



Amendments

Council
6.30pm, 16 November 2023

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LIBERAL DEMOCRAT AMENDMENT ITEM 9 TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION ACQUISITION PROGRAMME

Council is asked to RESOLVE that:

- (1) Delegated authority be provided to the Corporate Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources and the Director of One Legal to:
 - a) approves the establishment of a capital investment fund, funded from borrowing, to enable an acquisition programme for buildings or other structures for use as temporary accommodation for households who present as homeless to the Council.
 - b) explore options and appoint a provider, or other arrangement, to manage the temporary accommodation provided on behalf of the Council.
 - c) procure and appoint contractors and associated professional services to carry out any works required to bring the properties into use as units of temporary accommodation.
- (2) Acquisitions will be made in accordance with the principles of this report and the total costs will not exceed £5m.
- (3) **Endorse the letter sent by Cllr. Sam Chapman-Allen chairman of the District Council Network to the chancellor, Jeremy Hunt MP, which called for the government to urgently:**
 - **Raise Local Housing Allowance rates to a level that will cover at least 30% of local market rent and commit to annual uprating.**
 - **Provide £100m additional funding for Discretionary Housing Payments in 2023-24 and an additional £200m in 2024-25.**
 - **Provide a £150m top-up to the Homelessness Prevention Grant for 2024-25.**
 - **Review the cap for housing benefit subsidy rate for local authority homelessness placements.**
 - **Develop policy to stimulate retention and supply in the privately rented sector.**
 - **Give councils the long-term funding, flexibility and certainty needed to increase the supply of social housing.**
- (4) **Continue to lobby the city MP, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to provide the city council with additional revenue and capital funding to enable the council to meet its obligations to tackle homelessness within the city of Gloucester.**

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LIBERAL DEMOCRAT AMENDMENT ITEM 12(3) NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR A. CHAMBERS

“The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us clearly that the Internet is no longer a luxury, a convenient enhancement for lifestyles for those who can afford it. Rather, Internet access has become a basic necessity, **and can be viewed as a utility such as water or power.**

During the lockdown, it has become vital for everyday activities. It often is the only way we can contact and care for close friends and family. In some instances, it even has become the only way to [say goodbye to loved ones quarantined in hospital](#). Yet, online access is also necessary during non-emergencies for fair opportunities to work, study, to engage with government, and to exercise our political freedoms. We thus have weighty reasons to accept a right to ~~Internet access~~ **digital equality**. If we doubted this before, few will doubt this now.

This council notes that ~~WiFi internet access~~ **digital equality** is a basic need and not a luxury. Therefore this motion is to ~~provide FREE fast access WiFi for all Gloucester city residents on every City Council ward.~~

~~Free WiFi will be provided to all areas of the Gloucester city by 2026.~~

- **Request officers explore partnering with the DAISI (Digital Accessibility, Inclusion, Support and Innovation) project hosted by GRCC: leveraging their expertise in digital equity initiatives and existing resources.**
- **Officers review support to help residents on lower incomes to access social tariffs for broadband and mobile phone access and make recommendations for improvement.**
- **Officers review Gloucester City’s Website and report back regarding its accessibility.**

We ask that the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods responds with a cabinet report within 6 months of this meeting.”

CONSERVATIVE AMENDMENT ITEM 12(4) NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR A. CHAMBERS

“Pump Tracks offer a fun, safe space for all ages and abilities to enjoy a range of wheel based activities including BMX bikes, scooters, skateboards and rollerblades.

The proposed Coney Hill Pump Track will be a much-used and valued asset by its community and we're keen to work with partners to help more areas such as Saintbridge/ Matson/ White City and Robinswood enjoy these same benefits.

What is a Pump Track?

So what is a pump track? A pump track is designed to create a safe, fun and inclusive playground for all wheels-based users regardless of age or gender.

They provide a playground for kids and adults from beginners to professionals, and a sustainable and fun-packed activity for everyone in the community.

Their design combines rolling jumps with turns that teach the basic skills of carrying momentum, balance and speed by using your arms and legs to pump your bike/ skateboard/ scooter around the track....

‘A Moment to Learn, a Lifetime to Master’.

Community benefits

Pump Tracks not only offer a space to exercise and improve skills, such as balance and coordination, they also provide a community focal point. Coney Hill Pump Track will become a key feature of the community, with regular meet-ups, litter picks and events.

A planned track at Coney Hill park next to the pond will create a Hub in the area for those walking and cycling, with rest stops and community events. A Coney Hill Community Pump Track group hopes to be situated alongside environmental and nature-based projects while a Track.

Support

This Council notes that children and adult well being, fitness and mental health is priority. Therefore this council will allocate an area of City Council land at Coney Hill park off Metz Way by Stanway Road and Boughton Way for the construction of a Pump track.

This location is far enough away from houses and homes to ensure no associated ASB will be generated.

It's an ideal location for a pump track.

~~This Gloucester City council will work with City Council Planning department, Gloucestershire County Councillor for the ward as well as NHS and city Council Cil & S106 budgets to ensure that this pump track will be built and operational before April 2026~~ **This Council notes that this request is not on the Council Forward Plan and there is at present no funding to invest in it, however the Council will establish a group including all our partners to develop plans, consult the local community and look for funding to enable delivery of the project in the fullness of time.**

This is a great motion helping keep children off the streets, build community's, support mental health and well being and promote health equalities to one of the County Councils most deprived areas and one the top 10 most deprived areas in England. Please support.”

**CONSERVATIVE AMENDMENT
ITEM 12(5) NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR A. CHAMBERS**

“Gloucester City Council created a set of rules and regulations on the 1st August 2014 for the Coney Hill Cemetery and Crematorium.

Following ~~complaints~~ **a complaint and comments on social media** from hundreds of families about their child's, brothers, mothers, fathers, & grandparents graves vases/ personal possessions and borders being removed by the council as they don't fit into the councils ~~rigid~~ **rigid** set of rules and regulations has caused much hurt and upset around the families who manage their beloved members final resting place.

Some personal possessions, gifts, pictures, lights and borders have been removed from the graves over night without the families being made aware. I am sure council letters ~~in some cases may~~ have been sent. However this does not help the situation when your beloved family's members picture/ gift or toy has been removed because it was an inch too big.

This council notes that the ~~rigid~~ cemetery and crematorium rules needs reviewing urgently as currently there are many families who have been given a deadline by the council ~~which have threatened~~ to remove personal items from their beloved ones final resting places **or the council shall do so and hold for collection.**

Graves and resting areas of loved ones should be a place of peace for family members. A place to visit loved ones and feel close. A place of sanctuary where family members are able to make the resting places bespoke to their past family member, a resting place of a beloved family member should have the option to be able to use colours that they liked, as well as pictures and ornaments. ~~The current rules and regulations are too specific and too rigid.~~ **These needs however need to be balanced with the requirements of a operation cemetery.**

From the 2014 rules, ~~There are fixed rules for set edgings, many families can not~~ **cannot** afford to buy solid granite sets for edgings and they have used an alternative to mark out their family members resting place. As a result, the Council have ~~removed these~~ **written to the families advising that these** edgings and the gravel infill ~~leaving the resting place bare and empty~~ **should be removed within 14 days to comply with the rules which were signed prior to the grave being purchased. Recently,** A a further 12 letters have been sent by the City council to family members to advise they will have items removed from their loved ones graves if they do not follow the ~~strict council~~ **cemetery** rules.

This council notes the hard work and dedication of the cemetery team who work in a very challenging area, providing support and guidance to the bereaved with the upmost compassion and empathy.

~~The council cemetery and crematorium rules need to be reviewed and current family members/users consulted as well as a City wide consultation to reach a fair balance of new rules and regulations which will include a more modern, flexible approach to these final resting places.~~ **The council agrees to conduct a review of the 2014 rules and regulations for the cemetery, considering industry best practice and the rules of all local cemeteries. A report shall be brought to Cabinet outlining the results. Should this review recommend changes to the rules, Cabinet will be asked to approve a full public consultation requesting comments from families who use the cemetery and all Gloucester residents.** This council will also postpone any grave / resting place **edging** removal till these new rules and regulations have been consulted on, therefore protecting the

12 current graves which are set to be dismantled by Gloucester City Council until the end of the review process and consultation if required.

~~I therefore ask City Council to support this motion to review the current rules and regulations, while working with family members that maintain the resting places to reach a fair & flexible outcome. The consultation must be conducted within a maximum 8 weeks from this council motion and the new cemetery and crematorium rules and regulations will be in action before the 1st May 2024. The graves under threat of dismantle/ removal of edgings and toys etc will be postponed till the new rules and regulations are created as some of these edgings and toys would fit in the new modern rules approach."~~

CONSERVATIVE AMENDMENT
ITEM 12(6) NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR O'DONNELL

"This council notes that there are ~~20 plus~~ rough sleepers each night in and around our Gloucester City Streets.

After speaking to other organisations who want to remain confidential at this point they have advised **claimed** that the current system is ~~not fit for purpose~~ **does not work as well as it could**.

It can be more difficult for ~~R~~rough sleepers who do not own mobile phone devices are unable to receive help as they are **can be** missed off the system if they move at the point when the out reach team visit.

This city council owes the rough sleepers a duty of care and protection. ~~Currently there have been numerous incidents of rough sleepers tents and bedding being set on fire.~~

~~Not only that there are many~~ **There are** rough sleepers who have mental health conditions and also pose a risk to the general public and themselves with several incidents occurring recently.

~~There are also more worryingly British~~ **No one should be sleeping rough on the streets of Gloucester including** military veterans that have served our country ~~sleeping rough with no help or assistance.~~

~~Temporary hotel places for rough sleepers and ex British military veterans are becoming increasing harder to obtain due to the fact over 2 large Hotels in our city are full to the brim of small boat economic illegal immigrants. These economic immigrants are predominately male of working age. This therefore has left British ex military veterans and nationals out in the cold.~~

Temporary accommodation for rough sleepers can be harder to obtain due to demand.

~~Moreover, tThe eCity's mMission's night shelter has closed this year meaning many U.K. nationals will be left out in the frost and snow over our harsh winter~~ **will not be opening this winter however Severe Weather Emergency Protocol will continue to operate during extreme weather conditions.**

This council notes that a solution is urgently required to safe-guarding our cities ~~city's~~ rough sleepers and make our city overall a safer place.

This motion is for the City Council to ~~find an empty building within the city and form a night shelter within 14 days of this motion with a capacity of 100 people~~ **work with partners to provide a night shelter to help meet the needs of rough sleepers that we owe a duty to in Gloucester.**

This will then enable a safe space and shelter for the rough sleepers and any families that ~~find themselves homeless this Christmas~~ **with children will always be provided with accommodation either through the city council under the Housing Act 1996 or the County Council under the Children's Act 1989 so no family should be without a roof this Christmas.**

This night shelter ~~must remain open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year~~ **will operate to meet the needs that are required in line with assessed.**

~~The saving of housing people in the temporary night shelter will ensure that the City Council save enormous costs charged by hotels~~ **Any cost saving is to be determined, however this a shelter would be another offering to support homeless people we owe a duty to."**

**CONSERVATIVE AMENDMENT
ITEM 12(7) NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR WILSON**

“At the September meeting of Full Council the non availability of audited accounts for Gloucester City Council for the financial years of 2022/22 and 2022/23 was debated. During the course of the debate it was explained that this was partly due to a crisis in local government auditing that was also affecting other councils in the country.

Openness and transparency are nonetheless important, especially in these times of great financial uncertainty.

Council notes that Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Stroud District Council and The Forest of Dean District Council have all published draft (unaudited) accounts for 2022/23.

Council therefore requires Gloucester City Council to adopt this practice and ensure that fully audited accounts for 2021/22, **subject to completion of audit work by Deloitte, are published on the website. The Deloitte audit is subject to ongoing proposals from Central Government with regards to expected back stop dates to clear the sector wide backlog of audits. Council also requires that** ~~and~~ draft (unaudited) accounts for 2022/23 are published on the council’s website ~~by January 2024~~ **before the March 2024 Council meeting to allow transparent debate.”**

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