



COUNCIL

MEETING : Monday, 6th February 2017

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

Others in Attendance

Jon McGinty, Managing Director
Anne Brinkhoff, Corporate Director
Jonathan Lund, Corporate Director
Sara Freckleton, Solicitor - One Legal
Anthony Wilson, Head of Planning
Philip Bylo, Interim Planning Policy and Heritage Manager
Tanya Davies, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Cheryl Lester, Planning Solicitor - One Legal
Adam Gooch, Senior Planning Officer
Tony Wisdom, Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES : None.

52. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

52.1 That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2016 be approved as a correct record.

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

53.1 Councillor Stephens declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 11.2, notice of motion in respect of advice services by virtue of his wife's employment. He left the meeting and took no part in the debate and voting on the amendment at Minute 61(3).

53.2 Councillor Hawthorne declared a personal interest in agenda item 11.1, notice of motion in respect of dementia by virtue of his employment. He left the body of the

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meeting and took no part in the debate and voting on the amendment at Minute 61(2).

- 53.3 Councillor Gravells declared a personal interest in agenda item 11.1, notice of motion in respect of dementia as the Gloucestershire County Council Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities. Having declared his interest he remained in the meeting.

54. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 54.1 Mr Steve Gower referred to the minutes of the previous meeting regarding homelessness and expressed his surprise at the wording of the minute which had implied that homeless was purely an environmental issue. As a member of the Institute of Occupational Health and Safety and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health he considered that the issue of homelessness was not just environmental but encompassed welfare as well. Having spent seven months in a House in Multiple Occupation and having experience in health and safety he considered that there was an issue and asked if the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning agreed.
- 54.2 Councillor Organ (Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning) acknowledged that homelessness was a complex issue and he undertook to meet with Mr Gower with an officer to discuss his concerns.

55. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

- 55.1 There were no petitions or deputations.

56. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor

- 56.1 The Mayor announced that the annual Mayor's Ball would be held on Friday, 21st April 2017 at Imjin Barracks.

Cabinet Members

- 56.2 Councillor Organ (Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning) announced that the City had been selected for the Government's 'Unlocking the Land Fund' initiative following a bid for £11 million for housing only. The funding was designed to unlock brownfield sites to help create more starter homes. He thanked everyone involved in preparing the bid and undertook to keep Council informed of progress.
- 56.3 Councillor Organ (Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning) advised that Gloucestershire was one of eight areas chosen to deliver the Social Income Bond. The initiative would help tackle homelessness and the £990,000 applied for was confirmed. He undertook to keep Council informed of progress.
- 56.4 Councillor Norman (Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources) noted that two local authorities had declared that devolution was 'dead in the water'. He confirmed that those areas with progressing bids would be dealt with first but noted

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that the Managing Director was leading on this issue for the City Council although the Working Group may not be meeting for some time.

- 56.5 Councillor Watkins (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods) announced that the licence had been granted for the Gloucester Lottery and ticket sales had already exceeded targets. She encouraged Members to alert any good causes in their wards to sign up through the website www.gloucesterlottery.co.uk and raise awareness of how to buy tickets in their wards.
- 56.6 Councillor Noakes (Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure) announced that the Gloucester Tourist Information Centre had won the Gold award in their category and had also won the 'Winner of Winners' award. She congratulated the TIC team on this achievement.
- 56.7 Councillor Cook (Cabinet Member for Environment) announced that the efforts of the waste and recycling teams in introducing changes to the recycling system had resulted in a 37 per cent increase in recycling in January compared to last year. He congratulated the teams and the Council's partner Amey.

57. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

- 57.1 Councillor Haigh asked the Leader of the Council what efforts he had made to lobby the Government and the City's Member of Parliament regarding the cuts to Council funding.
- 57.2 Councillor James explained that he had made representations and that he met with the City's Member of Parliament on a regular basis. He hoped to meet the Local Government Minister in the near future. He believed that the cuts were a consequence of the mess left by the last Government.
- 57.3 Councillor Haigh noted that the last Government was Conservative and despite Liberal/Democrat amnesia, that party was also involved.
- 57.4 Councillor James regarded the present Government as a continuation of the previous administration's efforts to reduce the national deficit and he had referred to the mess left by the Labour government. He noted that the City Council had been successful in drawing in funding such as the new Bus Station and the Social Income Bond and he believed that it was prudent to take measures to make savings.
- 57.5 Councillor Haigh asked if the Leader of the Council agreed with Richard Graham MP that the city was well served by the National Health Service.
- 57.6 Councillor James noted that it was not a responsibility of this Council but he agreed that the NHS did a good job.
- 57.7 Councillor Haigh asked the Leader of the Council if he agreed with the transfer of funds from the New Homes Bonus to the County Council to help fund social care.

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- 57.8 Councillor James responded that he had made representations as it was not fair on councils where development was constrained. He noted that the Conservatives were the only party to propose more money for the NHS in the last election.
- 57.9 Councillor Hilton asked the Leader of the Council if he had attended any meetings of the Local Government Association District Council Network in the last twelve months.
- 57.10 Councillor James responded that the Local Government Association lobbied on behalf of all local authorities.
- 57.11 Councillor Hilton noted that the Secretary of State had been present at a conference last week and he asked the Leader of the Council why he had missed that opportunity to lobby for the City.
- 57.12 Councillor James replied that he had made representations and he would be arranging a meeting with the Minister for Local Government.
- 57.13 Councillor Hilton noted that the Cabinet Member for Environment had described the Amey contract as the worst he had ever seen and he asked the Cabinet Member what was wrong with the contract.
- 57.14 Councillor Cook replied that the main problem was that the contract did not contain an exit clause.
- 57.15 Councillor Hilton asked Councillor Cook if he could explain an annual payment of £53,000 over ten years for bins as part of that contract.
- 57.16 Councillor Cook replied that he was unable to answer that question without advice and he would provide the Member with an answer.
- 57.17 Councillor Pullen asked the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning if he could assure Council that the good work undertaken regarding conditions in the private rented sector would continue following the implementation of Together Gloucester.
- 57.18 Councillor Organ replied that excellent and important work had been undertaken in that regard but as Together Gloucester had not been finalised he was unable to give any assurances.
- 57.19 Councillor Pullen noted that the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources had stated that the work would continue for this financial year but could not give any guarantee and Councillor Organ had stated that there would be other policy options to consider.
- 57.20 Councillor Organ stated that the results of the work and prosecutions that it had brought about would need to be considered and action taken accordingly.
- 57.21 Councillor D. Brown noted that the Social Income Bond initiative would bring £990,000 to the County and he asked the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning how much of this funding would come to the City.

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- 57.22 Councillor Organ noted that the City had the largest population of the districts in the County and he would let the Member know how the issue proceeded.
- 57.23 Councillor Coole noted that February was Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) History Month and he asked the Leader of the Council if the Council was planning anything to celebrate the month.
- 57.24 Councillor James undertook to make enquiries and notify the Member.
- 57.25 Councillor Coole asked the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods and the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure to ensure that LGBT History Month is celebrated in future years.

58. JOINT CORE STRATEGY PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

- 58.1 Council considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning which sought approval of proposed main modifications to the June 2014 Pre-Submission Joint Core Strategy (JCS) for the purpose of undertaking formal public consultation into Post Submission Proposed Main Modifications to the JCS.
- 58.2 Councillor Organ moved the recommendations set out in the report and advised that there had been an error on Page 182 of the report; PMM0134 should refer to Appendix 1A and PMM0135 should refer to Appendix 2.
- 58.3 Councillor James seconded the motion.
- 58.4 Councillor Morgan referred to paragraph 4.13 of the report and noted the concerns of Members representing wards to the south of the City and in order to avoid the mistakes of the past consideration should be given to the impact of such developments upon infrastructure. He referred to paragraph 2 on page 129 of the table of modifications and asked if there could be a definition of the term 'severe'. He further requested that reference be made to the 'Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board' at Main Modification PMM0084 as a body that also works with Gloucester City Council, Gloucestershire County Council and landowners to secure improved flood defences around lower Westgate in Gloucester.
- 58.5 Councillor Haigh welcomed the affordable housing element in the JCS and would await the forthcoming Housing Bill and she hoped that the point would be made to the Minister that if local authorities were able to borrow they could deliver housing 'at pace'.
- 58.6 Councillor Stephens believed that some problems in the past were due to the lack of an up to date plan. He called on Members to approve the proposed main modifications to enable progress to be made with the City Plan. He believed that the allocation of employment land had been predicated on the decline of manufacturing in the County. He suggested that the Local Enterprise Board be lobbied and that a comprehensive strategy for the future of manufacturing be ensured.
- 58.7 Councillor James thanked the political groups for their support and noted that all points would be tested in the JCS process. He noted that the City would be

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vulnerable to developers if no plan was in place and he shared concerns over development south of the City boundaries. He shared the view that there was a place for manufacturing especially high value manufacturing.

58.8 Councillor Organ noted the comments on the impact on infrastructure of developments south of the City boundaries and noted the intention to keep a green buffer between the City and Stroud. He thought that 'severe' in a planning context was a matter of interpretation but could be taken up with officers. However, he was happy to include reference to the Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board in PMM0084. He noted that a White Paper would be published on 7th February which was expected to address affordable housing issues. He noted the importance of all local authorities working together especially with Stroud and the Forest of Dean District Councils.

58.9 **RESOLVED TO:**

1. Approve for public consultation the proposed main modifications to the June 2014 Pre-Submission Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to the report (including proposed modifications to the Proposals Map and Key Diagram) as those it endorses and considers necessary to make the JCS sound.
2. Delegate authority to the Managing Director of Gloucester City Council in consultation with the Leader of Gloucester City Council to make minor changes to the proposed main modifications and proposed modifications to the Proposals Map and Key Diagram in terms of formatting, presentation and accuracy.

59. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME REVIEW 2017/18

59.1 Council considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources which advised Members of the urgent decision of the Managing Director concerning the requirement to review the Local Council Tax Support scheme within three years of the Act taking effect and consider its impact locally following the consultation results.

59.2 Councillor Norman moved the recommendations as set out in the report and noted that it had been necessary for the Managing Director to make an urgent decision in order to meet the statutory deadlines as it was not possible for Council to approve the changes due to the postponement of the meeting scheduled for 26th January to enable a decision to be made on the JCS proposed main modifications in line with the two other partner authorities.

59.3 Councillor James seconded the motion.

59.4 Councillor Haigh challenged the reasoning behind the recommendations as she believed that devolving the cuts in support to those in receipt would result in them blaming the Council rather than the Government. She indicated that she would abstain from voting.

59.5 **RESOLVED:**

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1. To note the urgent decision of the Managing Director to review the Local Council Tax Support scheme and bring it in line with recent welfare reforms and changes to Housing Benefit legislation (Appendices 1 and 2).
2. To further note the urgent decision of the Managing Director that the recommendations relating to limiting the support for families to two children for new claims and births after 1st April 2017 (mirroring the changes to Tax Credits) so that any subsequent children born after April 2017 will not be eligible for further support, be adopted into the Local Council Tax Support scheme from 1st April 2017. This is alongside changes to Housing Benefit legislation.

60. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS, MAY 2017-APRIL 2019

- 60.1 Council considered the report of the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager which presented a two year programme of ordinary meetings of Council and other meetings for the period May 2017 to April 2018 for approval.
- 60.2 Councillor Norman moved the recommendations set out in the report.
- 60.3 Councillor James seconded the motion.
- 60.4 **RESOLVED** that, subject to any further changes, the two-year programme of ordinary meetings of Council and other meetings for the period May 2017 to April 2018 be approved

61. NOTICES OF MOTION

- (1) Notice of Motion from the Conservative Group

- 61.1 Moved by Councillor Finnegan and seconded by Councillor Toleman:

“This Council:

- notes that in Gloucester an estimated 1300 people are living with dementia, the majority of whom are aged over 65.
- recognises the support available to people with dementia and those who care for them;
- acknowledges that the City Council has a role to play as we strive to work more closely with our health partners and the Public Health Team at Gloucestershire County Council;
- Resolves to:
 1. Obtain recognition for Gloucester as a Dementia Friendly City (DFC).
 2. Follow the Alzheimers Society's key criteria for obtaining recognition as a DFC.
 3. Encourage businesses, organisations and services who meet the criteria to display the 'forget-me-not' logo.
 4. Encourage councillors to attend one of the Dementia Friends' Awareness sessions.
 5. Encourage our staff to become a Dementia Friend and to attend Dementia Awareness sessions.

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6. Encourage staff and councillors to share their new knowledge with residents and businesses in Gloucester such that they can become aware of the issues affecting people with dementia.”

61.2 The motion was put to the vote and was carried.

(2) Notices of Motion from the Labour Group

61.3 Moved by Councillor Haigh and seconded by Councillor Coole:

“Council acknowledges that the Law Centre and Citizens Advice Bureau are vital local advice services which offer an invaluable service to the City and which many residents depend on.

Council notes that the proposed budget for 17/18 proposes huge cuts of 50% in City Council funding for these services, which if implemented will detrimentally affect the ability of these services to function

Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods carry out a full people impact assessment as to the impact of proposed budget cuts to advice services.”

61.4 Councillor Hilton moved the following amendment:

“Council acknowledges that the Law Centre and Citizens Advice Bureau are vital local advice services which offer an invaluable service to the City and which many residents depend on.

Council notes that the proposed budget for 17/18 proposes huge cuts of 50% in City Council funding for these services, which if implemented will detrimentally affect the ability of these services to function

Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods ~~carry out a full people impact assessment as to the impact of proposed budget cuts to advice services~~ **withdraws the proposed cut in grant funding to the Law Centre and the Citizens Advice Bureau maintaining funding at 2016/17 levels.**”

61.5 The Managing Director advised that, on the advice of the Monitoring Officer, the above was not acceptable as an amendment as it represented a new motion. The Mayor declined to accept the proposed amendment.

61.6 The motion, as moved, was put to the vote and fell.

61.7 Moved by Councillor Haigh and seconded by Councillor Stephens:

“Council notes that the majority of the savings in the financial year 2017/18 will be delivered through the 'Together Gloucester' organisational restructure.

Council notes that this restructure has wide reaching implications for all residents, and will fundamentally change how residents, officers and members interact.

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Council resolves to establish a cross party working group to monitor and assist with the delivery and implementation of the restructure.”

61.8 The motion, as moved, was put to the vote and fell.

62. WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

No written questions had been received.

Time of commencement: 7.00 pm

Time of conclusion: 8.55 pm

Mayor