



COUNCIL

MEETING : Thursday, 22nd March 2018

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

Others in Attendance

Managing Director
Corporate Director (Service Transformation)
Corporate Director (Partnership Working)
Head of Communities
Accountancy Manager
Policy and Governance Manager
Democratic and Electoral Services Team Leader

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. D. Norman, Lugg, Fearn and Hawthorne

1. MINUTES

1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 Councillor Jennie Watkins (Deputy Leader of the Council) declared an interest in agenda item 13 (motion 3) by virtue of her being employed by the Member of Parliament.

3. CALL OVER

3.1 The Mayor invited Members to indicate whether they wished to reserve agenda items 10, 11 and 12 for discussion. Members indicated that they wished to discuss items 11 and 12. As such, the Mayor invited the Leader of the Council to move the recommendations in respect of agenda item 10.

**COUNCIL
22.03.18**

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

- 4.1 A Gloucester resident asked the following question of Councillor James (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy): -

Given there are a number of issues such as homelessness that need addressing in Gloucester, is it appropriate that such considerable sums are spent on a new bus station and developing the rail station?

- 4.2 Councillor James stated that he was pleased that the Council, with the unanimous support of Members, had secured £3.75m funding to improve the environment around Gloucester Railway Station. He advised that £6.4m for the new bus station had been funded through a government grant with the Council funding the remainder. He further advised that both these funding packages were made up of funds which were not available to be allocated to housing. He noted that these works were major infrastructure projects to improve the connectivity of the City. Councillor James stated that tackling homelessness was a key priority for the Council and that a report would go to Cabinet on the Council's strategies for the provision of temporary and emergency accommodation and the delivery of affordable housing.

- 4.3 The same resident enquired as to whether there was a document which provided a breakdown of the financing of these projects. Councillor James stated that there was and it would be provided.

- 4.4 Another resident of Gloucester asked the following question of Councillor Organ (Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning): -

A local mother of four young children had left her partner and home and was forced to take up emergency accommodation in Bristol as no refuge accommodation was available in Gloucester.

She returned to Gloucester to stay at her mother's three-bedroomed property with her children so they could attend their school. She sleeps on the sofa. When explaining the impact of this on her children, their head teacher stated that they were aware of around ten families in similar circumstances.

Could the Council confirm how many families in Gloucester are homeless, of no fixed abode or in temporary accommodation?

How far away are they being housed while accommodation is sourced?

What are the waiting times for homeless families to be rehoused?

- 4.5 Councillor Organ thanked the member of the public for bringing the case to his attention and stated that he would provide a written response. He advised that homelessness was a priority for the City Council and, having listened to a number of views, there was no single solution to such a problem. He stated many had complex needs and it was necessary to tackle each problem individually. Councillor Organ further stated that the Council

COUNCIL
22.03.18

was making good progress in providing more accommodation with other support services.

5. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

5.1 There were no petitions or deputations.

6. PETITION FOR COUNCIL DEBATE

6.1 Council considered the following petition which had been signed by 1,146 people:

“We the undersigned ask that Gloucester City Council:

a) Scrap Public Space Protection Orders in Gloucester and instead, use the money being invested into this scheme to provide more overnight shelters and accommodation for street homeless.

b) Fulfil your legal duty under the 2010 Equality Act to complete a proper (EIA) Equality Impact Assessment and present this to the public before the public consultation ends and if not presented before the PSPO's are introduced or in good time, then you must extend the public consultation period to give the public adequate time to respond.”

6.2 In the absence of the lead petitioner, Council debated the petition.

6.3 Councillor Jennie Watkins (Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods) thanked the petitioner for raising the issue and stated that she appreciated the motive behind it. She outlined that the consultation was live, that it would close on 4th April 2018 and to accept the petition would deny the consultation due process. Councillor Watkins stated that assurances had previously been given that any PSPO would not include homeless people.

6.4 With regard to the EIA referred to in the petition, Councillor Watkins stated that carrying out such an exercise would prejudice the outcome of the consultation and gave an assurance that, if the PSPO proposal was adopted, a full impact assessment would be conducted. She further advised that homelessness would not be solved simply through housing and that many had complex, multiple needs.

6.5 Councillor Hilton indicated that the Liberal Democrats Group would vote to reject the petition. He stated that he was in favour of considering PSPOs and that there were problems in his ward in relation to street drinking and anti-social behaviour. He further stated that a PSPO should be able to help this and he thanked the Cabinet Member for including London Road in the proposal. Councillor Hilton shared his view that the petition was part of the consultation as were other views.

COUNCIL
22.03.18

- 6.6 Councillor Pullen thanked the petitioner for contributing to the debate on the proposed PSPOs. He stated that the Labour Group recognised that PSPOs could help combat Anti-Social Behaviour and make people feel safe. He continued that he wanted everyone to enjoy the City and that the criteria was sensible.
- 6.7 Councillor Pullen had some concern with the proposals and highlighted the concern around homeless people. He recognised that assurances had been given previously but shared his view that he wanted these assurances to be explicitly expressed in the order if PSPOs were to be introduced. He stated that he would continue to support the homeless but could not support the petition.
- 6.8 Councillor Patel brought to Members' attention that a similar scheme (DPPOs) had been introduced previously to combat issues around street drinking and that this had been successful.
- 6.9 Councillor Stephens thanked the Mayor for his discretion and stated his hope that the Cabinet would take on board the concerns that lay behind the petition. He stated that, in some parts of the country, PSPOs had targeted homeless people and that, in other places, they had helped the community. He informed Members that he wanted to see definitive wording that it would not target the homeless included in the PSPO.
- 6.10 Councillor Watkins stated that she was pleased with the debate and that the 1,146 people's views were as relevant as any other residents. She recognised that in some areas, PSPOs had been implemented poorly and she did not want Gloucester to be an example of poor implementation. Councillor Watkins concluded by stating that the Council listens to such consultations as it did over the proposed late-night levy and would continue to do so.
- 6.11 **RESOLVED that** the petition be declined.

7. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

- 7.1 Councillor Pullen (Leader of the Labour Group) stated that he had previously written to Councillor Organ about the Discretionary Housing Payment underspend. He stated that an underspend of over £170k was surprising and asked if the Cabinet Member agreed that this was not acceptable.
- 7.2 Councillor Organ advised that compared to the year 2016/17, the Councillor had awarded more of its allocation and that applications would continue to be received until 30th April 2018. He further advised that there was now a greater focus on making the awards.
- 7.3 Councillor Pullen stated that Councillor Organ did previously say that the scheme would be promoted. With regard to this, he asked if an assurance could be given that the post of a benefits advice worker would be filled soon. Councillor Organ advised that the post was to be filled imminently.

COUNCIL
22.03.18

- 7.4 Councillor Pullen brought to the Council's attention that the Culture and Leisure portfolio had seen overspend increase of £55k in the most recent quarter. He asked whether this was due to the portfolio not being managed effectively, unrealistic income targets or some other matter.
- 7.5 Councillor Noakes (Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure) stated that there were numerous reasons for this. She advised that the portfolio had reduced its savings target and that one reason for the overspend was staffing costs which had increased by £100k. She further advised that a proportion of these staff costs were associated with matters outside her portfolio such as museums and markets.
- 7.6 Councillor Pullen quote from the report that, 'income from food and drink had been challenging' and noted that short-staffing would mean not serving food at the City's venues. He queried whether the portfolio as a whole would be on budget.
- 7.7 Councillor Noakes responded by stating that she could not absolutely guarantee it would be on budget but advised the position would improve going forward.
- 7.8 Councillor Hilton asked of Councillor Cook (Cabinet Member for Environment) when Members would be consulted about which areas would be seeing the removal of the deep clean service. He stated it would be right to consult.
- 7.9 Councillor Cook advised that the way AMEY operated would be changing. He further advised that all streets would get a deep clean but in tandem with improved grounds maintenance service generally.
- 7.10 Councillor Hilton stated that four wards (Moreland, Westgate, Kingsholm and Barton and Tredworth) would see the removal of a deep clean and stated that some areas within these wards were impossible to clean without removing vehicles. He asked whether the Cabinet Member would meet to discuss how cleaning would be improved. Councillor Cook advised that officers had recently met with Members to discuss how street cleaning could be improved in the City.
- 7.11 Councillor Hilton asked Councillor James (Leader of the Council) whether he would prefer public and private money to be invested in Gloucester, Cheltenham or Bristol. Councillor James stated that investment would continue in the City of Gloucester.
- 7.12 Councillor Hilton asked whether Councillor James agreed that all monies from the Property Investment Fund should be invested in Gloucester. In response, Councillor James stated that he did agree but that the Council could invest outside its administrative area where it would benefit Gloucester's economy.
- 7.13 Councillor Wilson noted the cancelled waste collections due to the poor weather – a decision he believed to be correct. He further noted that there

COUNCIL
22.03.18

had been no 'catch up' with regard to collections and asked Councillor Cook if this was the best the Council could do.

- 7.14 Councillor Cook stated that AMEY did not have reserve vehicles or staff and sourcing these took considerable time. He further stated that it would be wrong to prepare for a 'what if' scenario. Councillor Cook advised that he had met with AMEY and that they would produce figures with regard to whether it would be worth spending money on contingency vehicles and staff.
- 7.15 Councillor J. Brown noted that some other local authorities had the option for residents to put their postcode into the Council website to check when waste and recycling would be collected. She enquired as to whether this could be done for Gloucester and if it could be attended to as a matter of urgency. Councillor James advised that the relevant information was with the Council IT department and was ready to be uploaded.
- 7.16 Councillor Coole asked Councillor Organ (Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning) how much support would be offered to Gloucester City Homes for the proposed Matson and Podsmead regeneration project. Councillor Organ stated that it was a very big project and that it was at the consultancy stage. He advised that through the Joint Core Strategy, the Council would be supporting Gloucester City Homes in whatever way it could.
- 7.17 Councillor Watkins stated that a vision statement outlined a commitment to Gloucester City Homes. She further stated that social regeneration was very much part of the project and would include transport, housing and community engagement. She advised that Gloucester City Homes would be present at the next relevant meeting.
- 7.18 Councillor Coole brought to Council's attention that four in ten of all homes in Matson were available for social rent and asked whether, after regeneration of the area, residents would be guaranteed a tenancy on the same terms. Councillor Organ advised that whilst this was desirable, it was too early to make this commitment.
- 7.19 Councillor Haigh asked whether it was Councillor Watkins' view that the vision statement should be shared with Members. Councillor Watkins advised that it was a public document that it would be circulated and that she would be happy to discuss the matter with ward Members.
- 7.20 Councillor D. Brown stated that he had attended a Streetcare briefing and that he did not recall a consensus on changes to the service. He stated that there was a level of confusion in relation to length men and the City. Councillor Cook stated that such a matter would be resolved when partner organisations had their respective proposals in place.
- 7.21 By way of questions to Chairs, Councillor Melvin enquired as to whether there was an update on the work the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had undertaken in relation to the implementation of the Universal Credit rollout. Councillor Coole (Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee) advised

COUNCIL
22.03.18

that a report had been produced which had been circulated to Cabinet. He further advised that he had presented the report to a meeting of the South West Overview and Scrutiny Network and that it had been considered a good piece of scrutiny work.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS (10 MINUTES)

- 8.1 The Mayor made Members aware that he had presented the Young Person of Gloucester award to Maddy Pugh from Gloucestershire Young Carers. He advised that Maddy had been nominated by Councillor Hampson and was presented with a trophy and book vouchers.
- 8.2 The Mayor reminded Members that the Annual Civic Service (at which Dame Janet Trotter would be admitted as an honorary freewoman of the City) would take place on 29th April 2018 at 3pm at Gloucester Cathedral. He further reminded Members that tickets were still available for the Annual Charity Ball which would take place on 5th May 2018. He advised that Members should get in touch with Democratic Services should they wish to purchase tickets.

9. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2018/19

- 9.1 No Members had indicated that they wished to discuss this item.
- 9.2 **RESOLVED that: -**
- (1) The Treasury Management Strategy at Appendix 1 be approved;
 - (2) The authorised borrowing limit be approved at:-
 - a) 2018/19 £120m
 - b) 2019/20 £180m
 - c) 2020/21 £180m
 - (3) The prudential indicators set out in section two of the strategy be approved.

10. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2018-19

- 10.1 The Leader of the Council presented the report of the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources and explained that the Council had a duty to publish an annual pay policy statement. He stated that he would answer question that Members may have.
- 10.2 Councillor Haigh stated that while the Council did not meet the statutory test which would require it to publish its Gender Pay Gap, it would be advisable to do so. She further shared her view that the reference to the Living Wage was ambiguous and queried if this could be clarified.

COUNCIL
22.03.18

10.3 Councillor James stated that the Gender Pay Gap had been confirmed and clarified that the Living Wage was calculated at £8.75 per hour.

10.4 **RESOLVED that** the Pay Policy Statement for 2018/19 be approved.

11. PLANNING POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE

11.1 Councillor Williams, Chair of the General Purposes Committee, moved the proposal that:

- (1) The Planning Policy Sub-Committee is dissolved, and
- (2) The Head of Place be authorised, in liaison with Group Leaders and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, to set up a cross-party Planning Policy Member Liaison Group.

11.2 Councillor Williams outlined that the proposal was to improve efficiency while continuing community and democratic involvement in decision making. She highlighted that the government had placed responsibility on local planning to be timely and that a fine could be imposed for not acting in this manner.

11.3 Councillor Williams further noted that the proposal would mean a more collaborative approach with a better understanding of the more technical aspects of planning and that both Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Councils had done this to good effect.

11.4 Councillor Coole, seconded by Councillor Haigh, proposed the following amendment:

Council is asked to **RESOLVE** that:

- (1) The Planning Policy Sub-Committee is dissolved.
- ~~(2) The Head of Place be authorised, in liaison with Group Leaders and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, to set up a cross-party Planning Policy Member Liaison Group.~~

The Head of Place be authorised, in liaison with Group Leaders and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, to set up a formal cross-party Planning Policy Working Group, chaired by the Cabinet Member, with the power to make recommendations to Council on matters of planning policy.

11.5 Councillor Williams accepted the amendment.

11.6 **RESOLVED that:**

- (1) The Planning Policy Sub-Committee is dissolved, and

COUNCIL
22.03.18

- (2) The Head of Place be authorised, in liaison with Group Leaders and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, to set up a formal cross-party Planning Policy Working Group, chaired by the Cabinet Member, with the power to make recommendations to Council on matters of planning policy.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice of Motion from the Labour Group. (1)

- 12.1 Proposed by Councillor Hampson, seconded by Councillor Stephens that:

“Council is committed to the highest possible standards of openness, transparency and accountability in its decision taking processes and the delivery of public services.

Council believes that live streaming of Council meetings will be of benefit to residents, keep them informed of issues that affect their community and greatly enhance the accountability of decision taking.

The availability of recordings will make a significant contribution to enhancing accessibility to Council meetings for those who would have difficulty in attending in person. Reaching a broader audience will assist in educating members of the public regarding the purpose and operation of Council meetings.

The more we can engage with and involve members of the public in civic life the greater we enhance the process of local democracy.

Council therefore resolves to provide, as a matter of urgency, a starting date for live streaming of all Council meetings and proceedings.”

- 12.2 Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Watkins, proposed the following amendment:

“Council is committed to the highest possible standards of openness, transparency and accountability in its decision taking processes and the delivery of public services.

Council believes that live streaming of Council meetings will be of benefit to residents, keep them informed of issues that affect their community and greatly enhance the accountability of decision taking.

The availability of recordings will make a significant contribution to enhancing accessibility to Council meetings for those who would have difficulty in attending in person. Reaching a broader audience will assist in educating members of the public regarding the purpose and operation of Council meetings.

The more we can engage with and involve members of the public in civic life the greater we enhance the process of local democracy.

COUNCIL
22.03.18

Council notes that the cost of live streaming would be between £10-15,000 per year for which there is currently no budget provision and therefore resolves to provide, as a matter of urgency, a starting date for live streaming of all Council meetings and proceedings bring a report to Cabinet to consider the matter in the light of other pressures and priorities.”

12.3 Councillor Hampson and Stephens indicated that they would accept the amendment which became the substantive motion and was carried.

12.4 **RESOLVED that:**

“Council is committed to the highest possible standards of openness, transparency and accountability in its decision taking processes and the delivery of public services.

Council believes that live streaming of Council meetings will be of benefit to residents, keep them informed of issues that affect their community and greatly enhance the accountability of decision taking.

The availability of recordings will make a significant contribution to enhancing accessibility to Council meetings for those who would have difficulty in attending in person. Reaching a broader audience will assist in educating members of the public regarding the purpose and operation of Council meetings.

The more we can engage with and involve members of the public in civic life the greater we enhance the process of local democracy.

Council notes that the cost of live streaming would be between £10-15,000 per year for which there is currently no budget provision and therefore resolves to bring a report to Cabinet to consider the matter in the light of other pressures and priorities.”

Notice of Motion from the Labour Group.(2)

12.5 Councillor Haigh, seconded by Councillor Hansdot that:

“This Council notes that Workers' Memorial Day falls on 28th April this year. It is a nationally recognised day when we 'remember the dead and fight for the living'. The theme of this year's events is that unionised workplaces are safer workplaces and celebrates 40 years of health and safety reps.

This Council resolves to mark Workers Memorial Day 2018 by:

1. Holding a minute silence at Council offices on 27th April at 10am.
2. The Mayor and Sheriff and Members of the Council to be invited to attend a vigil and act of remembrance which local Trades Council may attend and bring their banners.

COUNCIL
22.03.18

3. Encouraging all staff to join an appropriate Trade Union and to take an active role, in particular by becoming health and safety representatives.
4. To ensure that TU Health and Safety Representatives have paid time off to undertake their duties.”

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

Notice of Motion from the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups

12.7 Proposed by Councillor Coole and seconded by Councillor Wilson that:

“Council Notes:

- That there is growing concern about the levels of Single Use Plastics (SUPs) in the UK.
- That in the UK, 7 million disposable coffee cups are used every day, totalling around 2.5 billion in a year.
- That less than 1% of the plastic coffee cups used every year are recycled.
- That only 1-2% of hot drink purchases in the UK are made by customers using a re-usable cup.
- That the overuse of SUPs has a detrimental impact on the environment.

Council Resolves:

- To write to both our members of Parliament and to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, urging them to consider legislation and regulations which will reduce the amount of single use plastic used by society.
- To pro-actively reduce the use of Single Use Plastic products at City Council run premises, including the Guildhall, Museums and at Council meetings.
- To work with our partners to reduce the unnecessary use of SUPs in the City.
- To investigate the possibility of offering a small discount to customers at City Council run premises who use their own re-usable cup for take-away drinks.
- To explore the feasibility of introducing a small levy on Single Use Plastic cups at City Council run premises.”

12.8 Councillor Cook, seconded by Councillor Noakes, proposed the following amendment:

“Council Notes:

- That there is growing concern about the levels of Single Use Plastics (SUPs) in the UK.
- That in the UK, 7 million disposable coffee cups are used every day, totalling around 2.5 billion in a year.

COUNCIL
22.03.18

- That less than 1% of the plastic coffee cups used every year are recycled.
- That only 1-2% of hot drink purchases in the UK are made by customers using a re-usable cup.
- That the overuse of SUPs has a detrimental impact on the environment.

Council Resolves:

- To write to both our Members of Parliament and to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, urging them to consider legislation and regulations which will reduce the amount of single use plastic used by society.
- To ~~pro-actively~~ **continue to** reduce the use of Single Use Plastic products at City Council run premises, including the Guildhall, Museums and at Council meetings **with the aim of eliminating it entirely by 2020 at the latest.**
- To work with our partners to reduce the unnecessary use of SUPs in the City.
- To investigate the possibility of offering a small discount to customers at City Council run premises who use their own re-usable cup for take-away drinks.
- ~~To explore the feasibility of introducing a small levy on Single Use Plastic cups at City Council run premises."~~

12.9 Councillor Coole and Councillor Wilson indicated that they would accept the amendment.

12.10 **RESOLVED that:**

"Council Notes:

- That there is growing concern about the levels of Single Use Plastics (SUPs) in the UK.
- That in the UK, 7 million disposable coffee cups are used every day, totalling around 2.5 billion in a year.
- That less than 1% of the plastic coffee cups used every year are recycled.
- That only 1-2% of hot drink purchases in the UK are made by customers using a re-usable cup.
- That the overuse of SUPs has a detrimental impact on the environment.

Council Resolves:

- To write to both our Members of Parliament and to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, urging them to consider legislation and regulations which will reduce the amount of single use plastic used by society.
- To continue to reduce the use of Single Use Plastic products at City Council run premises, including the Guildhall, Museums and at Council meetings with the aim of eliminating it entirely by 2020 at the latest.

COUNCIL
22.03.18

- To work with our partners to reduce the unnecessary use of SUPs in the City.
- To investigate the possibility of offering a small discount to customers at City Council run premises that use their own re-usable cup for take-away drinks.”

Notice of Motion from the Conservative Group

12.11 Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Watkins, proposed the following motion:

"The Council notes 1 in 4 people will experience a mental health problem in any given year.

The World Health Organisation predicts that depression will be the second most common health condition worldwide by 2020.

All Councillors can play a positive role in championing mental health.

Therefore Gloucester City Council resolves to sign the Local Authorities' Mental Health Challenge and to appoint an elected member as Mental Health Champion;

to support positive mental health in our community, including in local schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces;

to work to reduce inequalities in mental health in our community;

to tackle discrimination in the grounds of mental health in our community;

to proactively listen to people of all ages and backgrounds about what they need for better mental health."

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

12.13 **RESOLVED that:**

"The Council notes 1 in 4 people will experience a mental health problem in any given year.

The World Health Organisation predicts that depression will be the second most common health condition worldwide by 2020.

All Councillors can play a positive role in championing mental health.

Therefore Gloucester City Council resolves to sign the Local Authorities' Mental Health Challenge and to appoint an elected member as Mental Health Champion;

**COUNCIL
22.03.18**

to support positive mental health in our community, including in local schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces;

to work to reduce inequalities in mental health in our community;

to tackle discrimination in the grounds of mental health in our community;

to proactively listen to people of all ages and backgrounds about what they need for better mental health."

13. WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

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

Time of commencement: 6.45 pm hours

Time of conclusion: 9.40 pm hours

Chair