



COUNCIL

MEETING : Thursday, 21st March 2024

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

Others in Attendance

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

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. Bhaimia and Patel

79. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2024 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

80. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

81. CALL OVER

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

82. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

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There were no supplementary questions asked by members of the public.

83. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

Councillor A. Chambers presented a petition requesting greater measure to combat fly-tipping in the City. The petition sought to increase fines to the amount of three times the cost of hiring a skip for those found to have been fly-tipping, to increase CCTV and officer resource.

Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Cook, received the petition and advised it would be passed to officers.

84. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor

The Mayor announced that Councillor Patel had received a High Sherriff award for his contribution to policing in Barton and Tredworth.

The Sherriff, Councillor Hudson, had donated a new Sherriff's board to the Council.

The Mayor informed Members that Councillor Bhaimia was to receive a long service award recognising his 20 years as a Councillor.

Councillor Pullen received a long service award recognising his 10 years as a Councillor.

The Leader of the Council

Councillor Cook announced that he would not be seeking re election at the upcoming City Council elections.

It was announced that the following Councillors would also not be seeking re election and tributes were paid to Members and Officers:

Councillor Morgan

Councillor Norman

Councillor Padilla

Councillor Taylor

Councillor Toleman

Councillor D. Brown

Councillor J. Brown

Members of the Cabinet

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Councillor Norman announced that measures were being put in place to re-open Longsmith Street car park which would benefit both residents and the financial position of the parking portfolio.

Councillor Lewis informed members that £1.5m had been awarded in funding for the City's cultural sector across a number of organisations and thanked all those who had placed bids.

Councillor S. Chambers announced that the temporary accommodation property acquisition programme was progressing well and that the Council had successfully bid for £2m of funding to assist with this.

Head of Paid Service

The Head of Paid Service informed Members that the Notice of Election in regard to elections taking place on 2 May would be published the next day. This began the pre-election period and he outlined the pre-election guidance.

85. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

- 85.1 In respect of question 2, Councillor Hilton asked if the Cabinet Member was disappointed that accounts were unaudited. Councillor Norman expressed disappointment and clarified that it was a widespread national issue with multiple reasons for delay.
- 85.2 With regard to question 3 and the engagement of consultants, Councillor Pullen asked how would services function without consultants, as such suggested by Central Government, and what be reduced to achieve such functionality. Councillor Norman advised that much of this expenditure was for specialisms and/or smaller, short term tasks which did not warrant larger scale financing.
- 85.3 Councillor A. Chambers asked, in relation to question 5, if ways to inform residents of reporting fly-tipping could be examined. Councillor Cook encouraged Members to raise issues and they would be passed on to be dealt with. He would also check what mechanisms there were for Members to report such issues.
- 85.4 In relation to question 8, Councillor Chambers-Dubus asked how long it might be before a marked difference was seen in the numbers of those on the housing waiting list. Councillor S. Chambers advised that this was difficult to predict but that there had been improvements in the emergency and gold bands.
- 85.5 Councillor O'Donnell asked how homeless person would be helped with appointments. Councillor S. Chambers advised that agencies did conduct outreach work but that some homeless people were reluctant to take up offers of accommodation.

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- 85.6 In relation to question 11, Councillor Trimnell asked if communications to Sainsbury's could be arranged to express concern that the pharmacy and café at the St. Ann's way site were closed. Councillor Cook advised that it was a local, commercial matter but that he would be happy to liaise.
- 85.7 Councillor Wilson asked if the Council should have checked the status of the company erecting masts and if there was anything that needed to be done. Councillor S. Chambers advised that she was satisfied that no further action was required and that officers were liaising with the planning inspectorate.
- 85.8 With regard to question 22, Councillor O'Donnell asked how many officers were involved in managing contracts. Councillor Norman advised that a written response would be provided.
- 85.9 As a supplementary question to number 25, Councillor Radley asked if it would be possible to discuss with the County Council the possibility of providing a park and ride. Councillor Cook stated that, whilst discussions could take place, such services were often under-used and questioned whether the County Council would be willing or able to provide such resource.
- 85.10 Councillor Hilton asked with regard to question 26 if it was right to consider reducing parking provision. Councillor Norman advised that the parking team was monitoring capacity and promoting other car parks.
- 85.11 With regard to question 27, Councillor A. Chambers asked if the cited pay increases were only related to those agreed by the National Joint Council. Councillor Norman that it included on-costs and were negotiated by trade unions.
- 85.12 Councillor Radley asked as a supplementary question to question 31 if it was considered acceptable that some had been advised to phone for council tax appointments but with little response. Councillor Norman advised that if no arrangement was in place, the intercom at the Gateway could be used and that some queries required more detailed knowledge.
- 85.13 Councillor Hilton asked if there was frustration regarding the sale of HKP and the Fleece remaining undelivered. Councillor Norman advised that historic buildings were often difficult to maintain and to sell and that there was much for the Council to be proud of in terms of its property portfolio.
- 85.14 With regard to question 34, Councillor Chambers-Dubus asked where was a reluctance to disclose how many days in a week heads of department worked from Council offices. Councillor Norman advised that officers worked from multiple locations and the key aspect was success in output rather than location.
- 85.15 Councillor O'Donnell asked, in respect of question 35 if an audit of social housing in Matson, Robinswood and White City be undertaken. Councillor S. Chambers responded that improvement was sought across all housing and meetings had been arranged with providers.

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86. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

86.1 Councillor Cook moved and Councillor Norman seconded the motion. Councillor Cook outlined the key aspects of the plan as well as the timeline for delivery. He thanks officers and all involved in the process of drawing up the plan.

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

Council is asked to **RESOLVE** that

(1) The Gloucester City Council Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan at Appendix 1 be adopted and issued for public and key stakeholder consultation.

(2) Consideration be given to undertaking consultation in the form of roadshows, as well as online consultation, with a particular focus on ascertaining the views of young people on the Climate Change Strategy.

(3) A Member Briefing be offered to new Councillors on the Climate Change Strategy following the 2024 local elections.

(4) The development of the Climate Change Action Plan be driven at the highest political level, ~~either through~~ **by ensuring** that a ~~designated~~ Cabinet Member is **given clear responsibilities** for Climate Change or a Member Champion.

(5) That officers presents a report to Cabinet before summer recess, which has precise proposals to be implemented during the life of the next council (2024/28) that will help deliver a zero-carbon council

86.3 The amendment was accepted in part and Councillor Cook proposed deleting paragraph 5 and replacing it with, 'that a report be prepared for the Climate Change Members Working Group before summer recess.' This was not accepted by Councillor Hilton whose original amendment was then not accepted. The amendment was voted on and was lost.

86.4 Within substantive debate, Councillor Pullen noted that it had arisen a number of years ago by way of a Labour Group motion. He stated his view that it was the most important policy document the Council may ever adopted and as such, priority should be given to it. He noted that it was a thorough and detailed document. Councillor Pullen also expressed that he was pleased that recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been adopted and that it was imperative that it be driven at the highest levels with input from businesses, residents and the wider community.

86.5 Councillor Trimnell noted that considerable work had been put into the plan. She expressed concern that action be taken as soon as possible.

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86.6 Councillor Wilson was in support of the action plan and impressed by the document. He stated that it was essential that young people be engaged given the increase of climate change denial among younger people. He noted that it was a good foundation that would require considerable will to achieve it.

86.7 Councillor Cook confirmed that, whilst it had been prepared primarily by consultants officers had a great deal of input as did the Member Working Group and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

86.8 RESOLVED that:-

- (1) The Gloucester City Council Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan at Appendix 1 be adopted and issued for public and key stakeholder consultation.
- (2) Consideration be given to undertaking consultation in the form of roadshows, as well as online consultation, with a particular focus on ascertaining the views of young people on the Climate Change Strategy.
- (3) A Member Briefing be offered to new Councillors on the Climate Change Strategy following the 2024 local elections.
- (4) The development of the Climate Change Action Plan be driven at the highest political level, either through a designated Cabinet Member for Climate Change or a Member Champion.

87. CITY CENTRE CONSERVATION AREA (CCCA) APPRAISAL AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) The City Centre Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan is approved as a Supplementary Planning Document with immediate effect.
- (2) The alteration of the boundary of the city centre conservation area be approved.
- (3) Authority is delegated to the Head of Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing, to obtain graphic design input for the layout of the document, add additional photographs and maps to the document, and to make any other necessary minor amendments, corrections and additions to the document prior to publication.

88. CAPITAL STRATEGY 2024/25

RESOLVED that:-

the Capital Strategy at Appendix 1 be approved;

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89. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2024/25

RESOLVED that:

- (1) The Treasury Management Strategy at Appendix 1 be approved;
- (2) The authorised borrowing limit be approved at:- - 2024/25 £280m - 2025/26 £305m - 2026/27 £305m
- (3) The prudential indicators set out in section two of the strategy be approved.

90. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2024/25

RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25 attached as Appendix 1 be approved.

91. NOTICES OF MOTION

91.1 Councillor O'Donnell proposed and Councillor A. Chambers seconded the following motion:

“I rise today to propose a motion that addresses the need for inclusivity in our community's play parks. It is essential that we prioritize the accessibility and enjoyment of recreational spaces for all residents, regardless of their abilities or disabilities. By making all play parks in Gloucester all-inclusive by December 2026, we can create a more welcoming and equitable environment for children and families of diverse backgrounds.

The importance of inclusive play parks cannot be overstated. These spaces provide children with opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, and imaginative play, fostering their development and well-being. However, traditional play parks often lack the necessary features and amenities to accommodate individuals with disabilities, limiting their participation and enjoyment. By making our play parks all-inclusive, we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to play, learn, and grow in a safe and accessible environment.

This motion aims to achieve several key objectives:

1.
Accessibility for All:
By making all play parks in Gloucester all-inclusive, we can ensure that children of all abilities have equal access to play equipment, facilities, and amenities. This will create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for children with physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities, allowing them to fully participate in play activities alongside their peers.
2.
Safety and Design Standards:

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Implementing all-inclusive design standards in our play parks will enhance safety and usability for all children. Features such as wheelchair-accessible ramps, sensory play elements, and inclusive seating areas will improve the overall play experience and accommodate a diverse range of needs and preferences.

3.

Community Engagement and Consultation:

Engaging with residents, families, and advocacy groups throughout the planning and implementation process is crucial to ensuring that the needs and preferences of the community are taken into account. By soliciting feedback and input from diverse stakeholders, we can create play parks that reflect the values and priorities of our community.

4.

Timely Implementation:

Setting a deadline of December 2026 for the completion of all-inclusive play parks in Gloucester provides a clear timeline for action and accountability. This deadline will drive progress and ensure that the necessary resources and support are allocated to achieve our goal of inclusivity within a reasonable timeframe.

To achieve these objectives, I propose the following actions:

1.

Conduct a Needs Assessment: Initiate a comprehensive needs assessment to identify the existing gaps and barriers to inclusivity in our play parks. This assessment will inform the design and development of all-inclusive play spaces that meet the diverse needs of our community.

2.

Develop Design Guidelines: Create design guidelines and standards for all-inclusive play parks based on best practices and accessibility principles. These guidelines should prioritize safety, usability, and inclusivity, ensuring that all children can enjoy the benefits of play in a supportive environment.

3.

Allocate Funding and Resources: Allocate the necessary funding and resources to support the planning, design, and construction of all-inclusive play parks in Gloucester. This may include securing grants, partnerships, and community contributions to supplement the municipal budget and ensure the successful implementation of this motion.

4.

Monitor Progress and Evaluation: Establish a monitoring and evaluation framework to track the progress of all-inclusive play park projects and assess their impact on the community. Regular updates and

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reports to the council and residents will provide transparency and accountability throughout the implementation process.

In conclusion, making all play parks all-inclusive by December 2026 in Gloucester is a crucial step towards creating a more equitable, welcoming, and accessible community for all residents. By prioritising inclusivity in our recreational spaces, we can promote social cohesion, physical well-being, and positive childhood development for children of all abilities. I urge all council members to support this motion and work together to build a more inclusive future for Gloucester.”

91.2 Councillor Padilla proposed and Councillor Dee seconded the following amendment:

“I rise today to propose a motion that addresses the need for inclusivity in our community's play parks. It is essential that we prioritize the accessibility and enjoyment of recreational spaces for all residents, regardless of their abilities or disabilities. By making ~~all~~ **more** play parks in Gloucester all-inclusive by December 2026, we can create a more welcoming and equitable environment for children and families of diverse backgrounds.

The importance of inclusive play parks cannot be overstated. These spaces provide children with opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, and imaginative play, fostering their development and well-being. However, traditional play parks often lack the necessary features and amenities to accommodate individuals with disabilities, limiting their participation and enjoyment. By making our play parks all-inclusive, we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to play, learn, and grow in a safe and accessible environment.

This motion aims to achieve several key objectives:

1. **Accessibility for All:** By making ~~all~~ **more** play parks in Gloucester all-inclusive, we can ensure that children of all abilities have equal access to play equipment, facilities, and amenities. This will create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for children with physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities, allowing them to fully participate in play activities alongside their peers.
2. **Safety and Design Standards:** Implementing all-inclusive design standards in our play parks will enhance safety and usability for all children. Features such as wheelchair-accessible ramps, sensory play elements, and inclusive seating areas will improve the overall play experience and accommodate a diverse range of needs and preferences.
3. **Community Engagement and Consultation:** ~~Engaging~~ **Engage** with residents, **including children** ~~families~~, and advocacy groups throughout the planning and implementation process is crucial to ensuring that the needs and preferences of the community are taken

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into account. By soliciting feedback and input from diverse stakeholders, we can create play parks that reflect the values and priorities of our community.

4. **Timely Implementation:** Setting a deadline of December 2026 for the completion of all-inclusive play parks in Gloucester provides a clear timeline for action and accountability. This deadline will drive progress and ensure that the necessary resources and support are allocated to achieve our goal of inclusivity within a reasonable timeframe.

To achieve these objectives, ~~I propose the following actions~~ **this council resolves to establish a city-wide play strategy which pledges to provide large, well equipped, and accessible play areas for all children of all abilities, with a commitment that inclusivity be at the heart of all future playground design. Detailed actions will include:**

1. **Conduct a Needs Assessment:** Initiate a comprehensive needs assessment to identify the existing gaps and barriers to inclusivity in our play parks. This assessment will inform the design and development of all-inclusive play spaces that meet the diverse needs of our community.

2. **Develop Design Guidelines:** Create design guidelines and standards for all-inclusive play parks based on best practices and accessibility principles. These guidelines should prioritize safety, usability, and inclusivity, ensuring that all children can enjoy the benefits of play in a supportive environment.

3. **Allocate Funding and Resources:** Allocate the necessary funding and resources to support the planning, design, and construction of all-inclusive play parks in Gloucester. This may include securing grants, partnerships, and community contributions to supplement the municipal budget and ensure the successful implementation of this motion.

4. **Monitor Progress and Evaluation:** Establish a monitoring and evaluation framework to track the progress of all-inclusive play park projects and assess their impact on the community. Regular updates and reports to the council and residents will provide transparency and accountability throughout the implementation process.

In conclusion, making ~~all~~ **more** play parks all-inclusive by December 2026 in Gloucester is a crucial step towards creating a more equitable, welcoming, and accessible community for all residents. By prioritising inclusivity in our recreational spaces, we can promote social cohesion, physical well-being, and positive childhood development for children of all abilities. I urge all council members to support this motion and work together to build a more inclusive future for Gloucester.”

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91.3 The amendment was accepted by the mover of the original motion and therefore became the substantive motion. The motion was voted on and was carried.

91.4 **RESOLVED that:-**

I rise today to propose a motion that addresses the need for inclusivity in our community's play parks. It is essential that we prioritize the accessibility and enjoyment of recreational spaces for all residents, regardless of their abilities or disabilities. By making more play parks in Gloucester all-inclusive by December 2026, we can create a more welcoming and equitable environment for children and families of diverse backgrounds.

The importance of inclusive play parks cannot be overstated. These spaces provide children with opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, and imaginative play, fostering their development and well-being. However, traditional play parks often lack the necessary features and amenities to accommodate individuals with disabilities, limiting their participation and enjoyment. By making our play parks all-inclusive, we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to play, learn, and grow in a safe and accessible environment.

This motion aims to achieve several key objectives:

1. **Accessibility for All:** By making more play parks in Gloucester all-inclusive, we can ensure that children of all abilities have equal access to play equipment, facilities, and amenities. This will create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for children with physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities, allowing them to fully participate in play activities alongside their peers.
2. **Safety and Design Standards:** Implementing all-inclusive design standards in our play parks will enhance safety and usability for all children. Features such as wheelchair-accessible ramps, sensory play elements, and inclusive seating areas will improve the overall play experience and accommodate a diverse range of needs and preferences.
3. **Community Engagement and Consultation:** Engage with residents, including children, and advocacy groups throughout the planning and implementation process is crucial to ensuring that the needs and preferences of the community are taken into account. By soliciting feedback and input from diverse stakeholders, we can create play parks that reflect the values and priorities of our community.
4. **Timely Implementation:** Setting a deadline of December 2026 for the completion of all-inclusive play parks in Gloucester provides a clear timeline for action and accountability. This deadline will drive progress and ensure that the necessary resources and support are allocated to achieve our goal of inclusivity within a reasonable timeframe.

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To achieve these objectives, this council resolves to establish a city-wide play strategy which pledges to provide large, well equipped, and accessible play areas for all children of all abilities, with a commitment that inclusivity be at the heart of all future playground design. Detailed actions will include:

1. **Conduct a Needs Assessment:** Initiate a comprehensive needs assessment to identify the existing gaps and barriers to inclusivity in our play parks. This assessment will inform the design and development of all-inclusive play spaces that meet the diverse needs of our community.
2. **Develop Design Guidelines:** Create design guidelines and standards for all-inclusive play parks based on best practices and accessibility principles. These guidelines should prioritize safety, usability, and inclusivity, ensuring that all children can enjoy the benefits of play in a supportive environment.
3. **Allocate Funding and Resources:** Allocate the necessary funding and resources to support the planning, design, and construction of all-inclusive play parks in Gloucester. This may include securing grants, partnerships, and community contributions to supplement the municipal budget and ensure the successful implementation of this motion.
4. **Monitor Progress and Evaluation:** Establish a monitoring and evaluation framework to track the progress of all-inclusive play park projects and assess their impact on the community. Regular updates and reports to the council and residents will provide transparency and accountability throughout the implementation process.

In conclusion, making more play parks all-inclusive by December 2026 in Gloucester is a crucial step towards creating a more equitable, welcoming, and accessible community for all residents. By prioritising inclusivity in our recreational spaces, we can promote social cohesion, physical well-being, and positive childhood development for children of all abilities. I urge all council members to support this motion and work together to build a more inclusive future for Gloucester.

91.5 Councillor A. Chambers proposed and Councillor O'Donnell seconded the following motion:

“This Council notes that child and young people exploitation is a serious and growing crime. While the exploitation of children by criminals has, sadly, been happening for a long time, the ways in which it has evolved and the increasing risks to children and young people mean that barely a week goes past without a devastating new story reaching the headlines.

Young children are being drawn into exploitative situations, and while our most vulnerable children, including those who have been excluded from school or are in care, are most at risk, we know that children who are ‘under

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the radar' are also now being targeted due to their anonymity with authorities.

The effects of child exploitation can be devastating and have a profound impact on children for the rest of their lives.

Councils have a key role to play in tackling child exploitation head on, from awareness-raising and staff training, to prevention and support for children who have been victims. They cannot do this alone.

City Council close working with partners including the County Council, police, NHS and schools is vital if areas are to have the right systems in place to prevent and disrupt the criminal activity putting children and young people at risk.

Understanding, hearing, and designing services with young people who have been affected by exploitation is essential, as is working with parents and carers. Children and young people are unlikely to see their experience as 'criminal exploitation' or 'sexual exploitation' and our response needs to consider the holistic needs of the child and their family.

All councillors have responsibilities, as local leaders and community representatives, to help protect children in their area. Being aware of the signs of child exploitation is key, as is understanding what to do if you have concerns and knowing what questions to be asking of local services.

What is child exploitation?

Child exploitation is complex, takes a variety of forms and doesn't neatly fit into categories. In general, child exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of a power imbalance to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into criminal or sexual activity or modern slavery. This can be in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, this is most likely to be the result of grooming, where a criminal has identified what a young person may want or need.

The power imbalance can be through a range of factors, including age, gender, cognitive ability, status, and access to economic or other resources. A young person may also experience poor mental health, have experienced bereavement or are being bullied which may make them more likely to be vulnerable to exploitation.

The victim may have been exploited even if the activity appears consensual, and exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through technology.

All those working with children and young people must be clear that exploitation is never the child's fault, even if some form of exchange has taken place (for example, if the young person has received payment, gifts, a relationship or status in return). All children and young people have a right to be safe and protected from harm.

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There are various ways in which children and young people are groomed for exploitation. Many perpetrators are skilled at identifying and targeting vulnerabilities, infiltrating social networks and isolating young people from protective influences. This can include the following:

there are some behavioural changes that children or young people may display. The following may help to identify a child or young person who is being exploited:

LGA states:

- persistently going missing from school or home
- regularly being found out of the home area
- excessive receipt of texts/phone calls
- relationship with controlling / older adults
- leaving home and care without explanation
- suspicion of physical assault / unexplained injuries
- gang association and isolation from peers or social networks
- significant decline in school results and performance
- self-harm or significant changes in emotional wellbeing.
- unexplained acquisition of designer clothes
- unexplained acquisition mobile phone
- Leaving home to have unexplained holidays with controlling adults
- unexplained acquisition of money,

NSPC States:

Groomers gain trust by:

- pretending to be someone they're not, for example saying they are the same age as the child online
- Employing the child or working closely with the child for example a sports venue or club
- offering advice or understanding to the child
- buying the child gifts/ designer clothes
- giving the child attention
- using their professional position to influence the child
- Using a reputation of taking the child on trips, outings or holidays

Effects of child exploitation

The effects of exploitation can be devastating and it may take a child or young person some time to come to terms what has happened to them. It is likely to have a significant impact on their physical health, mental health and wellbeing, educational outcomes and employment prospects and their relationships with family and friends.

Councils have a key role in identifying support as early as possible to help children and young people escape and recover from the exploitation that they have suffered. Family members are also likely to

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be impacted by their child's experience and councils should consider what support they may need for their own mental health and wellbeing and to rebuild relationships, as well as practical support.

Tackling child and young person exploitation

- This council agrees to commission a report to question the extent of child and young person exploitation which exists in Gloucester. (LGA states that stamping out child exploitation relies on full engagement from all partners at a senior level and elected members should question the extent to which this is the case in their local area).
- Training for all senior managers, elected members and appropriate other officers should include warning signs, how to report concerns, how to safe guard and how to prevent. Training should also include evidence gathering.
- Work with partners to raise awareness for young people and children including the public on how to obtain help and how to report, specifically for areas within this councils responsibility."

91.6 Councillor Padilla proposed and Councillor S. Chambers seconded the following amendment:

"This Council notes that child and young people exploitation is a serious and ~~growing-crime~~ **recorded crime data is on the increase**. While the exploitation of children by criminals has, sadly, been happening for a long time, the ways in which it has evolved and the increasing risks to children and young people mean that barely a week goes past without a devastating new story reaching the headlines.

Young children are being drawn into exploitative situations, and while our most vulnerable children, including those who have been excluded from school or are in care, are most at risk, we know that children who are 'under the radar' are also now being targeted due to their anonymity with authorities.

The effects of child exploitation can be devastating and have a profound impact on children for the rest of their lives.

Councils have a key role to play in tackling child exploitation head on, from awareness-raising and staff training, to prevention and support for children who have been victims. They cannot do this alone.

City Council close working with partners including the County Council, police, NHS and schools is vital if areas are to have the right systems in place to prevent and disrupt the criminal activity putting children and young people at risk.

Understanding, hearing, and designing services with young people who have been affected by exploitation is essential, as is working with parents and carers. Children and young people are unlikely to see their experience as 'criminal exploitation' or 'sexual exploitation' and our response needs to consider the holistic needs of the child and their family.

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All councillors have responsibilities, as local leaders and community representatives, to help protect children in their area. Being aware of the signs of child exploitation is key, as is understanding what to do if you have concerns and knowing what questions to be asking of local services.

What is child exploitation?

Child exploitation is complex, takes a variety of forms and doesn't neatly fit into categories. In general, child exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of a power imbalance to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into criminal or sexual activity or modern slavery. This can be in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, this is most likely to be the result of grooming, where a criminal has identified what a young person may want or need.

The power imbalance can be through a range of factors, including age, gender, cognitive ability, status, and access to economic or other resources. A young person may also experience poor mental health, have experienced bereavement or are being bullied which may make them more likely to be vulnerable to exploitation.

The victim may have been exploited even if the activity appears consensual, and exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through technology.

All those working with children and young people must be clear that exploitation is never the child's fault, even if some form of exchange has taken place (for example, if the young person has received payment, gifts, a relationship or status in return). All children and young people have a right to be safe and protected from harm. **Policies must be created with careful consideration to language to avoid placing responsibility, shame or blame onto a child for the exploitation of the child.**

There are various ways in which children and young people are groomed for exploitation. Many perpetrators are skilled at identifying and targeting vulnerabilities, infiltrating social networks and isolating young people from protective influences. This can include the following:

There are some behavioural changes that children or young people may display. The following may help to identify a child or young person who is being exploited:

LGA states:

- persistently going missing from school or home
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self-harm or significant changes in emotional wellbeing.
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NSPC States:

Groomers gain trust by:

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pretending to be someone they're not, for example saying they are the same age as the child online
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Employing the child or working closely with the child for example a sports venue or club
.
offering advice or understanding to the child
.
buying the child gifts/ designer clothes
.
giving the child attention
.
using their professional position to influence the child
.
Using a reputation of taking the child on trips, outings or holidays

Effects of child exploitation

The effects of exploitation can be devastating and it may take a child or young person some time to come to terms what has happened to them. It is likely to have a significant impact on their physical health, mental health and wellbeing, educational outcomes and employment prospects and their relationships with family and friends.

Councils have a key role in identifying support as early as possible to help children and young people escape and recover from the exploitation that they have suffered. Family members are also likely to be impacted by their child's experience and councils should consider what support they may need for their own mental health and wellbeing and to rebuild relationships, as well as practical support.

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Tackling child and young person exploitation

This council agrees to **write to partners including the County Council and Police asking them to** commission a report to question the extent of child and young person exploitation which exists in Gloucester. (LGA states that stamping out child exploitation relies on full engagement from all partners at a senior level and elected members should question the extent to which this is the case in their local area)

Deliver training for to all council staff senior managers and elected members and appropriate other officers should to include the warning signs of child exploitation, how to report concerns, how to safeguard and how to prevent. ~~Training should also include evidence gathering.~~ Training should also include **the correct mechanisms for reporting.**

Work with partners to raise awareness for young people and children including the public on how to obtain help and how to report, specifically for areas within this council's responsibility."

91.7 The amendment was accepted by the mover of the original motion and therefore became the substantive motion following the withdrawal of a further amendment tabled by the Liberal Democrat Group which was put to the vote and carried.

91.8 **RESOLVED that:-**

This Council notes that child and young people exploitation is serious and recorded crime data is on the increase. While the exploitation of children by criminals has, sadly, been happening for a long time, the ways in which it has evolved and the increasing risks to children and young people mean that barely a week goes past without a devastating new story reaching the headlines.

Young children are being drawn into exploitative situations, and while our most vulnerable children, including those who have been excluded from school or are in care, are most at risk, we know that children who are 'under the radar' are also now being targeted due to their anonymity with authorities.

The effects of child exploitation can be devastating and have a profound impact on children for the rest of their lives.

Councils have a key role to play in tackling child exploitation head on, from awareness-raising and staff training, to prevention and support for children who have been victims. They cannot do this alone.

City Council close working with partners including the County Council, police, NHS and schools is vital if areas are to have the right systems in place to prevent and disrupt the criminal activity putting children and young people at risk.

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Understanding, hearing, and designing services with young people who have been affected by exploitation is essential, as is working with parents and carers. Children and young people are unlikely to see their experience as 'criminal exploitation' or 'sexual exploitation' and our response needs to consider the holistic needs of the child and their family.

All councillors have responsibilities, as local leaders and community representatives, to help protect children in their area. Being aware of the signs of child exploitation is key, as is understanding what to do if you have concerns and knowing what questions to be asking of local services.

What is child exploitation?

Child exploitation is complex, takes a variety of forms and doesn't neatly fit into categories. In general, child exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of a power imbalance to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into criminal or sexual activity or modern slavery. This can be in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, this is most likely to be the result of grooming, where a criminal has identified what a young person may want or need.

The power imbalance can be through a range of factors, including age, gender, cognitive ability, status, and access to economic or other resources. A young person may also experience poor mental health, have experienced bereavement or are being bullied which may make them more likely to be vulnerable to exploitation.

The victim may have been exploited even if the activity appears consensual, and exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through technology.

All those working with children and young people must be clear that exploitation is never the child's fault, even if some form of exchange has taken place (for example, if the young person has received payment, gifts, a relationship or status in return). All children and young people have a right to be safe and protected from harm. Policies must be created with careful consideration to language to avoid placing responsibility, shame or blame onto a child for the exploitation of the child.

There are various ways in which children and young people are groomed for exploitation. Many perpetrators are skilled at identifying and targeting vulnerabilities, infiltrating social networks and isolating young people from protective influences. This can include the following:

There are some behavioural changes that children or young people may display. The following may help to identify a child or young person who is being exploited:

LGA states:

- persistently going missing from school or home

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- regularly being found out of the home area
- excessive receipt of texts/phone calls
- relationship with controlling / older adults
- leaving home and care without explanation
- suspicion of physical assault / unexplained injuries
- gang association and isolation from peers or social networks
- significant decline in school results and performance
- self-harm or significant changes in emotional wellbeing.
- unexplained acquisition of designer clothes
- unexplained acquisition mobile phone
- Leaving home to have unexplained holidays with controlling adults
- unexplained acquisition of money,

NSPC States:

Groomers gain trust by:

- pretending to be someone they're not, for example saying they are the same age as the child online
- Employing the child or working closely with the child for example a sports venue or club
- offering advice or understanding to the child
- buying the child gifts/ designer clothes
- giving the child attention
- using their professional position to influence the child
- Using a reputation of taking the child on trips, outings or holidays

Effects of child exploitation

The effects of exploitation can be devastating and it may take a child or young person some time to come to terms what has happened to them. It is likely to have a significant impact on their physical health, mental health and wellbeing, educational outcomes and employment prospects and their relationships with family and friends.

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Councils have a key role in identifying support as early as possible to help children and young people escape and recover from the exploitation that they have suffered. Family members are also likely to be impacted by their child's experience and councils should consider what support they may need for their own mental health and wellbeing and to rebuild relationships, as well as practical support.

Tackling child and young person exploitation

This council agrees to write to partners including the County Council and Police asking them to commission a report to question the extent of child and young person exploitation which exists in Gloucester. (LGA states that stamping out child exploitation relies on full engagement from all partners at a senior level and elected members should question the extent to which this is the case in their local area)

Deliver training to all council staff and elected members to include the warning signs of child exploitation, how to report concerns, how to safeguard and how to prevent. Training should also include the correct mechanisms for reporting.

- Work with partners to raise awareness for young people and children including the public on how to obtain help and how to report, specifically for areas within this council's responsibility.

91.9 Councillor A. Chambers proposed and Councillor O'Donnell seconded the following motion:

"Nitrous oxide (NOS) gas canisters, commonly used for recreational purposes like inhaling, can pose several dangers if disposed of in normal waste. Here are some of the potential risks:

1. Environmental Impact:

NOS canisters contain nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming when released into the atmosphere. Improper disposal in normal waste can lead to the release of nitrous oxide during decomposition, contributing to environmental pollution.

2. Fire Hazard:

If NOS canisters are not properly disposed of and end up in landfills or incinerators, there is a risk of fire. The pressurised canisters can explode when exposed to heat, causing fires and endangering waste management workers. This has led to around 8 Fires at Gloucester City Council waste depot where 3 of the fires required emergency services.

3. Health Risks:

Inhaling nitrous oxide from improperly disposed of canisters can be harmful to human health. It can cause dizziness, loss of consciousness, and even asphyxiation if not used in a controlled environment.

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4. Contamination:

NOS canisters may contain residues of nitrous oxide and other substances used in manufacturing or processing. When disposed of in normal waste, these residues can contaminate soil, water sources, and the surrounding environment.

5. Safety Risks for Waste Handlers:

Waste management workers who handle normal waste may unknowingly come into contact with NOS canisters, risking injury from explosions or leakage of gas.

6. Legal Consequences:

Improper disposal of hazardous materials like NOS canisters can lead to legal repercussions. Breaking waste disposal regulations can result in fines, penalties, and legal actions.

To mitigate these dangers, it is essential to handle and dispose of NOS gas canisters properly. Setting up a dedicated collection point for NOS canisters, as mentioned earlier, can help ensure safe and environmentally friendly disposal practices.

To create a collection point for nos gas canisters, Gloucester City Council can follow these steps:

1. Location Selection:

Gloucester City Council will chose suitable locations around Gloucester City for the collection points. These collection points will be in canister hot spots. The collection point will be easily accessible to the public and have enough space to accommodate the collection of canisters.

2. Regulations and Permits:

Gloucester City Council will check associated laws and regulations regarding the collection and disposal of gas canisters. The city council will obtain any necessary permits or permissions required to set up a collection point.

3. Safety Precautions:

Gloucester City Council will ensure that the collection point is set up in a safe manner. Implement safety measures to prevent any accidents or mishaps.

4. Collection Bins:

Gloucester City Council will provide designated collection bins or containers for the gas canisters. Making sure the bins are clearly labeled and secure to prevent any leaks or spills.

5. Information Signage:

Gloucester City Council will display information signs at the collection point detailing the accepted types of gas canisters, safety instructions, and contact information for any queries.

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6. Collection Schedule:

Gloucester City Council will establish a regular collection schedule for the canisters. Coordinate with a waste management company or recycling center for proper disposal.

7. Promotion and Awareness:

Gloucester City Council will promote the collection point to the community through various channels such as social media, local newspapers, and community events. Raise awareness about the importance of proper disposal of gas canisters.

By following these steps, Gloucester City Council will create an effective and safe collection point for nos gas canisters in Gloucester City.

This council resolves to:

- Fit at least 6 designated Nos Canister collection bins/drop off bins for the safe collection of the associated canisters around Gloucester City.
- To dispose of the Nos Canisters in a safe and legal manner.
- To provide these collection points with the aim of reducing fires at the council waste depot and with a view of reducing the likelihood of future fires.
- To advertise the locations to Gloucester City residents of these collection/drop off bins and their locations.”

91.10 Councillor Hilton proposed and Councillor Wilson seconded the following amendment which added an additional paragraph to the end of the motion:

That this motion is noted and referred to the overview and scrutiny committee to enable further consideration to take place including officer and stakeholder advice. This may require a task and finish group being set up, before the overview and scrutiny committee reports back to cabinet and then council on any recommendations it wishes to make.”

91.11 The amendment was accepted and became the substantive motion. This was voted on and was carried.

91.12 **RESOLVED that**

Nitrous oxide (NOS) gas canisters, commonly used for recreational purposes like inhaling, can pose several dangers if disposed of in normal waste. Here are some of the potential risks:

1. Environmental Impact:

NOS canisters contain nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming when released into the atmosphere. Improper disposal in normal waste can lead to the release of nitrous oxide during decomposition, contributing to environmental pollution.

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2. Fire Hazard:

If NOS canisters are not properly disposed of and end up in landfills or incinerators, there is a risk of fire. The pressurised canisters can explode when exposed to heat, causing fires and endangering waste management workers. This has led to around 8 Fires at Gloucester City Council waste depot where 3 of the fires required emergency services.

3. Health Risks:

Inhaling nitrous oxide from improperly disposed of canisters can be harmful to human health. It can cause dizziness, loss of consciousness, and even asphyxiation if not used in a controlled environment.

4. Contamination:

NOS canisters may contain residues of nitrous oxide and other substances used in manufacturing or processing. When disposed of in normal waste, these residues can contaminate soil, water sources, and the surrounding environment.

5. Safety Risks for Waste Handlers:

Waste management workers who handle normal waste may unknowingly come into contact with NOS canisters, risking injury from explosions or leakage of gas.

6. Legal Consequences:

Improper disposal of hazardous materials like NOS canisters can lead to legal repercussions. Breaking waste disposal regulations can result in fines, penalties, and legal actions.

To these dangers, it is essential to handle and dispose of NOS gas canisters properly. Setting up a dedicated collection point for NOS canisters, as mentioned earlier, can help ensure safe and environmentally friendly disposal practices.

To create a collection point for nos gas canisters, Gloucester City Council can follow these steps:

1.

Location Selection:

Gloucester City Council will chose suitable locations around Gloucester City for the collection points. These collection points will be in canister hot spots. The collection point will be easily accessible to the public and have enough space to accommodate the collection of canisters.

2. Regulations and Permits:

Gloucester City Council will check associated laws and regulations regarding the collection and disposal of gas canisters. The city council will obtain any necessary permits or permissions required to set up a collection point.

3. Safety Precautions:

Gloucester City Council will ensure that the collection point is set up in a

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safe manner. Implement safety measures to prevent any accidents or mishaps.

4. Collection Bins:

Gloucester City Council will provide designated collection bins or containers for the gas canisters. Making sure the bins are clearly labeled and secure to prevent any leaks or spills.

5. Information Signage:

Gloucester City Council will display information signs at the collection point detailing the accepted types of gas canisters, safety instructions, and contact information for any queries.

6. Collection Schedule:

Gloucester City Council will establish a regular collection schedule for the canisters. Coordinate with a waste management company or recycling center for proper disposal.

7. Promotion and Awareness:

Gloucester City Council will promote the collection point to the community through various channels such as social media, local newspapers, and community events. Raise awareness about the importance of proper disposal of gas canisters.

By following these steps, Gloucester City Council will create an effective and safe collection point for nos gas canisters in Gloucester City.

This council resolves to:

- Fit at least 6 designated Nos Canister collection bins/drop off bins for the safe collection of the associated canisters around Gloucester City.
- To dispose of the Nos Canisters in a safe and legal manner.
- To provide these collection points with the aim of reducing fires at the council waste depot and with a view of reducing the likelihood of future fires.
- To advertise the locations to Gloucester City residents of these collection/drop off bins and their locations.
- That this motion is noted and referred to the overview and scrutiny committee to enable further consideration to take place including officer and stakeholder advice. This may require a task and finish group being set up, before the overview and scrutiny committee reports back to cabinet and then council on any recommendations it wishes to make.

91.13 Councillor Morgan proposed and Councillor Lewis seconded the following motion:

“This Council condemns all aggressive or threatening behaviour to any person, in any form and anywhere. This includes, but is not exclusive to, the

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Russian invasion of Ukraine, the conflict in Gaza and closer to home at Parliament and in other venues for democracy such as this Chamber.

We further condemn the hatred and intolerance which is spread via social media by individuals and at any public places which is resulting in the need for increasing security measures to reassure and protect those affected.

This Council requires that all councillors elected in May 2024 are to be provided with training on the use of social media and how to combat intimidation. All councillors are to be given a protocol on how to report threatening behaviour etc. Furthermore, the Leader of the Council is asked to write to our M.P. Richard Graham and the L.G.A. to register our concerns.”

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

“This Council condemns all aggressive or threatening behaviour to any person, in any form and anywhere. This includes, but is not exclusive to, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the conflict in Gaza and closer to home at Parliament and in other venues for democracy such as this Chamber.

We further condemn the hatred and intolerance which is spread via social media by individuals and at any public places which is resulting in the need for increasing security measures to reassure and protect those affected.

This Council ~~requires that~~ **offers** all councillors elected in May 2024 ~~are to be provided with~~ training on the use of social media and how to combat intimidation. All councillors are to be given a protocol on how to report threatening behaviour etc. Furthermore, the Leader of the Council is asked to write to ~~our~~ **the city’s** M.P. Richard Graham and the L.G.A. to register ~~our~~ **this Council’s** concerns.”

91.15 The amendment was accepted and became the substantive motion which was voted on and carried.

91.16 **RESOLVED that:**

This Council condemns all aggressive or threatening behaviour to any person, in any form and anywhere. This includes, but is not exclusive to, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the conflict in Gaza and closer to home at Parliament and in other venues for democracy such as this Chamber.

We further condemn the hatred and intolerance which is spread via social media by individuals and at any public places which is resulting in the need for increasing security measures to reassure and protect those affected.

This Council offers all councillors elected in May 2024 training on the use of social media and how to combat intimidation. All councillors are to be given a protocol on how to report threatening behaviour etc. Furthermore, the Leader

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of the Council is asked to write to the city's M.P. Richard Graham and the L.G.A. to register this Council's concerns.

91.17 Councillor Pullen and Councillor Chambers-Dubus seconded the following motion:

"This Council welcomes the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan following the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019.

This council further welcomes the commitment towards reaching nett zero emissions in its own functions by 2030 and across the wider city district by 2045.

The Climate Change Emergency and subsequent Climate Change Action Plan is the most significant issue facing Gloucester in generations. It is therefore vital that every resident in the city is fully aware of the Action Plan and is consulted on its recommendations and implications".

This council therefore resolves:

1. To carry out a full and thorough consultation process in a range of styles and processes that enables every Gloucester resident to have their say on the recommendations in the Climate Change Action Plan.
2. In addition to the consultation processes already agreed and to ensure that every resident is aware of the action plan, this council writes a physical letter to every household in the city informing them of the Climate Change Action Plan.
3. The letter will also inform residents of how to express their views and opinions on the contents of the plan and how they can take part in the consultation."

91.18 Councillor Cook proposed and Councillor Ackroyd seconded the following amendment:

"This Council welcomes the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan following the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019.

This council further welcomes the commitment towards reaching nett zero emissions in its own functions by 2030 and across the wider city district by 2045.

The Climate Change Emergency and subsequent Climate Change Action Plan is the most significant issue facing Gloucester in generations. It is therefore vital that every resident in the city is fully aware of the Action Plan and is consulted on its recommendations and implications".

This council therefore resolves:

- 1.

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To carry out a full and thorough consultation process in a range of styles and processes that enables every Gloucester resident to have their say on the recommendations in the Climate Change Action Plan.

2.

In addition to the consultation processes already agreed and to ensure that every residents is **are** aware of the action plan, this council ~~writes a physical letter to every household in the city informing them of~~ **will promote** the Climate Change Action Plan **through environmentally friendly methods including its online channels, writing to relevant community groups and encouraging elected members to share with their residents.**

3.

~~The letter~~

This communication will also inform residents of how to express their views and opinions on the contents of the plan and how they can take part in the consultation.”

91.19 The amendment was accepted, became the substantive motion and was carried.

91.20 **RESOLVED that:-**

This Council welcomes the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan following the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019.

This council further welcomes the commitment towards reaching nett zero emissions in its own functions by 2030 and across the wider city district by 2045.

The Climate Change Emergency and subsequent Climate Change Action Plan is the most significant issue facing Gloucester in generations. It is therefore vital that every resident in the city is fully aware of the Action Plan and is consulted on its recommendations and implications”.

This council therefore resolves:

2.

To carry out a full and thorough consultation process in a range of styles and processes that enables every Gloucester resident to have their say on the recommendations in the Climate Change Action Plan.

3.

In addition to the consultation processes already agreed and to ensure that residents are aware of the action plan, this council will promote the Climate Change Action Plan through environmentally friendly methods including its online channels, writing to relevant community groups and encouraging elected members to share with their residents.

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This communication will also inform residents of how to express their views and opinions on the contents of the plan and how they can take part in the consultation.

91.21 Councillor Chambers-Dubus proposed and Councillor Pullen seconded the following motion:

“The use of IT and digital technology is a quick and efficient method for the council to interact with the public. Many residents find it easy and convenient to email the council, visit the council website and access council services using IT.

However, there are still significant numbers of people who do not have access to IT or who own a laptop, iPad or mobile phone. Likewise, there are many people who do not have the skills or confidence to use IT effectively. Elderly people, people with disabilities and those with specific needs are therefore often digitally excluded from contacting the council and accessing council services.

As the council continues on its journey of digital transformation it is therefore vital that there are still adequate communication processes for people who do not have access to or who are unable to use IT”.

This council therefore resolves:

1. Not to rely entirely on IT as its only means of communication with residents.
2. To recognise that not everyone has access to IT or is IT literate and that some people are digitally excluded from accessing council services.
3. To put greater emphasis on contacting the council using traditional methods such as by telephone, writing a letter or by visiting the council in person.
4. To be sympathetic and provide help and support to people who cannot use IT and are digitally excluded.
5. To provide a range of effective and accessible opportunities to ensure that everyone has access to council services and never relies entirely on IT as the only means of communication.”

91.22 Councillor Norman proposed and Councillor Taylor proposed the following amendment:

“The use of IT and digital technology is a quick and efficient method for the council to interact with the public. Many residents find it easy and convenient to email the council, visit the council website and access council services using IT.

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However, there are still significant numbers of people who do not have access to IT or who own a laptop, iPad or mobile phone. Likewise, there are many people who do not have the skills or confidence to use IT effectively. Elderly people, people with disabilities and those with specific needs are therefore often digitally excluded from contacting the council and accessing council services.

As the council continues on its journey of digital transformation it is therefore vital that there are still adequate communication processes for people who do not have access to or who are unable to use IT”.

This council therefore resolves:

1.
Not to rely entirely on IT as its only means of communication with residents.
2.
To recognise that not everyone has access to IT or is IT literate and that some people ~~are digitally excluded from accessing~~ **may struggle to access** council services **digitally**.
3.
To ~~put greater emphasis on contacting the~~ **continue making sure residents can contact the** council using traditional methods such as by telephone, writing a letter or by visiting the council in person **for a pre-booked appointment**.
4.
To **continue to** be sympathetic and provide help and support to people who cannot use IT ~~and are digitally excluded to access council services~~.
5.
To **continue to** provide a range of effective and accessible opportunities to ensure that everyone has access to council services and never relies entirely on IT as the only means of communication.”

91.23 The amendment was not accepted, was voted on and was carried.

91.24 **RESOLVED that:-**

The use of IT and digital technology is a quick and efficient method for the council to interact with the public. Many residents find it easy and convenient to email the council, visit the council website and access council services using IT.

However, there are still significant numbers of people who do not have access to IT or who own a laptop, iPad or mobile phone. Likewise, there are many people who do not have the skills or confidence to use IT effectively. Elderly people, people with disabilities and those with

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specific needs are therefore often digitally excluded from contacting the council and accessing council services.

As the council continues on its journey of digital transformation it is therefore vital that there are still adequate communication processes for people who do not have access to or who are unable to use IT”.

This council therefore resolves:

1.
Not to rely entirely on IT as its only means of communication with residents.
2.
To recognise that not everyone has access to IT or is IT literate and that some people may struggle to access council services digitally.
3.
To continue making sure residents can contact the council using traditional methods such as by telephone, writing a letter or by visiting the council in person for a pre-booked appointment.
4.
To continue to be sympathetic and provide help and support to people who cannot use IT to access council services.
5.
To continue to provide a range of effective and accessible opportunities to ensure that everyone has access to council services and never relies entirely on IT as the only means of communication.

91.25 Motion 7 proposed by Councillor Dee was withdrawn.

91.26 Councillor Field proposed and Councillor Trimnell seconded the following motion:

“This council expresses deep concern about the state of many roads and footways in the city of Gloucester. They are riddled with potholes or crumbling to bits.

This council notes that Conservative run Gloucestershire County Council is responsible for the maintenance of the highway network in Gloucester.

This council agrees that it should lobby robustly Gloucestershire County Council to improve the condition of Gloucester’s roads and footways to a level acceptable to this council and the residents of this historic city.”

91.27 Councillor Cook proposed and Councillor Norman seconded the following amendment:

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“This council ~~expresses deep concern about~~ **wants to see** the state of many roads and footways in the city of Gloucester **improved**. ~~They are riddled with potholes or crumbling to bits.~~

This council notes that Conservative run Gloucestershire County Council is responsible for the maintenance of the highway network in Gloucester.

This council welcomes the highways transformation programme implemented by the Conservative run county council which has seen a record number of roads resurfaced in the last year, the use of new technology and innovation including the Pothole Pro, Spray Injection Patcher and cold material repairs, as well as the introduction of Find and Fix gangs.

This council agrees that it should lobby robustly Gloucestershire County Council to **continue this work to** improve the condition of Gloucester’s roads and footways to a level acceptable to this council and the residents of this historic city.”

91.28 The amendment was not accepted, was put to the vote and was carried.

91.29 **RESOLVED that:-**

This council wants to see the state of many roads and footways in the city of Gloucester improved.

This council notes that Conservative run Gloucestershire County Council is responsible for the maintenance of the highway network in Gloucester.

This council welcomes the highways transformation programme implemented by the Conservative run county council which has seen a record number of roads resurfaced in the last year, the use of new technology and innovation including the Pothole Pro, Spray Injection Patcher and cold material repairs, as well as the introduction of Find and Fix gangs.

This council agrees that it should lobby robustly Gloucestershire County Council to continue this work to improve the condition of Gloucester’s roads and footways to a level acceptable to this council and the residents of this historic city.

91.30 Councillor Padilla proposed and Councillor Campbell seconded the following motion:

“The development of an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy within our city remains a priority after recommendations from the LGA Peer Review Panel last year.

Hence this Motion revisits the development and implementation of an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy for our city. This will demonstrate our dedication to cultivating a community that thrives on diversity, encourages equal opportunities, and ensures inclusivity for all

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residents. It also aligns with the values of fairness, justice, and unity. This will be a comprehensive and inclusive strategy that encompasses the diverse range of protected characteristics – age, race, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and of course disability.

Whereas, by engaging with a diverse range of community stakeholders, we seek to gather insights, perspectives, and expertise that will inform the development and implementation of inclusive policies. This approach will ensure that the strategy addresses the unique needs and concerns of various groups within our community.

Whereas, there is a strong need to remove barriers to participation, provide accessible environments, and foster a culture that values and respects the differences among our residents.

Whereas, following its approval, regular assessments will be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of implemented policies, identify areas for improvement, and measure progress towards our overarching goal of creating an inclusive and equitable community.

Therefore, be it resolved, the City Council:

1. Acknowledges the importance of expediting the development and implementation of an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy.
2. Resolves to prioritise the allocation of resources, streamline decision-making processes, and provide clear directives to expedite the completion of the EDI Strategy.
3. Affirms its unwavering commitment to fostering a community where every residents feels valued, respected, and included.
4. Calls upon relevant stakeholders to actively participate in the development and implementation of the EDI Strategy, ensuring that diverse perspectives are incorporated into the framework.
5. Directs relevant departments and committees to report back within 3 months with progress updates on the development of the EDI Strategy.”

91.31 Councillor Hyman proposed and Councillor Trimnell seconded the following amendment:

“~~The development~~ **maintaining** of ~~an~~ **the** Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy ~~within our city~~ **set out in the Equality Action Plan agreed all-Party previously** remains a priority after recommendations from the LGA Peer Review Panel last year.

Hence this

This Motion revisits the ~~development and implementation of an~~ Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy for our city **and recognises the work of our dedicated Officers in working with other agencies and community groups**. ~~This will demonstrate our dedication to cultivating~~ **cultivate** a community that thrives on diversity, encourages equal opportunities, and ensures inclusivity for all residents. ~~It also aligns with the values of fairness,~~

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~~justice, and unity. This will be a comprehensive and inclusive strategy that encompasses the diverse range of protected characteristics — age, race, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and of course disability.~~

This Council also recognises the work done internally, going further than the Equality Act 2010.

~~Whereas by engaging with a diverse range of community stakeholders, we seek to gather insights, perspectives, and expertise that will inform the development and implementation of inclusive policies. This approach will ensure that the strategy addresses the unique needs and concerns of various groups within our community.~~

~~Whereas,~~

This Council recognises there is a strong need to remove barriers to participation, provide accessible environments, and foster a culture that values and respects the differences among our residents.

~~Whereas,~~

~~following its approval, regular assessments will be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of implemented policies, identify areas for improvement, and measure progress towards our overarching goal of creating an inclusive and equitable community.~~

Therefore, be it resolved, **by** the City Council **that it:**

1. ~~Acknowledges the importance of expediting the development and implementation of an~~ **its** Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy **Action Plan.**
2. Resolves to prioritise the allocation of resources, streamline decision-making processes, and provide clear directives to expedite the ~~completion of~~ **further work on** the EDI Strategy.
3. Affirms its unwavering commitment to fostering a community where every residents feels valued, respected, and included.
4. Calls upon relevant stakeholders to actively participate in the **further** development and implementation of the EDI Strategy, ensuring that diverse perspectives are incorporated into the framework.
5. ~~Directs relevant departments and committees to report back within 3 months with progress updates on the development of the EDI Strategy~~
Calls for a regular report to Cabinet from the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods on the work of the EDI Working Group.”

91.32 The amendment was not accepted was voted on and was lost. The original motion was voted on and was carried.

91.33 **RESOLVED that:-**

COUNCIL
21.03.24

The development of an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy within our city remains a priority after recommendations from the LGA Peer Review Panel last year.

Hence this Motion revisits the development and implementation of an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy for our city. This will demonstrate our dedication to cultivating a community that thrives on diversity encourages equal opportunities, and ensures inclusivity for all residents. It also aligns with the values of fairness, justice, and unity. This will be a comprehensive and inclusive strategy that encompasses the diverse range of protected characteristics – age, race, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and of course disability.

Whereas, by engaging with a diverse range of community stakeholders, we seek to gather insights, perspectives, and expertise that will inform the development and implementation of inclusive policies. This approach will ensure that the strategy addresses the unique needs and concerns of various groups within our community.

Whereas, there is a strong need to remove barriers to participation, provide accessible environments, and foster a culture that values and respects the differences among our residents.

Whereas, following its approval, regular assessments will be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of implemented policies, identify areas for improvement, and measure progress towards our overarching goal of creating an inclusive and equitable community.

Therefore, be it resolved, the City Council:

1. Acknowledges the importance of expediting the development and implementation of an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy.
2. Resolves to prioritise the allocation of resources, streamline decision-making processes, and provide clear directives to expedite the completion of the EDI Strategy.
3. Affirms its unwavering commitment to fostering a community where every residents feels valued, respected, and included.
4. Calls upon relevant stakeholders to actively participate in the development and implementation of the EDI Strategy, ensuring that diverse perspectives are incorporated into the framework.
5. Directs relevant departments and committees to report back within 3 months with progress updates on the development of the EDI Strategy.

COUNCIL
21.03.24

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

Chair