



Wednesday, 13 September 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, 21st September 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 9 - 32)**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Special Council Meeting and Ordinary Council Meeting, both held on 13 July 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 9-11) 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 by 12 noon on Friday 15 September 2023 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. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (Pages 33 - 92)

To consider the report of the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy seeking acknowledgement of the responses received to the public consultation on the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), endorsement of the changes made to the draft SCI as a result of the consultation and adoption of the revised SCI.

10. AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23 (Pages 93 - 106)

To consider the Chair of Audit and Governance Committee's Annual Report 2022-23.

11. APPOINTMENTS

Council is asked to note that Councillor Brooker and Councillor Kubaszczyk have replaced Councillor Finnegan and Councillor Williams as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee respectively.

MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

1. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR CHAMBERS-DUBUS

"Great Western Railway is consulting on the future of the ticket office at Gloucester Railway Station with a predicted closure date of June 2024.

In recent years there has been a huge investment in the Railway Station, Transport Hub and the Forum area of the City. This has included:

- Gloucester Rail Station – £6 million investment from Gfirst LEP and the Government.
- Gloucester transport hub - £7.5 million investment from Gfirst LEP and the Government.
- The Forum - £85 million investment from the Reef Group and Gloucester City Council.

Gloucester Railway Station, alongside the Transport Hub and the Forum development are the gateway to our proud City for anyone arriving by public transport. The ticket office at the station is an integral part of that for both visitors and residents and is frequently busy providing customers with far more than just tickets. Losing the ticket office would be detrimental to the visitor and resident experience when accessing or leaving the City by train and therefore detrimental to the wider scheme of improvements in that part of the City.

Whilst acknowledging the limitations of the Council regarding the retention of the ticket office at Gloucester Railway Station, this Council pledges to do all within its

power to reverse any decision that may lead to the ticket office's closure.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Write to The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP, Secretary of State for Transport, to express concern about the possible closure of the ticket office at Gloucester Railway Station.
2. Write to Richard Graham MP for Gloucester to ask for their support to retain the ticket office at Gloucester Train Station.
3. Write to Laurence Robertson MP for Tewkesbury to ask for their support to retain the ticket office at Gloucester Train Station.
4. Liaise with Great Western Railway regarding the importance of the ticket office at Gloucester Railway Station and its retention.

2. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR GRAVELLS

"This Council:

1. Recognises the valuable work of the many voluntary, community and sporting groups right around the city;
2. Takes note that many such groups often have to rely on grant funding through competitive bidding processes to be able to deliver the services, facilities and projects which residents in the city enjoy and which enhance our neighbourhoods;
3. Agrees that more could be done to maximise the amount of external grant funding brought into the city through council-led and community-led applications;
4. Agrees therefore to convene a meeting of the VCS Alliance, Gloucestershire University, Gloucestershire Funders Network, and the Growth Hub to discuss how, in a system to be devised, we could support the VCS and community groups in this area to be more successful in their applications and bids for external grant funding."

3. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR HILTON

"This council notes that the administration has failed to meet the deadline to produce audited accounts for the 2021/22 financial year.

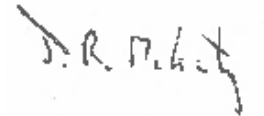
Council notes that the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) had extended the deadline for the publication of 2021/22 audited accounts to 30th November 2022. This makes our accounts more than 9 months late.

This Council agrees with the view of Alison Ring, the director for Public Sector and Taxation at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales that "Delayed audit opinions lead to delayed accountability and issues being identified when it is too late, which is a real problem given the financial pressures facing local authorities."

This council also notes that the deadline for publishing the 2022/23 accounts is fast approaching.

This council calls on the cabinet member for performance and resources to promise that fully audited accounts for both the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years are published at least 3 months before the 2024 city council elections.”

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. R. McGinty".

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 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.

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.