



CABINET

MEETING : Wednesday, 6th April 2022

PRESENT : Cllrs. Cook (Chair), Norman, S. Chambers, Hudson and Lewis

Others in Attendance

Cllrs. D. Brown, Hilton, Wilson

Head of Culture

Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

APOLOGIES : None

106. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

107. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2022 are confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

108. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

The Democratic and Electoral Services Officer read the following question on behalf of a member of the public who was unable to attend in person.

The city centre is where we need a clear and obvious statement of support for Ukraine. Although a Ukrainian flag is being flown at the North Warehouse this is out of the way and that at the Shire Hall does not draw the eye and represents the county. I would like to ask why the City has not hung flags or banners in the city to keep the current conflict in the public consciousness and encourage residents to continue making their own contributions in whatever form they are able?

The Leader of the Council thanked the member of the public and advised him that there was a third flag flying in a more central location at the Gloucester Guildhall. He further informed him that the demonstration of the newly installed lighting and fountains in Kings Square had used the national colours of Ukraine and he anticipated they would do so again in future performances. The Leader of the Council expressed confidence that media coverage continued to give the conflict a high public profile.

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The Leader of the Council commented on a suggestion previously received for bunting to be displayed in the streets but stated that he felt this would not be appropriate given the gravity of the situation in the Ukraine. He highlighted the resolution of the Council made on the day armed conflict began (24 February 2022 minute 84.5) to condemn Russian aggression, support the people of Ukraine and to write to the relevant ambassadors. The Leader of the Council took the opportunity to inform Members that he considered certain councillors and residents to be doing an amazing job gathering and delivering aid to the people of Ukraine.

A member of the public representing Gloucestershire Catch The Bus Campaign referred to the written questions submitted as below. The Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources expressed her gratitude for bringing these matters to her attention and advised him that the answers would appear in the minutes as below. She further reassured him that the issues in question would be raised with the relevant highway authority whom the City Council would lobby on his behalf, but advised him also to submit these questions to the County Council directly.

- (1) Gloucester Transport Hub is one of the best bus and coach stations in South West England. What progress is being made by the City Council, as its owner, to improve the cleaning of the ceilings and interior and to make sure all departures are displayed, especially given that more services will be calling from April 2022?

Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources Response: Thank you for this insightful question. The City Council owns the Gloucester Transport Hub to facilitate the transport services. However, the services in question are the responsibility of, and organised by, the Integrated Transport Unit of the County Council, including all the bus timetable and real time information displays. Therefore I cannot answer your questions in that regard to those services but the County Council should be able to assist. Where we can work with the County Council to make physical improvements, we will continue to do so.

Stagecoach, who are the main occupiers of the Gloucester Transport Hub undertake the cleaning, as they are present daily and can best deliver the cleaning requirements. The Council meets the cost of the cleaning provision and it is one of the most comprehensive cleaning services we are involved in. 'High cleans' for ceilings will occur less often as they involve the use of specialist equipment which also requires the Transport Hub to be closed to the public. This is the first time that the cleaning of the Transport Hub bus station has been raised, and I will forward your comments to Stagecoach.

- (2) In view of the ownership of the Gloucester Transport Hub being managed by Gloucester City Council, what progress is being made to bring back the cafe and to relet the kiosk, and is Tesco PLC blocking the reopening of these important passenger facilities with their remaining lease on the adjacent site?

Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources Response: Although owned by the City Council the Gloucester Transport Hub is managed by Stagecoach. COVID-19 affected many businesses detrimentally, and the Cafe and Kiosk fell into this category. Unfortunately matters must formally run their course before we are

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legally able to relet these spaces. On a positive note interest has been expressed in both of these opportunities. As soon as we can, we will progress with a marketing campaign to ensure these spaces are bought back into use. Tesco is not causing us any issue in this regard.

- (3) What discussions are taking place under the Gloucestershire Bus Service Improvement Plan and the Enhanced Quality Partnership with Gloucestershire County Council (the transport authority) and service providers on marketing campaigns to get passengers back onto public transport considering reductions in bus service recovery and railway grants from the Department of Transport?

Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources Response: This is a matter for the County Council however my fellow Cabinet Members and I are keen to promote green travel options, including public transport. The annual review of initiatives in the City Council Green Travel Plan is due to be considered by Cabinet in July.

- (4) With more bus and coach services using Gloucester Transport Hub there is a need to look at safety of passengers walking on the runway and signage on the automatic doors and also the bollards and kerbs as their positioning makes use of the automatic bus access ramps difficult for buggy and wheelchair users. Are these issues being looked at?

Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources Response: Thank you for raising this matter. Public safety and the accessibility of services to all users are of prime importance to us. I shall raise these concerns with Stagecoach who operate the Transport Hub.

- (5) What progress is being made on clear way-finder signage from the railway station to the Transport Hub and bus and coach service information displays at the former in view of the importance of the Transport Hub to integrated transport within the city and county?

Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources Response: Once again these are in the County Council's control, through either County Highways (street signage) or the Integrated Transport Unit, however we can flag these issues with them. We are happy to continue to work with the County Council to continue to help facilitate the services delivered and make improvements where we are able.

109. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

There were no petitions or deputations.

110. LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

In respect of question 1 Councillor Wilson advised that some trees had been planted in inappropriate positions on Hucclecote Green. He sought reassurance that volunteer groups would not be left alone to rectify such situations and that in this case the Friends of Hucclecote Green would be assisted.

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The Cabinet Member for Environment stated that there was no expectation for volunteer groups to move planted trees. He recommended that the Climate Change Manager be alerted to the Hucclecote Green issues so action can be taken.

In respect of question 2 Councillor Wilson sought confirmation that the City's own tree planting budget could be carried forward into the 2022/23 financial year irrespective of the deadline required to spend the grant money received for the same purpose. The Cabinet Member for Environment confirmed that the budget in question would be carried forward.

In respect of question 3 Councillor Hilton requested the most recent date before the cyber incident when an insurance decision was made. The Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources replied that as she was not the decision maker herself, she would consult officers and supply a written answer.

In respect of question 4 Councillor Hilton queried what records there were of relevant discussions following the incident in question. The Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources responded that although she believed the dialogue between the then Cabinet and officers to have been unminuted, she would make enquiries with officers and deliver a written answer directly.

In respect of question 5 Councillor Hilton enquired when a planning application might be made. The Cabinet Member for Environment informed Councillor Hilton that he believed it was usual in such cases for the developer to ensure all funding was in place before submitting an application so he was not expecting an application yet.

In respect of question 6 Councillor Hilton asked when ward councillors would be briefed on options for the Wessex House site. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy confirmed that officers were keen to progress the development and that a briefing would take place at a future Group Leaders' meeting.

In respect of question 7 Councillor Hilton noted the importance to the development of the land belonging to Tesco PLC. He sought confirmation that its inclusion was guaranteed. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy gave her assurance that a written answer would be provided.

In respect of question 8 Councillor Hilton reminded Members that reports had been made of problems in the streets around the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) area in Kingsholm. He sought clarification of progress being made to extend the PSPO. The Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods reiterated the need for the Police to have sufficient evidence of disorder before the PSPO could be extended. He noted the reports alluded to and pledged to take the matter forward with officers.

In respect of question 9 Councillor Hilton informed Members that he received emails on the matter regularly from Kingsholm residents and noted the importance of the open space to them. He asked what the ways under consideration to make

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camping less attractive referred to in the written answer were. The Cabinet Member for Environment reassured Councillor Hilton that the ward councillors would be fully briefed on solutions including boulders and new trees. He further commented that although physical barriers might be most effective, they would be detrimental to the public's enjoyment of the park.

RESOLVED that the written questions submitted and corresponding responses are noted.

111. EQUALITIES WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods that updated Members on the work officers have undertaken regarding equalities, as well as the work that the Equality and Diversity Working Group has completed, this year.

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods highlighted the key features of and background to the report. He particularly drew Members' attention to the Commission to Review Race Relations (3.3.1) and the Monuments Review (3.3.2). The Leader of the Council commented on the enormous amount of effort put in by the contributors to both and the extraordinary breadth and depth of the latter.

RESOLVED that the work undertaken by Council officers, the Equality and Diversity Working Group, elected members and Council partners regarding equalities is welcomed.

Time of commencement: 6.00 pm

Time of conclusion: 6.37 pm

Chair