



## COUNCIL

**MEETING** : Thursday, 23rd November 2017

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

### **Others in Attendance**

Jon McGinty, Managing Director  
Anne Brinkhoff, Corporate Director  
Jonathan Lund, Corporate Director  
Tanya Davies, Policy and Governance Manager  
Sara Freckleton, Solicitor - One Legal  
Adam Gooch, Principal Planning Officer  
Tony Wisdom, Democratic Services Officer

**APOLOGIES** : Cllrs. Toleman and Hawthorne

## **36. MINUTES**

36.1 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record subject to the following amendments:-

Minute 26.3 the address should read Wellington Parade.

Minute 34.1 the motion was seconded by Councillor J. Brown

Minute 34.7 the notice of motion was from the Labour Group

## **37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

37.1 Councillor Watkins declared a personal interest in Notices of Motion 1 and 5 as an employee of the Member of Parliament.

37.2 Councillor Gravells declared a personal interest in Notice of Motion 4 as a Member of Gloucestershire County Council and PRISM.

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37.3 Councillors D. Norman, Hilton, Tracey, Haigh, Williams, D. Brown and Patel declared personal interests in Notice of Motion 4 as Members of Gloucestershire County Council.

**38. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)**

38.1 Mr Paul Thompson, a Gloucester resident, stated that the City Mission was an officially designated place to accommodate emergency homeless people. He stated that the Mission was closed in the evenings and asked if this was acceptable.

38.2 Councillor Organ (Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning) agreed that the situation was not acceptable. He noted that the homeless service provision was under review and a report was expected in January. He stated that homelessness was a complex issue which each case having individual circumstances. He referred to the Gloucestershire Entrenched Homeless Social Impact Bond and P3 were addressing the issues and looking at target groups on behalf of the Council.

38.3 Mr Steve Gower referred to an adult with severe mental health issues and another case where physical needs had not been met and the individuals were awaiting assessment. He asked if the support network was adequate.

38.4 Councillor Organ (Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning) stated that he could not discuss individual cases and he asked that Mr Gower provide him with details, he also asked that Mr Gower provided him with details of other cases earlier to enable the Council to take action. He noted that the support network was new and P3 were working under difficult circumstances. He could not say that the service was perfect but he assured Mr Gower that robust service arrangements were in place.

38.5 Sharon Hendry, a Gloucester resident, stated that the proposed changes to Universal Credit would force people into rent arrears and she asked what plans were in place to prevent evictions.

38.6 Councillor D. Norman (Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources) responded by stating that the changes to Universal Credit proposed in yesterday's budget were intended to minimise the impact on recipients. He stated that the Council's Audit and Governance Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be examining the changes closely to ensure that the Council was as well prepared for the changes as possible. He noted that Universal Credit was not due to be introduced in Gloucester until February 2018 and the Council would be talking to authorities already operating the system and the Council's revenues and benefits partner, Civica, to ensure as few people as possible were affected.

38.7 Mr James Collett, a Gloucester resident, asked if the Council was aware that Housing Associations would become private entities and he asked if the Council had been aware of the plans at the time of the transfer of the housing stock to Gloucester City Homes.

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38.8 Councillor Organ (Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning) responded that the Council had not been aware of this at the time of the transfer of the housing stock. He confirmed that he believed that there was still a place for public social housing.

**39. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)**

39.1 There were no petitions or deputations.

**40. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mayor**

40.1 The Mayor announced that former Mayor and Sheriff Roger Langston had recently passed away.

40.2 He reminded Members that tickets for an Evening of Christmas Music on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December at Ivor Gurney Hall were still available at £10 each. Proceeds would go the Civic Charity, Footsteps Counselling and Care.

40.3 He drew Members' attention to the bidding sheets that had been circulated for a silent auction of signed books in aid of Civic Charities and stated that he would be delighted to receive completed forms at the end of the meeting.

40.4 He advised Councillors that an event had been held at Walls Club to mark Councillor James's ten years as Leader of the Council and Councillor Tracey's twenty five years' service as a Councillor. He presented Councillor Tracey with a gift to mark the occasion. Councillor Tracey expressed her thanks for the gift stating that her service was a wonderful experience and Council work had become her life.

**Leader of the Council**

40.5 Councillor James announced that the outcome of the Local Government Association Peer Challenge had been generally positive and when the full report was available it would be published on the Council's website. He thanked everyone who had taken part in the review.

**Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources**

40.6 Councillor D. Norman announced that following his attendance at a Local Government Association briefing on future local government finance a number of second tier urban authorities had written to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, prior to the Autumn Statement, stating that they were being disproportionately penalised. He would keep the Member of Parliament informed of developments.

**Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure**

40.7 Councillor Noakes announced that the Tree of Light would be inaugurated at on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November. She suggested that Councillors may wish to

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attend between 4.00pm and 4.30pm when entertainment would be provided. She had a supply of white ribbons for Members who wished to place one on the tree and advised that £7,000 had been raised for local charities last year.

**41. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

- 41.1 Councillor Pullen (Leader of the Labour Group) referred to the Property Investment Strategy for the Council to invest up to £80 million in property and requested an update. Councillor D. Norman (Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources) responded by advising that the Board had been set up and would meet for the first time on 30<sup>th</sup> November. He confirmed that no decisions had been made to date.
- 41.2 Councillor Pullen noted the recent rise in interest rates and the gloomy economic outlook and questioned whether the Council should reconsider the strategy. Councillor D. Norman reiterated that the Board had yet to meet for the first time and assured Members that professional advice would be taken.
- 41.3 Councillor Pullen noted that a General Election could be called at any time and asked if Democratic and Electoral Services were ready. Councillor D. Norman assured Members that the team was perfectly ready and able to deal with such an eventuality.
- 41.4 Councillor Pullen noted that the most senior elections officer had left the Council following the recent restructure and the replacement had subsequently left leaving a potential shortage of skills. Councillor D. Norman advised that the recruitment period would end on Friday and he believed that there were at least two candidates.
- 41.5 Councillor Hilton (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) asked if the expenditure of £100,000 on a stained glass window for the new bus station was a good use of public money. Councillor James (Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy) responded that public art was in the conditions attached to the planning consent for the bus station and he noted that it was funded by Government monies rather than local taxpayers and added that achieving high quality was an important part of the Council's regeneration journey.
- 41.6 Councillor Hilton asked if there were any other public art projects envisaged. Councillor James advised that the railway triangle planning permission included a planning obligation to provide public art which would be funded by the private sector.
- 41.7 Councillor Hilton noted that Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company had prepared a Public Art Strategy in 2006 and asked if the City Council should publish a City-wide public art strategy with the

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review of the policy as a starting point. Councillor James undertook to consider a strategy but did not consider it to be a matter of urgency.

- 41.8 Councillor Hilton suggested that one per cent of project cost for public art would be a good starting point for a new strategy and asked if the Leader of the Council agreed with him. Councillor James stated that he would not support an inflexible policy in cases where there were viability issues.
- 41.9 Councillor Haigh noted that today had marked the start of sixteen days of Action Against Domestic Violence and asked if the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods would be signing the pledge. Councillor Watkins (Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods) stated that she would be delighted to sign the pledge and, subject to her availability, would attend some events. Councillor Haigh requested that Members be informed of the planned events.
- 41.10 Councillor Coole asked how many homeless families were in temporary accommodation and how many of those were housed outside the City. Councillor Organ (Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning) responded that 84 homeless applications had been completed, 114 people were in temporary accommodation and there were fifteen rough sleepers.
- 41.11 Councillor Coole referred to recent press reports regarding an issue in his ward where people had been placed in accommodation where there was blood on the walls and had subsequently been moved to Bristol and he asked if this was acceptable. Councillor Organ responded that the matter was an ongoing complaint with the possibility of legal proceedings so he was unable to comment on the case.
- 41.12 Councillor Fearn referred to the emergency fund for repairs to the Council's Grade I listed buildings and asked why it had not been applied to the Gloucester Life Museum. Councillor James replied that the budget for repairs to historic buildings was under pressure which was why the Council was exploring the option of transferring the Life Museum building to the Gloucester Historic Buildings Trust. Councillor Noakes (Cabinet Member for Culture and leisure) advised that the Gloucester Life Museum building was Grade II listed and a survey had been undertaken with the report expected this week.
- 41.13 Councillor Stephens referred to his question at the previous meeting (Minute 29.8) regarding City Protection Officers and stated that he not received the further details which he been promised. Councillor Watkins apologised for the oversight and undertook to ensure that he would receive the particulars. She advised that the City Protection Officers were making a good impact and receiving good publicity.

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- 41.14 Councillor Wilson noted that there had been 1,626 incidents of fly-tipping in the City and following the introduction of fixed penalty notices in January only four or five such notices had been issued. He asked if it was the intention to take no action if a fixed penalty notice could not be issued. Councillor Cook (Cabinet Member for Environment) advised that had been recent successful prosecutions and more were expected. He stated that in instances of small amounts of fly-tipping, Amey were just asked to remove the waste.

**42. JOINT CORE STRATEGY**

- 42.1 Council considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning which sought a resolution from Members to adopt the Joint Core Strategy, with the recommended main modifications, as part of the statutory Development Plan for Gloucester City.
- 42.2 Councillor Organ stated that preparation of the Strategy, which would provide the vision and planning framework to meet the development needs of Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury until 2031, had been a lengthy process over many years and he believed that outstanding issues in the inspector's report could be addressed by the main modifications. He thanked the Officers and Members involved for their hard work and he strongly recommended that the Strategy be adopted.
- 42.3 Councillor Pullen also thanked Officers and stated that the Labour Group would support adoption of the Strategy and the main modifications which he believed would be in the best interests of the City.
- 42.4 Councillor Hilton believed that the process had been a good example of three authorities working together on a complex issue. There had been a number of public consultations and the Inspector had taken three years to produce her report. He hoped that Members would be unanimous in their support for the strategy before it was considered by Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. He believed that Officers should consider development at Highnam as it was above the flood plain and well related to the City. He reminded Members that adoption would facilitate the Council in resisting inappropriate development.
- 42.5 Councillor Organ thanked Members for their comments and support.
- 42.6 **RESOLVED to**

- (1) Adopt the adoption version of the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy at Appendix to the report as part of the City Council's statutory development plan;
- (2) Adopt the amendments (maps and text) to the adopted policies map as set out in the modified and new maps within Appendix 2 to the report;

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(3) Delegate authority to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, in collaboration with Cheltenham Borough and Tewkesbury Borough Councils to make minor spelling, grammatical, cross-referencing or typographical errors and presentational changes (including the addition of a Foreword) to the Joint Core Strategy and accompanying maps prior to publication.

**43. SHOP FRONTS, SHUTTERS AND SIGNAGE - DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR GLOUCESTER**

43.1 Council considered the report of the Head of Planning which sought a resolution to adopt the Shopfronts, Shutters and Signage – Design Guidelines for Gloucester as a Supplementary Planning Document to be used in the planning process.

43.2 Councillor Organ noted that the document had been the subject of two rounds of consultation and had been sent to Canterbury City Council by English Heritage as an exemplar of good practice.

43.3 Councillor Pullen stated that he had been impressed by the renovated shopfronts in the City. He noted the comments of the manager of King’s Walk Shopping Centre who believed that the Council would have to take a realistic approach to shutters.

43.4 Councillor Organ thanked Councillors for their support.

43.5 **RESOLVED that the Shopfronts, Shutters and Signage – Design Guidelines for Gloucester be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document to be used in the planning process.**

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

44.1 Council considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources which reported on the Council’s use of its powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and proposed an update to the Council’s procedural guidance on the Act.

44.2 **RESOLVED**

- (1) That the six-monthly update on the use of powers under the Regulation of Investigator Powers Act 2000 be noted;
- (2) The changes to the procedural guidance at appendix 1 to the report be approved.

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**45. AMENDMENTS TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**

- 45.1 Council considered the report of the Head of Paid Service which proposed options for amendments to the Council's Procedure Rules which form part of the Council's Constitution.
- 45.2 Councillor Williams (Chair of the General Purposes Committee) stated that the Committee had considered that the changes would make full meetings of the Council more efficient and focussed.
- 45.3 Councillor Stephens proposed the following amendment to the recommendation in the report which had been circulated.
- (6) that a formal deadline of ~~two hours~~ **12 noon midday** prior to the start of the meeting be introduced for the submission of amendments to Notices of Motion (Rule 15.06) and amendments to be circulated ~~at the start of debate on the motion to which the amendment relates~~ **to the Group Leaders no later than 3.00pm on the day of the meeting to enable the political Groups to determine their stance on the amendment prior to the commencement of the meeting.**
- 45.4 The amendment was seconded and was accepted by the proposer and seconder of the original motion.
- 45.5 Councillor Hilton stated that Members must have the ability to move minor amendments from the floor. The Mayor noted that such amendments could be accepted at the Mayor's discretion.
- 45.6 Councillor Stephens that the proposed change to the start time of Council meetings would create difficulty for Members with work commitments. He noted that committees start at an earlier time but those Members could avoid sitting on those committees. He also noted that the Mayor could control council meetings and Members could move that the vote be put.
- 45.7 Councillor Lugg noted that Planning Committee started at 6.00pm as historically the business of the meeting took longer to complete. She was opposed to the earlier start time as people suffering with diabetes had to ensure that they had regular meals.
- 45.8 Councillor H. Norman noted that Budget Council started at 6.00pm so only five ordinary meetings of Council would be affected by the proposed change.
- 45.9 **RESOLVED that**
- (1) the start time for ordinary meetings of Council be changed to 6.30pm (Rule 5).

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- (2) the length of Council meetings be limited to three hours unless extended by resolution of the meeting, with a two-thirds majority of those in attendance required to close the meeting (Rule 6).
- (3) with the exception of the proposer and seconder of a motion or an amendment, speech times be limited to three minutes. This does not apply to debate on the annual budget (Rule 15.04).
- (4) a time limit of ten minutes be introduced for Announcements (Rule 2.02).
- (5) a 'callover' be added to the order of business for ordinary meetings of Council (Rule 2.02).
- (6) a formal deadline of 12 noon prior to the start of the meeting be introduced for the submission of amendments to Notices of Motion (Rule 15.06) and amendments to be circulated to the Group Leaders no later than 3.00pm on the day of the meeting to enable the political groups to determine their stance on the amendment prior to the commencement of the meeting.

**46. NOTICES OF MOTION**

- (1) Notice of Motion from the Liberal Democrat Group

46.1 Proposed by Councillor Wilson seconded by Councillor D. Brown:

"This Council notes the announcement from the Prime Minister that the Government will allocate £2bn to build additional homes for social or affordable rent.

This Council agrees that it should bid for a slice of the £2bn to build new homes for social or affordable rent in Gloucester.

This Council also agrees that it should do much more to facilitate the building of new affordable homes for rent within the City of Gloucester and it asks the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning to prepare a report on how this Council can raise further finance to build new homes for rent itself.

This Council also agrees to lobby the City MP to seek his support to promote changes in legislation that would allow this Council to borrow money from financial institutions to enable the building of new council homes in Gloucester.

This Council agrees that it should also lobby the Government to remove the right to buy from new homes the Council might build in future, which are let on social or affordable rent tenancies."

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- 46.2 Councillor Organ proposed the following amendment and was seconded by Councillor James:

"This Council:

~~notes~~ **welcomes** the announcement from the Prime Minister that the Government will allocate £2bn to build additional homes for social or affordable rent;

~~This Council~~ agrees that it should **work with partners to** bid for a slice of the £2bn to build new homes for social or affordable rent in Gloucester.;

~~This Council also~~ **further** agrees that it should ~~do much more~~ **consider all options** to facilitate the building of new affordable homes for rent within the City of Gloucester and it asks the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning to prepare a report on how this Council can raise further finance to build new homes for rent itself. **can be best achieved, including reviewing any relevant measures contained within the Chancellor's Autumn Budget;**

**Welcomes the work by Gloucester City Homes and other registered providers to build new affordable homes in Gloucester;**

**Welcomes the award of £1.25 million by the Homes and Communities Agency to Gloucester City Homes to begin masterplanning work on the regeneration of the Matson and Podsmead estates and resolves to work with all partners to deliver this ambitious project;**

~~This Council also~~ agrees to lobby **work with** the City MP to seek his support to promote changes in legislation that would allow this Council to borrow money from financial institutions to enable the building of new council homes in Gloucester. **including through changes to legislation where necessary**

~~This Council agrees that it should also lobby the Government to remove the right to buy from new homes the Council might build in future, which are let on social or affordable rent tenancies."~~

- 46.3 The proposer and seconder of the motion indicated that they would accept the amendment subject to the following further minor amendment to the penultimate paragraph:

"agrees to work with the City MP to seek his support in **delivering more affordable housing in the City** through **promoting** changes to legislation where necessary.

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46.4 The proposer and seconder of the amendment indicated that the further minor amendment was acceptable.

46.5 There was a short adjournment at the request of the Labour Group.

46.6 **RESOLVED that this Council**

- **welcomes the announcement from the Prime Minister that the Government will allocate £2bn to build additional homes for social or affordable rent;**
- **agrees that it should work with partners to bid for a slice of the £2bn to build new homes for social or affordable rent in Gloucester;**
- **further agrees that it should consider all options to facilitate the building of new affordable homes for rent within the City of Gloucester and it asks the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning to prepare a report on how this can be best achieved, including reviewing any relevant measures contained within the Chancellor's Autumn Budget;**
- **Welcomes the work by Gloucester City Homes and other registered providers to build new affordable homes in Gloucester;**
- **welcomes the award of £1.25 million by the Homes and Communities Agency to Gloucester City Homes to begin masterplanning work on the regeneration of the Matson and Podsmead estates and resolves to work with all partners to deliver this ambitious project;**
- **agrees to work with the City MP to seek his support in delivering more affordable housing in the City including through promoting changes to legislation where necessary.**

(2) Notices of motion from the Conservative Group

46.7 Proposed by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Noakes:

“ This Council:

- Notes that a bid has been submitted to GFirst LEP for Growth Deal funding to secure improvements to Gloucester Railway Station and its immediate environment, including the subway to Great Western Road;
- Fully supports this bid and recognises the economic benefits the project would bring to the City, including through improved connections

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between the City centre and Gloucestershire Royal Hospital and the housing development sites on Great Western Road;

- Acknowledges the importance of this investment in helping to raise commercial values and as a consequence contribute towards resolving issues of financial viability and in creating investor confidence through public sector intervention;
- Thanks our partners including Great Western Railways, Network Rail and the Homes and Communities Agency for their help and support with this bid.”

46.8           **RESOLVED that this Council**

- **Notes that a bid has been submitted to GFirst LEP for Growth Deal funding to secure improvements to Gloucester Railway Station and its immediate environment, including the subway to Great Western Road;**
- **Fully supports this bid and recognises the economic benefits the project would bring to the City, including through improved connections between the City centre and Gloucestershire Royal Hospital and the housing development sites on Great Western Road;**
- **Acknowledges the importance of this investment in helping to raise commercial values and as a consequence contribute towards resolving issues of financial viability and in creating investor confidence through public sector intervention;**
- **Thanks our partners including Great Western Railways, Network Rail and the Homes and Communities Agency for their help and support with this bid.”**

46.9           Proposed by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Organ:

    `This Council

- Note that bids have been submitted to the Homes and Communities Agency’s Housing Investment Fund for support to bring forward housing schemes at Greater Blackfriars/Quayside (including the former Prison site) and Kings Quarter;
- Fully supports these bids as a way of regenerating these important sites, providing much-needed housing in the city and bringing more people to live in the city centre.”

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46.10 Councillor Coole proposed and Councillor Haigh seconded the following motion:

“This Council recognises the value of a diverse workforce that reflects the community we serve. The Council welcomes the commitment to join the County Council’s LBTQ organisation for staff and Members, PRISM and encourages everyone to sign the PRISM pledge, either as an LBTQ person or as an ally. It is also important that future employees can see that we are an organisation that values diversity and this Council further agrees to investigate signing up for the Stonewall Diversity Champions Scheme either in its own right or through the County Council who provide our HR services.”

46.11 **RESOLVED that this Council recognises the value of a diverse workforce that reflects the community we serve. The Council welcomes the commitment to join the County Council’s LBTQ organisation for staff and Members, PRISM and encourages everyone to sign the PRISM pledge, either as an LBTQ person or as an ally. It is also important that future employees can see that we are an organisation that values diversity and this Council further agrees to investigate signing up for the Stonewall Diversity Champions Scheme either in its own right or through the County Council who provide our HR services.**

46.12 Councillor Smith proposed and Councillor Fearn seconded the following motion:

“This Council notes that 6,400 women in Gloucester born on or after 5<sup>th</sup> April 1951 have been adversely affected by the increase in the state Pension Age (SPA) and that these women have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the SPA. The lack of appropriate notification has resulted in many women not being told about the changes until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.

The Council calls on the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements so that women do not live in hardship due to these State Pension Age changes, and instructs the Managing Director to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Member of Parliament for Gloucester seeking their support for action by the Government.”

46.13 Councillor Watkins proposed the following amendment which was seconded:

“This Council notes that 6,400 women in Gloucester born on or after 5<sup>th</sup> April 1951 have been adversely affected by the increase in the state Pension Age (SPA) and that these women have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the SPA. The lack of appropriate notification has resulted in many women not being told about the changes until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.

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The Council calls on the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements so that women do not live in hardship due to these State Pension Age changes, and instructs the ~~Managing Director~~ **Leader** to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Member of Parliament for Gloucester **asking for clarification of Government policy and** seeking their support for action by the Government.”

46.14 The proposer and seconder of the motion indicated their acceptance of the amendment.

46.15 **RESOLVED that this Council notes that 6,400 women in Gloucester born on or after 5<sup>th</sup> April 1951 have been adversely affected by the increase in the State Pension Age (SPA) and that these women have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the SPA. The lack of appropriate notification has resulted in many women not being told about the changes until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.**

**The Council calls on the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements so that women do not live in hardship due to these State Pension Age changes, and instructs the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Member of Parliament for Gloucester asking for clarification of Government policy and seeking their support for action by the Government.**

**47. WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS**

47.1 **RESOLVED that the written question and response detailed on the agenda be noted.**

**Time of commencement: 7.00 pm**

**Time of conclusion: 9.52 pm**

**Mayor**