



General Purposes Committee

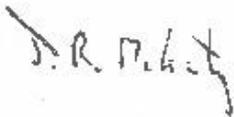
Meeting: Tuesday, 13th March 2018 at 6.00 pm in Civic Suite, North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP

Membership:	Cllrs. Williams (Chair), H. Norman (Vice-Chair), Hilton, Hanman, Taylor, Coole and Pullen
Contact:	Parvati Diyar Democratic Services and Elections Officer 01452 396192 parvati.diyar@gloucester.gov.uk

AGENDA

1.	APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive from Members, declarations of the existence of any disclosable pecuniary, or non-pecuniary, interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any agenda item. Please see Agenda Notes.
3.	MINUTES (Pages 5 - 8) To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2018.
4.	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES) To receive any questions from members of the public provided that a question does not relate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters which are the subject of current or pending legal proceedings, or • Matters relating to employees or former employees of the Council or comments in respect of individual Council Officers
5.	PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES) To receive any petitions and deputations provided that no such petition or deputation is in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters relating to individual Council Officers, or • Matters relating to current or pending legal proceedings

6.	PLANNING POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE (Pages 9 - 12) To consider the report of the Head of Paid Service recommending the dissolution of Planning Policy Sub-Committee.
7.	DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday, 26 June 2018 at 6.00pm.



Jon McGinty
Managing Director

Date of Publication: Monday, 5 March 2018

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The duties to register, disclose and not to participate in respect of any matter in which a member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest are set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 as follows –

<u>Interest</u>	<u>Prescribed description</u>
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made or provided within the previous 12 months (up to and including the date of notification of the interest) in respect of any expenses incurred by you carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between you, your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (or a body in which you or they have a beneficial interest) and the Council (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the Council's area. For this purpose "land" includes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for you, your spouse, civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the Council's area for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) – (a) the landlord is the Council; and (b) the tenant is a body in which you, your spouse or civil partner or a person you are living with as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where – (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the Council's area and (b) either – i. The total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or ii. If the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, your spouse or civil partner or person with

whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

For this purpose, “securities” means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

NOTE: the requirements in respect of the registration and disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and withdrawing from participating in respect of any matter where you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest apply to your interests and those of your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner where you are aware of their interest.

Access to Information

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For enquiries about Gloucester City Council’s meetings please contact Democratic Services, 01452 396126, democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk.

If you, or someone you know cannot understand English and need help with this information, or if you would like a large print, Braille, or audio version of this information please call 01452 396396.

Recording of meetings

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Any recording must take place in such a way as to ensure that the view of Councillors, Officers, the Public and Press is not obstructed. The use of flash photography and/or additional lighting will not be allowed unless this has been discussed and agreed in advance of the meeting.

FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by council staff. It is vital that you follow their instructions:

- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building; gather at the assembly point in the car park and await further instructions;
- Do not re-enter the building until told by a member of staff or the fire brigade that it is safe to do so.



GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MEETING : Tuesday, 16th January 2018

PRESENT : Cllrs. Williams (Chair), H. Norman (Vice-Chair), Hilton, Taylor, Coole and Pullen

Others in Attendance

Peter Jones, Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel
Tanya Davies, Policy and Governance Manager
Parvati Diyar, Democratic Services and Elections Officer

APOLOGIES : Cllr. Hanman

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

9. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

There were no public questions.

11. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

There were no petitions and deputations.

12. REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2018

The Committee considered the report of the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) which reported on the recommendations of the IRP with regard to the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme and to seek a decision on an appropriate scheme for the payment of allowances in 2018-19.

The Chair welcomed Peter Jones, Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel and thanked him for attending the meeting.

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
16.01.18

Mr Jones presented his report and thanked his fellow Panel Members for their work. He also reported that Wynn Bartlett had joined the Panel, which went some way towards addressing Members' concerns about the diversity of the Panel.

The Committee was advised that this was a minor review, with the formal review starting in the Autumn.

Mr Jones referred to the recommendations as detailed in the report. He said the Panel had noted concerns regarding taxation of Dependents Carers' Allowance and believed this to be an unfair arrangement.

The Panel had explored how other local authorities operated the allowance and it was noted that the majority of Councils followed the same approach as Gloucester; however, one Council reimbursed the allowance with an uplift to cover taxation. The Panel found this approach to be flawed and were instead suggesting that the Council writes to the Local Government Association to lobby the government in support of making the Dependents Carers' Allowance exempt from taxation.

Mr Jones passed on the Panel's thanks to the Policy and Governance Manager for her support during the review.

The Chair of the Committee thanked Mr Jones and the Panel Members for their work.

The Chair acknowledged that the taxation of childcare was an important issue and commented on the difficulties for people with young children to stand as Councillors. She added that she would ask Council to endorse this recommendation.

Councillor Hilton also passed on his thanks to the Policy and Governance Manager for her clarification regarding the indexation of the Scheme to the Local Government pay award.

General Purposes Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** to Council that:

- (1) Members' Allowances remain unchanged at the levels detailed in the 2017-18 Scheme, subject to the wording of Schedule 2 being amended to reflect the Council's continued commitment to the Living Wage in respect of the Dependents' Carers' Allowance for the reimbursement of childcare costs.
- (2) The Council writes to the Local Government Association asking them to lobby the government in support of making the Dependents' Carers' Allowance exempt from taxation.
- (3) The Scheme of Members' Allowances set out in Appendix 1 be approved for 2018-19.

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 13 March 2018 at 6.00pm.

**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
16.01.18**

**Time of commencement: 6.00 pm hours
Time of conclusion: 6.10 pm hours**

Chair

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Meeting:	General Purposes Committee Council	Date:	13 March 2018 22 March 2018
Subject:	Planning Policy Sub-Committee		
Report Of:	Head of Paid Service		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
Contact Officer:	Adam Gooch – Principal Planning Officer		
	Email: adam.gooch@gloucester.gov.uk	Tel:	39-6836
Appendices:	None		

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To recommend the dissolution of Planning Policy Sub-Committee.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 General Purposes Committee is asked to **RECOMMEND** to Council that:

(1) The Planning Policy Sub-Committee is dissolved.

2.2 Council is asked to **RESOLVE** that:

(1) The Planning Policy Sub-Committee is dissolved.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

3.1 Legislation and national planning policy requires local authorities to prepare a Local Plan, covering its administrative area, working with neighbouring local authorities to address strategic issues of a cross-boundary nature. Local Plans need to cover a period of at least 15 years and to be updated at least every five years.

3.2 For Gloucester City, the Joint Core Strategy (JCS), prepared in partnership with Cheltenham Borough Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council was adopted in December 2017. However, the authorities are required to undertake a housing supply and retail/town centres review and work has already begun on these. Work also continues on the Gloucester City Plan, the next stage of which will be the Pre-Submission version, currently programmed for public consultation at the end of 2018. At the same time the Government has placed a great emphasis on councils to prepare and adopt Local Plans in a timely fashion, with penalties for those that underperform. The Council is therefore required to deliver future Local Plan documents and in as timely and efficient manner as possible.

- 3.3 At each stage of plan-making, the Council's constitution requires planning documents to be considered by elected Members; this is where officers seek resolution to either consult or adopt the planning document in question. The current route for this is firstly the Planning Policy-Sub Committee (PPSC), followed by Council.
- 3.4 PPSC is a sub-committee of Planning Committee, comprising five Members including the Chair and Vice Chair of Planning Committee. The constitution sets out that the purpose of PPSC is to make recommendations to Council – it is not a decision making committee.
- 3.5 The requirement to present reports to PPSC in advance of Council creates long-lead in times, often amounting to somewhere between four and six weeks. In a time when the City Council is looking at all opportunities to work in smarter and more efficient ways, this is time that could be better spent. It is therefore proposed that PPSC is removed from the constitution, leading to a more streamlined and resource efficient process for decision making by the Council. The Council's JCS partner authorities currently operate under a similar model.
- 3.6 Notwithstanding the above, it is considered there is an opportunity for better Member involvement in plan-making. A Councils' Local Plan needs to reflect the needs and aspirations of local communities. At the same time, in order to be found 'sound' at examination, Local Plans must be based on an appropriate evidence base and be consistent with national planning policy. It is therefore important that the emerging evidence base is shared with Members in a timely fashion and that Members have an opportunity to consider the implications for policy formulation.
- 3.7 With this in mind, it is proposed that a new 'Member Liaison Group' is established. The group will meet on a regular basis, reflecting the plan-making timetable. This will provide an opportunity for the evidence work to be shared more comprehensively with Members and for queries about the implications for policy formulation to be discussed. There would be a more constructive opportunity for Members to discuss emerging planning policy and to consider whether it reflects local aspirations and needs. It will provide a more collaborative approach to plan-making and provide Members with a better understanding of complex/technical planning issues. Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Borough Councils already have in place similar arrangements, which have proved incredibly useful in informing their emerging plans.
- 3.8 In terms of democratic accountability, it is important to note that all emerging planning documents will still need to be considered at Council. In addition, from a community involvement perspective, the planning system requires local authorities to consult and engage with local communities throughout the plan-making process. The way in which the City Council will do this is set out in the adopted Statement of Community Involvement, which is available on the website.

4.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Considerations

- 4.1 None

5.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 5.1 To inform the thinking around this subject conversations have been held with the Chair and Vice Chair of Planning Committee. Overall, there is agreement from all three that the proposed changes represent a positive approach.
- 5.2 An option was discussed and considered, whereby the role of the committee is amended to include decision making responsibilities. However, it is considered important that decisions at each key stage of plan-making continue to be made by Council. Furthermore, Regulation 4(i) of the Local Planning Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 requires that a Local Plan be adopted by Council.

6.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 6.1 To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of plan-making processes, whilst maintaining community involvement and democratic accountability.

7.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 7.1 If the recommendation is accepted by Members, the Constitution will need to be revised so as to remove reference to the PPSC.
- 7.2 Planning officers will continue to prepare the Local Plan for Gloucester in accordance with the amended democratic process.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 The dissolution of the Planning Policy Sub-Committee will create a more streamlined and resource efficient process for decision making by the Council.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

9.0 Legal Implications

- 9.1 Local authorities must prepare a Local Plan for their area in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended). Local Plans must reflect the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 9.2 There are no specific legal implications arising from the recommendation.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

10.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 10.1 None

11.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

- 11.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required.

12.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

12.1 None

Sustainability

12.2 None

Staffing & Trade Union

12.3 None

Background Documents: None