



## COUNCIL

**MEETING** : Thursday, 24th March 2022

**PRESENT** : Cllrs. Finnegan (Chair), Tracey (Vice-Chair), Cook, Norman, S. Chambers, Hilton, Pullen, Gravells MBE, Morgan, Wilson, Bhaimia, Williams, D. Brown, Taylor, Field, Organ, Patel, Toleman, Brooker, J. Brown, Hyman, Melvin, Bowkett, Ackroyd, Castle, A. Chambers, Chambers-Dubus, Dee, Durdey, Evans, Kubaszczyk, O'Donnell, Padilla, Radley and Sawyer

**Others in Attendance**

Managing Director

Monitoring Officer

Director of Communities

Director of Policy and Resources

Head of Culture

Policy and Governance Manager

Democratic and Electoral Services Team Leader

**APOLOGIES** : Cllrs. Hudson, Lewis, Conder and Zaman

### 87. MINUTES

87.1 The minutes of the meetings held on 24 February 2022 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### 88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

88.1 There were no declarations of interest.

### 89. CALL OVER

89.1 The Mayor invited Members to indicate whether they wished to reserve agenda items 9, 10, 11, and 12 for discussion. There was no indication that any of these items were for discussion.

89.2 Councillor Norman (Deputy Leader of the Council) moved and Councillor Cook (Leader of the Council) seconded the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23 be approved.

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89.3 **RESOLVED** that

- (1) The Treasury Management Strategy at Appendix 1 be approved;
- (2) The authorised borrowing limit be approved at:- a. 2022/23 £265m b. 2023/24 £260m c. 2024/25 £255m
- (3) The prudential indicators set out in section two of the strategy be approved.

89.4 Councillor Norman (Deputy Leader of the Council) moved and Councillor Cook (Leader of the Council) seconded that the Capital Strategy 2022/23 be approved.

89.5 **RESOLVED** that: - The Capital Strategy be approved.

89.6 Councillor Norman moved and Councillor Cook seconded that the Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 be approved.

89.7 **RESOLVED** that: - The Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 be approved.

89.8 Councillor Cook moved and Councillor Norman seconded that the Governance Arrangements for the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee be approved.

89.9 **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the GEGJC continues to operate until 31 March 2023, and
- (ii) authority be delegated to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Leader of the Council to agree and complete the appropriate legal documentation to allow the Inter Authority Agreement to be extended until 31 March 2023.

**90. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)**

90.1 A Gloucester resident asked the following question:

*How can you justify your commitment to tackling climate change by spending an extra £100m, causing exposure to immediate particular matter impacting lungs, brains, hearts, eyes locally in the context of nationally estimated deaths of 40000 a year and what are the levels of extra carbon emissions (figures required please scope 1-3); this spending on new roads in the light of your alleged active travel policy for walking and cycling is five times the spend on cycling of £20m, segregated cycling lanes and living streets worth walking down can cut the under three miles commute by 50% of those travelling to work. Building road means more motorised traffic and pollution and CO2 plus electric vehicles still emit PMs via break dust and tyre wear?*

90.2 Councillor Cook noted that responsibility with highways and therefore road building sat with the County Council and acknowledged that the City Council

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had responsibility for monitoring air pollution – the threshold for action having not been met. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to acting on climate change and suggested the questioner raise this matter with the County Council.

**91. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)**

91.1 There were no petitions or deputations.

**92. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Leader of the Council**

92.1 The Leader of the Council, Councillor Cook informed Members that the Council had been awarded an £85k grant to install two new changing place toilets in the city centre which would be specifically for disabled access. One would be situated at the Quays and another at the Museum of Gloucester.

**Members of the Cabinet**

92.2 The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy, Councillor S. Chambers announced that 86 new homes had recently come online in Quedgeley Field Court, with 25% being s.106 homes. (25% shared ownership and 75% affordable rent). The Housing project and strategy team had worked in partnership with Sanctuary Homes and occupational therapists to ensure that 17 of these homes were built to meet accessible and adaptable needs of residents and would be let via the Homeseekers register to households in need of this accommodation. Sanctuary recently commented that Gloucester City Council provided Sanctuary with an improved understanding of accessible and adaptable housing needs in Gloucester providing huge benefits to all.

**93. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

93.1 In respect of question 1, Councillor Hilton stated that Members had previously been assured by a previous Cabinet Members that there would be an exciting development on the former Sainsbury's site at Northgate Street and asked the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy proposed to do to kick start the site. Councillor S. Chambers advised that proposals were yet to come forward but whatever was proposed, whether it be leisure, retail, entertainment or residential, would be considered.

93.2 With regard to question 2, Councillor Hilton how many servers had to be rebuilt and what was the budgetary cost. Councillor Norman advised that, at this stage, it was not possible to project figures. She further advised that some data provision had been moved from the previous council offices and, as such, were not on council premises and therefore these were not affected.

93.3 Councillor Pullen asked, in relation to question three, why checks could not be made regarding whether current investments had a Russian origin in light

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of Russia's recent invasion of Ukraine. Councillor Norman explained that Councillor Pullen's original question was in relation to procurement which would be taking place in the future but that she would liaise with the Director of Policy and Resources regarding whether any current services were in receipt of Russian investment.

- 93.4 In respect of question 4, Councillor Pullen asked whether the Council would write to all residents who did not pay Council Tax by direct debit to advise on how they could claim the Council Tax rebate offered by the Government. Councillor Norman advised that the council worked with local advice partnerships who disseminate such information and that a more detailed communication plan would be drawn up upon receiving finalised advice from central government.
- 93.5 Councillor Hyman asked if the Leader of the Council had asked Ubico if a vehicle could be provided for garden waste collection in narrow streets in his ward. Councillor Cook stated that discussions had taken place but that it would not be right to say garden waste would be collected from such properties when it was unlikely to be deliverable.
- 93.6 Councillor Castle asked how it could be ascertained how much could be delivered in terms of refuse collection from street bins when it was uncertain how many bins there were. Councillor Cook noted that the mapping exercise referred to in the original published answer examined open space. He advised that Ubico would continue such collections and would be monitored so that bins would not be overflowing.
- 93.7 In respect of question 8, Councillor Field asked if, given clothes banks were a 'hot-spot' for flytipping, now was the time to consider removing the clothes banks particularly given they were for a charity based in Wolverhampton. Councillor Cook replied that landlords could be contacted to examine whether they could remove them themselves.
- 93.8 Councillor Chambers-Dubus asked, following the removal of the commitment to not work with publications such as the Daily Mail and the Sun, where the Council drew the line between strong opinion and hate speech. In the absence of the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, Councillor Lewis, Councillor Norman stated that, in a free society, everyone should be treated with dignity and respect. A free press also operated and some publications such as newspapers had different political viewpoints which were open to interpretation by all.
- 93.9 Regarding question 15, Councillor Hilton asked Councillor Norman when she expected an answer to whether the Council would receive funding for cyber recovery. Councillor Norman advised that there was not necessarily a set deadline and that a formal request would be submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities via the Managing Director once a precise figure had been reached.
- 93.10 With regard to the sale of the Herbert, Kimberley and Philpotts warehouses, Councillor Hilton asked why a planning application had not yet been

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received. Councillor Norman advised that officers were following this up with the prospective buyer and that they still intended to progress with an application. Officers were working with the prospective buyer to bring an application to the Planning Committee.

- 93.11 In respect of question 18, Councillor Hilton asked if Mod.Gov (the software which held records of previous meetings) would be available ahead of the Annual Meeting in May 2022. Councillor Norman advised that work was underway to transfer such software to a 'cloud' based model and that, whilst there was optimism this could be achieved, it was not possible to place a concrete timeframe on it.
- 93.12 With regard to the Uniform system, Councillor Hilton asked when this would be operational. Councillor Norman that a project plan was being progressed and that officers were working hard to bring it into operation as soon as was possible.
- 93.13 In regards, to the cyber incident, Councillor Hilton asked if there were sufficient funds to recover. Councillor Norman responded that, as there was no final figure as yet, this was not possible to determine at the present time.
- 93.14 In respect of question 22, Councillor Wilson asked is phase one of the cyber recovery was complete and whether it was a requisite that laptops be physically replaced. Councillor Norman advised that differing areas had differing timescales but that recovery was progressing well. She further advised that many laptops were coming towards the end of their useful life and would need to be replaced in any event.
- 93.15 With regard to question 23 and whether any individual had been deported under the Home Office's Rough Sleeping Support Service, Councillor S. Chambers advised that a written response would be provided to Councillor Wilson.
- 93.16 Councillor Sawyer asked, in respect of question 25, how, other than social media, the Council proposed to reach those without such means. Councillor Cook advised that the Council did as much as was possible and such details had regularly appeared in the press. Often, he further advised, Councillors were in a position to disseminate such information and that such incidences of missed collections were becoming fewer.

**94. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2022/23**

- 94.1 Councillor Norman (Deputy Leader of the Council) moved and Councillor Cook (Leader of the Council) seconded the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23 be approved.
- 94.2 **RESOLVED** that:-
- (1) The Treasury Management Strategy at Appendix 1 be approved;
  - (2) The authorised borrowing limit be approved at:-

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- a. 2022/23 £265m
- b. 2023/24 £260m
- c. 2024/25 £255m

- (3) The prudential indicators set out in section two of the strategy be approved.

**95. CAPITAL STRATEGY 2022/23**

95.1 Councillor Norman (Deputy Leader of the Council) moved and Councillor Cook (Leader of the Council) seconded that the Capital Strategy 2022/23 be approved.

95.2 **RESOLVED** that: - The Capital Strategy be approved.

**96. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022-23**

96.1 Councillor Norman moved and Councillor Cook seconded that the Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 be approved.

96.2 **RESOLVED** that: - The Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 be approved.

**97. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH JOINT COMMITTEE**

97.1 Councillor Cook moved and Councillor Norman seconded that the Governance Arrangements for the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee be approved.

97.2 **RESOLVED** that: -

- (i) the GEGJC continues to operate until 31 March 2023, and
- (ii) authority be delegated to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Leader of the Council to agree and complete the appropriate legal documentation to allow the Inter Authority Agreement to be extended until 31 March 2023.

**98. NOTICES OF MOTION**

98.1 Councillor Pullen proposed and Councillor Chambers-Dubus seconded the following motion:

“This council recognises the major impact the Covid 19 pandemic has had on Gloucester with virtually all areas in the city being affected. Many people have contracted the virus and too many have lost their lives with friends and families losing loved ones.

Health and welfare services have been pushed to the limit but have done a fantastic job in extremely difficult circumstances.

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The business community has been severely hit with many local companies struggling to cope.

However, the resilience and determination of Gloucester people has shone through and there has been many excellent examples of people and organisations going that extra mile to help others.

The efforts of key workers have been phenomenal and along with our outstanding NHS staff they have continued to deliver essential services and their vital role in 4 looking after us. This has been despite often extreme and very challenging circumstances.

The city has also experienced a massive community spirit with local volunteers and community organisations looking after vulnerable people and those who were isolating, ensuring they had food and other essential supplies.

The Covid pandemic is not over yet and it may be still too early to call. However, it is time to start thinking about how Gloucester marks and remembers the huge impact that Covid has had on our city, the sacrifices people have made and the sterling community effort that took place in order to cope.

It would therefore be very appropriate to create a permanent and long lasting Covid Memorial to be placed in a prominent position in the city. The memorial would remember all those who lost their lives and be a fitting tribute to key workers in essential services and the phenomenal community effort that was made.

The memorial would tell the story of how the people of Gloucester coped with the Covid pandemic so that future generations could appreciate and understand the sacrifices that were made.

Gloucester City Council should take the lead in creating the memorial but should do so in partnership with the many appropriate organisations and interested parties in the city. This would ensure a structure that was created by and representative of a wide range of people communities and organisations.

Council resolves to:

- Take the lead in creating a lasting Covid Memorial to be sited in a prominent position in the City Centre.
- Design a fitting tribute that remembers those who lost their lives and recognises the immense contribution that key workers, volunteers and community organisations made during the crisis.
- Bring together a partnership of appropriate organisations and agencies to deliver the project and draw on their resources, skills and talents.

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- Fully involve local people, communities and voluntary organisations.”

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

98.3 **RESOLVED** that:

“This council recognises the major impact the Covid 19 pandemic has had on Gloucester with virtually all areas in the city being affected. Many people have contracted the virus and too many have lost their lives with friends and families losing loved ones.

Health and welfare services have been pushed to the limit but have done a fantastic job in extremely difficult circumstances.

The business community has been severely hit with many local companies struggling to cope.

However, the resilience and determination of Gloucester people has shone through and there has been many excellent examples of people and organisations going that extra mile to help others.

The efforts of key workers have been phenomenal and along with our outstanding NHS staff they have continued to deliver essential services and their vital role in looking after us. This has been despite often extreme and very challenging circumstances.

The city has also experienced a massive community spirit with local volunteers and community organisations looking after vulnerable people and those who were isolating, ensuring they had food and other essential supplies.

The Covid pandemic is not over yet and it may be still too early to call. However, it is time to start thinking about how Gloucester marks and remembers the huge impact that Covid has had on our city, the sacrifices people have made and the sterling community effort that took place in order to cope.

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- Bring together a partnership of appropriate organisations and agencies to deliver the project and draw on their resources, skills and talents.
- Fully involve local people, communities and voluntary organisations."

98.4 Councillor Field proposed and Councillor Sawyer seconded the following motion:

"Council notes the recent #bouncingback project, which was jointly funded by Gloucester BID and the City Council.

Council notes that this project sought to enhance the street scene by 'converting often unkempt street furniture into bright points of interest'. 5 local artists were involved in painting a total of 75 boxes, including electric and BT boxes, with the agreement of the owners.

Council commends this project which has delivered some excellent public art, commemorated aspects of Gloucester history and provided a talking point.

Council records its thanks to those who organised and took part in the project.

Council resolves to examine ways to expand the project in the future, such as encouraging members, residents and community groups to identify street furniture or appropriate sites in their wards to be brightened through painting, cleaning or planting, and inviting submissions of historical figures, events and logos to be commemorated.

Council further resolves to apply for any suitable funding from government or other sources to expand this work, and to work with the BID and other local partners to ensure that this project is fully publicised, promoted and celebrated in the future."

98.5 Councillor Melvin proposed and Councillor Organ seconded the following amendment:

"Council notes the recent #bouncingback project, which was jointly funded by Gloucester BID and the City Council.

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Council notes that this project sought to enhance the street scene by 'converting often unkempt street furniture into bright points of interest'. 5 local artists were involved in painting a total of 75 boxes, including electric and BT boxes, with the agreement of the owners.

Council commends this project which has delivered some excellent public art, commemorated aspects of Gloucester history and provided a talking point.

Council records its thanks to those who organised and took part in the project.

~~Council resolves to examine ways to expand the project in the future, such as encouraging members, residents and community groups to identify street furniture or appropriate sites in their wards to be brightened through painting, cleaning or planting, and inviting submissions of historical figures, events and logos to be commemorated.~~

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~~Council further resolves to apply for any suitable funding from government or other sources to expand this work, and **agrees** to work with the BID and other local partners to ensure that this project is fully publicised, promoted and celebrated in the future."~~

98.6 The amendment was not accepted. The amendment was put to the vote and was carried, thus becoming the substantive motion.

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

98.8 **RESOLVED** that:

"Council notes the recent #bouncingback project, which was jointly funded by Gloucester BID and the City Council.

Council notes that this project sought to enhance the street scene by 'converting often unkempt street furniture into bright points of interest'. 5 local artists were involved in painting a total of 75 boxes, including electric and BT boxes, with the agreement of the owners.

Council commends this project which has delivered some excellent public art, commemorated aspects of Gloucester history and provided a talking point.

Council records its thanks to those who organised and took part in the project.

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Council agrees to work with the BID and other local partners to ensure that this project is fully publicised, promoted and celebrated in the future."

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- 98.9 Councillor Hilton proposed and Councillor Wilson seconded the following motion:

“This Council notes the publication of the Government’s Levelling Up White Paper.

This Council notes that the White Paper proposes a devolution framework based on three levels of implementation.

This Council agrees to hold an all member briefing so that councillors can consider the three options for devolution and to allow the council to develop an engagement strategy.

This Council agrees that it should support an option that not only retains the powers of this council, but one which strengthens this council’s ability to deliver what’s best for the city of Gloucester.”

- 98.10 Councillor Cook proposed and Councillor Norman seconded the following amendment:

“This Council notes the publication of the Government’s Levelling Up White Paper.

This Council notes that the White Paper proposes a devolution framework based on three levels of implementation, **noting that the White Paper specifies that only County Councils and Unitary Authorities may be parties to any devolution deals, not district councils.**

This Council agrees to hold an all member briefing so that councillors can consider the three options for devolution ~~and to allow the council to develop an engagement strategy.~~

This Council agrees that it should ~~support~~ **work with** the County Council **in** negotiating an option that **will not only retains the powers of this council, but one which strengthens this council’s ability to** deliver what’s best for the city of Gloucester.”

- 98.11 The amendment was accepted and thus became the substantive motion. The motion was put to the vote and was carried.

- 98.12 **RESOLVED** that:

This Council notes the publication of the Government’s Levelling Up White Paper.

This Council notes that the White Paper proposes a devolution framework based on three levels of implementation, noting that the White Paper specifies that only County Councils and Unitary Authorities may be parties to any devolution deals, not district councils.

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This Council agrees to hold an all member briefing so that councillors can consider the three options for devolution.

This Council agrees that it should work with the County Council in negotiating an option that will deliver what's best for the city of Gloucester.

- 98.13 Councillor Kubaszczyk proposed and Councillor A. Chambers seconded the following motion:

“This Council notes that it passed a motion unanimously condemning the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

This Council recognizes that the invasion is continuing and has caused millions of Ukrainians to flee the fighting, escape the country and become refugees. Many millions more have stayed in Ukraine and have lost or will lose everything.

We note that these circumstances create huge needs amongst both those fleeing and remaining, and especially note the efforts of many, many people in Gloucester and surrounding areas who have donated huge amounts of cash to organisations established to provide help. This Council especially wants to thank those who have donated huge amounts of goods and arranged their transport to places where they can be distributed to those who need them.

This Council pledges to provide the practical help it is able to do, to those refugees who ultimately find themselves in Gloucester and encourages residents to continue to help in the generous spirit they have so far shown.”

- 98.14 Councillor Wilson proposed and Councillor Hilton seconded the following amendment:

“This Council notes that it passed a motion unanimously condemning the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

This Council recognizes that the invasion is continuing and has caused millions of Ukrainians to flee the fighting, escape the country and become refugees. Many millions more have stayed in Ukraine and have lost or will lose everything.

We note that these circumstances create huge needs amongst both those fleeing and remaining, and especially note the efforts of many, many people in Gloucester and surrounding areas who have donated huge amounts of cash to organisations established to provide help. This Council especially wants to thank those who have donated huge amounts of goods and arranged their transport to places where they can be distributed to those who need them.

This Council pledges to provide the practical help it is able to do, to those refugees who ultimately find themselves in Gloucester and encourages residents to continue to help in the generous spirit they have so far shown

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**However, Council notes with alarm the growing Ukrainian refugee crisis and the delays and hardships currently being experienced by families in the UK trying to get their loved ones to safety here. Council therefore urges the government to temporarily suspend the need for a visa for those fleeing this war so they can be reunited with their families and get the help and support they need in the UK.”**

98.15 The amendment was not accepted. The amendment was put to the vote and was lost. The motion as originally tabled was put to the vote and was carried.

98.16 **RESOLVED** that:

This Council notes that it passed a motion unanimously condemning the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

This Council recognizes that the invasion is continuing and has caused millions of Ukrainians to flee the fighting, escape the country and become refugees. Many millions more have stayed in Ukraine and have lost or will lose everything.

We note that these circumstances create huge needs amongst both those fleeing and remaining, and especially note the efforts of many, many people in Gloucester and surrounding areas who have donated huge amounts of cash to organisations established to provide help. This Council especially wants to thank those who have donated huge amounts of goods and arranged their transport to places where they can be distributed to those who need them.

This Council pledges to provide the practical help it is able to do, to those refugees who ultimately find themselves in Gloucester and encourages residents to continue to help in the generous spirit they have so far shown.

**Time of commencement: 6.30 pm hours**

**Time of conclusion: 9.45 pm hours**

**Chair**