



## COUNCIL

**MEETING** : Monday, 20th May 2024

**PRESENT** : Cllrs. Williams (Mayor), Hilton, S. Chambers, Pullen, Gravells MBE, Tracey, Lewis, Wilson, Bhaimia, Field, Patel, Brooker, Hyman, Bowkett, Castle, A. Chambers, Chambers-Dubus, Conder, Evans, Radley, Sawyer, Campbell, Trimnell, Bell, Courtney, Graham, Harries, Hyland, James, Jones, Marshall, Millard, Miller, Norledge, Shervey, Simms, Taylor, Walker and Wiederhold

### **Others in Attendance**

Jon McGinty, Managing Director

Tom Clark, Monitoring Officer

Head of Culture

Head of Finance and Resources

Head of Place

Head of Transformation and Commercialisation

Policy and Governance Manager

Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

**APOLOGIES** : Cllrs. Hudson and O'Donnell

## **1. ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS**

1.1 The Mayor noted details of Councillors elected to the Council for a four-year term following the election of 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 as set out below:

### **Abbeydale**

Andrew Gravells (Conservative)

Louise Walker (Conservative)

### **Abbeymead**

Laura Brooker (Conservative)

Kate Hyland (Conservative)

### **Barnwood**

Ashley Bowkett (Liberal Democrat)

Joshua Taylor (Liberal Democrat)

### **Barton and Tredworth**

Usman Bhaimia (Liberal Democrat)

Roseanna Marshall (Labour)

Sajid Patel (Conservative)

### **Coney Hill**

Tracy Millard (Labour)

### **Elmbridge**

Vicky Norledge (Liberal Democrat)

Anne Radley (Liberal Democrat)

**COUNCIL  
20.05.24**

**Grange**

Andrew Bell (Independent)  
Sylvia Evans (Conservative)

**Hucclecote**

Alwin Wiederhold (Liberal Democrat)  
Declan Wilson (Liberal Democrat)

**Kingsholm and Wotton**

Angela Conder (Liberal Democrat)  
Jeremy Hilton (Liberal Democrat)

**Kingsway**

Karen James (Labour)  
John Jones (Labour)

**Longlevens**

Linda Castle (Liberal Democrat)  
Sarah Sawyer (Liberal Democrat)  
Luke Shervey (Liberal Democrat)

**Matson, Robinswood and White City**

Alastair Chambers (Independent)  
Adrian Graham (Independent)  
Brendon O'Donnell (Independent)

**Moreland**

Tree Chambers-Dubus (Labour)  
Terry Pullen (Labour)  
Valerie Simms (Labour)

**Podsmead**

Sebastian Field (Liberal Democrat)

**Quedgeley Fieldcourt**

Stephanie Chambers (Conservative)  
Victoria Miller (Conservative)

**Quedgeley Severn Vale**

Liam Harries (Liberal Democrat)  
Andrew Lewis (Conservative)

**Tuffley**

Lorraine Campbell (Conservative)  
Caroline Courtney (Liberal Democrat)

**Westgate**

Howard Hyman (Liberal Democrat)  
Pam Tracey (Conservative)  
Rebecca Trimnell (Liberal Democrat)

**2. ELECTION OF MAYOR**

- 2.1 Moved by Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor S. Chambers.
- 2.2 **RESOLVED** – That Councillor Campbell be elected Mayor of the City of Gloucester until the Annual Council Meeting in 2025.

**3. ELECTION OF SHERIFF AND DEPUTY MAYOR**

- 3.1 Moved by Councillor Gravells, seconded by Councillor Brooker.
- 3.2 **RESOLVED** – That Councillor Tracey be elected Sheriff and Deputy Mayor of the City of Gloucester until the Annual Council Meeting in 2025.
- 3.3. Councillor Lewis moved and Councillor Brooker seconded a Vote of Thanks to the outgoing Mayor and outgoing Sheriff and Deputy Mayor.
- 3.4 **RESOLVED** – That the best thanks of the Council be given to the outgoing Mayor and outgoing Sheriff and Deputy Mayor for the manner in which they discharged the duties of their respective Civic Offices in the 2023/24 Council year.
- 3.5 The meeting was adjourned at 4pm and reconvened at 5pm with Councillors Campbell and Tracey in the roles of Mayor and Sheriff and Deputy Mayor respectively.

**COUNCIL**  
**20.05.24**

**4. MINUTES**

- 4.1. **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 5.1 Councillor Walker declared an interest in agenda item 9 (Appointments to Committees, Consultative Forums and Working Groups and Nominations for Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees for 2024-25) by virtue of her employment by Gloucester Trussell Trust.
- 5.2 Councillor Brooker declared an interest in agenda item 11 (Notices of Motion) owing to her employment by the Member of Parliament for Gloucester.

**6. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 6.1 There were no announcements on this occasion.

**7. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

- 7.1 The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Leader of the Council.
- 7.2 Councillor Wilson moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Conder:
- ‘That Councillor Hilton be elected Leader of the Council for the proceeding four-year term’.
- 7.3 Councillor Trimnell expressed the view that Councillor Hilton was an admirable man and the right person to lead the Council.
- 7.4 Councillor Pullen reflected on sentiments for Members to have a collaborative and cooperative approach and confirmed that the Labour Group would act in the best interests of the city. He expressed concern about the proposal to increase the number of Cabinet Members and the associated costs, as well as the proposed reduction in the size of committees.
- 7.5 Councillor S. Chambers commented that in her view it was vital that Members continued to work together to deliver projects in the city and she hoped that Members would treat each other with respect as individuals.
- 7.6 Councillor Gravells raised concerns about the proposed reduction in the size of committees, particularly the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, noting that ideas and questions from Members to Members of the Cabinet ought to be welcomed in democratic decision making.

**COUNCIL**  
**20.05.24**

- 7.7 Councillor A. Chambers noted that he looked forward to working with all Councillors and congratulated Councillor Hilton. He reflected on previous comments around changes to the Council Procedure Rules, particularly around Leader and Cabinet Members' question time and asserted that he looked forward to asking questions without notice.
- 7.8 Councillor Patel echoed his disappointment about the increase in the number of Cabinet Members and reduction of Members on committees.
- 7.9 Councillor Chambers-Dubus noted that Members had been elected to represent the people of Gloucester expressed her hope that proceedings would be more peaceful under Councillor Hilton's leadership.
- 7.10 Councillor Hilton explained that the proposed changes aimed to rebalance committees, and that Members of the Cabinet would be expected to work collaboratively and regularly meet with each of the political groups. He noted that the proposed number of Cabinet Members was in keeping with other Gloucestershire districts and still less than the legal limit of 10. In respect of comments around Member Questions, Councillor Hilton suggested that Members write to him in his capacity as Chair of the General Purposes Committee to request changes to the Council Procedure Rules.
- 7.11 **RESOLVED** – That Councillor Hilton be elected Leader of the Council for the proceeding four-year term.
- 7.12 Following election, the Leader of the Council advised of appointments to the Cabinet and allocations of portfolios as follows:
- Councillor Hilton – Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration  
Councillor Wilson – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources  
Councillor Field – Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change  
Councillor Shervey – Cabinet Member for Housing  
Councillor Sawyer – Cabinet Member for Planning  
Councillor Trimnell – Cabinet Member for Community Engagement  
Councillor Courtney – Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure
- 7.13 The Leader also advised that he intended to appoint Councillor Bowkett as a Cabinet Support Member to assist with the review of Gloucestershire Airport and to support other Cabinet Members to increase the commercial income of the council and other special projects.

**8. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, CONSULTATIVE FORUMS AND WORKING GROUPS AND NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES FOR 2024/25**

- 8.1 The Council considered the Schedule of Appointments to Committees, Consultative Forums and Working Groups, and nominations for Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the municipal year 2024-25. The appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs to committees would be made at the first meeting of each committee.

**COUNCIL**  
**20.05.24**

8.2 Councillor Hilton moved and Councillor Wilson seconded the motion set out in the schedule.

8.3 **RESOLVED** that –

- 1) The sizes of Committees, Consultative Forums and Working Groups be approved.
- 2) The schedule of appointments of Members to Committees, Consultative Forums and Working Groups for 2024/25 be approved.
- 3) That the nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of Committees, as set out in the schedule, be noted and that each Committee at its first meeting in the new municipal year 2024/25 confirms and appoints its Chair and Vice Chair.

**9. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2024/25**

9.1 The Council considered the Schedule of Appointments to Outside Bodies for the municipal year 2024-25.

9.2 Councillor Hilton moved that the schedule be approved.

9.3 Councillor Wilson seconded the motion.

9.4 The Council took a vote on which Member would be the representative on St Ann Society of Gloucester. The outcome of this vote was that Councillor Hyman be appointed as the Council representative on St Ann Society of Gloucester.

9.5 **RESOLVED that:** - The Schedule of Appointments to Outside Bodies for the municipal year 2024-25 be approved.

**10. NOTICES OF MOTION**

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

“This council recognises there is a cost of living crisis which is seriously affecting too many people in Gloucester.

People from all walks of life across the city are facing hardship and struggling to cope with increasing costs. The cost of food, energy, mortgages, rent and fuel are all spiralling and too many families are struggling to meet basic needs.

Whilst there is some support and funding available for people facing hardship, information on this funding and how it can be accessed is not widely publicised. This council must do much more to address this.

**COUNCIL**  
**20.05.24**

In order to fully address the cost of living crisis in Gloucester this council should urgently develop, co-ordinate and deliver a Cost of Living Action Plan.

This council therefore requests that the Cabinet consider taking actions as listed below and that a report be brought to Cabinet to this effect:

1. Publish a Cost of Living Action Plan which details how the council will immediately tackle the cost of living crisis in Gloucester.
  2. Specifically, the plan will establish how the council will:
    - a. Set out what funding and support is available to people in crisis and what new funding the council will make available.
    - b. Ensure the continuation of funding such as discretionary housing payment, council tax relief and the household support fund.
    - c. Fully publish and promote this funding in a wide range of styles and methods.
    - d. Increase support to advice agencies, community and voluntary organisations who offer financial advice and support to residents in need.
    - e. Ensure organisations providing food banks, warm spaces and similar community services are properly and securely funded.”
- 10.2 Councillor A. Chambers withdrew the amendment of the Community Independent Group and noted his support for the amendment of the Liberal Democrat Group.
- 10.3 Councillor Hilton moved and Councillor Wilson seconded the following amendment:

“This council recognises there is a cost of living crisis which is seriously affecting too many people in Gloucester.

People from all walks of life across the city are facing hardship and struggling to cope with increasing costs. The cost of food, energy, mortgages, rent and fuel are all spiralling and too many families are struggling to meet basic needs.

Whilst there is ~~some~~ support and funding available for people facing hardship, information on this funding and how it can be accessed ~~is not~~ widely publicised. ~~This council must do much more to address this~~ **could be improved.**

In order to fully **further** address the cost of living crisis in Gloucester this council ~~should urgently~~ **agrees to** develop, co-ordinate and deliver a Cost of Living Action Plan.

**COUNCIL**  
**20.05.24**

This council therefore requests that the ~~new~~ ~~C~~cabinet considers **how this council, working with public and voluntary sector partners, can further support residents in Gloucester who are facing financial hardship** ~~taking actions as listed below and that a report be brought to Cabinet to this effect.~~

**This council asks cabinet to report back within three months with a new Cost of Living Action Plan.**

~~1. Publish a Cost of Living Action Plan which details how the council will immediately tackle the cost of living crisis in Gloucester.~~

~~2. Specifically, the plan will establish how the council will:~~

~~a. Set out what funding and support is available to people in crisis and what new funding the council will make available.~~

~~b. Ensure the continuation of funding such as discretionary housing payment, council tax relief and the household support fund.~~

~~c. Fully publish and promote this funding in a wide range of styles and methods.~~

~~d. Increase support to advice agencies, community and voluntary organisations who offer financial advice and support to residents in need.~~

~~e. Ensure organisations providing food banks, warm spaces and similar community services are properly and securely funded.~~

10.4 The amendment was not accepted by the mover of the original motion. The amendment was put to a vote and was carried, and therefore became the substantive motion.

10.5 **RESOLVED : - that**

“This council recognises there is a cost of living crisis which is seriously affecting too many people in Gloucester.

People from all walks of life across the city are facing hardship and struggling to cope with increasing costs. The cost of food, energy, mortgages, rent and fuel are all spiralling and too many families are struggling to meet basic needs.

Whilst there is support and funding available for people facing hardship, information on this funding and how it can be accessed could be improved.

In order to further address the cost of living crisis in Gloucester this council agrees to develop, co-ordinate and deliver a Cost of Living Action Plan.

**COUNCIL  
20.05.24**

This council therefore requests that the new cabinet considers how this council, working with public and voluntary sector partners, can further support residents in Gloucester who are facing financial hardship.

This council asks cabinet to report back within three months with a new Cost of Living Action Plan.

**Time of commencement: 3.00 pm hours**

**Time of conclusion: 6.04 pm hours**

**Chair**