



COUNCIL

MEETING : Thursday, 29th September 2016

PRESENT : Cllrs. Hampson (Mayor), Hansdot (Sheriff & Deputy Mayor), James, Watkins, Noakes, D. Norman, Organ, Cook, Haigh, Hilton, Gravells, Tracey, Lugg, Hanman, Lewis, Morgan, Wilson, Bhaimia, Williams, D. Brown, Dee, Taylor, Patel, Toleman, Pullen, H. Norman, Pearsall, Brazil, J. Brown, Coole, Finnegan, Hyman, Melvin, Ryall and Smith

Others in Attendance

Jon McGinty, Managing Director

Jonathan Lund

Anne Brinkhoff

Anthony Wilson, Head of Planning

Adam Gooch, Senior Planning Officer

Tanya Davies, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager

Atika Tarajiya, Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. Stephens, Fearn and Hawthorne

26. CONDOLENCES

26.1 The Mayor announced a minute's silence for Councillor Jim Porter who passed away on the 3 August 2016.

26.2 Councillor James (Leader of the Council) reported that a service celebrating the life of Councillor Porter had been held at Cathedral Church of St Peter and the Holy and Indivisible Trinity on the 24 August 2016. He acknowledged that Councillor Porter had been a good friend and a conscientious Councillor and fellow ward member and would be very much missed.

26.3 Councillor Williams offered a tribute to Councillor Porter, whom she had known for 12 years as a fellow ward Councillor. She reported that he had positively impacted the lives of many residents within the City and assisted her with political campaigns in the Longlevens ward.

26.4 Councillor Hilton (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) offered condolences on behalf of the Liberal Democrat group. He advised that he had known Councillor Porter since 2001 and had supported his application as a school governor for Oxstalls Community School. He noted the vibrant discussions that had taken place with Councillor Porter during their combined tenure on the Gloucestershire Airport

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Board acknowledging the constructive support Councillor Porter had given him and his efforts as the Cabinet Member for Environment.

- 26.5 Councillor Haigh (Leader of the Labour Group) offered condolences on behalf of the Labour group. She stated that though she and Councillor Porter had been on opposing political groups, they had worked together on cross party working forums to deliver improvements to the City. She reported that Councillor Porter had been a diligent member on the Aspire board and a hard working Councillor.

27. MINUTES

- 27.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2016 be approved and signed by the Mayor, subject to minor typographical amendments.

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 28.1 There were no declarations of interest.

29. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

- 29.1 Mr Museji Takolia, on behalf of residents at Kiln Close, asked the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning (Councillor Organ) if he would agree to undertake necessary action against Linden Homes, the property developer for Greyfriars Quarter, to ensure the implementation of gull mitigation measures as required by the planning permission conditions.
- 29.2 Councillor Organ thanked Mr Takolia for his question and advised him that gull mitigation measures formed part of condition 35 of the planning conditions. He advised Mr Takolia that this was already being looked into by officers within the planning service and would be scrutinised in detail when the planning application for the Greyfriars Quarter was submitted.
- 29.3 Mr Takolia advised the Cabinet Member that residents' query was in relation to the completed development within Greyfriars quarter.
- 29.4 Councillor Organ confirmed that the necessary action would be taken to ensure that this issue was resolved, acknowledging the major problems caused by gulls within the City.
- 29.5 Ms Kay Powell asked the Leader of the Council if he would agree to undertake action against totallymoney.com for their misleading and inaccurate survey on mortgage repayments recently published in the local media, to ensure that the correct figures were published.
- 29.6 The Leader of the Council (Councillor Paul James) thanked Ms Powell for her question stating that he did not normally pay much attention to the results of a single survey. He agreed, subject to officer resources required, to determine what information was readily available to counter the results of the survey.

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30. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

- 30.1 Councillor Steve Morgan presented a petition, consisting of 141 signatures, calling for the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning to encourage Gloucestershire County Council and Bovis Homes Group Plc to adopt the Copeland Park area in order to facilitate a much needed play area within the site. He reported that a consultation document had been prepared and would be delivered to local residents on the 30 September 2016 to clarify residents' expectations of the play area and put the project in an excellent position to move forward quickly.
- 30.2 Councillor Organ thanked Councillor Morgan from the submission of the petition, acknowledging the issues arising from delays in adopting areas of land. He advised that representation had already been made to Gloucestershire County Council regarding this issue. He stated that whilst he was unsure of the nature of the technical difficulties, he would undertake to make further representation to Gloucestershire County Council to understand the timeline of delay.

31. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor

- 31.1 The Mayor announced with sadness the deaths of:
- Mr Peter Arnold- 500th Mayor of Gloucester, during the Civic year of 1982/1983
 - Ms Carole Vaughn, former Liberal Democrat Councillor.
 - Mr John Dance, former mace-bearer.
- 31.2 The Mayor advised that Mr John Dance's funeral would be held on the 3 October 2016 and would take place at Gloucester Crematorium.
- 31.3 The Mayor stated that he had recently been on a three day visit to Metz, following an invitation from the Mayor of the City, to attend the Mirabelle Festival. He reported that service from the hosts was impeccable and the visit had been incredibly informative and enjoyable.
- 31.4 The Mayor reminded Members of the following forthcoming events in the civic Calendar:
- Annual Civic Service- 9 October 2016
The Mayor encouraged Members to RSVP, so the appropriate seating and catering arrangements could be made.
 - Remembrance Sunday- 13 November 2016
The Mayor reported that invites would be arriving shortly to all Members, noting that the ceremony would precede the service in Gloucester Cathedral.
 - Annual Christmas Party- 10 December 2016
Ribston Hall High School

Leader of the Council

- 31.5 Councillor James congratulated the Gloucester Muslim Welfare Association on receiving the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for the excellent work they had undertaken to benefit communities within the City. He reported that

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Councillor Patel had nominated the group for their work and that the application had been supported both by himself and the City's MP.

- 31.6 Councillor James reported that, following the Duke of Gloucester's visit to the City, a letter from the Duke's undersecretary had been received acknowledging the well-received tour of the City and in particular his visit to the development of the new bus station.
- 31.7 Councillor James advised that the car park on Great Western Road had been acquired by the City Council, with the final sale expected to be completed on 20 October 2016. He commented that First Great Western would be granted the lease for the car park in line with Railway Station development proposals.
- 31.8 Councillor James stated that the City Council had acquired the lease on Wessex House, and would be utilised to aid improved access to the City Centre, noting that this formed part of the proposals for the Growth Centre bid. He thanked officers within the Regeneration and Economic Development team and in particular Anthony Hodge and Philip Ardley for their efforts in relation to this.

Cabinet Members

- 31.9 Councillor Norman (Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources) advised that Leadership Gloucestershire were still committed to moving forward with the devolution submission, noting that KPMG, who had recently reviewed the bid submission, had concluded that the proposals were strong in many areas. He reported that Leadership Gloucestershire were due to consider proposals to establish a dedicated project team who would be tasked with producing a submission document, noting that a further update to Members would be provided in due course.
- 31.10 Councillor Cook (Cabinet Member for Environment) reported the latest recycling figures within the City highlighting that rates in July 2016 (49%) and August 2016 (48%) were well above target. He commended officers within the recycling team for their excellent work in achieving such high rates.

Head of Paid Service

- 31.11 The Managing Director reported that the Democratic Services Team were currently undertaking an audit of Members' contact details published on the website and requested Members to complete the forms provided to ensure the correct information would be made available to the public.

32. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

Cabinet Members' Question Time

- 32.1 Councillor Haigh asked the Leader of the Council, whether he considered the Government's proposal to establish new grammar school a threat to the existing education system and detrimental to those pupils enrolled in main stream schools within the County.

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- 32.2 Councillor James advised that it was unlikely that any proposals for new grammar schools within the County would be bought forward, noting that a decision on any such matter fell under Gloucestershire County Council's jurisdiction.
- 32.3 Councillor Haigh reflected that a key aim of Memorandum of Understanding between Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucester City Council was to progress the development at Blackfriars, querying why no definitive results had yet been produced.
- 32.4 Councillor James reported that the site was subject to a £4.31 million growth deal in order to de-risk the site. He advised that adoption of a local development order would help secure a developer for the site.
- 32.5 Councillor Haigh questioned what action was being taken by the City Council to invest in the site, noting that other developers were not prepared to invest.
- 32.6 Councillor James advised that the City Council would encourage private investment in the site, acknowledging that this would continue to remain difficult if there continued to be major constraints. He commented that the work undertaken to de-risk the site was to reduce the limitations before marketing the site externally.
- 32.7 Councillor Hilton asked the Cabinet Member for Environment whether he was happy with the quality of the street cleansing in Kingsholm and Wotton ward, commenting that that though the area was in very close proximity to the City Centre the quality of the cleansing in both areas did not mirror each other.
- 32.8 Councillor Cook (Cabinet Member for Environment) admitted that as he had only been recently appointed into the role, he was not as familiar with the Kingsholm and Wotton area as he would have liked to be. He suggested a walkabout with the ward Councillors to gain a better understanding of the issues experienced in the area.
- 32.9 Councillor Hilton agreed to a walkabout with the Cabinet Member to explore if any improvements could be made to the street cleansing regime.
- 32.10 Councillor Hilton asked the Leader of the Council, if he agreed with planning officers' objections to the use of yellow bricks in the stadium design for Gloucester City AFC, as reported in the local media.
- 32.11 Councillor James explained that he did not have an issue with proposed colour schemes so long as they were in keeping with original design of the building, noting that he was not a member of Planning Committee and therefore not in a position to make a decision on the designs submitted by Gloucester City AFC.
- 32.12 Councillor Hilton noted that the Gloucester Rugby Stadium reflected the club's colours commenting that Gloucester City AFC should be allowed to do the same to ensure consistency and fairness.
- 32.13 Councillor James reported that Planning Committee was obliged to determine each application on its own merit.

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- 32.14 Councillor Pullen reported that areas within Moreland were experiencing significant issues with abandoned vehicles, with as many as 19 vehicles left abandoned in a single car park. He asked if the Cabinet Member for Environment would consider reviewing the criteria for abandoned vehicles to make the process quicker and more efficient.
- 32.15 Councillor Cook acknowledged that this was an issue affecting the whole City, and offered to accompany the ward Councillor on a walkabout in the ward to understand the issues better. He agreed that he would ask officers to compile a report on the current criteria used in dealing with abandoned vehicles.
- 32.16 Councillor Pullen suggested that the Cabinet Member liaise with the Police and Crime Commissioner, as Gloucestershire Constabulary no longer took responsibility for vehicles abandoned on highways.
- 32.17 Councillor Cook concurred that vehicles abandoned on highways posed a significant threat to motorists and other road users and agreed that it would be beneficial to discuss the issue with the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 32.18 Councillor Hyman asked the Cabinet Member for Environment the number of incidents where enforcement action for dog fouling was taken against an individual in the last few years.
- 32.19 Councillor Cook stated that he was unsure of the exact number of incidents, but would endeavour to find out and report back.
- 32.20 Councillor Gravells asked the Leader of the Council if he would be prepared to write to Highways England in support of his campaign for a quieter M5 through Abbeymead and Abbeydale.
- 32.21 Councillor James congratulated Councillor Gravells on his campaign to reduce noise pollution and confirmed that he would be happy to write a letter to Highways England in support of this campaign.
- 32.22 Councillor Wilson stated that the Gloucester Lottery could be construed as an encouragement for residents to gamble and requested assurance that the Council would not aggressively market the scheme.
- 3.23 Councillor Watkins (Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods) explained that this had been outlined in press release issued to coincide with the launch of the Gloucester Lottery. She expressed hope that residents within the City would support the various charities and community groups advertised in the scheme.
- 32.24 Councillor Lugg asked whether the Cabinet Member agreed that the demise of the Help to Buy Scheme adversely affected young people and families.
- 32.25 Councillor Organ commented that the life of the Help to Buy scheme had been finite noting that the market offered greater competition and offers to help new buyers onto the property ladder.

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- 32.26 Councillor Ryall asked whether an initial evaluation of the effectiveness of the Safe and Attractive Streets policy had been conducted.
- 32.27 Councillor Watkins advised that the initial evaluation had demonstrated a reduction in the overall numbers of rough sleepers and beggars and there had been further success in getting some of these clients housed. She acknowledged that this was not a quick solution and that the option for a PSPO had not been ruled out but the preference was to assist these individuals in developing a long term solution. She stated that consultation on the option to implement a PSPO was scheduled between November 2016 and February 2017 and encouraged Members and residents to continue to report any incidents of anti-social behaviour.
- 32.28 Councillor Ryall queried what action was being undertaken to ensure these individuals and issues were not simply being relegated to other wards within close proximity to the City Centre.
- 32.29 Councillor Watkins explained that a central component of the approach was to work in partnership with other agencies and support services to ensure that individuals remained known. She reported that new individuals on the streets of Kingsholm and Wotton ward had been quickly identified through this process.
- 32.30 Councillor Tracey asked the Cabinet Member for Environment what enforcement action would be taken against repeat flytipping offenders and queried whether the Cabinet member would attend a walkabout around Westgate ward to understand the issues experienced by residents.
- 32.31 Councillor Cook confirmed that the City Council intended to take strong enforcement action on offenders and agreed to attend an accompanied walkabout of the Westgate ward. He acknowledged that residents would be expected to take more responsibility for their own communities.
- 32.32 Councillor Brazil asked the Cabinet Member for Environment what the surplus of the £110,000 generated from garden waste charge would be used on and whether a reduction of the charge would be considered.
- 32.33 Councillor Cook reported that in the event of the number of garden waste participants exceeding 20,000, it may become necessary to purchase a new vehicle, in which case any surplus income from the scheme would be utilised.
- 32.34 Councillor Pullen queried whether the Gloucester Lottery scheme would be supplementary to the current funding the City Council provided to the voluntary and grants sector.
- 32.35 Councillor Watkins stated that the Gloucester Lottery was currently complementary to the VCS group but given the current financial climate this could not be continued to be guaranteed for the future.
- 32.36 Councillor Pullen asked the Cabinet Member whether the Gloucester Lottery scheme discriminated against multi-faith groups who were opposed to any form of gambling.

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32.37 Councillor Watkins refuted that the scheme excluded multi faith groups as there were other funding streams that these groups could access. She welcomed the exciting opportunity for additional income generation the scheme presented.

33. GLOUCESTER CITY PLAN PROGRAMME

33.1 Council considered the report Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning which responded to a motion at Special Council on 30 June 2016 asking that Members receive the programme for the progression of the Gloucester City Plan and its subsequent submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

33.2 Councillor Organ moved the recommendations set out in the report. He reported that this document represented the first up to date development plan in the last thirty years and outlined a detailed vision for the development within City over a 15 year period.

33.3 Councillor Haigh welcomed the long awaited strategy which responded to the present and future housing needs of residents within the City. She urged Members and Officers to consider innovative ways of consulting with people and communities to ensure that young people engaged in the process.

33.4 Councillor Hilton thanked Officers for their efforts in preparing the documents and welcomed the incorporation of responses from the public consultation into the final designs.

33.5 **RESOLVED-** That the programme for the progression of the Gloucester City Plan and its subsequent Submission to the Planning Inspectorate be noted.

34. NOTICES OF MOTION

(1) Notice of Motion from the Liberal Democrat Group

34.1 Moved by Councillor Hilton and seconded by Councillor J. Brown:

“This Council notes that Gloucester Day is a recently reinstated annual day of celebration of the city's history and culture.

Gloucester Day was first held in the modern era on 5th September 2009, but originally dates from the lifting of the Siege of Gloucester in 1643, during which the city held out against royalist forces during the First English Civil War. The lifting of the siege was celebrated annually in the city for years afterwards but died out in the nineteenth century.

This council thanks the organisers of this year's Gloucester Day celebrations and wishes them well in planning the 2017 celebrations.

This council also remembers the sacrifice and determination of the people of Gloucester as they defended the parliamentary garrison (10th August to 5th September 1643) against the besieging army of King Charles I. The siege ended with the arrival of a relieving parliamentary army under the Earl of Essex.

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This council recognises that the Siege of Gloucester is one of the most important events in the history of this city of which we should all be proud and that we agree to set up a cross party working group to consider what else we can do to remember and commemorate the events of 1643."

- 34.2 Councillor Noakes moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Cook:

"This Council notes that Gloucester Day is a recently reinstated annual day of celebration of the city's history and culture.

Gloucester Day was first held in the modern era on 5th September 2009, but originally dates from the lifting of the Siege of Gloucester in 1643, during which the city held out against royalist forces during the First English Civil War. The lifting of the siege was celebrated annually in the city for years afterwards but died out in the nineteenth century.

This council thanks the organisers of this year's Gloucester Day celebrations and wishes them well in planning the 2017 celebrations.

This council also remembers the sacrifice and determination of the people of Gloucester as they defended the parliamentary garrison (10th August to 5th September 1643) against the besieging army of King Charles I. The siege ended with the arrival of a relieving parliamentary army under the Earl of Essex.

~~This council recognises that the Siege of Gloucester is one of the most important events in the history of this city of which we should all be proud and that we agree to set up a cross party working group to consider what else we can do to remember and commemorate the events of 1643.~~

This council recognises and thanks the large number of people working in the city to promote Gloucester's history through Gloucester Civic Trust and other organisations; notes the success of the recent celebrations of the 800th anniversary of the coronation of Henry III primarily organised by the Cathedral and Marketing Gloucester; further notes the growing popularity of the two week History Festival and thanks the organisers and sponsors; and acknowledges the Administration's manifesto commitment to stage a major History Festival in 2018 to celebrate the 375th anniversary of the Siege of Gloucester and the 1100th anniversary of the death of Aethelflaed.

This council believes that our approach to celebrating our history should be an inclusive one, making use of the talents, knowledge and enthusiasm of as many people as possible."

- 34.3 The motion was put to the vote and was carried.

(2) Notice of Motion from the Labour Group

- 34.4 Moved by Councillor Lugg and seconded by Councillor Bhaimia:

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“Gloucester City Council notes the recent media attention and prominence of environmental crime, primarily flytipping, and particularly in the Barton and Tredworth ward.

Council notes that Barton and Tredworth was, last year, the City’s flytipping hotspot with 1519 incidents reported, more than ten times the number in second place Moreland (147) and Matson and Robinswood (132). The ward has had the worst problem in the City for many years.

Resident’s quality of life and the appearance of the City is damaged by flytipping and other environmental crimes. The taxpayer has to pick up the bill.

Council calls upon the newly appointed Cabinet Member for Environment and the administration to take a firm stance against environmental crime as a priority, drawing on best practice from elsewhere in prevention and enforcement, to reduce the incidence of flytipping across Gloucester, particularly in identified hotspots.

Council resolves to work more effectively with local agencies, community groups and Gloucester City Homes, where appropriate, to use all available powers and step up enforcement to prosecute those flytipping.”

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

(3) Notice of Motion from the Labour Group

34.6 Moved by Councillor Haigh and seconded by Councillor Coole:

“This Council notes the recent Rowntree Foundation report ‘Overcoming Deprivation and Disconnection in UK Cities’ which identified communities in Gloucester that form a disconnected core, and poor access to jobs and housing are key factors in deprivation.

Gloucester is the 139th most deprived district in the country, with areas of several wards in the top decile for housing, employment and income deprivation nationally.

The Rowntree report identified that top down “macro” approaches to deprivation, such as investment through the LEP, are doing little to improve the life chances of people in these wards; they recommend that a “micro” approach is taken to combat the unique factors that affect the life chances of residents. Regeneration in the City Centre is important, but the benefits of that regeneration must reach across the City and into all of our communities.

Deprivation can only be challenged effectively when professionals in housing, health and educational services work together with residents to meet the needs and issues of specific neighbourhoods and communities.

Councils have a duty to shape communities and drive improvements in the lives of resident.

This Council should take a lead in bringing together agencies and communities to identify and act upon the factors that are barriers to work and housing.

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This Council resolves to take a flexible approach to working with communities to meet the needs that they identify, as well as achieving improved life chances for residents.

This Council will work with communities and agencies to formulate neighbourhood agreements, establishing responsibilities on both sides, as a way of building strong and active communities in a time of shrinking budgets.”

- 34.7 Councillor Hyman moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Wilson:

“This Council notes the recent Rowntree Foundation report ‘Overcoming Deprivation and Disconnection in UK Cities’ which identified communities in Gloucester that form a disconnected core, and poor access to jobs and housing are key factors in deprivation.

Gloucester is the 139th most deprived district in the country, with areas of several wards in the top decile for housing, employment and income deprivation nationally.

The Rowntree report identified that top down “macro” approaches to deprivation, such as investment through the LEP, are doing little to improve the life chances of people in these wards; they recommend that a “micro” approach is taken to combat the unique factors that affect the life chances of residents. Regeneration in the City Centre is important, but the benefits of that regeneration must reach across the City and into all of our communities.

Deprivation can only be challenged effectively when professionals in housing, health and educational services work together with residents to meet the needs and issues of specific neighbourhoods and communities.

Councils have a duty to ~~shape~~ **work with** communities and ~~drive to help them~~ **achieve positive** improvements in ~~the their~~ lives of ~~resident~~.

This Council should take a lead in bringing together agencies and communities to identify and act upon the factors that are barriers to work and housing.

This Council resolves to take a flexible approach to working with communities to meet the needs that they identify, as well as achieving improved life chances for residents.

This Council will work with communities and agencies to formulate neighbourhood agreements, establishing responsibilities on both sides, as a way of building strong and active communities in a time of shrinking budgets.”

- 34.8 The motion was put to the vote and was carried.

- 34.9 Councillor Watkins moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor James:

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“This Council notes the recent Rowntree Foundation report ‘Overcoming Deprivation and Disconnection in UK Cities’ which identified communities in Gloucester that form a disconnected core, and poor access to jobs and housing are key factors in deprivation.

Gloucester is the 139th most deprived district in the country, with areas of several wards in the top decile for housing, employment and income deprivation nationally.

The Rowntree report identified that top down “macro” approaches to deprivation, such as investment through the LEP, are doing little to improve the life chances of people in these wards; they recommend that a “micro” approach is taken to combat the unique factors that affect the life chances of residents. Regeneration in the City Centre is important, but the benefits of that regeneration must reach across the City and into all of our communities.

Deprivation can only be challenged effectively when professionals in housing, health and educational services work together with residents to meet the needs and issues of specific neighbourhoods and communities.

Councils have a duty to work with communities to help them achieve positive improvements in their lives.

This Council ~~should~~ **will continue to** take a lead in bringing together agencies and communities **to work in an asset-based way** to identify and act upon the factors that are barriers to work, and housing **and improved health and wellbeing**.

This Council resolves to take a flexible approach to working with communities to meet the needs **and aspirations** that they identify, as well as achieving improved life chances for residents.

~~This Council will work with communities and agencies to formulate neighbourhood agreements, establishing responsibilities on both sides, as a way of building strong and active communities in a time of shrinking budgets~~ **resolves to bring a report to Cabinet setting out current work underway and future plans to deal with these complex issues.”**

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

35. WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

35.1 As a supplementary to his written question, Councillor Pullen asked the Leader of the Council whether in relation to Parry Hall, the option to transfer ownership of the building to the City Council was still being considered.

35.2 Councillor James confirmed that discussions were continuing to take place and that a fuller response to the question would be provided as a written response.

35.3 As a supplementary to her written question Councillor Haigh asked the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing to elaborate on the current status of the Planning Compliance team and proposed plans for the future of the service.

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35.4 Councillor Organ explained that following departures of members of staff the current team had a slightly reduced resilience which had necessitated the need for additional resource. He reported that a shared service opportunity with Cheltenham Borough Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council was currently being explored.

Time of commencement: 7.00 pm hours

Time of conclusion: 10.04 pm hours

Chair