



CITY OF GLOUCESTER

Council Meeting
Thursday 13 February 2003 at the
Council Chamber, North
Warehouse at 14.30 hours

AT A MEETING of the **COUNCIL of the CITY OF GLOUCESTER** held at the North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester on Thursday 13 February 2003 at 14.30 hours.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Tracey (Mayor), James (Sheriff and Deputy Mayor), Stephens (Leader of the Council), Crowther (Deputy Leader of the Council), O'Neill, McLellan, M.D. Smith, Witts, Hawthorne, Gravells, Workman, Durrant, Gillespie, Hilton, McHale, Blakeley, Lawlor, Lugg, Morgan, Beer, Francis, Reeve, Rentell, Gardiner, Hall, Hanman, Large, A.S. Lewis, Mitchell, Power, R.E. Smith, Wilson

APOLOGIES: Cllr. White, Crawford, S.K. Lewis, Hobbs

107. PRAYERS

Prayers were offered by Reverend Sidney Riggs.

108. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2003 be approved and signed by the Chair.

109. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Stephens, Smith and McHale declared interests in the proposed grant to the Gloucester Law Centre (Minute 117(2) refers).

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110. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the public

111. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

There were no petitions or deputations from members of the public.

112. ANNOUNCEMENTS (UNDER RULE 2 - COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES)

(a) The Mayor' Announcements

1. Letter from Mr Bob Alliss

The Mayor read to the Council the contents of a letter received from Mr Bob Alliss thanking the Council for the opportunity to make a deputation at the last Council meeting 23 January 2003, against the possession of firearms and the action taken by the Leader of the Council in writing to the Home Secretary expressing concerns regarding gun crime and punishment.

2. Gloucester Cajun Festival

The Mayor reported that she had recently attended the Gloucester Cajun Festival commenting on the success of the event.

3. Citizen of Gloucester Award

The Mayor read to the Council a letter of thanks from Mr Peter Nesbitt for the reception held in the Council Chamber on Friday 31 January 2003 on the occasion of the presentation to Mr Nesbitt of the Citizen of Gloucester award.

(b) Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council congratulated the Mayor on her Civic Ball held on 25 January 2003 and the monies raised for the Mayor's designated charities during her term of office.

(c) Members of Cabinet

The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development informed the Council that the Government Office for the South West had received the award of a gold star for the best Urban Strategy in the region.

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113. WAIVER OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Moved by Councillor Stephens (Leader of the Council), seconded by Councillor Crowther (Deputy Leader of the Council) (Cabinet Member for Culture, Learning and Leisure).

RESOLVED

That Council Procedure Rules be waived to allow Mr Ivor Wakefield, Chairs of Members' Allowance Panel, to address the Council in respect of Item 9 on the agenda.

114. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE 2003/2004

Mr Ivor Wakefield, Chair of the Members' Allowance Panel addressed the Council.

Moved by Councillor Stephens (Leader of the Council), seconded by Councillor Crowther (Deputy Leader of the Council) (Cabinet Member for Culture, Learning and Leisure).

RESOLVED

That the recommendations of the Members' Allowance Panel subject to an amendment to paragraph 4.6 to reflect that an "Acting Up" payment should be available to the Deputy Leader or any other Cabinet Member, be approved and adopted as from 13 May 2003, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2001.

115. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989 SECTION 45 BORROWING LIMITS

Moved by Councillor Stephens (Leader of the Council), seconded by Councillor Crowther (Deputy Leader of the Council) (Cabinet Member for Culture, Learning and Leisure).

RESOLVED

1. That the overall borrowing limit for Gloucester City Council be set at £44.5 million for 2003/4.
2. That the short-term borrowing limit be set at £17 million for 2003/4.
3. That no loans be taken at interest rates which are variable at the lender's option and that the proportion of total interest payable by the authority on loans varied by external factors, be limited to 20% in 2003/4.

116. BUDGET 2003/2004

A report by the Leader of the Council detailed issues raised through the consultation process which had taken place in association with the proposed budget for 2003/2004.

Moved by Councillor Stephens (Leader of the Council), seconded by Councillor Crowther (Deputy Leader of the Council) (Cabinet Member for Culture, Learning and Leisure).

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RESOLVED

That the results of the budget consultation be noted.

117. BUDGET 2003/2004 (UNDER RULE 2 - BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK)

The Council noted that in view of the declarations of interest by Members regarding the recommended grant to the Gloucester Law Centre that the vote on the budget will be taken in two parts.

1. Moved by Councillor Stephens (Leader of the Council), seconded by Councillor Crowther (Deputy Leader of the Council) (Cabinet Member for Culture, Learning and Leisure).

Moved by Councillor Hawthorne, seconded by Councillor Morgan.

“That the Cabinet’s Revenue Budget be amended in accordance with the details shown below.”

Item	Cost (£)
Cleaning Up Gloucester	50,000
Future of our City Centre	10,000
Developers Conference	5,000
Heritage Office	70,000
End Charge for Concessionary Bus tickets for all	80,000
Openness and Accountability	50,000
Total Growth	265,000

Savings not accepted (from administration budget)

Item	Saving (£)
Cricket Pitches/rosebeds	20,000
Pay and Display Car Parks	90,000
Total Savings not accepted	110,000

Therefore required savings of £375,000

Item	Savings
Re-organise Grants system	160,000
Reduce Councillors’ Allowances	20,000
Transfer Leisure and Museums to Trust (as of Jan 2004)	45,000
Outsource Rodent Control - continue to pay for existing free service	30,000
Reduce subsidy to Guildhall (as part of trust - as of Jan 2004) - make existing shows program profitable	100,000
Make Tapestry self financing	20,000
Total Savings	375,000

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Summary of Expenditure

	£	£
Community Services	995,270	
Culture Learning and Leisure	4,813,620	
Sustainable Development	2,194,270	
Leader	3,729,590	
Healthy Living	4,614,110	
Care and Maintenance of the City	5,192,460	
LESS Savings from Jobs Freeze and Fees and Charges increases		21,539,320 195,000
LESS Capital Charges		21,344,320 6,945,140
ADD Contribution from DSO		14,399,180 (87,750)
ADD Appropriation to reserves and working balance		383,000
Total Budget Requirement		14,694,430
Council Tax Collection Fund		4,803,430
Revenue Support Grant		6,005,00
Non-Domestic Rates		3,836,000
Transferred from Collection Fund Surplus		50,000
		14,694,430
General Fund Working Balance estimated at 31 March 2004		750,000

Level of Council Tax

	A	B	C	D
2003/2004 (increase of 4.5%)	92.16	107.52	122.88	138.24
(2002/2003)	88.19	102.89	117.59	132.29

	E	F	G	H
2003/2004 (increase of 4.5%)	168.97	199.69	230.40	276.49
(2002/2003)	161.69	191.09	220.48	264.58

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Capital Budget

	£
Culture Learning and Leisure	1,691,000
Sustainable Development	325,000
Leader	495,000
Healthy Living	6,093,800
Care and Maintenance	3,056,500
Total Capital Expenditure	11,661,300

Adjournment

On the motion of the Leader of the Council it was

RESOLVED

That the Council adjourn for a period of 15 minutes to allow Members to assimilate the amendment.

On readjourning, the amendment was put to the vote and declared lost, 10 Members voting in favour, 21 against and 1 abstention.

Thereupon the original motion was put to the vote and declared carried, 21 Members voting in favour, 10 against and 1 abstention.

“That the Cabinet’s Revenue and Capital Budget, including fees and charges proposals excluding the reference to the grant to Gloucester Law Centre, for the financial year 2003/2004 (previously circulated), as amended by Cabinet at its meeting held on 5 February 2003, be approved, adopted and confirmed.”

2. Moved by Councillor Crowther (Deputy Leader of the Council) (Cabinet Member for Culture, Learning and Leisure) and seconded by Councillor O’Neill (Cabinet Member for Community Services).

RESOLVED

That the grant to Gloucester Law Centre be approved, adopted and confirmed.

(Councillors Stephens, McHale and Smith, having at the commencement of the meeting declared interests in the above subject matter (grant to Gloucester Law Centre) took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

118. PLANNING COMMITTEE - 7 JANUARY 2003

Moved by Councillor Hilton, seconded by Councillor Gillespie.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 7 January 2003 be received.

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119. STANDARDS COMMITTEE - 6 JANUARY 2003

Moved by Councillor Gillespie, seconded by Councillor Blakeley.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 6 January 2003 be received.

120. EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 8 JANUARY 2003

Moved by Councillor Hawthorne, seconded by Councillor Beer.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Scrutiny Committee held on 8 January 2003 be approved, adopted and confirmed.

121. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE NO. 1 - 6 JANUARY 2003

Moved by Councillor Gravells, seconded by Councillor S. Lewis.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of Scrutiny Committee No. 1 held on 6 January 2003 be approved, adopted and confirmed.

122. JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE NO. 1 AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE NO. 2 (BUDGET PROPOSALS) - 9 JANUARY 2003

Moved by Councillor Gravells, seconded by Councillor Morgan.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of Joint Scrutiny Committee No. 1 and Scrutiny Committee No. 2 on 9 January 2003 be approved, adopted and confirmed.

123. POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 16 JANUARY 2003

Moved by Councillor Durrant, seconded by Councillor R. Smith.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy Development and Review Scrutiny Committee held on 16 January 2003 be approved, adopted and confirmed.

124. EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Moved by Cllr. Stephens (Leader of the Council), seconded by Cllr. Crowther (Deputy Leader of the Council) (Cabinet Member for Culture, Learning and Leisure).

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RESOLVED

That the Extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held on 20 February 2003 at 18.00 hours to conduct the following business.

- (a) To set Council Tax rate.
- (b) To approve the Schedule of Meetings for 2003/2004 Municipal Year.

125. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Time of commencement: 14.30 hours
Time of conclusion: 16.45 hours

Chair