



## COUNCIL

**MEETING** : Thursday, 17th November 2022

**PRESENT** : Cllrs. Hyman (Mayor), J. Brown (Sheriff & Deputy Mayor), Cook, Norman, S. Chambers, Lewis, Padilla, Hilton, Pullen, Gravells MBE, Tracey, Morgan, Wilson, Bhaimia, Williams, D. Brown, Taylor, Field, Patel, Toleman, Finnegan, Melvin, Bowkett, Ackroyd, Castle, A. Chambers, Conder, Dee, Evans, Hudson, Kubaszczyk, O'Donnell, Radley, Zaman, Sawyer and Campbell

### **Others in Attendance**

Managing Director

Monitoring Officer

Head of Culture

Head of Place

Financial Services Manager

Policy & Governance Manager

Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

**APOLOGIES** : Cllrs. Brooker, Chambers-Dubus and Durdey

## **28. BY-ELECTION RESULTS**

28.1 The Mayor welcomed Councillor Lorraine Campbell to the City Council as a member for the ward of Tuffley.

28.2 **RESOLVED** - that the result of the Tuffley By-Election on 13 October 2022 resulting in the election of Councillor Lorraine Campbell be noted.

## **29. MINUTES**

29.1 **RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29th September 2022 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record, subject to a correction to paragraph 27.2 (Notices of Motion) to state that Councillor Padilla and Kubaszczyk proposed and seconded the motion, not Councillor Cook and Councillor Norman as stated in the minutes.

29.2 Councillor A.Chambers stated that he believed that meetings should be recorded for transparency reasons and to ensure accuracy. In response, the

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Leader of the Council noted that there was an existing commitment to webcast meetings and that this would be revisited when resources permitted.

**30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**31. CALL OVER**

31.1 The Mayor invited Members to indicate whether they wished to reserve agenda item 10 for discussion. Members reserved the right to discuss the item.

31.2 Councillor Cook (Leader of the Council) moved, and Councillor Norman (Deputy Leader of the Council) seconded that Council note that Councillor Campbell has been appointed to the vacant Conservative seat on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED** – that Council notes that Councillor Campbell has been appointed to the vacant Conservative seat on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

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

32.1 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*The UK has the leakiest homes in Europe with regard to heat loss. Meaning the carbon emissions produced to heat these homes are bigger than those produced by vehicles on our roads. Statements from many eminent scientists of this country including, Sir David King claim what we do in the next three to four years will be profound to the existence of human life on this planet.*

*In October 2021, during the COP 26 in Glasgow. Outside Gloucester cathedral, the leader of the city council proclaimed that Gloucester would declare a climate emergency and work to a goal of net zero carbon emissions and would install insulation in all social housing in Gloucester.*

*What has the council installed since the twelve months of this promise to show its commitment to climate change at this time?*

Councillor Cook responded that he had not promised that the council would install insulation in all social housing in Gloucester. He advised that the council had declared a climate emergency, and had set a target for the achievement of net zero carbon emissions, which was more challenging than the goal set for the UK nationally. He explained that this council, as the lead partner for Climate Change Adaptation on the cross-county Climate Leadership Gloucestershire board, fully supported the recommendations of the Climate Change Committee's 6<sup>th</sup> Carbon Budget on residential thermal efficiency and would seek to ensure this was reflected in the forthcoming Gloucester City Council Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

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32.2 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*I and many others, some even imprisoned, have demonstrated our commitment to give a voice to those 63,500 excess individuals who have died in their own homes in the UK over the twelve-month period 2020 – 21.*

*How many excess deaths of people have died in their own homes in Gloucester from 2019-20*

*And how many have died from 2020-21 in Gloucester?*

Councillor S. Chambers responded that datasets relating to the estimated number of excess deaths were published by the Office for National Statistics and were not held by Gloucester City Council.

32.3 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*When will the figures be released for 2021-22 and will this council publicly acknowledge this count and state the figures?*

Councillor S.Chambers responded that it was a matter for the Office for National Statistics.

32.4 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*How many new social houses have been built in Gloucester since 2010 and what is the average EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) rating of these homes? EPC rate from E to A+++*

Councillor S. Chambers explained that the council was currently unable to provide data dating back to 2010, but that 982 affordable homes had been delivered in the period from April 2016 to March 2022, with a further 75 delivered in the first two quarters of 2022/23; totalling 1,057 since April 2016. She added that the council did not hold data relating to the EPC rating of new affordable homes.

32.5 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*As part of your climate emergency rating strategy for this city, to meet the carbon zero goal of this city. What is the minimum EPC rating for social housing likely to be under the city's net zero carbon status for these new build properties and what courses of action are entailed to raise the EPC rating for the present stock of social housing?*

Councillor Cook explained that the *social housing sector faced a significant challenge to achieve the Government's requirement of a minimum C rating on Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) across all homes by 2030 due to the volume, type, age, and current efficiency of the UK's social housing stock and level of capital investment needed to bring it up to the required energy efficiency standards. He advised that given the council's more ambitious targets, it would be keen to encourage and support registered providers to*

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go further and faster, but he noted that , as the council did not own any housing stock, its role was to engage with registered providers and other landlords, as well as seeking to make use of any relevant powers available through the local planning process for new housing.

32.6 A resident of Gloucester submitted the following question:

*When will the installation of insulation and retrofit and the renewed legislation of EPC ratings of social housing be introduced in Gloucester and when are the expected completion of retrofit and fitting of insulation of all the social housing stock to meet the promise from the council of its commitment to reach carbon net zero emissions.*

Councillor S. Chambers advised that it was for registered providers to meet any specific requirements relating to the energy efficiency of their housing stock as required by government.

32.7 A resident of Gloucester submitted the following question:

*When will the commitment of this council to the improved EPC ratings to reach carbon net zero emissions, be legislated to the private landlord sector in this city.*

Councillor S. Chambers responded that the council did not have any powers to regulate this area and that it would require the government to introduce relevant legislation.

32.8 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*Why have some residents have had to wait over 16 months for planning Applications to be granted. That's not including the time period that applications have been submitted via pre application.*

*Do you think it is acceptable for a Gloucester resident to have to wait 66 weeks when the planning guarantee is the government's policy that no application should spend more than a year with decision-makers, including any appeal. In practice this means that planning applications should be decided in no more than 26 weeks, allowing a similar period for any appeal. The city council has taken over 3 times longer than the governments guarantee.*

Councillor S. Chambers advised that the council consistently exceeded the minimum targets set by government. She stated that every planning application was different and it was not always possible to determine every application within 8 or 13 weeks. She explained that applications are not acceptable for planning reasons, the council negotiates and work with applicants to find a solution where possible and this can increase the time it takes to determine applications. She highlighted delays caused by the cyber incident experienced by the council, but advised that officers had worked hard to put in temporary solutions as soon as possible to ensure the planning department could still operate.

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32.9 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*I am aware that residents have made many complaints in writing to the council with some complaints being direct complaints sent by email. One complaint directly from a legal representative.*

*Why does the planning department think is ok to not respond in any way to emails and legal representatives?*

Councillor S. Chambers responded that the Council had a formal complaints procedure and all complaints were acknowledged and responses were recorded.

32.10 A resident of Gloucester submitted the following question:

*Will the council disclose information on how many more Gloucester residents and businesses have been let down by the planning department by exceeding the Governments planning guarantee time frame?*

Councillor S. Chambers explained that it was not possible to provide the determination statistics for the last two quarters due to the aforementioned cyber incident, but that data would be available by the end of the next quarter and she was confident that it would show that the council had continued to exceed all of the government targets in terms of speed of decision making. She reported that the last available data from Q1, 2 and 3 of 2021/22 showed performance levels of 83% for major applications, against a target of 60%, and 88% for non-major applications, against a target of 70%.

32.11 A resident of Gloucester submitted the following question:

*The planning department were aware that a Gloucester city building was in a dangerous position after a fire destroyed most of the building and that council Building control urgently requested that the work proceeded for the safety of the public as it posed a real danger to public. Why did the city council planning not be concerned of the consequences and the danger of Gloucester buildings which pose a danger to the public by taking 3 times longer to respond to planning applications of the Gloucester city residents, taking 3 times longer than the government guarantee deadline?*

Councillor S. Chambers advised that Building Control and Planning Services were within the same service area at Gloucester City Council and that where issues of building safety are concerned, the two services liaise to ensure an appropriate response, always with health and safety at the forefront of decision making. She explained that building control officers always ensure the safety of dangerous buildings, usually through temporary measures, such as scaffolding, or in extreme conditions, demolition. She noted that building control officers were not involved in, nor did they have influence over, the planning process.

32.12 A resident of Gloucester submitted the following question:

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*Responsible Gloucester landlords take every step to keep their buildings safe and the public.*

*Do the city council even care about the financial impact and business damage the City Council have caused Gloucester residents by not meeting the government planning guarantee and exceeding the final deadline by a significant amount of time?*

Councillor S. Chambers reiterated that the council performed well against the targets set by government, but that planning applications vary considerably with regards to their complexity and as such some take longer than others to determine. She advised that the Council seeks to negotiate with applicants wherever possible to reach positive outcomes, as opposed to refusing applications, and that economic considerations were one of many material considerations the planning officers would take into account as part of the planning process.

32.13 A resident of Gloucester submitted the following question:

*Please can the City council inform the public how much money has been paid to Orbis within it's remit of collecting Data of homeless individuals in this city since it's inception in 2016.*

Councillor S. Chambers advised that Orbis was not contracted to collect data in respect of homeless individuals; it provided an emergency out of hours homelessness response for residents who become homeless and who have not engaged with Council officers.

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

There were no petitions nor deputations.

**34. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor

34.1 The Mayor stated that he was happy to announce that Councillor D.Brown had recently donated his 100<sup>th</sup> pint of blood to the National Blood Trust. He also announced that preparations were underway for the Children's Christmas party on 18 December 2022 and encouraged Members to get in contact with the Civic Office if there were primary schools in their ward who had not received invitations. He further announced that preparations were underway for the Mayors Ball on 28 January 2023. He said that any donations of raffle prizes would be appreciated, and that the money raised from the event would go to Pride in Gloucestershire.

Deputy Mayor and Sheriff

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- 34.2 The Deputy Mayor and Sheriff, Councillor J.Brown stated that she had recently participated in the medieval tradition of the Assize of Ale. She recapped the history of the tradition and reported that 28 places had been visited and £760.80 had been raised. This would be split between the Rotary Club and Pride in Gloucestershire. She thanked the individuals that took part.

Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure

- 34.3 Councillor Lewis announced that Gloucester Guildhall had been awarded an additional £250,000 per annum for three years, which would enable the Guildhall Team to provide an excellent service and for Gloucester to produce acts of their own. He said that recent capital investment had transformed the space and it was a strong sign that Arts Council England recognised that Gloucester was an excellent area to invest in. He noted that Strike a Light had retained their National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) status and that Gloucester had received over £2 million in funding overall. He thanked everyone involved for their hard work.

Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy

- 34.4 Councillor S. Chambers informed Members that Gloucester had received £673,000 from the Supported Housing Improvement Programme, which would help to provide high quality, supported housing. She stated that the bidding was done by the Housing and Revenues and Benefits Teams in tandem. She said that not every bid from local authorities was successful and thanked the officers for their hard work. She advised that resources would be targeted at the worst performing supported housing providers.

Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods

- 34.5 Councillor Padilla announced that after the introduction of a warm places scheme had been agreed at the previous Council meeting, the Community Wellbeing Team approached various organisations, resulting in a list of 13 organisations, six within Matson, Robinswood and White City Ward, had been published. He noted that finding participants for the scheme was challenging, but that £13,000 was available to support it and grant of up to £1,000 could be provided to each participant. He added that the application forms would go live on the website soon.

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Managing Director

- 34.6 The Managing Director noted the decision of the previous Council meeting to bring forward a report on the designation of a new Monitoring Officer and advised that as the current Monitoring Officer would remain in post for a further week, he would instead bring a report to the January Council meeting. He thanked the outgoing Monitoring Officer for his work during his time at the City Council.

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**35. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

- 35.1 In respect of question 1, Councillor Hilton asked what was the Council doing to encourage interest in the HKP warehouses in the event that Dowdeswell Group Ltd did not proceed with their purchase. Councillor Norman responded that officers were in regular contact with various developers and she was confident that alternative options would come forward if required.
- 35.2 Concerning question 2, Councillor Hilton asked what work was being done to ensure that pedestrians were granted access at the footbridge to ensure that they did not need to make a long diversion by the railway station. Councillor Cook responded that he would ask officers to approach Network Rail, however, he believed they not keen and the intention was to provide adequate signage for any diversion.
- 35.3 In respect of question 3, Councillor Pullen asked why the charity Gloucester Feed the Hungry had received a large business rates bill and what was being done with regard to lift repairs needed at the premises, which was owned by the council. Councillor Norman advised that Gloucester Feed the Hungry should make an application for a business rates relief and the council was following up on the lift repairs.
- 35.4 In response to question 4, Councillor Pullen asked what progress was being made to work with the Gloucestershire County Council to ensure that publicly owned buildings were being made available for the warm spaces scheme. Councillor Padilla stated that he would follow up and provide a written answer after the meeting.
- 35.5 In respect of question 5, Councillor Castle asked whether the City Council held any bonds on new developments. Councillor S. Chambers replied that she would follow up and provide a written answer.
- 35.6 In respect of question 7, Councillor A. Chambers asked what lessons the council had learnt from the breakdown in communication that led to asbestos not being removed from a site in Matson for some time. The Leader of the Council stated that when the presence of asbestos was reported, Urbaser, the council's waste service provider at that time, contracted with and paid a third party to remove it; however, the asbestos was not removed and Urbaser did not pass the information over to Ubico, the council's new waste service provider. He added that he had been assured that there were no public footpaths in the immediate vicinity of the site.
- 35.7 Concerning question 8, Councillor Sawyer asked how many Ukrainian refugees had been housed in Gloucester to date. Councillor S. Chambers stated that she would provide an up to date answer in writing.
- 35.8 In respect of question 9, Councillor D. Brown asked when an improved version of the "MyGloucester" app would be available. Councillor Norman stated that it was not an app and that the reporting portal was available via the council's website. She encouraged all Members to use it to report issues in their ward.



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- 35.9 Regarding question 10, Councillor Wilson asked whether it would be possible to create a combined list of Warm Places available through the City and County Council and for that to be readily available. Councillor Padilla confirmed that a joint list would be circulated when available.
- 35.10 Concerning question 11, Councillor Field asked whether Gloucester City Homes (GCH) had plans to decarbonise their existing portfolio. Councillor S.Chambers said that this was correct, and that she would endeavour to provide Councillor Field details of the order of decarbonisation works planned for existing GCH properties in Podsmead.
- 35.11 In respect of question 12, Councillor Hilton asked whether the full cost of recovery from the cyber incident would be less than £1 million. Councillor Norman advised she could not confirm the exact figure until the recovery was complete. She added that officers were doing their best for the authority and that with every decision they took, they were looking to provide value for money.
- 35.12 Concerning question 13, Councillor Pullen asked if the council could guarantee that it would prosecute individuals who parked on the grass at The Lannett in future. The Leader of the Council stated that, now that the council was familiar with the process, the intention would be to pursue every case with due diligence with the aim of securing a successful outcome for the council.
- 35.13 Concerning question 14, Councillor A. Chambers asked why the council had not obtained planning and conservation consents in respect of the removal of a historic wall by a contractor as part of the works carried out at the London Road Rose Garden. Councillor S. Chambers encouraged Councillor A. Chambers to provide her with the so that she could provide a written response.
- 35.14 Regarding question 16, Councillor D. Brown asked whether Gloucester could do more as a City to assist the Royal British Legion, by setting up a one stop shop to assist veterans. Councillor Padilla said that the council had made a commitment to support the Armed Forces and were working with the County Council on this. He said that the intention was to establish a hub where armed forces personnel, past and present, could visit and receive support.
- 35.15 In respect of question 17, Councillor Field asked whether footfall data was collected from events such as the continental market. Councillor Lewis advised that footfall data was collected, but that he did not have figures to hand and would provide them in writing if available. He noted that in future organisers should perhaps work more closely with the council to promote events.
- 35.16 In respect of question 18, Councillor Hilton noted that the number of staff leaving the council appeared high and asked for the reasons behind this. Councillor Norman stated said that data from the exit interviews conducted

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showed that 60% of those leaving would recommend the council as an employer. She noted the relative size of the council and stated that staff leaving the organisation for career progression reasons should be seen positively, as it indicated that the council was successfully developing its staff.

- 35.17 Concerning question 19, Councillor Pullen asked how much it cost the council to have a private contractor open its mail. Councillor Norman stated that it was common for local authorities, as well as private companies to utilise a digital mail service, as it provided an efficient service. She advised that she would confirm the costs in writing.
- 35.18 Concerning question 20, Councillor A. Chambers asked whether contractors had been overpaid in respect of works at Wellington Parade as an invoice he had seen suggested they had charged the council VAT at 40%. Councillor Norman advised that she would look into it and provide a written response.
- 35.19 In respect of question 22, Councillor Hilton asked for assurance that autumn leaves would be cleared from Kingsholm and Wotton by Christmas. Councillor Cook responded that the intention was to clear the leaves in accordance with the schedule provided, which was available to all Members on request.
- 35.20 Regarding question 23, Councillor A. Chambers asked why, despite a build-up of rubbish resulting in fires at two other properties, he had been advised that the council could not take any action in respect of the fire hazard created by the build-up of rubbish outside a further property. Councillor Cook explained that some matters were outside the legal powers available to the council and that Councillor Gravells, Councillor for Abbeydale ward where the property in question was situated, had already brought the issue to the attention of the MP for Gloucester for help with strengthening the relevant national legislative procedures. He thanked Councillor A. Chambers and Councillor Gravells for pursuing the matter.
- 35.21 Regarding question 24, Councillor A. Chambers asked whether the council would publicise the recommendations from the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge widely, in addition to publication on the council's website. Councillor Cook confirmed that the intention was to share the report and recommendations publicly.

Questions to Chairs of Committees

- 35.22 In respect of question 1, Councillor A. Chambers asked what further changes to the Constitution the General Purposes Committee would seek to implement in order to limit Councillors' opportunities to ask questions. Councillor Williams referred Councillor A. Chambers to the comprehensive written response.
- 35.23 In respect of question 2, Councillor A. Chambers asked whether it was appropriate to propose that Members' questions be edited. Councillor K. Williams responded that Members' questions were not edited and referred Councillor A. Chambers to the written response .

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35.24 In regard to question 5, Councillor A. Chambers asked whether, when Councillors were opposed to the questions that Members asked, a constitutional reason should be given for that opposition. The Mayor indicated that the question did not require a response.

**36. APPOINTMENTS**

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor Lorraine Campbell be appointed to the vacant Conservative seat on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

**37. NOTICES OF MOTION**

37.1 Councillor Pullen proposed and Councillor Bhaimia seconded the following motion:

“At the beginning of November 2022 there were 11 empty units in The Eastgate Shopping Centre. This is a sad reflection on the state of the economy, the state of retail business and the changing face of the city centre.

Businesses have failed and moved out because they haven't been able to afford rising costs and business rates, have been unable to compete with on line shopping and as the way the public buy things has changed, some businesses have been unable to keep up.

Having empty units in the Eastgate Centre is costly to the council, is economically unviable and results in a loss of income.

Empty units are also unsightly, gives the impression of a lack of investment, leads to a rundown environment, which in turn affects footfall.

Now that the Gloucester City Council owns the Eastgate Centre one way in which the council could address the issues with empty units is to introduce a 'Meanwhile Space' initiative. Such a scheme would enable local community organisations, small business start-ups, social enterprises and similar organisations the opportunity to use empty units for temporary or short term periods based on realistically reduced and affordable terms and conditions.

Such occupancy would not only fill vacant premises in the Eastgate Centre but would also bring a diversity of uses and illustrate to the public the wealth of community initiatives and organisations that exist in Gloucester.

It would also be far better to have units used for alternative purposes rather than keep them empty for an extended period.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Initiate a Meanwhile Space scheme in the Eastgate Centre.

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- Consider vacant units that could be put to Meanwhile Space use
- Identify potential organisations, community groups and business start-ups who might take advantage of the scheme
- Lead by example and encourage landlords in other parts of the city centre to consider Meanwhile Space usage.”

37.2 Councillor Norman proposed and Councillor Kubaszczyk seconded the following amendment:

“At the beginning of November 2022 there were 11 empty units in The Eastgate Shopping Centre.

This is a sad reflection on the state of the economy, ~~the state of the~~ retail business **sector**, and the changing face of the city centre **and the council being unable to enter into long term leases until we hear the outcome of the Levelling Up Fund round two bid.**

Businesses have failed and moved out because they haven't been ~~unable~~ to afford rising costs and business rates, have been unable to compete with on line online shopping and as the way the public buy things has changed, some businesses have been unable to keep up.

Having empty units in the Eastgate Centre ~~is costly to the council, is economically unviable and results in a loss of income~~ **means that the council are unable to reach the full earning potential of this asset.**

Empty units are also unsightly, ~~can~~ gives the impression of a lack of investment, leads to a rundown environment, which in turn affects footfall.

~~Now that the~~ **As** Gloucester City Council owns the Eastgate Centre ~~one way in which the council could address the issues with empty units is to introduce a~~ **since the start of 2022, it has been working on a new managing agent tender, which was awarded in late summer and includes options to help combat the issue of empty units. This includes a** ‘Meanwhile Space’ initiative. ~~Such a scheme would~~ which enables local community organisations, small business start-ups, social enterprises and similar organisations the opportunity to use empty units for temporary or ~~short-term~~ **short-term** periods based on realistically reduced and affordable terms and conditions.

Such occupancy**ies** would not only fill vacant premises in the Eastgate Centre but would also bring a diversity of uses and illustrate to the public the wealth of community initiatives and organisations that exist in Gloucester.

It would also be far better to have units used for alternative purposes rather than keep them empty for an extended period.

This council therefore resolves to:

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- ~~Initiate~~ **Continue its work on developing** a Meanwhile Space scheme, ~~in the Eastgate Centre~~ **which in Gloucester will form part of the Place Activation Strategy which will cover all of the council's assets in the city centre.**
- Consider vacant units that could be put to Meanwhile Space use, **whilst considering the impact of a successful Levelling Up Fund round two bid.**
- **Continue to** ~~Identify~~ potential organisations, community groups and business start-ups who might take advantage of the scheme
- Lead by example and encourage landlords in other parts of the city centre to consider Meanwhile Space usage.”

37.3 Councillor Hilton withdrew the Liberal Democrat Group amendment.

37.4 The motion as amended was put to a vote and carried.

37.5 **RESOLVED** that -

At the beginning of November 2022 there were 11 empty units in The Eastgate Shopping Centre.

This is a sad reflection on the state of the economy, the retail business sector, and the changing face of the city centre and the council being unable to enter into long term leases until we hear the outcome of the Levelling Up Fund round two bid.

Businesses have failed and moved out because they haven't been able to afford rising costs and business rates, have been unable to compete with on line online shopping and as the way the public buy things has changed, some businesses have been unable to keep up.

Having empty units in the Eastgate Centre means that the council are unable to reach the full earning potential of this asset.

Empty units are also unsightly, can gives the impression of a lack of investment, leads to a rundown environment, which in turn affects footfall.

As Gloucester City Council owns the Eastgate Centre since the start of 2022, it has been working on a new managing agent tender, which was awarded in late summer and includes options to help combat the issue of empty units. This includes a 'Meanwhile Space' initiative which enables local community organisations, small business start-ups, social enterprises and similar organisations the opportunity to use empty units for temporary or short-term periods based on realistically reduced and affordable terms and conditions.

Such occupancies would not only fill vacant premises in the Eastgate Centre but would also bring a diversity of uses and illustrate to the public the wealth of community initiatives and organisations that exist in Gloucester.

It would also be far better to have units used for alternative purposes rather than keep them empty for an extended period.

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This council therefore resolves to:

- Continue its work on developing a Meanwhile Space scheme, which in Gloucester will form part of the Place Activation Strategy which will cover all of the council's assets in the city centre.
- Consider vacant units that could be put to Meanwhile Space use, whilst considering the impact of a successful Levelling Up Fund round two bid.
- Continue to identify potential organisations, community groups and business start-ups who might take advantage of the scheme
- Lead by example and encourage landlords in other parts of the city to consider Meanwhile Space usage."

37.6 Councillor Hilton withdrew the motion relating to investment zones.

37.7 Councillor Radley proposed and Councillor Conder seconded the following motion:

"This council recognises that micro-generation is a useful way for residents and businesses to make a contribution to energy sustainability and security.

This council notes that micro-generation is the production of heat, electricity or both on a small scale from a low/zero carbon source. Many of the technologies use renewable sources, such as solar and wind power etc.

This council requests that the climate change and decarbonisation officer produce a report on how to expand micro-generation projects in the city of Gloucester within 3 months to better understand the opportunity and challenges this presents."

37.8 The Motion was put to a vote and carried

37.9 **RESOLVED that: -**

This council recognises that micro-generation is a useful way for residents and businesses to make a contribution to energy sustainability and security.

This council notes that micro-generation is the production of heat, electricity or both on a small scale from a low/zero carbon source. Many of the technologies use renewable sources, such as solar and wind power etc.

This council requests that the climate change and decarbonisation officer produce a report on how to expand micro-generation projects in the city of Gloucester within 3 months to better understand the opportunity and challenges this presents.

**Time of commencement: 6.30 pm hours**

**Time of conclusion: 8.04 pm hours**

**Chair**

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