



COUNCIL

MEETING : Thursday, 28th September 2017

PRESENT : Cllrs. Morgan (Mayor), Toleman (Sheriff & Deputy Mayor), James, Watkins, Cook, Noakes, D. Norman, Organ, Pullen, Hilton, Gravells, Tracey, Stephens, Lugg, Lewis, Bhaimia, D. Brown, Dee, Taylor, Hansdot, Patel, Hampson, H. Norman, Brazil, J. Brown, Fearn, Finnegan, Hyman, Melvin, Ryall, Smith and Walford

Others in Attendance

Jon McGinty, Managing Director
Jonathan Lund, Corporate Director
Anne Brinkhoff, Corporate Director
Anthony Hodge, Head of Place
Tanya Davies, Policy and Governance Manager
Atika Tarajiya, Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. Hanman, Wilson, Haigh, Williams, Pearsall, Coole and Hawthorne

24. MINUTES

24.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the last meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to a correction of typographical error in paragraph 18.10.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

25.1 There were no declarations of interest.

26. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

26.1 Mr Brookes, a resident of Birchmore Road, Gloucester, addressing the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, stated that by approving the Property Investment Strategy, the Council were exposing themselves to considerable risk. He went on further to express disappointment that the Council were able to undertake borrowing to generate revenue but could not do so to deliver affordable housing schemes. He concluded by requesting the Cabinet Member to petition the City's MP to request Government to increase funding for local authorities.

26.2 Councillor D. Norman (Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources) thanked Mr Brookes for attending the Council meeting. He explained that decisions would

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only be undertaken following appropriate due diligence, noting that any borrowing would be regulated by the prudential borrowing rules. He noted that the primary focus would be the City, but if advantageous the Council would consider investing in other locations. He explained that housing had been included as a potential sector for investment. He reporting that Members of the Administration met regularly with the City's MP and would be asking Mr Richard Graham MP to arrange a meeting with a Local Government Minister in advance of the funding settlement to discuss the grant the Council received. He confirmed that Mr Brookes would be supplied with a written response to his question.

- 26.3 Mr Gower, a resident of Wellington Road, Gloucester, thanked Members for the opportunity of addressing the Council. He queried whether the providers of the Gloucestershire Entrenched Homeless Social Impact Bond (SIB) were working towards the good practice template as published on the Council's website. He went on further to question whether there was an independent organisation responsible for monitoring and reviewing the provider of the service and to whom complaints could be made. He requested that responses to his queries be provided in writing.
- 26.4 Councillor Organ (Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning) confirmed that Mr Gower would be provided with a written response to his questions.

27. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

- 27.1 There were no petitions or deputations.

28. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor

- 28.1 The Mayor announced that Councillor Pearsall had recently given birth to baby girl and offered his congratulations on behalf on the Council.
- 28.2 The Mayor announced that the Democratic and Electoral Services Team Leader would be leaving the Council in early November. He wished her luck with her new role at Gloucestershire County Council.
- 28.3 The Mayor welcomed the success of the City's Summer events programme, including the Gloucester Carnival, Gloucester Day, Gloucester Goes Retro and History Festival celebrations and thanked all those involved in these events.
- 28.4 The Mayor announced that his sponsored Litter Pick of Robinswood Hill had raised £600 so far and encouraged contributions from those who had not yet donated.
- 28.5 The Mayor announced that he was inviting Members to nominate inspirational young people to receive the Chris Witts Young People Award. He noted that nominations would need to be received prior to the Christmas break.

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Leader of the Council

- 28.6 Councillor James (Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy) offered his congratulations to Councillor Hawthorne on the birth of his son.

29. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

- 29.1 Councillor Pullen (Leader of the Labour Group) reported that following the Together Gloucester organisational restructure, he had been advised by officers that reduction in resources meant that they could no longer identify or resolve the fly tipping issues that he had reported in his ward. He queried what services would no longer be delivered as a result of the restructure.
- 29.2 Councillor Cook (Cabinet Member for Environment) assured Members that there were no proposals to reduce fly tipping prevention work.
- 29.3 Councillor D. Norman expressed his disappointment at the information provided to Councillor Pullen and confirmed that the Council would continue to fulfil its statutory responsibilities.
- 29.4 In response to Councillor Pullen's question regarding digital transformation, in light of the fact that many existing digital services were not fit for purpose, Councillor D. Norman explained that the Together Gloucester project had highlighted the organisation's investment needs. He acknowledged the telephony and IT systems had been under resourced in the past, and advised that the current administration were looking to invest in this area. He noted that this was a long term project that would be delivered through ongoing income generation.
- 29.5 In response to Councillor Hilton's (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) question about why the Administration were attempting to pursue Royal City Status, when only towns and boroughs had been awarded a similar status in the past, Councillor James advised that a working group had been set up on the suggestion of Councillor Hilton, who had also supported public consultation on the matter. He explained that the Council would look to evaluate the results of the consultation before taking any further action.
- 29.6 In response to Councillor Hilton's question regarding the future of the murals at the former British Homes Stores site, Councillor James confirmed that following pre-application discussions with the developers, it was likely that they would want the murals relocated in order to increase the shop frontage. He assured Members that an appropriate relocation site would be found.
- 29.7 In response to Councillor Stephens' question regarding the enforcement powers delegated to the City Centre Wardens, Councillor Watkins (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods) explained that the wardens would have an ambassadorial role in the City Centre in addition to statutory enforcement powers.
- 29.8 In response to Councillor Stephens' question of how these posts would be managed and performance monitored to ensure value for money, given that they would be

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employed by the Business Improvement District, Councillor Watkins advised that the city council had an important role to play in oversight of these roles and advised that she would provide the Councillor with more specific details following the meeting.

- 29.9 Councillor Hampson asked what action was being taken to address the issue with the increasing number of individuals and in particular families being made homeless and the lack of inadequate emergency accommodation available to house them. Councillor Organ advised that the Council were actively undertaking preventive work to reduce the number of households actually becoming homeless. He acknowledged that this was a complex issued with no easy solution and welcomed support from the private rented sector in this regard.
- 29.30 In response to a question from Councillor Ryall whether the administration was confident that City's day and night time economy provided a safe environment to all the new students to the City, Councillor James assured Members that he was confident in this regard and welcomed the new purpose built student accommodation being developed to further improve the facilities on offer.
- 29.31 Councillor D. Brown questioned whether the Council's commitment to processing garden waste renewal request within two week had been met. Councillor Cook acknowledged that there had been some delays which were being dealt with, but was not aware of any further processing issues. He assured Members that all residents who had not been issued with a replacement badge in time could continue to use their existing badge without any disruption to their collections.
- 29.32 In response to Councillor Tracey's question regarding what action was being taken to remedy the issues caused by students parking in the residential streets in and around the City Centre, Councillor James acknowledged that this was a difficult and contentious issue with no easy solution. He welcomed improved transport links and noted subsidised travel offered to students to persuade them to use alternative forms of transport to and from places of study.
- 29.33 In response to Councillor Melvin's question why housing benefit was not paid directly to landlords in a bid to improve landlord and tenant relationships and offer more security to private sector landlords, Councillor Organ advised that law gave individuals the right to manage their own finances and acknowledged that unfortunately sometimes this was not managed appropriately. He reported that in such cases the Council had the discretion to pay the landlord directly in a bid to prevent the individual or family from becoming homeless.

30. COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2020

- 30.1 Council considered the report of the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources concerning approval of the Council Plan 2017-20.
- 30.2 Councillor James reported the plan had been presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, who had given some constructive feedback. He noted that the consultation feedback had been a strong endorsement of the Council's approach and went on further to explain that further detail would be provided through the service planning process and thanked officers for their work.

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- 30.3 Councillor Hilton referring to specific points within the plan, queried what action was being taken to progress the working Air Quality working group between the City and County Councils. He welcomed the addition of the community builder within the Kingsholm Ward and requested that ward councillors be briefed on the work they would be undertaking. He went on further to state that there was a lack of commitment to building affordable housing noting that this had been picked up in the consultation responses. He concluded by reporting that the Plan failed to make clear the ambition regarding Council Offices in the Kings Quarter Development or the commitment to Gloucester City Football Club regarding a new sporting ground.
- 30.4 Councillor Pullen welcomed the plan, expressing concern that the Council did not have the resources to achieve objectives laid out within it. Noting the lack of performance measures, he questioned when these would be available in order to gauge the measure of success against the commitment in the plan.
- 30.5 Councillor Stephens concurring with Councillor Pullen's comments noted that the lack of a performance framework had been raised by the external auditors as an urgent action. He reported that he had asked for an update on this work at the November Audit and Governance Meeting.

He went on further to state that whilst a community builder in Kingsholm was a welcome addition, other areas of the City continued to remain neglected, acknowledging that the Moreland ward would benefit greatly from a community builder post. Referencing Members' comments regarding the lack of social homes he suggested that the Council work with Gloucester City Homes and other providers to promote new developments.

- 30.6 Councillor D. Norman explained that a new corporate management framework, encompassing the performance indicators and service specific objectives was currently being developed. He noted that this was a live document and would continue to be updated as objectives progressed. He concluded by thanking the Policy and Governance Manager for her hard work in developing the plan.
- 30.7 Councillor James welcomed the comments from Members and advised that specific queries would be addressed by the relevant Cabinet Member. He advised that the provision for office accommodation within the Kings Quarter Development would be influenced by the results of discussions with colleagues at Gloucestershire County Council and went on further to explain that whilst the Council were assisting Gloucester City Football Club with preparing a planning application, the Council were not in a position to be delivering a new venue on their behalf. He acknowledged the comments regarding the performance management framework and reported that the Managing Director had been tasked with developing a performance management dashboard to analyse the Council's performance.
- 30.8 **RESOLVED** - that the draft Council Plan 2017-20 be approved.

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31. GLOUCESTER PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

- 31.1 Council considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy seeking agreement to allow the Gloucester Public Realm Strategy to be adopted by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document.
- 31.2 Councillor James highlighted the key areas of the report, noting that developments to Orchard Square and Project Pilgrim were already in progress and were looking to move head with the Kings Quarter Development.
- 31.3 Councillor Hilton pointed Members attention to a typographical error on page 96 of the agenda pack. He welcomed a discussion on the public art strategy acknowledging that funding for such work was difficult to obtain and that the strategy should be reviewed.
- 31.4 Councillor Pullen congratulated Officers on the excellent detail contained within the report, noting that the existing strategy was outdated.
- 31.5 **RESOLVED** - that the Gloucester Public Realm Strategy be approved for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document.

32. GLOUCESTER LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

- 32.1 Council considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning seeking approval for the City Council's Cabinet to update the Gloucester Local Development Scheme.
- 32.2 **RESOLVED** - that the update to the Gloucester Local Development Scheme in respect of the timetabling of both the Joint Core Strategy and the Gloucester City Plan to reflect their progression be approved.

33. APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

- 33.1 Council considered the report of the Corporate Director seeking approval for the appointment of a new Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).
- 33.2 Councillor Pullen noting the lack of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) representation, welcomed a diverse panel that reflected the diverse community of the City.
- 33.2 **RESOLVED** - that the following be appointed to the Independent Remuneration Panel for a period of three years:

Mrs Wynn Bartlett
Mr Stewart Dove
Mr Peter Jones
Mr John Smith.

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34. NOTICES OF MOTION

(1) Notice of Motion from the Liberal Democrat Group

34.1 Proposed by Councillor Hilton and seconded by Councillor Wilson:

“This council agrees that one of its key objectives should be to oversee the regeneration of vacant and derelict sites within the council's administrative area.

Council notes that it has a list of 36 regeneration sites on its 'regeneration hit list'.

Council calls on the cabinet member for regeneration to prepare a report to refresh the hit list.

The cabinet member should seek advice from councillors on which sites should be included in the new regeneration hit list.

Finally, council requests that the new regeneration hit list include a cabinet approved action plan for each site, which can be monitored using the traffic light system.”

34.2 Councillor James moved the following amendment and was seconded by Councillor Organ:

“This council ~~agrees~~ **notes** that one of its key objectives **within the Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy** ~~should is be to oversee~~ **encourage** the regeneration of vacant and derelict sites within the council's administrative area.

Council notes that it has a list of regeneration sites on its 'regeneration hitlist'.

~~Council calls on the cabinet member for regeneration to prepare a report to refresh the hit list~~ **notes that the hitlist is regularly refreshed in consultation with the Regeneration Advisory Board and notes that councillors are also welcome to submit sites and buildings for consideration.**

~~The cabinet member should seek advice from councillors on which sites should be included in the new regeneration hit list.~~

~~Finally, council requests that the new regeneration hit list include a cabinet approved action plan for each site, which can be~~ **is** monitored using the traffic light system.”

34.3 Councillor Hilton accepted the amendment.

34.4 The following motion, as amended, was put to the vote and was carried:

“This council notes that one of its key objectives within the Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy is to encourage the regeneration of vacant and derelict sites within the council's administrative area.

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Council notes that it has a list of regeneration sites on its 'regeneration hit list'.

Council notes that the hitlist is regularly refreshed in consultation with the Regeneration Advisory Board and notes that councillors are also welcome to submit sites and buildings for consideration.

Finally, council requests that the regeneration hit list is monitored using the traffic light system.”

(2) Notice of Motion from the Liberal Democrat Group

34.5 Proposed by Councillor Hyman and seconded by Councillor Brazil:

“This Council requests the Cabinet Member for the Environment to advise Members if its contractor is able to cope with all of its contractual responsibilities - these being general waste collection, green waste collection, recycling collection and cutting grass verges and overgrown vegetation.

The cabinet member is also requested to advise Council of any current failures in these contractual arrangements and what action is being taken to address them.

This Council requires that all waste collections and recycling are carried out at the scheduled times and instructs the Managing Director to ensure this is made clear to the contractor.”

34.6 The motion was put to the vote and was lost.

(3) Notice of Motion from the Liberal Democrat Group

34.7 Proposed by Councillor Fearn and seconded by Councillor Stephens:

“This council resolves to protect the museum collection currently housed in Gloucester Life Museum. Whilst it is acknowledged that the building in Westgate Street is in urgent need of restoration, council agrees that the collection is also a vital aspect of Gloucester’s cultural offering and should be retained as a separate, distinct museum.

Council acknowledges that Gloucester has a proud heritage, and agrees that the contributions of ordinary working people should continue to be celebrated through this collection.”

34.8 Councillor Noakes (Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure) moved the following amendment and was seconded by Councillor James:

“This council resolves to protect the museum collection currently housed in Gloucester Life Museum. Whilst it is acknowledged that the building in Westgate Street is in urgent need of restoration, council agrees that the collection is also a vital aspect of Gloucester’s cultural offering ~~and should be retained as a separate, distinct museum.~~

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Council acknowledges that Gloucester has a proud heritage, and agrees that the contributions of ~~ordinary working people~~ **all sections of society** should continue to be celebrated through this collection.”

34.9 Councillor Fearn did not accept the amendment.

34.10 The amendment was put to the vote and was carried.

34.11 The following motion, as amended, was put to the vote and was carried:

“This council resolves to protect the museum collection currently housed in Gloucester Life Museum. Whilst it is acknowledged that the building in Westgate Street is in urgent need of restoration, council agrees that the collection is also a vital aspect of Gloucester’s cultural offering.

Council acknowledges that Gloucester has a proud heritage, and agrees that the contributions of all sections of society should continue to be celebrated through this collection.”

(4) Notice of Motion from the Liberal Democrat Group

34.12 Proposed by Councillor D. Brown and seconded by Councillor Hilton:

“This council notes the decision of the publishers of the Gloucester Citizen newspaper to move it from a daily publication to a weekly publication.

This council thanks the journalists both past and present who have reported on the news and events in and around Gloucester over the decades.

This council records its best wishes to the editor and her staff in producing the new weekly edition of the Gloucester Citizen from the 12th of October.”

34.13 The motion was put to the vote and was carried.

35. WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

35.1 **RESOLVED** - that the written questions submitted and corresponding responses be noted.

Time of commencement: 7.00 pm hours

Time of conclusion: 9.45 pm hours

Chair