



## **COUNCIL**

**MEETING** : Monday, 9th June 2014

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

### **Others in Attendance**

Pete Gillett, Corporate Director of Resources  
Martin Shields, Corporate Director of Services and Neighbourhoods  
Sue Mullins, Head of Legal and Policy Development  
Jon Topping, Head of Finance  
Tanya Davies, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager  
Marcus Grodentz, Marketing and Communications Service Manager  
Natalie Wilder, Communications Officer  
Angie Marshall-Smith, Capita

**APOLOGIES** : Cllr. Mozol

### **1. ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS**

#### **Abbey**

Andrew Gravells  
(Conservative - 2016)

#### **Barton & Tredworth**

Said Hansdot  
(Labour - 2016)

#### **Grange**

Nigel Hanman  
(Conservative - 2016)

#### **Kingsholm & Wotton**

Jeremy Hilton  
(Liberal Democrat - 2016)

#### **Matson & Robinswood**

Jan Lugg  
(Labour - 2016)

#### **Barnwood**

Phil McLellan  
(Liberal Democrats - 2016)

#### **Elmbridge**

Chris Witts  
(Liberal Democrat - 2016)

#### **Hucclecote**

Jim Beeley  
(Liberal Democrat - 2016)

#### **Longlevens**

Paul James  
(Conservative - 2016)

#### **Moreland**

Terry Pullen  
(Labour - 2016)

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**Podsmead**  
Jennie Dallimore  
(Conservative - 2016)

**Quedgeley Fieldcourt**  
David Norman  
(Conservative - 2016)

**Quedgeley Severn Vale**  
Andrew Lewis  
(Conservative - 2016)

**Tuffley**  
Colin Organ  
(Conservative - 2016)

**Westgate**  
Pam Tracey  
(Conservative - 2016)

**2. ELECTION OF MAYOR**

- 2.1 Moved by Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor James.
- 2.2 **RESOLVED** - That Councillor Deb Llewellyn be elected Mayor of the City of Gloucester until the Annual Council Meeting in 2015.

**3. ELECTION OF SHERIFF AND DEPUTY MAYOR**

- 3.1 Moved by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Randle.
- 3.2 **RESOLVED** - That Councillor Lise Noakes be elected Sheriff and Deputy Mayor of the City of Gloucester until the Annual Council Meeting in 2013.

**4. MINUTES**

- 4.1 **RESOLVED** – That, subject to a number of minor amendments and the correction of Members named at paragraph 102a.1 of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council held on 27 March 2014, the minutes of the following Council meetings be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record:
- Special Meeting No 1 held on 27 March 2014
  - Special Meeting No 2 held on 27 March 2014
  - Ordinary Meeting held on 27 March 2014
  - Special Meeting held on 8 April 2014.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 5.1 Councillors Lugg, Randle, Beeley, Hansdot and Toleman declared disclosable pecuniary interests in Item 14, a report of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure concerning the draft housing stock transfer offer document, because they were each members of the Gloucester City Homes Board.
- 5.2 Councillor Smith declared a personal interest in Item 14 because her daughter was employed by Gloucester City Homes.
- 5.3 Councillor S. Witts declared a personal interest unrelated to matters on the agenda.

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**6. ANNOUNCEMENTS (COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 2(VII))**

**Mayor's Announcements**

- 6.1 The Mayor congratulated the newly elected Members and thanked outgoing Councillors for their service to the Council and the City.
- 6.2 The Mayor reminded Members that a civic reception would take place for former Councillor Nick Durrant on 13 June 2014.

**7. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

- 7.1 The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Leader of the Council.
- 7.2 Councillor Patel moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Williams:
- “That for the 2014-15 municipal year, Councillor James be elected Leader of the Council.”
- 7.3 Councillor Haigh (Leader of the Labour Group) stated that the Labour Group did not support the proposed appointment.
- 7.4 Councillor Hilton (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) stated that the Liberal Democrat Group did not oppose the proposed appointment, but would abstain from the vote.
- 7.5 **RESOLVED** - That for the 2014-15 municipal year, Councillor James be elected Leader of the Council.

Following election, the Leader of the Council advised of appointments to the Cabinet and allocations of portfolios as follows:

Councillor Paul James	Regeneration and Culture
Councillor Jennie Dallimore	Communities and Neighbourhoods
Councillor Colin Organ	Housing, Health and Leisure
Councillor Jim Porter	Environment
Councillor David Norman	Performance and Resources

The Leader also advised the Council that he had appointed Councillor Dallimore as Deputy Leader of the Council to act in his absence.

The Leader thanked Councillor Patel (former Cabinet Member for Environment) and former Councillor Fred Wood (former Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources) for their previous service as Members of the Cabinet.

**8. SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**

- 8.1 Moved by Councillor James (Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture), seconded by Councillor Dallimore (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods) –

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- 8.2 **RESOLVED** - That Council Procedure Rules be suspended to allow the relevant officers to address the Council in respect of agenda items 16 (Adoption of the Constitution) and 17 (Strategic Economic Partnership – Establishment of a Joint Committee and approval of terms of reference).

**9. APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES, CONSULTATIVE FORUMS AND WORKING PARTIES AND NOMINATION FOR CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES AND VICE-CHAIRS FOR 2014/15**

- 9.1 The Council considered the Schedule of Appointments to Committees, Consultative Forums and Working Groups, and nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs for the municipal year 2014-15 (see Appendix 1). The appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs to committees would be made at the first meeting of each committee.

- 9.2 Moved by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Dallimore:

9.3 **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the Schedule of Appointments of Members to Committees, Consultative Forums and Working Groups for 2014-15 be approved.
- (2) That all Members be appointed as named deputies for all those meetings (with the exception of Cabinet, Planning Committee and Licensing and Enforcement Committee) to which the Member has not been appointed.
- (3) That, in respect of the Planning Committee, the Members named in the Schedule be appointed as substitutes.
- (4) That the nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of Committees, as set out in the Schedule be noted and that each Committee at its first meeting in the new municipal year 2014-15 will confirm and appoint its Chair and Vice Chair.

**10. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2014/15**

- 10.1 The Council considered the Schedule of Appointments to Outside Bodies for the municipal year 2014-15 (see Appendix 2).

- 10.2 Moved by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Dallimore:

- 10.3 **RESOLVED** - That the schedule of appointments to Outside Bodies be approved, subject to the following clarification:

- (1) That Councillor McLellan be appointed as the Council's representative on the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Haigh be appointed as the substitute.

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**11. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER AND ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER**

- 11.1 The Council considered a report of the Monitoring Officer concerning the appointment of an Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer (ERO/RO).
- 11.2 Councillor James moved the recommendations set out in the report.
- 11.3 Councillor Dallimore seconded the motion.
- 11.4 Councillor Haigh moved an amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Chatterton (Deputy Leader of the Labour Group). She stated that the appointment of an ERO/RO should be temporary until the review of senior management arrangements was concluded and that the review should include all senior management functions including the appointment of an ERO/RO. She requested that the review be brought forward.
- 11.5 Councillor James rejected the amendment and stated that it was not possible to appoint a temporary ERO/RO. He confirmed that the review of senior management arrangements would take place after the current arrangements had been in place for six months, as previously agreed by Council, and that the review would include consideration of the EO/RO appointments.
- 11.6 Councillor Haigh withdrew the amendment.
- 11.7 Councillor Hilton thanked the Corporate Director of Resources for acting as Returning Officer for the recent local and European elections.
- 11.8 **RESOLVED –**
- (1) That, in terms of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and all related legislation, Martin Shields be appointed as Electoral Registration Officer for the City.
  - (2) That, in terms of Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1972 and all related legislation, Martin Shields be appointed as Returning Officer for the City Council, with authority to act in that capacity for elections to the City and Quedgeley parish council.
  - (3) That the City Council Returning Officer also be appointed or authorised to act in respect of all related electoral, poll or referendum duties, including in relation to County Council elections, elections to the European Parliament, and for national and regional polls or referenda.
  - (4) That the Electoral Registration Officer and the Returning Officer be authorised to appoint a deputy or deputies in relation to these roles.
  - (5) That, in relation to the duties of Returning Officer or any other electoral, referendum or polling duties arising from such an appointment, the Returning Officer shall be entitled to be remunerated in accordance with the scale of

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fees approved by the Gloucestershire Election Fees Working Party for local elections, or the relevant scale of fees prescribed by a Fees Order in respect of national, regional or European Parliament elections, polls or referenda.

- (6) That in all cases where it is a legal requirement or normal practice to do so, fees paid to the Returning Officer shall be superannuable, and the Council shall pay the appropriate employer's contribution to the superannuation fund, recovering such contribution from central government or other agencies where this can be done.
- (7) That in relation to the conduct of local authority elections and polls, and elections to the UK Parliament, and all other electoral duties where the Council is entitled by law to do so, the Council shall take out and maintain insurance, indemnifying the Council and the Returning Officer against legal expenses reasonably incurred in connection with the defence of any proceedings brought against the Council or the Returning Officer and/or the cost of holding another election in the event of the original elections being declared invalid (provided that such proceedings or invalidation are the result of accidental contravention of any legislation governing the electoral process, or accidental breach of any ministerial or other duty by the Returning Officer or any other person employed by or officially action for them in connection with the election or poll).
- (8) That, in the event of such insurance carrying an 'excess' clause by which an initial portion of risk is not insured, the Council, through its internal insurance reserve or otherwise, will indemnify the Returning Officer up to the value of such an excess.

**12. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (SECTION 151 OFFICER)**

- 12.1 The Council considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources concerning the appointment of a Chief Finance Officer (CFO) in accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 12.2 Councillor James moved the recommendations set out in the report.
- 12.3 Councillor Dallimore seconded the motion.
- 12.4 Councillor Haigh sought confirmation that the appointment of a CFO be included in the review of senior management arrangements.
- 12.5 Councillor Pullen questioned the impact of the proposed appointment on staff lower down the organisation and how existing responsibilities would be reallocated to ensure that the appointee had sufficient capacity to perform the role.
- 12.6 Councillor Smith raised concerns about the capacity of the Senior Management Team to carry out the new functions delegated to them and requested that the review of those arrangements be brought forward.

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- 12.7 Councillor James stated that the position of Corporate Director of Resources had a broad range of responsibilities and, that by detaching the CFO functions from that post, the Council would have more flexibility in appointing a replacement. He advised that the Council would have access to support from Gloucestershire County Council in the intervening period, but confirmed that recruitment of a replacement director would not be delayed and that the review of senior management arrangements would take place after 6 months as previously agreed.
- 12.8 **RESOLVED** – That Jon Topping, Head of Financial Services be appointed as the Council's Chief Financial Officer (S151 Officer).

**13. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2014-15**

- 13.1 The Council considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources concerning the Treasury Management Strategy, the Prudential Indicators and was requested to note the treasury activities.
- 13.2 Councillor James moved the recommendations set out in the report and thanked members of the Audit and Governance Committee for monitoring progress against the strategy throughout the year.
- 13.3 Councillor Dallimore seconded the motion.
- 13.4 **RESOLVED** –
- (1) That the treasury management strategy which sets out how the Council's treasury service will manage external borrowing and investments in support of the capital programme be approved;
  - (2) That the borrowing authorised borrowing limit be approved at:-
    - a. 2014/15 £86m
    - b. 2015/16 £86m
    - c. 2016/17 £86m
  - (3) That the Housing Revenue Account capital financing requirement be limited to £62.750m in accordance with the debt cap imposed through the HRA self financing regime.
  - (4) That the prudential indicators set on in section two of the strategy which set out the capital plans, financing, minimum revenue provision policy statement and affordability on the Council tax and rents be approved.

**14. HOUSING FUTURES - STOCK TRANSFER OFFER DOCUMENT**

Note: Councillors Lugg, Randle, Beeley, Hansdot and Toleman withdrew from the debate pursuant to their declarations of a disclosable pecuniary interest and did not take part in the vote.

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- 14.1 The Council considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure concerning the stock transfer proposals and to seek approval from Members for the draft Offer Document to proceed to Stage 1 of the formal consultation.
- 14.2 Councillor Organ (Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure) moved the recommendations set out in the report and drew Members' attention to the updated draft offer and addendum, which explained some improvements to the offer made as a result of comments made by Councillors, tenants and GCH Board members at recent Councillor, Customer Forum and GCH Board meetings. He confirmed that the formal transfer bid submission had been approved by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and explained that the approval gave the Council permission to formally consult with its tenants about the transfer.
- 14.3 Councillor James seconded the motion.
- 14.4 **RESOLVED –**
- (1) That the terms of the formal offer to tenants be noted and agreed.
  - (2) That the Council proceeds to the formal consultation Stage 1.
  - (3) That it be noted that the outcomes of the consultation will be reported to a special Council meeting during August 2014.

**15. BOUNDARY REVIEW - COUNCIL SIZE SUBMISSION**

- 15.1 The Council considered a report of the Head of Legal and Policy Development seeking Council approval for the draft Council Size Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) as part of the review of the electoral arrangements for Gloucester City Council.
- 15.2 Councillor Haigh (Chair of the Boundary Review Working Group) moved the recommendations set out in the report. She noted that the timetable had been set by the LGBCE and thanked the Boundary Review Working Group (BRWG) for their work on the Council Size Submission. She reported that the BRWG considered all options and concluded that the changing role of both the Council and Members supported an increase in the number of Members and that cross-party agreement had been reached the proposal that Council size be increased to 39 Members.
- 15.3 Councillor Hilton seconded the motion.
- 15.4 Councillor James stated that the LGBCE had indicated that the current size of the Council was not a significant concern and that an increase would not necessarily be unwelcome. He advised that the appropriate number of Members was essential for ensuring that the Council could support its residents and transact business effectively.



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15.5 Councillor Hilton explained that the proposed increase in Members was supported by electorate forecasts and that it was necessary in order to safeguard the service provided to residents into the future.

15.6 **RESOLVED** – That the draft Council Size Submission document at Appendix 1 be approved for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

**16. ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION**

16.1 The Council considered a report of the Monitoring Officer concerning adoption the Council's Constitution for the municipal year 2014-2015.

16.2 Councillor Taylor (Chair of the Constitutional and Electoral Working Group) moved the recommendations set out in the report.

16.3 Councillor Field (Deputy Chair of the Constitutional and Electoral Working Group) seconded the motion.

16.4 **RESOLVED** – That the Constitution approved by Council at its meeting on 27 March 2014 as amended by:

(1) Changes made by the Monitoring Officer under delegated powers to reflect the change to the Head of Paid Service role and functions; and

(2) Changes made to the Audit and Governance Committee Frequency of meetings and Terms of Reference and Council Procedure Rules,

be adopted for the municipal year 2014-2015.

**17. STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP - ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEE AND APPROVAL OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

17.1 The Council considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture concerning the establishment of a Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee.

17.2 Councillor James moved the recommendations set out in the report and highlighted the importance of co-operating with neighbouring Councils at a strategic level in relation to economic development, while also pursuing the City's own priorities.

17.3 Councillor Dallimore seconded the motion.

17.4 **RESOLVED** –

(1) That the Council becomes a member of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC) in accordance with Sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 and under Section 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 and pursuant to the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions)(England)Regulations 2012;

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- (2) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Resources, in consultation with the Leader, to finalise and complete the Inter Authority Agreement (including the Constitution) and any other necessary documentation on terms to be approved by the Head of Legal and Policy Development and to take all necessary steps to create the GEGJC;
- (3) That the above recommendations will not be effective until equivalent resolutions have been passed by all the Gloucestershire Councils named in this report;
- (4) That the delegation to the GEGJC of this Council's functions as described in Appendix 1 and subject to the protocols proposed, be authorized upon the establishment of the GEGJC;
- (5) That the appointment of Gloucestershire County Council as Administering Authority be approved; and
- (6) That the Leader be appointed to be the Council's representative on the GEGJC and that the Deputy Leader be appointed as his substitute.

**18. REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2014**

- 18.1 The Council considered a report of the Chair of the Members' Allowances Panel concerning the timetable for the current review of the Members' allowances and the scheme for the payment of allowances in 2014-15.
- 18.2 Councillor James moved the recommendations set out in the report and stated that it would be the fourth year that the Council would be agreeing a freeze on the level of Members' allowances.
- 18.3 Councillor Dallimore seconded the motion.
- 18.4 Councillor Haigh noted that the Panel would report on the current review in January 2015 and that the timetable for future reviews was yet to be determined.
- 18.5 **RESOLVED –**
  - (1) That the extension to the Members' allowances review timetable for the current review be noted.
  - (2) That Members' Allowances be frozen at the levels detailed in the 2013-14 Scheme, and set out in Appendix 1, until the recommendations from the extended review are considered by Council.

**Time of commencement: 15:00 hours**  
**Time of conclusion: 18:15 hours**

**Chair**