



Wednesday, 10 July 2024

TO EACH MEMBER OF GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** of the **CITY OF GLOUCESTER** to be held at the Civic Suite, North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2FB on **Thursday, 18th July 2024** at **6.30 pm** for the purpose of transacting the following business:

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. **MINUTES (Pages 13 - 20)**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 May 2024.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

4. **CALL OVER**

(a) Call over (items 9-12) will be read out at the meeting and Members invited to reserve the items for discussion.

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

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

The opportunity is given to members of the public to put questions to Cabinet Members or Committee Chairs provided that questions do not contravene the provisions set out Council Procedure Rule 10.01.

To ask a question at this meeting, please submit it to democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk by 12 noon on Friday 12 July 2024 or telephone 01452 396203 for support.

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

6. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

The opportunity is given to members of the public to present a petition or deputation provided that any such petition or deputation does not contravene the provisions set out in Council Procedure Rule 11.01.

To present a petition or deputation at this meeting, please provide the subject matter to democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk by 12 noon on 12 July 2024 or telephone 01452 396203 for support.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive announcements from:

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

8. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

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

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

ISSUES FOR DECISION BY COUNCIL

9. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT YEAR END ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24 (Pages 21 - 32)**

To consider the report of the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources providing an update on treasury management activities for 2023/24.

10. **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL (Pages 33 - 40)**

To consider the report of the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel concerning the consideration of a new Member role.

11. **DESIGNATION OF MONITORING OFFICER (Pages 41 - 44)**

To receive the report of the Head of Paid Service concerning the designation of a Monitoring Officer.

12. **URGENT DECISION REPORTED TO COUNCIL**

In accordance with Part 4 of the Constitution, Council is asked to note the urgent decision of the Managing Director to renew the contract to extend use of the Council's current payment services platform and income management solution for a period of three years. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's agreement was obtained to waive the call in period and the decision record has been circulated and can be viewed on the Council's website.

MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS

13. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

1. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MILLARD AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR PULLEN

"This council notes the growing issues of retail crime across the UK as highlighted in a recent report from the Co op Group which stated there were record levels in 2023 with more than 333,000 incidents (a 44% year on year increase) with many communities continuing to be blighted by retail crime.

It is acknowledged that a majority of those committing crimes are repeat and prolific offenders.

This council understands the impact this criminal activity is having on shopworkers in Gloucester with retail staff feeling demoralised and in danger at their workplace after experiencing verbal abuse and threatening behaviour. It also recognises that retail employers have a responsibility for the safety of their staff but the council has a role in supporting public and community safety on a wider scale.

This council notes the campaign work of the Co-operative Party who have been

working in partnership with organisations such as the Co-op Group, Co-operative Societies and USDAW trade union to tackle retail crime and campaigning to tackle retail crime and strengthen the rights of retail workers.

This council resolves:

- To continue to engage with the retail sector, the BID, Gloucester City Safe and businesses in Gloucester to understand the severity of this issue and take increased action to tackle retail crime and protect retail workers.
- To include this issue in the Stronger Safer Gloucester Partnership work plan review and look to secure adequate resources to address retail crime and protect retail workers.
- Write to the Police and Crime Commissioner asking for a review of arrangements for tackling retail crime by frequent and repeat offenders.
- Understand the issues and needs of repeat retail offenders and how these can be addressed.
- Ensure and encourage retail workers to report incidents of retail crime, including abuse and threatening behaviour towards staff, in the confidence that the police will take action.
- Work with retailers where appropriate to reduce the opportunities, likelihood and ease of shop lifting in their premises.
- Support efforts to strengthen protection for shop workers including ensuring any new criminal offence of assaulting retail workers is enforced.”

2. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR O'DONNELL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR A. CHAMBERS

“I am proposing a motion to review the costings associated with providing free green waste services to residents who are unable to afford such services, particularly in areas where financial constraints impact garden maintenance and community well-being. The provision of free green waste services, including subsidized or no-cost green bins, can play a vital role in supporting individuals and families facing economic challenges, ensuring access to essential resources for garden maintenance, and promoting mental health and well-being in our communities. By examining the feasibility of reducing the cost or offering free green waste solutions, we can address the barriers that prevent residents from caring for their gardens and outdoor spaces effectively.

Many residents in our community experience financial difficulties that limit their ability to access green waste services, such as green bins for garden waste disposal. The cost of these services can present a significant burden for individuals and families, particularly in troubled areas where economic challenges are more pronounced. As a result, gardens are left untended, green waste

accumulates, and the well-being of residents is impacted by the inability to maintain their outdoor spaces. It is imperative that we explore options to alleviate this burden and provide support to those in need.

This motion aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. **Reviewing Costings for Free Green Waste Services:** Conduct a thorough review of the costings associated with providing free green waste services, including subsidized or no-cost green bins, to residents in need. Assess the financial implications, feasibility, and potential benefits of offering these services to support garden maintenance and mental health in our communities.
2. **Exploring Options for Subsidized or No-Cost Green Bins:** Investigate alternatives to reduce the cost or provide free green bins for residents in troubled areas where financial constraints impact garden care and well-being. Consider options for subsidizing green waste services, offering discounts, or implementing no-cost solutions to ensure accessibility and affordability for all community members.
3. **Promoting Mental Health and Community Well-Being:** Recognize the importance of green spaces, garden maintenance, and outdoor activities in promoting mental health, well-being, and community cohesion. By supporting residents in caring for their gardens and outdoor spaces through free green waste services, we can enhance the quality of life, foster a sense of pride, and promote social connection in our neighborhoods.
4. **Addressing Barriers to Garden Maintenance:** Identify and address the barriers that prevent residents from maintaining their gardens and outdoor spaces, including financial constraints and limited access to green waste services. By providing free or subsidized green bins, we can empower individuals to take pride in their surroundings, improve community aesthetics, and enhance overall well-being.

In conclusion, reviewing the costings of providing free green waste services and exploring options for subsidized or no-cost green bins in troubled areas is a proactive step towards supporting residents in need, promoting mental health and well-being, and enhancing community aesthetics. By prioritizing access to green waste solutions for all residents, we can create a more inclusive, sustainable, and vibrant community where everyone has the opportunity to care for their gardens and outdoor spaces. I urge all council members to support this motion and consider the positive impact it can have on our community.

I would recommend this to be done within a 6-month time frame please.”

3. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR O'DONNELL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BELL

“This Council proposes that Cabinet be asked to review the feasibility of replacing individual green recycling boxes with mixed recycle bins in our community. A transition to a single, mixed recycle bin system would streamline recycling collection, reduce littering, and improve waste management efficiency. By consolidating recyclable materials into one bin, we can enhance recycling

practices, promote environmental sustainability, and create a more organized and effective recycling program for the benefit of all residents. A review should take place before the new year if possible.”

4. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR A. CHAMBERS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BELL

““Councillor Hilton highlighted that he had previously raised concerns that the changes to the Council Procedure Rule 12 (Questions by Members) would place significant pressure on officers. He confirmed that he would not oppose the proposed changes and that he would support rotating the order of Members’ Questions, but it was only right that Group Leaders were advised of the revised order beforehand. Councillor Hilton expressed the view that it was a shame that the Cabinet had abandoned questions without notice, and that any future Lib Dem administration will reinstate this facility.”

Gloucester City Council to agree a motion to take to General Purposes Committee the proposal to reinstate the practice of allowing off-the-cuff questions during council meetings, as opposed to pre-written questions. This move is aimed at promoting a more dynamic and democratic process by enabling real-time engagement and spontaneity in discussions. The motion is part of broader efforts by the council to enhance transparency and public participation in local debate and politics.

It will also free up city councillor officers time and allow them to concentrate on their duties. General Purposes can therefore look to vote in the constitutional changes, which if successful will enable this original council procedure to be reinstated.”

5. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR A. CHAMBERS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR O’DONNELL

“Gloucester Naas Lane Farm site known as Kingsway now, was requisitioned for the location of the new National Filling Factory Number Five by way of land acquired by compulsory purchase.

The site was first occupied in 1914. It closed as an independent RAF unit on 13 February 1995.

As of 1915 part of the site was the No 5 National Filling Factory which supplied ammunition during the First World War. At one point 6364 people, the majority, mainly women, were employed at the site.

The factory produced over 10.5 million 14" and 16" shells, 7 million cartridges and 23 million fuses and other components. The site also included a horse convalescence unit.

The workforce, predominantly women filled millions of shells and cartridges at the factory before operations ceased when the armistice with Germany was signed in November 1918.

The women workers were known locally as canaries, because many suffered toxic jaundice caused by the phosphorous used in manufacture. This turned their skin yellow and caused the premature death of untold numbers.

The buildings were demolished between 1924 and 1926.

This motion is to investigate the financial viability of a proposed statue. To realise funding through external bodies such as the National Lottery, Arts Council and other grant facilities so that costs are not a burden of the Gloucester Tax Payer. The financial statue investigation report will be provided to City Council Cabinet showing what estimated costs would be as well as what grants were available to erect an statue to commemorate the 6364 people, mainly women, who were employed at the site and subsequently lost their lives as a result of protecting Great Britain during the Great War WW1.

The Gloucester Canaries as they were known locally because many suffered toxic jaundice from their work with phosphorous used in the shells manufacture. The Phosphorous toxic jaundice turned the workers skin a yellow colour, hence the name canaries.

This statue initiative aims to honor both the historical significance of the contributions of the Gloucester Canaries in the manufacturing of arms to protect our country as well as the vast amount of lives lost locally in our city, where the canaries gave the biggest sacrifice possible to protect our lands.

The statue will symbolise the city's rich aviation heritage, particularly its connection to the Gloucester Aircraft Company, which played a crucial role in the development of military aircraft. The Gloucester Canaries were instrumental in this effort, working in the factories and contributing to the production of ammunition's during world war 1 and then later the women of Gloucester worked in local factories producing aircraft components that were vital during World War II.

The motion reflects Gloucester's ongoing commitment to preserving and celebrating its historical ties to aviation and the armed forces as well as recognising the ultimate historical sacrifices the people in our great city gave.

The statue will be designed by way of a Gloucester City Council design competition, only Gloucester City Council residents of our city can apply. The design competition would be opened on September 11th 2024 (giving approx 60 days notice for the council to prepare).

The closing date of the design competition will be on the morning of the 11th of November 2024 when the city councillors will meet later that day to chose and vote on the winning design. Regardless if funding is approved under cabinet, a statue competition and design process in the City can still proceed under this motion which will create historical awareness of the canaries as well as encouraging art and community involvement in our city focusing on our local history and art.

The winning chosen design would then be made available for viewing by the public and to local artists who live within the boundaries of Gloucester City council. The local artists would then bid to undertake the art commission work should cabinet approve and appropriate funding is sought.

The winning erection commission would be based on best value for Gloucester City residents as well as portfolio work and references subject to the artist living within our city.

Financial funding can be sought with the Arts Council, National Lottery funding & County Council levelling up funding, as well as many other funders available to help ensure that the cost is not a burden on the city residents.”

6. PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR GRAVELLS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR S. CHAMBERS

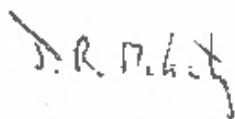
“At present, 150,000 members of the Armed Forces community receive compensation awarded by the UK Government for support with the ongoing costs of an illness or injury acquired in Service.

This Council believes that these payments should not be treated as income in benefits means tests, and notes that local authorities are not mandated to exempt military compensation.

Civilian compensation awards are usually exempt, whereas military compensation is considered as income, and some of the poorest members of the Armed Forces community are denied the support which their civilian counterparts receive.

This Council therefore agrees to ask Cabinet to consider amending its Council Tax Support Scheme so that compensation awarded to members of the Armed Forces is disregarded when calculating Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support / Reduction, Discretionary Housing Payments and Disabled Facilities Grants so that our Forces personnel and veterans are dealt with in the same way as civilians are when it comes to compensation for support with the ongoing costs of an illness or injury acquired in Service.”

Yours sincerely



Jon McGinty
Managing Director

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NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

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

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

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

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

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

Access to Information

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

For enquiries about Gloucester City Council’s meetings please contact Democratic Services, 01452 396126, democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk.

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

Recording of meetings

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

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

FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

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

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