



COUNCIL

MEETING : Thursday, 17th July 2014

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

Others in Attendance

Martin Shields, Corporate Director of Services and Neighbourhoods
Sue Mullins, Head of Legal and Policy Development
Anthony Hodge, Regeneration and Economic Development,
Gloucester City Council
Philip Ardley, Asset Management Consultant
Tanya Davies, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. Smith, Hobbs, Bhaimia, Mozol and Pullen

19. MINUTES

19.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 June 2014 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

20.1 Councillors Hilton, Lugg and Taylor declared an interest in Agenda Item 16 (Minutes Item 33), a report of the Corporate Director of Services and Neighbourhoods concerning a review of governance arrangements for Gloucestershire Airport Limited, as they were each members of the Airport Board of Directors, and advised that they would withdraw from the meeting during the debate and vote on the item.

21. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

21.1 There were no public questions.

22. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

22.1 There were no petitions or deputations.

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23. ANNOUNCEMENTS (COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 2(VII))

Mayor

- 23.1 The Mayor advised that Gloucester Carnival would take place on 26 July 2014 and that Members should contact Councillor Randle if they wished to be involved in the Council's float.
- 23.2 The Mayor announced that she and the Sheriff would be organising a 'Ready, Steady, Cook!' event later in the year in aid of the Civic charities.
- 23.3 The Mayor welcomed the extensive programme of events taking place across the City over the summer and encouraged Members and members of the public to attend as many events as possible.

Head of Paid Service

- 23.4 The Head of Paid Service advised that Gloucester City Homes was seeking a Member to sit on an Evictions Appeal Panel on 25 July 2014 and asked Members to contact Democratic Services if they were able to assist.
- 23.5 The Head of Paid Service announced that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England had accepted the Council's proposal to increase the size of the Council from 36 to 39 elected Members. He outlined the next stage of the electoral boundary review process, which would involve a consultation on warding arrangements.

24. SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

- 24.1 Moved by Councillor James (Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture) and seconded by Councillor Dallimore (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods) –
- 24.2 **RESOLVED** - That Council Procedure Rules be suspended to allow the relevant officers to address the Council in respect of agenda items 15 (Retail-led Regeneration at Kings Quarter), 16 (Review of Governance Arrangements for Gloucestershire Airport Limited) and 17 (Use of Special Urgency Provisions).

25. COUNCIL PLAN 2014-2017

- 25.1 The Council considered a report of the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources concerning the Council Plan 2014-17.
- 25.2 Councillor James moved the recommendation set out in the report and reported that formulation of the Council Plan had been an extensive process involving significant consultation with Members and officers. He explained the Plan reflected the Council's long-term ambitions, with a strong focus on the economy and regeneration, and the needs of the City and its residents.
- 25.3 Councillor Norman (Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources) seconded the motion.

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- 25.4 Councillor Hilton (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) welcomed the inclusion of working groups on enhancing the role of the Cathedral and sources of revenue, but noted that the Plan did not refer to proposals for new public conveniences or free wifi in the City centre. He stated that he was supportive of much of the content of the Plan, but advised that the Liberal Democrat Group would abstain during the vote in order to be able to hold the Administration to account when considering progress against the measures outlined in the Plan. He noted that he found the document difficult to read in the format in which it was presented.
- 25.5 Councillor Haigh (Leader of the Labour Group) echoed comments made in relation to the format and accessibility of the document.
- 25.6 Councillor Norman welcomed the Plan and stated that it compared favourably with equivalent documents from other local authorities.
- 25.7 Councillor James undertook to ensure that the final version of the Plan was complied with accessibility requirements. He explained that it was not possible to include every commitment within the published Plan, but that all Council resolutions would be abided by.
- 25.8 **RESOLVED** - that the final draft of the Council Plan for 2014-17 be approved and adopted.
- 26. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT SEX ESTABLISHMENTS POLICY STATEMENT FOLLOWING CONSULTATION**
- 26.1 The Council considered a report of the Chair of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee concerning the result of the consultation on the draft revised Sex Establishments Policy Statement and seeking approval of the final version.
- 26.2 Councillor Randle (Chair of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee) moved the recommendation set out in the report and advised that the revised Policy Statement had been accepted by the Licensing and Enforcement Committee and would be reviewed every five years.
- 26.3 Councillor Dallimore seconded the motion.
- 26.4 **RESOLVED** – That the revised Sex Establishments Policy Statement be noted, approved and adopted, to take immediate effect.
- 27. AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14**
- 27.1 The Council considered a report of the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee concerning the Audit and Governance Annual Report 2013-14.
- 27.2 Councillor Wilson (Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee) moved the recommendation set out in the report.
- 27.3 Councillor Haigh seconded the motion.

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27.4 **RESOLVED** – That the Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee 2013/14 be approved.

28. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

28.1 The Council considered a report of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee concerning the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2013-14.

28.2 Councillor Lugg (Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee) moved the recommendation set out in the report and explained that the Committee had engaged in more pre-scrutiny than ever before.

28.3 Councillor S. Witts seconded the motion.

28.4 Councillor Tracey asked of clarification of the aims of the 'Love Food, Hate Waste' campaign and encouraged Members to build on the recommendations of the Evening Economy Task and Finish Group by supporting the City's bars, restaurants and evening attractions.

28.5 Councillor Haigh explained that 'Love Food, Hate Waste' was a national campaign about discouraging waste and educating people via nationally available materials.

28.6 Councillor Hilton praised the Committee's response to the call in of the decision on the release of covenants for Llanthony Secunda Priory, which resulted in the review of the decision and the appropriate result being achieved for the Council.

28.7 Councillor Field (Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) commended the work of the Task and Finish Groups and stated that he hoped the Cabinet would progress implementation of agreed recommendations.

28.8 Councillor Lugg reported that the Committee would shortly begin work on two new Task and Finish Groups concerning private rented sector housing and the management of unadopted parcels of green land.

28.9 **RESOLVED** – That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2013-14 be noted.

29. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS (COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12)

(a) Written Question to Councillors

29a.1 As a supplementary to her written questions, Councillor Haigh asked the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources to explain why staff employed on zero hours contracts were not paid a Living Wage despite the Council's commitment to pay all staff a Living Wage, and what he was going to do to rectify the situation.

29a.2 Councillor Norman explained that all staff on the establishment were paid a Living Wage, but that staff on zero hours contracts were not on the establishment. He undertook to report back to Council following discussions with officers.

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29a.3 **RESOLVED** – That the written questions submitted and corresponding responses be noted.

(b) Leader and Cabinet Members' Question Time

29b.1 Councillor Haigh asked the Leader of the Council if he agreed that the City MP, Richard Graham, should spend more time in the City so that he could appreciate that Gloucester was not a small City.

29b.2 Councillor James stated that Gloucester was a small City in comparison to some others, but that it was a young and growing City. He advised that both the Council and the City MP were ambitious for the City and were working together for the good of the City.

29b.3 Councillor Hilton asked the Leader of the Council if he supported Gloucestershire County Council's efforts to lobby the Secretary of State for Transport to build a dual carriageway between Brockworth and the Cowley roundabout to ease traffic congestion and tackle safety concerns.

29b.4 Councillor James confirmed that the Council had already signed up to support the campaign and would work with the County Council for the good of the City.

29b.5 Councillor Hilton asked the Leader to agree for a cross-party letter of support to be submitted to the Secretary of State.

29b.6 Councillor James agreed for a letter to be submitted and stated that improved transport links were important for both safety reasons and for the good of the City, and the County's, economies.

29b.7 Councillor Haigh asked the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure if he had any response to the Deputy Prime Minister's recent comments regarding the under occupancy charge for council and housing association tenants.

29b.8 Councillor Organ explained that the measures were not a tax and were designed to encourage movement within the sector to support those on the waiting list and that there was no obligation on tenants to move. He stated that the measures were in the early stages of implementation and would be carefully monitored.

29b.9 Councillor Hilton asked the Leader of the Council if he welcomed the drop in unemployment in the Cit for the fourth consecutive month.

29b.10 Councillor James stated that he was pleased to see a sustained downward trend in unemployment, which demonstrated confidence in the City's economy.

29b.11 Councillor Chatterton asked the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture if he would undertake to ensure that preview evenings for exhibitions in the City take place far enough in advance in order that events can be properly promoted, in light of the timing of the preview event for the recent Tudor Faces exhibition.

29b.12 Councillor James undertook to feed the comments back to the relevant officers.

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- 29b.13 Councillor Toleman asked the Leader of the Council if he welcomed the significant funding awarded to the City as part of the Gloucestershire Growth Deal.
- 29b.14 Councillor James stated that he welcomed the funding and looked forward to seeing the detail of the allocation. He noted funding for the new bus station and for a Growth Hub to support new business start ups and congratulated the Strategic Economic Partnership in securing funding for everything identified in the Strategic Economic Plan.
- 29b.15 Councillor Field asked the Leader of the Council what steps he was taking to ensure that residents and visitors to the City were not harassed by charity collectors or 'chuggers'.
- 29b.16 Councillor James explained that there was a site licensing agreement in place limiting the location and number of chuggers and stated that stronger enforcement would take place following the appointment of a new City Centre Manager. He reported that Council was seeking public opinion on the current terms of the site licensing agreement and would consider further restrictions if such action was favoured.
- 29b.17 Councillor Field asked the Cabinet Member would consider trialling an outright ban on chuggers to see what difference it made.
- 29b.18 Councillor James stated that, while he would not rule out an outright ban on chuggers, he did not wish to prejudice the outcome of the public survey.
- 29b.19 Councillor Lugg asked the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods to review the policy in respect of community rights to bid for assets of community value in light of recent issues in relation to a community bid for an asset in Matson and Robinswood Ward where Ward Councillors were not properly informed throughout the process and it was not made clear what information was required from bidders, resulting in a community bid being rejected.
- 29b.20 Councillor Dallimore stated that the policy dictated that Ward Councillors be informed at specific stages of the process and undertook to ensure that the policy was implemented properly.
- 29b.21 The Head of Legal and Policy Development advised that the policy was under review and that considerations of any oversights that had occurred would be built into the review process.
- 29b.22 Councillor Haigh asked the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods if she would support the campaign to reduce the stake for fixed lot betting terminals to £2, given the effect gambling could have on the City's communities, and write to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to confirm her support.

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- 29b.23 Councillor Dallimore stated that, although she was not aware of any significant problem in relation to fixed lot betting terminals in the City, she would consider the campaign and take any action that she deemed necessary.
- 29b.24 Councillor Wilson asked the Leader of the Council what steps would be taken to obtain a better response to the consultation on the City's electoral boundaries than was received to the consultation on the Council's electoral arrangements.
- 29b.25 Councillor James stated that, although he was not a member, he was confident that the Boundary Review Working Group would take the necessary steps to ensure that the consultation was widely advertised.
- 29b.26 Councillor Randle asked the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods whether she welcomed the formation of new community groups within the City.
- 29b.27 Councillor Dallimore praised the City's community groups and reported that more and more applications for Community Grants were being received from new organisations. She also noted the establishment of the Members Allocation Fund and encouraged Members to make use of the funding available.
- 29b.28 Councillor Patel asked the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods whether she agreed that the Beach Party organised by One Church was a fantastic event and whether she welcomed the wide range of events organised by the City's community groups.
- 29b.29 Councillor Dallimore commended the organisers of the Beach Party and welcomed the growth of such events across the City.
- 29b.30 Councillor Hilton asked the Cabinet Member for Environment to give an assurance that street cleaning performance in the autumn would be better than in previous years.
- 29b.31 Councillor Porter advised that he had commenced discussions with Amey regarding collecting dropped leaves in the autumn and gave an assurance that the Council would be better prepared to deal with issues as they arose.
- 29b.32 Councillor Tracey asked the Cabinet Member for Environment to look into the problem of road sweepers not being able to clear leaves from the roads in Kingsholm and Wotton Ward due to parked cars causing an obstruction.
- 29b.33 Councillor Porter advised that he had discussed the matter with Amey, but that it was difficult to find a solution because they were unable to force residents to move their cars. Amey would continue to work around the parked as best they could.
- 29b.34 Councillor S. Witts asked the Cabinet Member for Environment what arrangements were in place for Amey staff required to work outside for long periods of time in hot weather.

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- 29b.35 Councillor Porter advised that all Amey staff were duty bound to consider their own health and safety. He confirmed that Amey provided suitable equipment and clothing for outside work in cold and inclement weather and undertook to find out what provisions were made in hot weather.
- 29b.36 Councillor Patel asked the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources if he agreed that the Council was to be commended for employing 16 apprentices, providing excellent opportunities for young people and paying them above the national minimum wage.
- 29b.37 Councillor Norman agreed that the Council was to be commended for its approach to apprenticeships and that he hoped the scheme would be expanded in the future.
- 29b.38 Councillor Lugg asked the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources whether zero hours staff were covered by the Council's insurance.
- 29b.39 Councillor Norman confirmed that zero hours staff were covered by the Council's insurance.
- 29b.40 Councillor Tracey asked the Leader of the Council if he would look into the issue of how Council regalia was displayed in the Council Chamber.
- 29b.41 Councillor James advised that the current Mayor and Sheriff would be meeting with Museums staff to discuss the display cabinets during the following week.
- 29b.42 Councillor Dee asked the Leader of the Council if he agreed that the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) was of great significance and that the officers responsible for working on it deserved praise in light of the work being commended by Central Government.
- 29b.43 Councillor James stated that he agreed with Councillor Dee and commended both the submission document and the work carried out by the officers. He noted that the document had been the subject of significant debate and that a good degree of consensus had been achieved. He also thanked Councillor Dee for his involvement in the JCS.

30. NOTICES OF MOTION

(1) Notice of Motion from the Liberal Democrat Group

- 30.1 Moved by Councillor McLellan and seconded by Councillor S. Witts:

"This council agrees with Simon Stevens, the Chief Executive of the NHS that smaller community hospitals should play a bigger role especially in the care of older patients.

This council further believes that there is an urgent need for a community hospital in Gloucester and will write to the Chairs of the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Trust and the Gloucestershire Care Trust to seek their support in establishing a community hospital in Gloucester."

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30.2 Councillor Organ moved an amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Randle.

30.3 Councillor McLellan accepted the amendment:

“This council agrees with Simon Stevens, the Chief Executive of the NHS that smaller community hospitals should play a bigger role especially in the care of older patients.

This council further believes that there is an urgent need for a community hospital in Gloucester and will write to the Chairs of the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Trust and the Gloucestershire Care Trust to seek their support in establishing **the need for** a community hospital in Gloucester.”

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

31. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

31.1 Moved by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Dallimore –

31.2 **RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the following item of business on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public are present during consideration of these items there will be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

Minute No.	Description of Exempt Information
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32	Paragraph 3: information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).
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33	Paragraph 1: information relating to any individual;
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and

Paragraph 3: information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).

34	Paragraph 5: information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
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32. RETAIL DEVELOPMENT AT KINGS QUARTER

32.1 The Council considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture concerning retail-led regeneration at Kings Quarter.

32.2 Councillor James moved the recommendation set out in the report.

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32.3 Councillor Dallimore seconded the motion.

32.4 **RESOLVED** – That the recommendations detailed in the exempt report be approved.

33. REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE AIRPORT LIMITED

Note: Councillors Hilton, Lugg and Taylor withdrew from the Chamber and did not take part on the debate or vote on this item.

33.1 The Council considered a report of the Corporate Director of Services and Neighbourhoods concerning a review of governance arrangements for Gloucestershire Airport Limited.

33.2 Councillor James moved the recommendation set out in the report.

33.3 Councillor Porter seconded the motion.

33.4 **RESOLVED** – That the recommendations detailed in the exempt report be approved.

Note: Councillors Hilton, Lugg and Taylor re-entered the Chamber following the vote.

34. USE OF SPECIAL URGENCY PROVISIONS

34.1 The Council considered a report of the Leader of the Council concerning the use of Special Urgency provisions.

34.2 Councillor James moved the recommendation set out in the report.

34.3 Councillor Dallimore seconded the motion.

34.4 **RESOLVED** – That the recommendations detailed in the exempt report be approved.

Time of commencement: 19:00 hours

Time of conclusion: 21:45 hours

Chair