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Democratic Support

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CITY COUNCIL

SUPPLEMENT I

Monday 31 March 2014

2.00 pm

Council House (Next to the Civic Centre), Plymouth

Members:

Councillor Mrs Pengelly, Chair

Councillor Churchill, Vice Chair

Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Ball, Mrs Beer, Bowie, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Casey, Coker, Damarell, Darcy, Philippa Davey, Sam Davey, Mrs Dolan, Drean, Evans, K Foster, Mrs Foster, Fox, Fry, Gordon, Haydon, James, Jarvis, Jordan, Martin Leaves, Michael Leaves, Sam Leaves, Lowry, Dr. Mahony, McDonald, Monahan, Morris, Murphy, Mrs Nelder, Nicholson, Mrs Nicholson, Parker, Penberthy, Rennie, Ricketts, Dr. Salter, Singh, John Smith, Peter Smith, Stark, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Wheeler, Wigen, Williams and Wright.

Please find enclosed additional information for your consideration under agenda item numbers 2, 3, 10, 13, 13a and 13b.

Tracey Lee

Chief Executive

CITY COUNCIL

2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 14)

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2014.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Pages 15 - 16)

Councillors will be asked to make declarations of interest in respect of items on this agenda. A flowchart providing guidance on interests is attached to assist councillors.

10. LORD MAYORALTY 2014/15 (Pages 17 - 18)

The City Council will receive the recommendation of the Lord Mayor's Selection Committee from Councillor Evans (Chair of the Committee), prior to the Annual Meeting, in accordance with Article 5.1.1 of the Council's Constitution.

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

13. GARDEN GRABBING (Pages 19 - 20)

The motion will be proposed by Councillor Nicholson and seconded by Councillor Mrs Beer.

13a Abolition of the Independent Living Fund (Pages 21 - 22)

The motion will be proposed by Councillor Jon Taylor and seconded by Councillor Sue McDonald.

13b Car Parking Charges (Pages 23 - 24)

The motion will be proposed by Councillor Sam Leaves and seconded by Councillor Lynda Bowyer.

City Council

Monday 24 February 2014

PRESENT:

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Churchill, Vice Chair in the Chair.

Councillor K Foster, Vice Chair.

Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Ball, Mrs Beer, Bowie, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Coker, Damarell, Darcy, Philippa Davey, Sam Davey, Mrs Dolan, Drean, Evans, Mrs Foster, Fox, Fry, Gordon, Haydon, James, Jarvis, Jordan, Michael Leaves, Sam Leaves, Lowry, Dr. Mahony, McDonald, Monahan, Morris, Murphy, Mrs Nelder, Nicholson, Mrs Nicholson, Parker, Penberthy, Rennie, Ricketts, Dr. Salter, Singh, John Smith, Peter Smith, Stark, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Wheeler, Wiggins, Williams and Wright.

Also in attendance: Tracey Lee (Chief Executive), Tim Howes (Assistant Director for Law, Democracy and Governance), Nicola Kirby and Helen Wright (Democratic Support).

Apologies for absence: The Lord Mayor (Councillor Mrs Pengelly) and Councillors Casey, Martin Leaves and Kate Taylor.

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 5.25 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the Council will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

93. THE LATE IAN PENGELLY

The Deputy Lord Mayor reported that the Lord Mayor's husband, Ian Pengelly, had sadly passed away last week and the Council joined with him in sending their deepest sympathy to the Lord Mayor, Councillor Mrs Pengelly, and her family at this difficult time.

He also reminded councillors of the arrangements for the funeral which was being held tomorrow, 25 February 2014.

94. VICE CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

In the absence of the Lord Mayor,

Agreed that Councillor K Foster is appointed Vice Chair for this meeting.

95. MINUTES

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2014 are confirmed.

96. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were made in accordance with the code of conduct from councillors in relation to minute 100 on Delivering the Co-operative Vision within a Three Year Sustainable Balanced Budget and Proposed Council Tax Levels 2014/15, which was under consideration at this meeting –

Councillor	Interest	Reason
Councillor Mrs Beer	Private	Employee of Devon and Cornwall Police
Councillor Sam Leaves	Private	Employee of the NEW Devon Clinical Commissioning Group
Councillor Stevens	Private	Employee of Devon and Cornwall Police
Councillor Jon Taylor	Private	Employee of the NEW Devon Clinical Commissioning Group

97. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Vincent (Cabinet Member for Environment) reported that the Core Strategy had provided the Council with a target to designate 100 hectares of land as new local nature reserves by 2016. To date the Council had designated 123.4 hectares and following agreement with Natural England, a report would be submitted to Cabinet on 25 March 2014 to designate a further 75 hectares bringing the total in the city to 255 hectares. Cabinet would be asked to designate two new local nature reserves at Ham Woods and Radford Woods and to extend the Efford Local Nature Reserve.

98. **TAMAR BRIDGE AND TORPOINT FERRY JOINT COMMITTEE INCOME STRATEGY AND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2014/15**

Councillor Coker (Cabinet Member for Transport) presented the Cabinet recommendations on the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee Income Strategy and Revenue and Capital Budget (Cabinet minute 105 referred).

The Cabinet report, which appended the report to the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee, was also submitted.

Councillor Wheeler (Joint Chair of the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee) seconded the proposals.

Agreed -

- (1) that a monthly account fee of 80p per month is applied to all TamarTag accounts with effect from 1 April 2014;

- (2) the proposed Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry revenue budget for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix 2 of the Cabinet report;
- (3) the proposed Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry capital programme as set out in Appendix 2 of the Cabinet report; and
- (4) that the longer term revenue forecast to 2017/18 is noted, as set out in Appendix 2 Cabinet report.

DELIVERING THE CO-OPERATIVE VISION WITHIN A THREE YEAR SUSTAINABLE BALANCED BUDGET AND PROPOSED COUNCIL TAX LEVELS

99. Length of Debate for the Leader and the Leader of the Opposition

Before the commencement of the debate, the Leader sought approval in accordance with Part B, Council Procedure Rule 14.6 of the Constitution, to suspend Rule of Debate 4.2 (in Appendix One) (which limits speeches to five minutes) for the following item in relation to speeches by the Leader and Leader of the Opposition.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Bowyer and following a vote, it was agreed.

100. Updated Report on Delivering the Co-operative Vision within a Three Year Sustainable Balanced Budget and Proposed Council Tax Levels 2014/15

The Chief Executive submitted a written report updating members following the Cabinet meeting on 11 February 2014, on Delivering the Co-operative Vision within a Three Year Sustainable Balanced Budget and Proposed Council Tax Levels 2014/15.

The City Council also considered -

- (a) the draft Co-operative Council Finance Plan 2014 – 2017;
- (b) Cabinet minute 106 (of 11 February 2014) and the Cabinet report on delivering the co-operative vision within a three year sustainable balanced budget;
- (c) Cabinet minute 102 (of 11 February 2014) on the Scrutiny Report following scrutiny of the delivery the co-operative vision within a three year sustainable balanced budget including Cabinet's response to the recommendations and the Scrutiny Report;
- (d) Cabinet minute 107 (of 11 February 2014) on the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy.

Councillor Evans (Council Leader) –

- (e) expressed concern that the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority were meeting to agree their precept on the same day as the City Council to set the Council Tax and asked the Chief Executive to write to the authority to try and prevent similar circumstances in future years;
- (f) asked that recorded votes were taken on any amendments to and the final decision on the budget and Council Tax rates;
- (g) moved the recommendations in the written report of the Chief Executive to the City Council, including the 2014/15 Council Tax rates.

In presenting the proposals, Councillor Evans referred to –

- (h) the scale of the cuts made by the Coalition Government which had resulted in a real terms funding reduction of nine point five per cent (9.5%) amounting to £12m;
- (i) the Council's reduction in costs of over £30m in the last three years and the need to reduce costs by a further £33m over the next three years;
- (j) the projected shortfall of £64.5m over three years;
- (k) the proposal to set an indicative three year budget for the first time, from 2014/15 to 2017;
- (l) the three year transformation programme to provide a fundamental rethink about how services were provided, joining services up with partners and running services in new ways;
- (m) the initiatives to deliver growth including -
 - investing in jobs with the Plan for Jobs;
 - supporting new homes with the Plan for Homes, the Get Plymouth Building programme and the affordable housing loan facility;
 - the Plymouth and South West Peninsula City Deal;
 - the Council's commitment to roads with £2m extra each year for ongoing road resurfacing;
- (n) the Council's priority to be a caring city, to promote a fairer, more equal city by investing in communities, putting citizens at the heart of decision making, promoting independence and reducing health and social inequality;
- (o) the adult social services gross budget of £90m with £77m dedicated to care packages;

- (p) the budget of £26m for children's social care services next year with the majority being spent on placements in foster care and residential and secure placements. He also thanked all the Council's foster carers for the incredible work that they did on a daily basis;
- (q) the 80 per cent of the city's schools rated good or outstanding by Ofsted. The Council would be spending £18m on services to schools and £5m on youth services, in addition to the dedicated schools' grant that would go direct to schools;
- (r) his determination to tackle public health and underfunding issues to improve the health of Plymouth's residents;
- (s) the Council's need to be pioneering with the transformation of the way the Council provided services to customers and making it easier for them to contact the Council, with a single point of contact;
- (t) his aim to reduce the current spend of £9.3m on environmental services however remaining committed to weekly bin collections;
- (u) further rationalisation of corporate services in order to protect front line services;
- (v) the work undertaken to create a confident city, with a cultural offer, including -
 - the launch of the Britain's Ocean City branding;
 - plans for a Plymouth History Centre;
 - plans for the Mayflower 2020 anniversary;
- (w) the proposed capital programme of £208m to March 2017;
- (x) major investments -
 - to attract new businesses to Plymouth such as £2.5m in employment units at Langage;
 - for improvements to the transport infrastructure and road network such as the £1.5m Marjon link road;
 - in two new schools, including £5m for a new Knowle Primary School;
- (y) the completion of 87 manifesto commitments;
- (z) the work of the Finance officers and the Cabinet, in particular Councillor Lowry, and he thanked them all for their hard work;
- (aa) the proposed revenue budget of £205m, four year capital budget of £208m with a gross budget of £553m;

- (bb) the proposed Council Tax increase of one point nine nine per cent (1.99%).

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Peter Smith.

Councillor Lowry moved, and Councillor Stevens seconded, the following amendment –

‘To add a new recommendation (8) as follows and renumber the subsequent recommendations accordingly -

- (8) to agree a £5 million contribution from the capital budget of £207,670m, towards the first phase development of a marine industries production campus at South Yard, Devonport Naval Base as part of the £65 million project to create 1,600 marine industry jobs and new homes following the recently approved City Deal;

To amend current recommendation (8) (proposed recommendation (9)) to read as follows (new wording is underlined) -

- (9) to give delegated authority to the Leader, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and relevant portfolio holder, to commit to the following capital proposals (or any substitute proposals), including key decisions, within the overall affordability envelope, based on sound business cases -
 - (a) the City Council owns significant land holdings across the city in industrial areas. We will commit an investment of £2.5 million to one of those employment sites (subject to a robust business case) to deliver circa 20,000 square feet of new employment accommodation targeted at business start-ups and SME’s creating new jobs and business opportunities in the city;
 - (b) to make financial provision to support the regeneration of the city centre. A fund will be set aside to support mixed use development opportunities within the city centre. This will recognise and provide the opportunity to address challenges that areas such as the West End face; reshaping the city centre to meet modern day living and life styles. Opportunities to bring forward a range of uses that support a more mixed and broader offer such as residential, business and leisure uses will be supported. We will do this working in partnership with the private sector to bring forward stalled schemes / development sites, creating jobs and promoting alternative uses.’

During the debate, issues were raised about the lack of figures in the proposal and Councillor Lowry responded that the limits would be set by the budget agreed at the meeting and that the decisions referred to in the amendment would be signed off by the section 151 Officer (Assistant Director for Finance) and set out in monitoring reports submitted to the Co-operative Scrutiny Board.

Following the debate and a request from ten councillors for a recorded vote, there voted –

For the amendment (30)

Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Bowie, Coker, Damarell, P. Davey, S Davey, Evans, Fox, Gordon, Haydon, Jarvis, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Mrs Nelder, Parker, Penberthy, Rennie, Singh, J. Smith, P. Smith, Stevens, J. Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Wheeler, Williams and Wright.

Against the amendment (0)

Abstentions (21)

Councillors Ball, Mrs Beer, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Darcy, Mrs Dolan, Drean, Foster, Mrs Foster, James, Jordan, Michael Leaves, Sam Leaves, Dr Mahony, Monahan, Mrs Nicholson, Ricketts, Dr Salter, Stark and Wiggins.

Deputy Lord Mayor (Chair)

The following members were absent (6)

Councillors Casey, Fry, Martin Leaves, Nicholson, Mrs Pengelly (Lord Mayor) and K Taylor.

The Deputy Lord Mayor reported that the amendment was agreed.

Councillor Bowyer responded to the main motion, as amended, and referred to –

- (cc) the lack of certainty on the savings to accrue from the transformation programme, the absence of a business case and risk register;
- (dd) the lack of information provided to scrutiny on transformation;
- (ee) the continuing use of the Council's reserves;
- (ff) the refusal of government money to freeze the Council Tax;
- (gg) the evidence from scrutiny that working relations with partners were not what the Council had hoped;
- (hh) the lack of detail, the lack of credibility with the transformation programme, the uncertainty on the level of the redundancy reserve required and the use of reserves to balance the budget which made it, in his opinion, an unsafe budget.

During the debate, the following additional issues were raised –

- (ii) further information had not been provided to members of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board as requested during the budget scrutiny;
- (jj) support packages had not been identified for staff;
- (kk) no funding had been identified to meet costs of agency backfilling;
- (ll) the lack of openness and transparency;
- (mm) that the transformation costs represented less than half a per cent of the budget and that a cautious approach had been taken with regard to figures as the outcome was reliant on partners;
- (nn) a revised risk register was included in the papers presented;
- (oo) that Councillors Bowyer and James were members of the Transformation Advisory Group and had had access to summaries of the outline business cases and would receive the business plans in due course;
- (pp) that the papers provided lacked the detail presented by Devon County Council to their councillors;
- (qq) that monthly monitoring reports were provided now in place of the previous quarterly reports.

Following the debate, a recorded vote was taken and there voted –

For the motion, as amended (30)

Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Bowie, Coker, Damarell, P. Davey, S Davey, Evans, Fox, Gordon, Haydon, Jarvis, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Mrs Nelder, Parker, Penberthy, Rennie, Singh, J. Smith, P. Smith, Stevens, J. Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Wheeler, Williams and Wright.

Against the amendment (0)

Abstentions (23)

Councillors Ball, Mrs Beer, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Darcy, Mrs Dolan, Drean, Foster, Mrs Foster, Fry, James, Jordan, Michael Leaves, Sam Leaves, Dr Mahony, Monahan, Nicholson, Mrs Nicholson, Ricketts, Dr Salter, Stark and Wiggins.

Deputy Lord Mayor (Chair)

The following members were absent (4)

Councillors Casey, Martin Leaves, Mrs Pengelly (Lord Mayor) and K Taylor.

The Council agreed the Leader's proposal to write to the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority about future dates of precept meetings and also supported the thanks to all those mentioned by the Leader.

The Assistant Director for Law, Democracy and Governance advised members that as the Council had amended the recommendations of Cabinet, the decision would be an 'in principle' decision unless the Leader waived his right to object to the amendment.

The Leader indicated that he wished to waive his right to object.

Agreed -

- (1) to adopt the "Co-operative Council Finance Plan 2014 to 2017 and its implications on the revenue and capital budget.
- (2) to agree that an additional allocation of £0.500m is added to the staff pay contingency for 2014/15;
- (3) to agree that the revenue contingency of £1.300m in the 2013/14 base budget is reduced to £1.000m for 2014/15;
- (4) to agree that additional resources as determined through the December 2013 settlement are deployed to the 2014/15 revenue budget as required (and detailed in the written report);
- (5) to approve an increase of one point nine nine per cent (1.99%) in Council Tax for 2014/15;
- (6) to approve the proposed net revenue budget requirement for 2014/15 of £204.680m;
- (7) to approve the total capital budget of £207.670m for 2013 to 2017. Any changes to the overall capital funding available to be sanctioned by the Council's Section 151 Officer;
- (8) to agree a £5 million contribution from the capital budget of £207,670m, towards the first phase development of a marine industries production campus at South Yard, Devonport Naval Base as part of the £65 million project to create 1,600 marine industry jobs and new homes following the recently approved City Deal;
- (9) to give delegated authority to the Leader, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and relevant portfolio holder, to commit to the following capital proposals (or any substitute proposals), including key decisions, within the overall affordability envelope, based on sound business cases –

- (a) the City Council owns significant land holdings across the city in industrial areas and will commit an investment of £2.5 million to one of those employment sites (subject to a robust business case) to deliver circa 20,000 square feet of new employment accommodation targeted at business start-ups and SME's creating new jobs and business opportunities in the city;
 - (b) to make financial provision to support the regeneration of the city centre. A fund will be set aside to support mixed use development opportunities within the city centre. This will recognise and provide the opportunity to address challenges that areas such as the West End face; reshaping the city centre to meet modern day living and life styles. Opportunities to bring forward a range of uses that support a more mixed and broader offer such as residential, business and leisure uses will be supported. We will do this working in partnership with the private sector to bring forward stalled schemes / development sites, creating jobs and promoting alternative uses;
- (10) to agree that all newly approved capital schemes are incorporated within regular public finance reporting;
- (11) using the Council tax base for 2014/15 as 67066.0 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; to agree that the **Council tax requirement** for the Council's own purposes for 2014/15 is £86,837,999;
- (12) to agree that the following amounts are calculated for the year 2014/15 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
- (a) £554,486,577 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act **(Gross Expenditure and Transfers to Reserves);**
 - (b) £467,648,578 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act **(Gross Income and Transfers from Reserves);**
 - (c) £86,837,999 being the amount by which the aggregate at 12(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 12(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its **Council tax requirement** for the year. (Item R in the formula in section 31B of the Act);
 - (d) £1,294.81 being the amount at 12(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (11 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the **basic amount of its Council tax** for the year;

- (13) to note that the office of the Devon and Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Police Commissioner has issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area. These are included in the tables below, reflecting a one point nine nine per cent (1.99%) increase;
- (14) to note that the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority has issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area. These are included in the tables below, showing a proposed one point nine nine per cent (1.99%) increase.
- (15) in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, to set the indicative aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2014/15 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings -

Plymouth City Council after one point nine nine per cent (1.99%) increase

A	B	C	D
£863.21	£1,007.07	£1,150.94	£1,294.81

E	F	G	H
£1,582.55	£1,870.28	£2,158.02	£2,589.62

Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner after one point nine nine per cent (1.99%) increase

A	B	C	D
£110.77	£129.24	£147.70	£166.16

E	F	G	H
£203.08	£240.01	£276.93	£332.32

Devon and Somerset Fire Authority after one point nine nine per cent (1.99%) increase

A	B	C	D
£51.26	£59.81	£68.34	£76.89

E	F	G	H
£93.97	£111.07	£128.15	£153.78

Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements 2014/15

A	B	C	D
£1,025.24	£1,196.12	£1,366.98	£1,537.86

E	F	G	H
£1,879.60	£2,221.36	£2,563.10	£3,075.72

- (16) that in accordance with the principles approved under 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council’s relevant basic amount of council tax for 2014/15 is not more than two per cent (2%) higher than the relevant basic amount of council tax for 2013/14 and that it is therefore determined that the Council’s relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2014/15 is not excessive and for this reason a referendum will not be required;
- (17) to agree the annual Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy 2014/15 (incorporating the authorised limits, operational boundaries and prudential indicators) as submitted.

101. **CONSIDERATION OF THE MOTION ON RAIL ISSUES**

The Leader sought approval under Article 14 to suspend the rules of procedure (Council procedure rule 5.2) to allow a debate on a motion concerning rail issues following damage to the arterial line.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Bowyer and following a vote, it was agreed.

102. **MOTION ON RAIL ISSUES FOLLOWING DAMAGE TO THE ARTERIAL RAIL LINE**

Councillor Evans moved and Councillor Bowyer seconded the following motion, with the corrections indicated –

‘This Council notes that:

- Recent events have again highlighted the inadequacies of the South West Peninsula rail network.
- The South West is **“Connectivity Poor”** with longer direct journey times than most other areas of the country which are a similar distance from London.
- The extreme weather events of the last two years and the resulting disruption to services, has demonstrated that the far south west is also **“resilience weak”**.

- The economic impact, based on previous events and our current economic analysis, when the road and rail infrastructure shut down for ten days in 2012 was estimated to be that Devon and Cornwall took a hit of £20 million per day. An on-going survey of Plymouth businesses will reveal the current impacts of the rail closure next week, with £4-5 million being predicted as the direct daily consequence on the Plymouth economy.
- The network is not fit for purpose for Plymouth as the 15th largest city in England with an ambitious growth agenda and which is delivering a City Deal. We are founding members of the Key Cities Group and are committed to ambitious regeneration plans to grow the city to over 300,000 by 2031.
- The commitment to complete a rail study needs to extend to a commitment to act on the outcomes of the study and the delivery of an additional route (known as the Dawlish Avoiding Line or GW2) to serve Plymouth, Torbay and Cornwall **and the parts of Devon**, west of Exeter.
- All government agencies should be working co-operatively together to deliver the objectives of faster trains to the south west and a more resilient rail network overall: as opposed to agency-specific solutions that seek to protect some population centres whilst potentially prejudicing long-term rail resilience into the south west.

This Council believes that it is vital for -

- a reliable and resilient railway that is able to meet the needs of Plymouth's and the wider peninsula economy.
- increased train capacity to cater for the increasing demand for rail travel.
- better connectivity with the rest of the UK through faster trains and higher frequencies.

Plymouth City Council agrees to –

- (1) call on the Prime Minister to expedite the study into the delivery of a fast and resilient additional rail connection to the south west and Plymouth and for this to be completed and published before the end of 2014.
- (2) call on the Prime Minister to instruct the Department of Transport to immediately put Plymouth on the Department for Transport Strategic National Corridor.
- (3) call on all residents across the peninsula to write to their MP to get them to support the provision of fast and reliable trains to the south west and for them to attend the parliamentary meeting of the **Peninsula Rail Task Force Rail Resilience Task Group** on 25 February 2014.

- (4) call on the Department for Transport to work with Network Rail, Train Operators, local authorities and the Local Enterprise Partnerships on a package of infrastructure improvements and options for increasing rolling stock capacity for the medium term.
- (5) call on the Department of Transport to make a firm commitment to complete feasibility and groundwork with a commitment to extending a rolling programme of electrification from 2020 that serves the entire South West Peninsula.'

During the debate the following additional issues were raised –

- (a) that the Leader and the Chief Executive would be making the case for the South West Peninsula at the Transport Select Committee on 25 February 2014;
- (b) that government agencies were not currently working together to resolve the rail issues in the light of recent and potential flooding and storms;
- (c) the need for a single minister to be appointed to lead on this issue;
- (d) the lack of action following previous motions and discussions with government on the continuing poor rail connection;
- (e) the impact of signalling on journey speeds;
- (f) the impact of flooding outside of the south west (Maidenhead) on the only rail connection to Plymouth;
- (g) the impact of the loss of service on families of and armed forces personnel;
- (h) the need for a champion in government to promote the interests of the south west;
- (i) that representations should be made direct to the Prime Minister as well as to Ministers.

The Leader responded that he would be asking for a Minister for Rail Resilience to lead on the issues affecting the south west peninsula and would also be seeking a commitment on investment and timings.

Following a vote, the motion was agreed with the corrections indicated.

DECLARING INTERESTS – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

What matters are being discussed?

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Does the business relate to or is it likely to affect a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI)? This will include the interests of a spouse or civil partner (and co-habitees):

- any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation that they carry on for profit or gain
- any sponsorship that they receive including contributions to their expenses as a councillor or the councillor’s election expenses from a Trade Union
- any land licence or tenancy they have in Plymouth
- any current contracts leases or tenancies between the Council and them
- any current contracts leases or tenancies between the Council and any organisation with land in Plymouth in they are a partner, a paid Director, or have a relevant interest in its shares and securities
- any organisation which has land or a place of business in Plymouth and in which they have a relevant interest in its shares or its securities

No

Yes

Declare interest and leave (or obtain a dispensation)

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Does the business affect the well-being or financial position of (or relate to the approval, consent, licence or permission) for:

- a member of your family or
- any person with whom you have a close association; or
- any organisation of which you are a member or are involved in its management (whether or not appointed to that body by the council). This would include membership of a secret society and other similar organisations.

Yes No You can speak and vote

Will it confer an advantage or disadvantage on your family, close associate or an organisation where you have a private interest more than it affects other people living or working in the ward?

Yes No Declare the interest and speak and vote

Speak to Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting to avoid risk of allegations of corruption or bias

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Cabinet members must declare and give brief details about any conflict of interest* relating to the matter to be decided and leave the room when the matter is being considered. Cabinet members may apply to the Monitoring Officer for a dispensation in respect of any conflict of interest.

*A conflict of interest is a situation in which a councillor’s responsibility to act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit without bias may conflict with his/her personal interest in the situation or where s/he may profit personally from the decisions that s/he is about to take.

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CITY COUNCIL

31 March 2014

**LORD MAYOR SELECTION COMMITTEE MINUTE 4 OF 21 FEBRUARY 2014****LORD MAYORALTY 2014/15**

The Chair referred to the recent death of the Lord Mayor's husband. He and the Committee joined in expressing their sadness at her loss and stated that their thoughts were with her at this difficult time.

The Committee then went on to consider nominations for the Lord Mayoralty 2014/15. Having been nominated by Councillor Peter Smith and seconded by Councillor Wright, and in the absence of any other nominations, it is unanimously agreed to extend a cordial invitation to Councillor Fox to accept the office of Lord Mayor for the following Municipal Year.

The Chair drew members' attention to the fact that Councillor Fox had previously been nominated for Lord Mayor but had unfortunately missed out on undertaking the role due to not being re-elected. It was therefore a welcome opportunity to be able to extend this offer to him again.

The Committee waited upon Councillor Fox whom, on arrival, expressed his appreciation at the nomination which he was delighted to accept. He added that he hoped he would be able to reward the Committee's confidence in him during his role in office, and in serving the citizens of Plymouth.

Agreed that it is unanimously recommended to City Council that it approves the appointment of Councillor Fox as Lord Mayor for the ensuing year.

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CITY COUNCIL

31st March 2014



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

MOTION ON NOTICE “GARDEN GRABBING”

This Council notes that:

- The National Planning Policy Framework, at paragraph 53, contains a specific reference to ‘garden grabbing’ where it states that “Local planning authorities should consider the case for setting out policies to resist inappropriate development of residential gardens, for example where development would cause harm to the local area”.
- Another reference to development in residential gardens can be seen in paragraph 48 of the National Planning Policy Framework which states that “Local planning authorities may make allowance for windfall sites in the five-year supply if they have compelling evidence that such sites have consistently become available in the local area and will continue to provide a reliable source of supply. Any allowance should be realistic having regard to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, historic windfall delivery rates and expected future trends, and should not include residential gardens” [emphasis added].
- Whilst the National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 17, states that planning should “encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value”, the definition of previously developed land “excludes... land in built up areas such as private residential gardens” (Annex 2).
- Strategic Objective 10 (Delivering Adequate Housing Supply) in the adopted Plymouth Core Strategy prioritises the use of brownfield land for housing and Policy CS16 (Spatial Distribution of Housing Sites) sets out a target of at least 80% of the city’s planned housing provision is to be delivered on previously developed land. The latest Authority Monitoring Report highlights that since 2006 90% of homes completed in the city have been on brownfield sites.
- Planning applications for housing in residential gardens are currently considered on their own merits as there is no specific local planning policy in relation to garden grabbing.

This Council resolves to:

1. Request the Portfolio Holder for the Environment to consider an appropriate policy response to the issue of garden grabbing and to consider the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 53 in the preparation of the Plymouth Plan.

Proposed by Councillor Patrick Nicholson

Seconded by Councillor Terri Beer

CITY COUNCIL

31 March 2014



MOTION ON NOTICE

TITLE: ABOLITION OF THE INDEPENDENT LIVING FUND

Last month DWP minister Mike Penning announced that, following a new equality impact assessment, the government is going to press ahead with closing the independent living fund by June 2015. The government's own equality impact assessment notes that 'it is almost certain that closure of the ILF will mean that the majority of users will face changes to the way their support is delivered, including the real possibility of a reduction to the funding they currently receive'.

Plymouth City Council deplores the Government's proposal to close down the ILF which currently provides a vital lifeline for a significant number of those in our city with the highest support needs. We believe that recipients of the fund have the right to make choices equal to others that allow them to participate fully in the community.

The Council regrets that the Government proposals to transfer the responsibilities of providing this support to local authorities without any commitment to maintain the current level of support. This will inevitably lead to an increase in isolation and segregation for many adults and the loss of independence and unnecessary admission of many others into residential care. With the governments vicious cuts already devastating our local health and social care system, the abolition of this fund will further increase the pressure on other health and social care budgets.

Plymouth City Council calls on the Government to immediately review this regressive step and look at ways of safeguarding the Independent Living Fund; a fund which is valued and relied upon by many severely disabled people in Plymouth.

Proposed by Councillor Jon Taylor

Seconded by Councillor Sue McDonald

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CITY COUNCIL

31 March 2014

**MOTION ON NOTICE****TITLE: CAR PARKING CHARGES****Proposed by Councillor Samantha Leaves****Seconded by Councillor Lynda Bowyer**

- Plymouth City Council acknowledges that Plymouth is aspiring to being one of Europe's most vibrant waterfront cities. Essential to this is a strong economy creating a range of jobs where Plymouth can demonstrate that it is an attractive place for investment.

At the meeting of the City Council on 27th January, Members were advised that a consultation on the proposed car parking charges had finished before Christmas and that officers were finalising a report which would be considered by Cabinet Members imminently.

Council notes the on-going delay in making a decision is creating continuing uncertainty on business, visitors, and local residents.

The City Council agrees to –

- (1) recommend that a decision is made within 7 days of this meeting to help alleviate further speculation and uncertainty within the Plymouth economy.

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