



Oversight and Governance

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CITY COUNCIL – MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Monday 16 November 2020

2.00 pm

Virtual Meeting

Members:

Councillor Mavin, Chair

Councillor Winter, Vice Chair

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Ball, Mrs Beer, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman, Buchan, Carson, Churchill, Coker, Cook, Corvid, Dann, Darcy, Sam Davey, Deacon, Derrick, Downie, Drear, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Michael Leaves, Samantha Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, Pete Smith, Rebecca Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler and Wigans.

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf.

For further information on attending Council meetings and how to engage in the democratic process please follow this link - [Get Involved](#)

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.

- | | | |
|------|--|-----------------------|
| 10.a | A New Police Station for Plymouth | (Pages 1 - 2) |
| 10.b | Commonwealth Veterans Support | (Pages 3 - 4) |
| 10.c | Bulky Waste | (Pages 5 - 6) |
| 10.d | Free City Centre Car Parking in December 2020 and January 2021 | (Pages 7 - 8) |
| 10.e | COVID-19 Test and Trace Support Payments | (Pages 9 - 10) |

MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council 16 November 2020

**A New Police Station for Plymouth**

The city of Plymouth has been badly let down by the severe cutback of policing and criminal justice resources in recent years by the Conservative government and the policies of the Conservative Police & Crime Commissioner. The impact has been damaging with less police on the streets, fewer prosecutions, not enough investment in crime prevention, and worst of all, a doubling of violent crime over the past 4 years. Covid-19 has forced the police to address new challenges that will stretch them ever more until the pandemic is over. Now is the time to invest for the future. Amidst our continued efforts to drive investment for economic growth in our city, we need investment in our police. Not just more officers on the street, better community policing and improved access to police services for our people, but a new police station that can meet our city's needs for community and business safety into the future.

A new local police station was built at Devonport in 2013 with significantly improved environmental standards and operational benefits but with no public access for enquiry or reporting. Beacon Park Road police station was mothballed in 2015. Meanwhile the city's two main police stations at Crownhill and Charles Cross have remained largely unimproved on their (60's) design and environmental standards and their questionable suitability for modern crime investigation, custody provision and other services.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's capital programme has provided a new Exeter Police Station and Devon Operational HQ at Middlemoor to house around 450 officers on a wide range of duties. It is to be commended as being in the UK's top 10% of sustainable buildings, producing 22% less carbon emissions than a standard building as well as providing a "state of the art" custody centre. There has also been considerable investment in other new police stations including Cornwall Police HQ at Bodmin, Liskeard Police Station, with Okehampton and Camborne stations nearing completion, and planning underway for a new station in Barnstaple. The estimated capital spend on these projects amounts to around £45m.

Plymouth has substantive policing challenges, not surprisingly as we are the largest urban centre in Devon and Cornwall. Our Plymouth Police Command has around 430 uniformed officers and around 35 civilian staff and individuals from partner organisations. Plymouth also hosts units providing critical support to many force-wide capabilities such as Armed Response, 999 call handling, and multi-agency functions such as the Public Protection Unit. Yet our police estate has lacked the investment needed to address these challenges into the long term.

It is time for Plymouth to have the modern police infrastructure that it deserves, to improve its operational effectiveness locally and force-wide, and to bring improved environmental standards that are necessary across our city to help this Council deliver our ambitious Climate Emergency Action Plan hand in hand with our many partners.

In consideration of the above, this Council agrees that the Leader of the Council:

(a) Will write to the Police and Crime Commissioner to request that the police estate requirements for the city and for its provision of significant force-wide capabilities are prioritised and given full consideration in the future police estate strategy. The purpose is to ensure Plymouth can meet its policing needs most cost-effectively and sustainably into the future.

(b) Will offer every assistance to the Commissioner to help coordinate and establish proposals for any new police building(s) in Plymouth. It will be vital to ensure that any proposals are integral to the wider programme of capital investment underway to drive our economic development, public safety, and sustainable future.

Proposer: Cllr Gareth Derrick

Signature “By email”

Seconder: Cllr Sally Haydon

Signature “By email”

MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council 16 November 2020

**Commonwealth Veterans Support**

Commonwealth veterans have a long and proud history of service in the British Armed Forces. From conflicts during the Second World War to recent campaigns in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan, Commonwealth veterans have served with distinction alongside their UK-born compatriots, yet when their service is complete many face worrying uncertainty and extortionate charges to remain in the UK.

Commonwealth veterans are eligible to receive Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) in the UK, yet many veterans report that the service authorities failed to inform them that they needed to make an application to the Home Office after their service was complete. Many believed incorrectly that the process was automatic.

Since 2015 the cost for an individual application for ILR has increased by around 127% from £1051 to £2381 with a family of four having to pay close to £10,000 to remain in the UK. Some Commonwealth veterans who have struggled to make retrospective visa applications have also had to pay legal costs which has led to significant debt. While their applications are ongoing these veterans are unable to seek employment, claim benefits and are liable for the cost of NHS treatment. The uncertainty of their immigration status and the real threat of deportation on top of financial worries for these veterans and their families is unacceptable.

In consideration of the above, this Council resolves that;

1. Our Armed Forces Champion and Lead Officers are made aware of the difficulties experienced by Commonwealth Veterans and work to help ensure that any from Plymouth who are currently experiencing difficulties are not disadvantaged whilst their applications are ongoing.
2. The Leader of the Council will write to Kevin Foster (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Borders and Immigration) and Johnny Mercer (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence People and Veterans) outlining this Council's support for all Commonwealth veterans who have served a minimum of 4 years to be granted automatic Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK free of charge, and for any veteran who completes 12 years of service to be automatically offered UK Citizenship.

Proposer: Cllr Gareth Derrick

Signature "By email"

Seconder: Cllr Pauline Murphy

Signature "By email"

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MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council 16 November 2020

**Bulky Waste**

For a greener, cleaner Plymouth and due to the increase in fly tipping right across the city.

We call on the Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene to resume the Bulky Waste Collection Service from 5th December 2020 or alternatively (in line with Pledge 90) re-introduce community skips where practical at Covid -19 compliant locations, free of charge.

Proposer: Cllr Maddi Bridgeman

Signature "By email"

Seconder: Cllr Glenn Jordan

Signature "By email"

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MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council 16 November 2020

**Free City Centre Car Parking in December 2020 and January 2021**

Given the additional significant impacts of COVID-19 on the City Centre, Plymouth City Council resolves:

To ask the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure to waive City Centre car parking charges for December and January in City Council operated car parks, to support our many local and varied traders and give residents and visitors an added incentive to shop locally in the festive season.

Proposer: Cllr Patrick Nicholson

Signature "By email"

Seconder: Cllr Jonathan Drean

Signature "By email"

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MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council 16 November 2020

**COVID-19 Test and Trace Support Payments**

Council welcomes the Government's recognition that:

- People requiring to self-isolate because of COVID-19 is a public health issue.
- People on low incomes, zero-hours contracts and the self-employed who suffer a drop in income because of the requirement to self-isolate need financial support.
- People on in-work means-tested benefits should be entitled to mandatory financial support to self-isolate in order that they do not need to go to work to make ends meet.
- There should be no cap on the budget to provide mandatory support for people to self-isolate.
- There should be a discretionary scheme for people on low incomes, zero-hours contracts and the self-employed who suffer a drop in income due to the need to self-isolate to claim financial support.
- Councils are best placed to administer this support.

Council notes that:

- The Government has allocated funding for the Council to award 154 discretionary payments during the life of the scheme (28th September 2020 to 31st January 2021).
- In Plymouth, in common with many other parts of the country where the demographic is such that it is unlikely that low income employees can work from home, demand from eligible applicants for the discretionary scheme outstrips the demand from eligible applicants for the mandatory scheme, contrary to the proportions in which the funding was allocated.

Council is concerned that the Government:

- Does not recognise that a parent in a low income or zero hours job who has to stay at home to care for a self-isolating child could also need financial support to self-isolate.
- Has not extended the national or local self-isolation support schemes until the end of March 2021 in line with the extension to the furlough scheme.
- Has not taken the rise in COVID-19 cases or local demographics into account when establishing a budget for the discretionary financial support fund.
- Has provided a different funding mechanism for the discretionary support scheme, which limits the number of people it can help

Council therefore instructs the:

- Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to review the discretionary element of the COVID-19 Test and Trace Support Payments scheme, and provide additional grant funding as necessary to ensure it continues to support those in need.
- Chief Executive to write to Plymouth's MPs raising these concerns and asking them to campaign for a review of the discretionary element of the COVID-19 Test and Trace Support Payments scheme and additional grant funding as necessary in order to support their constituents on low incomes, zero-hours contracts and who are self-employed that are required to self-isolate.
- Cabinet Member for Housing and Co-operative development to work with the Director of Public Health to ensure that the Council does all it can to provide support to people on low incomes, zero-hours contracts and who are self-employed that are required to self-isolate.

Proposer: Cllr Chris Penberthy

Signature 

Seconder: Cllr Tudor Evans OBE

Signature 