



COUNCIL

MEETING : Thursday, 13th July 2023

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

Others in Attendance

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

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. Pullen, Finnegan, Bowkett and Conder

13. MINUTES

13.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2023 were agreed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

14.1 Councillor Brooker declared an interest in Notices of Motion due to her employment by the Member of Parliament for Gloucester.

15. CALL OVER

15.1 The Mayor invited Members to indicate whether they wished to reserve agenda items 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 for discussion. Item 11 was reserved for discussion.

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16. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

16.1 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

‘When will the council stop putting displays in shop windows and actually help people and their businesses move into these empty spaces?’

16.2 The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment responded:

‘As a council, we continue to provide a wide range of support for our city centre, in part to encourage the use of vacant premises. Most significantly, the council is leading the £200m+ redevelopment of the kings quarter together with our partners, the University of Gloucestershire and Reef Group. This includes the city council’s £107m investment in King’s Quarter, including The Forum, King’s Square, ongoing refurbishment of Kings Walk Shopping Centre, and the Transport Interchange, which will improve that part of the city centre, attracting significant further investment to create business and job opportunities, new homes and a much better environment for users. Other Examples of ongoing support include:

1. All vacant premises that are in council control and that are fit for occupation, are currently on the open market and we are in discussions with a number of potential tenants.
2. We actively encourage meanwhile uses in our own units and in third party units to encourage community and cultural uses and not-for-profit organisations to take space in the city centre. We are currently working with some community based groups to take on meanwhile use spaces and others already in occupation are working with us to grow their businesses and relocate to larger / more suitable premises. An example of this is SoFab Sports currently located in Kings Walk Shopping Centre.
3. Over the past 10 years the Council has invested heavily in the regeneration of Southgate Street and Cathedral Quarter, working with property owners to redevelop historic properties to create new retail, business and residential space. Over the past 3 years the Cathedral Quarter High Street HAZ scheme has redeveloped 14 properties alongside marketing the area to visitors and prospective businesses.

Displays in vacant shop windows play a small but useful role in improving the appearance of the city centre, in raising awareness of cultural events and activities, and providing information to the public, for example, on the history of the city.’

16.3 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

‘Homelessness is, in my opinion, at an all time high - it needs to be a priority to get our citizens off the streets instead of removing their tents from them and the little belongings these individuals have. Isn’t it about time the council help with this?’

16.4 The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy responded:

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‘Homelessness results from a wide range of circumstances and the relatively small number of people sleeping rough are often the most visible cohort. Gloucester City Council has a key priority to prevent homelessness, and works proactively with the other councils in the county to end rough sleeping in Gloucestershire and ensure that when it does occur it is rare, brief, and non-recurrent.

We have a range of services that support people sleeping rough and to prevent the need for people to sleep rough including that every person new to sleeping rough in the city has received an offer of accommodation. The countywide rough sleeping outreach and support service engages with individuals to identify the most appropriate housing pathway for them and where appropriate also assists with health issues and other complex needs that may prevent an individual from accessing a housing solution.

Wherever possible, we work to engage with individuals however some people visible on the street are not homeless, and also in a minority of cases individuals cause anti-social behaviour including through siting tents in inappropriate locations. Unfortunately, there are occasions where despite attempts to engage with individuals it is necessary for the council to respond appropriately to address concerns raised by members of the public and other statutory bodies. If an individual’s belongings are removed then the individual is left a note advising where they can collect their belongings.

Where a resident sees a person sleeping rough they can make a referral to Streetlink which will then pass the information to our rough sleeping outreach and support team so that assistance can be provided to the individual at the earliest opportunity. Streetlink referrals can be made by using the Streetlink app, by visiting www.streetlink.org.uk or by phoning 0300 500 0914.’

16.5 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

‘The youth of today in Gloucester have little to do especially in the evenings, which, in my opinion, is the reason why the crime rate has risen amongst the younger population of Gloucester. It is important we invest in the youth of today - why can’t the council sponsor and open a youth centre in the city centre and then gradually open these across the Gloucester area?’

16.6 The Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods responded:

‘Firstly, we would gently challenge the narrative that the youth of Gloucester have nothing to do.

Young people in Gloucester with the ability to pay have access to, sports, play and creative activities, and the ability to travel to them if they are not happening where they live.

Young people without money are dependent on what's happening where they live and that varies widely from areas with well-loved and well-

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established youth provision run by VCS e.g. Matson and White City to other areas where there isn't any provision.

We're currently working with our outstanding VCS partners to secure the funding that will enable us to recruit a group/panel of young people to lead research with peers to tell us what they want to see in the city centre and beyond. This will almost certainly be more recreational opportunities but what those are and where should be based are best determined by young people themselves.'

16.7 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

'Individuals are given bans from Gloucester town centre from city safe, solace and court orders. How are the public expected to feel safe and listened to when the response given when reporting these individuals is 'we are aware of the situation'. How can you ensure these are constantly being enforced so that the community can see change is being made and individuals are not breaking their restrictions?'

16.8 The Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods responded:

'City Safe bans are enforced by CitySafe, CitySafe member shops and City Protection Officers on a regular basis.

ASB injunctions are constantly enforced by both Solace and Police, and City Protection Officers/CitySafe also play a crucial role in supporting this enforcement too, by reporting and info sharing with Solace/Police.

The City Council leads on a partnership approach called Street Aware which deals with street-based nuisance in the City Centre. Daily patrols are undertaken by various partner agencies (both enforcement and support led agencies) and information is shared amongst the partnership on a daily basis to deal with any breaches of ASB injunctions.

We are reliant on the court process to deal with breaches of injunction or criminal behaviour orders, and sometimes the court outcome does not match with people's expectation of what the penalty for anti-social behaviour should be.

As a City Council, and through the Street Aware partnership work and through our community safety partnership, we continually review how we are working and how things could be improved. Increased communication always helps with understanding what action is currently being taken, what can legally be done and what is planned for the future. We have recently supported the Police and Crime Commissioner with a session held with local businesses to voice concerns they had about ASB in the City centre, and after giving more detail about the work we undertake on a daily basis, businesses felt much more confident that proactive work is continually happening. We would be more than happy to do similar sessions or share

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more information on our proactive work with anyone who gets in touch with us. Further to this we would actively encourage anyone who witnesses or is affected by ASB to report it to us so that we can support the necessary action to deal with it. ASB can be reported to the Police via 101 (or 999 in an emergency) or to Solace at asb@gloucester.gov.uk or via City Council here to help on 01452 396396.'

17. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

17.1 There were no petitions nor deputations.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor

18.1 The Mayor announced that Gloucester was hosting the Three Choirs festival this year and that it would begin on Saturday 15 July 2023. She encouraged Members to attend and to encourage others to do so also.

Leader of the Council

18.2 Councillor Cook announced that income from recycling had increased from c. £300k p.a. to over £1.2m p.a. He attributed this partly to the increase in the price of recyclables as well as the hard work of officers, collection staff and residents themselves – all of whom he thanked and commended.

Members of the Cabinet

18.3 Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning Strategy, Councillor S. Chambers informed Members of an agreement with Rooftop Housing for a new development at St. Oswald's which would see a number of affordable homes brought online while cementing the Council's environmental commitments.

19. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

Leader and Cabinet Members' Question Time

19.1 In response to a supplementary question from Councillor Hilton regarding whether it would be a good idea to, during the planning process, look at moving the Gloucester murals on the former Sainsbury's site now. Councillor Cook confirmed that suggestions had been forthcoming and were examining the options. Councillor Cook stated that the art was difficult to move, as it required structural materials but hoped that it would be available on public display.

19.2 Councillor Chambers-Dubus in respect of question 3, sought clarity for the potential for a fine by the Information Commissioners Office for the cyber incident. Councillor Norman explained the scale of sanctions which could be issued, that it was likely the Council would receive a reprimand and not a fine and that a very broad of organisations had received a similar reprimand.

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- 19.3 In respect of question 6, Councillor O'Donnell sought assurances that webcasting of Council meetings would be available by January. Councillor Norman stated that while the Council was bound by procurement rules, it was the intention that meetings would be available online from the Council meeting scheduled for January.
- 19.4 Councillor Cook responded to a supplementary question from Councillor A. Chambers stating that any Councillor could make suggestions for Member training sessions, and it was available for him to do so in respect of Community Protection Notices.
- 19.5 With regard to question 8, Councillor Trimnell asked in what instances would the Council use covert monitoring to measure noise levels and under whose authorisation would this be granted. Councillor Cook confirmed that a written answer would be made available.
- 19.6 Councillor Wilson asked if the administration was comfortable with the fact it took 18 months to inform residents that personal data may have been compromised as a result of the cyber incident. Councillor Norman responded that both senior leadership and political leaders followed prudent advice correctly.
- 19.7 Councillor Norman provided clarity in respect of question 10 that the estimate of full costs related to the cyber incident was a total figure and not outstanding.
- 19.8 Councillor Field asked with regard to question 11 if there was any indication as to when Earls Park would be brought up to an adoptable standard. Councillor Cook clarified that this was dependent on Matthew Homes conducting the appropriate work.
- 19.9 In respect of question 14, Councillor Radley asked the Leader of the Council if he foresaw a time when the garden waste service could be reinstated in the Ebor and Armscroft Road areas. Councillor Cook outlined the reasons why this service was no longer available, in particular, as a result of residents' parking practices.
- 19.10 With regard to question 15, Councillor Hilton asked when might reassurance be made that City Protection Officers' patrols would continue. Councillor Padilla confirmed that the Council was in discussions with the BID and OPPC and that the OPPC was waiting for the ASB Hotspot Fund to be operative.
- 19.11 Councillor Trimnell in respect of question 19 asked if the refurbishment of the Scrumpty Statue would be for the benefit of the owner and public at large. Councillor Cook confirmed that the owner of the statue would be conducting the work, and therefore it would presumably be for their benefit.
- 19.12 Councillor Wilson asked if there was confidence that the relationship between Gloucestershire Airport and the Council could be restored. Councillor Cook responded that the Airport was in the process of hiring a

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new Managing Director as well as a specialist in their Property Portfolio. The Chair believes that the relationship with tenants has been restored.

- 19.13 In respect of question 22, Councillor Hilton noted that just 10 parking spaces were proposed for the development at the soon to be Clapham Court site. He asked why Officers had been consulting with GCH and not involving Members. Councillor S. Chambers advised that Members would be part of any statutory consultation.
- 19.14 Councillor O'Donnell asked whether CCTV to detect fly tipping in Matson could be requested. Councillor Cook responded that Councillor O'Donnell could ask Officers when such equipment may be available.
- 19.15 Councillor Cook confirmed to Councillor A. Chambers in respect of question 24 that a schedule of weed clearing had been provided to Members and could be requested again.
- 19.16 Councillor Field asked with regard to travelling communities occupying land, whether the administration was aware of a County Council group considering these matters. Councillor S. Chambers advised that the Council was looking at sites and was working with other councils to consider possible alternative options.
- 19.17 Councillor Cook responded to Councillor Hilton that he was confident that the Gloucester Window would be installed in Gloucester Bus Station by the end of 2023.
- 19.18 Councillor O'Donnell asked what the Council was going to do to reassure the public that the police would respond to an anti-social behaviour complaint. Councillor Cook responded that dealing with crime was the police's responsibility and that he would encourage any Member to inform residents to report incidents to the police.
- 19.19 In respect of question 29, Councillor Cook advised that Permali's Licensing Application and could offer no further comment.
- 19.20 In respect of question 31, Councillor Cook confirmed that details of City Council hedge cutting would be provided.

Questions to Chairs to Committee

- 19.21 In response to a question from Councillor Wilson, the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Councillor Field reiterated that all Councillor were welcome to attend the Special Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 25th September and could also ask questions at this meeting if they so wished.

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20. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME AND TIMETABLE FOR CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTER AND TEWKESBURY STRATEGIC AND LOCAL PLAN

20.1 RESOLVED that:

- (1) the updated Local Development Scheme (Appendix 1) be adopted with immediate effect.
- (2) authority be delegated to the Head of Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy, to prepare the Local Development Scheme for publication correcting any minor errors such as spelling, grammar, typographical and formatting changes that do not affect the substantive content of the Local Development Scheme.

21. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

21. RESOLVED that Council

- (1) adopts the Unified Gloucestershire Code of Conduct as set out in Appendix 1.
- (2) adopts the amended Arrangements for dealing with Standards Allegations under the Localism Act 2011 as set out in Appendix 2.
- (3) adopts the new Member/Officer Protocol as set out in Appendix 3.
- (4) The Scheme of Delegation in Part 3 of the Constitution is amended in accordance with paragraph 3.8 of this report.
- (5) Rule 14 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules is amended in accordance with paragraph 3.9 of this report.
- (6) delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer and Managing Director to make amendments arising from the senior staff restructure adopted on 15 May 2023 and to make any other minor and consequential amendments arising from this decision.

22. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2022-23

- 22.1 RESOLVED that** the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2022-23 be noted.

23. APPOINTMENTS

- 23.1 RESOLVED that** Council **NOTE** that Councillor Hyman has replaced Councillor Trimnell on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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24. DESIGNATION OF CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (S151 OFFICER)

24.1 **RESOLVED that** Greg Maw Head of Finance and Resources, be Designated the Council's Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer), in accordance with section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

25. URGENT DECISION REPORTED TO COUNCIL

25.1 **RESOLVED that:-** In accordance with Part 4 of the Constitution, Council is **NOTE** the urgent decision of the Managing Director to purchase Microsoft Licensing for all on premise servers, M365 applications, and security products.

26. NOTICES OF MOTION

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

“This council

Acknowledges the climate emergency our planet is experiencing

Recognises that loss of insects and pollinators will be disastrous for ecosystems

Believes that planters in built up areas can benefit pollinators, enhance neighbourhoods and be a boon for residents' mental health.

Council therefore resolves to:

Identify locations for planters in Gloucester City

Work with partners, local businesses, and residents' groups, to pay for and maintain them once installed

Continue to identify and maintain wildflower sites

Speak to the county council and Stagecoach about installing 'Bee Stops' at some bus stops in the city

Encourage other ideas to support pollinator planting.”

26.2 Councillor Cook proposed and Councillor Lewis seconded the following amendment:

“This council

Acknowledges the climate emergency our planet is experiencing

Recognises that loss of insects and pollinators will be disastrous for ecosystems

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Believes that ~~planters~~ **opportunities should be sought** in built up areas ~~can~~ **to** benefit pollinators, enhance neighbourhoods and be a boon for residents' mental health.

Council therefore resolves to:

Identify locations ~~for planters~~ **to make improvements to our natural environment** in Gloucester City

Work with partners, local businesses, and residents' groups, to pay for and maintain them once installed

Continue to identify and maintain wildflower sites

Speak to the county council and Stagecoach about installing 'Bee Stops' at some bus stops in the city

Encourage other ideas to support pollinator planting."

26.3 The mover of the original motion accepted the amendment which therefore became the substantive motion. The motion as amended was carried.

26.4 **RESOLVED** that:-

"This council

Acknowledges the climate emergency our planet is experiencing

Recognises that loss of insects and pollinators will be disastrous for ecosystems

Believes that opportunities should be sought in built up areas to benefit pollinators, enhance neighbourhoods and be a boon for residents' mental health.

Council therefore resolves to:

Identify locations to make improvements to our natural environment in Gloucester City

Work with partners, local businesses, and residents' groups, to pay for and maintain them once installed

Continue to identify and maintain wildflower sites

Speak to the county council and Stagecoach about installing 'Bee Stops' at some bus stops in the city

Encourage other ideas to support pollinator planting."

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

“This council notes that on the 8th of June 2023 the government withdrew its Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill from the parliamentary process.

This council notes that the Conservative Party’s 2019 manifesto set out a series of commitments on animal welfare policy.

The Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill aimed to address a number of these commitments in a single legislative step.

Amongst the pledges in the manifesto the Conservative government stated that:

- We will crack down on the illegal smuggling of dogs and puppies.
- We will end excessively long journeys for slaughter and fattening.
- We will ban keeping primates as pets.

This council records its regret that the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill has been withdrawn.

Council agrees to write a letter to the Secretary of State Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and the two MPs representing the city of Gloucester to express regret that the government has abandoned its manifesto pledge by withdrawing The Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill.

26.6 Councillor Norman moved and Councillor Campbell seconded the following amendment:

“This council notes that on the 8th of June 2023 the government withdrew its Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill from the parliamentary process, **however this does not diminish the work the government has undertaken in relation to animal welfare.**

This council notes that the Conservative government has:

- 1. Set up the Pet Theft Taskforce and is now implementing their recommendations**
- 2. Created the Action Plan for Animal Welfare**
- 3. Passed legislation requiring the microchipping of cats so they can be more easily reunited with their owners**
- 4. Announced that it will be extending the Ivory Act to cover five endangered species: hippopotamus, narwhal, killer whale, sperm whale and walrus**
- 5. Introduced Lucy’s Law which requires that everyone must now buy directly from breeders or consider adopting from rescue centres, which is a major step in stopping the illegal pet trade.**

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This council notes that the Conservative Party's 2019 manifesto set out a series of commitments on animal welfare policy **and since Brexit, the government can take these pledges further.**

The Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill aimed to address a number of these commitments in a single legislative step.

Amongst the pledges in the manifesto the Conservative government stated that:

- We will crack down on the illegal smuggling of dogs and puppies.
- We will end excessively long journeys for slaughter and fattening.
- We will ban keeping primates as pets.

This council ~~records its regret~~ **notes** that the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill has been withdrawn, **but acknowledges that the government has plans to take forward the elements of the bill individually through the remainder of this Parliament.**

Council agrees to write a letter to the Secretary of State Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and the two MPs representing the city of Gloucester to ~~express regret that the government has abandoned its manifesto pledge by withdrawing~~ **ask them to ensure that all elements of The Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill are progressed through Parliament in the most appropriate manner."**

26.7 The mover of the original motion accepted the amendment which therefore became the substantive motion. The motion as amended was carried.

26.8 **RESOLVED** that:-

"This council notes that on the 8th of June 2023 the government withdrew its Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill from the parliamentary process, however this does not diminish the work the government has undertaken in relation to animal welfare.

This council notes that the Conservative government has:

1. Set up the Pet Theft Taskforce and is now implementing their recommendations
2. Created the Action Plan for Animal Welfare
3. Passed legislation requiring the microchipping of cats so they can be more easily reunited with their owners
4. Announced that it will be extending the Ivory Act to cover five endangered species: hippopotamus, narwhal, killer whale, sperm whale and walrus
5. Introduced Lucy's Law which requires that everyone must now buy directly from breeders or consider adopting from rescue centres, which is a major step in stopping the illegal pet trade.

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This council notes that the Conservative Party's 2019 manifesto set out a series of commitments on animal welfare policy and since Brexit, the government can take these pledges further.

The Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill aimed to address a number of these commitments in a single legislative step.

Amongst the pledges in the manifesto the Conservative government stated that:

- We will crack down on the illegal smuggling of dogs and puppies.
- We will end excessively long journeys for slaughter and fattening.
- We will ban keeping primates as pets.

This council notes that the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill has been withdrawn, but acknowledges that the government has plans to take forward the elements of the bill individually through the remainder of this Parliament.

Council agrees to write a letter to the Secretary of State Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and the two MPs representing the city of Gloucester to ask them to ensure that all elements of The Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill are progressed through Parliament in the most appropriate manner."

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

"We note that safety around schools are getting ridiculous with drivers not caring where they park is increasing, often on blind bends, there has also been a child from a local high school knocked off his bike on Cotswold Road, because of the parked cars blocking view. We have cars speeding down roads near schools showing no care about people even children crossing the road. Therefore, I would like to motion that schools and community centres to be given the authority to issue fines themselves, and the money put back into said community - the problem is it requires a change in the law, which neither City nor County Council has the power to actually make happen.

Therefore, this Council agrees to write to the relevant Cabinet Member at the County Council asking them to do more to prevent illegal and unsafe parking outside schools and community centre in order to stop a lot of the anti-social drivers."

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

26.11 **RESOLVED that:-**

We note that safety around schools are getting ridiculous with drivers not caring where they park is increasing, often on blind bends, there has also been a child from a local high school knocked off his bike on Cotswold Road, because of the parked cars blocking view. We have cars speeding down roads near schools showing no care about people even children crossing the

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road. Therefore, I would like to motion that schools and community centres to be given the authority to issue fines themselves, and the money put back into said community - the problem is it requires a change in the law, which neither City nor County Council has the power to actually make happen.

Therefore, this Council agrees to write to the relevant Cabinet Member at the County Council asking them to do more to prevent illegal and unsafe parking outside schools and community centre in order to stop a lot of the anti-social drivers.

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

“Every elected member and employee of this Gloucester City Council – along with our partner agencies- is a corporate parent to the children in care in our City.

We are all responsible for providing the best possible care, safeguarding and outcomes for the children who are looked after in our City. Whilst obligations mainly fall under the County Council, there are many lifechanging, health and well being changes this city council can do to promote the health and wellbeing of children in care in our city.

Our young people in care or who have left care have the right to expect everything from a corporate parent that would be expected from a responsible and good parent. This includes how families continue their support, care, and ambition for their children after they leave home and gain independence

As an adult how many times in life do you stop and think, “where do I go from there.” Imagine what that must like for a young person.

On their own with no one to help or advise. Just think about for it a minute.

I believe we must make important steps to support our cared for and care experienced children better and introduce these 6 key priorities as an EMERGENCY and to work with the County Council to consider enshrining these policies within Gloucester City Council Plan.

1. Make all our care leavers exempt from Council Tax up to the age of 25.
2. Continue Care Leavers Band 1 / Gold priority on our housing register enshrined/ committed in Gloucester City Council processes and procedures to a minimum of year 2050.
3. Provide specialist support to any Care Leavers facing homelessness without the use of B&B.
4. Guarantee Care Leavers support in producing CVs and provide access to our current available apprenticeships and available jobs in the City Council.

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5. Gloucester City Council commit to guaranteed interview for all Care Leavers for apprenticeships within Gloucester City Council.
6. To request all Gloucester City Council partners/sub-contractors and suppliers consider recruiting where possible care leavers into their organisation.

We are determined that every decision made in this City Council and every policy set here considers the impact on young people in care and those who have experienced the care system.

This motion proposes including “young people in care” and “care experienced people” as an additional characteristic in all of our Equality Impact Assessments. This will give them a formal recognition and make sure that all decisions that are made and policies that are set consider their specific needs and the impact on them.

This will have a real tangible impact on people who have experienced care. We want to make it easier for young people to gain employment at the Council and to develop into senior roles – with guaranteed interview schemes, mentoring and support and reasonable adjustments made to support employees with care experience.

We also want to see our procurement and commissioning of our services to consider the impact on young people with care experience, in the same way as other protected and additional characteristics are and make extra effort to ensure that they can access all of our services.

We have a commitment to our young people. To ease them into independence. To allow them to build a prosperous, healthy, and happy future.

These proposals will ensure our young people have the tools to do just that.

This Council therefore request that One Legal (who provide legal services to the Council) provide advice on the inclusion of “young people in care” / “care experienced people” as an additional characteristic in the Council's Equality Impact Assessments as well as introducing and implementing the 6 key priorities.”

- 26.13 Councillor Padilla proposed and Councillor Lewis seconded the following amendment:

“Every elected member and employee of this Gloucester City Council – along with our partner agencies- is a corporate parent to the children in care in our City.

We are all responsible for providing the best possible care, safeguarding and outcomes for the children who are looked after in our City.

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Whilst obligations mainly fall under the County Council, there are many lifechanging, health and well being changes this city council can do to promote the health and wellbeing of children in care in our city.

Our young people in care or who have left care have the right to expect everything from a corporate parent that would be expected from a responsible and good parent. This includes how families continue their support, care, and ambition for their children after they leave home and gain independence

As an adult how many times in life do you stop and think, “where do I go from there.”

Imagine what that must like for a young person.

On their own with no one to help or advise. Just think about for it a minute.

I believe we must make important steps to support our cared for and care experienced children better and ~~introduce these 6 key priorities as an EMERGENCY and to work with the County Council to consider enshrining these policies within Gloucester City Council Plan.~~ **the following as part of the new County-wide Corporate Parenting Strategy:**

~~1. Make all our care leavers exempt from Council Tax up to the age of 25~~ **Consider the viability of extending the Council tax exemption for our care leavers from age 21-24 from the 2024-25 Budget onwards.**

~~2. Continue to treat Care Leavers Band 1 / as Gold priority on our housing register enshrined/ committed in Gloucester City Council processes and procedures to a minimum of year 2050 and continue to ensure care leavers owed a leaving care duty are given a local connection to all districts within the area of the local care authority (Care leavers under Gloucestershire can be housed with Gold priority to any of the Gloucestershire districts so if they were leaving care in Tewkesbury they are not confined to properties in Tewkesbury they can go to Glos, Cheltenham, FOD or Stroud).~~

~~3. Provide specialist support to any Care Leavers facing homelessness without the use of B&B.~~

~~4. Guarantee Care Leavers support in producing CVs and provide access to our current available apprenticeships and available jobs in the City Council.~~

53. Explore a policy where Gloucester City Council commit to guaranteed interview for all Care Leavers for apprenticeships within Gloucester City Council.

~~6. To request all Gloucester City Council partners/sub-contractors and suppliers consider recruiting where possible care leavers into their organisation.~~

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4. Explore social value measures as part of any qualifying procurement which may support opportunities for care leavers within our social value policy.

5. Work with other corporate parents in the county to articulate our vision and aspiration for care leavers to enhance our offer across Gloucestershire.

We are determined that every decision made in this City Council and every policy set here considers the impact on young people in care and those who have experienced the care system.

This motion proposes including ~~“young people in care” and “care experienced people”~~ **that this council treat care experience as if it were an additional a protected characteristic in all of our Equality Impact Assessments until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.** This will give them a formal recognition and make sure that all decisions that are made and policies that are set consider their specific needs and the impact on them. **In this way, future decisions-reached, and policies adopted by Gloucester City Council are evaluated through-the Equality Impact Assessment to determine the impact of changes on people with-care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic.**

This will have a real tangible impact on people who have experienced care. ~~We want to make it easier for young people to gain employment at the Council and to develop into senior roles — with guaranteed interview schemes, mentoring and support and reasonable adjustments made to support employees with care experience.~~

~~We also want to see our procurement and commissioning of our services to consider the impact on young people with care experience, in the same way as other protected and additional characteristics are and make extra effort to ensure that they can access all of our services.~~

We have a commitment to our young people. To ease them into independence. To allow them to build a prosperous, healthy, and happy future.

These proposals will ensure our young people have the tools to do just that.

This Council therefore request that One Legal (who provide legal services to the Council) provide advice on the inclusion of ~~“young people in care” / “care experienced people”~~ as an additional characteristic in the Council's Equality Impact Assessments as well as introducing and implementing the 6 key priorities.”

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26.14 The amendment was accepted by the mover of the original motion and therefore because the substantive motion. The motion was put to the vote and was carried.

26.15 **RESOLVED that:-**

Every elected member and employee of this Gloucester City Council – along with our partner agencies- is a corporate parent to the children in care in our City.

We are all responsible for providing the best possible care, safeguarding and outcomes for the children who are looked after in our City. Whilst obligations mainly fall under the County Council, there are many lifechanging, health and well being changes this city council can do to promote the health and wellbeing of children in care in our city.

Our young people in care or who have left care have the right to expect everything from a corporate parent that would be expected from a responsible and good parent. This includes how families continue their support, care, and ambition for their children after they leave home and gain independence

As an adult how many times in life do you stop and think, “where do I go from there.”

Imagine what that must like for a young person.

On their own with no one to help or advise. Just think about for it a minute.

I believe we must make important steps to support our cared for and care experienced children better and work with the County Council to consider following as part of the new County-wide Corporate Parenting Strategy:

1. Consider the viability of extending the Council tax exemption for our care leavers from age 21-24 from the 2024-25 Budget onwards.

2. Continue to treat Care Leavers as Gold priority on our housing register and continue to ensure care leavers owed a leaving care duty are given a local connection to all districts within the area of the local care authority (Care leavers under Gloucestershire can be housed with Gold priority to any of the Gloucestershire districts so if they were leaving care in Tewkesbury they are not confined to properties in Tewkesbury they can go to Glos, Cheltenham, FOD or Stroud).

3. Explore a policy where Gloucester City Council commit to guaranteed interview for all Care Leavers for apprenticeships within Gloucester City Council.

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4. Explore social value measures as part of any qualifying procurement which may support opportunities for care leavers within our social value policy.

5.

Work with other corporate parents in the county to articulate our vision and aspiration for care leavers to enhance our offer across Gloucestershire.

We are determined that every decision made in this City Council and every policy set here considers the impact on young people in care and those who have experienced the care system.

This motion proposes that this council treat care experience as if it were a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation. In this way, future decisions reached, and policies adopted by Gloucester City Council are evaluated through the Equality Impact Assessment to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic.

This will have a real tangible impact on people who have experienced care.

We have a commitment to our young people. To ease them into independence. To allow them to build a prosperous, healthy, and happy future.

These proposals will ensure our young people have the tools to do just that.

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

“City Council Residents & City council councillors have noted an increase in cost of living poverty mainly in the deprived areas of Gloucester City.

Food bank usage has risen, requests for vouchers for food and electric help has risen as well as shop lifting and petty theft crime.

Daily reports from residents on health and well-being concerns are on the increase and I receive regular messages and phone calls from local residents struggling with daily life due to poverty.

Many of the councillors sat here may have never experienced this type of poverty and the effects on the health and well-being of the parents as well as that of their children.

I ask that our Council pass a motion declaring a Poverty Emergency, and look into the feasibility of setting up a Poverty Truth Committee that works closely with other local councils and the partners we work with. But not forgetting working with and hearing from the residents in the community that need this support. As sadly these are often the forgotten few who are not heard and not listened to.

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As well as bringing on a suicide help group to the Poverty Truth committee in order to understand and engage with those who may be at risk of hurting themselves or members of their family due to the pressures of poverty.

This will help 'our aim of tackling the root causes of poverty and inequalities in our community', as well as improving the health and well-being of residents and looking to help reduce the number of people who sadly take their lives from feeling that there is no help available.

This poverty truth committee will help make valuable changes and new policies which will save lives and is critical to the success of our city and Council."

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

26.18 **RESOLVED that:-**

City Council Residents & City council councillors have noted an increase in cost of living poverty mainly in the deprived areas of Gloucester City.

Food bank usage has risen, requests for vouchers for food and electric help has risen as well as shop lifting and petty theft crime.

Daily reports from residents on health and well-being concerns are on the increase and I receive regular messages and phone calls from local residents struggling with daily life due to poverty.

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This poverty truth committee will help make valuable changes and new policies which will save lives and is critical to the success of our city and Council.

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Time of commencement: 7.00 pm hours
Time of conclusion: 9.30 pm hours

Chair