



COUNCIL

MEETING : Thursday, 27th February 2014

PRESENT : Cllrs. Chatterton (Mayor), Hansdot (Sheriff & Deputy Mayor), James, Wood, Dallimore, Organ, Patel, Hilton, Haigh, Gravells, Durrant, Tracey, Hobbs, McLellan, C. Witts, Smith, Lugg, Noakes, Ravenhill, Hanman, Lewis, Wilson, Bhaimia, S. Witts, Field, Williams, Llewellyn, Brown, Dee, Porter, Taylor, Beeley, Mozol, Randle, Toleman and Gilson

Others in Attendance

Julian Wain, Chief Executive

Peter Gillett, Corporate Director of Resources

Martin Shields, Corporate Director of Services and Neighbourhoods

Sue Mullins, Head of Legal and Policy Development

John Topping, Finance Manager

Penny Williams, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager (Interim)

75. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 January 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hobbs and Councillor Porter declared disclosable non-pecuniary interests in matters, including discussion and decision, relating to Aspire Cultural Trust being Trustees of that body.

Councillor Smith declared a disclosable pecuniary Interest in matters, including discussion and decision, relating to the Law Centre and in particular their Service Level Agreement with the City Council, being employed by that body.

Councillor James declared a disclosable non pecuniary interest in matters relating to the Gloucestershire Local Transport Board being a member of the Board.

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Councillor Noakes declared a disclosable non pecuniary interest in matters, including discussion and decision, relating to flood relief at Alney Island, her daughter having bought a property in the area.

77. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

Andy Berry representing Gloucester Shopmobility asked that the City Council continue to support the shopmobility service and emphasised that although a percentage reduction in grant may be small, the impact on the voluntary organisation was considerable.

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods (Councillor Dallimore) thanked Mr Berry for his question and commended the service that shopmobility provided but as with many other voluntary organisations there was a need to review operations to seek further savings through considering such matters as income, opening hours and operations.

Mr Hinckley referred to the accuracy of Appendix 7 and commented that the allotments charges were shown as no change yet the fees quoted on that page had not been levied and questioned whether there was a change from the current figures. He asked whether the Cabinet Member could give an assurance to the current allotment holders that any proposed change to the charging structure to be made in 2015 and thereafter would only be made following proper consultation.

The Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Patel) replied that he apologised for any confusion caused by an error contained in the council papers. The allotment fees ran for a calendar year and so invoices had been issued for January 2014 onwards based on the existing fee structure. That remained unchanged. The Allotments Strategy was due to be considered by Cabinet in April 2014 and would then be subject to consultation. The Allotments Strategy would include the fee structure and so would provide an opportunity to review fees when the final strategy is adopted later in the year having taken into account the views of the Allotments holders and the Allotments Association. It was proposed that the 2014 fees be confirmed at this evening's Council Budget meeting and with regard to 2015 the Cabinet Member confirmed that there would be no increase in 2015. He gave his assurance that any proposed changes to fees would be subject to full consultation with the Allotment Holders and the Association and that they would be provided with sufficient notice beforehand.

Mr Hinckley questioned the Cabinet Member's response that the 2014 fee increases would go ahead yet increased charges were to be the subject of decision by the Council that evening.

The Cabinet Member responded by stating that as far as he was aware the 2014 charges had already been agreed and were based on the existing fee structure and not the changes or amended or revised structure that was proposed.

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Kay Powell asked the Leader of the Council (Councillor James) whether the Council had any plans to sell or lease Council owned land was currently used for allotments.

The Leader of the Council answered that he was not aware of any plans to do that.

Kay Powell asked the Cabinet Member for Environment what method was used to determine that the open space in St James' Park for the proposed riding arena was not used much by the public or the community and how would fencing the area off result in the land being used more widely?

The Cabinet Member for Environment replied that part of the open space in question was used at the moment for the City Farm. Based on what he had seen, feedback from residents near by, feedback from the City Farm and from other constituents in the Barton and Tredworth area, it had been deduced that the area was not used to much extent, and that by having the proposed Riding Centre located there, this would increase the use significantly and that it would be used more widely, not only by people living in the Barton and Tredworth area.

Kay Powell asked the Leader of the Council whether the Open Space Strategy was taken into consideration when the Council took the decision to sell off part of St James' Park which is the subject of the current planning application. If not what was the point of having an Open Space Strategy?

The Leader of the Council replied that when the decision was taken by Cabinet to sell the land in question, a written report was produced in the usual way and all relevant matters will have been taken into account.

Kay Powell asked the Cabinet Member for Environment whether the Council had weighed up the benefits for disadvantaged children of the riding arena as opposed to a multi use games area.

The Cabinet Member for Environment replied that the location for the multi use games area would not be the same area of land where the riding area was proposed. The multi use games area would be located where the current basket ball area was located so there was no impact on the riding arena application. It was not a matter of one or the other but both facilities could be accommodated.

Kay Powell asked the Cabinet Member for Environment how big the multi-games area would be and if it was going to replace the current football area?

The Cabinet Member for Environment replied that he did not have the exact size to hand, but the area that was currently being used was not being used as widely as it could be. He believed that the area was of sufficient size to deliver a multi-use games area which all the children in the local area could enjoy.

78. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

There were no petitions or deputations.

79. ANNOUNCEMENTS (COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 2(VII))

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The Mayor reminded Members the need to complete their Declaration of Related Parties form that had been issued.

The Mayor drew attention to the *Strike a Light festival* to be held at the Guildhall and also the events to be held during the *Richard III festival*, encouraging Members to attend both these events.

The Cabinet Member for Environment referred to the recent heavy rain falls and resilience measures put in place and thanked all those who had been involved in a unified approach including residents and partners in dealing with the situation. The containment of the effects of flooding on properties reflected the £20million investment that had been undertaken by relevant organisations since the floods of 2007.

80. SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Moved by Councillor James (Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture) and seconded by Councillor Dallimore (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods)

RESOLVED - That Council Procedure Rules be waived to allow the relevant officers to address the Council in respect of Agenda Items 8 and 9.

81. MONEY PLAN 2014-19 AND BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2014/15

Council considered a joint report of the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources recommending Council to adopt a budget for 2013/14 following budget consultation and also asking Council to agree to implement the target budget reductions set out in the Money Plan 2014/19. The report also asked Council to note the consultation undertaken on budget savings to achieve the exceptional level of further savings required specifically in 2014/15 and 2015/16.

In moving the recommendations set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of the report, Councillor James (Leader of the Council) drew attention to the following amendments to the report:

Page 21 – Paragraph 5.7

Amended to read '18 December 2013' and not '18 December 2014'

Page 25 – Paragraph 9.2

Amended figures '£1.38m in 2014/15 and £1.54m in 2015/16' and not '£1.45m in 2014/15 and £1.49m in 2015/16'.

Page 25 – Paragraph 9.3

Amended figure '£3.562m' and not '£3.411m'.

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The replacement of the table (copy circulated at the Council meeting).

New page – Fees and Charges Booklet – Car Parking

The inclusion of the 'Car Parking' table (copy circulated at the Council meeting).

The motion was seconded by Councillor Wood (Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources).

Councillor Haigh moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Hobbs

1. Remove proposed increase in garden waste charges in 2015/16 but include garden waste service in review of service delivery with a view to identifying the real costs of the service.

Following debate, on being put to the vote, the amendment was declared lost,

Councillor Haigh moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Lugg.

2. Remove the line related to energy savings to be delivered through the Council's major partnerships. Resolve that the Council undertake to have a joint review with its strategic partners into achieving energy savings and reducing costs to the Council in time for the 2015/16 budget.

Following debate, on being put to the vote, the amendment was declared lost.

Councillor Haigh moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Hobbs

3. Replace savings of £100,000 to VCS from 2014/15 with the figure of £50,000 and undertake to have a cross party review into VCS grants which takes into account the following factors:
 - a. Contribution of grants made towards the Councils objectives.
 - b. Additional funds brought into the City by Voluntary Sector Organisations through matched funding, compensation payments and other grants.
 - c. Work undertaken within the sector which elsewhere may form part of Council Services and would have to be done 'in house' if not provided by the voluntary sector.

Councillor Gravells declared a disclosable non pecuniary interest in the above subject matter relating to grant issues that involve Age UK Gloucestershire and withdrew from the meeting

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Councillor McLellan declared a disclosable non pecuniary in the above subject matter relating to the Family Haven and withdrew from the meeting.

Following debate, on being put to the vote, the amendment was declared lost.

Councillor Haigh moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Hobbs

4. Remove the sum of £50,000 from SLA's to advice services in 2015/16 and include them in the review of VCS funding.

Councillors Smith, Toleman and Handsdot declared disclosable non pecuniary interests in various grant applications and withdrew from the meeting.

Following debate, on being put to the vote, the amendment was declared lost.

Councillor Haigh moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Hobbs

5. The City's Museums have the potential to be a great asset for the City enabling residents and visitors to learn about our history. Charging an entrance fee has proved to be a barrier to that and we therefore resolve to remove the charges and to ask for donations instead. In order that the museums can build up visitor attendance, and to take into account loss of £20000 revenue from ceasing to charge remove savings of £50,000 from 2014/15. Change savings in 2015/16 to £55,000 in order to implement the operational review.

Following debate, on being put to the vote, the amendment was declared lost.

Councillor Haigh moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Hobbs

6. We welcome the operational review of the Guildhall on the basis that it will make better use of the building, opening up the facilities to the people of Gloucester and putting the Guildhall on a sounder financial footing. To reflect that there may be some difficulty in achieving major savings whilst making significant changes and also that the funding of activities previously covered by the events grant will now fall within the main budget the savings for 2014/15 be reduced to £10,000 and to £100000 for 2015/16 with the expectation that the contribution to revenue will increase substantially during the period of the Money Plan.

Following debate, on being put to the vote, the amendment was declared lost.

Councillor Hilton moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Field.

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- 1 That the council considers the options for the use of the £100,000 capital programme allocation for public toilets, including renting a vacant shop unit within the city centre to convert to a pay to use facility, and a report be brought to Cabinet within 3 months.
2. That £10,000 from the targeted historic grants fund be used to support Gloucester Cathedral. The use of funds is to be agreed with the Dean and Chapter, but options include a preliminary study to investigate the Cathedral becoming a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
3. That council agrees to set up an all party task and finish group to investigate future sources of revenue for the Council, including the introduction of a local levy on the business rates large out of city centre stores as suggested by Local Works, using powers under the Sustainable Communities Act.

Councillor Hilton agreed to accept that in paragraph 3 above, the words 'all party working group' replace the words 'Task and Finish Group'.

Following debate, on being put to the vote the amendment as now amended was declared carried.

Following further debate the substantive motion, as amended, was put to the vote and declared carried, 27 Members voting in favour, 8 against and 1 abstention.

RESOLVED

- 1 That, based on the outcome of the budget consultation, the budget proposals for 2014/15 included in the report be approved.**
- 2 That the implementation of the target budget reductions set out in the Money Plan 2014-19 be approved and that it be noted that consultation had been undertaken on budget savings proposals to achieve the exceptional level of further savings required specifically in 2014/15 and 2015/16.**
- 3 That the council considers the options for the use of the £100,000 capital programme allocation for public toilets, including renting a vacant shop unit within the city centre to convert to a pay to use facility, and a report be brought to Cabinet within 3 months.**
- 4 That £10,000 from the targeted historic grants fund be used to support Gloucester Cathedral. The use of funds is to be agreed with the Dean and Chapter, but options include a preliminary study to investigate the Cathedral becoming a UNESCO World Heritage Site.**
- 5. That Council agrees to set up an all party working group to investigate future sources of revenue for the Council, including the introduction of a local levy on the business rates large out of city centre stores as suggested by Local Works, using powers under the Sustainable Communities Act.**

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In accordance with Part 4 Rule 18.04 of the Constitution a recorded vote was requested and the names were taken as follows

For the motion:

Councillor	Councillor	Councillor
James	Noakes	Williams
Dallimore	C Witts	Brown
Organ	Hanman	Dee
Patel	Lewis	Porter
Wood	Wilson	Taylor
Hilton	Ravenshill	Beeley
Gravells	S Witts	Mozol
Tracey	Field	Randle
McLellan	Llewellyn	Toleman
		TOTAL 27

Against the motion:

Councillor	Councillor	Councillor
Handsdot	Smith	Bhaimia
Haigh	Hobbs	Beeley
Durrant	Lugg	
		TOTAL 8

Abstentions:

Councillor		
Chatterton		TOTAL 1

82. COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2014/15

Council considered a joint report of the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources concerning the setting of Council Tax for 2013/14.

Councillor James (Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture) moved the recommendations as set out in the report.

Councillor Dallimore (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods) seconded the motion.

RESOLVED (29 Members voting in favour and 7 against)

That the statutory resolutions, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be passed.

In accordance with Part 4 Rule 18.04 of the Constitution a recorded vote was requested and the names were taken as follows

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For the motion:

Councillor	Councillor	Councillor
Chatterton	McLellan	Williams
Hansdot	Noakes	Brown
James	C Witts	Dee
Dallimore	Hanman	Porter
Organ	Lewis	Taylor
Patel	Wilson	Beeley
Wood	Ravenhill	Mozol
Hilton	S Witts	Randle
Gravells	Field	Toleman
Tracey	Llewellyn	
		TOTAL 29

Abstentions:

Councillor	Councillor	Councillor
Haigh	Hobbs	Gilson
Durrant	Lugg	
Smith	Bhaimia	TOTAL 7

83. NOTICES OF MOTION

Moved by Councillor Hilton, seconded by Councillor Wilson and following debate unanimously

RESOLVED

This Council notes that the Department for Transport has allocated a total of £9.8m to the Gloucestershire Local Transport Board (GLTB) for major transport projects in the county and that the funding is available for the period April 2015 to March 2019.

This Council notes that both Network Rail and First Great Western have declined to support the £19.3m project to build extra platforms at Cheltenham Spa railway station (number 4 on GLTB's priority list).

This Council notes that a proposal promoted by Stanhope PLC and Gloucester City Council to build a new bus station for Gloucester is number six on the GLTB's priority list, though at present unfunded.

This Council notes that the next meeting of the GLTB is to be held on the 9th of April 2014.

This Council agrees to write to the Chairperson of the Gloucestershire Local Transport Board requesting that the £3.3m currently allocated to the

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Cheltenham Spa railway station scheme is now transferred to the project to build a new bus station for Gloucester.

Time of commencement: 18:00 hours

Time of conclusion: 21:03 hours

Chair