



Wednesday, 15 March 2023

**TO EACH MEMBER OF GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL**

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** of the **CITY OF GLOUCESTER** to be held at the Civic Suite, North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP on **Thursday, 23rd March 2023 at 6.30 pm** for the purpose of transacting the following business:

**AGENDA**

1. **APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. **MINUTES (Pages 11 - 22)**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 February 2023.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive from Members, declarations of the existence of any disclosable pecuniary, or non-pecuniary, interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any agenda item. Please see Agenda Notes.

4. **CALL OVER**

(a) Call over (items 9-13) will be read out at the meeting and Members invited to reserve the items for discussion.

(b) To approve the recommendations of those reports which have not been reserved for discussion.

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)**

The opportunity is given to members of the public to put questions to Cabinet Members or Committee Chairs. Questions may be provided that questions do not contravene the provisions set out in Council Procedure Rules 10(2).

To ask a question at this meeting, please submit it to [democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk) by 12 noon on Friday 17 March or telephone 01452 396203 for support.

6. **PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)**

A period not exceeding three minutes is allowed for the presentation of a petition or deputation provided that no such petition or deputation is in relation to:

- Matters relating to individual Council Officers, or
- Matters relating to current or pending legal proceedings

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive announcements from:

- a) The Mayor
- b) Leader of the Council
- c) Members of the Cabinet
- d) Chairs of Committees
- e) Head of Paid Service

8. **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

- a) Leader and Cabinet Members' Question Time (45 minutes)

Any member of the Council may ask the Leader of the Council or any Cabinet Member any question upon:

- Any matter relating to the Council's administration
- Any matter relating to any report of the Cabinet appearing on the Council's summons
- A matter coming within their portfolio of responsibilities

- b) Questions to Chairs of Meetings (15 Minutes)

Questions and responses will be published at least 24 hours before the meeting. Supplementary questions will be put and answered during the meeting, subject to the relevant time limit.

## **ISSUES FOR DECISION BY COUNCIL**

### **9. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023-24 (Pages 23 - 58)**

To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources concerning the Treasury Management Strategy 2023-24, the prudential indicators and note the Treasury activities.

### **10. CAPITAL STRATEGY 2023-24 (Pages 59 - 70)**

To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources seeking approval for the Capital Strategy 2023-24.

### **11. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2023-24 (Pages 71 - 80)**

To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources seeking approval for the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24.

### **12. CONTINUATION OF THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH JOINT COMMITTEE BEYOND 31 MARCH 2023 FOR A FURTHER TEMPORARY PERIOD (Pages 81 - 84)**

To consider the report of the Leader of the Council seeking approval to extend the operation of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC) beyond 31 March 2023 for a further temporary period.

### **13. DESIGNATION OF INTERIM CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (S151 OFFICER) (Pages 85 - 88)**

To consider the report of the Head of Paid Service concerning the appointment of an interim S151 Officer, in accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

### **14. NOTICES OF MOTION**

#### **1. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR A. CHAMBERS**

“Our city needs to be a safe haven for wildlife and ecology. I would like to propose that special ‘swift bricks and bee bricks’ to be incorporated in new developments across Gloucester City Council to help halt the decline of the distinctive birds and bees.



Approved by the RSPB, the bird boxes are designed to look like bricks, but feature a small hole where swifts can enter and build their nests. Swifts are urban birds which make their nests in rooftops or in old buildings, after flying over 6,000 miles from Africa in the spring. However, modern building methods, along with the demolition of old buildings, have reduced the swifts' access to rooftops, resulting in a serious decline in

numbers. Twenty years ago there were 150,000 pairs in Britain – now there are fewer than 90,000.

Although known as swift bricks, they can be used by a variety of other birds including sparrows, starlings, blue tits and great tits. This new initiative has the potential to halt the decline of swifts in the city, while also provide safe nesting places for many other types of small birds.

Other councils have adopted this around England and RSPB conservation officer Jack Thompson said: "This important planning condition for swifts will help provide more opportunities for nesting swifts and urban birds, supporting important sites, and build on the fantastic work being done to save our swifts."

Bee bricks should also be installed for new build developments and should be incorporated in the external walls of new developments - one for each property.

This Council agrees to investigate the introduction of a planning condition that:

- Will see swift boxes and bee bricks incorporated in the vast majority of new developments in the city.
- Requires swift bricks and bee bricks to be incorporated in all new developments that are five metres high and above in Gloucester City.
- Requires a minimum of two swift bricks per dwelling and one bee brick per dwelling.
- Requires commercial developments to have a minimum of three boxes, or one per 50sqm of floor spaces. Ideally, swift and bee bricks should be placed under the eaves in groups of at least three.
- Should be attached to all planning permissions granted after 1 April 2024 for the City of Gloucester.

Members are asked to approve this motion and help our City to work closely with the RSPB who have come up with a simple scheme that will increase biodiversity, and encourage wildlife to thrive in our city. So please, don't vote politically, vote for our nature, our birds and our bees to safe guarding our wildlife for generations to come."

## **2. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR A. CHAMBERS**

“Many young lives have been lost in our city as a result of KNIFE crime. I ask all members to vote in favour for our city leader and city managing director to write to the MP of Gloucester requesting them to put forward an argument to Parliament to change the law relating to knife crime and carrying knives. This would be a request for the requirement for a minimum prison sentence of 1 year imprisonment for carrying an illegal knife.

Currently the punishment for carrying a knife (as a first time offender) carries no minimum sentence and a maximum 1 year sentence. In order to counteract the rise of knife crime in our City, the law needs to be looked at and changed.

I therefore ask all members to use their votes to request this change to make our city and community safer for all. Using your vote could help save a young life in our city!”

## **3. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR A. CHAMBERS**

“Gloucester City Council showed solidarity to Ukraine by raising a flag over the docks and I was proud to have seconded that motion. Now is the time for the city to do the same with Turkey & Syria.

A series of devastating earthquakes have hit southern Turkey (now known as Türkiye) and north-west Syria killing over 50,000 people and injuring many more.

The first deadly earthquake struck while people were inside their homes, asleep in their beds, with no warning signs. More than 54,000 buildings, including hospitals and schools, have been destroyed or damaged. People have been left without shelter in freezing winter conditions.

I ask that Gloucester City Council raises both the Turkish and Syrian flags for 30 days to show solidarity to both nations during this world disaster and their time of need.

Please members vote to support this motion to show the people of Turkey and Syria that we the people of Gloucester are in support and do care.”

## **4. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR O'DONNELL**

“We as independent Councillors note with concern the increase in homelessness and rough sleeping nationwide in recent years, and the profound impact that homelessness has on people’s physical and mental wellbeing.

We recognise that two common reasons why members of the public may not give spare change to homeless people are a concern about how that money may be spent, and, due to the recent increase in use of contactless payment cards, often have less or no cash about their person.

We consider the BillyChip, a Ceramic token which can be purchased in cafes and

later redeemed by a homeless person in exchange for a hot or cold drink and often food to be a simple, innovative and more secure way for members of the public to give financial support to homeless people, which many wish to do.

We recognise further that the BillyChip is already available in numerous outlets across Bristol, Bath and Oxford, is in the process of identifying and approaching potential venues in Gloucester, and is the subject of huge popular online support. We already have some venues that do the billy chip scheme, revive cafe, owned by Gloucester city mission, Seymour post office and the Seymour cafe. We wish to be part of this.

We would like Council to offer the BillyChip its full endorsement and commits to supporting the implementation of the chip here in Gloucester.

To achieve this, council needs to resolve to:

- collaborate with the BillyChip CIC on developing its profile in Gloucester.
- give the BillyChip CIC free use of its premises for the purposes of public information meetings.
- provide space on the Gloucester City Council website listing participating venues and other relevant information.
- ensure that all appropriate council-operated venues participate in the scheme.

## **5. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR O'DONNELL**

“This Council asks the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy to consider putting signs up mapping where the homeless shelters are. This will help more people to know where they are in our city as well as the warm spaces available, as many homeless people do not even know these warm spaces existed, hence they were staying in doorways trying to keep warm.

A simple sticker at a low cost could be stuck over the various street mapping signs around our city to help guide these vulnerable people to places of sanctuary.

This Council supports what is a very simple fix to help vulnerable people in our city find the help they need.”

## **6. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR PULLEN**

“The intimidation and abuse of councillors in person or otherwise undermines democracy, prevents councillors from representing the communities they serve, deters people from standing for election and undermines public life in democratic processes.

This council is concerned about the detrimental effect abuse and intimidation in public and political discourse can have on local democracy. The council must ensure that prevention, support and responses to such actions and behaviour should be in place to ensure councillors feel safe and able to represent their residents.

Furthermore, councillors should ensure that their own conduct and behaviour in carrying out council duties should be of the highest standard and not act in a way that is abusive or intimidating, whether that is during formal debate in council meetings or in other democratic activities.

Abusive and intimidating behaviour should not be normalised, accepted or tolerated.

This council therefore agrees to sign up to the Local Government Association's 'Debate Not Hate' campaign to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in their communities, encourage healthy debate and ensure the support to those in public life who face abuse or intimidation.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Write to Gloucester's MP encouraging him to support the campaign
- Write to the Government to ask them to work with the LGA to develop and implement a plan to address abuse and intimidation of politicians at every level.
- Ensure that Gloucester City Council has clear reporting mechanisms that councillors can use to monitor and record incidents of harassment, intimidation and abuse.
- Regularly review the support available to councillors in relation to abuse, intimidation and safety.
- Work with the police to make sure there are clear and joined up processes for reporting threats and concerns for the safety of councillors and their families and ensure there is a preventative approach to consider the risks councillors face, as they do with other high profile individuals like MP's.
- Take a zero tolerance approach to abuse of councillors and officers."

## **7. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR SAWYER**

"This council notes that there has been an increase in the number of requests to erect 5G masts around the City of Gloucester, seriously impacting the look of the city. Residents in our wards mainly object because of the way they look.

This Council recognises that they do not need planning permission, but Gloucester City Council can have a say in the visual impact on our city.

Paragraph 115 of the National Planning Policy Framework states that "where new sites are required (such as for new 5G networks, or for connected transport and smart city applications), equipment should be sympathetically designed and camouflaged where appropriate"

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports' code of practice states that "early discussions with operators, local planning authorities and communities on the design of the masts should be encouraged". This has not happened.

The code of practice also states that "the Government's objective is to deliver high quality reliable infrastructure whilst ensuring the impact is kept to a minimum".

Policy G5 of the new City plan states "Development proposals for telecommunications infrastructure will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the development is sympathetically designed and would not have an adverse impact upon the environment (including heritage assets, biodiversity, local amenity, the landscape and its setting). Where new sites are required (such as for new 5G networks, or for connected transport and smart city applications), equipment should be sympathetically designed and camouflaged where appropriate."

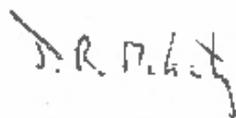
The designs of the 5G masts that have been approved to date are having a massive impact on the local street scene.

As officers and members, our duty is to protect the heritage of our city and these masts are not in keeping with the local architecture and open spaces. They will be here for a long time, so we need to act now.

This council calls on the cabinet member for planning to:

- create a design code for these masts and to choose a style that blends in with the surroundings.
- include the cross-party members planning policy group and to consult with all residents in Gloucester during this process.
- review the way these new masts are promoted to residents. Putting a sign on a lamppost is not proving very effective."

Yours sincerely



**Jon McGinty**  
**Managing Director**

## NOTES

### Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

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

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

- capital of that body; or
- ii. If the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

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

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

### **Access to Information**

Agendas and reports can be viewed on the Gloucester City Council website: [www.gloucester.gov.uk](http://www.gloucester.gov.uk) and are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

For enquiries about Gloucester City Council’s meetings please contact Democratic Services, 01452 396126, [democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk).

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

### **Recording of meetings**

Please be aware that meetings may be recorded. There is no requirement for those wishing to record proceedings to notify the Council in advance; however, as a courtesy, anyone wishing to do so is advised to make the Mayor aware before the meeting starts.

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

### **FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

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

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