



COUNCIL

MEETING : Thursday, 11th July 2019

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

Others in Attendance

Jon McGinty, Managing Director
Jonathan Lund, Corporate Director
Anne Brinkhoff, Corporate Director
Sara Freckleton, One Legal
Ian Edwards
Tanya Davies, Policy and Governance Manager
Meyrick Brentnall, Environmental Planning Manager
Tony Wisdom, Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. Wilson and Derbyshire

11. BOSNIA

11.1 At the request of the Mayor those present stood in silence for one minute to mark the 24th anniversary of the genocide at Srebrenica, Bosnia.

12. MINUTES

12.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

13.1 No declarations were made on this occasion.

14. CALL OVER

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- 14.1 The Mayor invited Members to indicate whether they wished to reserve agenda items 9 and 10 for discussion. Members indicated that they wished to reserve item 9 for discussion.
- 14.2 Councillor James (Leader of the Council) moved and Councillor Watkins (Deputy Leader of the Council) seconded a motion that the Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee 2018/19 be approved.
- 14.3 **RESOLVED that the Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee 2018/19 be approved.**

15. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

- 15.1 Mr Rob Brooks, a resident of Gloucester, noted that climate change was the greatest threat to life in the whole history of mankind and asked why the Council did not take this catastrophe seriously and join in with the Forest of Dean and Stroud District Councils to work together, make a cross-party pact and make the whole of Gloucester, Stroud and the Forest of Dean zero carbon by 2030, not just the activities of Gloucester City Council.
- 15.2 Councillor Cook, Cabinet Member for Environment, replied that he did not wish to prejudice the motions later on the agenda but he assured Mr Brooks that the City Council did take climate change very seriously and were working with neighbouring authorities although he believed that it was for everybody in every country to take action.
- 15.3 Mr Michael Byfield, a resident of Gloucester, referred to the 2010 strategy for Climate Change adopted by the City Council and noted serious lapses and, in particular, there had been no communication with the public. He asked what activities did the Council believe would address the lack of understanding of the public.
- 15.4 Councillor Cook, Cabinet Member for Environment, stated that the 2010 strategy pre-dated his election to the Council in 2016. He would look into that strategy and in the meantime he would urge everyone to do what they could.
- 15.5 Mr Julian Horsfield, a Forest of Dean resident, asked if it would be possible for the Council to plant more trees in the city and encourage 'Gloucester in Bloom'.
- 15.6 Councillor Cook advised that he had been to tree plantings at least twelve occasions. He had also encouraged the sowing of wild flower seeds and letting grass grow longer where appropriate.
- 15.7 Mr Roger Mills, a Gloucester resident, asked if the Council had an audit trail for the disposal of plastic waste.

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- 15.8 Councillor Cook replied that the Council did have an audit trail for the disposal of plastic waste which the Council's contractors sent to Nottingham or Valencia. Mr Mills believed that it was not appropriate to send plastic waste to Spain as waste should be disposed of in the country where it originated.
- 15.9 Mr Sam Lacey asked if the Council would commit to ensuring that there was an annual net increase in the number of trees in the City and he suggested that the Council consider making use of the Government's Urban Trees Challenge Fund.
- 15.10 Councillor Cook agreed that trees were one of the best ways of mitigating climate change but noted that the Council had been unsuccessful in a previous round of bidding for funding.

16. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

- 16.1 There were no petitions or deputations.

17. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor

- 17.1 The Mayor reminded Members that Gloucester Carnival would be held on Saturday and the theme this year was myths and legends. He invited all Members to board the open-top bus at Westgate Car Park.
- 17.2 The Mayor announced that Gloucester Classic Retro would be held on Saturday 24th August. The attractions included a steam train from Birmingham hauled by the famous Great Western steam locomotive 'Clun Castle' which would remain in the sidings for steam enthusiasts. The event would raise funds for the Civic Charities which were Alzheimers Trust, the Multiple Schlerosis Therapy Centre and Gloucestershire Young Carers.
- 17.3 The Mayor announced that Tony Wisdom of the Democratic and Electoral Services team would be retiring. He thanked Tony for his service and wished him a happy retirement.

The Leader of the Council

- 17.4 Councillor James announced that the Council had gained the Innovation in Property and Asset Management award in the Municipal Journal Achievement Awards 2019. He had been grateful for the support of all parties.
- 17.5 Councillor James announced that work had started on site for the Kings Walk car park and he advised that it had been possible to locate the public toilets on the ground floor level.

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Members of the Cabinet

- 17.6 Councillor Gravells, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy, announced that the Moat Primary School Matson Summer Fayre would be held on 12th July and there would be a consultation on the Matson and Podsmead Estate Regeneration Supplementary Planning Documents. He asked local councilors to encourage local people to give their views to represent the views of the community.
- 17.7 Councillor Morgan, Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, drew Members' attention to the great range of events this summer including the Moon Exhibition, Summer of Music, Arts and Culture, the Three Choirs Festival and Beat the Street.
- 17.8 Councillor Morgan advised that the Gloucester Culture Trust had submitted a bid for £250,000 to the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to fund work with the Camden Roundhouse.
- 17.9 Councillor Cook, Cabinet Member for Environment, announced that he had instructed that £300,000 had been withheld from the payments to the Council's contractor, Amey. They had returned £40,000 to Gloucestershire County Council in respect of false claims for recycling. He noted that Members had asked about termination of the contract and advised that there were three routes for termination:-
- i. Duration – the current contract would run until 31st March 2022.
 - ii. Breach of contract – this could result in years in the courts.
 - iii. Mutual agreement – would require a huge payment for early termination of the contract.

He noted that Amey had admitted in writing that service had been affected by two no fault accidents involving recycling vehicles and nine members of staff on sick leave.

Chairs of Committees

- 17.10 Councillor Melvin, Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee congratulated Councillor Gravells on his appointment to the Cabinet. She also advised that she had asked Officers to set up a video link for meetings with external auditors, other than when documents needed to be signed, which would make savings and provide environmental benefits.

18. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

- 18.1 Councillor Stephens asked the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy if he could confirm that provision would be made for the continuation of independent advice for tenants in respect of the proposed regeneration of Podsmead and Matson estates and if so, for what length of time.

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Councillor Gravells undertook to provide a written response.

Councillor Stephens understood that the service was provided by the tenant participation service and funded by Gloucester City Homes which he believed would compromise the concept of independent advice.

Councillor Gravells stated that the transfer of the housing stock to Gloucester City Homes provided the greatest benefit to the people of the city including the write-off of millions of pounds of debt. He would arrange a meeting with GCH and the legal section next week.

- 18.2 Councillor Stephens stated that Councillors were being told at every meeting that Amey would meet all targets and he asked the Cabinet Member for Environment when he was going to do his job.

Councillor Cook responded that Councillor Stephens had not been listening to his earlier statement when he advised that a further £300,000 would be withheld from Amey.

Councillor Stephens stated that there was no evidence that withholding payment would solve the problem and he called for an urgent report to be presented to the Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to terminate the contract and bring the service back in-house.

- 18.3 Councillor Hilton asked the Leader of the Council what progress had been made with regard to 67-69 London Road following the decision made in May 2018.

Councillor James replied that he was in regular contact, new agents had been appointed and the Council was doing its best to keep the owners to their word.

Councillor Hilton noted that the motion had requested the Leader to acquire these properties and he asked why a Compulsory Purchase Order had not been made.

Councillor James replied that the owners needed to be realistic about the property values. He noted that new partners had been introduced without success and he noted that Compulsory Purchase Orders were lengthy and costly procedures with uncertain outcomes.

- 18.4 Councillor Hilton asked the Cabinet Member for Environment to give a broad indication of the payment required to achieve an early termination of the Amey contract. Councillor Cook stated that he could not discuss the figures in a public meeting.

Councillor Hilton noted that the Council had been trapped in a contract without a break clause for fifteen years and he asked Councillor Cook to confirm his previous statement that this was the worst contract he had ever seen.

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Councillor Cook agreed that this was the case but noted that the contract had been agreed and extended by all the parties in the Chamber.

- 18.5 Councillor Pullen stated that the brother of a resident had recently been fined £100 for spitting in the street by 3GS. He was a vulnerable adult with special needs living in supported accommodation and Councillor Pullen asked the Cabinet Member for environment if such people should be exempted.

Councillor Cook replied that he was not sure how 3GS staff could be expected to know the circumstances of every person in the City but he understood that an appeal had been received and would be looked at carefully.

Councillor Pullen stated that the 3GS website stated that there was no appeal on the penalty and non-payers would be taken to court.

Councillor Cook assured Councillor Pullen that there was an appeal process in place.

- 18.6 Councillor Hansdot asked the Cabinet Member for Environment why, for two weeks running, black and green bins and green boxes had not been collected in Barton and Tredworth and no litter had been collected.

Councillor Cook noted that he had previously stated that the contractor had nine staff off sick, of a total of 39, and it was a case of all hands to the pumps. He expected the service to have returned to normal by the end of Friday.

- 18.7 Councillor Coole asked the Leader of the Council why the public toilets at the Transport Hub were being closed at 5.30 pm.

Councillor James explained that it was a trial at the request of Stagecoach as incidents of anti-social behaviour had occurred.

- 18.8 Councillor Haigh noted that the Council paid high rents to place homeless people in bed and breakfast accommodation and she asked the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods if pressure could be brought to bear on landlords to ensure that satisfactory accommodation was provided.

Councillor Watkins responded that the Council worked with a wide range of providers, licensed HMOs and inspected premises. Any complaints were taken seriously and investigated. She stated that it was hoped to reduce the dependence on bed and breakfast accommodation and the 48 units being acquired would assist in this.

Councillor Haigh stated that she understood future initiatives but in the meantime vulnerable people were being placed in unsuitable accommodation and could the Cabinet Member ensure that such properties are inspected.

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Councillor Watkins stated that details of specific cases would be helpful.

- 18.9 Councillor Hampson asked the Cabinet Member for Environment if he could find out what happened to the waste sent to Valencia.

Councillor Cook undertook to ask Amey and Councillor Hampson asked for a written response to the next meeting.

19. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2018-19

- 19.1 Council considered the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2018-19.

- 19.2 Councillor Coole, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee stated that 2018-19 had been an excellent year for the committee and given the challenges facing the Council it was important to ensure that resources were spent in a responsible way. He noted that the Committee had a good relationship with the Administration

He outlined the work of the Committee during the year and stated that other local authorities had been impressed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in Gloucester City Council .

- 19.3 Councillor Ryall, Vice-Chair, echoed Councillor Coole's comments on the value of scrutiny and the relationship with the Administration.

- 19.4 Councillor Hawthorne (O&S Spokesperson) stated that Overview and Scrutiny Members had been businesslike, honest about what they thought, open-minded and left party politics out of Scrutiny. He thanked the Cabinet, Officers and visitors.

- 19.5 **RESOLVED that the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2018-19 be received.**

20. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 2018/19

- 20.1 **RESOLVED that the Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee be received.**

21. NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice of Motion from Councillor Stephens

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21.1 Councillor Stephens moved and Councillor Pullen seconded the following motion:-

“Council notes:

That the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world.

That the ‘Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C’, published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018, (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector.

That all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies;

That strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits;

and that, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions.

Council therefore commits to:

Declare a ‘Climate Emergency’ that requires urgent action.

Make the Council’s activities net-zero carbon by 2030

Achieve 100% clean energy across the Council’s full range of functions by 2030

Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030.

Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire area zero carbon within the same timescale;

Ensure that political and chief officer leadership teams embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council’s activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that the Executive and Scrutiny functions review council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline;

Request that Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies;

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Work with, influence and inspire partners across the district, county and region to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops;

Request that the Council and partners take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future;

Request that the Executive Portfolio holder with responsibility for Climate Change convenes a Citizens' Assembly in 2019 in order to involve the wider population in this process. This group would help develop their own role, identify how the Council's activities might be made net-zero carbon by 2030, consider the latest climate science and expert advice on solutions and to consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities;

Set up a Climate Change Partnership group, involving Councillors, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses, Citizens Assembly representatives and other relevant parties. Over the following 12 months, the Group will consider strategies and actions being developed by the Council and other partner organisations and develop a strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030. It will also recommend ways to maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy

Report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have, and review the Council's investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio;

Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle and investment strategy will take into account the actions the council will take to address this emergency;

Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise;

Consider other actions that could be implemented, including (but not restricted to): renewable energy generation and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure and encouraging alternatives to private car use, increasing the efficiency of buildings, in particular to address fuel poverty; proactively using local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice."

21.2 Councillor Cook moved and Councillor James seconded the following amendment:-

Delete all and replace with the following:

"This Council notes:

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1. That the impact of climate breakdown is already causing serious damage around the world.
2. That global temperatures have already increased by 1°C from pre-industrial levels and atmospheric CO2 far exceeds levels deemed to be safe for humanity.
3. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) "*Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C*", warns of the enormous harm that a rise in global temperatures of 2°C will do compared with a rise of 1.5°C and states that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities.
4. That global temperatures are on track to increase by over 1.5°C before 2050 and preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority.

This Council further notes that:

5. The UK is responsible for 1% of the world's CO2 emissions, and whilst UK emissions have reduced by more than any other developed country, global action is needed to ensure success.
6. New Zealand, France, Belgium, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden have all committed to zero carbon by 2050 as recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
7. The IPCC has also acknowledged the need to act urgently to reduce the amount of carbon emissions by 2030.
8. The UK Parliament has declared a climate emergency
9. Gloucestershire County Council has endorsed the Parliamentary declaration and appointed a Cabinet Member with climate change responsibilities.
10. A growing number of Local Authorities have also declared a climate emergency and begun to take bold action to address the issue, acknowledging that this can also have health, well-being and economic benefits.
11. Gloucester City Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment holds responsibility for action on climate change

This Council resolves to:

- a) Declare a Climate Emergency and recognise the urgency of the actions needed to tackle the issue
- b) Carry out a Carbon Audit to inform the development of a City Council action plan on climate change to strive to meet the following targets: -
 - 1) A net-zero city council carbon footprint by no later than 2030 (taking carbon off-setting into account)
 - 2) A carbon neutral city by 2050

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- c) Ensure that strategic plans, budgets, and decisions reflect these targets and that they are appropriately embedded in all areas of the Council's work.
- d) Task the Cabinet Member for the Environment to present an annual report to Council on performance in delivering the City's Action Plan on Climate Change.
- e) Task the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with considering the impact of climate change when scrutinising Council strategies, policies and plans, including scrutiny of the annual performance report on delivery of the City's action plan on Climate Change.
- f) Work with partners across the City and County to support the delivery of the City's action plan on climate change and contribute to the development and delivery of the equivalent plans of our partners.
- g) Lobby national government and local MPs to commit to 100% UK carbon neutrality by 2050 and provide additional powers and resources to deliver the 2030 and 2050 targets."

21.3 Councillor Hilton moved and Councillor Brazil seconded the following amendment:-

"Replace three references to 2050 with 2045"

21.4 The amendment was put to the vote and was lost.

21.5 The original amendment became the substantive motion and on being put to the vote was carried.

21.6 **RESOLVED** that this Council notes:

1. That the impact of climate breakdown is already causing serious damage around the world.
2. That global temperatures have already increased by 1°C from pre-industrial levels and atmospheric CO₂ far exceeds levels deemed to be safe for humanity.
3. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) "*Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C*", warns of the enormous harm that a rise in global temperatures of 2°C will do compared with a rise of 1.5°C and states that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities.
4. That global temperatures are on track to increase by over 1.5°C before 2050 and preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority.

This Council further notes that:

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- b) Carry out a Carbon Audit to inform the development of a City Council action plan on climate change to strive to meet the following targets: -
 - a. A net-zero city council carbon footprint by no later than 2030 (taking carbon off-setting into account)
 - b. A carbon neutral city by 2050
- c) Ensure that strategic plans, budgets, and decisions reflect these targets and that they are appropriately embedded in all areas of the Council's work.
- d) Task the Cabinet Member for the Environment to present an annual report to Council on performance in delivering the City's Action Plan on Climate Change.
- e) Task the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with considering the impact of climate change when scrutinising Council strategies, policies and plans, including scrutiny of the annual performance report on delivery of the City's action plan on Climate Change.
- f) Work with partners across the City and County to support the delivery of the City's action plan on climate change and contribute to the development and delivery of the equivalent plans of our partners.
- g) Lobby national government and local MPs to commit to 100% UK carbon neutrality by 2050 and provide additional powers and resources to deliver the 2030 and 2050 targets."

Notice of Motion from Councillor Hilton

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21.7 The notice of motion from Councillor Hilton was withdrawn.

Notice of Motion from Councillor Coole

21.7.1 Councillor Coole moved and Councillor Hyman seconded the following motion:-

This Council notes that:

Gloucester City Council is committed to equality and diversity, and creating a Gloucester community that is strong, safe and inclusive for everyone.

Across parties, we stand together to promote and celebrate diversity in our City, standing against intolerance and hate crime.

The Council continues to create positive opportunities to employ a workforce that's representative of the City's communities, and provide a safe and accessible work environment that values and respects each individual.

We will continue to work in partnership with the County Council to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to equality and diversity.

The Council plays a crucial role in promoting and fostering good relations within our communities and the relationship they have with the Council.

This Council resolves to:

Endorse the equalities action plan 2019-20 and the continued work of the Equalities working group.

Reaffirm our cross-party commitment to fostering diversity and promoting equality for all residents, Members and members of staff

Take action throughout the year to celebrate the City's diversity by:

- Having a programme of flag-flying and support for key awareness days
- Supporting our communities to celebrate what's important to them.

21.9 **RESOLVED that** this Council notes that:

Gloucester City Council is committed to equality and diversity, and creating a Gloucester community that is strong, safe and inclusive for everyone.

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- Supporting our communities to celebrate what's important to them.

22. WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

22.1 Question 3; Councillor Haigh noted that sanitary products were essential. Councillor Watkins stated that she had invited Councillor Haigh to a meeting to discuss a compromise.

22.2 Question 4; Councillor Hilton requested a list of areas in Kingsholm where litter was picked on a daily basis. Councillor Cook undertook to supply the list.

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- 22.3 Question 5; Councillor Hilton requested that the Cabinet Member for Environment reviewed the location of litter bins in Kingsholm. Councillor Cook undertook to do so if Councillor Hilton provided a list of bins in Kingsholm.
- 22.4 Question 8; Councilor Hilton asked if litter could be picked in Kingsholm immediately after events in the stadium. Councillor Cook stated that he understood litter picking took place from 8.00 am on the morning after large events.

Time of commencement: 6.30 pm hours

Time of conclusion: 8.45 pm hours

Chair