



COUNCIL

MEETING : Thursday, 18th March 2021

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

Others in Attendance

Managing Director
Corporate Director – Partnerships
Corporate Director – Transformation
Head of Communities
Head of Cultural Services
Head of Place
Head of Policy and Resources
Solicitor
Policy and Governance Manager
Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. Brooker

73. MINUTES

73.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2021 were confirmed as a true record.

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

74.1 There were no declarations of interest.

75. CALL OVER

75.1 The Mayor invited Members to indicate whether they wished to reserve agenda items 9,10,11,12,13,14,15 and 16 for discussion. Members indicated that they wished to reserve items 13, 14 and 15 for discussion.

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- 75.2 Councillor Cook (Leader of the Council) moved and Councillor H Norman (Deputy Leader of the Council) seconded that the Cultural Strategy 5 Year Update, Treasury Management Strategy, Capital Strategy, Pay Policy Statement 2021-22, and Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee be approved.
- 75.3 **RESOLVED that:** - The Cultural Strategy 5 Year Update be approved.
- 75.4 **RESOLVED that:** - The Treasury Management Strategy be approved.
- 75.5 **RESOLVED that:** - The Capital Strategy be approved.
- 75.6 **RESOLVED that:** - The Pay Policy Statement 2021-22 be approved.
- 75.7 **RESOLVED that:** - The Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee be approved.

76. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

- 76.1 A Gloucester resident asked the following to Councillor Cook via Microsoft Teams:

“The park in Coney Hill has been left in a dilapidated state. The ramps are overgrown, the playpark is too small and the trees around it haven't been cut back. It took 4 months and several reports for fly tipping to be cleaned up. Would the council like to explain why these issues haven't been addressed?”

- 76.2 Councillor Cook thanked the resident for the question. He stated that the Council had not been able to find any reports in respect of fly tipping at Coney Hill park on their Focus system. He said that Focus was not working for some time, so an additional list of requests was kept by customer services, but there was no entry on this list either. He stated that the Council would need to know how the fly tipping was reported in order to investigate the matter further.

Councillor Cook stated that the playground inspector would report any fly tipping he saw in the vicinity of the play area directly to Amey, it wouldn't appear on the play equipment report sheet. He said that they had been issues in the past with residents throwing waste over their fences onto the Park and on more than one occasion, low risk inmates at Leyhill had been in and spent a day removing large quantities of rubbish.

He stated that he was not aware that there were any particular issues with the play equipment within the fenced toddler area, and that the Council

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carried out repairs when necessary. The last annual ROSPA inspection of the play area stated that the play area provided reasonable play value and activity. He stated that the Council was aware that the zip wire from the teen area has been missing for some time, but that a replacement was being ordered.

The play facilities certainly met the criteria for a local play area, though they could fall slightly short of the criteria for a neighbourhood play area. Recently the Council had been concentrating on creating new play areas where there was a shortfall in provision and s106 money available, though consideration could be given to providing equipment for older children (e.g. a big climbing frame or space net) at Coney Hill if funding could be found.

The sides of the BMX track were cut biannually. The bikes kept the track free of vegetation but the grass on the banks was allowed to grow longer as part of the Council's low mow regime.

Councillor Cook stated that he was unsure what the reference to trees around the play area was referring to. There was a group of trees in the top right corner but they did not seem to be interfering with anything. The light green structure in the middle of the trees was the roof of the youth shelter, but that has now been moved to an area next to the BMX track.

77. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

77.1 There were no petitions or deputations.

78. ANNOUNCEMENTS

78.1 The Mayor announced with great pleasure the granting of the Mayor's medal to Hash Norat whose organisation Gloucester Feed the Hungry assists the homeless and vulnerable by providing hot meals, free haircuts, clothing, and emergency food parcels. The Mayor highlighted Hash's magnificent work over many years within the City, helping those in the most need.

78.2 Mr Norat thanked members and the Mayor for his medal, his team at Gloucester Feed the Hungry and dedicated the award to several of his family members who had unfortunately passed away during the pandemic.

78.3 Members applauded Mr Norat for his significant contribution to assisting those in need in Gloucester over five years.

78.4 Councillor Watkins, the Cabinet Member for Communities & Neighbourhoods stated that it was an honour to recognise twelve 'lockdown legends' for their service to the community of Gloucester during the COVID-19 pandemic. She

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stated that they were agreed on unanimously by Councillors. She paid tribute to each of the lockdown legends listed below:

- Dawn Barnes and the team at The Venture White City;
- Nick Brookes;
- Justin Hudson and the team at Butlers Bar;
- Lisa and Les Jevins and the Podsmead Big Local team;
- Jennie Layhe and the Tuffley Court Community Association;
- Reyaz Limalia and the Fairshare team;
- Ross & Hayley Nicholl and The Club at Tuffley Park;
- Hash Norat and the Gloucester Feed the Hungry team;
- Mohammed Patel and the Street Champion Scheme;
- Anne Radley and the Elmbridge Community Centre team;
- Claire Skivington and the Gloucestershire Gateway Trust;
- Vanessa Worrall and the Together in Matson Team.

78.5 Councillor Cook stated that all the 'lockdown legends' recognised deserved the praise they had received.

78.6 Councillor Hilton thanked everyone who had helped their neighbours throughout the pandemic. He added that the spirit of the community had allowed Gloucester to get through the difficulty of the pandemic. He added that there were unsung heroes across Gloucester who had also helped.

78.7 Councillor Stephens paid tribute to Mr Norat for all his work. He added thanks to Councillor Watkins for the work she had put in for organising the awards and for ensuring that it had cross party support. He concluded by stating that the awards were thoroughly deserved.

78.8 The Mayor paid tribute to Council members who were not seeking re-election.

78.9 Councillor Cook noted that there were three Members of the Conservative group who were not standing for re-election and paid tribute to them. They were:

- Councillor Gerald Dee.
- Councillor David Norman.
- Councillor Jennie Watkins.

78.10 Councillor Hilton noted that there was one Member of the Liberal Democrat group, Councillor Emily Ryall who would be standing down and paid tribute to her.

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78.11 Councillor Stephens stated that he wanted to thank every member who was standing down, regardless of political party. Councillor Stephens paid particular tribute to the following Members:

- Councillor Lauren Derbyshire (Independent)
- Councillor Hampson (Labour)
- Councillor Coole (Labour)
- Councillor Haigh (Labour)
- Councillor Lugg (Labour)

78.12 Councillor Gravells paid tribute to the three Members standing down in the Matson and Robinswood ward, Councillor Coole, Haigh and Lugg respectively. Further, he paid tribute to Councillor Watkins who was standing down.

78.13 Councillor Hyman expressed his thanks to Councillor Ryall for staying on an extra year.

78.14 Councillor Hampson paid tribute to Mr Norat and thanked everyone involved during his six years of service as a Councillor.

78.15 Councillor Morgan stated that he believed that Gloucester was losing a lot of good Councillors and paid tribute to Mr Norat.

78.16 Councillor Coole thanked Members for their tributes and thanked Councillor Ryall for her work as Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

78.17 Councillor Watkins thanked members for their kind words to her. She thanked Members and Council Officers for their work and paid tribute to Councillor Dee.

The Mayor

78.18 The Mayor announced that she would be opening the Poets Pantry in Podsmead on Monday 22nd March. She stated that she would be leading Gloucester's National Day of Reflection and would be lowering the flag at 12pm on Tuesday the 23rd March at North Warehouse. She said that in April, she would be attending the commemoration of the Battle of the Imjin River and would be lowering the flag at North Warehouse on the 22nd of April. She stated that she would be attending a RBL event on the 23rd of April at the War Memorial at 7pm and would be attending a Cathedral service which was being organised by the Imjin 70 Committee. She said that looking ahead, she

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would be sending out an invitation to the Mayor of Paju to come to Gloucester for a Civic Reception on the weekend of the 25th/26th September where there would be significant commemoration of the Battle of Imjin and a reaffirming of the strong relationship that exists with Paju. She stated that she was hopeful that she would be able to hold Civic Service before the AGM. She highlighted the work of Pride in Gloucestershire, her nominated charity for the Civic Year.

Leader of the Council

78.19 The Leader of the Council notified Members about the improvement in recycling performance. He stated that volumes of recycling collected at curb side has increased by 15%.

Cabinet Members

78.20 Councillor Morgan noted that the Folk of Gloucester arrangements were moving ahead and that the signing of the paperwork was imminent. He thanked Councillor Hampson, the numerous Council officers involved in the project, One Legal, members of the Civic Trust and Gloucester Historic Buildings for their support. Secondly, he noted that the Marketing Steering Board, now had appointed Jackie Douglas as the Chair of the City's Marketing Steering Board.

78.21 Councillor Gravells informed Members that Gloucester had been identified as an area of high affordability pressure which meant that Housing Association Registered Providers could now bid for grants to deliver Social Rent Homes in the City.

The Housing Minister said in answer to a written parliamentary question that the new AHP, due to run from this year till 2026, would deliver roughly 32,000 social rent homes outside of London. He said that this would double the amount of social rent homes funded when compared with the current programme.

It is in light of this the Council would be supporting bids to deliver Social Rent in the City going forward with a number of key schemes, St Oswald's being a prime example, offering the opportunity to deliver more Social rent in the City.

Committee Chairs

78.22 The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee announced that a Democratic and Electoral Services Officer was leaving and thanked her for all her support and hard work during her time as an officer.

Heads of Service

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78.23 The Managing Director noted that the Corporate Director (Transformation) would be standing down after the May 2021 elections and he paid tribute and thanks for his contribution to the City as an officer. The Managing Director stated that he would be bringing a report to the AGM meeting after the Election to appoint a new Corporate Director.

79. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

79.1 Councillor Hilton asked a question to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods. He asked whether she would be prepared to attend an independent inquiry into the affairs of Marketing Gloucester if she was asked to. Councillor Watkins replied that should she receive such an invitation post-election, she would be inclined to respond positively, if it was felt that her contribution would be helpful.

79.2 Councillor Hilton asked Councillor Watkins, whether it would be beneficial to instruct the City Centre Protection Officer's to patrol London Road, to help reduce the amount of street drinking within the area. Councillor Watkins replied that she was fully aware of the issue of street drinking. She added that there was a considerable amount of work behind the scenes to investigate and combat the problem. She stated that there was a Kingsholm Action Plan specifically for Kingsholm, and a huge part of the action plan was to look at combating street drinking. She added that the Council had been granted £10,000 by the Police and Crime Commissioner's office specifically for the area of Kingsholm to ensure that they put as many resources in place in the area. Councillor Watkins, said in response to a supplementary question that it would be for the Council, Citysafe the Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner and other partners to decide the scope of the City Centre Protection Officer's.

79.3 Councillor Stephens thanked the Corporate Director for his work for the Council. Councillor Stephens then asked Councillor Watkins what work she was undertaking to investigate recent events regarding allegations of intimidation, and drug dealing at the Central Hotel and the passing away of a homeless resident in Hillfield Gardens. Councillor Watkins thanked Councillor Stephens for his question. She stated that she was aware of the tragic passing away of the resident but could not go into detail on the case. She stated that the circumstances of the individual's death were being looked at. Regarding allegations at the Central Hotel, Councillor Watkins stated that there had been some issues at the Central Hotel, but support was being provided to those who were currently residing at the Hotel. In response to a supplementary question, Councillor Watkins stated that she could not go into individual circumstances of the tragedy in Hillfield Gardens but that it would be up to senior officers' discretion as to what could be in the public domain owing to confidentiality issues. She stated that they had begun to start moving homeless residents out of the Central Hotel and into more permanent accommodation.

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- 79.4 Councillor Stephens asked a question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Cook. He asked what he was going to do about the issue of fly tipping across wards in the City, and when were CCTV cameras at fly tipping hotspots going to be operational in Barton and Tredworth. Councillor Cook thanked Councillor Stephens for his question. He stated that there was an issue with fly tipping in multiple wards but that the problem was particularly problematic in Barton and Tredworth. He stated that he wanted to focus on the problem where it was at its worst. He stated that they expected CCTV cameras in hotspots to be operational imminently. Councillor Watkins added that there would be an attempt to procure CCTV moving forward.
- 79.5 Councillor Wilson stated that false allegations had been about himself and Councillor Field alleging that they had been delivering leaflets illegally. He asked the Leader of the Council whether all candidates, irrespective of their political views should be treated with courtesy and respect and agree that anyone who made the false allegations should be investigated for wasting police time. The Leader of the Council stated that he was unaware of the issue regarding false claims about delivering leaflets in Podsmead. He stated that he would not encourage anyone to waste police time. He said that anyone who was delivering leaflets should not have done so. In response to a supplementary question, the Leader stated that he was not responsible for everyone who claimed to be a Conservative, and that each candidate should be treated with respect.
- 79.6 Councillor Coole asked the Cabinet Member for Communities & Neighbourhoods whether she agreed that the Government should ban the practice of 'conversion therapy'. Councillor Watkins replied by stating that it was a national government issue, but she agreed with Councillor Coole that conversion therapy should be banned. In response to a supplementary question, Councillor Watkins stated that she would jointly write with Councillor Coole to the MP of Gloucester, Richard Graham to lobby him to call on the Government to ban the practice of conversion therapy.
- 79.7 Councillor Field asked the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, Councillor Morgan whether the 30,000 items that were to be decanted at the Gloucester Life Museum could be done within budget. Councillor Morgan replied by stating that he believed that it could be done within budget. In response to a supplementary, Councillor Morgan stated that it the issue of disposals was a very difficult matter, so they would have to go through the correct procedure in regards to any potential disposals.
- 79.8 Councillor Pullen asked the Leader of the Council, what steps was he taking to ensure that the standards of waste collection did not slip leading up to Ubico contract start date in April 2022. Councillor Cook responded by stating that he did not see any problem in a reduction of standards of waste collection. In response to a supplementary question, Councillor Cook stated that he was sure that regular updates on the transition would be provided

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and that he was happy that employees of Ubico would be happy to talk to Overview and Scrutiny and that he would too.

79.9 Councillor Patel asked the Leader of the Council whether he believed that his ward of Barton and Tredworth deserved to retain as much of the open space in the area as possible, whether the Leader supported he and Richard Graham MP's efforts to introduce a brand new play area at land off Melbourne Street/Hatherley Road and whether he would support his request for a review of the play equipment at Gloucester Park. In response, the leader stated that the Council were committed to retaining and improving upon the existing open space in Barton and Tredworth and would welcome any initiatives that would give residents access to additional play areas. He said that although the area at Gloucester Park was recognized as a regional sized facility, they would always seek to provide provision where they could.

79.10 Councillor Patel asked the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy, Councillor Gravells whether the Council's Planning Policy and Housing Strategy should be reviewed to ensure that less family house were converted into HMO's and student houses. In response, Councillor Gravells stated that the City Plan was currently with the Planning Inspectorate and was in draft form. He stated that despite it being in draft form currently, it did carry some weight. He said that the City Plan included Policy A1 which seeks to protect against over intensification of an area, including HMO's. He stated that he would set up a meeting between relevant Officer's to discuss the issue further.

80. CULTURAL STRATEGY 5 YEAR UPDATE

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

80.2 **RESOLVED that: -**

(1) the revised Cultural Strategy is welcomed and adopted.

81. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

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

81.2 **RESOLVED that: -**

(1) the Treasury Management Strategy at Appendix 1 be approved;

(2) the authorised borrowing limit be approved at: -

- a) 2021/22 £265m
- b) 2022/23 £260m
- c) 2023/24 £255m

(3) the prudential indicators set out in section two of the strategy be approved.

82. CAPITAL STRATEGY

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82.1 Councillor Cook moved, and Councillor Hannah Norman seconded the motion.

82.2 **RESOLVED that:** - the Capital Strategy at Appendix 1 be approved.

83. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2021-22

83.1 Councillor Cook moved and Councillor Hannah Norman seconded the motion.

83.2 **RESOLVED that:** - the Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22 attached as Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

84. REVISED GLOUCESTER LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2021-2023

84.1 The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy introduced the report and highlighted key elements.

84.2 Councillor Hilton noted that whilst he generally happy with the contents of the report, he raised concerns about the fact that the comparative site assessment study had not yet been published.

84.3 Councillor Gravells moved and Councillor Cook seconded the motion.

84.4 **RESOLVED that:** - the revised Gloucester Local Development Scheme (Appendix 1) is adopted by the Council and takes effect immediately.

85. THE SAINTBRIDGE RECREATION GROUND TRUST

85.1 The Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure introduced the report and highlighted key elements. Councillor Morgan moved and Councillor Watkins seconded the motion.

85.2 Councillor Coole proposed the following amendment to add the following paragraph to resolution 2 outlined in the report:

“2(b) If the report should achieve unanimity then the governance arrangements as set out in 2(a) shall proceed. If it should fail to achieve unanimity, a politically proportionate Saintbridge Recreation Ground Trust Management Committee is established, which will shall always include the three Councillors from Matson and Robinswood Ward as members”

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- 85.3 The amendment was accepted.
- 85.4 Councillor Coole encouraged all Members to vote in favour of the governance arrangements to ensure that as, an outgoing Council, they left the new administration, with 'solid governance' arrangements for the Saintbridge Recreation Ground Trust.
- 85.5 Councillor Gravells noted that he agreed with Councillor Coole.
- 85.6 **RESOLVED (subject to the amendment as above): -**
- (1) The Governance arrangements set out in Appendix 1 are approved and adopted.
- (2) (a) A Saintbridge Recreation Ground Trust Management Committee is established comprising the three city councillors elected to represent the Matson and Robinswood Ward, the two cabinet leads with responsibility for communities and recreation and one appointee from each of the other political groups on the Council not otherwise represented. *(Now 2A after the accepted amendment)*
- (b) If the report should achieve unanimity then the governance arrangements as set out in 2(a) shall proceed. If it should fail to achieve unanimity, a politically proportionate Saintbridge Recreation Ground Trust Management Committee is established, which will shall always include the three Councillors from Matson and Robinswood Ward as members
- (3) The Management Committee is given the terms of reference and the delegated powers set out in the Governance Arrangements set out at Appendix 1 to this report.
- (4) In order to lawfully establish a Saintbridge Recreation Ground Trust Management Committee which is not required to be politically balanced, this resolution is approved without dissent.

86. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- 86.1 Councillor Coole introduced the report and highlighted key elements. Councillor Coole outlined the work undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Coole thanked members and officers for their support over the past few years as a serving Councillor. Councillor Coole moved and Councillor Ryall seconded the motion.
- 86.2 Councillor Ryall stated that she wished to echo the comments made by Councillor Coole. She said that hoped that the good work carried out by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee over the past five years carried on.
- 86.3 Councillor Lewis thanked Councillor Coole and Ryall for their contribution as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee respectively.

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86.4 Councillor Hilton stated that he believed that the Scrutiny process was more satisfying for the City Council in comparison to Gloucestershire County Council.

86.5 **RESOLVED that:** - the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2020-21 be noted.

87. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

87.1 Councillor Cook moved and Councillor Hannah Norman seconded the motion.

87.2 **RESOLVED that:** - the Annual Report 2020/21 be noted.

88. NOTICES OF MOTION

88.1 Councillor Hilton noted that he had amended his notice of motion regarding new information coming to light since the publication of the motion and asked that the newly amended notice of motion be debated.

88.2 There was no dissent to the proposal of putting forth the amended motion for debate.

88.3 Councillor Hilton moved and Councillor Bowkett seconded the following amended motion:

“This council notes that the Debenhams brand has been bought by Boohoo, and that all 124 stores across the country will close with the loss of 12,000 jobs as Boohoo relaunches Debenhams as an online-only retailer later this year.

~~That the Gloucester department store building is currently owned by Aviva who have put it up for sale.~~

~~There is speculation that the building has been sold, but as of the 3rd March a sale hasn't been confirmed by either a buyer or Aviva.~~

~~The previous day the leader of the council confirmed that he did not know whether the building had been sold.~~

~~The Debenhams department store is listed as a positive building within the city centre conservation area, though its service yard is regarded as a negative aspect off St Aldate Street.~~

~~The department store cannot be demolished without the council's consent.~~

~~This council agrees to work closely with the new owners to retain, restore and repurpose the building.~~

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~~This council also confirms that it would oppose the demolition of the Debenhams building.~~

That the freehold of the Kings Square department store has been acquired by the University of Gloucestershire.

That the university's acquisition of the Debenhams building was confirmed on the 16th of March 2021.

That the iconic building in the heart of Gloucester city centre is set to become a new university campus for teaching, learning and community partnerships.

That the university intends to retain and fully refurbish the 1930s Art Deco building.

That this council welcomes the decision of the University of Gloucestershire to retain, restore and repurpose the building. That this council agrees to work closely with the university to help them succeed with their repurposing project, including supporting the university with any grant application to government that would help finance the building's full and complete restoration."

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

88.5 **RESOLVED that: -**

"This council notes that the Debenhams brand has been bought by Boohoo. and that all 124 stores across the country will close with the loss of 12,000 jobs as Boohoo relaunches Debenhams as an online-only retailer later this year.

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That this council welcomes the decision of the University of Gloucestershire to retain, restore and repurpose the building. That this council agrees to work closely with the university to help them succeed with their repurposing project, including supporting the university with any grant application to

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government that would help finance the building's full and complete restoration."

- 88.6 Councillor Stephens proposed and Council Hansdot seconded the following motion:

"Council notes that the Covid-19 vaccination programme is having a significant impact nationally in protecting people against Covid-19 and is greatly reducing the prevalence of the virus, lowering death rates and hospital admissions.

Council further notes that Gloucestershire has consistently been the highest performer nationally in terms of delivering the vaccine to its residents. This is due to the excellent leadership of Sarah Scott and the public health team in the county, NHS and other frontline workers, and the vast army of volunteer helpers.

Council resolves:

1. To write to Sarah Scott expressing our gratitude to her and her team on the success of the vaccination programme in Gloucester (shire).
2. Records it thanks to the NHS staff, other frontline & public sector workers and volunteers involved in delivering the vaccine programme."

- 88.7 Councillor Cook proposed and Councillor Watkins seconded the following amendment.

"Council notes that the Covid-19 vaccination programme is having a significant impact nationally in protecting people against Covid-19 and is greatly reducing the prevalence of the virus, lowering death rates and hospital admissions.

Council further notes that Gloucestershire has consistently been the highest performer nationally in terms of delivering the vaccine to its residents. This is due to the excellent leadership of Sarah Scott and the public health team in the county, NHS and other frontline workers, and the vast army of volunteer helpers.

Council ~~resolves~~ **notes that the Leader has already taken the opportunity:**

1. To write to Sarah Scott expressing our gratitude to her and her team on the success of the vaccination programme in Gloucester (shire).
2. Records it thanks to the NHS staff, other frontline & public sector workers and volunteers involved in delivering the vaccine programme."

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88.8 Councillor Stephens accepted the amendment which became the substantive motion. The motion was put to the vote and was carried.

88.9 **RESOLVED that: -**

“Council notes that the Covid-19 vaccination programme is having a significant impact nationally in protecting people against Covid-19 and is greatly reducing the prevalence of the virus, lowering death rates and hospital admissions.

Council further notes that Gloucestershire has consistently been the highest performer nationally in terms of delivering the vaccine to its residents. This is due to the excellent leadership of Sarah Scott and the public health team in the county, NHS and other frontline workers, and the vast army of volunteer helpers.

Council notes that the Leader has already taken the opportunity:

1. To write to Sarah Scott expressing our gratitude to her and her team on the success of the vaccination programme in Gloucester (shire).
2. Records it thanks to the NHS staff, other frontline & public sector workers and volunteers involved in delivering the vaccine programme.”

88.10 Councillor Pullen proposed and Councillor Coole seconded the following motion.

“Gloucester City Council and Gloucester City Homes own a number of garages across the city. There is currently a waiting list for the garages with residents having to wait many months or even years before being offered one. Many of the garages need significant repairs and are currently unable to be let because of this.

Garages are a useful asset and if used not only generate income but also provide a valued amenity for residents taking cars off the road, easing congestion, and freeing up on-street car parking spaces.

Council resolves:

1. To carry out an audit of all garages owned by both the council and Gloucester City Homes, detailing whether they are empty or vacant and the level of disrepair.
2. To introduce a comprehensive programme of refurbishment of the garages to bring them back into use.
3. To investigate alternative uses for the sites e.g., housing where the sites are considered unviable.

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4. That a report be presented to Cabinet within 6 months setting out the result of the audit and a comprehensive action plan.”

88.11 Councillor Hannah Norman proposed and Councillor Hyman seconded the following amendment.

“Gloucester City Council and Gloucester City Homes own a number of garages across the city. There is currently a waiting list for the garages with residents having to wait many months or even years before being offered one. Many of the garages need significant repairs and are currently unable to be let because of this.

Garages are a useful asset and if used not only generate income but also provide a valued amenity for residents taking cars off the road, easing congestion, and freeing up on-street car parking spaces.

Council resolves:

1. To carry out an audit of all garages owned by ~~both~~ the council and **ask** Gloucester City Homes **to complete the same**, detailing whether they are empty or vacant and the level of disrepair.
2. To ~~introduce a comprehensive~~ **determine the feasibility of introducing** a programme of refurbishment of the garages to bring them back into use.
3. To investigate alternative uses for the sites e.g., housing where the sites are considered unviable.
4. That a report be presented to Cabinet within 6 months setting out the result of the audit and a comprehensive action plan.”

88.12 Councillor Pullen accepted the amendment which became the substantive motion. The motion was put to the vote and was carried.

88.13 **RESVOLED that: -**

“Gloucester City Council and Gloucester City Homes own a number of garages across the city. There is currently a waiting list for the garages with residents having to wait many months or even years before being offered one. Many of the garages need significant repairs and are currently unable to be let because of this.

Garages are a useful asset and if used not only generate income but also provide a valued amenity for residents taking cars off the road, easing congestion, and freeing up on-street car parking spaces.

Council resolves:

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1. To carry out an audit of all garages owned by the council and ask Gloucester City Homes to complete the same, detailing whether they are empty or vacant and the level of disrepair.
2. To determine the feasibility of introducing a programme of refurbishment of the garages to bring them back into use.
3. To investigate alternative uses for the sites e.g., housing where the sites are considered unviable.
4. That a report be presented to Cabinet within 6 months setting out the result of the audit and a comprehensive action plan.”

88.14 Councillor Field proposed, and Councillor Wilson seconded the following motion.

“This council records its disappointment with the Conservative administration over its dreadful record in keeping our streets and open spaces clear of litter and fly tipping.

Our litter bins are often left overflowing for far too long, because there are not enough litter bins and they are often emptied too infrequently.

Many of our open spaces and streets are blighted by litter that isn't cleared by our streetcare contractor unless councillors or members of the public personally report it.

This council notes that Ubico will take over the streetcare contract from Amey on 1st April 2022.

That both Ubico and Urbaser quoted for improved response times for dealing with deteriorations in cleansing standards.

We therefore call on the cabinet to carry out a root and branch review (in discussion with Amey and Ubico) of our litter bin provision and emptying regime to also include a review of the litter picking schedule of our public spaces, with the view of proposing a dramatic improvement in service delivery as a matter of urgency.”

88.15 Councillor Cook proposed and Councillor Patel seconded the following amendment.

~~“This council records its disappointment with the Conservative administration over its dreadful record in keeping our streets and open spaces clear of litter and fly tipping~~ **acknowledges that flytipping and littering has increased nationally since the initial lockdown for the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020. This has put added pressure on our waste contractor, Amey, 3GS and council staff engaged in the enforcement of environmental crime.**

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This council welcomes the recent award of £25,000 by WRAP to support the delivery of our litter strategy which is identified by WRAP as an exemplar of best practice.

The implementation of this Strategy will include replacing old dog and litter bins and ensuring a consistent standard across the City.

~~Our litter bins are often left overflowing for far too long, because there are not enough litter bins and they are often emptied too infrequently.~~

~~Many of our open spaces and streets are blighted by litter that isn't cleared by our streetcare contractor unless councillors or members of the public personally report it.~~

This council notes that Ubico will take over the streetcare contract from Amey on 1st April 2022.

~~That both Ubico and Urbaser quoted for improved response times for dealing with deteriorations in cleansing standards~~ **standards across the City although it is recognised that currently, budgets do not exist to fund such improvement.**

We therefore call on the cabinet to ~~carry out a root and branch review~~ **implement in full the Litter Strategy** ~~(in discussion with Amey and Ubico)~~ of our litter bin provision and emptying regime to also include a review of the litter picking schedule of our public spaces, with the view of proposing a dramatic improvement in service delivery as a matter of urgency

88.16 The Mayor proposed to vote to continue the meeting, as it had reached the three-hour guillotine. There was no dissent.

88.17 Councillor Field did not accept the amendment. The amended motion, therefore, went to a vote. The amendment carried and became the substantive.

88.18 **RESOLVED that: -**

This council acknowledges that flytipping and littering has increased nationally since the initial lockdown for the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020. This has put added pressure on our waste contractor, Amey, 3GS and council staff engaged in the enforcement of enviro-crime.

This council welcomes the recent award of £25,000 by WRAP to support the delivery of our litter strategy which is identified by WRAP as an exemplar of best practice.

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The implementation of this Strategy will include replacing old dog and litter bins and ensuring a consistent standard across the City.

This council notes that Ubico will take over the streetcare contract from Amey on 1st April 2022.

That both Ubico and Urbaser quoted standards across the City although it is recognised that currently, budgets do not exist to fund such improvement.

We therefore call on the cabinet to implement in full the Litter Strategy.

88.19 Councillor Coole proposed and Councillor Lugg seconded the following motion:

“Council resolves to begin the statutory process necessary to rename “Matson and Robinswood” ward as “Matson, Robinswood and White City” ward.”

88.20 There was no dissent.

88.21 **RESOLVED that: -**

Council resolves to begin the statutory process necessary to rename “Matson and Robinswood” ward as “Matson, Robinswood and White City” ward.

89. WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

89.1 In respect of question 1, Councillor Field asked The Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure whether he could confirm that finances would be released to the Blackbridge Community Land Trust. In response Councillor Morgan replied that he would respond to Councillor Field with a specific answer in due course.

89.2 In respect of question 3, Councillor Field asked the Leader of the Council whether the new style bins that were to be installed would be direct replacements for existing bins. Councillor Cook stated that his understanding was that there would be new bins in the City Centre and old bins that were capable of being reused would be so elsewhere, with the aim of improving the bin provision in the City.

89.3 In respect of question 18 Councillor J. Brown asked the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods what consideration would be given to the placement of new defibrillators within the City where they would be accessible to the Community, 24/7. In response, Councillor Watkins replied by stating that unfortunately, owing to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the work

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regarding the installment of defibrillators within the City had been delayed but that they had pledged to take the work to install accessible defibrillators forward.

89.4 In respect of question 20, Councillor D. Brown asked the Cabinet Member for Economic Recovery and Growth whether the figures for air quality monitoring could be circulated to him. In response, Councillor Melvin noted that the Policy & Governance Manager had circulated the figures he referred to but that she would be happy to recirculate the figures.

89.5 In respect of question 21, Councillor D. Brown expressed his disappointment in the answer. He asked the Cabinet Member for Economic Recovery and Growth whether there was a plan to use new technology to measure what pollutants were in the atmosphere. In response, Councillor Melvin stated that if there was a request to have monitoring equipment that the facility was available.

Time of commencement: 6.30 pm hours
Time of conclusion: 10.11 pm hours

Chair