



COUNCIL

MEETING : Thursday, 23rd March 2023

PRESENT : Cllrs. Hyman (Mayor), J. Brown (Sheriff & Deputy Mayor), Cook, Norman, S. Chambers, Lewis, Padilla, Hilton, Pullen, Gravells MBE, Tracey, Morgan, Wilson, Williams, D. Brown, Taylor, Toleman, Brooker, Ackroyd, Castle, A. Chambers, Chambers-Dubus, Conder, Dee, Durdey, Evans, Hudson, Kubaszczyk, O'Donnell, Radley, Sawyer and Campbell

Others in Attendance

Managing Director
Monitoring Officer
Director of Communities
Director of Policy and Resources
Head of Culture
Head of Place
Financial Services Manager
Policy and Governance Manager
Democratic and Electoral Services Team Leader

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. Bhaimia, Field, Patel, Finnegan, Bowkett and Zaman

61. MINUTES

61.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2023 were agreed and signed as a correct record by the Mayor.

62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

62.1 Councillor Brooker declared an interest in any aspect of discussion related to the Member of Parliament for Gloucester by virtue of being employed by that individual.

63. CALL OVER

63.1 The Mayor invited Members to indicate whether they wished to reserve agenda items 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 for discussion. None of these items were reserved.

COUNCIL
23.03.23

64. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

64.1 There were no public questions.

65. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

65.1 Councillor A. Chambers presented a petition which called for *the Council to re-buy the land back at Newton Avenue in Coney Hill and install EV electric vehicle parking for residents, making the streets safer and providing environmental friendly parking options.*

65.2 The Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, Councillor Norman, received the petition and advised that she would pass it onto officers who would review the proposal.

66. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor

66.1 The Mayor presented Councillor Morgan and Councillor Wilson with a badge in order to recognise their 20 year service as Members of the Council.

66.2 The Mayor provided Members with an update on fundraising activities for the nominated Civic Charity, Pride in Gloucestershire, and encouraged further donations.

Members of the Cabinet

66.3 Councillor Norman conveyed the thanks of the Council to the outgoing Director of Policy and Resources who was retiring at the end of the week. She praised his diligence and sound advice over a number of years and Members wished him well for the future.

66.4 The Cabinet Member of Culture and Leisure, Councillor Lewis, informed Members that a Gala screening of 'An Irish Goodbye' would be held on Sunday 26th March at 2pm at the Gloucester Guildhall. Following the screening, a Q & A with the writers and directors was to be held. He further informed Members that Blackfriars Priory had been nominated for a Wedding Venue of the Year award. Councillor Lewis announced that the Museum of Gloucester had recently been presented with a series of rugby caps.

Point of Personal Explanation

66.5 Councillor A. Chambers made a point of personal explanation regarding comments made at the meeting of the Council on 29 September 2022. He apologised if his words had caused offence and stated that the right to freedom of expression must be maintained.

COUNCIL
23.03.23

67. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

- 67.1 Councillor Hilton asked, as a supplementary to question 1 if efforts could be redoubled to ensure Spread Eagle Court was weatherproof. Councillor Cook advised that the Council continued to engage with those charged with restoring the site and he was hopeful progress could be made.
- 67.2 In respect of question 2, Councillor Hilton asked what was being done to find a new tenant to occupy the former Chambers pub in Kings Square. Councillor Norman stated that discussions with the current tenant were ongoing with a view to an improved position on a new tenancy.
- 67.3 Councillor Pullen stated that he had previously requested additional funding for Aspire. He asked for a guarantee that GL1 and Aspire would remain open. Councillor Lewis advised that the Council had given the funding that had been requested.
- 67.4 With regard to question 4, Councillor Pullen asked how much the consultants formulating the climate change strategy would cost and what the anticipated timescale was. Councillor Cook informed Members that his understanding was that it would cost in the region of £85k and that he believed it would take approximately six months.
- 67.5 Councillor A. Chambers asked Councillor Cook in respect of question 5 whether the Ubico contract had been understood by the administration. Councillor Cook advised that the contract had been drawn up in partnership between both Ubico and the City Council.
- 67.6 In respect of question 6, Councillor O'Donnell asked if the Council would receive CIL monies as part of the new Barretts development. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy advised that the development itself would improve the economy in Matson and that numerous contributions were available from other sources.
- 67.7 Councillor Chambers-Dubus asked what the monies from Fixed Penalty Notices in respect of fly-tipping would be used for. Councillor Cook advised that it was used for improving the enviro-crime service.
- 67.8 In respect of question 9, Councillor Wilson asked what would the position be if one agency advised that the inquiry into the cyber incident could be published and another advised that it should not be publicly published. Councillor Norman provided an assurance that as much information would be public but that on some occasions there would be security information which would need to be private.
- 67.9 Councillor Norman advised Councillor Radley with regard to question 10 that officers were working with the City Farm in relation to leasing arrangements. In respect of questions 11 and 12, Councillor Norman advised that she was not currently in a position to confirm whether a 25 year lease could be considered either as a usual proposal or under special circumstances.

COUNCIL
23.03.23

67.10 Councillor J. Brown asked for detailed plans for Barnwood Park and to be involved in work going forward. Councillor Cook stated that he would pass this request onto officers.

67.11 *As a Member appointed to the Board of Aspire, Councillor Castle declared an interest in respect of question 14.*

Councillor Castle asked if the Council should have been aware there were issues at GL1. Councillor Norman stated that she would follow up on what was reported in October 2022.

67.12 With regard to question 18, Councillor Hilton asked if restoring the collections database at the museum had added to the cost of the cyber recovery. Councillor Norman advised that as the recovery was not yet fully complete this was difficult to say.

67.13 Councillor A. Chambers asked in respect of question 19 what the Council would do if a significant number of newly planted trees were to die. Councillor Cook advised that this was a matter for the County Council and that the question would be better directed to that place.

67.14 Councillor O'Donnell asked if residents would receive an apology for wet paper and cardboard being collected. Councillor Cook advised that in many cases, such recycling was contaminated through other means and could not be collected in that event regardless.

67.15 With regard to question 21, Councillor Chambers-Dubus asked what steps were being taken to mitigate placing homeless families in hotel accommodation. Councillor S. Chambers stated that it was being addressed as part of the housing strategy and was always looking for ways to improve.

67.16 Councillor D. Brown asked when the audit of access arrangements to the King George V playing fields would commence. Councillor Cook advised that officers would consult on this as soon as was possible.

67.17 Councillor Hilton asked in respect of question 23 what plans there were to improve autumn street sweeping. Councillor Cook advised that he was in discussions regarding whether to purchase a sweeper specifically for this purpose.

67.18 With regard to question 24, Councillor A. Chambers asked whether additional CCTV would be sought to assist in crime prevention. The Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods informed Members that there would soon be improved lighting which would improve the situation.

67.19 Councillor A. Chambers in relation to question 26 if the administration would consider rethinking the recent changes to parking tariffs in Council owned car parks. Councillor Norman stated that the cost of operating the car parks had increased through matters such as staffing, electricity and cleaning and that the impact of the changes would form part of the usual financial monitoring undertaken as a matter of course.

COUNCIL
23.03.23

67.20 With regard to question 27, Councillor A. Chambers asked whether the matter of unoccupied council owned units could be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Norman stated that if a paper was sought, this would be possible. She advised that the administration was attempting to reframe the City Centre and that was not something that would ever see instant results but that there was growing interest from business to occupy sites.

68. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023-24

68.1 **RESOLVED** that:

- (1) the Treasury Management Strategy at Appendix 1 be approved;
- (2) the authorised borrowing limit be approved at:- a) 2023/24 £260m b) 2024/25 £265m c) 2025/26 £260m
- (3) the prudential indicators set out in section two of the strategy be approved.

69. CAPITAL STRATEGY 2023-24

69.1 **RESOLVED** that the Capital Strategy at Appendix 1 be approved.

70. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2023-24

70.1 **RESOLVED** that the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 at Appendix 1 be approved.

71. CONTINUATION OF THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH JOINT COMMITTEE BEYOND 31 MARCH 2023 FOR A FURTHER TEMPORARY PERIOD

71.1 **RESOLVED** that the Council:

- (i) Agree to the GEGJC continuing to operate from 31 March 2023 for a further temporary period as agreed at the GEGJC meeting on 9 February 2023, and
- (ii) delegate authority to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Leader of the Council to agree the length of the extension and complete the appropriate legal documentation to allow the Inter Authority Agreement to be extended beyond 31 March 2023.

72. DESIGNATION OF INTERIM CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (S151 OFFICER)

72.1 **RESOLVED** that Greg Maw, Financial Services Manager, be designated the Council's interim Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer) until such time as a permanent appointment is made, in accordance with section 151 of the Local

COUNCIL
23.03.23

Government Act 1972, with effect from 1 April for a period of up to 6 months but no more than 12 months.

73. NOTICES OF MOTION

73.1 Councillor A. Chambers proposed and Councillor O'Donnell seconded the following motion:

“Our city needs to be a safe haven for wildlife and ecology. I would like to propose that special ‘swift bricks and bee bricks’ to be incorporated in new developments across Gloucester City Council to help halt the decline of the distinctive birds and bees.

Approved by the RSPB, the bird boxes are designed to look like bricks, but feature a small hole where swifts can enter and build their nests. Swifts are urban birds which make their nests in rooftops or in old buildings, after flying over 6,000 miles from Africa in the spring. However, modern building methods, along with the demolition of old buildings, have reduced the swifts’ access to rooftops, resulting in a serious decline in numbers. Twenty years ago there were 150,000 pairs in Britain – now there are fewer than 90,000.

Although known as swift bricks, they can be used by a variety of other birds including sparrows, starlings, blue tits and great tits. This new initiative has the potential to halt the decline of swifts in the city, while also provide safe nesting places for many other types of small birds.

Other councils have adopted this around England and RSPB conservation officer Jack Thompson said: “This important planning condition for swifts will help provide more opportunities for nesting swifts and urban birds, supporting important sites, and build on the fantastic work being done to save our swifts.”

Bee bricks should also be installed for new build developments and should be incorporated in the external walls of new developments - one for each property.

This Council agrees to investigate the introduction of a planning condition that:

- Will see swift boxes and bee bricks incorporated in the vast majority of new developments in the city.
- Requires swift bricks and bee bricks to be incorporated in all new developments that are five metres high and above in Gloucester City.
- Requires a minimum of two swift bricks per dwelling and one bee brick per dwelling.

COUNCIL
23.03.23

- Requires commercial developments to have a minimum of three boxes, or one per 50sqm of floor spaces. Ideally, swift and bee bricks should be placed under the eaves in groups of at least three.
- Should be attached to all planning permissions granted after 1 April 2024 for the City of Gloucester.

Members are asked to approve this motion and help our City to work closely with the RSPB who have come up with a simple scheme that will increase biodiversity, and encourage wildlife to thrive in our city. So please, don't vote politically, vote for our nature, our birds and our bees to safe guarding our wildlife for generations to come."

73.2 Councillor S. Chambers proposed and Councillor Lewis seconded the following amendment:

~~"Our city needs to be a safe haven for wildlife and ecology. I would like to propose that special 'swift bricks and bee bricks' to be incorporated in new developments across Gloucester City Council to help halt the decline of the distinctive birds and bees.~~

Approved by the RSPB, the bird boxes are designed to look like bricks, but feature a small hole where swifts can enter and build their nests.

Swifts are urban birds which make their nests in rooftops or in old buildings, after flying over 6,000 miles from Africa in the spring. However, modern building methods, along with the demolition of old buildings, have reduced the swifts' access to rooftops, resulting in a serious decline in numbers. ~~Twenty years ago there were 150,000 pairs in Britain – now there are fewer than 90,000.~~ **Swifts were added to the UK Red list of Birds of Conservation Concern in 2021.**

Although known as swift bricks, they can be used by a variety of other birds including sparrows, starlings, blue tits and great tits. This new initiative has the potential to halt the decline of swifts in the city, while also provide safe nesting places for many other types of small birds.

~~Other councils have adopted this around England and RSPB conservation officer Jack Thompson said: "This important planning condition for swifts will help provide more opportunities for nesting swifts and urban birds, supporting important sites, and build on the fantastic work being done to save our swifts."~~

~~Bee bricks should also be installed for new build developments and should be incorporated in the external walls of new developments – one for each property.~~

- **This Council is currently working with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust to prepare a simple design guide to assist developers in delivering Biodiversity Net Gain in development sites.**

COUNCIL
23.03.23

- This Council agrees to investigate ~~the introduction of a planning condition that:~~ **the inclusion of swift and bee bricks in this design guide, which could then be incorporated into appropriate developments.**
- ~~Will see swift boxes and bee bricks incorporated in the vast majority of new developments in the city.~~
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- ~~Requires swift bricks and bee bricks to be incorporated in all new developments that are five metres high and above in Gloucester City.~~
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- ~~Requires a minimum of two swift bricks per dwelling and one bee brick per dwelling.~~
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- ~~Requires commercial developments to have a minimum of three boxes, or one per 50sqm of floor spaces. Ideally, swift and bee bricks should be placed under the eaves in groups of at least three.~~
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- ~~Should be attached to all planning permissions granted after 1 April 2024 for the City of Gloucester.~~
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Members are asked to approve this motion and help our City to work closely with the RSPB who have come up with a simple scheme that will increase biodiversity, and encourage wildlife to thrive in our city. ~~So please, don't vote politically, vote for our nature, our birds and our bees to safe guarding our wildlife for generations to come."~~

73.3 The amendment was accepted by the proposer of the original motion and therefore being the substantive motion. It was put to the vote and was carried.

73.4 **RESOLVED that:-**

Our city needs to be a safe haven for wildlife and ecology.

Approved by the RSPB, the bird boxes are designed to look like bricks, but feature a small hole where swifts can enter and build their nests.

Swifts are urban birds which make their nests in rooftops or in old buildings, after flying over 6,000 miles from Africa in the spring. However, modern building methods, along with the demolition of old buildings, have reduced the swifts' access to rooftops, resulting in a serious decline in numbers. Swifts were added to the UK Red list of Birds of Conservation Concern in 2021.

Although known as swift bricks, they can be used by a variety of other birds including sparrows, starlings, blue tits and great tits. This new initiative has the potential to halt the decline of swifts in the city, while also provide safe nesting places for many other types of small birds.

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COUNCIL
23.03.23

- This Council is currently working with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust to prepare a simple design guide to assist developers in delivering Biodiversity Net Gain in development sites.
- This Council agrees to investigate the inclusion of swift and bee bricks in this design guide, which could then be incorporated into appropriate developments.

Members are asked to approve this motion and help our City to work with the RSPB who have come up with a simple scheme that will increase biodiversity, and encourage wildlife to thrive in our city.

- 73.5 Councillor A. Chamber proposed and Councillor O'Donnell seconded the following motion:

“Many young lives have been lost in our city as a result of KNIFE crime. I ask all members to vote in favour for our city leader and city managing director to write to the MP of Gloucester requesting them to put forward an argument to Parliament to change the law relating to knife crime and carrying knives. This would be a request for the requirement for a minimum prison sentence of 1 year imprisonment for carrying an illegal knife.

Currently the punishment for carrying a knife (as a first time offender) carries no minimum sentence and a maximum 1 year sentence. In order to counteract the rise of knife crime in our City, the law needs to be looked at and changed.

I therefore ask all members to use their votes to request this change to make our city and community safer for all. Using your vote could help save a young life in our city!”

- 73.6 Councillor Padilla proposed and Councillor Hudson seconded the following amendment:

“This Council recognises that the motion passed in November 2021 promoted a public health approach to dealing with knife crime which was unanimously accepted. This work continues in Gloucester and we thank officers and partners who have worked tirelessly to support communities in our city.

Unfortunately, however, Many young lives have been lost in our city as a result of KNIFE crime. I ask all members to vote in favour for our city leader and city managing director to write to the MP of Gloucester requesting them to put forward an argument to Parliament to change the law relating to knife crime and carrying knives. This would be a request for the requirement for a minimum prison sentence of 1 year imprisonment for carrying an illegal knife to the Justice Secretary to ask him to review his approach to sentencing to provide a greater deterrence to those who refuse to engage with support or repeatedly carry knives.

COUNCIL
23.03.23

Currently the punishment for carrying a knife (as a first time offender) carries no minimum sentence and a maximum 1 year sentence. ~~In order to counteract the rise of knife crime in our City, the law needs to be looked at and changed.~~

I therefore ask all members to use their votes to request this change to make our city and community safer for all. Using your vote could help save a young life in our city!"

73.7 The amendment was accepted by the proposer of the original motion and therefore being the substantive motion. It was put to the vote and was carried.

73.8 **RESOLVED that:-**

"This Council recognises that the motion passed in November 2021 promoted a public health approach to dealing with knife crime which was unanimously accepted. This work continues in Gloucester and we thank officers and partners who have worked tirelessly to support communities in our city.

Unfortunately, however, young lives have been lost in our city as a result of KNIFE crime. I ask all members to vote in favour for our city leader and city managing director to write to the Justice Secretary to ask him to review his approach to sentencing to provide a greater deterrence to those who refuse to engage with support or repeatedly carry knives.

Currently the punishment for carrying a knife (as a first time offender) carries no minimum sentence and a maximum 1 year sentence.

I therefore ask all members to use their votes to request this change to make our city and community safer for all. Using your vote could help save a young life in our city!"

73.9 Councillor A. Chamber proposed and Councillor O'Donnell seconded the following motion:

"Gloucester City Council showed solidarity to Ukraine by raising a flag over the docks and I was proud to have seconded that motion. Now is the time for the city to do the same with Turkey & Syria.

A series of devastating earthquakes have hit southern Turkey (now known as Türkiye) and north-west Syria killing over 50,000 people and injuring many more.

The first deadly earthquake struck while people were inside their homes, asleep in their beds, with no warning signs. More than 54,000 buildings, including hospitals and schools, have been destroyed or damaged. People have been left without shelter in freezing winter conditions.

COUNCIL
23.03.23

I ask that Gloucester City Council raises both the Turkish and Syrian flags for 30 days to show solidarity to both nations during this world disaster and their time of need.

Please members vote to support this motion to show the people of Turkey and Syria that we the people of Gloucester are in support and do care.”

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

~~“Gloucester City Council showed solidarity to Ukraine by raising a flag over the docks and I was proud to have seconded that motion. Now is the time for the city to do the same with Turkey & Syria.~~

A series of devastating earthquakes have hit southern Turkey (now known as Türkiye) and north-west Syria killing over 50,000 people and injuring many more.

The first deadly earthquake struck while people were inside their homes, asleep in their beds, with no warning signs. More than 54,000 buildings, including hospitals and schools, have been destroyed or damaged. People have been left without shelter in freezing winter conditions.

This council welcomes the support that the United Kingdom has given towards the disaster relief.

We remind individuals in Gloucester that they can help with the aid being provided by charities by giving a donation no matter how small to help in the earthquake recovery.

One of the safest ways to donate is to contribute to the Disasters Emergency Committee at www.dec.org.uk.

~~I ask that Gloucester City Council raises both the Turkish and Syrian flags for 30 days to show solidarity to both nations during this world disaster and their time of need.~~

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- 73.11 The amendment was accepted by the proposer of the original motion and therefore being the substantive motion. It was put to the vote and was carried.

- 73.12 **RESOLVED that:-**

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A series of devastating earthquakes have hit southern Turkey (now known as Türkiye) and north-west Syria killing over 50,000 people and injuring many more.

The first deadly earthquake struck while people were inside their homes, asleep in their beds, with no warning signs. More than 54,000 buildings, including hospitals and schools, have been destroyed or damaged. People have been left without shelter in freezing winter conditions.

COUNCIL
23.03.23

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One of the safest ways to donate is to contribute to the Disasters Emergency Committee at www.dec.org.uk.

73.13 Councillor O'Donnell proposed and Councillor A. Chambers seconded the following motion:

“We as independent Councillors note with concern the increase in homelessness and rough sleeping nationwide in recent years, and the profound impact that homelessness has on people’s physical and mental wellbeing.

We recognise that two common reasons why members of the public may not give spare change to homeless people are a concern about how that money may be spent, and, due to the recent increase in use of contactless payment cards, often have less or no cash about their person.

We consider the BillyChip, a Ceramic token which can be purchased in cafes and later redeemed by a homeless person in exchange for a hot or cold drink and often food to be a simple, innovative and more secure way for members of the public to give financial support to homeless people, which many wish to do.

We recognise further that the BillyChip is already available in numerous outlets across Bristol, Bath and Oxford, is in the process of identifying and approaching potential venues in Gloucester, and is the subject of huge popular online support. We already have some venues that do the billy chip scheme, revive cafe, owned by Gloucester city mission, Seymour post office and the Seymour cafe. We wish to be part of this.

We would like Council to offer the BillyChip its full endorsement and commits to supporting the implementation of the chip here in Gloucester.

To achieve this, council needs to resolve to:

- collaborate with the BillyChip CIC on developing its profile in Gloucester.
- give the BillyChip CIC free use of its premises for the purposes of public information meetings.
- provide space on the Gloucester City Council website listing participating venues and other relevant information.
- ensure that all appropriate council-operated venues participate in the scheme.

COUNCIL
23.03.23

73.14 Councillor S. Chambers proposed and Councillor Hudson seconded the following amendment:

~~“We as independent Councillors note with concern the increase in homelessness and rough sleeping nationwide in recent years, and~~

The Council is concerned that after 4 years of decreasing, rough sleeping has risen nationally this year.

We recognise the profound impact that homelessness **rough sleeping** has on people’s physical and mental wellbeing.

We recognise that two common reasons why members of the public may not give spare change to homeless people are a concern about how that money may be spent, and, due to the recent increase in use of contactless payment cards, often have less or no cash about their person.

We consider the BillyChip, a Ceramic token which can be purchased in cafes and later redeemed by a homeless person in exchange for a hot or cold drink and often food to be a simple, innovative and more secure way for members of the public to give financial support to ~~homeless people~~ **rough sleepers**, which ~~many people~~ **wish to do.**

We recognise further that the BillyChip is already available in numerous outlets across Bristol, Bath and Oxford., ~~is in the process of identifying and approaching potential venues in Gloucester, and is the subject of huge popular online support. We already have some venues that do the billy chip scheme, revive cafe, owned by Gloucester city mission, Seymour post office and the Seymour cafe. There are currently two outlets listed on the BillyChip website in Gloucester; Seymour Post Office and Revive Coffee House, two in Cheltenham and one in Stroud. We wish to be part of this.~~

~~We would like Council to offer the BillyChip its full endorsement and commits to supporting the implementation of the chip here in Gloucester~~ **recognise that BillyChip is a worthwhile scheme that allows members of the public a different choice in how to support rough sleepers.**

~~To achieve this, Council needs to resolves to:~~

- ~~– collaborate with the BillyChip CIC on developing its profile in Gloucester. – give the BillyChip CIC free use of its premises for the purposes of public information meetings.~~
- ~~– provide space a link on the Gloucester City Council website listing participating venues and other relevant information to the BillyChip website.~~

COUNCIL
23.03.23

- ~~ensure that all appropriate council-operated~~ **consider if any council-owned venues are appropriate** to participate in the scheme.”

73.15 The amendment was accepted by the proposer of the original motion and therefore being the substantive motion. It was put to the vote and was carried.

73.16 **RESOLVED that:-**

The Council is concerned that after 4 years of decreasing, rough sleeping has risen nationally this year.

We recognise the profound impact that rough sleeping has on people's physical and mental wellbeing.

We recognise that two common reasons why members of the public may not give spare change to homeless people are a concern about how that money may be spent, and, due to the recent increase in use of contactless payment cards, often have less or no cash about their person.

We consider the BillyChip, a Ceramic token which can be purchased in cafes and later redeemed by a homeless person in exchange for a hot or cold drink and often food to be a simple, innovative and more secure way for members of the public to give financial support to rough sleepers, which people wish to do.

We recognise further that the BillyChip is already available in numerous outlets across Bristol, Bath and Oxford. There are currently two outlets listed on the BillyChip website in Gloucester; Seymour Post Office and Revive Coffee House, two in Cheltenham and one in Stroud.

We recognise that BillyChip is a worthwhile scheme that allows members of the public a different choice in how to support rough sleepers.

Council resolves to:

- collaborate with the BillyChip CIC on developing its profile in Gloucester.
- provide a link on the Gloucester City Council website to the BillyChip website.
- consider if any council-owned venues are appropriate to participate in the scheme.

73.17 Councillor O'Donnell proposed and Councillor A. Chambers seconded the following motion:

“This Council asks the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy to consider putting signs up mapping where the homeless shelters are. This will help more people to know where they are in our city as well as the warm

COUNCIL
23.03.23

spaces available, as many homeless people do not even know these warm spaces existed, hence they were staying in doorways trying to keep warm.

A simple sticker at a low cost could be stuck over the various street mapping signs around our city to help guide these vulnerable people to places of sanctuary.

This Council supports what is a very simple fix to help vulnerable people in our city find the help they need.”

- 73.18 Councillor Pullen proposed and Councillor Chamber-Dubus seconded the following amendment:

“This Council asks the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy to consider putting signs up mapping where the homeless shelters are. This will help more people to know where they are in our city as well as the warm spaces available, as many homeless people do not even know these warm spaces existed, hence they were staying in doorways trying to keep warm.

~~A simple sticker at a low cost could be stuck over the various street mapping signs around our city to help guide these vulnerable people to places of sanctuary.~~

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Information and greater awareness of the location of homeless shelters and warm spaces and how to access them should be publicised at appropriate poster sites and venues in the city.

This Council supports ~~what is a very simple fix to help~~ **providing information to** vulnerable people in our city **to** find the help they need.”

- 73.19 The amendment was accepted by the proposer of the original motion and therefore being the substantive motion. It was put to the vote and was lost.

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

“The intimidation and abuse of councillors in person or otherwise undermines democracy, prevents councillors from representing the communities they serve, deters people from standing for election and undermines public life in democratic processes.

This council is concerned about the detrimental effect abuse and intimidation in public and political discourse can have on local democracy. The council must ensure that prevention, support and responses to such actions and behaviour should be in place to ensure councillors feel safe and able to represent their residents.

Furthermore, councillors should ensure that their own conduct and behaviour in carrying out council duties should be of the highest standard and not act in a way that is abusive or intimidating, whether that is during formal debate in council meetings or in other democratic activities.

COUNCIL
23.03.23

Abusive and intimidating behaviour should not be normalised, accepted or tolerated.

This council therefore agrees to sign up to the Local Government Association's 'Debate Not Hate' campaign to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in their communities, encourage healthy debate and ensure the support to those in public life who face abuse or intimidation.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Write to Gloucester's MP encouraging him to support the campaign
- Write to the Government to ask them to work with the LGA to develop and implement a plan to address abuse and intimidation of politicians at every level.
- Ensure that Gloucester City Council has clear reporting mechanisms that councillors can use to monitor and record incidents of harassment, intimidation and abuse.
- Regularly review the support available to councillors in relation to abuse, intimidation and safety.
- Work with the police to make sure there are clear and joined up processes for reporting threats and concerns for the safety of councillors and their families and ensure there is a preventative approach to consider the risks councillors face, as they do with other high profile individuals like MP's.
- Take a zero tolerance approach to abuse of councillors and officers."

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

73.22 **RESOLVED that:-**

The intimidation and abuse of councillors in person or otherwise undermines democracy, prevents councillors from representing the communities they serve, deters people from standing for election and undermines public life in democratic processes.

This council is concerned about the detrimental effect abuse and intimidation in public and political discourse can have on local democracy. The council must ensure that prevention, support and responses to such actions and behaviour should be in place to ensure councillors feel safe and able to represent their residents.

Furthermore, councillors should ensure that their own conduct and behaviour in carrying out council duties should be of the highest standard and not act in a way that is abusive or intimidating, whether that is during formal debate in council meetings or in other democratic activities.

COUNCIL
23.03.23

Abusive and intimidating behaviour should not be normalised, accepted or tolerated.

This council therefore agrees to sign up to the Local Government Association's 'Debate Not Hate' campaign to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in their communities, encourage healthy debate and ensure the support to those in public life who face abuse or intimidation.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Write to Gloucester's MP encouraging him to support the campaign
- Write to the Government to ask them to work with the LGA to develop and implement a plan to address abuse and intimidation of politicians at every level.
- Ensure that Gloucester City Council has clear reporting mechanisms that councillors can use to monitor and record incidents of harassment, intimidation and abuse.
- Regularly review the support available to councillors in relation to abuse, intimidation and safety.
- Work with the police to make sure there are clear and joined up processes for reporting threats and concerns for the safety of councillors and their families and ensure there is a preventative approach to consider the risks councillors face, as they do with other high profile individuals like MP's.
- Take a zero tolerance approach to abuse of councillors and officers.

73.23 Councillor Sawyer proposed and Councillor Castle seconded the following motion:

"This council notes that there has been an increase in the number of requests to erect 5G masts around the City of Gloucester, seriously impacting the look of the city. Residents in our wards mainly object because of the way they look.

This Council recognises that they do not need planning permission, but Gloucester City Council can have a say in the visual impact on our city.

Paragraph 115 of the National Planning Policy Framework states that "where new sites are required (such as for new 5G networks, or for connected transport and smart city applications), equipment should be sympathetically designed and camouflaged where appropriate"

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports' code of practice states that "early discussions with operators, local planning authorities and

COUNCIL
23.03.23

communities on the design of the masts should be encouraged". This has not happened.

The code of practice also states that "the Government's objective is to deliver high quality reliable infrastructure whilst ensuring the impact is kept to a minimum".

Policy G5 of the new City plan states "Development proposals for telecommunications infrastructure will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the development is sympathetically designed and would not have an adverse impact upon the environment (including heritage assets, biodiversity, local amenity, the landscape and its setting). Where new sites are required (such as for new 5G networks, or for connected transport and smart city applications), equipment should be sympathetically designed and camouflaged where appropriate."

The designs of the 5G masts that have been approved to date are having a massive impact on the local street scene. As officers and members, our duty is to protect the heritage of our city and these masts are not in keeping with the local architecture and open spaces. They will be here for a long time, so we need to act now.

This council calls on the cabinet member for planning to:

- create a design code for these masts and to choose a style that blends in with the surroundings.
- include the cross-party members planning policy group and to consult with all residents in Gloucester during this process.
- review the way these new masts are promoted to residents. Putting a sign on a lamppost is not proving very effective."

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

Time of commencement: 18:30 hours

Time of conclusion: 20:55 hours

Chair