

## **Leader's announcements**

17 May 2023

I am grateful to Council for the confidence that it has placed in me by electing me as Leader for the period to the annual meeting following the next ordinary elections in May 2027.

My first tasks are to congratulate all members of Council on their election – I look forward to working with you in the interests of the residents whom we all serve – and to pay tribute to the 12 former District Councillors who retired at the election or who lost their seats. Between them, they had given over 100 years' service to the Council and they deserve thanks for their contribution.

This year's elections came only two days before the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Residents throughout the district took part in a number of events to mark the Coronation, the first for 70 years – a most memorable and joyous occasion as most people alive today had not experienced such an event themselves. It was pleasing to see how the special grant fund that formed part of this year's budget had supported forty events across the district that brought local communities together to celebrate.

At tonight's meeting, I am pleased to confirm the appointment of Councillor Kevin Gale and Councillor Alan Sutton as Armed Forces Champions and also to announce the members whom I have appointed to serve with me in the Cabinet.

I am delighted to confirm that my Cabinet will consist of:

Councillor Ian Hardiman,  
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Well-being

Councillor Ben Brookes,  
Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Councillor Dan Morehead,  
Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and the Green Agenda

Councillor Tracey Onslow,  
Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Arts and Community Safety

Councillor David Ross,  
Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio

Detailed information about Cabinet portfolios will appear on the Council's website tomorrow and in a press release.

I am delighted to see that Kidderminster Harriers FC have been promoted back to the National League after a 7 year absence. This is an excellent achievement for the club and very good news for the town of Kidderminster and the wider District. Having a successful and vibrant football club brings many benefits to the community from a well-being perspective, both socially and economically. I will be liaising with the Chief Executive and other officers, together with the Leader of Kidderminster Town Council

to bring forward proposals in order that we can properly celebrate and recognise their success on behalf of the residents of the District.

**Councillor Marcus Hart, Leader**