



COUNCIL

MEETING : Thursday, 22nd January 2015

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

Others in Attendance

Martin Shields, Corporate Director of Services and Neighbourhoods

Sue Mullins, Head of Legal and Policy Development

Anthony Wilson, Head of Planning

Tony Wisdom, Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES : Cllr. Field

67. MINUTES

67.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 November 2014 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record subject to the amendment of Minute 63b.36 to refer to the Golden Dragon.

68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

68.1 Councillors Hilton, Gravells, Tracey and Williams declared personal interests in Agenda 13(2), notice of motion regarding Javelin Park incinerator as Members of Gloucestershire County Council.

68.2 Councillor Dallimore declared a personal prejudicial interest in Agenda 13(2), notice of motion regarding Javelin Park incinerator as an employee of Richard Graham MP.

69. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

69.1 There were no questions from members of the public.

70. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

70.1 There were no petitions or deputations.

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

Mayor

- 71.1 The Mayor thanked all involved with the successful Civic Christmas Party for Children.
- 71.2 The Mayor reminded Council that tickets were on sale for the Civic Ball on 11 April at Gloucester Quays.

Leader of the Council

- 71.3 The Leader advised Council that the recruitment process for the joint director post had started and he hoped to bring the successful candidate to the March meeting of the Council.
- 71.4 The Leader advised Council that the finals of Mr and Miss Gloucester 2015 would be held on 29 January 2015. He noted that Juliette Crosby, Miss Gloucester 2014, had done a wonderful job as an ambassador for the City and he wished to formally record his thanks to her.

Members of the Cabinet

- 71.5 Councillor Norman, Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources informed Council that, with effect from 1 April 2015, all staff on zero hours contracts employed by the Council would not be paid less than the Living Wage and this would be achieved within existing budgets.

72. SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

- 72.1 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) –
- 72.2 **RESOLVED** - That Council Procedure Rules be suspended to allow the representative of the Members' Allowances Panel to address the Council in respect of agenda item 8 (2015 Review of Members' Allowances).

73. 2015 REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

- 73.1 The Council considered a report of the Members' Allowances Panel concerning the 2015 Review of Members' Allowances and the Panel's recommendations for a scheme of payment for 2015-16.
- 73.2 Councillor James moved the recommendations set out in the report.
- 73.3 Councillor Dallimore seconded the motion.
- 73.4 Councillor James invited Mrs Madeleine Townley, the representative of the Members' Allowances Panel to introduce the report.

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73.5 Mrs Townley presented the report on behalf of the Members' Allowances Panel who had conducted a root and branch review of the scheme. She noted that allowances had been frozen since 2010/11. The Panel had amassed a considerable amount of data and had consulted Members of the Council. The response rate of 58 per cent was more than previous years but the Panel would like more responses in future. The scheme had evolved since it was introduced in 2003 and the Panel considered that it had worked well although there was no set formula for determining the level of basic allowance but the Panel had recalculated this allowance to make it more straightforward to determine levels in future years.

73.6 The allowance had been calculated using a formula approach which resulted in an increase to the Basic Allowance. The Special Responsibility Allowances had been reviewed in detail and the other elements of the scheme had been updated to facilitate the administration of the scheme. She noted that eligible Members did not always make use of the travel and subsistence allowance and the dependents' carers allowances that they were entitled to and she encouraged them to do so as they were intended to remove barriers. She stated that the Panel understood that the Council was facing challenging financial circumstances, but hoped that Members found the scheme to be justifiable and fair.

73.7 Mrs Townley thanked the Members of the Panel and all involved in the review process.

73.8 Councillor Lugg expressed her disappointment that the Panel had not considered measures to offset loss of earnings experienced by Members required to attending meetings of outside bodies in working hours.

73.9 Councillor James thanked Mrs Townley and the members of the Panel and was pleased that there appeared to be a consensus of acceptance in the Chamber.

73.10 RESOLVED –

(1) That the recommendations of the Member's Allowances Panel be noted and the proposed Members' Allowances Scheme attached at Annex 2 to the Report of the Members' Allowances Panel be approved for the payment of allowances in 2015-16.

(2) That the next four yearly detailed review of Members' Allowances be scheduled to report in January 2019.

(3) That the civic allowances payable to the Mayor and Sheriff/Deputy Mayor be set at £6,000 and £3,500 respectively.

74. DEVELOPING TRADE LINKS WITH CHINA

74.1 The Council considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture concerning work being undertaken to strengthen the City's links with China and provide business opportunities for local companies, through helping them to gain access to Chinese markets.

74.2 Councillor James moved the recommendation set out in the report.

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- 74.3 Councillor Dallimore seconded the motion.
- 74.4 Councillor James noted that the Council had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Paju in South Korea sometime ago. He noted there had been a number of delegations from China in recent months and he believed that being asked to sign such an agreement was a considerable honour for the City. He stated that there would be benefits for local businesses and emphasised that it would not be a traditional twinning arrangement.
- 74.5 Councillor Haigh stated that the friendship agreement would bring benefits for the City and asked if contact had been made with the newly elected Mayor of Paju.
- 74.6 Councillor Hilton commented that the agreement could bring important benefits to both Cities, but added that he hoped that inward investment would not falsely inflate property prices to the detriment of local people. He stated that it was important to the City and County to export to China.
- 74.7 Councillor Dallimore commented that it was good to know that the delegates had been impressed with Gloucester, as China had the world's fastest growing economy.
- 74.8 Councillor James advised that he had written to the new Mayor of Paju some time ago and he hoped that the Mayor would be able to visit Gloucester.
- 74.9 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted and the principles contained therein be endorsed.

75. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK UPDATE

- 75.1 The Council considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture concerning the range of documents the Council is obliged to keep and maintain consistent with its legal obligations as the local planning authority and seeking approval to use the Joint Core Strategy Submission Plan (the JCS) as a material consideration in future planning decisions.
- 75.2 Councillor James moved the recommendations set out in the report.
- 75.3 Councillor Taylor seconded the motion.
- 75.4 Councillor Taylor stated that he hoped all Members would support the recommendation because the timetable for the Joint Core Strategy and the adoption of the City Plan were important issues for development control in the City.
- 75.5 **RESOLVED** –
- (1) That the LDS at Appendix 1 be approved;
 - (2) That a public consultation on the SCI be conducted and that authority be delegated to the Head of Planning, in consultation with Head of Legal and

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Policy Development, to make any minor changes to this statement arising from comments received during the consultation period;

- (3) That the continued use of the Second Stage Deposit Draft Local Plan (2002) and other local planning policy, including the Joint Core Strategy Submission document (the JCS), be approved as a material consideration in future planning decisions.

76. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS, MAY 2015-NOVEMBER 2017

- 76.1 The Council considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources concerning the two-year programme of ordinary meetings of Council and calendar of other meetings for the period of May 2015 to April 2017.
- 76.2 Councillor Norman moved the recommendations set out in the report.
- 76.3 Councillor James seconded the motion.
- 76.4 Councillor Norman advised that Members having issues with any of the dates should contact the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager.
- 76.5 **RESOLVED** – That the two-year programme of ordinary meetings of Council and calendar of other meetings for the period of May 2015 to April 2017 be approved.

77. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS (COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12)

Written Questions to Cabinet Members

- 77a.1 No written questions had been received.

Leader and Cabinet Members' Question Time

- 77b.1 Councillor Hilton asked the Leader of the Council what he thought of Pure Bargains occupying the former Marks and Spencer store.
- 77b.2 Councillor James believed that it was better for the premises to be occupied and trading than not. He advised that it was a temporary letting and was something over which the Council had no control.
- 77b.3 Councillor Hilton believed that the Council had systematically failed to find a quality retailer for the premises and asked if the Leader agreed that there were already enough discount stores in the City centre.
- 77b.4 Councillor James noted that the number of empty units in the City centre had fallen from 53 to 26 in the last year. He stated that he endeavoured to influence such matters and was in regular contact with the Head of Property at Marks and Spencer, although there were a number of legacy issues related to the age of those premises.

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- 77b.5 Councillor Haigh referred to the Centre for Cities report 'Cities Outlook 2015', which showed that Gloucester had the lowest job growth at -12.6% and asked the Leader of the Council to explain the poor performance.
- 77b.6 Councillor James responded that there had been significant investment in regeneration in the City which had the 7th highest employment rate, 9th highest housing stock growth and the 2nd highest number of patents granted per 100,000 head of population. He noted that Javelin Group had identified the City as the 2nd fastest growing retail destination and there had been 875 business start-ups in 2013. He advised that the highest fall in unemployment had been announced on 21 January, following the recent trend and noted that the statistics did not take account of self-employment. He noted that several large employers had moved to the fringes of the City and were therefore not counted in City centre figures.
- 77b.7 Councillor Haigh asked if the Leader agreed that more pound shops and tattoo parlours were not what the City needed.
- 77b.8 Councillor James responded that the City had ambitious plans for regeneration including Kings Quarter, Bakers Quay and Blackfriars.
- 77b.9 Councillor Hilton noted that The Citizen had reported that the City had been short-listed for housing zone status and asked for the Leader of the Council's views.
- 77b.10 Councillor James responded that housing zone status would help to lever in £110 million of private sector investment and that sites being considered included Bakers Quay, Monks Meadow, the former prison and the Kwik Save site. He noted that housing zone status would provide cheaper access to funding and that the Council would have to commit to streamlining the planning process. The Council was on a short-list of 29 and it would be beneficial for the City to develop brown-field sites.
- 77b.11 Councillor Hilton noted that the Kwik Save site had been granted planning permission but the issue was the affordability of development and there was a need for public sector investment.
- 77b.12 Councillor James responded that housing zone status would not provide access to cash or provide a magic wand for brown field sites. Officers were in regular contact with regard to the site, where there were decontamination and archaeological issues.
- 77b.13 Councillor Haigh referred to reports in The Citizen regarding 'legal highs' and asked the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods what action the Council was taking.
- 77b.14 Councillor Dallimore stated that the Community Safety Team did not consider that legal highs were an issue in the City. She noted that Safer Gloucester maintained good working relationships with partners and with licensed premises in the City and she did not believe that any further action was necessary at the present time.

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- 77b.15 Councillor Haigh asked if sales of legal highs in the City had been assessed.
- 77b.16 Councillor Dallimore responded that the Police and the Licensing Team met each month and undertook a number of joint operations for other initiatives that included opportunities to check sales of legal highs.
- 77b.17 Councillor Toleman referred to the improvement works undertaken at 57 Southgate Street as part of the Southgate Street Townscape Heritage Initiative and asked the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture how many other properties would undergo similar improvement work.
- 77b.18 Councillor James reported that two more properties had been approved and that a further two were awaiting approval. He advised that the Initiative would deliver a significant transformation to an important corridor into the City.
- 77b.19 Councillor Lugg referred to the Members Allocation Fund and asked the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods if it would be repeated in 2015/16 as she had hoped to fund a trip to the Skillszone for the Junior Wardens, but as they had been unable to make the trip before 31 March the funding had been refused.
- 77b.20 Councillor Dallimore responded that the funding was only available during the current financial year and that only 15 Members had spent their allocation to date, although she was aware that other Members had plans for their allocations. She hoped that, subject to the approval of the Council Budget for 2015/16, the scheme would be repeated. She suggested Councillor Lugg made an application for the present year and undertook to see if there was any discretion available.
- 77b.21 Councillor Randle noted the demolition of property by Gloucester City Homes prior to the stock transfer and asked the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure for an explanation.
- 77b.22 Councillor Organ replied that the initiative was running parallel to Stage 3 of the Stock Transfer Process.
- 77b.23 Councillor Mozol asked the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture why local traders were not invited to events at Gloucester Quays.
- 77b.24 Councillor James responded that the events were organised by Gloucester Quays. He noted that the Council's Tourist Information Centre had a stall at the Victorian Market. He suggested that local traders contacted Gloucester Quays and noted that the City Centre Partnership had organised street markets to coincide with events at the Quays.
- 77b.25 Councillor Beeley asked the Leader of the Council what the long term legacy of the Rugby World Cup would be for the City.
- 77b.26 Councillor James replied that Ernst and Young had estimated that the World Cup events would bring £48million of spending to the City. There would be benefits associated with increased participation and improved facilities for local clubs.

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There would be opportunities for volunteering at the ground, at the Fanzone and many other opportunities.

- 77b.27 Councillor Beeley noted that two all-weather pitches were planned; one in Bristol and one at Oxstalls and asked if the City was being denied benefits of hosting the matches.
- 77b.28 Councillor James undertook to make enquiries regarding the pitch at Bristol, but noted that Gloucestershire Rugby Union included Bristol.
- 77b.29 Councillor Hansdot noted that Barton and Tredworth had been reported as the ninth worst area locally for flytipping and he asked the Cabinet Member for Environment what was being done to address this.
- 77b.30 Councillor Porter replied that a large amount of work was undertaken in the ward, although he believed that much of the flytipping was done by local traders and residents. He believed that the Council's response to flytipping incidents was exemplary and would continue to be so, however, he requested Ward Councillors' co-operation in reporting incidents. He reported that Officers were actively checking that local traders had agreements in place to dispose of their trade waste.
- 77b.31 Councillor Tracey asked the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture about the perceived lack of decorations in Kings Square.
- 77b.32 Councillor James stated that an additional Christmas tree had been placed in the Square, which was visited by the Coca-Cola Christmas lorry. He stated that there used to be a budget of £100,000 for Christmas activities and the provision of a seasonal ice rink, but that funding was no longer available and if traders wanted more they would have to contribute to the cost. He noted that in some areas traders were required to pay towards the costs of Christmas decorations. He had asked the City Centre Manager to investigate the possibility of introducing a Kissing Tree for Christmas 2015.
- 77b.33 Councillor Haigh noted that she had recently had cause to report a full litter bin by the tunnel near the railway station and had to wait for five minutes for her call to be answered by the Contact Centre; she asked the Cabinet Member for Environment what could be done to prevent people having to wait so long to report such matters.
- 77b.34 Councillor Porter stated that the Contact Centre was not within his portfolio, but reported he had seen the full bin himself together with rubbish in Oxford Street and advised that he would be discussing the matter with Officers.
- 77b.35 The Mayor ruled that the time allotted for Members' Questions had expired.

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78. NOTICES OF MOTION

(1) Notice of Motion from the Liberal Democrat Group

78.1 Councillor Hilton explained that Councillor James had advised him of a potential amendment adding to the motion detailed on the agenda which both he and his seconder were prepared to accept and incorporate into the motion.

78.2 Moved by Councillor Hilton and seconded by Councillor McLellan:

“This Council thanks Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service for putting out the fire at on one of the warehouses at Bakers Quay.

This Council raises concern about the condition of the listed warehouses at this site, noting that they are adjacent to Gloucester Quays and are subject to plans for regeneration.

This Council notes that advanced negotiations are currently taking place between the site’s owners and a prospective purchaser.

This Council requests that the Leader of the Council considers taking action to instigate a Compulsory Purchase Order for the redundant warehouses at Bakers Quay so that they can be made secure ahead of their regeneration in the event that the current negotiations are not brought to a swift and successful conclusion.”

78.3 The motion was put to the vote and was carried.

(2) Notice of Motion from the Labour Group

78.4 Councillor Haigh advised that she and her seconder were prepared to accept a proposed amendment put forward by the Liberal Democrat Group and incorporate it into the motion.

78.5 Moved by Councillor Haigh and seconded by Councillor Smith:

“This Council notes that it has agreed in the past mass incineration is not the right solution to the disposal of waste in the County.

After the unanimous decision of the County Council Planning Committee to reject the plan this Council is dismayed by the Secretary of State’s decision to approve the building of such an incinerator at Javelin Park. We believe he has failed to give proper weight to the views of the residents of the City or the detrimental effect that its construction and operation will have on the City and the Severn Vale.

This Council is further dismayed that the City’s MP has not been a strong voice for the City against this disastrous scheme and instructs the Leader to write to him expressing our disappointment.

This Council instructs the Leader to write to the County Council expressing our dismay that the County Cabinet agreed to sign the contract with UBB ahead of the

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planning committee's decision and with such onerous terms that to cancel the contract today, would expose the County Council to a significant financial liability.

This Council notes that this could have been avoided if Gloucestershire Tories had listened residents who are overwhelmingly against the building of such an incinerator at Javelin Park.

This Council continues to believe that alternative technologies such as a Mechanical Biological Treatment would better serve the residents of Gloucestershire in the disposal of residual household waste."

78.6 The motion was put to the vote and names recorded at the request of Councillor Haigh:

For	Against
Haigh	Llewellyn
Hilton	Noakes
McLellan	James
Smith	Dallimore
Hobbs	Norman
Lugg	Organ
C.Witts	Porter
Wilson	Gravells
Bhaimia	Tracey
S.Witts	Hanman
Brown	Lewis
Beeley	Ravenhill
Hansdot	Williams
Gilson	Dee
Mozol	Taylor
Chatterton	Patel
Pullen	Randle
	Toleman
(17)	(18)

78.7 The motion was lost.

Time of commencement: 19:00 hours
Time of conclusion: 21:20 hours

Chair