



#plymcouncil

Democratic and Member Support

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CITY COUNCIL

SUPPLEMENT I - MOTIONS

Monday 23 November 2015
2.30 pm
Council House, Plymouth

Members:

Councillor Dr. Mahony, Chair

Councillor Ball, Vice Chair

Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Bowie, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman, Churchill, Coker, Damarell, Dann, Darcy, Philippa Davey, Sam Davey, Deacon, Downie, Drean, Evans, Fletcher, K Foster, Mrs Foster, Fox, Fry, Hendy, James, Jarvis, Jordan, Kelly, Martin Leaves, Michael Leaves, Sam Leaves, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Nicholson, Mrs Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Ricketts, Riley, Dr. Salter, Singh, Smith, Sparling, Stevens, Storer, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Wheeler and Wigans.

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED MOTIONS OF NOTICE FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER AGENDA ITEM NO 10.

Tracey Lee
Chief Executive

CITY COUNCIL

10. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

To consider motions from councillors in accordance with Part B, paragraph 14 of the Constitution.

10a Trident Nuclear Submarine Programme (Pages 1 – 2)

To be proposed by Councillor Ian Bowyer and seconded by Councillor Darcy

10b Police Funding (Pages 3 – 4)

To be proposed by Councillor Philippa Davey and seconded by Councillor Evans

10c Tax Credits (Pages 5 – 6)

To be proposed by Councillor Stevens and seconded by Councillor Penberthy

10d Maintaining Support for Community Energy (Pages 7 – 8)

To be proposed by Councillor Penberthy and seconded by Councillor Evans

10e EU Referendum Task Group (Pages 9 – 10)

To be proposed by Councillor Evans and seconded by Councillor Philippa Davey

MOTION ON NOTICE:

**Trident Nuclear Submarine Programme
City Council: 23 November 2015**



Trident Nuclear Submarine Programme

The Chief Executive be instructed to write to Jeremy Corbyn, M.P. Leader of the Labour Party, to ask him to support the renewal of the Trident nuclear submarine programme and recognize the importance of this project to the local economy of Plymouth

Proposed by Councillor Ian Bowyer

Seconded by Councillor Ian Darcy

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MOTION ON NOTICE

POLICE FUNDING

City Council: 23 November 2015



POLICE FUNDING

Policing is in crisis. Police & Crime Commissioners and the shadow policing minister are challenging the government on its' plans for police funding. Faced with possible legal action, the Government has had to pause on latest proposals to revamp the formula.

However, this pause merely represents some short term crumbs of comfort – it is quite clear that this Government is intent on cutting police forces beyond the bone.

Like communities up and down the country, Plymouth's residents are fearful of the consequences. The Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable for Devon & Cornwall have made it clear that cuts will have a devastating effect on the numbers of police officers and PCSOs in our neighbourhoods. These people play a vital role in dealing with and preventing crime, and reassuring people.

The Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable have stated that the Government's intended cuts for our Force equate to c£54m a year for four years and would mean:-

- A cut of 1,300 officers and staff by 2020;
- Scrapping all PCSOs;
- A significant reduction in visible policing;
- Less work with councils;
- Doubts over whether all burglaries could be attended and investigated; and
- Other unspecified cuts.

As the largest urban area in the Force, Plymouth faces the most crime, and the impact of cuts is bound to be particularly hard felt here.

Although the Government's pause has reduced the immediate cut by £15m a year, the majority of the policing cuts predicted will still be necessary to meet the estimated £39m a year remaining cut. In any case, the Government is bound to be back for more. Devon & Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner has confirmed that he still expects hundreds of police officers, PCSOs and staff jobs to be lost and that many further police stations will be closed. This comes on top of previous cuts including 1,000 police personnel in our Force over the last four years.

Whilst the Police and Crime Commissioner should continue to look at every opportunity to reduce backroom budgets, it is unrealistic for him to patch up a remaining cut of this magnitude. Responsibility for the situation and the consequences which will arise from it, lies firmly with the Government.

Criminals will be rubbing their hands in glee and it is quite clear that if the public had known about the Government's plans to deliver such savage cuts on our police force, they wouldn't have voted the way they did.

Council resolves to:-

Ask the Leader to write to the Home Secretary highlighting our deep concerns about policing cuts, asking her to reconsider; and to urge our MPs to back this.

Support Devon & Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner in attempts to secure a fair funding formula for our police force as part of a campaign to restore Plymouth's "missing missions".

Proposed by Councillor Philippa Davey

Seconded by Councillor Tudor Evans

MOTION ON NOTICE:

Tax Credits
City Council: 23 November 2015



Tax Credits

Plymouth City Council opposes the cuts to Tax Credits announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer which, if implemented, would come into effect in April 2016. These cuts mean reductions in income to over 22,000 people in Plymouth, most of whom are already in employment, including self-employed people. On average, Plymothians receiving Tax Credits will be £1,300 worse off per year.

These brutal cuts, which will indiscriminately hit children of working families across our city, were not mentioned in the Conservative Party manifesto and were specifically denied by David Cameron during the General Election campaign. We also note that Plymouth's Conservative Members of Parliament Johnny Mercer, Oliver Colvile and Gary Streeter voted to impose these cuts on thousands of their constituents.

We resolve to oppose these cuts and request our Members of Parliament to vote against them when given the opportunity.

Proposed by Councillor Bill Stevens

Seconded by Councillor Chris Penberthy

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MOTION ON NOTICE

COMMUNITY ENERGY

City Council: 23 November 2015



Maintaining support for community energy

Council notes that:

- Plymouth has a national profile for community energy due to the success of Plymouth Energy Community (PEC). Support for PEC has gained PCC national recognition including an MJ Award, the Observer Ethical Awards and a Social Enterprise UK Award.
- PEC has delivered solar roofs to 30 schools and community buildings, offering a tool for teaching and saving £38,000 on school's bills in the first year. These schemes were paid for by £1.4M of social investment raised through the sale of community shares.
- PEC exists to tackle fuel poverty in the 15, 407 fuel poor households in Plymouth (13.4%). They have cleared £118, 316.46 in fuel debt in 174 households, saved tens of thousands through switching energy supplier and supported 100 with home visits and case work. PEC has created two apprenticeships and trained 48 volunteer Energy Champions.
- PEC has raised £672,000 in inward investment through grants and contracts. At present, PEC is majority funded by these grants and support from PCC, but aspires to generate a sustainable income through community energy installations.
- PEC uses the government subsidy – Feed-in Tariff (FIT) - to generate income from community owned solar installations. The Government is drastically reducing FITs from January 2016 and has removed the ability for community schemes to pre-register for the subsidy.
- PEC has been able to attract £1.4M investment in part due to eligibility for Enterprise Investment Scheme tax relief (EIS). This provides investors with 30% income tax relief on their investments in PEC solar schemes. The Government has announced the removal of EIS eligibility for community energy projects.

Council believes that:

- Community energy projects like PEC deliver good value for money due to:
 - The benefits they deliver locally
 - The national funds they are able to leverage
 - The new generation of social investors who decide to invest locally
- The impact of the FiT Review and removal of EIS tax relief will significantly restrict the ability of community energy projects to deliver local energy schemes and tackle fuel poverty. For example, removal of EIS contributed to PEC's £4.1M ground mounted solar scheme facing an uncertain future, after a year of development work and despite overwhelming support from the local community.

- The Government is wrong to implement these changes to the FiT and EIS. These changes will result in:
 - Thousands of job losses in the South West
 - Loss of community income from local schemes
 - Loss of investment in Plymouth
- A steadier reduction in FiT subsidy for solar would enable the industry to respond and follow a pathway to being subsidy free. Continued tax relief is needed in order to attract investment to community energy schemes in Plymouth.

The City Council agrees to –

- (1) Ask the Chief Executive to write to Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne to request a reversal of the amendment which removes EIS eligibility for community energy investors.
- (2) Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Amber Rudd to challenge the FiT review, explain its impact on local investment and seek ongoing subsidy support for community energy.
- (3) Continue to support Plymouth Energy Community through these challenging times for the renewable energy industry and for the community energy sector in particular.

Proposed by Councillor Chris Penberthy

Seconded by Councillor Tudor Evans

MOTION ON NOTICE

EU Referendum Task Group
City Council: 23 November 2015



EU Referendum Task Group

This Council notes:

- That the United Kingdom has been a member of the European Union since 1973, and that this Council recognises that the UK's continued membership of the EU is now in question and will be subject to a national referendum.
- This Council believes that the people of Plymouth have a right to take part in the forthcoming referendum.
- This Council further believes that it has a responsibility to ensure that local residents have the facts regarding the socio-economic impact that the UK's membership of the EU has on Plymouth before the referendum takes place

To establish and identify the social, economic and cultural benefits and disadvantages that the UK's membership of the EU has on Plymouth, the City Council agrees to –

Ask the Chair of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board to create a cross party EU task group, including representatives from all parties, that will invite evidence from local business leaders, the LEP, trade unions, local universities, the police, the NHS, agricultural representatives, charities, district and parish councils and other partner agencies in order to compile a comprehensive report that will be presented to full Council, all partner agencies, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and be made available to the public prior to the referendum.

Proposed by Councillor Tudor Evans

Seconded by Councillor Philippa Davey

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