



COUNCIL

MEETING : Thursday, 1st December 2016

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

Others in Attendance

Jon McGinty, Managing Director
Anne Brinkhoff, Corporate Director
Sara Freckleton, One Legal
Anthony Wilson, Head of Planning
Philip Bylo, Interim Planning Policy Manager
Andrew Cummings, Finance
Adam Gooch, Senior Planning Officer
Tanya Davies, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Atika Tarajiya, Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. Williams, Patel and Walford

38. BY-ELECTION RESULTS

RESOLVED:

- 38.1 That the election of Clive Walford as a Conservative Councillor for Longlevens be noted.
- 38.2 The Mayor offered his congratulations to Councillor Walford on his successful campaign and election.

39. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

- 39.1 That the minutes of the meeting held on the 29th September 2016 be approved as a correct record subject to:

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- a) Amendment requested by Councillor J. Brown on paragraph 34.1, notice of motion from the Liberal Democrat group :
Moved by Councillor Hilton and seconded by Councillor ~~D.~~ J Brown
- b) Amendment requested by Councillor Cook on paragraph 32.33:
~~Councillor Cook reported that the £20,000 surplus would be utilised in procuring new fleet vehicles, to replace those that were near the end of life. 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.~~
- 39.2 That the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on the 24th October 2016 be approved as a correct record subject to an amendment requested by Councillor Hilton to paragraph 37.3:
- 39.3 Councillor Hilton (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) believed that the Council should accept the modifications to enable work to proceed on the City Plan. He agreed with the Inspector that the Churchdown allocation be removed from the Strategy, *and questioned the allocation's proximity to the airport.* ~~but he questioned the allocation at Twigworth and the proximity to the airport.~~ He believed that the Inspector should have considered an allocation at Highnam which would have created a good community close to the City Centre. He was disappointed that the Inspector had removed the requirement for ten per cent renewable energy and he believed that an opportunity had been lost by setting the level of affordable housing in large developments at twenty per cent for Gloucester while Cheltenham and Tewkesbury remained at forty per cent.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 40.1 Councillors Hampson, Hansdot, Organ, Noakes, Morgan, Toleman and Melvin declared disclosable pecuniary interests in Agenda Item 14(2), a notice of motion from the Labour Group concerning selective landlord licensing, as residential landlords within the City and advised that they had been granted dispensation to participate on the debate on this item.
- 40.2 Councillors Gravells, declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 14(5), a notice of motion from the Liberal Democrat Group regarding public footways, as a serving Member of Gloucestershire County Council.
- 40.3 Councillor Watkins declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 14(1) as an employee of the City's MP.

41. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

- 40.1 There were no public questions.

42. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

- 42.1 There were no petitions or deputations.

43. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Mayor

- 43.1 The Mayor thanked everyone involved in Assize of Ale, and in particular Councillors James and Noakes. He reported that the event had raised £648.62 which would be divided between Longfield Hospice at Home and Leonard Cheshire Home.
- 43.2 He informed Members that he had participated in Gloucester's version of Strictly Come Dancing at Wotton Hall Club on 25th November 2016, which had raised a total of £2000 for Charlie's, a cancer support charity based in Gloucestershire.
- 43.3 The Mayor thanked everyone who had taken part in the Mayor and Young Peoples Conference on 26th November 2016 and in particular to Councillors Watkins, Haigh, Hilton and the Managing Director for their involvement and those individuals who had assisted in organising the event. He reported that the event had been very well received by the participating schools and welcomed further collaboration with young people within the City.
- 43.4 The Mayor advised Members that donations for the Children's' Christmas Party were still being accepted. Referring to the mince pie and envelopes laid out for each Member, he advised that the local Co-op had donated the food and a large and small Christmas food hamper which Members could bid for. He requested that any Member wishing to bid, return a completed form, contained within the envelope at the end of the meeting.
- 43.5 He went on further to report that a number of other local supermarkets had donated items towards the party, including party food from Morrisons Supermarket, christmas crackers from B&M stores, drinks from Aldi and crisps donated by Asda stores. He advised Members who wished to donate any additional items or be provided with any further details on the arrangements to contact Emily Knight at Marketing Gloucester.

Cabinet Members

- 43.6 Councillor Organ (Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning) provided Members with an update on the Joint Core Strategy (JCS). He advised that following the Ministry of Defence's decision to retain the base at Ashchurch in Tewkesbury and Tewkesbury Borough Council's decision not to agree the main modifications within the JCS, officers were currently in discussions with officers at Tewkesbury Borough Council on how to bring the proposals forward and resolve the concerns related to flooding. He reported that the aim was to bring a revised proposal on the JCS main modifications back to Tewkesbury Borough Council on the 31st January 2017 and present proposals to Gloucester City Council and Cheltenham Borough Council thereafter.
- 43.7 He advised Members that officers within the planning policy team were available to answer any specific queries on the JCS at the end of the meeting, acknowledging that the developments on the JCS would have a knock on effect on the City Plan, scheduled for discussion later on the agenda.

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- 43.8 Councillor Watkins (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods) highlighted the Gordon McLlanaghan, Security Innovation Award won by the City Council for the CCTV/Public Wifi/4G project delivered jointly with Gloucestershire Police. She explained that the award consisted of a Bristol Blue Glass decanter and £1000 prize money which would be reinvested into the CCTV project. She noted that the Council were the first to use existing CCTV transmission infrastructure as the platform for new, free public WiFi within the City Centre, commenting that the CCTV control room had been re-located to the Tri-Service Centre at Waterwells as part of this project.
- 43.9 Councillor Watkins invited Members to the launch of the Gloucester Lottery on 13th December 2016 at Blackfriars Priory. She encouraged Members who wished to attend, to RSVP to the Partnership and Engagement Team in advance of the launch and welcomed support for project.
- 43.10 Councillor Watkins encouraged Members to nominate their chosen community voluntary sector group as recipients for their Councillors' Community Fund by the 31st December 2016 to provide sufficient time for officers to administer the funds and prevent any unnecessary delays.
- 43.11 Councillor Norman (Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources) reported that Councillor Coole had joined the Devolution Working Group, whose next meeting was scheduled for the 15th December 2016. He advised that the group would continue to meet quarterly or as and when required to discuss progress on the devolution bid for Gloucestershire.

44. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

- 44.1 Councillor Haigh asked the Leader of the Council whether he was aware of Marks and Spencers' intention in regards to the Eastgate branch, in light of the announced store closures.
- 44.2 Councillor James explained that he had not approached Marks and Spencers directly but did not consider it likely the City Centre branch to be under threat. He commented that the City Centre Manager was in contact with the store and offered to make representation to the Company on the value of the store within the City Centre.
- 44.3 Councillor Haigh questioned what steps the Leader was taking to protect the City Centre.
- 44.4 The Leader of the Council stated that there were a number of schemes in progress to protect and revitalise the City Centre including the bus station development. He reported that LDA Design and Jones Lang LaSalle were on course to take the Kings Quarter Development scheme forward from the 1st December 2016, in addition to a Growth Deal 3 bid for improvements to the railway station and public realm submission, on which a decision was being awaited. He explained that an action plan to refresh the City Centre had been developed, which would support the City Centre and the Quays area to support and co-exist with one another.

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- 44.5 Councillor Haigh queried what the Cabinet Member for Environment was doing to aid improvements to the community toilet scheme, noting that there were issues arising with cleanliness.
- 44.6 Councillor Cook (Cabinet Member for Environment) acknowledged that this was a complex issue which officers would be considering over the course of the next few months.
- 44.7 Councillor Haigh commented that MGL, who undertook a large portion of signage with the City Centre, were not advertising the community toilet scheme.
- 44.8 Councillor Cook advised that shops and venues were given badges to display and confirmed that officers would be asked to take action if it became apparent that these were being damaged or defaced.
- 44.9 Councillor Hilton thanked the Cabinet for Environment for attending a walkabout with himself and Councillor Brazil in the Kingsholm and Wotton ward and questioned why the City Council did not place a bid with DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) for funding to improve air quality by the 23rd November 2016 deadline.
- 44.10 Councillor Cook explained that the City Council had originally put together a joint bid with Gloucestershire County Council, who had decided at a late stage to instead submit a joint application with Cheltenham Borough Council, leaving little time for officers to develop a new sole bid.
- 44.11 Councillor Hilton noted that Gloucestershire County Council had written to four authorities, including Gloucester City Council and Cheltenham Borough Council to invite expressions of interest, to which only Cheltenham Borough Council had responded. He queried why there had been a delay in the City Council responding, stating that this was a failure on behalf of residents living in the City.
- 44.12 Councillor Cook advised that the City Council had expressed an interest in a joint bid with the County Council, but ultimately Cheltenham Borough Council had been successful as they had a more advanced proposal.
- 44.13 Councillor Hilton referenced Councillor Kathy Williams' response to a question at a Gloucestershire County Council Cabinet meeting on the 16th November 2016, in her role as Cabinet Member for Long Term Care, that there had been no statistical increase in homeless figures over the past few years. He queried what action would be taken to tackle these issues as the weather continued to get colder.
- 44.14 Councillor Organ (Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning) explained that the latest figures demonstrated a reduction from 23 to 16 people rough sleeping within the City Centre. He thanked Members who attended a presentation on homelessness and housing on the 30th November where this issue was discussed. He acknowledged that homelessness was a complex issue involving multiple factors including substance misuse. He welcomed the multi-agency collaboration aimed at tackling issues related to homelessness and providing assistance to those in need. He reported that the City Council had recently acquired additional accommodation to house those individuals sleeping rough on the streets in addition

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to remodelling existing units in order improve standards. He concluded by explaining that the Homelessness Reduction Bill 2016-17, aimed at reducing homelessness was currently being debated in in Parliament.

- 44.15 Councillor Hilton advised that he had attended the presentation on the 30th November 2016 and found the session to be informative. He noted that, following the closure of the Gloucester Night Shelter, the charity P3 had been awarded the contract for emergency housing provision with 8 beds in Gloucester. He stated that Councillor Kathy Williams had responded to question 13 of the supplementary questions at the meeting of Gloucestershire County Council's Cabinet on the 16th November 2016, that she was satisfied with the contract for emergency provision of homeless people within Gloucester. He questioned whether the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning agreed with this statement and considered the number of beds sufficient, in light of the increase in people sleeping rough based on a local estimated count on the 19th October 2016.
- 44.16 Councillor Organ acknowledged the hard work undertaken by GEAR in running the Night Shelter but noted that evidence suggested that putting a group of highly vulnerable clients in one setting was not appropriate and was not a model that the Department of Communities and Local Government promoted. He reported that the revised model for emergency housing aimed to help genuine vulnerable individuals. He confirmed that he believed the provision was sufficient but sympathised with the argument that more could be done to aid these individuals.
- 44.17 Councillor Hyman asked the Leader of the Council what the intentions were behind a new public toilet facility in Westgate Street, following the Council's commitment in 2014 to align the relocation of the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) to 26 Westgate Street with the provision of new public toilet facilities in the area.
- 44.18 Councillor James explained that the original intention to bring 26 Westgate Street back into use by relocating the TIC, had since been superseded by the Gloucester Antiques Centre proposals, who now occupied the building. He reported that the lease over the existing TIC building had now expired and a review on the future shape of the proposals was currently being explored.
- 44.19 Councillor Hyman questioned whether this meant that a public toilet facility would not delivered in Westgate street.
- 44.20 Councillor James noted that a public toilet facility was already in existence in Westgate Coach and Car Park and advised that additional public toilet facilities would be delivered as part of the bus station proposals.
- 44.21 Councillor Smith asked the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods whether she could provide assurance that the original deadline of the 31st March 2017 for submission of nominations for the Councillors' Community Fund would be honoured.
- 44.22 Councillor Watkins (Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods) advised that following criticism in the previous year of delays in groups receiving funding, Members were encouraged to submit their nominations as soon as practicable. She confirmed that the 31st March 2017 remained the final deadline

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noting that early submissions would prevent additional strain on officers in processing the applications in a timely manner.

- 44.23 In response to Councillor Smith's query of why there had been delays in groups receiving their funding in the previous year, Councillor Watkins advised that she had not received any complaints from Members personally. She confirmed that she would investigate the issue with officers, noting that the issue may have related to problems encountered with the new PAYE system.
- 44.24 Councillor D. Brown asked the Leader of the Council whether he could provide assurance that the date for Council in November 2017 would not be amended to accommodate the Believe in Gloucester Awards, as in previous years.
- 44.25 Councillor James acknowledged the frustration that this caused and reported that he had spoken to the organisers of the event who had scheduled the event for the 30th November 2017 to prevent a clash with the scheduled Council meeting.
- 44.26 Councillor Tracey informed the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods that her nominated recipient for last year's Councillors' Community Fund had only recently received their payment and questioned what action would be taken to prevent a re-occurrence.
- 44.27 Councillor Watkins stated that she did not expect the process to be difficult or lengthy and that it had been created to promote and support the excellent work of community groups. She re-iterated that she would discuss the situation with officers to understand the difficulties of the previous year and noted that there had since been considerable improvements on the administration of the fund.
- 44.28 Councillor Pullen welcomed the success of the Mayor and Young People's conference. He commented that the motion passed by this Council on the 18th March 2015 had seen no definitive action and requested assurance from the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods that the Council would proceed with the implementation as outlined in the motion.
- 44.29 Councillor Watkins encouraged greater youth involvement, noting that a proposal would need to be put forward by the young people on how they would like to proceed. She reported that a budget had been set aside to support the proposals put forward and thanked the Mayor and organisers for the invitation to the event.
- 44.30 Councillor Pullen questioned whether the Cabinet Member would commit officer resource to the project.
- 44.31 Councillor Watkins advised that until the proposal had been submitted she was unable to commit officer resource to the project.
- 44.32 Councillor Stephens asked the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning whether the Council had a contingency plan for the Joint Core Strategy as it currently relied on Tewkesbury Borough Council's officers getting their Members to agree on the plans for Twigworth, which was unlikely.

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- 44.33 Councillor Organ disagreed with this statement, advising that officers at Tewkesbury Borough Council were working with their Members to resolve the concerns related to flooding. He reported that a new proposal was being worked on which it was anticipated that Tewkesbury Borough Council would agree. He commented that in the unlikely event the JCS did not progress forward, the Council would proceed with an individual proposal.
- 44.34 Councillor Stephens stated that the Administration did not seem to have a well-developed contingency plan reflecting that of the Government's position on Brexit.
- 44.35 Councillor Organ disputed this comment noting that the City Council were confident with the proposals and had therefore decided to pursue the City Plan, which was reliant on the adoption of the JCS.

45. DRAFT CITY PLAN

- 45.1 Council considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning seeking approval to publish the Draft Gloucester City Plan for a six week period of public consultation.
- 45.2 Councillor Organ moved the recommendations set out in the report. He reported that the document outlined a detailed vision for development within the City and thanked officers for their hard work and effort in this regard.
- 45.3 Councillor James seconded the motion.
- 45.4 Councillor Hilton, seconded by Councillor Wilson, proposed the following amendment to the report:
- “The figure for the number dwellings on the site (page 114) be changed to 20 dwellings to be consistent with the figure given on page 108 of 20 units. That 20 dwellings be the number units on the Civil Service Club ground that the council consults on in the City Plan.”
- 45.5 Councillor Organ accepted the amendment.
- 45.6 Councillor Haigh echoed her thanks to Officers, commenting that development around Bristol Road and nearby Canal were not specifically mentioned in the document. She expressed hope that constructive talks would be held with developers of this area to prevent piecemeal development. Referring to local plans, she welcomed officer support for local communities in developing a viable neighbourhood plan.
- 45.7 Councillor Hyman welcomed developments within the Westgate ward referred to in the plan.
- 45.8 Councillor Haigh stressed the continued importance of the JCS to deliver the City's housing needs.
- 45.9 Councillor Hilton advised that the Liberal Democrat group would respond to consultation with detailed comments in writing but were concerned in particular with

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encouraging energy efficient and eco-friendly buildings, developing purpose built student accommodation in suitable areas of the City to protect the loss of family homes and adopting policies on home fire protection.

45.10 Councillor D. Brown thanked officers in developing the documents within a timely manner and welcomed responses from the public consultation.

45.11 Councillor James referring to Councillor Haigh's comments on developments on Bristol Road advised that discussions were currently taking place with a local partner. Referring to retail shortage, referenced in the report, he commented that further retail space could be provided through the Kings Quarter Development, noting the changing nature of retail.

45.12 RESOLVED:

1. That the Draft Gloucester City Plan be approved for the purposes of a six-week period of public consultation, subject to the figure for the number dwellings on the site (page 114) be changed to 20 dwellings to be consistent with the figure given on page 108 of 20 units. That 20 dwellings be the number units on the Civil Service Club ground that the council consults on in the City Plan.
2. That the representations made to the City Plan Part 1 during the public consultation period be noted ; and
3. That the resulting officer responses set out within the response schedule be endorsed.
4. That authority be delegated to the Managing Director of the Council in consultation with the relevant Leaders of the Council to make minor changes to the draft City Plan and Proposals Map in terms of formatting, presentation and accuracy, including any minor changes following the considerations at Planning Policy Sub-committee and Council, prior to publication for public consultation purposes.

46. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

46.1 Council considered the report of the Chair of the General Purposes Committee concerning amendments to the Constitution.

46.2 Councillor Morgan moved the recommendations set out in the report reporting that they had been met with widespread approval.

46.3 Councillor H. Norman seconded the motion.

46.4 Councillor Haigh, seconded by Councillor Coole, proposed the following amendment to Appendix 2 of the report:

“That the proposed amendment to the Planning Committee’s delegation in respect of Applications submitted by a serving Member or Officer of the Council be withdrawn and the existing wording remain.”

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46.5 Councillor Morgan expressed concern that this had not been discussed at the General Purposes Committee at their meeting on the 18th November. He requested a short adjournment to consider the implications of accepting this amendment.

46.6 The Mayor agreed to a short adjournment.

46.7 Following a short adjournment Councillor Haigh withdrew her original amendment and proposed a new amendment, seconded by Councillor Coole, as follows:

The proposed amendment referred to in appendix 2 of the report:

“That the proposed amendment to the Planning Committees delegation in respect of applications submitted by a serving Member or Officer of the Council be referred back to General Purposes Committee for consideration.

46.8 Councillor Morgan accepted the amendment.

48.9 RESOLVED:

1. Authority ‘To determine all future matters regarding the making of Local Development Orders’ be inserted in to the functions of the Planning Committee (Part 3C Table 2 of the Constitution).
2. The amendments to the functions of the Planning Committee (Part 3C Table 2 of the Constitution), including Option A in respect of Class A2(c) changes of use be amended as set out in Appendix 2, with the exception of the proposed amendment to Applications submitted by serving Member of Officer of the Council, which be referred back to the General Purposes Committee for consideration.
3. The Council Procedure Rules be amended, as set out in Appendix 3, to permit Members to ask questions at Cabinet meetings.
4. The revised Audit and Governance Committee Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 4 be approved.
5. The Council Procedure Rules be amended, as set out in Appendix 3, to permit Members to ask questions at Cabinet meetings.
6. The revised Audit and Governance Committee Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 4 be approved.

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47. APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

47.1 Council considered the report of the Corporate Director concerning the appointment of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

47.2 Councillor James moved the recommendations as set out in the report. He reported that since the publication of the report, an expression of interest from a female had been received, and had subsequently been asked to complete an application form. He explained that whilst in usual circumstances the Council would approve appointments to the panel, to prevent further delay to the commencement of the minor review process for 2017, it was proposed that this be delegated to the relevant Corporate Director in consultation with Group Leaders.

47.3 Councillor Watkins seconded the motion.

47.4 Councillor Haigh emphasised the need for a diverse panel. Seconded by Councillor Coole, she proposed the following amendment:

1. Individuals be appointed to the Independent Remuneration Panel for the 2017 year only and;
2. Progress on the appointment of the Panel for the 2018 review be reported back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

47.5 The Managing Director referred to paragraph 3.5 of the report, which explained that it was intended to appoint the panel for one year only and queried whether Councillor Haigh wished to continue with her amendment.

47.6 Councillor Haigh withdrew her original amendment and, seconded by Councillor Coole, proposed a new amendment as follows:

“Progress on the appointment of the Panel for the 2018 review be reported back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.”

47.8 Councillor James accepted the amendment.

47.9 RESOLVED:

1. Authority to appoint individuals to the Independent Remuneration Panel for the 2017 review be delegated to the Corporate Director, in consultation with Group Leaders.
2. The recruitment process be extended to allow, where possible, the Panel's make-up to reflect the diverse nature of the City's communities.
3. Progress on the appointment of the Panel for the 2018 review be reported back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
4. Appointment of the Panel for the 2018 review be brought back to Council for approval in advance of that review.

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48. CHANGES TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

- 48.1 Council considered the report of the Head of Finance outlining options for the appointment of the Council's External Auditor for the 2018/19 statement of accounts.
- 48.2 Councillor Gravells moved the recommendations as outlined in the report, advising that the report had been approved for recommendation by the Audit and Governance Committee at their meeting on the 13th September 2016. He apologised for the abbreviations used within the recommendations, explaining that PSAA stood for Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd and SLB stood for Sector Led Body.
- 48.3 Councillor Melvin seconded the motion.
- 48.4 **RESOLVED** to opt-in to the PSAA as the SLB for the appointment of the Council's External Auditors from 2018/19.

49. REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA) - REVIEW OF PROCEDURAL GUIDE

- 49.1 Council considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources concerning the annual review of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 Procedural Guide.
- 49.2 Councillor D. Norman moved the recommendations as laid out in the report commenting that the Council had not been required to use their RIPA powers in this financial year.
- 49.3 Councillor Haigh queried whether elected Members using their Councillors' Community Fund to purchase and install CCTV equipment was a breach of the policy as residents had not been informed of the installation.
- 49.4 Councillor Wilson welcomed the results of the 2016 audit, noting that the Council were exercising their powers responsibly and had been doing so for a number of years. He noted that the proposed changes were necessary to reflect the changes in the Council's management team.
- 49.5 Councillor D. Norman welcomed the support from Members, and advised that the use of CCTV was legal and covered under different regulations to those of the RIPA.
- 49.6 **RESOLVED** that the changes to the Procedural Guide at Appendix 1 be approved.

50. NOTICES OF MOTION

- (1) Notice of Motion from the Labour Group

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50.1 Moved by Councillor Lugg and seconded by Councillor Stephens:

“Gloucester City Council recognises and values local pharmacies as a vital primary care health service and as an integral part of the fabric of local communities throughout our city.

Gloucester City Council notes that;

- 33 pharmacies in Gloucester offer a range of services such as dispensing prescriptions, disposal of unwanted medicines and supporting self-care
- pharmacies play an important role in promoting wellbeing such as healthy eating, smoking cessation, exercise, flu vaccination, sexual health and more
- several local pharmacies have achieved Healthy Living Pharmacies (HLP) status recognising and evidencing their role in improving the health of their local population

Gloucester City Council is greatly concerned about Government imposed threats to pharmacies as a result of cuts in the budget of £170m nationally to take effect from October 2016. This is a 6% cut in cash terms but could effectively mean a cut of 12% during the financial year which could potentially close up to a quarter of pharmacies with an increased focus on warehousing dispensary and online services. Service cuts in pharmacies put more residents at risk as well as putting pressure on GPs and on hospital services and therefore increasing NHS costs. A fully funded community pharmacy service is cost effective and is in the interest of carers and funders.

Gloucester City Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Health, NHS England and the Gloucester Clinical Commissioning Group and the City MP detailing our concerns and demanding an immediate reversal of these proposals.”

50.2 Councillor Watkins moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Gravells:

“Gloucester City Council recognises and values local pharmacies as a vital primary care health service and as an integral part of the fabric of local communities throughout our city.

Gloucester City Council notes that;

- 33 pharmacies in Gloucester offer a range of services such as dispensing prescriptions, disposal of unwanted medicines and supporting self-care
- pharmacies play an important role in promoting wellbeing such as healthy eating, smoking cessation, exercise, flu vaccination, sexual health and more
- several local pharmacies have achieved Healthy Living Pharmacies (HLP) status recognising and evidencing their role in improving the health of their local population

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This Council:

recognises the pressures on the NHS and the cost to the taxpayer of paying £20k per year to every pharmacy (meeting the 100 hours a week opening hour requirement) with some pharmacies within a few yards of each other;

notes that several pharmacies in Gloucester are protected but that the only pharmacy in Matson and the pharmacy in Alvin Street, Kingsholm are not;

endorses the City MP's appeal to Gloucester Clinical Commissioning Group and the Secretary of State asking for both pharmacies to continue to be subsidised and resolves to write in support of the MP's request.

~~Gloucester City Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Health, NHS England and the Gloucester Clinical Commissioning Group and the City MP detailing our concerns and demanding an immediate reversal of these proposals."~~

50.3 Councillor Lugg accepted the amendment with the addition of the Co-Operative pharmacy in Moreland being included.

50.4 The following motion, as amended, was put to the vote and was carried:

"Gloucester City Council recognises and values local pharmacies as a vital primary care health service and as an integral part of the fabric of local communities throughout our city.

Gloucester City Council notes that;

- 33 pharmacies in Gloucester offer a range of services such as dispensing prescriptions, disposal of unwanted medicines and supporting self-care
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notes that several pharmacies in Gloucester are protected but that the only pharmacy in Matson, the Co-Op Pharmacy in Moreland and the pharmacy in Alvin Street, Kingsholm are not;

endorses the City MP's appeal to Gloucester Clinical Commissioning Group and the Secretary of State asking for both pharmacies to continue to be subsidised and resolves to write in support of the MP's request."

(2) Notice of Motion from the Labour Group

50.5 Moved by Councillor Pullen and seconded by Councillor Haigh:

"This Council believes that those who live in our City have a right to a decent, safe and secure home in which to live.

There is clear evidence that there are people in some parts of Gloucester living in rented accommodation which is substandard, dangerous and unsafe. These people are victims of irresponsible landlords who exploit some of the most vulnerable people in our city.

In order to improve standards in the private rented sector this council resolves to recommend that the Cabinet introduce a Selective Licensing Scheme for landlords in parts of the city where the quality of private rented accommodation falls below an acceptable level. Such a scheme will set an acceptable standard, improve living conditions and ensure that landlords provide decent, safe and secure housing conditions for people to live in."

50.6 Councillor Organ moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Watkins:

"This Council believes that those who live in our City have a right to a decent, safe and secure home in which to live.

There is clear evidence that there are people in some parts of Gloucester living in rented accommodation which is substandard, dangerous and unsafe. These people are victims of irresponsible landlords who exploit some of the most vulnerable people in our city.

This Council notes the success of the proactive HMO inspection programme, as initiated by the Task and Finish Group in 2014, congratulates officers on recent successful prosecutions and resolves to continue with this approach.

~~In order to improve standards in the private rented sector this Council resolves to recommend that the~~ **Council requests that** Cabinet **consider** introducing a Selective Licensing Scheme for landlords in parts of the city where the quality of

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private rented accommodation falls below an acceptable level. ~~Such a scheme will set an acceptable standard, improve living conditions and,~~ **along with other policy options** to ensure that landlords provide decent, safe and secure housing conditions for people to live in.

50.7 Councillor Pullen accepted the amendment.

50.8 The following motion, as amended, was put to the vote and was carried:

“This Council believes that those who live in our City have a right to a decent, safe and secure home in which to live.

There is clear evidence that there are people in some parts of Gloucester living in rented accommodation which is substandard, dangerous and unsafe. These people are victims of irresponsible landlords who exploit some of the most vulnerable people in our city.

This Council notes the success of the proactive HMO inspection programme, as initiated by the Task and Finish Group in 2014, congratulates officers on recent successful prosecutions and resolves to continue with this approach.

Council requests that Cabinet consider introducing a Selective Licensing Scheme for landlords in parts of the city where the quality of private rented accommodation falls below an acceptable level, along with other policy options to ensure that landlords provide decent, safe and secure housing conditions for people to live in.”

(3) Notice of Motion from the Labour Group

50.9 Moved by Councillor Haigh and seconded by Councillor Fearn:

“This Council notes that a benefit cap of £20k pa was introduced on 7th Nov and affects around 276 families in the City.

Discretionary Housing Payments funding is given to the Council to support people affected by changes to welfare benefits that mean they struggle to pay rent. This allocation last year was £185753 and was underspent by £43476.58.

The payment to the Council is based on Government assessment of need in the City. The underspend indicates that not all those who have an entitlement are being sufficiently advised of the scheme.

This Council resolves to:

- a. Contact all local welfare advice organisations, money advice services and food banks to ensure that they are aware of the scheme and able to advise clients about the application process.
- b. Review the criteria to ensure that only income that has to be taken into account is considered. For example, that the mobility component of DLA or PIP is disregarded as it is to support travel costs for people with disabilities whether or not they can use a car.

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c. Publicise to landlords that the scheme is available so they can support tenants who they think may be struggling with rent or in arrears.”

50.10 Councillor D. Norman moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Watkins:

“This Council notes that a benefit cap of £20k pa was introduced on 7th Nov and affects around 276 families in the City.

Discretionary Housing Payments funding is given to the Council to support people affected by changes to welfare benefits that mean they struggle to pay rent. This allocation last year was £185753 and was underspent by £43476.58.

The payment to the Council is based on Government assessment of need in the City. ~~The underspend indicates that not all those who have an entitlement are being sufficiently advised of the scheme.~~

This Council resolves to **continue to:**

- a. Contact all local welfare advice organisations, money advice services and food banks to ensure that they are aware of the scheme and able to advise clients about the application process.
- b. Review the criteria to ensure that only income that has to be taken into account is considered. For example, that the mobility component of DLA or PIP is disregarded as it is to support travel costs for people with disabilities whether or not they can use a car.
- c. Publicise to landlords that the scheme is available so they can support tenants who they think may be struggling with rent or in arrears **and also undertake publicity to raise awareness with tenants.**”

50.11 Councillor Haigh accepted the amendment.

50.12 The following motion, as amended, was put to the vote and was carried.

“This Council notes that a benefit cap of £20k pa was introduced on 7th Nov and affects around 276 families in the City.

Discretionary Housing Payments funding is given to the Council to support people affected by changes to welfare benefits that mean they struggle to pay rent. This allocation last year was £185753 and was underspent by £43476.58.

The payment to the Council is based on Government assessment of need in the City.

This Council resolves to continue to:

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- a. Contact all local welfare advice organisations, money advice services and food banks to ensure that they are aware of the scheme and able to advise clients about the application process.
- b. Review the criteria to ensure that only income that has to be taken into account is considered. For example, that the mobility component of DLA or PIP is disregarded as it is to support travel costs for people with disabilities whether or not they can use a car.
- c. Publicise to landlords that the scheme is available so they can support tenants who they think may be struggling with rent or in arrears and also undertake publicity to raise awareness with tenants.”

(4) Notice of Motion from the Liberal Democrat Group

50.13 Moved by Councillor Hyman and seconded by Councillor Brazil:

“This Council expresses its concern about the reduction in the number of police officers on the ground in Gloucester.

This Council resolves to invite the Chief Constable to attend a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to give an update on her strategy in regard to adequate deployment of police and PCSO’s in Gloucester.”

50.14 Councillor Coole moved the following amendment and was seconded by Councillor Haigh:

“This Council expresses its concern about the reduction in the number of police officers on the ground in Gloucester.

This Council ~~resolves to~~ **requests the lead Member from Overview and Scrutiny** invite **representatives from the community safety partnership** and the Chief Constable to attend a meeting of the ~~Overview and Scrutiny~~ Committee to give an update on ~~her~~ **their** strategy in regard to adequate deployment of police and PCSO’s in Gloucester.”

50.15 Councillor and his seconder advised that they prepared to accept a minor amendment put forward by the Conservative Group and incorporate it into the amendment as follows:

“This Council expresses its concern about the reduction in the number of police officers on the ground in Gloucester.

This Council ~~resolves to~~ **requests the lead Member from Overview and Scrutiny** invite **representatives from the community safety partnership** and the Chief Constable to attend a meeting of the ~~Overview and Scrutiny~~ Committee to give an update on ~~her~~ **their** strategy **to reduce crime in the City** in regard to adequate deployment of police and PCSO’s in Gloucester.”

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50.16 Councillor Hyman accepted the amendment.

50.17 The following motion, as amended, was put to the vote and was carried:

“This Council expresses its concern about the reduction in the number of police officers on the ground in Gloucester.

This Council requests the lead Member from Overview and Scrutiny invite representatives from the community safety partnership and the Chief Constable to attend a meeting of the Committee to give an update on their strategy to reduce crime in the City in regard to adequate deployment of police and PCSO’s in Gloucester.”

(5) Notice of Motion from the Liberal Democrat Group

50.18 Moved by Councillor Hilton and seconded by Councillor Ryall:

"This council expresses its deep concern about the state of many of the footways in Gloucester, noting that the county council has only budgeted to spend £83,000 from its capital budget on footways repairs within the city council boundaries this financial year.

This council notes that there are many footpaths, particularly on post-war housing estates, that are in desperate need of resurfacing.

This council therefore calls on Gloucestershire County Council to increase its capital spending on footway repairs within Gloucester for the 2017/18 council year and beyond."

50.19 Councillor James moved the following amendment and was seconded by Councillor Watkins:

"This council:

~~expresses its deep concern about the state of many of the footways in Gloucester, noting that the county council has only budgeted to spend £83,000 from its capital budget on footways repairs~~ **capital schemes** within the city council boundaries this financial year;-

~~This council notes that there are many footpaths, particularly on post-war housing estates, that are in desperate need of resurfacing.~~ **further notes that the majority of works on footways are unplanned repairs or as part of larger capital schemes;**

~~This council therefore calls on Gloucestershire County Council to increase its capital spending on footway repairs within Gloucester for the 2017/18 council year and beyond~~ **consider how it can maximise the amount of highway works, including footway repairs, undertaken within the city within the budget available."**

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50.20 Councillor Hilton did not accept the amendment.

50.21 The amendment was put to the vote and was carried.

50.22 The following motion, as amended, was put to the vote and names recorded at the request of Councillor Hilton and supported by a further four members of the Liberal Democrat Group:

"This council:

Notes that the county council has budgeted to spend £83,000 from its capital budget on footway capital schemes within the city council boundaries this financial year;

Further notes that the majority of works on footways are unplanned repairs or as part of larger capital schemes;

Calls on Gloucestershire County Council consider how it can maximise the amount of highway works, including footway repairs, undertaken within the city within the budget available."

For

Councillor James
Councillor Watkins
Councillor Cook
Councillor D. Norman
Councillor Organ
Councillor Gravells
Councillor Tracey
Councillor Hanman
Councillor Lewis
Councillor Morgan
Councillor Dee
Councillor Taylor
Councillor Toleman
Councillor H. Norman
Councillor Pearsall
Councillor Finnegan
Councillor Hawthorne
Councillor Melvin

(18)

Against

Councillor Hampson
Councillor Hansdot
Councillor Haigh
Councillor Hilton
Councillor Stephens
Councillor Lugg
Councillor Bhaimia
Councillor D. Brown
Councillor Pullen
Councillor Brazil
Councillor J. Bown
Councillor Coole
Councillor Fearn
Councillor Hyman
Councillor Ryall
Councillor Smith

(17)

50.23 The motion was carried.

51. WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

51.1 As a supplementary to her second question, Councillor Haigh queried why the City Council had not applied for funding from the Department of Transport to improve air

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quality in the City, commenting that this had still been possible even after Gloucestershire County Council and Cheltenham Borough Council submitted a joint bid.

- 51.2 Councillor Cook explained that the City Council were no longer able to fulfil the criteria required for the scheme following Gloucestershire County Council's decision to withdraw from a joint bid and were therefore unable to apply.

Time of commencement: 7.00 pm hours

Time of conclusion: 10.32 pm hours

Chair