



#plymcouncil



**Democratic and Member Support**

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## CITY COUNCIL SUPPLEMENT

Monday 11 July 2016  
2.00 pm  
Council House, Plymouth

**Members:**

Councillor Murphy, Chair

Councillor Sam Davey, Vice Chair

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

**Please find attached supplementary reports in relation to item 12 on your agenda 'Motions on Notice'.**

**Tracey Lee**  
Chief Executive

# City Council

## 12. Motions on Notice

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

- a. Academisation of Schools **(Pages 1 - 2)**
- b. Family Holiday and School Fines **(Pages 3 - 4)**
- c. Make Fair Transitional State Pension Arrangements for 1950's Women **(Pages 5 - 6)**
- d. Tackling Racism, Xenophobia and Hate Crimes **(Pages 7 - 8)**

**MOTION ON NOTICE**

City Council 11 July 2016

**Academisation of Schools**

This Council notes, with concern, the proposal in the recently published education White Paper, "Educational Excellence Everywhere" which will force all schools in Plymouth to become academies, irrespective of the school's wishes.

This council meeting notes that the White Paper's proposals –

- would remove the requirement of schools to elect parent governors;
- would require the transfer of land and buildings of such schools to central ownership by the Secretary of State;
- do not include any say for parents and local communities over the future status of local schools;
- requires lengthy and costly conversion exercises.

This council meeting further notes -

- over 80% of children attending schools in Plymouth attend schools that are rated by Ofsted as "good" or "outstanding";
- the invaluable role of parent governors and the local authority acting as "critical friends" to both support and hold to account head teachers and schools;
- the comments of 58 head teachers from across Plymouth and Devon who wrote to the Secretary of State for Education urging her to "start listening and stop the rhetoric" and those of The National Association of Head teachers.

**This council believes –**

No single system of school organisation has a monopoly on success and that the model as proposed by the White Paper would not deliver the improvement in schools standards and outcomes that this council wishes to see.

**This Council meeting therefore resolves to –**

- Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Education expressing the concerns of this council as set out in this motion about the proposals to force all schools to become academies in Plymouth;**
- Ask the Leader of the Council to write to our local MPs expressing the council's concerns and to seek their views on the proposal;**

- c) Ask the lead member for Children and Young People to ensure engagement with head teachers, school governors, professional representatives, parents and the wider local community to raise awareness of the Government's proposals.

Proposed by Councillor McDonald  
Seconded by Councillor Evans  
Dated 1 July 2016

**MOTION ON NOTICE**City Council 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016**Family Holidays & School Fines**

Travel broadens the mind and children and families are known to benefit from recreation time together.

Council believes that the current policy of fining parents who take their children out of school for a family holiday unfairly penalises those families whose occupations or incomes prevent them going away during the school holidays.

The City Council agrees to:

cease the practice of fining those parents for unauthorised absence in order to take their children on holiday.

Proposed by Councillor McDonald

Seconded by Councillor Evans

Dated 1 July 2016

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**MOTION ON NOTICE**

City Council date 11 July 2016

**Make Fair Transitional State Pension Arrangements for 1950's Women**

This Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6<sup>th</sup> April 1951, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification.

Hundreds of thousands of women had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little/no/personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age.

Many women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace so struggle to find employment. Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60. It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute – it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time. The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements.

This Council calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6<sup>th</sup> April 1951, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.

**Proposed by** Councillor P Davey

**Seconded by** Councillor Dann

**Dated** 20 June 2016

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**MOTION ON NOTICE**

City Council date 11 July 2016

**Tackling racism, xenophobia and hate crimes**

- Plymouth City Council states that we are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and all hate crimes have no place in our city. This Council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes absolutely unequivocally. It is our duty to provide leadership to the city and we will never allow any form of hate crime to become acceptable.
- Plymouth City Council will work to ensure local programmes, organisations and individuals have support and the necessary resources to fight and prevent racism, xenophobia and crimes of hatred.
- We send a message of friendship and support to all people living in Plymouth, wherever they were born, whoever they may be, and further state that they are valued members of our community.

The City Council agrees to –

- (1) Request the Chief Executive to issue this statement as forcefully as possible in all forms and in all outlets available to us.
- (2) Request the Chief Executive to actively engage with all partners and stakeholders on this issue to send this message to the widest possible audience in Plymouth.
- (3) Request the Chief Executive ensures all Councillors and staff have the necessary training to ensure they are able to inform residents and partners how to report hate crimes and how to access support.
- (4) Request that the Chief Executive ensures all Councillors are aware of the schedule of Citizenship ceremonies and investigate appropriate measures to enable Councillors to attend ceremonies in order to welcome new citizens to the city.

**Proposed by** Councillor P Davey

**Seconded by** Councillor Morris

**Dated** 11 July 2016

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