



COUNCIL

MEETING : Thursday, 28th January 2021

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

Others in Attendance

Managing Director
Corporate Director – Partnerships
Corporate Director – Transformation
Head of Communities
Head of Cultural Services
Head of Place
Head of Policy and Resources
Solicitor – One Legal
Policy and Governance Manager
Democratic and Electoral Services Team Leader

APOLOGIES : None

48. MINUTES

48.1 The minutes of the meetings held on 19 November 2020 and 15 December 2020 were confirmed as a true record.

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

49.1 There were no declarations of interest.

50. CALL OVER

50.1 The Mayor invited Members to indicate whether they wished to reserve agenda items 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 for discussion. Members indicated that they wished to reserve items 9, 10, 12, 13 and 14 for discussion.

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- 50.2 Councillor Cook (Leader of the Council) moved and Councillor H Norman (Deputy Leader of the Council) seconded that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme and Programme of Meetings, May 2021-April 2023 be approved.
- 50.3 **RESOLVED that:-** the Local Council Tax Support Scheme be approved.
- 50.4 **RESOLVED that:** - the Programme of Meetings, May 2021-April 2023 be approved.

51. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

- 51.1 A Gloucester resident asked the following of Councillor Cook via telephone:

A recent Freedom of Information request detailed that the £650,000 City Protection Officer contract in 2018 went to a company called City Safe.

The contract funds were made up of a consortium from Gloucester's Business Improvement District, Gloucester City Council and Gloucestershire's Police and Crime Commissioner.

Could the council confirm if any other businesses were in the tendering for the contract and if so how many?

Could the council confirm the director of the company that won the tender?

Could the council confirm if they or any director of the company is a sitting councillor.

Would the City Council expect that a sitting councillor to declare an interest to the City Council with regards of their position within that company?

If they would expect a sitting councillor to declare an interest and if they didn't, what would the likely outcome be?

- 51.2 Councillor Cook thanked the resident for the question and noted that it contained misconceptions. There was no £650,000 city protection officer contract and no contract of that value with City Safe. It might have been that the resident was thinking of £650,000 in funding provided by Government to help Councils manage the second and third lockdowns, some - but not all - of which was spent on Covid Marshaling and which saw Gloucester, Cheltenham, Stroud and Tewkesbury Councils join together to work with City Safe in a well-regarded marshaling effort across all four areas.

City Safe was a Business Crime Reduction Partnership engaged in supporting the safety of the city's day and night time economy. The City Council was just one part of that partnership. More about City Safe could be found online – gloucestercitysafe.co.uk

City Safe was engaged by Gloucester Business Improvement District – The BID – to manage a contract to provide suitably trained and qualified city protection officers. Gloucester BID were the lead partner in that project and

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the City Council, and the Police and Crime Commissioner were funding partners. The City Council did not carry out the procurement of that contract but three companies bid competitively to provide the Community Protection Officer team. It was also understood that City Safe received only £5,000 per year to manage that contract on behalf of the BID.

City Safe's board was broadly representative of its principal partner organisations; Gloucester BID, Gloucester retail and hospitality businesses and the City Council. The Council was represented on the Board by the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods, Councillor Jennie Watkins and had been since 2014.

Councillor Watkins' involvement in City Safe is no secret, was an entirely proper involvement, known to the Council and publicly stated on the City Safe website.

Both City Safe and the City Council have procedures to manage potential conflicts of interest and Councillor Cook had every confidence that Councillor Watkins knows and observes those procedures.

- 51.3 A question from a Gloucester resident to Councillor Cook was read of on their behalf:

Would the Cabinet Member for Environment give an undertaking that no tree they are responsible for will be chopped down without at least two weeks written notification, put up nearby? Trees were a particular source of confusion, with the county council taking/sharing responsibility in some areas, but this question applied to the city council's obligations.

- 51.4 Councillor Cook advised that trees were only removed for sound arboricultural reasons such as if they were dangerous, causing a statutory nuisance or they are patently the wrong tree in the wrong place. He further advised that the Council did not want to remove trees but on occasion had to act quickly. If, for example, a tree posed danger, waiting two weeks would prolong unnecessary risk. Councillor Cook invited the resident to report any inappropriate removals and noted that to provide non-recyclable signage on every tree which needed removing would require additional expense and resource.

52. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

- 52.1 There were no petitions or deputations.

53. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor

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- 53.1 The Mayor informed Members that she had attended a short ceremony to lower the flag at North Warehouse to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day and had attended the national, virtual ceremony the previous day.
- 53.2 The Mayor announced that a service to mark the Battle Of Imjin was scheduled for 25 April 2021. A provisional date for the Annual Civic Service at the Cathedral had been set for 22 May 2021.
- 53.3 The Mayor read a short statement from the Mayor of Trier, one of Gloucester's twin cities, expressing their belief in the partnership between the two cities and best wishes for emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Members of the Cabinet

- 53.4 The Cabinet member for Planning and Housing Strategy, Councillor Gravells, announced that the Council was recruiting for a Planning Development Manager. The closing date for applications was 19 February and details were on the Council's website.

54. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

- 54.1 Councillor Hilton noted that £100k had been allocated to produce the Gloucester Window at the bus station to tell the story of Gloucester and asked Councillor Cook what progress had been made on design and work. Councillor Cook advised that Councillor Hilton had been invited to join the discussion on what images could be on the window panels. He further advised that a list of possibilities had been submitted and proposals were forthcoming. Councillor Cook stated, in response to a supplementary question, that he was confident the project would be within budget.
- 54.2 Councillor Hilton asked Councillor Hannah Norman what was being to done to prepare for the eventual return of 'in person' Council and Committee meetings given the enabling legislation for virtual meetings was due to expire in May. Councillor Norman advised that there was currently no scheduled date for Parliament to amend the legislation and that returning to the Chamber was being considered. She further advised that, depending on capacity assessments of available room, others venues were being examined for their suitability. Councillor Norman advised that, while the Council had received some additional funds, providing for webcasting meetings was not currently in the draft budget but that amendments would be considered as was the case each year.
- 54.3 Councillor Stephens noted that the previous year's budget provided for a £100k Neighbourhood Environmental Improvement Fund through a Labour Group amendment. He asked Councillor Cook for an update on the fund by way of how many bids had been received and how much had been allocated. Councillor Cook advised that he was aware of one bid to improve the Rose Garden on London Road and that he would write with further details. Councillor Stephens further asked Councillor Cook would commit to any unspent funds being carried over into the next financial year. Councillor

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Cook stated that while such matters required discussion, he considered it likely that funds would be carried over.

- 54.4 Councillor Stephens stated that he had raised concerns over flytipping, and particularly on private land, in July. He asked Councillor Cook how many community protection notices had been issued. Councillor Cook advised that he was himself aware of one. He further advised that he had had meetings with officers regarding making improvements and for additional enforcement. He also provided assurance that using CCTV and enforcement notices would be considered in order to act as a deterrent.
- 54.5 Councillor Lugg asked what Covid safety measures would be put in place for count assistants working at the upcoming elections in May. Councillor H. Norman advised that early planning for all aspects of the elections had been taking place. In the context of counting votes, she advised that this would be done in a significantly larger space than usual and over a number of days. In relation to polling stations, Councillor Norman advised that staff would be provided with PPE, that there would be screens between staff and voters and that capacity would be limited in order to maintain physical distancing.
- 54.6 Councillor Coole asked Councillor Watkins if she agreed that the newly constituted Commission on Racial Equality was a good example of cross-party work to address inequality in society. Councillor Watkins agreed and thanked Members for their constructive collaborative work in getting the Commission off the ground. Councillor Coole then asked if it was therefore inappropriate for the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to refer to such initiatives as the work of 'town hall militants' and 'the woke brigade.' Councillor Watkins reiterated her support for the work being done and stated that no one agrees with everybody on everything.
- 54.7 Councillor Field informed Members that Milton Avenue in his ward had recently seen significantly flooding and asked what plans were in place to prevent it happening in the future. Councillor Cook that he would be working with Members and Officers to draw up plans.
- 54.8 Councillor Hansdot advised that a resident had informed him that an antiques shop in the City Centre had been displaying Nazi regalia and asked how it could be allowed that it be displayed in open view. Councillor Watkins stated that she would be happy to take this up and that she would not want such items to be displayed and cause upset in the community.
- 54.9 In respect of the Debenhams building, Councillor D. Brown asked for assurances that, following the company's collapse, the building would not become dilapidated and work beset by delay. Councillor Cook provided such assurance.
- 54.10 Councillor Pullen asked what plans there were to provide Covid vaccinations to homeless people. Councillor Watkins advised that P3 was taking the lead on assisting vulnerable people to take up the vaccine and that it was high up the agenda. Assurance was provided that the top four categories would be vaccinated by mid-February.

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- 54.11 Councillor Wilson asked what, when it was appropriate to start reopening cinemas, plans were being made to reopen the cinema at the Guildhall. Councillor Morgan advised that the Guildhall cinema had opened between lockdowns with Covid specific measures and that the Team was looking ahead to a viable programme. He further advised that the cinema had been refurbished during lockdown and was a good value offer.
- 54.12 Councillor Hampson asked Councillor Watkins whether consideration had been given to the vaccination of migrants who lacked a legal status. Councillor Watkins advised that services were still being provided to those without recourse to public funds but that, given the administering of the Covid vaccines was not a City Council matter, the question might be better directed elsewhere.
- 54.13 Councillor Field noted that the Chief Executive of the Culture Trust would be standing down and queried why this was the case. Councillor Morgan advised that he was not aware that the reason was any other than a personal one and thanked the outgoing Chief Executive for their hard work and dedication over the last four years.

55. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

55.1 Councillor Cook moved and Councillor Hannah Norman seconded the motion. Councillor Cook outlined that there would be further work conducted such as audits of building and examining changes to processes before presenting concrete proposals. This would seek to formulate a methodology to achieve a baseline for carbon emissions. He advised that the Environment and Ecology Forum had been involved and he was confident that the report provided for a good way forward to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

55.2 Councillor Stephens moved and Councillor Pullen seconded the following amendment:

Council is asked to **RESOLVE**

- (1) That following the implementation of 2.1 (1) and (2) above, the actions contained in the CLS report (Appendix 1) are adopted as a plan for achieving the goal of net zero carbon emissions by the city council by 2030.
- (2) The steps needed to move the whole City towards carbon neutrality by 2050 are noted as per the appendix report, and that officers continue to develop this city-wide action plan.
- (3) **That a detailed action plan based on the CLS report setting out milestones, timescale, resource implications and financing arrangements be prepared and submitted to the Cabinet at the earliest possible opportunity.**

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- 55.3 Councillor Stephens clarified that the action plan sought was with regard to carbon neutrality for the Council rather than the City as a whole. He shared his view that the report was a major step forward but that further work was required. This would include what actions would be taken at what point how the measures would be financed. Councillor Stephens also stated that a framework within which the administration could be held accountable was necessary. He praised the detail in the report but suggested it may not be particularly accessible to the public. He stated that such a plan needed to be communicable to the public. Councillor Pullen's view was that an action plan needed to detail what outcomes were being sought.
- 55.4 Councillor Cook and Councillor Hannah Norman accepted to the amendment which because the substantive motion.
- 55.5 In debating the motion, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Councillor Melvin commented that it was an outstanding piece of work and commended the work of the officers involved. She noted that numerous matters were considered including the operation of the indoor market and the carbon emissions that are emitted from it.
- 55.6 Councillor Wilson noted the remarkable detail in the report and that it illustrated the scale of the challenge. He suggested that areas needed to create their own electricity which was not a small endeavour and that cross-party groupings needed to be listened to. Councillor Wilson stated that the report provided a good starting point to set an example but that, as the Council was responsible for but 1% of carbon emissions in the City, the scale of the task would require significant investment.
- 55.7 Councillor Stephens noted that Gloucestershire Airport had been, and in his view rightly, excluded from the target but stated that, as a 50% shareholder, there was an obligation to ensure the airport was working to neutrality. He further noted that the airport now had a new Managing Director and that this presented an opportunity to be briefed by her on business plans and what steps were being taken to achieve carbon neutrality.
- 55.8 Councillor Pullen stated that he believed that Member should be made aware of actions that were being undertaken.
- 55.9 Councillor Hilton stated that he was keen to vote in favour of the motion and that the report was an excellent piece of work. He expressed caution regarding some suggestions on the disposal of the deceased as this would ultimately be a family choice.
- 55.10 Councillor Cook thanked officers and the CLS consultancy for their work and encouraged Members to read the Airport Green Plan which outlined that, for example, a company was operating on site to develop electric flying.
- 55.11 **RESOLVED :-**

- (1) That following the implementation of 2.1 (1) and (2) above, the actions contained in the CLS report (Appendix 1) are adopted as a

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plan for achieving the goal of net zero carbon emissions by the city council by 2030.

- (2) The steps needed to move the whole City towards carbon neutrality by 2050 are noted as per the appendix report, and that officers continue to develop this city-wide action plan.
- (3) That a detailed action plan based on the CLS report setting out milestones, timescale, resource implications and financing arrangements be prepared and submitted to the Cabinet at the earliest possible opportunity.

56. KINGS QUARTER DELIVERY PROPOSAL

- 56.1 Councillor Cook moved and Councillor Hannah Norman seconded the motion. Councillor Cook outlined that the report related to previous discussions and that the appointment of a delivery partner was key. The scheme built on planning permission as it stood and that there was a proposed increased of office space at plot. Councillor Cook further stated that the report included detailed financial viability that had been received as well as plans to assist with cash flow.
- 56.2 Councillor Stephens shared his view that this was an exciting scheme which would breathe new life into the city centre and was a clear message to investors that it had broad support. He also thanked Councillor Cook for his continued consultation and communication with all political groups. Councillor Stephens believed that risks associated with Covid-19 had been mitigated by, for example, a good mix of use on the site.
- 56.3 Councillor Hilton stated that he was pleased the Council would be signing the final contractual agreement and expressed his support for the developing scheme.
- 56.4 Councillor Taylor stated that he had seen much detail through the Planning Committee and that he fully supported the motion.
- 56.5 Councillor Hannah Norman thanked Members for the cross-party support that had been shown. She advised that the developers were already on site and developing this ambitious project. Councillor Norman thanked officers particularly for their efforts in mitigating risk.
- 56.6 **RESOLVED:-**
 - 1 That The Head of Place in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment, the Head of Policy and Resources and the Council Solicitor is authorised to enter into a Development Agreement with our partner to implement the construction and development of Kings Quarter The Forum in its entirety at an estimated total cost to the Council of £107m, to create a

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high quality mixed use hub, packed with community features aimed at attracting new companies to Gloucester, based on the latest proposal outlined in this report.

- 2 Authority be delegated to the Head of Place in consultation with the Council Solicitor to take all necessary steps and undertake necessary procedures, including entering into any legal arrangements or other documentation as may be required to implement or facilitate the Kings Quarter The Forum Redevelopment Scheme.
- 3 That the estimated total cost be incorporated into the council's Capital Programme and Treasury Management Strategy.

57. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

57.1 Councillor Cook moved and Councillor Hannah Norman seconded the motion.

57.2 **RESOLVED that:-**

- (1) the current Local Council Tax Support Scheme, as the approved scheme for Gloucester City in 2020/21, be adopted for 2021/22
- (2) The scheme approved at 2.1 (1) above be updated to align with any legislation changes in January 2021 and to be implemented from 01 April 2021.
- (3) Any urgent amendments to the scheme at 2.1 (1) above, in the event of a national emergency and authorised by the government, be adopted and implemented immediately.

58. LICENSING ACT 2003 - REVISED LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT

58.1 Councillor Walford moved and Councillor Brooker seconded the motion. Councillor Walford outlined that it was a statutory obligation to pass the revised licensing policy statement and that there had been two responses to the consultation. In response to a query from Councillor Tracey, Councillor Walford confirmed that there were no elements that would have to be redrafted in light of Covid-19.

58.2 **RESOLVED:-** To adopt the Licensing Policy Statement 2021-2026 – Licensing Act 2003 as set out in Appendix 1.

59. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

59.1 Councillor Taylor moved and Councillor Lewis seconded the motion. Councillor Taylor outlined the changes and explained that, in the context of the revised Planning and Development Code of Practice defunct elements had been removed and an additional procedure for site visits had been included.

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59.2 Councillor Lugg moved and Councillor Coole seconded an amendment to retain, at PART 1 – D, the following paragraph:

There will, however, be times when it only becomes apparent during the meeting that there is a declarable interest. Then the interest must be declared as soon as the Member becomes aware of it, even if it is during discussions on that particular item. The duty is on each Member to declare interests and these will be noted in the Committee minutes.

59.3 The amendment was accepted.

59.4 Councillor Coole stated that they were pleased to see that references to Trusts of which the Council was a Trustee were to be included following the recent meeting of the Saintbridge Trust which had met for the first since its foundation in the late 19th century.

59.5 **RESOLVED (subject to the amendment as above):-**

- (1) That, having considered the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee, the proposed changes to the Constitution be adopted and a list of all Trusts held by the Council be appended to the Constitution.
- (2) To authorise the Head of Paid Service to amend the list of Trusts, to add, delete or amend the list as required from time to time to maintain its accuracy.

60. REVIEW OF APPOINTMENTS TO AND REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

60.1 Councillor Wilson moved and Councillor Taylor seconded the motion. Councillor Wilson outlined the work of the Audit and Governance Committee in interviewing organisations and Council appointees. He informed Members that there was a lack of feedback to the Council on either the work of the organisation or the Council appointee(s). He outlined the three recommendations in the report and submitted that they would be useful to Councillors to improve their understanding of their responsibilities and to report on their work.

60.2 Councillor Gravells moved and Councillor Colle seconded the following amendment:

Council is asked to RESOLVE to adopt the draft Guidance and reporting mechanisms and endorse the rationalisation of the range of existing appointments and to recommend to Council that the changes are approved and incorporated into the Constitution, subject to:

- 1) The Llanthony Secunda Trust ~~and the Gloucester United Schools Charity~~ being moved from category (c) above (where

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direct appointments cease) to category (b) (where options are explored further).

(2) Gloucester United Schools Charity being moved to Group A and is one of the organisations to which the Council arrangements for appointments to outside bodies remains unchanged.

(3) Overview and Scrutiny Committee receiving the reports referred to in paragraph 3.12.2 instead of full Council.

60.3 The amendment was accepted

60.4 Councillor Coole moved and Councillor Lugg seconded the following amendment:

That Council reject the recommendations of the Audit and Governance committee and keep the original proposal (3.12.2) that Reports to Council are incorporated into the agenda at full council and triggered by appointees.

60.5 The amendment was accepted.

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

60.7 **RESOLVED:-**

To adopt the draft Guidance and reporting mechanisms and endorse the rationalisation of the range of existing appointments and to recommend to Council that the changes are approved and incorporated into the Constitution, subject to:

1) The Llanthony Secunda Trust being moved from category (c) above (where direct appointments cease) to category (b) (where options are explored further).

(2) Gloucester United Schools Charity being moved to Group A and is one of the organisations to which the Council arrangements for appointments to outside bodies remains unchanged.

61. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS, MAY 2021-APRIL 2023

61.1 Councillor Cook moved and Councillor Hannah Norman seconded the motion.

61.2 **RESOLVED that:-**

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- (1) Subject to any further changes, the two-year programme of ordinary meetings of Council and other meetings for the period of May 2021 to April 2023 be approved.
- (2) Subject to the May 2021 elections going ahead as scheduled, the proposed changes to the current year's programme of meetings be approved.
- (3) In the event that the May 2021 elections are postponed, authority be delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with Group Leaders, to revise the programme of meetings to reflect the new date and associated Member induction requirements.

62. NOTICES OF MOTION

62.1 Councillor Brazil moved and Councillor Ryall seconded the following motion:

This council notes the increase in cycling as a mode of transport since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. It agrees we should encourage improvements in facilities for cyclists in Gloucester and throughout Gloucestershire.

This council notes that many cyclists might also want to carry their bicycle on public transport, especially on buses.

This council calls on the county council to investigate the provision of carrying bikes on buses in the county and request they work with the bus companies looks at how this may be achieved.

This council agrees that we need to work towards encouraging and sustaining climate friendly transport.

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

62.3 **RESOLVED that:-**

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This council notes that many cyclists might also want to carry their bicycle on public transport, especially on buses.

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This council agrees that we need to work towards encouraging and sustaining climate friendly transport

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62.4 Councillor Hilton moved and Councillor Wilson seconded the following motion:

This council notes that on 26th December the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government awarded £830 million to 72 areas in England to help transform their high streets.

Despite Gloucester City Council putting in a 17-page bid, this council records its disappointment that the city centre didn't get a penny from MHCLG.

Others city and town centres nearby, were successful. Swindon got £25m and Kidderminster £20.5m, with provisional funding awarded of £10m to Leamington Spa, £10m to Yeovil and £14m to Taunton.

This council calls on the leader to provide members with a written report of what went wrong. Highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the submission and what could have been done better.

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

62.6 Councillor Pullen moved and Councillor Coole seconded the following motion:

Council notes that elections to Gloucester City Council, Gloucestershire County Council and for Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner are scheduled to take place on Thursday 6th May 2021.

Council further recognises that the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to deter people from turning up in person to exercise their vote at polling stations.

Council believes it is essential that people have the opportunity to vote and should make every effort to encourage electors to exercise their democratic right.

Council resolves:

- To organise a comprehensive campaign of voter registration to ensure as many people as possible are registered to vote.
- To inform people of their right to vote by post and encourage people to sign up for postal votes.
- To further remind people that if they are unable to vote in person or are absent for the election that they can appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf.

62.7 The motion was put the vote and was carried.

62.8 **RESOLVED that:** - Council notes that elections to Gloucester City Council, Gloucestershire County Council and for Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner are scheduled to take place on Thursday 6th May 2021.

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- To inform people of their right to vote by post and encourage people to sign up for postal votes.
- To further remind people that if they are unable to vote in person or are absent for the election that they can appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf.

62.9 Councillor Stephens moved and Councillor Pullen seconded the following motion:

“That in March 2020 in response to the coronavirus pandemic Universal Credit was uplifted by £20.00 per week to alleviate poverty amongst the poorest households. The uplift is worth £1,040 a year for all claimants.

The ‘temporary’ uplift is due to end on 1st April 2021.

In its recent report: “Universal Credit the wait for a first payment” the House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee concluded that the DWP was “right” to increase Universal Credit and that it should “commit to maintaining the increases in support that have been provided during the pandemic”.

A coalition of over 50 national charities has written an open letter to the Chancellor demanding that the uplift is made permanent.

Research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has calculated that 16 million households would be affected by the ending of the uplift, that 700,000 more people will fall into poverty, including 300,000 children.

In Gloucester official government figures show that in August 2020 there were 9,620 claimants in Gloucester. This is likely to have increased significantly during the 2nd national lock down.

In Gloucester thousands of our poorest households face significant cuts in their income and living standards.

Council resolves:

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- To support calls by charities, campaigning organisations and the Work and Pensions Committee of the House of Commons to make the £20.00 uplift in Universal Credit permanent.
- To lobby the government to give effect to the above.
- To write to the City MP to lobby the government and urging him to support calls for the ‘temporary’ uplift in Universal Credit to be made permanent.”

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

62.11 RESOLVED:-

That in March 2020 in response to the coronavirus pandemic Universal Credit was uplifted by £20.00 per week to alleviate poverty amongst the poorest households. The uplift is worth £1,040 a year for all claimants.

The ‘temporary’ uplift is due to end on 1st April 2021.

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- To lobby the government to give effect to the above.
- To write to the City MP to lobby the government and urging him to support calls for the ‘temporary’ uplift in Universal Credit to be made permanent.”

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63. WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

- 63.1 In respect of question 11, Councillor Hilton asked the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Recovery, Councillor Melvin, what was the preferred option for the Debenhams building following the regeneration of the area. Councillor Melvin advised that it would not be appropriate to set this out at present so as to not be prejudicial but assured Members that she would be maintaining a keen interest in the site.

Time of commencement: 6.30 pm hours

Time of conclusion: 9.50 pm hours

Chair