



## COUNCIL

**MEETING** : Thursday, 25th January 2024

**PRESENT** : Cllrs. Williams (Mayor), Hudson (Sheriff & Deputy Mayor), Cook, Norman, S. Chambers, Lewis, Padilla, Hilton, Pullen, Gravells MBE, Tracey, Morgan, Wilson, Bhaimia, D. Brown, Taylor, Field, Patel, Toleman, Brooker, J. Brown, Hyman, Bowkett, Ackroyd, Castle, A. Chambers, Chambers-Dubus, Conder, Dee, Durdey, Evans, Kubaszczyk, O'Donnell, Radley, Zaman, Campbell and Trimnell

### **Others in Attendance**

Managing Director  
Corporate Director  
Monitoring Officer  
Head of Culture  
Head of Finance and Resources  
Head of Place  
Head of Transformation and Commercialisation  
Policy and Governance Manager  
Democratic and Electoral Services Team Leader

**APOLOGIES** : Cllrs. Finnegan and Sawyer

### **54. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2023 were agreed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### **55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Hudson declared an interest in agenda item 18(2) by virtue of his being the Chair of LVA, and sitting on Gloucester City BID and City Safe.

### **56. CALL OVER**

The Mayor invited Members to indicate whether they wished to reserve agenda items 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 for discussion. Members indicated that they wished to reserve for discussion items 11, 12 and 13.

### **57. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)**

**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

57.1 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*In 2004 Natural England awarded Saintbridge Pond and Nature Reserve, "Nature Reserve Status" giving it protection, Natural England suggested a 5 year cycle for desilting the pond. Saintbridge Pond and Nature Reserve was last de-silted 14 years ago. The area now shows a large build-up of silt in the pond, with its tributaries overflowing over the pedestrian paths. Whilst we appreciate that finances for all local authorities are tight, the residents have expressed concern about the level of the silt, especially the foul smell during the summer. Does the leader agree that this local amenity is worth protecting and enhancing and will he give us a guarantee that he will keep the Saintbridge Pond and Nature reserve on his radar, especially when funds are available?*

57.2 Councillor Cook, Cabinet Member for Environment responded:

*Saintbridge Pond is a much-loved green space which provides leisure opportunities for residents and a valuable habitat for wildlife. The Council will strive to maintain and enhance this facility in order that it continues to fulfil its function as a flood alleviation feature, wildlife site and recreation area. It is the view of the Council, following discussions with the Environment Agency, that the level of silt in the pond does not represent a flooding risk. Historically desilting of the pond has taken place on an approximately 20-year cycle (1990, 2009). As the result of the deposition of silt, wildlife habitats will continue to evolve and change whilst continuing to support a range of plants, animals and insects. If funding is made available by the Environment Agency, or can be secured from other sources, the Council will consider how best to manage the silt locally, and within the upstream river catchment.*

57.3 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*In the Saintbridge Balancing Pond & Allotments Management Plan 2023 - 2027, the scope of work detailed in section 2.2.1 and other parts of the document was created with the help and support from the Friends of Saintbridge Pond. Can members tell us when Gloucester City council will produce an actual project plan detailing time frames, projected costs and a commitment of roles and responsibilities of its partners?*

57.4 Councillor Cook responded:

*The present Saintbridge Pond and Allotments management plan, which is submitted as part of the Green Flag application process, covers the period 2023 – 2028. The management plan contains references to the costings obtained by the Council for the removal of silt which, at present, are prohibitive. The plan also contains a commitment by the Council to consider the desilting of the pond should resources become available. The management plan also contains reference to the roles and responsibilities of the various stake holders involved with the site.*

**COUNCIL  
25.01.24**

57.5 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*The Saintbridge Pond and Nature Reserve provides a wonderful quiet space for families to take their toddlers, children, teenagers for time out. Time to look and learn about nature and feed the ducks and birds. Retired, elderly people, some with mobility issues, find this is the place they can go to meet people, talk to dog walkers and spend time away from their problems, giving them a sense of space. But this space is quickly disappearing, becoming a wall of silt and mud. Would members please let me know what they can do about making it better?*

57.6 Councillor Cook responded:

*The deposition of silt is a natural process and unavoidable in a stream fed water body. Silt can be periodically removed, which is something that has been done on previous occasions. Historically desilting of the pond has been taken place on an approximately 20-year cycle (1990, 2009). It is the view of the Council, following discussions with the Environment Agency, that the silt does not represent a flood risk, and the cost of desilting at this point would be prohibitive.*

57.7 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*Gloucester residents are very concerned about the 5G telecommunications towers that are popping up outside their front doorsteps and where they haven't been consulted. Freedom of information requests sent to the council in 2023 confirmed 35 approved applications all of which showed no evidence of any meaningful consultation with the public.*

*There was a grand total of FIVE objections for the entire 35 applications all of which were submitted by email and one person specifically commenting that the application was unavailable on the planning portal.*

*Are you aware of your legal responsibilities to consult with the public? Are you aware of the Gunning principles? The government have made it very clear that a greater level of consultation is needed for ground based masts so why are you failing to do this?*

57.8 Councillor S. Chambers, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy, responded:

*Gloucester City Council is aware of its legal obligations regarding public consultation and is satisfied that all requirements are met. We are also aware that although there may be some objections by Gloucester residents, there are many residents that do not object and welcome the benefits of a 5G service.*

57.9 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*From the very rare occasions where letters have been sent out, usually only 6-9 households are sent a letter (according to Gloucester City Council) Do*

**COUNCIL  
25.01.24**

*you think this is sufficient to fulfil your statutory obligations to properly consult?*

57.10 Councillor S. Chambers responded:

*Gloucester City Council is satisfied that it meets its statutory obligations when consulting on proposals to install telecommunication infrastructure.*

57.11 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*Why aren't the planning applications going onto the Gloucester Planning Portal as soon as you receive them? We regularly check the planning portal and can see no evidence that any of these have been uploaded.*

57.12 Councillor S. Chambers responded:

*When a planning application is made valid, it is loaded onto the council's website and is available for public view. The process of receiving, registering and validating a planning application can take up to 3 days depending on the number of applications being received in any given week. Some applications take longer to validate, for instance if the applicant fails to submit all the required information and we then have to contact the applicant to request further information.*

57.13 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*Are you aware that you have breached human rights by failing to consult Gloucester households who live in proximity to 5G masts?*

57.14 Councillor S. Chambers responded:

*The Council absolutely refutes this allegation, and recommends that if you believe otherwise, then this should be raised with the relevant authorities.*

57.15 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*What will happen to the masts that have been illegally installed in Gloucester?*

57.16 Councillor S. Chambers responded:

*The council is not aware of any masts that have been installed in the city without the requisite approval. Should masts have been installed without approval, appropriate enforcement action can be undertaken.*

57.17 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*How are Gloucester fulfilling their duties as a competent authority under EECC law?*

57.18 Councillor S. Chambers responded:

**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

*The European Electronic Communications Code directive (2018) included a flexibility for certain radio spectrum management powers and duties to be assigned to a competent body other than OFCOM, the national regulatory authority.*

*The EECC was transposed into UK law via the Electronic Communications and Wireless Telegraphy (Amendment) (European Electronic Communication Code and EU Exit) Regulations 2020 and the Council has not been made a competent body under these regulations.*

57.19 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*Why are there no disabled taxis available on the weekends in Gloucester, when they run in Cheltenham?*

57.20 Councillor Norman, Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, responded:

*Gloucester City Council has licensed 5 Hackney Carriage and 4 Private Hire vehicles that are wheelchair accessible. There is no legislation which requires wheelchair accessible vehicles to be operational 24/7 and hence the Council cannot stipulate the hours licensed vehicles work.*

57.21 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*Why does it state on the council website there are available disabled taxis when there aren't?*

57.22 Councillor Norman responded:

*If a Local Authority licences wheelchair accessible vehicles then it is a requirement that those vehicles are placed on the authority's website as a public register, as is the case for all other licensed vehicles, drivers and operators. There are 5 Hackney Carriage and 4 Private Hire wheelchair accessible vehicles licensed with Gloucester City Council. The Council cannot stipulate the hours these licensed vehicles work.*

57.23 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*Do you think this is fair, why young disabled people cannot get a taxi home on a Saturday evening safely, like their peers? Don't you think this is discriminatory?*

57.24 Councillor Norman responded:

*To maximise the number of wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV's) registered to operate by Gloucester City Council, in September 2023 the Licensing and Enforcement Committee approved a policy exempting WAV's from the age and euro omission standards that apply to saloon vehicles. The reason for this decision was to encourage operators to invest in wheelchair*

**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

*accessible vehicles. Additionally, any new Hackney Carriage vehicle licences have to be wheelchair accessible.*

57.25 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*What are the government requirements in connection with disabled taxis?*

57.26 Councillor Norman responded:

*There are no national requirements regarding the number of wheelchair accessible vehicles or the hours that the licensed driver has to work.*

57.27 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*Do you think it is fair a young disabled man in the city of Gloucester cannot live an equal life as he is unable to get around with his friends and often misses out of fun on Saturday evenings sociably because there is no disabled taxis available?*

57.28 Councillor Norman responded:

*To maximise the number of wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV's) registered to operate by Gloucester City Council, in September 2023 the Licensing and Enforcement Committee approved a policy exempting WAV's from the age and euro omission standards that apply to saloon vehicles. The reason for this decision was to encourage operators to invest in wheelchair accessible vehicles. Additionally, any new Hackney Carriage vehicle licences have to be wheelchair accessible. The Council cannot mandate the operational hours of when the vehicles work.*

57.29 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*How much of tax payers money did the city council lose from The club at Tuffley fiasco? And how are they trying to recover the money?*

57.30 Councillor Norman responded:

*Rent arrears were £43,388.15 at the time of the Club closing. Covid legislation meant we were unable to take action on rent arrears for some time and we explored all avenues available to us throughout. We are waiting for the liquidation process to take place and we will be seeking recovery of money due to us through that process.*

57.31 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*How much of tax payers money has the city council lost to date at Longsmith Carpark and how much are the safety repairs costing?*

57.31 Councillor Norman responded:

**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

*Approximately £49,000 income has been lost to date. Investigations into ongoing repairs are still taking place and final costs are not yet known. This is pure revenue income, operating costs for that car park over the same period are £35k whilst the remaining £14k would have been reinvested across the car parks portfolio.*

57.32 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*How much of tax payers money has the city council lost to date on the cyber attack including any other lost revenue?*

57.33 Councillor Norman responded:

*£1.14m has been spent to date, £870k related to recovery from the cyber incident, £272k cloud migration costs as part of the build back better strategy. Recovery costs were offset by £250k of government grants and £380k of earmarked reserves.*

57.34 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*How much of tax payers money has the city council lost on repairs at Eastgate market/ Kings walk and Eastgate shopping centre bringing them up to spec plus all the empty shops there in lost rental income?*

57.35 Councillor Norman responded:

*Repairs in the shopping centres are funded through the service charges that the tenants pay. Rental income on void premises is not measurable in this way as the rents paid by each tenant are negotiated individually. Eastgate market repairs budget is around £85,000 per annum but there is income from the tenants which goes towards this also.*

57.36 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*How much of tax payers money has the city council lost on the Black friars priory in non hire of the venue/ works undertaken? Please provide costs for: Money spent for building work Money on workers / employees All other output costs any management costs. Any other facilities management costs. Any other hidden costs And then any income. Please list all costs Showing the balance.*

57.37 Councillor Norman responded:

*As the question does not specify a time frame, it is difficult to provide an answer to this question. The Blackfriars Business Plan 2023-2028 can be found on the City Council website and provides a 5-year financial forecast for the service. The City Council publishes its Statement of Accounts online where historical information can be found.*

57.38 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

*Why was no body informed that SWEP was starting up again as there was vulnerable people left out in the cold and there is still now in the city why is this?*

57.39 Councillor S. Chambers responded:

*It is not correct to suggest that rough sleepers were not informed when SWEP has been implemented. The Council has long-established methods of communicating SWEP to rough sleepers through the countywide rough sleeper outreach and support service as well as to relevant partner organisations. We can confirm that rough sleepers have taken up the offer of recent SWEP provision however it is often the case that when rough sleepers are contacted during periods of severe weather, they choose not to take up the offer of SWEP accommodation. And on occasion, individuals may choose to leave the SWEP accommodation while SWEP remains operative. Unfortunately, during the recent periods of SWEP this has been the case, and not all individuals have chosen to access SWEP accommodation, and some have also left the SWEP accommodation by choice.*

57.40 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*It has been revealed that Gloucester City Council and Gloucestershire County Council have both signed up to UK 100, for a rapid pathway to Net Zero: <https://www.uk100.org/>. This is an unelected NGO advancing a Net Zero agenda set by the World Economic Forum and United Nations. The local authorities have a duty to act fairly in the exercise of their functions and their statutory provisions are a legal requirement, please confirm what consultations took place with the people and businesses who will be impacted by this decision? Under local authority consultation principles 2018 the consultation should facilitate scrutiny, please advise where the records of the consultation can be viewed.*

57.41 Councillor Cook responded:

*Gloucester City Council became a member of UK100 following a unanimous vote of Council Members at Full Council on 23 September 2021.*

*As noted in the publicly available papers of that meeting, UK100 is the only network for UK locally elected leaders who have pledged to avoid the worst impacts of climate change by achieving Net Zero emissions as soon as possible, and by 2045 at the latest, in-line with the higher confidence thresholds of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's report into the impacts of breaching 1.5C of warming above the pre-industrial level.*

*Membership of UK100 brings many benefits to district local authorities like Gloucester City Council, through the sharing of best practice approaches to decarbonisation. This saves officer time and places fewer cash costs on the Council and, therefore, local residents.*



**COUNCIL  
25.01.24**

*There is no requirement for the Council to conduct a public consultation on membership of local government networks. Appropriate democratic oversight of the decision to join UK100 was undertaken by the elected Members of Gloucester City Council at both 23.09.21 Full Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 06.09.21.*

*In the supplementary paper on UK100 funding provided to 23.09.21 Full Council, the UK100 Secretariat notes that “our funders also do not dictate our strategy or advocacy on behalf of members as this is kept separate.”*

57.42 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*On what basis did Gloucester declare a climate emergency? Why are you pushing net zero when this trace gas is essential for life on earth.*

*Plants need CO2 for photosynthesis and without CO2 the plants will die. This threatens all life on earth if CO2 is reduced further - we are at dangerously low levels. Furthermore, CO2 is only 0.04% of the atmosphere and humans contribute 4% of that amount, meaning that the net "man-made" CO2 equates to a miniscule 0.0016%. I ask you again, what is the scientific basis for declaring a climate emergency? Please do not quote the IPCC as this is propagandised science pushed by the United Nations and World Economic Forum which has been scientifically debunked by thousands of other scientists, many of whom have signed the World Climate Declaration, stating that there is no climate emergency: <https://clintel.org/world-climate-declaration/>*

57.43 Councillor Cook responded:

*The role of human emitted greenhouse gases – of which Carbon Dioxide is merely one – has been established in the scientific literature with increasing confidence, for almost half a century, with the eminent late climatologist Wally Broecker publishing his seminal paper on the role of atmospheric CO2 – Are We on the Brink of a Pronounced Global Warming? – in 1975.*

*The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s 1.5C report comprises the findings of more than 6,000 peer-reviewed studies and includes dedicated contributions from thousands of experts in their fields. This report provides extensive, detailed, and verifiable scientific data on human-induced global warming and its impacts.*

*In the past five years alone, the U.K has experienced the following climatic signals of global warming:*

- \* Joint hottest summer*
- \* Two of its driest summers*
- \* Two of its driest springs*
- \* Record drought*
- \* First winter day above 20C*
- \* Hottest day record exceeded on three occasions*
- \* First 40C+ day*

**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

*\* Longest continuous series of 'tropical nights' (temperatures failing to fall below 20C)*

*While the U.K is very much part of the United Nations process of achieving Net Zero emissions, we are also able to draw on rich domestic sources of data, such as the Central England Temperature series – which has been recorded daily since 1659, making it the longest instrumental temperature record in the world – as well the findings of institutions such as the 363 year-old Royal Society, one of the oldest and most respected scientific institutions in the world, and whose past members include, amongst other scientific luminaries, Sir Isaac Newton and Stephen Hawking.*

*Helpfully, the Royal Society has produced a short guide on The Basics of Climate Change, including a highly accessible 60 second introduction video, which I commend to both the Members of this Chamber and the public alike.*

*The extensive, and increasing, scientific evidence for the role of atmospheric greenhouse gas emissions from human activity in recent global temperature increases forms the bedrock of Gloucester City Council's Climate Emergency declaration.*

57.44 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*In this year's budget proposals, what budget has been allocated for Gloucester Transport hub?*

57.45 Councillor Cook responded:

*The net 2024/25 budget for the transport hub is £66k.*

57.46 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*What provision is being made to urgently repair the door to the city centre, Railway station and to the bus and coach departure bays, to repair and repaint the roof and walls following water leaks through the roof and the maintenance the Toilets including disabled facilities?*

57.47 Councillor Cook responded:

*Door repairs are scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> February to repair the loop system. Roof repairs have been carried out and a full condition survey is due week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> January to scope the works for the redecoration.*

57.48 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*What revenue income has the council set for rental of the Cafe and Kiosk being reopened at the Transport Hub and leased to Transport catering company?*

57.49 Councillor Cook responded:

**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

*This will be negotiated with a new tenant so a forecast income level is not currently available.*

57.50 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*How many shops are empty in the city centre and what are you doing to overcome a ghost city?*

57.51 Councillor Cook responded:

*The Council monitors vacancy rates amongst shops in the city centre twice per year. In December 2022 there were 77 empty ground floor units; 7 months later, in July 2023 there were 73 empty units, and most recently in November 2023 there were 71 empty units. This represents a steady but slow reduction from 20% vacancy to 19% in vacant shop units in the city centre.*

*Across the UK the British Retail Consortium reports similarly high levels within high streets and shopping centres, reporting that the past five years saw Britain lose 6,000 retail outlets.*

*The Gloucester City Centre Vision, produced by the Gloucester City Centre Commission and endorsed by the Council in 2023, acknowledges the transformation of the city centre. Where shops previously underpinned the economy of the high street, Gloucester needs to adapt and become more flexible, hosting a range of different employment and experiential uses as well as providing more residential accommodation. The new developments in King's Quarter recognise this shift, with the new Forum and City Campus developments both bringing forward office, educational, leisure and residential space. Elsewhere in the city centre, the Council is facilitating the growth of new and exciting eating and drinking establishments, such as The Food Dock, and Westgate Street in particular is becoming a new food quarter as a result of the recent High Street HAZ investment.*

*The Council is working closely with the BID and other partners to address empty retail units and to support new start ups. In its two shopping centres the Council is actively supporting meanwhile uses in vacant shop units. These enable businesses and social enterprises to take empty units on a short term basis, to test their market and remove a vacant shop front. Several such meanwhile uses have moved on to take longer leases.*

57.52 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*When are they going to open the city council Gateway for city council face to face help. The county council are open all the time. So why does the city council col not have the same facility in such a critical cost of living time?*

57.53 Councillor Norman responded:

**COUNCIL  
25.01.24**

*In a trend that started prior to the pandemic and one that has accelerated since, the Council has seen a significant change in how our customers are choosing to contact us. These trends are an increase in online, phone and email communication and a drop in demand for face-to-face contact. There are many reasons for these changes, enhanced confidentiality, ease of access and convenience to name a few.*

*For those customers who need face-to-face appointments, pre-bookable appointments are available at the Gateway on a Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon where customers can see an officer. The demand for these appointments is very low and predominantly used by those in need of specialist housing support. Over the last 12 months, the number of appointments has averaged at 7.6 a month of which on average 6.6 are attended.*

*Further to this, in the lobby of the Gateway there is a free direct dial telephone so that customers can contact us to get support.*

*On 6 December 2023, the Cabinet approved the move of the council's face to face pre-booked appointments from the Gateway to Eastgate Shopping Centre. This relocation will make life easier for residents by providing closer parking, lift access, and a central location. This move is scheduled to take place during 2024. During this period, demand will be reviewed to ensure the appropriate level of support is available.*

*The council regularly reviews demand for face-to-face appointments and it is felt that the current provision is sufficient.*

57.54 A Gloucester resident submitted following question:  
*What is the city council going to do about the avalanche of rubbish in Westgate city centre area as well as Kingsholm?*

57.55 Councillor Cook responded:

*Westgate Street is part of the city centre and has a designated street cleaning team every day. Kingsholm ward will have various street cleaning frequencies, based upon footfall, for example Worcester Street forms part of the city centre area and is cleaned daily, likewise London Road and part of Oxford Street. The terraced streets are more difficult to clean because of the parked cars there and these streets are cleaned thoroughly once a year as part of the deep clean programme of works, when we ask residents to remove their cars, to allow us access to drains and gutters. All available resource is deployed to those streets on the day, gutters, back edges, weeds, litter, fly-tipping and graffiti are all cleaned.*

*A multi team approach is in operation in some areas across the city where waste management is not as good as it should be. Council officers from the waste team and Enviro Crime team carry out inspections twice a week, focussing on waste education and recycling, and enforcement action is taken on repeat offenders. Areas with multi occupancy properties and flats where*

**COUNCIL  
25.01.24**

*transient populations are common, including Kingsholm and Westgate, are part of the programme.*

*We encourage residents to report any issues to us on [heretohelp@gloucester.gov.uk](mailto:heretohelp@gloucester.gov.uk), so we can investigate and take immediate action.*

57.56 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*How much has the city council lost of tax payers lost money from GL1 sports complex and tennis centre?*

57.57 Councillor Cook responded:

*The Council was working with the previous operator and now the new interim operator within the management fee agreed.*

57.58 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

*Are you Mr Cook going to step down as leader of the council as Gloucester City Council is drowning in millions of pounds of debt?*

57.59 Councillor Cook responded:

*Borrowing allows the City Council to invest in its future, such as investment in major regeneration projects, seen recently with the Transport Hub, Kings Square and the ongoing Kings Quarter project.*

*Borrowing also allows the Council to support its delivery of vital services such as investment in temporary accommodation property. The purchase of St Oswald retail park allowed the Council to open up land for housing development, the Council exchanged contracts with a housing developer in 2023 to deliver circa 300 homes on the site.*

*A recent BBC article reported that Gloucester City Council was 206<sup>th</sup> in a list of Councils across the country with a debt of £102m. Most of the projects which have occasioned the take up of this funding have had the full support of Council.*

*The suggestion that Gloucester is “drowning” in debt is simply hyperbole. As for my position, elections will take place in 4 months where the electorate will have the opportunity to vote for those who they feel have done a good job of helping Gloucester become a better place to live.*

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

58.1 A petition was received by residents. As it had more than one thousand signatures, it was reserved for discussion under agenda item 9.

**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

58.2 Councillor A. Chambers presented a petition regarding wheelchair access vehicles for hire in Gloucester. The petition had been submitted previously at the last Council meeting and comments were noted.

**59. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Mayor**

The Mayor informed Members that the Civic Charity Ball would be held on 6 April 2024 and encouraged Members to purchase tickets to support the two civic charities.

**60. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

60.1 As a supplementary question to question 1, Councillor Hilton asked what would be the 'break even point' regarding agreed tenancies at the forum. Councillor Cook responded that this was not detail that he had to hand but that the Council were striving for greater occupancy rates.

60.2 Councillor Hilton asked in respect of question 2, would the administration guarantee continued liaison with Roots café and rescue support of requested. Councillor Padilla noted that Roots played an important role in the community and that it was difficult in the context of Council resources to provide direct financial support. It had been a board decision to close the café but the Council would extend any form of practical assistance.

60.3 With regard to question 3, Councillor Pullen asked the Leader of the Council if he was disappointed that it had been two years since the decision to erect a Covid Memorial had been taken and it had not been sourced. Councillor Cook responded that numerous parties had been involved which had resulted in the slow progress previously described.

60.4 Councillor Pullen asked in respect of question 4 how the administration envisaged reaching carbon neutrality by 2030 when the Climate Change Action Plan had not been published. Councillor Cook explained that the forthcoming plan would provide a basis for change but that the correct strategy needed to be adopted.

60.5 Councillor O'Donnell queried that given the Herbert Kimberley Phillpotts Warehouses were vacant, whether they could be converted into accommodation. Councillor S. Chambers stated that to do so, would overreach the Council's physical position and that there were significant practical challenges when dealing with buildings which were deemed to be conservation buildings.

60.6 In respect of question 6, Councillor O'Donnell asked if a consultation could be conducted in Abbeydale regarding converting a house for multiple occupancy. Councillor S. Chambers responded that the property in question

**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

was not managed or owned by the City Council and was happy to receive correspondence regarding this matter.

- 60.7 With regard to question 7, Councillor Chambers-Dubus asked when the Council would meet traders at Eastgate market. Councillor Lewis stated that he had conducted various meetings on new leases with traders and that any changes would be negotiated with tenants.
- 60.8 With regard to question 9, Councillor A. Chambers asked what priority was given to military veterans in bidding for housing. Councillor S. Chambers stated that veterans did deserve favourable conditions and were provided as such.
- 60.9 Councillor Field asked if it was policy to replace a number of trees in Tuffley Park. Councillor Cook advised that it was his intention to plant many trees and that Members with such queries could contact the Council's tree officer.
- 60.10 With regard to question 11, Councillor Trimnell asked if the Cabinet saw the prospect of any redundancies. Councillor Norman advised that the administration was doing everything it could to restore the fiscal position and that redundancies were always a measure of last resort.
- 60.11 As a supplementary question to question 14, Council Castle asked what the difference in cost between contractors and Council staff engaged in the removal of Christmas lights. Councillor Norman advised that she would provide a written response.
- 60.12 With regard to question 15, Councillor Hilton asked if the Council's financial position was in a poor state. Councillor Norman shared his concern and advised that she had received assurances that audited accounts for 2021-22 would be available by the end of the month.
- 60.13 Councillor Norman advised in respect of question 16 that the HKP Warehouses had been remarketed and it was hoped that a buyer would be found soon.
- 60.14 With regard to whether the Council would consider action against CICs where allegations of mistreatment of clients had been made, Councillor S. Chambers advised that action could only be taken with accurate information and encouraged Councillor O'Donnell to pass any details on.
- 60.15 In respect of question 19, Councillor Padilla assured Members that measures could be initiated to assist with anti-social behaviour and that work undertaken in the wider City should be considered also.
- 60.16 Councillor Norman advised Councillor Field in respect of question 20 that expressions of interest by prospective tenants for the Club at Tuffley Park would be considered shortly with himself and that there was a commitment to have a new tenant prior to the pre-election period.

**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

- 60.17 With regard to question 21, Councillor Trimnell asked if the Cabinet Member would seek to repair damage to barriers at the Docks. Councillor Norman stated that she would and asked Members to provide photographs of any damage they had witnessed.
- 60.18 Regarding question 22, Councillor Hilton asked if the administration intended to compare tenders for leisure facilities and include a Council provided service also. Councillor Lewis stated that the Council did not have the financial resources to make this viable.
- 60.19 Councillor Pullen asked if it would have been preferable to not use contractors in general and for the Council to provide various services in house. Councillor Norman stated that she did agree and that many contracts were for nominal figures which would not be prudent to deliver in house.
- 60.20 With regard to question 24, Councillor O'Donnell asked why the Council provided some organisations with premises gratis. Councillor Norman advised that all such requests were determined on a case by case basis.
- 60.21 Councillor Cook advised Councillor A. Chambers that the proposed changes to Group Leaders and Deputy Leader's allowances was of zero cost to the Council.
- 60.22 With regard to question 32, Councillor Trimnell asked that further information be provided on what contact had been made to the County Council to better conduct highways enforcement activity. Councillor Cook advised that he would seek clarity on what could be shared.

**Question to Chairs of Committees**

- 60.23 In respect of Councillor A. Chambers' questions to the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Field clarified that Members were welcome to suggest what the Committee considered whether Members of the Committee or not. He further advised that the Committee did not seek to involve itself in operational matters conducted by Officers.
- 60.24 In respect of Councillor A. Chambers' questions to the Chair of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee, Councillor Brooker advised that investigations would take place when allegations against taxi drivers had been made. She also advised that she would respond in due course with further detail on the matter of the length of time it took for new drivers to receive license plates.

**61. PETITION - SAINTBRIDGE POND AND NATURE RESERVE**

- 61.1 Councillor Gravells presented a petition which had been signed by over 1000 residents regarding desilting Saintbridge pond. He both paid tribute to the organisers of the petition and noted that recommendations had been proposed by Officers.
- 61.2 Councillor Cook proposed and Councillor Norman seconded the recommendations contained within the report.



**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

61.3 Councillor Cook outlined works that had taken place on nearby floodwalls, and that it was felt that dredging was not currently needed and by not doing so, could improve biodiversity.

61.4 Councillor Gravells proposed and Councillor Durdey seconded the following amendment:

(1) The contents of the petition be noted **and the petitioner be thanked for raising this issue and for her work in collecting this record number of names, which is a demonstration of local community action at its best.**

(2) **The Council's thanks be given to the members of the Friends of Saintbridge Pond (FOSP), the men and women who turn out regularly to enhance, improve and maintain the large area of City Council land, saving the council thousands and thousands of pounds every year.**

~~(2)~~**(3)** The contents of this report be noted.

~~(3)~~**(4)** **It be noted that the management plan for Saintbridge Pond Nature Reserve, that already exists and which has been shared with partners is noted addresses the silting up issue and notes the strong view amongst local residents that the pond should be restored to open water and should funding become available in the future for the desilting of the pond, in part or in whole, it would be considered.**

~~(4)~~**(5)** **It is noted that the Council will not plan to carry out dredging at this time, for the reasons set out in this report, but will keep this position under review will continue to review the issue of removing the silt and will work with the FOSP to set up a local FOSP Community Group to meet periodically, composed of four members of the FOSP, the relevant City Council staff (if available), the relevant Environment Agency staff (if available) and the Abbeydale City Councillors, to keep the silt issue under review, and to continue to talk to other partners and agencies to find funding to do the desilting work.**

~~(6)~~ **(6)** **It is noted that the Council will work with partners to manage the perimeter vegetation and foliage at the site.**

65.5 The amendment was accepted by the mover of the original mover of the motion and therefore became the substantive motion.

65.6 Councillor A. Chambers moved and Councillor O'Donnell seconded the following amendment:

- 1) The contents of the petition be noted.
- 2) The contents of this report be noted.
- 3) The management plan for Saintbridge Pond Nature Reserve that already exists and has been shared with partners is noted.

**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

- 4) It is noted that the Council will not plan to carry out dredging at this time, for the reasons set out in this report, but will keep this position under review.
- 5) It is noted that the Council will work with partners to manage the perimeter vegetation and foliage at the site.
- 6) **It is noted that that to obtain correct costings for de-silting the Saintbridge Pond, the protection of wildlife and the safe guarding of our local environment the following should take place:**
  - a. **A contamination report for the site should be carried out at a minimum of 10 trial pit sites. This will enable tests to determine if the site contains contaminated earth or not.**
  - b. **Water tests carried out to determine if the water is of good quality.**
  - c. **3 x De-silting quotes undertaken following the contamination report from local contractors.**
  - d. **Water improvement works following the water quality tests should any contaminants are found.**
  - e. **Funding for the above works and the protection of our environment is critical to the nature and well being of our city residents and wildlife.**

61.7 The amendment was not accepted, was put to a vote and was lost.

**RESOLVED:** - that:

- 1) The contents of the petition be noted and the petitioner be thanked for raising this issue and for her work in collecting this record number of names, which is a demonstration of local community action at its best.
- 2) The Council's thanks be given to the members of the Friends of Saintbridge Pond (FOSP), the men and women who turn out regularly to enhance, improve and maintain the large area of City Council land, saving the council thousands and thousands of pounds every year.
- 3) The contents of this report be noted.
- 4) It be noted that the management plan for Saintbridge Pond Nature Reserve, has been shared with partners addresses the silting up issue and notes the strong view amongst local residents that the pond should be restored to open water and should funding become available in the future for the de-silting of the pond, in part or in whole, it would be considered.
- 5) The Council will continue to review the issue of removing the silt and will work with the FOSP to set up a local FOSP Community Group to meet periodically, composed of four members of the FOSP, the relevant City Council staff (if available), the relevant Environment Agency staff (if available) and the Abbeydale City Councillors, to keep the silt issue under review, and to continue to talk to other partners and agencies to find funding to do the desilting work.

**COUNCIL  
25.01.24**

- 6) The Council will work with partners to manage the perimeter vegetation and foliage at the site.

**62. COUNCIL TAX - SECOND PROPERTY PREMIUM AND EMPTY HOMES PREMIUM AMENDMENT**

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) to increase council tax for all properties which are occupied periodically by 100% from 1 April 2025 subject to any exemptions set out in subsequent Regulations and for implementation to be in accordance with those Regulations and guidance, and
- (2) To increase the council tax empty homes premium to 100% for properties empty for between one and five years (currently between two and five years), from 1 April 2025 subject to any exemptions set out in subsequent Regulations and guidance.

**63. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME**

**RESOLVED that:-**

- (1) the current Local Council Tax Support Scheme, as the approved scheme for Gloucester City in 2023/24, be adopted for 2024/25
- (2) The scheme approved at 2.1 (1) above be updated to align with any legislation changes in January 2024 and to be implemented from 01 April 2024
- (3) Any urgent amendments to the scheme at 2.1 (1) above, in the event of a national emergency and authorised by the government, be adopted and implemented immediately.

**64. CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTER AND TEWKESBURY COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY JOINT COMMITTEE**

- 64.1 Councillor Cook proposed and Councillor S. Chambers seconded the motion to approve the report and proposals contained therewithin. It was explained that it provided strategic support to Gloucester's housing and environmental aims.

**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

- 64.2 Councillor A. Chambers queried, during debate, whether the Community Infrastructure Levy would benefit those in the area he represented. It was further explained that the proposal was for the convening of a strategic partnership between neighbouring councils rather than for the purpose of allocating funds and that it was to benefit the City broadly.
- 64.3 Councillor Pullen spoke in support of the proposal to convene a committee of partners and that it, in his view, would seek to see the benefits of such a partnership so that Gloucester would gain benefit from such a partnership. Members also clarified that monies received were ring fenced according to their attributed purpose.

**RESOLVED that:-**

- (1) it be agreed that the establishment of a Community Infrastructure Levy Joint Committee under s101(5) and s102 Local Government Act 1972 and under Part 1A Chapter 2 Section 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 and pursuant to the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012;
- (2) it be agreed that the Community Infrastructure Levy Joint Committee Terms of Reference (Appendix 1);
- (3) it be agreed that the pooling of strategic infrastructure Community Infrastructure Levy monies by the three partner Councils of Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury with governance as set out in the Community Infrastructure Levy Joint Committee Terms of Reference;
- (4) engagement with wider infrastructure providers outside the local authorities be entered into to identify any wider infrastructure priorities to be considered by the Community Infrastructure Levy Joint Committee.

**65. REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2024**

**RESOLVED** : - that the recommendations contained in the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (Appendix 1) be approved.

**66. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES**

**RESOLVED that: -**

- (1) The updated Officer Code of Conduct set out in Appendix 1 is adopted.
- (2) The updated Planning Committee Functions as set out in Appendix 2 is adopted.
- (3) The Council Procedure Rules 10, 11, 12, 13, 24 and 25 in Part 4 of the Constitution are amended as set out in Appendix 3 is adopted.

**67. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES**

**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

**RESOLVED that: -**

(1) The following proposals from the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places Review be approved:

- a. That the polling station BT3 be moved to the Ukrainian Association.
- b. That the polling station E3 and KW3 be moved to Gloucester Old Boys RFC.
- c. That the polling station H1 and H2 be moved to St Philip and St James' Church.
- d. That the polling station M3 and M4 be moved to The Chapel, Seymour Road.
- e. That the polling station W2 be moved to St Mary's Congregational Church.

(2) Where a decision is required at short notice and it is not possible to await a decision of Council, power to designate polling places in accordance with section 18 and 18B of the Representation of the People Act 1983 be delegated to the Managing Director following consultation with Group Leaders and the relevant Ward Councillors.

**68. DESIGNATION OF MONITORING OFFICER**

**RESOLVED that:-**

(1) It be noted that Alice McAlpine has given notice of her resignation from Tewkesbury Borough Council and as Gloucester City Council's Monitoring Officer with effect from 28 January 2024.

(2) Tom Clark be designated Monitoring Officer for the City Council in accordance with section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 with effect from 29 January for an interim period of up to 6 months but no more than 12 months.

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

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

**69. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS, MAY 2024-APRIL 2026**

**RESOLVED that:-**

**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

the two-year programme of ordinary meetings of Council and other meetings for the period of May 2024 to April 2026 be approved.

**70. NOTICES OF MOTION**

70.1 Councillor Chambers-Dubus and Councillor Pullen moved the following motion:

“In 2021, across England and Wales the proportion of disabled people was 17.8% so in the drive for equality this council needs to make sure 17.8% of licenced taxis and private hire vehicles available during all operating hours are Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs).

Currently, whilst there are WAVs licensed by the council most only operate during daytime hours and many of those concentrate on providing specialist services to schools, colleges and other day time projects. This means that disabled people struggle and are often limited when needing a taxi to go shopping, get to work or go the railway station etc.

The situation in the evening and at weekends is worsened as there are very few taxis and operators prepared or available to take disabled people for a night out to the cinema, pub, restaurant, nightclub or simply to visit friends.

Whilst acknowledging the Councils licensing team are making changes to increase the number of WAVs, taxi and private hire operators need further encouragement to ensure that at least 17.8% are WAVs.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Provide business rate discounts to taxi operators who can ensure 17.8% of their vehicles are WAVs and operate them at all times of the day.
- Offer a registration rebate to operators who provide WAVs in the evenings and during weekends.
- Provide free, quality disability awareness training to operators and drivers to enable them to safely transport disabled people.
- Consider other incentives for operators.  
Review and increase the percentage of WAVs available for public use, particularly during the evenings and at weekends.”

70.2 Councillor Norman proposed and Councillor Brooker seconded the following amendment:

“In 2021, across England and Wales the proportion of disabled people was 17.8%, **with 8% of those who are registered as disabled requiring the use of a wheelchair.** Therefore, ~~so in the~~ **to** drive for equality this council needs to make sure that ~~17.8%~~ **of the** licenced taxis and private hire vehicles **and drivers** available during all operating hours **are suitable for the needs of our disabled population including** Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs).

**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

Currently, whilst there are WAVs licensed by the council most only operate during daytime hours and many of those concentrate on providing specialist services to schools, colleges and other day time projects. This means that **wheelchair users** ~~disabled people~~ struggle and are often limited when needing a taxi to go shopping, get to work or go the railway station etc.

The situation in the evening and at weekends is worsened as there are very few taxis and operators ~~prepared or~~ available to take **wheelchair users** ~~disabled people~~ for a night out to the cinema, pub, restaurant, nightclub or simply to visit friends. ~~Whilst acknowledging the Councils licensing team are making changes to increase the number of WAVs,~~ Taxi and private hire operators need further encouragement to ensure that **WAVs are available for more operating hours, including evenings and weekends.** ~~at least 17.8% are WAVs.~~

**This council notes that:**

- **in September 2023 the Licensing and Enforcement Committee approved a policy exempting WAVs from the age and euro omission standards that apply to saloon vehicles.**
- **any new Hackney Carriage vehicle licences must be wheelchair accessible.**
- **most of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers in Gloucester are self-employed and therefore can choose which hours to work.**
- **There is currently no national legislation which mandates the requirement to have a WAV available 24/7.**

This council therefore resolves to:

- ~~Provide business rate discounts to taxi operators who can ensure 17.8% of their vehicles are WAVs and operate them at all times of the day.~~
- **Subject to consultation with the trade, offer an operator licence registration 50% rebate to operators who can evidence provide at least one WAVs available for bookings during all evenings and during weekends**
- **Promote alongside the required safeguarding training Provide free, quality disability awareness training to operators and drivers to enable them to safely transport disabled people and understand the needs of all disabled passengers, including those who may have hidden disabilities.**
- **Consider other incentives for operators, learning from best practice within other authorities.**
- **Continue to review and aim to increase the percentage of WAVs available for public use (to 10% of the Gloucester fleet), and promote with Hackney Carriage, Private Hire Drivers and Operators the importance of them providing their service particularly during the evenings and at weekends.**
- **Write to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work to ask them to consider a change**

**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

**to legislation to give local authorities powers to mandate operating hours of WAVs.”**

- 70.3 The amendment was accepted by the mover of the original motion and therefore became the substantive motion.
- 70.4 Councillor A. Chambers and Councillor O'Donnell seconded the following amendment which proposed adding the following two points to the original motion;
- **As well any new Hackney Carriage vehicle licences, any new private hire vehicle licences must be wheelchair accessible.**
  - **Meet with Gloucester city taxi providers and look at ways to adapt current digital taxi applications which are already in use to enable disabled blue badge holders priority collection over able bodied customers.”**
- 70.5 The mover of the original motion accepted this amendment in parts, which would delete the penultimate paragraph. This proposal was accepted by the mover of the amendment.

**RESOLVED:-** That

“In 2021, across England and Wales the proportion of disabled people was 17.8%, with 8% of those who are registered as disabled requiring the use of a wheelchair. Therefore, to drive equality this council needs to make sure that the licenced taxis and private hire vehicles and drivers available during all operating hours are suitable for the needs of our disabled population including Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs).

Currently, whilst there are WAVs licensed by the council most only operate during daytime hours and many of those concentrate on providing specialist services to schools, colleges and other day time projects. This means that **wheelchair users** struggle and are often limited when needing a taxi to go shopping, get to work or go the railway station etc.

The situation in the evening and at weekends is worsened as there are very few taxis and operators available to take wheelchair users for a night out to the cinema, pub, restaurant, nightclub or simply to visit friends. Taxi and private hire operators need further encouragement to ensure that WAVs are available for more operating hours, including evenings and weekends.

This council notes that:

- in September 2023 the Licensing and Enforcement Committee approved a policy exempting WAVs from the age and euro omission standards that apply to saloon vehicles.
- any new Hackney Carriage vehicle licences must be wheelchair accessible.
- most of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers in Gloucester are self-employed and therefore can choose which hours to work.



**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

- There is currently no national legislation which mandates the requirement to have a WAV available 24/7.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Subject to consultation with the trade, offer an operator licence -50% rebate to operators who can evidence at least one WAVs available for bookings during all evenings and during weekends
- Promote alongside the required safeguarding training quality disability awareness training to operators and drivers to enable them to safely transport disabled people and understand the needs of all disabled passengers, including those who may have hidden disabilities.
- Consider other incentives for operators, learning from best practice within other authorities.
- Continue to review and aim to increase the percentage of WAVs available for public use (to 10% of the Gloucester fleet), and promote with Hackney Carriage, Private Hire Drivers and Operators the importance of them providing their service during the evenings and at weekends.
- Write to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work to ask them to consider a change to legislation to give local authorities powers to mandate operating hours of WAVs.
- Meet with Gloucester city taxi providers and look at ways to adapt current digital taxi applications which are already in use to enable disabled blue badge holders priority collection over able bodied customers.”

70.6 Councillor Hudson proposed and Councillor Brooker seconded,

“This Councils notes;

A motion to this council on spiking in 2021 has helped progress the work by the Council and offers thanks to Gloucestershire Constabulary, GCC Licensing team, Nightsafe partners, and the individual licensed premises in Gloucester who have put extra measures in place to prevent and detect incidents of spiking in Gloucester.

The measures include drink testing kits, educational campaigns, the introduction of quiet areas for potential victims, spiking training, urine testing kits, and the successful street medic scheme who are medically trained to help those who may have been spiked and feel unwell.

This Councils supports the continuation and expansion of all these measures to ensure ALL licensed pubs, nightclubs and restaurants in Gloucester are aware of spiking and have provision to prevent and detect incidents in the day and night time economy including knowing how to support potential victims to get help and stay safe.

The Council resolves:

**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

- To explore whether conditions on licenced premises can be included through the Council's licencing regime whether voluntarily or mandatory to ensure venues have appropriate security and staff training in place to improve safety including the search for spiking paraphernalia and recognising signs that someone could be perpetrating this offence;
- To commit to work with key stakeholders, particularly those in the night-time economy, to review existing practices in use and implement all possible safety options as a matter of urgency, including training for staff on how to administer the kits, what to do in the event of a positive result, and promotional material promoting how customers can access the kits;
- To commit to working in partnership with all key stakeholders, to renew Gloucester's Purple Flag status, a benchmark of safety in the night-time economy;
- To work in partnership with all key stakeholders (including The Gloucester BID and OPCC), to determine a funding stream to restart the Best Bar None accreditation scheme which aims to improve and monitor standards of licensed premises."

70.7 Councillor A. Chambers and Councillor O'Donnell seconded the following amendment which proposed adding the following two points to the original motion;

**This council also notes that many licensed premises in Gloucester allow drinking to excess to maximise profit. The recent police documentary along Eastgate street in Gloucester, highlighted several licensed premises allowing young adults to leave their premises extremely intoxicated which led to several assaults and arrests. This shows a blatant disregard for the safety of customers of these licences premises along with that of the public. The cost to Gloucester Police is significant with many resources spent each week policing this on going alcoholic abuse. Therefore this council will undertake closer monitoring of the public community safety by checking alcoholic abuse at Eastgate street licences premises to help reduce crime in the area and ensure public safety."**

70.8 Following debate, the amendment was accepted and therefore became the substantive motion.

RESOLVED:- That

"This Councils notes;

A motion to this council on spiking in 2021 has helped progress the work by the Council and offers thanks to Gloucestershire Constabulary, GCC Licensing team, Nightsafe partners, and the individual licensed premises in Gloucester who have put extra measures in place to prevent and detect incidents of spiking in Gloucester.

## COUNCIL 25.01.24

The measures include drink testing kits, educational campaigns, the introduction of quiet areas for potential victims, spiking training, urine testing kits, and the successful street medic scheme who are medically trained to help those who may have been spiked and feel unwell.

This Councils supports the continuation and expansion of all these measures to ensure ALL licensed pubs, nightclubs and restaurants in Gloucester are aware of spiking and have provision to prevent and detect incidents in the day and night time economy including knowing how to support potential victims to get help and stay safe.

The Council resolves:

- To explore whether conditions on licenced premises can be included through the Council's licencing regime whether voluntarily or mandatory to ensure venues have appropriate security and staff training in place to improve safety including the search for spiking paraphernalia and recognising signs that someone could be perpetrating this offence;
- To commit to work with key stakeholders, particularly those in the night-time economy, to review existing practices in use and implement all possible safety options as a matter of urgency, including training for staff on how to administer the kits, what to do in the event of a positive result, and promotional material promoting how customers can access the kits;
- To commit to working in partnership with all key stakeholders, to renew Gloucester's Purple Flag status, a benchmark of safety in the night-time economy;
- To work in partnership with all key stakeholders (including The Gloucester BID and OPCC), to determine a funding stream to restart the Best Bar None accreditation scheme which aims to improve and monitor standards of licensed premises.
- This council also notes that many licensed premises in Gloucester allow drinking to excess to maximise profit. The recent police documentary along Eastgate street in Gloucester, highlighted several licensed premises allowing young adults to leave their premises extremely intoxicated which led to several assaults and arrests. This shows a blatant disregard for the safety of customers of these licences premises along with that of the public. The cost to Gloucester Police is significant with many resources spent each week policing this on going alcoholic abuse. Therefore this council will undertake closer monitoring of the public community safety by checking alcoholic abuse at."

70.9 Councillor Hilton moved and Councillor Trimnell seconded the following motion:

"This council notes the increase in graffiti that is appearing on private and public buildings across the city.

**COUNCIL**  
**25.01.24**

This council recognises the negative impact that graffiti has on a particular area that is suffering from this anti-social crime.

This council agrees to review its current policy on dealing with the removal of graffiti from both public and private buildings.

This council agrees that it must strengthen its arrangements with key stakeholders to ensure more is done to catch and prosecute the perpetrators in a timely manner."

- 70.10 Councillor A. Chambers and Councillor O'Donnell seconded the following amendment which proposed adding the following two points to the original motion;

**"This council agrees to find a COMMUNITY GRAFFITI WALL / area in this city to enable. The community wall will be in an area that does not offend or upset residents but enables youth artistic freedom and expression.**

**A community graffiti wall fosters artistic expression, cultivates a sense of local identity, and provides a creative outlet for residents. It can also serve as a platform for community engagement, encouraging collaboration and communication among diverse individuals.**

**The wall will be able to be painted on and over by graffiti artists. There will be rules of the community wall adjacent. These rules for example will explain that nothing can be painted which would cause upset or alarm on the community wall and will be removed if painted.**

**This community wall will help reduce graffiti on public buildings/ bus stops/ private buildings and statues."**

- 70.11 The amendment was not accepted by the mover of the original motion. The amendment was voted on and was lost.

**RESOLVED:-** That

"This council notes the increase in graffiti that is appearing on private and public buildings across the city.

This council recognises the negative impact that graffiti has on a particular area that is suffering from this anti-social crime.

This council agrees to review its current policy on dealing with the removal of graffiti from both public and private buildings.

This council agrees that it must strengthen its arrangements with key stakeholders to ensure more is done to catch and prosecute the perpetrators in a timely manner."

***As the meeting had reached the 3-hour mark, the motion to close the meeting was put. Members voted to close the meeting.***

**COUNCIL  
25.01.24**

**Time of commencement: 6.30pm hours  
Time of conclusion: 10.40pm hours**

**Chair**