



COUNCIL

MEETING : Thursday, 23rd September 2021

PRESENT : Cllrs. Finnegan, Cook, H. Norman, Gravells MBE, Hudson, Morgan, Hilton, Pullen, Tracey, Lewis, Wilson, D. Brown, Taylor, Field, Patel, Brooker, J. Brown, Hyman, Melvin, Bowkett, Ackroyd, Castle, A. Chambers, S. Chambers, Chambers-Dubus, Conder, Dee, Evans, Kubaszczyk, O'Donnell, Padilla, Radley and Zaman

Others in Attendance

Managing Director

Head of Law (Commercial and Property), One Legal

Head of Communities

Head of Culture

Head of Place

Head of Policy and Resources

Democratic and Electoral Services Team Leader

Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. Bhaimia, Williams, Organ, Toleman and Durdey

23. ELECTION OF SHERIFF AND DEPUTY MAYOR

- 23.1 The Mayor invited members to nominate a Sheriff and Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the Council year 2021/22.
- 23.2 Councillor Cook, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment proposed, and Councillor Norman, Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources seconded the nomination of Councillor Tracey for the position of Sheriff and Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the Council year 2021/22.
- 23.3 Councillor Norman stated that everybody present would appreciate that Councillor Tracey was incredibly hardworking, that she was passionate about the City of Gloucester and that there was no doubt that she would excel in the role.
- 23.4 Councillor Hilton stated that he was disappointed with the situation, where the Sheriff had resigned a few months after taking up the position. He added

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that he and his group would abstain from the vote to nominate Councillor Tracey as position of Sheriff and Deputy Mayor.

- 23.5 The nomination of Councillor Tracey to the position of Sheriff and Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the Council year 2021/22 was put to a vote and carried.
- 23.6 **RESOLVED that:-** Councillor Tracey be appointed Sheriff and Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the Council year 2021/22.
- 23.7 Councillor Tracey thanked members who voted for her to be Sheriff and Deputy Mayor. She stated that she wanted to bring the City together and that it was stronger when everyone worked together. She thanked the Mayor and noted that she had been doing the job of Mayor and Sheriff for the previous couple of months. She said that she did not want people to argue and wanted them to come together.

24. MINUTES

24.1 The minutes of the meetings held on the 8th July 2021 were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

25.1 There were no declarations of interest.

26. CALL OVER

- 26.1 The Mayor invited Members to indicate whether they wished to reserve agenda items 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15 for discussion. Members indicated that they wished to reserve items 10, and 15 for discussion. Agenda Item 12 (Appointments to Committees) could not be called over as nominations were required.
- 26.2 Councillor Cook (Leader of the Council) moved and Councillor H Norman (Deputy Leader of the Council) seconded that the Cumulative Impact Assessment, Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel, and Urgent Decision on the Managing Director be approved.
- 26.3 **RESOLVED that:** - Council adopts the Cumulative Impact Policy within the Licensing Policy Statement 2021-2026 – Licensing Act 2003.
- 26.4 **RESOLVED that:** - the following be appointed to the Independent Remuneration Panel for a period of three years:

Ms Kim Hawkins
Mr Chris Markley
Mr John Morris
Mr Graham Russell.

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26.5 **RESOLVED that:** - the urgent decision of the Managing Director designating Jodie Townsend as Monitoring Officer from 16 August to 30 September be noted.

27. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

27.1 There were no public questions.

28. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

28.1 There were no petitions or deputations.

29. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor

29.1 The Mayor welcomed Councillor Tracey as the Sheriff and Deputy Mayor of the Council. She stated that the Civic Charity Ball held on the 17th September 2021 was a tremendous success, that raised a lot of money for charity and she thanked all those who attended.

Members of the Cabinet

29.2 Councillor Morgan, the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure announced that the 1st October 2021 would see the launch of JOLT by the Gloucester Culture Trust. He invited members to get in touch with him, should they wish to attend the launch which would be occurring between 5pm and 7pm. He stated that he was also pleased to announce that Arts Council England had announced that Gloucester had been designated as one of their 11 priority places across the South West for their Lets Create strategy. He stated the Arts Council England saw that Gloucester was an ideal city for investment. Councillor Morgan also notified Members that he had recently been present at the unveiling of a plaque in memory of the former City Councillor and Mayor, Lise Noakes. He stated that the location of the Plaque (The Guildhall) was particularly fitting as she had been instrumental in ensuring that there was more seating at the Guildhall.

29.3 Councillor Gravells, the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy announced that the Council had now received the Planning Inspectors post-hearings letter. He stated that this was an important milestone and was the next step in the Council having a fully adopted City plan for the first time since 1983. He said that the Planning Policy Team did a fantastic job in putting the Council's case forward and this was evident from the Inspector's letter. He stated that when updated, the City Plan would deliver against the Council's climate change commitments, deliver the number and type of

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homes that meet the needs of Gloucester's communities, support the Council's social value objectives through employment and skills development and prevent falls from tall buildings, which was a policy he believed was a first for any Council in the country. He said that he also wished to update the Council on the resettlement programme of refugees from Afghanistan. He stated that the first Afghan family had now moved into their home in Gloucester. He added that support was being provided by colleagues at GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers). He said that properties were still required to house families resettling from Afghanistan and that the Council were continuing to encourage private sector landlords to come forward to help with the resettlement to meet demand. He concluded by stating that the work was being delivered as part of the Countywide Housing Partnership effort.

30. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

- 30.1 Councillor Hilton asked Councillor Morgan why the Council's bid for Gloucester to become the City of Culture in 2025 was withdrawn after it being announced that a bid would be pursued. In response Councillor Morgan stated that it was withdrawn because of the short period between the deadline to express an interest and to put in a formal bid. It had become clear that everything required for a complete bid could not come as quickly or as effectively as hoped. Therefore, it was decided that it was more sensible to not put in a bid that was not ready owing to time constraints rather than an incomplete one. In response to a supplementary question regarding why the potential bid had not been dropped sooner when it had been pointed out that a bid may be costly and not deliverable, Councillor Morgan stated that they decided to withdraw after discussing the issue with partner organisations.
- 30.2 Councillor Hilton asked Councillor Cook, why there had not been a replacement food store that had been promised following the closure of Sainsburys on Northgate Street. In response Councillor Cook stated that the site he was referring to was owned by a private sector company therefore Councillor Hilton would need to get in contact with them. In response to a supplementary question regarding whether Councillor Melvin had been overly optimistic in an assertion made at a Council Meeting on the 19th November 2020, Councillor Cook stated that he could not speak for other Councillors, that schemes to develop on sites took time and that the Coronavirus Pandemic had caused delays in nearly all areas of life.
- 30.3 Councillor Pullen asked Councillor Gravells how many Afghan families the Council hoped to resettle and what would be done to ensure that those that resettled in Gloucester were properly looked after. In response Councillor Gravells stated that the work to resettle Afghan families was being coordinated by the Gloucestershire Strategic Housing Partnership in conjunction with other local authorities. He stated that the long-term aim was to acquire 35 houses in the County to rehouse families. He stated that he had been disappointed to hear that only one family had currently been resettled but this was because there was a process that needed to be followed to ensure that families were properly looked after once they came to

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the country. He stated that he wanted to help partner organisations who had helped with the resettlement scheme such as the County Council and GARAS. He encouraged any landlord in the private sector who wanted to help with the resettlement scheme to get in touch with himself or the Head of Communities.

- 30.4 Councillor Pullen asked Councillor Morgan why they continued to pursue the City of Culture bid, when it had been briefed that a bid may be all-consuming, may cost in the region of £500,000, did not have cross-party support, and had inconsistent support from districts. In response, Councillor Morgan stated that he was not embarrassed to be ambitious for the City of Gloucester and that he did not believe opposition parties could be against an idea that had not been finalised. He stated that he did not understand why anyone would be against the principle of Gloucester becoming the City of Culture. He stated that there was a point where it became clear that a City of Culture application would have been unsuccessful, which was why it was withdrawn. In response to a supplementary question regarding whether the administration would give assurances that cross-party support would be sought before launching such large scale bids in the future, Councillor Morgan stated that the administration had a good record of discussing major items on a cross-party basis, and their measure of co-operation was greater than in most authorities.
- 30.5 Councillor Field asked Councillor Cook whether he would support the introduction of more water top up points. In response Councillor Cook stated that he had discussed the refill project numerous times in the chamber. He stated that he was not inclined to introduce water fountains across the City as they were not necessarily hygienic and were costly. In response to a supplementary about whether Councillor Cook would support the principle of more top up points, not water fountains if it had support from the business community, Councillor Cook stated that he did not believe it was for the Council to tell Private Business Owners whether they wanted a water top up point and that there were already 40-50 businesses signed up to the refill scheme in Gloucester.
- 30.6 Councillor Lewis asked Councillor Morgan whether he was aware that Gloucester now had its first ever professional female Basketball Team. In response, Councillor Morgan stated that he was aware that Gloucester City Queens was the first professional female basketball team in Gloucester, and that they had won their first match. He further added that there would soon be a male equivalent professional basketball team called Gloucester City Kings.
- 30.7 Councillor Hyman asked Councillor Cook, whether he agreed with Richard Graham MP that Elmbridge residents should vote for a Tewkesbury MP. Councillor Cook responded that regardless of the results of the Boundary Commission Review, the residents of Elmbridge would still vote for Gloucester City Councillors. He stated that he believed that it was not an issue that was his to get involved with, that he sympathised with any

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residents of Elmbridge that felt that they were not properly represented but in any case they would vote for a City Councillor.

- 30.8 Councillor D.Brown asked Councillor Morgan why the Scriptorium at Blackfriars was closed prior to the History Festival. In response, Councillor Morgan stated that the closure of the Scriptorium was a surprise to everyone. He stated that his understanding was that there was a routine survey undertaken by a surveyor and that it was felt unwise to have activity under the scriptorium. He stated that the bookstore needed to be relocated. He added that he did not believe that there was a safety issue with the scriptorium but that it was an ongoing discussion. In response to a supplementary question, Councillor Morgan responded that he would be pleased to keep Councillor D.Brown updated on the situation. Councillor Cook added that his understanding was that the area on the floor had been closed for safety reasons, and that whilst the upstairs was not yet reopened, the ground floor had.
- 30.9 Councillor Chambers-Dubus asked Councillor Cook about whether residents would be compensated for missed Green Bin Collections. Councillor Cook responded that last year, during the first National Lockdown, bin collections were very difficult and that there were several weeks where there were no green bin collections whatsoever. He stated that the issue this year was caused by a lack of drivers and considerable numbers of people being required to self-isolate. He stated that no household had more than one missed green bin collection this year. He stated that last year, residents received more in compensation, than was lost through missed green bin collections. He added that he applauded the work that the groundwork team had been doing. In response to a supplementary regarding how residents would be informed that there would be no compensation, Councillor Cook stated that a resident could contact the Here to Help service and that it would be made clear that there would be no compensation. He added that if the situation changed in the future and there were numerous missed bin collections owing to the Pandemic, then compensation may be considered. However, he stated that if there was a refund for recent missed bin collections, it would be approximately a £1.87 for each resident and that the cost of providing a refund would possibly be higher than the refund itself.
- 30.10 Councillor Wilson asked Councillor Cook whether he had had conversations with Urbaser to try and solve the issue regarding the lack of drivers. In response, Councillor Cook said that Urbaser had raised the salary of drivers to try and attract more and that he had had discussions with them. He stated that a new driver had been hired but failed to turn up to a shift on Friday. He stated that there were wide ranging issues regarding driver shortages and would not be resolved until the Government got more people to take HGV tests. In response to a supplementary, Councillor Cook stated that the issue of a lack of drivers was a Europe wide issue and that he would therefore not blame Brexit for the shortage.

31. NET ZERO 2045 AND UK100

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- 31.1 Councillor Cook moved, and Councillor Norman seconded the motion. Councillor Cook introduced the report and noted that queries about how the project would be funded had been addressed at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 31.2 Councillor Pullen noted that the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency was a Labour Party motion in 2019. He stated that it had been two years since a Climate Emergency had been declared by the Council and that very little action had been taken since. He stated that in early 2021, the Leader had presented a climate change strategy. He said that former Councillor Stephens had pointed out that they needed a more detailed action plan, which included milestones and actions. He said that it was agreed a more detailed report would be brought before Cabinet at the earliest possibility, which had not happened. He said that the Labour Group supported joining the UK100 network but believed that the Council needed to act quicker and needed to make getting to Net Zero their top priority.
- 31.3 Councillor Wilson stated that it was an important discussion to have. He stated that the proposal to bring forward the City Council's net zero carbon commitment by five years to 2045 showed that the Council had more ambition. He stated that he would want to see regular updates at meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He stated that there was no reason not to join the UK100 and would support the motion.
- 31.4 Councillor Cook stated that the Council had recently hired a Climate Change Manager who was committed to making sure the Council hit their Climate Change targets, and that he would be providing regular updates. He stated that one of the three Key themes for the City Councils Plan would be protection of the environment. He stated that he would ensure that the Council was at the forefront of mitigating the worst excesses of Climate Change. He stated that he wanted to assure everyone that the administration was keen to be at the forefront of combating climate change.

31.5 **RESOLVED that: -**

(1) Gloucester City Council joins the UK100 Local Authority leaders' group and international Race to Zero commitment in advance of the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), to be held in the City of Glasgow.

(2) as a condition of UK100 membership, Gloucester City Council bring forward its 2050 net zero target to 2045.

(3) Gloucester City Council becomes a signatory to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.

32. CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

32.1 Councillor Cook (Leader of the Council) moved and Councillor Hannah Norman (Deputy Leader of the Council) seconded the motion.

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32.2 **RESOLVED that:** - Council

- (1) Adopts the Cumulative Impact Policy within the Licensing Policy Statement 2021-2026 – Licensing Act 2003.

33. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

33.1 Councillor Cook proposed and Councillor Norman seconded the motion to appoint Councillor K. Williams to the position of Chair of the Licensing Committee. Councillor Cook stated that whilst Councillor K. Williams could not be present at tonight's meeting of Full Council, he had spoken to her and that she would be happy to take the position.

33.2 As an alternative nomination, Councillor Hilton nominated Councillor Bowkett to be the Chair of the Licensing Committee. This alternative nomination was seconded by Councillor Radley.

33.3 The alternative nomination was put to a vote and the vote was lost.

33.4 Councillor Hilton asked the Leader whether the proposed nomination of Councillor K. Williams would lead to changes as to who chaired the General Purposes Committee as she would be the chair of two committees. In response, Councillor Cook stated that there may be a change in the future but did not believe that it was relevant to discuss that at present.

33.5 The motion to appoint Councillor K. Williams to the position of Chair of the Licensing Committee went to a vote and passed.

33.6 **RESOLVED that:** - Councillor K. Williams be appointed to the vacant position of Chair of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee.

34. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

34.1 Councillor Cook moved, and Councillor Norman seconded the motion.

34.2 **RESOLVED that:** - the following be appointed to the Independent Remuneration Panel for a period of three years:

Ms Kim Hawkins
Mr Chris Markley
Mr John Morris
Mr Graham Russell.

35. URGENT DECISION OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

35.1 Councillor Cook moved, and Councillor Norman seconded the motion.

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35.2 **RESOLVED that:** - the urgent decision of the Managing Director designating Jodie Townsend as Monitoring Officer from 16 August to 30 September be noted.

36. DESIGNATION OF MONITORING OFFICER

36.1 Councillor Cook proposed the motion, which was seconded by Councillor Norman.

36.2 Councillor Hilton noted that this would be the fourth Monitoring Officer in a 12-month period. He stated that the Council were also two directors short. He stated that it would be useful to have received advice from the Local Government Association (LGA). He stated that it was important that the issue had a speedy resolution. He stated that it was vital to appoint a dedicated Monitoring Officer and that the Monitoring Officer was interviewed by Councillors at the Senior Appointments Committee.

36.3 Councillor Pullen stated that he agreed with Councillor Hilton. He stated that they needed continuity with a Monitoring Officer so Councillors can get to know the officer. He stated that there were proposals from the LGA as to what the make-up of the Senior Management Team could be. He stated that he believed that it may be beneficial if the new Monitoring Officer was included in the new Senior Management Structure.

36.4 Councillor Norman stated that she had been in a leadership meeting where the topic of the Monitoring Officer being included in the Senior Management Structure was discussed. She stated that the administration would be working closely with the LGA, that the most qualified candidate would be hired, and that she would be keen to hear feedback from Councillor Pullen and Hilton as part of the Senior Appointments Committee.

36.5 Councillor Cook thanked members for their support of the motion.

36.6 **RESOLVED that:** -

(1) Stephen Taylor be designated Monitoring Officer for the City Council in accordance with section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 with effect from 1 October for an interim period of up to 6 months but no more than 12 months.

(2) To enter into an agreement to second the above-mentioned officer from Stroud District Council to Gloucester City Council on terms to be agreed between Stroud District Council, Gloucester City Council and the officer.

(3) To delegate authority to the Managing Director to agree the terms of the secondment and to sign the secondment agreement on behalf of Gloucester City Council and to make any necessary consequential amendments to the Council's Constitution arising from the agreed terms and any re-assignment of the current Monitoring Officer functions.

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(4) To note that the Managing Director took an urgent decision on 13th August 2021 to appoint Jodie Townsend as Interim Monitoring Officer for the period 16 August 2021 until 30 September 2021.

37. NOTICES OF MOTION

37.1 Councillor Chambers-Dubus moved and Councillor Pullen seconded the following motion:

“This council is pleased that Ubico has been awarded the waste and recycling, street cleaning and grounds maintenance contract and will commence delivery of services in April 2022.

When bidding for the contract Ubico demonstrated their competency not only to deliver and improve existing services but also their willingness to consider the development of new initiatives that would benefit both the council and residents.

Many people in Gloucester use the Household Recycling Centre (HRC) at Hempsted to dispose of their household waste and recycling. Despite the impact of Covid and the current appointments only arrangements the service is widely used.

However, not everyone in Gloucester is able to access or have transport to use the HRC. Similarly, some people do not have enough rubbish to justify the expense of a full-size skip, or an adequate place to locate one.

Councils in other areas have identified this as an issue and have developed a ‘Big Wheelie Bin Scheme’ where residents can hire a large bin for a fixed period at a reasonable cost. This has been found to be a cost effective and convenient service and has had an impact and reduction in fly tipping.

This council is therefore instructed to hold discussions with Ubico and explore developing a ‘Big Wheelie Bin’ scheme for residents who wish to take advantage of such a service.”

37.2 Councillor Cook proposed the following amendment that was seconded by Councillor Melvin.

“This council is pleased that Ubico has been awarded the waste and recycling, street cleaning and grounds maintenance contract and will commence delivery of services in April 2022.

When bidding for the contract Ubico demonstrated their competency not only to deliver and improve existing services but also their willingness to consider the development of new initiatives that would benefit both the council and residents.

Many people in Gloucester use the Household Recycling Centre (HRC) at Hempsted to dispose of their household waste and recycling. Despite the impact of Covid and the current appointments only arrangements the service is widely used. However, not everyone in Gloucester is able to access or have transport to use the

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HRC. Similarly, some people do not have enough rubbish to justify the expense of a full-size skip, or an adequate place to locate one.

Councils in other areas have identified this as an issue and have developed a 'Big Wheelie Bin Scheme' where residents can hire a large bin for a fixed period at a reasonable cost. This has been found to be a cost effective and convenient service and has had an impact and reduction in fly tipping.

This council is ~~therefore instructed to~~ **will** hold discussions with Ubico and explore **options to trial** developing a 'Big Wheelie Bin' scheme for residents who wish to take advantage of such a service."

37.3 The amendment was accepted, which became the substantive.

37.4 The amended motion was put to a vote and carried.

37.5 **RESOLVED that: -**

This council is pleased that Ubico has been awarded the waste and recycling, street cleaning and grounds maintenance contract and will commence delivery of services in April 2022.

When bidding for the contract Ubico demonstrated their competency not only to deliver and improve existing services but also their willingness to consider the development of new initiatives that would benefit both the council and residents.

Many people in Gloucester use the Household Recycling Centre (HRC) at Hempsted to dispose of their household waste and recycling. Despite the impact of Covid and the current appointments only arrangements the service is widely used. However, not everyone in Gloucester is able to access or have transport to use the HRC. Similarly, some people do not have enough rubbish to justify the expense of a full-size skip, or an adequate place to locate one.

Councils in other areas have identified this as an issue and have developed a 'Big Wheelie Bin Scheme' where residents can hire a large bin for a fixed period at a reasonable cost. This has been found to be a cost effective and convenient service and has had an impact and reduction in fly tipping.

This council will hold discussions with Ubico and explore options to trial a 'Big Wheelie Bin' scheme for residents who wish to take advantage of such a service.

37.6 Councillor Bowkett moved and Councillor Field seconded the following motion:

"This council notes the importance of planting more trees in Gloucester and understands that those saplings together with mature trees will also need to be maintained. It welcomes the guiding principles of the 2020 Gloucestershire Tree Strategy, valuing the many benefits that a high-quality green infrastructure brings to our communities, which includes growing trees near where people live and work.

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This council recognises that while there are valuable contributions from development and external grants, for example, the Forestry Commission, there is a pressing shortfall in tree planting, maintenance and resources, the fixed budget per financial year is acutely inadequate, and this status quo has already placed increasing pressure on achieving the objectives of the 2020 strategy.

As such, this Council calls on the Cabinet Member to provide members with a written report, delivered in good time for members to consider before the next budget, that will:

- (a) identify ways we can do more to support tree planting and maintenance
- (b) identify further City Council funds for this purpose
- (c) encourage the County Council to boost funding for Highway trees, and
- (d) set targets and map them against such further funding so that the 2020 Strategy for Gloucester can be fulfilled.

In essence, this council agrees that preparing a more realistic annual budget to 5 commence from the next financial year is vital to support the planting and maintenance of trees and increase biodiversity in Gloucester.”

37.7 Councillor Cook moved and Councillor A. Chambers seconded the following amendment.

“This council notes the importance of planting more trees in Gloucester and understands that those saplings together with mature trees will also need to be maintained. It welcomes the guiding principles of the 2020 Gloucestershire Tree Strategy, valuing the many benefits that a high-quality green infrastructure brings to our communities, which includes growing trees near where people live and work.

This council recognises that while there are valuable contributions from development and external grants, for example, the Forestry Commission, there is a pressing shortfall in tree planting, maintenance and resources, the fixed budget per financial year is acutely inadequate, and this status quo has already placed increasing pressure on achieving the objectives of the 2020 strategy.

This Council notes that the Cabinet Member agreed as part of the Budget delivered in February 2020 and delayed for a year by Covid that up to 300 trees would be provided to each Member to plant in their own wards with the help of local community groups and that virtually none of this has yet been taken up.

As such, this Council calls on the Cabinet Member to provide members with a written report, delivered in good time for members to consider before the next budget, that will:

- (a) identify ways we can do more to support tree planting and maintenance

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(b) ~~identify~~ **consider in the light of competing priorities** whether further City Council funds **can be identified** for this purpose

(c) encourage the County Council to boost funding for Highway trees, and

(d) set targets and map them against such further funding so that the 2020 Strategy for Gloucester can be fulfilled.

In essence, this council agrees that ~~preparing a more realistic annual budget to commence from the next financial year~~ it is vital to support the planting and maintenance of trees and increase biodiversity in Gloucester.”

37.8 The amended motion was put to a vote and carried.

37.9 **RESOLVED that: -**

This council notes the importance of planting more trees in Gloucester and understands that those saplings together with mature trees will also need to be maintained. It welcomes the guiding principles of the 2020 Gloucestershire Tree Strategy, valuing the many benefits that a high-quality green infrastructure brings to our communities, which includes growing trees near where people live and work.

This council recognises that while there are valuable contributions from development and external grants, for example, the Forestry Commission, there is a pressing shortfall in tree planting, maintenance and resources, the fixed budget per financial year is acutely inadequate, and this status quo has already placed increasing pressure on achieving the objectives of the 2020 strategy.

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As such, this Council calls on the Cabinet Member to provide members with a written report, delivered in good time for members to consider before the next budget, that will:

(a) identify ways we can do more to support tree planting and maintenance.

(b) consider in the light of competing priorities whether further City Council funds can be identified for this purpose.

(c) encourage the County Council to boost funding for Highway trees, and

(d) set targets and map them against such further funding so that the 2020 Strategy for Gloucester can be fulfilled.

In essence, this council agrees that it is vital to support the planting and maintenance of trees and increase biodiversity in Gloucester.

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37.10 Councillor Hilton moved and Councillor Hyman seconded the following motion.

“This council notes the election on the 6th of May of Chris Nelson as Gloucestershire’s new police and crime commissioner.

This council also notes that Chris Nelson pledged during the election to put more police officers, special constables and police and community support officers on patrol on the streets of Gloucestershire, with the aim of cutting anti-social behaviour in half.

This council agrees that increasing the number of police officers and PCSOs patrolling in Gloucester to cut anti-social behaviour and reduce crime is an objective this council can support.

Council, therefore agrees that a letter should be sent to Gloucestershire’s PCC, from the three group leaders inviting Mr Nelson to address council in open session on his plans to improve community policing in the city of Gloucester, allowing for a question and answer session from elected members following Mr Nelson’s address to council.

The details of the session to be agreed between the three group leaders and the PCC.”

37.11 The motion was accepted.

37.12 RESOLVED that: -

This council notes the election on the 6th of May of Chris Nelson as Gloucestershire’s new police and crime commissioner.

This council also notes that Chris Nelson pledged during the election to put more police officers, special constables and police and community support officers on patrol on the streets of Gloucestershire, with the aim of cutting anti-social behaviour in half.

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The details of the session to be agreed between the three group leaders and the PCC.

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37.13 Councillor Morgan moved and Councillor Hudson seconded the following motion:

“This Council welcomes the opening by The Music Works and Gloucester Culture Trust of their respective new facilities at King’s House next to King’s Square.

The Music Works will now provide state of the art premises and equipment to anyone seeking to further their interest or career as a performer or technician.

JOLT has various opportunities as a start up hub for artists and entrepreneurs to work in the creative industries right next to the heart of Gloucester.

This Council wishes to record its thanks to all the individuals, partners, sponsors and organisations, including Officers of the City Council, for their parts in creating these exciting and exceptional opportunities for the furtherance of the lives of artists and musicians in Gloucester.”

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

37.15 **RESOLVED that: -**

This Council welcomes the opening by The Music Works and Gloucester Culture Trust of their respective new facilities at King’s House next to King’s Square.

The Music Works will now provide state of the art premises and equipment to anyone seeking to further their interest or career as a performer or technician.

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This Council wishes to record its thanks to all the individuals, partners, sponsors and organisations, including Officers of the City Council, for their parts in creating these exciting and exceptional opportunities for the furtherance of the lives of artists and musicians in Gloucester.

38. WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

38.1 In respect of question 1, Councillor Hyman asked the Leader the City Council, Councillor Cook, whether the City Council worked with other authorities to work out the best practice to deal with Dog Fouling. In response, the Leader responded that, City Council Officers did not work formally with other authorities on the issue, and there were unfortunately not many instances of authorities being successful in catching Dog Foulers in the act.

38.2 In respect of question 2, Councillor Hilton asked the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy what had gone wrong with the housing stock survey. In response, Councillor Gravells stated that he could not be held responsible for delays that had occurred during the Pandemic. He stated that

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there had been legal issues when the six local authorities went out to tender. He stated that he was keen for the survey to progress and would provide an update as soon as possible.

- 38.3 In respect of question 8, Councillor J.Brown asked the Leader why it was considered permissible for products and services which were damaging to the environment to advertise on the side of recycling vehicles. In response, Councillor Cook stated that he was not aware of the adverts in question and would require more detail.
- 38.4 In respect of Question 15, Councillor Castle asked the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy, whether the land could be transferred to the City Council. In response, Councillor Gravelles stated that he believed that it was a County Council issue but would be happy to signpost the member in the right direction, should she wish to get in touch.

Time of commencement: 6.30 pm hours

Time of conclusion: 9.07 pm hours

Chair