



COUNCIL

MEETING : Thursday, 18th November 2021

PRESENT : Cllrs. Finnegan (Chair), Tracey (Vice-Chair), Cook, H. Norman, Gravells MBE, Hudson, Morgan, Hilton, Pullen, Lewis, Wilson, Bhaimia, Williams, D. Brown, Taylor, Field, Organ, Toleman, Brooker, J. Brown, Hyman, Melvin, Ackroyd, Castle, A. Chambers, S. Chambers, Chambers-Dubus, Conder, Dee, Durdey, Evans, Kubaszczyk, Padilla, Radley and Zaman

Others in Attendance

Managing Director

Monitoring Officer

Head of Communities

Head of Culture

Head of Place

Head of Policy and Resources

Policy and Governance Manager

Democratic and Electoral Services Team Leader

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. Patel, Bowkett, O'Donnell and Sawyer

41. BY-ELECTION RESULTS

41.1 **RESOLVED** that:- Council **NOTE** the recent Longlevens by-election result which was won by Councillor Sarah Sawyer (Liberal Democrat).

42. MINUTES

42.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2021 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

43.1 Councillor Melvin declared an interest in agenda item 16 by virtue of her being a Council appointed Director to Gloucestershire Airport Ltd.

44. CALL OVER

44.1 The Mayor invited Members to indicate whether they wished to reserve agenda items 10, 11 and 16 for discussion. Members indicated that they wished to reserve items 11, and 16 for discussion. Agenda Item 12 (Review

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of Political Balance on Committees and Various Appointments) could not be called over as nominations were required.

44.2 Councillor Cook (Leader of the Council) moved and Councillor H Norman (Deputy Leader of the Council) seconded that the Gambling Act 2005 – Revised Statement of Principles following 10 week consultation be approved.

44.3 **RESOLVED** that:- Council adopt the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles for 2022-2025 and authorises the Head of Communities to publish and advertise it.

45. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

45.1 A Gloucester resident asked the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Cook, what happened to waste from residents' green boxes. Councillor Cook advised that different recyclates were separately baled and confirmed that only waste from black bins was sent to an incinerator although he stated that the resident would appreciate that some will put recyclable material in non recycling bins.

45.2 The resident referred to reports that Barton Street was one of the most polluted places in the country and asked if there were any plans for the City Council to improve air quality in the area. Councillor Cook advised that the responsibility upon the City council was a monitoring one and that it was required to notify the County Council should air pollution reach a particular threshold. He was not aware that anywhere had reached this threshold but should any area do so, the County Council would be informed - upon which, responsibility to take action would lie with that authority.

46. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

46.1 There were no petitions or deputations.

47. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor

47.1 The Mayor thanked Members for attending the recent Remembrance Sunday commemorations.

Leader of the Council

47.2 Councillor Cook announced that Councillor Morgan would be standing down from his role of Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure and that Councillor Lewis would take up the position. He thanked Councillor Morgan for all his hard work over recent years and, in particular, all the events he had been involved with organizing and promoting.

47.3 Councillor Cook announced that Gloucester's bid to the 'Levelling Up' fund had been successful and that a £20m award had been made to support

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ongoing projects including the Forge, the Fleece and the University of Gloucestershire developing the former Debenhams building.

Members of the Cabinet

- 47.4 The Cabinet Member for Culture reminded Members that the lantern procession (as part of the Bright Nights festival) would take place on Sunday 26 September beginning at Blackfriars. He also informed Members that £270k worth of grants to the City had been awarded by both the Government and various organisations. Teams had been able to put on some very successful events and that more were sure to follow.
- 47.5 Noting that this would be his final meeting as Cabinet Member, Councillor Morgan paid tribute to his predecessor, the late Councillor Noakes, who had laid significant groundwork for all the good work over the last few years. He thanked his Cabinet colleagues and Members more widely for their support.
- 47.6 He also thanked all the officers who had given invaluable advice and insight and welcomed Councillor Lewis to the role. In closing, Councillor Morgan paid tribute to his wife for her support, patience and understanding during his time as Cabinet Member.
- 47.7 The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy, Councillor Gravells, reiterated the Council continuing to support the aim of to rehouse Afghan refugees. Three families had moved in thus far while two families were almost at the stage where they were ready to move into properties.
- 47.8 Further, Councillor Gravells informed Members that a further three properties had been offered. He also announced that the Council had been awarded £145k as an exceptional winter 'top up' which was additional funding to be used to help some of the most vulnerable people in Gloucester. With cold weather approaching, Councillor Gravells reminded Members that if they were to encounter someone sleeping rough, to inform Street Link – details of which would be circulated.
- 47.9 The Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods, Councillor Hudson, informed Members that a recent bid to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) had been successful. The award was worth £500k for the City with a further £500k being made available for the County as a whole. These funds would be used to support measures surrounding Gloucester Park and targeted towards women and girls' safety. The next step would be to ascertain from women and girls what they would like to see being done to ensure their safety. Councillor Hudson thanked the OPCC for their consideration and for the award.

Head of Paid Service

- 47.10 The Head of Paid Service informed Members that this would be the Head of Place's final Council meeting as he was to take up a Directorship in his home authority. He paid tribute to his achievements while at Gloucester City

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including the ongoing regeneration of the City and the recently successful levelling up bid.

48. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

- 48.1 Councillor Hilton noted that following examination of the draft City Plan, the Planning Inspectorate had found that, while the draft was not entirely sound, it could be made to be so. Following the recommendation that 66 modifications be made, he asked the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning Strategy if the Cabinet would agree to these so that consultation could begin.
- 48.2 Councillor Gravells stated it was excellent that Gloucester had a City Plan, which had passed the legal test, and that the recommendations were to be considered by Cabinet. Councillor Gravells pointed to mechanisms such as the Planning Policy Members Working Group and regular briefings for how Members could air their thoughts on such matters.
- 48.3 Councillor Hilton noted that three of the modifications recommended were in Kingsholm and Wotton and that there was a proposal for more homes (approximately 400). In response to a query from Councillor Hilton regarding how it could be ensure that at least one site was begun during the lifetime of this Council, Councillor Gravells agreed that more affordable homes were need and that he would get such information to him. Councillor Gravells also advised that he would provide a written response to Councillor Hilton's on what plans were being made in respect of the Wessex House.
- 48.4 Councillor Pullen conveyed the thanks of the Labour Group for all the work undertaken by the outgoing Head of Place. He asked the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, Councillor Norman, why a proposed move of office accommodation was made public prior to Members being fully briefed. Councillor Norman advised that the proposal would go through the full democratic process and that detailed papers would be made available the next day for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny prior to consideration by Cabinet.
- 48.5 In response to a supplementary question regarding the future of the Gateway, Councillor Norman stated that comments were always welcome throughout the decision making process.
- 48.6 Councillor Pullen asked Councillor Morgan if he supported a proposal from the local MP that, once the tennis courts in Moreland had been resurfaced residents be charged a fee to use them. Councillor Morgan stated that he was aware of ongoing discussions and that there would be a consultation.
- 48.7 Councillor Pullen noted that there was no reference to charging in the playing pitch strategy and queried whether placing a fee on the courts' use would dissuade those who would benefit most from using them. Councillor Morgan expressed the view that it was possible that a number of options would be considered.

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- 48.8 Councillor D. Brown asked Councillor Cook whether there would be a refounding of the Environment and Ecology Forum following the departure of a key officer. Councillor Cook advised that he was very much in favour of restarting it and would look to do this as soon as was possible.
- 48.9 Councillor J. Brown asked of Councillor Cook why, following a motion at the last Council meeting, Members were having difficulties getting trees to plant in their wards. Councillor Cook advised that the climate change manager was preparing the plans and intended to speak with every Councillor.
- 48.10 Councillor Chambers-Dubus asked whether Members could receive a list of streets which had experienced a missed waste collection. Councillor Cook advised that he would ask officers to look into providing this and highlighted that four new drivers had started and that, in the previous two weeks, no collections had been missed.
- 48.11 In response to a supplementary question from Councillor Chambers-Dubus on what residents should do should their collection be missed, Councillor Cook advised on how best to report such incidences.
- 48.12 Councillor Bhaimia stated that flytipping the in the Barton and Tredworth area was getting worse and asked that more CCTY be installed and if the level of fines could increase. Councillor Cook advised that there were four new officers to deal with this who were working on investigating incidences of flytipping and that the amount the Council could fine was set down in law.
- 48.13 With regard to footfall at the museum having decreased, Councillor Field asked what opportunities were being explored to diversify income generation. Councillor Morgan advised that there was a cultural development officer in place, that an exhibition was currently on display and further such attractions were planned. He further confirmed that the Council would keep the museum open.
- 48.14 Councillor Wilson noted that the Council's phone lines had not been working for a day in recent weeks and queried why this had happened. Councillor Norman advised that it was an issue with the third party provider and that an investigation would take place.

49. GAMBLING ACT 2005 - REVISED STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOLLOWING 10 WEEK CONSULTATION

- 49.1 **RESOLVED** that: - Council adopt the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles for 2022-2025 and authorises the Head of Communities to publish and advertise it.

50. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

- 50.1 Councillor Cook moved and Councillor Norman seconded the motion.
- 50.2 Councillor Cook outlined the proposed changes to the constitution regarding the introduction of a notice period for questions to Cabinet Members and

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Chairs of Committees. He stated that by providing their question in advance, both the public and Members would benefit from a detailed answer following thorough investigation. This approach would also match that of other Councils.

- 50.3 Councillor Hilton moved and Councillor Wilson seconded the following amendment:

“That the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee be rejected in favour of keeping the current system of public and member questions at council, cabinet and at council committees.

Subject to the constitution being changed to allow for public written questions, where if three working days’ notice is given in writing of the question, it will be guaranteed a written answer will be provided 24 hours before the start of the meeting in question.”

- 50.4 Councillor Hilton stated his belief that verbal question time worked well and that, in the main, Cabinet Members had good oversight of their portfolios. He further stated that the current format provided for detail to be provided in respect of more technical questions through the mechanism of written questions and that by having to provide the question in advance, officers may be over burdened in terms of researching the answer at short notice.

- 50.5 Councillor Cook stated that Cabinet Members did not take issue with answering questions verbally but that the proposed changes would align the Council with other Councils and would deliver more cogent answers. He further stated that advanced submission of questions may garner further interest from the public and local media.

- 50.6 Councillor Wilson queried who the proposed change would benefit and suggested that barriers would be created for the public. He also suggested that officers would be under pressure to deliver quick answers while accepting that sometimes a written answer was appropriate while welcoming the fact that the changes would be reviewed.

- 50.7 The amendment was not accepted.

- 50.8 Councillor Pullen moved and Councillor Chambers-Dubus seconded the following amendment:

“Council is asked to RESOLVE to

- (1) Consider the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee and adopt reject the proposed changes to the Constitution, subject to:
- Until a full People Impact Assessment has been carried out that establishes how the proposed changes will impact on people with low literacy skills, whose first language is not English and who are affected by literacy issues such as dysgraphia and dyslexia.

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- Reducing the notice required for question by Members at meetings of the Cabinet to three clear working days.
- A requirement that General Purposes Committee will review the operation of the proposed changes after three ordinary meetings of Council and decide whether to recommend to Council a return to previous arrangements or any other changes.

(2) Note that, as the report proposes to make changes to the Council Procedure Rules, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 and 12, the proposed amendments, if agreed, shall stand adjourned until the next ordinary Council meeting.”

50.9 Councillor Pullen submitted that the current system worked well for debate and transparency and noted that Cabinet Members were fully briefed on a regular basis. He queried why change it if it was working well. In outlining the amendment, Councillor Pullen noted that a People Impact screening had been carried out and whilst reference to disability had been made, literacy skills had not.

50.10 The amendment was not accepted. Councillor Williams, Chair of the General Purposes Committee, advised that People Impact Assessments were carried out for all Council decisions and that this was an inclusive Council. Councillor Hilton expressed his support for the amendment and stated that removing the ability to put questions verbally must be very carefully considered.

50.11 Councillor Melvin spoke against the amendment and shared her view that verbal questions often become a vehicle for making statements rather than putting questions.

50.12 Councillor A. Chambers stated that the Conservative Party was an inclusive one which listened to and engaged with the community. With the proposed changes, more thorough investigation of questions and clarity of answers would be enabled.

50.13 Councillor Chambers-Dubus informed Members that she had dyslexia and throughout her life had been put off from engaging in matters which involved written communication and that there were others for whom this was an issue. She highlighted that there would be some who would feel unable to submit questions in writing but would be able to ask them verbally – similarly for those for whom English was not their first language.

50.14 The amendment was put to the vote and was lost.

50.15 Councillor Hilton proposed and Councillor Wilson seconded the following amendment:

“That the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee be changed by the deletion of the first bullet point in clause one and replacing it with the following text.

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That written questions to cabinet and council be presented to democratic services at 23.59 hours on the Sunday before the meetings. Assuming council is on a Thursday evening and cabinet on Wednesday evening. That written replies will be published and provided directly to the questioner 24 hours before the start of the meeting.

That member question time at full council be extended to 45 minutes.”

50.16 The amendment was not accepted.

50.17 Following a brief adjournment, Councillor Hilton proposed and Councillor Wilson seconded the following alternative amendment:

“That the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee be changed by the deletion of the first bullet point in clause one and replacing it with the following text:

- That written questions to Cabinet be presented to Democratic Services 2 clear working days before the meeting. That written replies will be published by 12 noon on the day of the meeting.
- That written questions to Council be presented to Democratic Services 5 clear working days before the meeting. That written replies will be published at least 24 hours before the meeting.
- The answers to published questions will normally be taken as read.
- That member question time at full council be extended to 45 minutes.”

50.18 The amendment was accepted.

50.19 Councillor Hilton proposed and Councillor Wilson seconded the following amendment:

“That an additional clause be added to the resolution on constitutional changes, agenda item 11.

That both opposition group leaders retain the right to ask two verbal questions, plus two supplementary questions without notice to cabinet members at the beginning of full council question time.”

50.20 The amendment was not accepted.

50.21 Councillor Hilton proposed and Councillor Wilson seconded the following amendment:

“That an additional clause be added to the resolution on constitutional changes, agenda item 11.

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That both opposition group leaders are afforded the right to respond verbally to announcements made by the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members and the Head of Paid Service at full council – procedural rule 2.02 (vii).

That the opposition group leaders would only speak once and at the end of the announcements. That maximum time afforded to each group leader would be 3 minutes.”

50.22 Councillor Hilton stated that he would appreciate the ability to comment on announcements where it was warranted. He clarified that this would not be utilised at every meeting but where something was worth of comment.

50.23 Councillor Wilson shared his view that it is was a principle to afford opposition groups a right of reply.

50.24 The amendment was not accepted.

50.25 **RESOLVED** that:-

- (1) Council adopts the proposed changes to the Constitution, subject to:
 - That written questions to Cabinet be presented to Democratic Services 2 clear working days before the meeting.
 - That written replies will be published by 12 noon on the day of the meeting.
 - That written questions to Council be presented to Democratic Services 5 clear working days before the meeting.
 - That written replies will be published at least 24 hours before the meeting.
 - The answers to published questions will normally be taken as read.
 - That member question time at full council be extended to 45 minutes.
 - A requirement that General Purposes Committee will review the operation of the proposed changes after three ordinary meetings of Council and decide whether to recommend to Council a return to previous arrangements or any other changes.
- (2) Note that, as the report proposes to make changes to the Council Procedure Rules, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 and 12, the proposed amendments, if agreed, shall stand adjourned until the next ordinary Council meeting.

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51. REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE ON COMMITTEES AND VARIOUS APPOINTMENTS

- 51.1 Councillor Cook proposed and Councillor Norman seconded the proposals contained within the report.
- 51.2 In respect of proposed seat allocations on Committees, Councillors Hilton and Pullen confirmed their agreement to the proposals whereby the Labour Group would not lose a seat on a Committee.
- 51.3 Councillor Cook proposed that Councillor Morgan be elected Vice Chair of the Planning Committee.
- 51.4 Councillor Hilton proposed that Councillor D. Brown be elected Vice Chair of the Planning Committee.
- 51.5 Both proposals were put to the vote and Councillor Morgan was elected Vice Chair of the Planning Committee.
- 51.6 Councillor Cook proposed Councillor Finnegan to be elected Chair of the General Purposes Committee.
- 51.7 Councillor Wilson proposed that Councillor Hilton be elected Chair of the General Purposes Committee.
- 51.8 Both proposals were put to the vote and Councillor Finnegan was elected Chair of the General Purposes Committee.

51.9 **RESOLVED** that:

- (1) Approve the proposed changes to membership of Committees as set out in the report be approved, following the Leaders of the Liberal Democrat and Labour Groups having reached agreement on their seat allocations as set out in paragraph 3.7.

- (2) Receive and note the following nominations to Committees as required by the proposed changes:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 1 additional seat (Liberal Democrat) – Councillor Sarah Sawyer.

Planning Committee – 1 vacant seat (Conservative) – Councillor Pam Tracey.

Licensing and Enforcement Committee – 1 vacant seat (Conservative) – Councillor Jaro Kubaszczyk.

- (3) Receive and note the following nominations to Committees resulting from changes to the Cabinet:

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Councillor Durdey to be appointed as Conservative Spokesperson on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Morgan to replace Councillor Lewis on Planning Committee.

Councillor Morgan to replace Councillor Lewis on Planning Policy Working Group

- (4) Councillor Morgan be appointed Vice Chair of the Planning Committee;
- (5) Councillor Finnegan be appointed Chair of the General Purposes Committee.

52. NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion from the Labour Group

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

“For many years Gloucester has been home to a wide and diverse community with people from many nationalities, faiths and cultures living in the city. The city has been pleased to offer homes to people from all backgrounds and has strived to be a welcoming and friendly place. Gloucester recognises the contribution that people from diverse cultures and faiths make to the city and values the positive part they play. Gloucester is committed to welcoming asylum seekers, refugees and those fleeing violence and conflict.

This council therefore wishes for the good work that is already in place to be further developed and recognised by supporting Gloucester to become a City of Sanctuary.

Whilst there are many aspects of good practice in place there is still a process to go through to ensure that the whole city fully understands and meets the City of Sanctuary framework. Specifically, this would include:

- Continuing to develop a culture of welcome, respect and hospitality for people from all backgrounds and particularly for those seeking sanctuary.
- Valuing the contribution those seeking sanctuary can make to the city.
- Developing a plan to work towards greater inclusion and equality for people seeking sanctuary.
- Creating greater public awareness of the needs and issues faced by those seeking sanctuary across the whole city, through a range of initiatives, projects and activities.

Council Resolves:

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- (1) To seek recognition as a City of Sanctuary.
- (2) To sign up to the City of Sanctuary Charter and its principles and values.
- (3) Join the City of Sanctuary local authority network.
- (4) To set up a task and finish group to oversee the process working in partnership with key partners and community groups to establish a timetable and action plan for achieving City of Sanctuary status.
- (5) That an initial report be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet at the earliest possible opportunity outlining the actions needed to obtain City of Sanctuary designation.”

52.2 Councillor Hudson proposed and Councillor Lewis seconded the following amendment:

“For many years Gloucester has been home to a wide and diverse community with people from many nationalities, faiths and cultures living in the city. The city has been pleased to offer homes to people from all backgrounds and has strived to be a welcoming and friendly place. Gloucester recognises the contribution that people from diverse cultures and faiths make to the city and values the positive part they play. Gloucester is committed to welcoming asylum seekers, refugees and those fleeing violence and conflict.

This council therefore wishes for the good work that is already in place to be further developed and recognised by supporting Gloucester to become a City of Sanctuary.

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- Valuing the contribution those seeking sanctuary can make to the city.
- Developing a plan to work towards greater inclusion and equality for people seeking sanctuary.
- Creating greater public awareness of the needs and issues faced by those seeking sanctuary across the whole city, through a range of initiatives, projects and activities.

Council Resolves:

- (1) To seek recognition as a City of Sanctuary.

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(2) To sign up **work to embed** the City of Sanctuary Charter and its principles and values **in our policies and work, where appropriate and promote these with all partners and voluntary organisations.**

~~(3) Join the City of Sanctuary local authority network.~~

~~(4) To set up a task and finish group to oversee the process working in partnership with key partners and community groups to establish a timetable and action plan for achieving City of Sanctuary status.~~

~~(5) That an initial report be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet at the earliest possible opportunity outlining the actions needed to obtain City of Sanctuary designation."~~

(3) **To work towards the criteria to register for local authority status as part of the City of Sanctuary network.**

(4) **To bring forward a report to Cabinet to update on the progress made towards achieving City of Sanctuary status in 12 months' time to determine future actions."**

52.3 The amendment was accepted and became the substantive motion. This was put to the vote and was carried.

52.4 **RESOLVED** that: -

"For many years Gloucester has been home to a wide and diverse community with people from many nationalities, faiths and cultures living in the city. The city has been pleased to offer homes to people from all backgrounds and has strived to be a welcoming and friendly place. Gloucester recognises the contribution that people from diverse cultures and faiths make to the city and values the positive part they play. Gloucester is committed to welcoming asylum seekers, refugees and those fleeing violence and conflict.

This council therefore wishes for the good work that is already in place to be further developed and recognised by supporting Gloucester to become a City of Sanctuary.

Whilst there are many aspects of good practice in place there is still a process to go through to ensure that the whole city fully understands and meets the City of Sanctuary framework. Specifically, this would include:

- Continuing to develop a culture of welcome, respect and hospitality for people from all backgrounds and particularly for those seeking sanctuary.
- Valuing the contribution those seeking sanctuary can make to the city.
- Developing a plan to work towards greater inclusion and equality for people seeking sanctuary.

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- Creating greater public awareness of the needs and issues faced by those seeking sanctuary across the whole city, through a range of initiatives, projects and activities.

Council Resolves:

- (1) To seek recognition as a City of Sanctuary.
- (2) To work to embed the City of Sanctuary Charter and its principles and values in our policies and work, where appropriate and promote these with all partners and voluntary organisations.
- (3) To work towards the criteria to register for local authority status as part of the City of Sanctuary network.
- (4) To bring forward a report to Cabinet to update on the progress made towards achieving City of Sanctuary status in 12 months' time to determine future actions."

Motion from the Liberal Democrat Group

52.5 Councillor Hyman proposed and Councillor Wilson seconded the following motion:

"This Council supports the Government in its commitment to abolish conversion therapy. It notes the consultation period which ends on 10th December and requests the Managing Director to complete the online consultation form on behalf of the City Council (<https://equalityhub.citizenspace.com/government-equalities-office/banning-conversion-therapy/>). Abolishing conversion therapy would help the work of support groups.

Conversion therapy is the practice of attempting to change an individual's sexual orientation from homosexual or bisexual to heterosexual using psychological, physical, or spiritual interventions. There is no actual evidence that sexual orientation can be changed and medical institutions warn that conversion therapy practices are ineffective and potentially harmful. This Council considers, therefore, conversion therapy to be a barbaric outdated practice which has caused immeasurable harm to many both physically and mentally. It has no place in a civilised society.

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 places a public sector equality duty on the council to eliminate harassment and victimisation and to foster good relations between persons who share or don't share a protected characteristic. Therefore, someone with a protected characteristic should not try to change that of another by conversion therapy.

This Council urges the Government to ban conversion practices outright whether they be by physical means, such as electric shock treatment or

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hormone therapy, or by counselling including exorcisms. There is plenty of evidence from survivors that these methods do not work and adverse effects can include shame, guilt, depression, suicide, sacrificed same sex relationships, experimental opposite sex marriages, self-imposed isolation and loneliness. The list goes on.

This Council notes the current proposals allow adults to give “informed consent”. This is usually when people are at their most vulnerable. This Council urges the Government not to allow anti LGBT opinion to water down the legislation making it less effective.”

- 52.6 Councillor Hudson proposed and Councillor Lewis seconded the following amendment:

“This Council supports the Government in its commitment to abolish conversion therapy. It notes the consultation period which ends on 10th December and requests the Managing Director to complete the online consultation form on behalf of the City Council (<https://equalityhub.citizenspace.com/government-equalities-office/banning-conversion-therapy/>). Abolishing conversion therapy would help the work of support groups.

Conversion therapy is the practice of attempting to change an individual's sexual orientation from homosexual or bisexual to heterosexual using psychological, physical, or spiritual interventions. There is no actual evidence that sexual orientation can be changed and medical institutions warn that conversion therapy practices are ineffective and potentially harmful. This Council considers, therefore, conversion therapy to be a barbaric outdated practice which has caused immeasurable harm to many both physically and mentally. It has no place in a civilised society **and this Council fully endorses the work being carried out by the Government.**

~~Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 places a public sector equality duty on the council to eliminate harassment and victimisation and to foster good relations between persons who share or don't share a protected characteristic. Therefore, someone with a protected characteristic should not try to change that of another by conversion therapy.~~

~~This Council urges the Government to ban conversion practices outright whether they be by physical means, such as electric shock treatment or hormone therapy, or by counselling including exorcisms. There is plenty of evidence from survivors that these methods do not work and adverse effects can include shame, guilt, depression, suicide, sacrificed same sex relationships, experimental opposite sex marriages, self-imposed isolation and loneliness. The list goes on.~~

This Council notes the current proposals allow adults to give “informed consent”. This is usually when people are at their most vulnerable. This Council urges the Government not to allow anti LGBT opinion to water down the legislation making it less effective.”

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52.7 The amendment was accepted and became the substantive motion. This was put to the vote and was carried.

52.8 **RESOLVED** that:-

This Council supports the Government in its commitment to abolish conversion therapy. It notes the consultation period which ends on 10th December and requests the Managing Director to complete the online consultation form on behalf of the City Council (<https://equalityhub.citizenspace.com/government-equalities-office/banning-conversion-therapy/>). Abolishing conversion therapy would help the work of support groups.

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This Council notes the current proposals allow adults to give “informed consent”. This is usually when people are at their most vulnerable. This Council urges the Government not to allow anti LGBT opinion to water down the legislation making it less effective.

Motion from the Liberal Democrat Group

52.9 Councillor Hilton proposed and Councillor Field seconded the following motion:

“This council agrees that the kerbside collection of plastics and other materials for recycling is a positive action this council can take to protect the environment.

This council notes that the city council’s contractor Urbaser has been failing to meet its contractual obligations to collect dry waste put out for recycling, with neighbourhoods across the city suffering from missed collections.

This council calls on the cabinet to take urgent action to rectify the situation and to restore the weekly collection of dry recyclable materials so that no area of the city is missed out in the future.”

52.10 The motion was put to the vote and was lost.

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Motion from the Liberal Democrat Group

52.11 Councillor Field proposed and Councillor Conder proposed the following motion:

“Council notes that Small Business Saturday 2021 is coming up on 4th December. Small Business Saturday has grown into a significant event – with a record £1.1 billion spent with small businesses during last year’s event. Council recognises that this is an excellent opportunity to promote small businesses in Gloucester and to celebrate the contribution smaller businesses make to our city.

Council believes that Small Businesses are the heart and soul of our local high streets. It is only by supporting our local independent businesses that we can also help our local high streets to thrive.

Council resolves to:

- (a) Ask the Leader of the Council to ensure that the Council participates fully in Small Business Saturday on 4th December 2021.
- (b) Request that officers work closely with local business organisations and smaller enterprises across Gloucester to make them aware of the day and encourage them to sign up.
- (c) Ensure that Small Business Saturday is promoted thoroughly and prominently on the Council’s website, social media channels and other external communications.
- (d) Develop a year round communications plan to continue promoting local small businesses and encouraging residents in Gloucester to shop small and shop local all year round.
- (e) Investigate further ways to increase shopper numbers around Small Business Saturday and in the lead up to Christmas – such as free car parking in the city centre on busy shopping days – and establish a regular programme of measures to support small businesses.

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

52.13 **RESOLVED** that:-

“Council notes that Small Business Saturday 2021 is coming up on 4th December. Small Business Saturday has grown into a significant event – with a record £1.1 billion spent with small businesses during last year’s event. Council recognises that this is an excellent opportunity to promote small businesses in Gloucester and to celebrate the contribution smaller businesses make to our city.

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Council believes that Small Businesses are the heart and soul of our local high streets. It is only by supporting our local independent businesses that we can also help our local high streets to thrive.

Council resolves to:

- (a) Ask the Leader of the Council to ensure that the Council participates fully in Small Business Saturday on 4th December 2021.
- (b) Request that officers work closely with local business organisations and smaller enterprises across Gloucester to make them aware of the day and encourage them to sign up.
- (c) Ensure that Small Business Saturday is promoted thoroughly and prominently on the Council's website, social media channels and other external communications.
- (d) Develop a year round communications plan to continue promoting local small businesses and encouraging residents in Gloucester to shop small and shop local all year round.
- (e) Investigate further ways to increase shopper numbers around Small Business Saturday and in the lead up to Christmas – such as free car parking in the city centre on busy shopping days – and establish a regular programme of measures to support small businesses.

53. WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

- 53.1 In respect of question five, Councillor Field stated that there was not long until the consultation regarding the Podsmead regeneration proposals began and asked if there were concerns residents would not know about the consultation. Councillor Gravells responded that there had been numerous meetings regarding the consultation and advised that if there were concerns, he would always be amenable to discussing them.

54. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

- 54.1 **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 this item there will be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

55. GLOUCESTERSHIRE AIRPORT LIMITED (GAL)

- 55.1 Councillor Cook moved and Councillor Norman seconded the motion outlining its purpose. Councillor Cook confirmed, following a query from Councillor J. Brown that a tour would be organised as well as a briefing.

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55.2 **RESOLVED** - that the recommendations be approved as per the exempt report.

Time of commencement: 6.45 pm hours

Time of conclusion: 10.15 pm hours

Chair