT – the report be confirmed and adopted.

17. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

(a) Appointment of interim Monitoring Officer

Note: Jeanette McGarry, Interim Monitoring Officer, left the meeting during this item 8(a).

Council considered the report of the Acting Chief Executive (Part 1 – Agenda Item 8(a)) concerning the appointment of an interim Monitoring Officer for the Council.

RESOLVED THAT – Jeanette McGarry be appointed as the Council's interim Monitoring Officer and to hold the constitutionally delegated functions of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance with effect from 2 July 2025.

(b) Annual Report of Urgent Decisions

Council considered the report of the Acting Chief Executive (Part 1 – Agenda Item 8(b)) concerning the Annual Report of Urgent Decisions.

RESOLVED THAT – the summary of urgent decisions taken during 2024-2025, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

(c) Town Centre Business Rates Support Scheme

Council considered the report of the Chief Officer – Finance and Performance (Part 1 – Agenda Item 8(c)) concerning the Town Centre Business Rates Support Scheme.

Three Councillors then requested, pursuant to Standing Order 15.4, that a recorded vote be taken.

For the motion: Councillors Barnett, Bennett, Brown, Daly, C Edwards, S Edwards, Freeman, Garcia, Gillias, Harrington, Hassell, Henderson, Howling, Karadiar, J Keeling, Lawrence, Lewis, Livesey, Maoudis, Mistry, Moran, New, O'Rourke, Poole, Robinson, Roodhouse, Russell, Sayani, Simpson-Vince, Thomas, Timms, Trimble, Ward, Willis – **34 votes**.

Against the motion: no votes

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

RESOLVED THAT – the Council implements a 2025/26 subsidy for independent town centre business which is the equivalent of 50% of the reduction in retail, hospitality and leisure business rates relief reduction to the value of £103,000.

18. NOTICES OF MOTION PUSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 11

In accordance with the Constitution, no motions on notice were received.

19. 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 Governance Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds they involved the likely disclosure of information defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

20. PRIVATE REPORT OF CABINET – 24 JUNE 2025

RESOLVED THAT – the report be confirmed and adopted.

21. PRIVATE REPORT OF OFFICERS

(a) Urgent Decision under Delegated Powers – Works Services Unit – Yard Configuration

Council considered the report of the Acting Chief Executive (Part 2 – Agenda Item 2) concerning an urgent decision taken under delegated powers regarding the reconfiguration of the Work Services Unit Yard.

RESOLVED THAT – the report be noted.

MAYOR