

City Council

Monday 30 January 2023

PRESENT:

Councillor Dann, in the Chair.

Councillor Penberthy, Vice Chair.

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Bingley, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Dr Cree, Cresswell, , Drean, Evans OBE, Finn, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Hulme, Kelly, Loveridge, Luggier, Dr Mahony, McDonald, McLay, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Partridge, Patel, Poyser, Reilly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tofan, Tuohy, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Mrs Bowyer, Darcy, Deacon, Laing, Lowry, Mrs Pengelly, Tuffin and Vincent

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 9.25 pm.

Note: The full discussion can be viewed on the webcast of the City Council meeting at www.plymouth.gov.uk. 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.

32. Minutes

Council agreed the minutes of the City Council meeting held on 21 November 2022 as a true and correct record.

33. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made by councillors in accordance with the code of conduct in respect of items under consideration at the meeting -

Name	Minute Number	Reason	Interest
Councillor Andy Luggier	40	He represented the Plymouth Licence Victuallers.	Personal
Councillor Chaz Singh	40	Personal licence holder.	Personal
Councillor Mark Coker	40	Personal licence holder.	Personal
Councillor Nick Kelly	40	Personal licence held by wife.	Personal
Councillor Ian Poyser	40	Personal licence holder.	Personal
Councillor Pat Patel	40	Personal licence holder..	Personal
Councillor	41	Family employed by	Personal

James Stoneman		Plymouth City Council.	
Councillor Zoe Reilly	41	Member of household employed by Plymouth City Council.	Personal

34. **Appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies etc**

Members were advised of the following changes –

- a) Councillor Sally Haydon should have shown as Vice Chair of the Taxi Licensing Committee, not Councillor Eddie Rennie;
- b) Councillor Dylan Tippetts should have shown as Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee, not Councillor Eddie Rennie.

Councillor Nicholson moved an amendment to the recommendations as follows, this was seconded by Councillor Nick Kelly –

1. The Council approved the proportionality following changes to the political composition of the Council;
2. Chairs and Vice-Chairs would be appointed in line with political proportionality.

The Lord Mayor advised that if this amendment was passed, it would be referred to the Audit and Governance Committee for further consideration.

Following a discussion with a contributions from Councillors Evans OBE and Hulme, the amendment was not passed.

For (6)

Councillors Mrs Beer, Hulme, Kelly, Nicholson, Singh and Mrs Bridgeman.

Against (37)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Dr Cree, Coker, Cresswell, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, McDonald, Noble, Penberthy, Reilly, Rennie, Stevens, Tippetts, Tuohy, Bingley, Carlyle, Drean, Harrison, Finn, Loveridge, Luggier, Dr Mahony, Patel, Partridge, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Smith, Stoneman, Tofan, Ms Watkin and Wakeham.

Abstain (2)

Councillors Churchill and McLay.

Absent/Did Not Vote (4)

Councillors Dann, Murphy, Poyser and Wheeler.

The Council agreed to approve the proportionality following changes to the political composition of the Council.

For (40)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Dr Cree, Coker, Cresswell, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, McDonald, Noble, Penberthy, Reilly, Rennie, Stevens, Tippetts, Tuohy, Bingley, Carlyle, Drean, Harrison, Finn, Loveridge, Luggar, Dr Mahony, Patel, Partridge, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Smith, Stoneman, Tofan, Ms Watkin, Wakeham, McLay, Poyser and Wheeler.

Abstain (2)

Councillors Churchill and Mrs Bridgeman.

Against (4)

Councillors Hulme, Kelly, Nicholson and Singh.

Absent/Did Not Vote (3)

Councillors Dann, Murphy and Mrs Beer.

35. **Questions by the Public** (Pages 17 - 36)

There were eight questions from members of the public, the questions and answers are appended to the minutes.

36. **Announcements**

The Lord Mayor provided an update that included–

- a) Expressed condolences on behalf of the Council for all those involved with the Keyham Inquest that was being heard in Exeter and streamed to the Council House in Plymouth;
- b) With great sadness, The Lord Mayor informed The Council of the passing of Alderman Ken Foster and The Council stood for a minutes silence in his memory;
- c) Furthermore, the Lord Mayor was sad to share the news that Commander Charles Crichton OBE RN had passed away and led a moment of reflection on the contribution he had made to the City of Plymouth.

The Leader gave his announcements which included the following –

- a) His condolences were with the families and community affected by the Keyham tragedy and he gave thanks to the staff supporting those affected;
- b) Welcomed Councillor Lauren McLay and Councillor Will Noble to the Council;
- c) Gave thanks to all those who sat on the Budget Scrutiny Committee including Councillor Finn, who stepped in as Chair when Councillor Penberthy was unwell;
- d) Gave thanks to the staff involved in preparing the budget papers, led by Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) as well as Councillors and members for their ideas and suggestions for budget saving;

- e) The Leader and Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) had met with Lord Markham CBE (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for the Lords) Department of Health and Social Care) to push for further resources from the NHS to fund the Colin Campbell Centre and were awaiting a formal response but the initial feedback had been positive;
- f) There had been a meeting on 10 January 2023 of South-West regional leaders where The Leader has emphasised Plymouth's need for better transport connectivity, including an airport, and better skills provision;
- g) On 2 January 2023 The Leader and The Lord Mayor, along with other Councillor's, had attended an event on board Port Aven, the flagship of Brittany Ferries, with dignitaries from France, celebrating 50 years of the company serving Plymouth.

Councillor Rebecca Smith (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Homes and Communities) provided an update and highlighted –

- h) Sir Gary Streeter MP had given a speech on the work of the VAWG Commission in Westminster Hall which was supported by Luke Pollard MP and Johnny Mercer MP, highlighting the work that had been done;
- i) Apologised that the report on mould in homes had not yet been circulated, but would be within 24 hours.

Councillor Pat Patel (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure & Sport) provided an update and highlighted –

- j) The Box had been compiling evidence for the Green Tourism Accreditation submission and the assessment was completed on 27 January 2023 and the outcome was to award The Box with Gold, the highest ethical accolade, awarded by an internationally recognised scheme and thanked the staff at The Box for their hard work to achieve this.

37. **Petition - Armada Way Trees**

Mr Mark Thomas introduced the petition which said -

“Plymouth City Council is regenerating Armada Way and in doing so will be chopping down virtually all the beautiful and well-established trees which make the city such a nice place to be. If you would rather they change their plans to incorporate a bit more of what we already have rather than bulldozing it flat then get behind our campaign to save the trees! They are more important than a glimpse of a view of the war memorial on the Hoe. The council say they want more trees, so why not just plant more trees?”

The meeting was adjourned at 3.25pm for 15 minutes to allow everyone to read the copy of the response.

Councillor Jonathan Drear (Cabinet Member for Transport) provided a response to the petition. This was seconded by Councillor Mark Shayer (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Economy).

Councillor Murphy joined the meeting at 4.21pm.

Councillor Tom Briars-Delve proposed an amendment which was seconded by Councillor Mark Coker. Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors Nicholson, Goslin, Reilly, Drean, Singh, Hulme, Mrs Bridgeman, Kelly, Penberthy, Holloway, Poyser and Wheeler the Council agreed to accept the amendment -

For (48)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Dr Cree, Coker, Cresswell, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, McDonald, Murphy, Noble, Penberthy, Reilly, Rennie, Stevens, Tippetts, Tuohy, Bingley, Carlyle, Churchill, Drean, Harrison, Finn, Mrs Loveridge, Luggar, Dr Mahony, Patel, Partridge, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Smith, Stoneman, Tofan, Ms Watkin, Wakeham, McLay, Poyser, Wheeler, Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Hulme, Kelly, Nicholson and Singh.

Against (0)

Abstain (1)

Councillor Dann.

Absent/Did Not Vote (0)

Councillor Wheeler proposed an amendment that was seconded by Councillor Ian Poyser. Following a discussion with contributions from Councillor Coker, Churchill and Drean the Council agreed to accept the amendment –

For (48)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Dr Cree, Coker, Cresswell, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, McDonald, Murphy, Noble, Penberthy, Reilly, Rennie, Stevens, Tippetts, Tuohy, Bingley, Carlyle, Churchill, Drean, Harrison, Finn, Mrs Loveridge, Luggar, Dr Mahony, Patel, Partridge, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Smith, Stoneman, Tofan, Ms Watkin, Wakeham, McLay, Poyser, Wheeler, Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Hulme, Kelly, Nicholson and Singh.

Against (0)

Abstain (1)

Councillor Dann.

Absent/Did Not Vote (0)

Following a further discussion with contributions from Councillors Singh, Smith, Hulme, Nicholson, Kelly, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman and Penberthy the Council agreed the amended substantive motion –

Plymouth City Council firmly believes that the residents and businesses of Plymouth deserve a thriving and prosperous city centre to deliver high quality jobs and places to live.

We recognise that the strategic policies set out in the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan adopted in March 2019 commits us to delivering a vibrant mixed-use regional shopping centre and attractive visitor destination. We remain committed to delivering Policy PLY6 of the adopted Joint Local Plan ('Improving Plymouth's City Centre') which, amongst other things, specifically supports respecting and celebrating the centre's mid-twentieth built heritage, a coordinated programme of investment in public realm, and improvements to surface water drainage systems.

We note the substantial support that has been expressed for the Armada Way scheme by local residents, many city centre businesses, the City Centre Company, the Environment Agency, South West Water, Homes England, Historic England, the Twentieth Century Society and others.

We recognise the concerns that have been expressed regarding the engagement arrangements for the scheme, the tight funding deadlines for the project to be delivered, and the potential for funding to be lost if the scheme is not implemented. We therefore call on the Cabinet Member for Transport to undertake a comprehensive review of the engagement arrangements for the scheme and commit to publishing the results of this review to inform this and delivery of future city centre schemes. We also call on the Cabinet Member for Transport to publish a detailed statement regarding the maintenance costs of the Better Places Programme projects.

Plymouth City Council recognises the concerns expressed in the petition regarding the loss of existing trees but agrees that a balance has to be struck with the achievement of other regeneration and environmental objectives for the city centre, including the city's climate change commitments. We note that the scheme has many environmental benefits, for example the creation of new walking and cycling infrastructure, a sustainable urban drainage scheme, and provision for future district heating initiatives. We call on the Cabinet Member for Transport to set these out in detail for the benefit of local businesses and the public.

Plymouth City Council welcomes the pause to the Armada Way scheme announced by the Cabinet Member for Transport on 21st November 2022. We note that the modified scheme that has been published seeks to directly respond to the request in the petition to 'incorporate a bit more of what we already have'.

Plymouth City Council calls upon the Cabinet Member for Transport to note its dissatisfaction with the lack of public engagement and suspend tree felling whilst undertaking a meaningful community engagement process [in February, which considers the natural environmental and climate resilience] before finalising the designs for Armada Way. The Council further acts that no work be carried out that could prejudice the survival of the existing trees until the design is finalised. Having undertaken this process and published the results, the Council supports and requests that the Cabinet Member implements that final design quickly to avoid on-going disruption to city centre businesses from the construction works.

For (18)

Bingley, Carlyle, Churchill, Drean, Harrison, Finn, Lugger, Dr Mahony, Patel, Partridge, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Smith, Stoneman, Tofan, Ms Watkin and Wakeham.

Abstain (22)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Dr Cree, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, McDonald, Murphy, Noble, Penberthy, Rennie, Stevens, Tippetts, Mrs Bridgeman, McLay and Wheeler.

Against (5)

Councillors Mrs Beer, Hulme, Kelly, Nicholson and Singh.

Absent/Did Not Vote (4)

Councillors Mrs Loveridge, Poyser, Reilly and Tuohy.

The meeting was adjourned for 30 minutes at 5.25pm.

Councillors Briars-Delve, Coker, Rennie and Poyser left the meeting at 5.25pm.

Councillor Dr Cree left the meeting at 5.25pm and did not return to the meeting.

38. **Council Tax Base and Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24**

The Council Tax Base and Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24 was introduced by Councillor Mark Shayer (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Economy). This was seconded by The Leader.

Following a discussion with a contribution from Councillor Kelly, the Council agreed to –

- 1) The Council Tax Base for 2023/24 of 74,891 equivalent Band D dwellings as set out in the report for the item;
- 2) The continuation of the current Council Tax Support scheme and Exceptional Hardship Scheme for 2023/24 with no update.

For (41)

Councillors Bingley, Carlyle, Churchill, Drean, Harrison, Finn, Mrs Loveridge, Luggar, Dr Mahony, Patel, Partridge, Salmon, Shayer, Smith, Stoneman, Tofan, Ms Watkin, Wakeham, Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Cresswell, Dann, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, McDonald, Murphy, Noble, Penberthy, Reilly, Stevens, Tippetts, Tuohy, McLay, Wheeler, Mrs Bridgeman, Hulme, Kelly and Singh.

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (8)

Councillors Briars-Delve, Dr Cree, Coker, Rennie, Poyser, Mrs Beer, Nicholson and Riley.

39. **Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry 2023-2024 Revenue and Capital Estimates**

Councillor Jonathan Drean (Cabinet Member for Transport) introduced the report on Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry 2023-2024 Revenue and Capital Estimates. This was seconded by Councillor Pat Patel (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure & Sport).

Following a discussion with a contribution from Councillor Kelly, the Council agreed to –

- 1) Approve the 2023/24 revenue estimates and capital programme and the draft 2023-24 Business plan, as set out in the appendices to the JC Report;
- 2) Note the longer-term forecast to 2026/27.

For (35)

Councillors Bingley, Carlyle, Churchill, Drean, Harrison, Finn, Mrs Loveridge, Lugger, Dr Mahony, Patel, Partridge, Salmon, Shayer, Smith, Stoneman, Tofan, Ms Watkin, Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Cresswell, Dann, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, McDonald, Murphy, Noble, Reilly, Stevens, Tippetts, Tuohy, McLay and Wheeler.

Against (5)

Councillors Mrs Beer, Hulme, Kelly, Singh and Mrs Bridgeman.

Abstain (1)

Councillor Nicholson.

Absent/Did Not Vote (8)

Councillors Briars-Delve, Dr Cree, Coker, Penberthy, Rennie, Poyser, Riley and Wakeham.

40. **Licensing Cumulative Impact Policy**

Councillor Pat Patel (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure & Sport) introduced the Licensing Cumulative Impact Policy which was seconded by The Leader.

The Council agreed to –

- 1) Adopt and publish the Cumulative Impact Assessment as contained in Appendix C of the report, with effect from 31 January 2023.

For (40)

Councillors Bingley, Carlyle, Churchill, Harrison, Finn, Mrs Loveridge, Dr Mahony, Patel, Partridge, Salmon, Shayer, Smith, Stoneman, Tofan, Ms Watkin, Wakeham, Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Dann, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, McDonald, Murphy, Noble, Penberthy, Reilly, Stevens, Tippetts, Tuohy, McLay, Wheeler, Mrs Bridgeman, Mrs Beer, Hulme, Kelly, Nicholson and Singh.

Abstain (0)

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (9)

Councillors Briars-Delve, Dr Cree, Coker, Reilly, Rennie, Drean, Lugger, Riley and Poyser.

41. **Annual Pay Policy Statement 2023/24**

Councillor Mark Shayer (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Economy) introduced the Annual Pay Policy Statement 2023/24, which was seconded by Councillor Pat Patel (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure & Sport). The Council agreed to –

I) Approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24.

For (41)

Councillors Bingley, Carlyle, Churchill, Harrison, Finn, Mrs Loveridge, Luggier, Dr Mahony, Patel, Partridge, Salmon, Shayer, Smith, Tofan, Ms Watkin, Wakeham, Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Cresswell, Dann, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, McDonald, Murphy, Noble, Penberthy, Reilly, Stevens, Tippetts, Tuohy, McLay, Wheeler, Mrs Bridgeman, Mrs Beer, Hulme, Kelly, Nicholson and Singh.

Abstain (0)

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (8)

Councillors Briars-Delve, Dr Cree, Coker, Rennie, Drean, Riley, Stoneman and Poyser.

42. **Calendar of Meetings**

Councillor James Stoneman (Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Governance) introduced the report.

Councillor Mrs Mary Aspinall noted that the date for Inter Faith Week 2023 had not yet been announced and that the November 2023 meeting of SACRE would need to be flexible in case the date suggested (13 November 2023) fell in that week.

Councillor Dylan Tippetts asked that the dates for Corporate Parenting Group and Child Poverty Action Group be added to the calendar.

The Council agreed to note the document.

43. **Motions on notice**

44. **Defibrillators**

Councillors Briars-Delve, Coker, Rennie and Poyser re-joined the meeting during this item.

Councillor Mrs Terri Beer introduced the motion on notice on defibrillators. This was seconded by Councillor Stephen Hulme.

Councillor Pat Patel (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure & Sport) proposed a motion without notice that the item be deferred to the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which was seconded by The Leader.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors Nicholson, Mrs Aspinall, Singh, Stoneman, Finn, Kelly and Evans OBE the Council agreed to –

- 1) Defer the item to the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

For (45)

Councillors Bingley, Carlyle, Churchill, Drean, Harrison, Finn, Mrs Loveridge, Luggier, Dr Mahony, Patel, Partridge, Salmon, Shayer, Smith, Stoneman, Tofan, Ms Watkin, Wakeham, Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, McDonald, Murphy, Noble, Penberthy, Reilly, Rennie, Stevens, Tippetts, Tuohy, McLay, Poyser, Wheeler, Mrs Bridgeman, Mrs Beer, Hulme, and Nicholson.

Against (0)

Abstain (2)

Councillors Kelly and Singh.

Did Not Vote (2)

Councillors Dr Cree and Riley.

45. **Motion on Notice on the Loss of Trees in Armada Way**

Councillor Stephen Hulme introduced the motion on notice on the loss of trees in Armada Way, and the amendment to the motion following the discussion on the subject earlier in the meeting under item 37 – Petition – Armada Way Trees. This was seconded by Councillor Patrick Nicholson.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillor Stoneman, Briars-Delve, Kelly, Poyser and Singh the Council did not agree the motion on notice to

- 1) Request the cabinet review the scheme with a view to saving significantly more trees that currently proposed, with ongoing public opposition to the loss of trees in Armada Way.

For (6)

Councillors Mrs Beer, Hulme, Kelly, Nicholson, Singh and Mrs Bridgeman.

Abstain (25)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, McDonald, Murphy, Noble, Penberthy, Reilly, Rennie, Stevens, Tippetts, Tuohy, Harrison, Mrs Loveridge, McLay, Poyser and Wheeler.

Against (15)

Councillors Bingley, Carlyle, Churchill, Drean, Finn, Luggier, Dr Mahony, Patel, Salmon, Shayer, Smith, Stoneman, Tofan, Ms Watkin, Wakeham,

Absent/Did Not Vote (3)

Councillors Dr Cree, Partridge and Riley.

46. **Sir Francis Drake Motion**

Councillor Mrs Maddi Bridgeman left the meeting at 7.15pm.

The Council agreed to deviate from standing orders and to extend the meeting until business was complete.

Councillor Nick Kelly introduced the Motion on Notice on Sir Francis Drake. This was seconded by Councillor Chaz Singh.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor George Wheeler and seconded by Councillor Lauren McLay.

The meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes for Councillors to consider the amendment.

Following a discussion with a contribution from Councillor Kelly the Council did not agree the amendment to –

- 1) Insert a new third paragraph that read: “Drake’s expeditions were based on a triangular system of trade, the first leg taking British goods and produce to sell in Africa, the second leg taking the “goods” brought with the sale of the British produce from West Africa to the Caribbean and the third utilising the proceeds of the Caribbean sales to buy gold or goods in the Caribbean for transport back to Britain. The profitability of the voyages were augmented by the occasional act of piracy. The dark aspect of this trading system is that the “goods” taken from Africa to the Caribbean were people – black slaves. Many of these did not reach the Caribbean alive.”
- 2) Delete “proud” in line 3 of (renumbered) fourth paragraph;
- 3) Add after heritage in line 3 of (renumbered) fourth paragraph: “, that of which we can be proud but also that of which we should feel deep shame.”;
- 4) Delete resolutions 1 and 2 and replaced with: “The Council resolved that all celebration and promotion of our historical figures, including Drake, should tell the whole story of their exploits, good and bad.”

For (3)

Councillors McLay, Poyser and Wheeler.

Abstain (20)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, McDonald, Murphy, Noble, Penberthy, Reilly, Rennie, Stevens, Tippetts, Tuohy,

Against (20)

Councillors Carlyle, Churchill, Drean, Finn, Harrison, Mrs Loveridge, Luggier, Dr Mahony, Patel, Salmon, Shayer, Smith, Stoneman, Tofan, Ms Watkin, Wakeham, Mrs Beer, Kelly, Nicholson and Singh.

Absent/Did Not Vote (6)

Councillor Dr Cree, Hulme, Bingley, Partridge, Riley and Mrs Bridgeman.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillor Cresswell, Holloway and Patel the Council did not agree the motion on notice to –

- 1) Call upon the Cabinet member for Culture & Tourism specifically, and all members of the Council, to use adequate resources (including legal, financial, time and publicity/media) to actively protect the important and famous existing use of the name Drake by the Local Authority in line with the law and functions of the Local Authority.
- 2) This included anything associated with him, e.g. statue of Drake on the Hoe, Drake Ward, etc throughout the city, in order to seek to safeguard Sir Francis Drake's prominent historic achievements and proud links with the City of Plymouth.

For (4)

Councillors Mrs Beer, Kelly, Nicholson and Singh.

Abstain (22)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, McDonald, Murphy, Noble, Penberthy, Reilly, Rennie, Stevens, Tippetts, Tuohy, Salmon and Harrison.

Against (14)

Councillors Carlyle, Churchill, Mrs Loveridge, Lugger, Dr Mahony, Patel, Smith, Stoneman, Tofan, Ms Watkin, Wakeham, McLay, Poyser and Wheeler.

Absent/Did Not Vote (9)

Councillor Dr Cree, Hulme, Bingley, Drean, Finn, Partridge, Riley, Shayer and Mrs Bridgeman.

47. **NHS Motion**

Councillor Allen left the meeting at 8.02pm.

Councillor Patrick Nicholson proposed the motion on notice on the NHS, this was seconded by Mrs Terri Beer.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillor Dr Mahony, Stoneman, Finn and Evans OBE the Council agreed to –

- 1) Reinforce ongoing support for the delivery of vital NHS health care to the people of Plymouth;
- 2) Express disappointment at the Government's lacklustre approach to resolving the current disputes with Nurses and Ambulance staff;

- 3) Acknowledge the ongoing significant challenges locally to continuing to recruit and retain nurses in Plymouth;
- 4) Call on the Conservative Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care to set-out their position on the current industrial action within the NHS and what they were doing to influence Plymouth's Members of Parliament and the Government to resolve the current disputes.

For (25)

Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Coker, Cresswell, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, McDonald, Murphy, Noble, Penberthy, Reilly, Rennie, Stevens, Tippetts, Tuohy, McLay, Poyser, Wheeler, Mrs Beer, Kelly, Nicholson and Singh.

Abstain (17)

Councillors Dann, Bingley, Carlyle, Churchill, Drear, Finn, Harrison, Mrs Loveridge, Luggar, Dr Mahony, Salmon, Shayer, Smith, Stoneman, Tofan, Ms Watkin, Wakeham,

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (7)

Councillors Allen, Dr Cree, Partridge, Patel, Riley, Hulme, and Mrs Bridgeman.

Due to an error, Councillor Loveridge initially cast her vote on the wrong keypad, therefore whilst Councillor Mrs Pengelly showed on the webcast as having voted "Abstain" for this item, she was not present for the meeting and did not vote.

48. **City Centre public realm 'improvements'**

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

49. **Get Me Home Safely**

Councillor Zoe Reilly introduced the motion titled Get me Home Safely, which was seconded by Councillor Eddie Rennie.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors Drear, Smith, Carlyle, Singh, Bingley and Coker the Council agreed to –

- 1) Publicly call for improvement to late night and off-peak transport service provision through the Local Transport Authority as well as other appropriate transport services in Plymouth and its surrounding areas;
- 2) Instruct the appropriate Scrutiny Panel to look at the concerns raised and to make recommendations for how we make our city safer;
- 3) Lobby the Government and the Police Crime and Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall for stronger enforcement of the law against sexual assault and harassment on public transport.

For (43)

Councillors Bingley, Carlyle, Churchill, Drean, Finn, Harrison, Mrs Loveridge, Luggar, Dr Mahony, Patel, Salmon, Shayer, Smith, Stoneman, Tofan, Ms Watkin, Wakeham, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, McDonald, Murphy, Noble, Penberthy, Reilly, Rennie, Stevens, Tippetts, Tuohy, McLay, Poyser, Wheeler, Mrs Beer, Kelly, Nicholson and Singh.

Abstain (0)

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (6)

Councillors Allen, Dr Cree, Partridge, Riley, Hulme, and Mrs Bridgeman.

50. **Plymouth City Council to treat Care Experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic**

This item was withdrawn from the agenda and would be submitted to the City Council meeting in March 2023.

51. **Urgent Key Decisions to be reported**

The Council agreed to note the report.

52. **Questions by Councillors**

Councillor McDonald left the meeting at 9.14pm.

	From	To	Subject
1	Councillor Mrs Terri Beer	Councillor Bill Wakeham	Issues with Accessing Registration for Garden Waste
	Response: Feedback had been that registrations had been going well with 15,000 sign ups to date. Councillor Wakeham offered to look into any cases where residents had not been able to access it.		
	Supplementary: Would you consider extending the time frame for the early bird offer?		
	Response: No. If Councillor Mrs Beer provided Councillor Wakeham with details, he would look into those cases.		
2	Councillor Nick Kelly	Councillor Rebecca Smith	Cost in the municipal year to clean sites after travellers have used them.
	Response: Don't have information, will get it over to you.		
	Supplementary: Would Councillor Smith consider imposing a charge on the travelling community to remove their waste?		
	Response: Can't comment without more information. There is an obligation		

	to enable the travelling community to be in Plymouth.		
3	Councillor Chaz Singh	Councillor Pat Patel	Use of Community Grants to install a defibrillator in the Council House.
	Response: As per the motion on notice earlier in the meeting, the topic is being referred to the relevant scrutiny committee for discussion.		
4	Councillor Ian Poyser	Councillor Jonathan Drean	The path in St Morris View has been closed for some time.
	Response: Would speak to the team this week and would be happy to do a site visit.		
5	Councillor Lauren McLay	Councillor Bill Wakeham	Play park at Redwood Heights.
	Response: Section 106 money had been ring-fenced, and understanding at present was that the site was the responsibility of the contractors. Would seek an update.		
6	Councillor Tom Briars- Delve	Councillor Pat Patel	Contact Centre out of hours Highways Hour not working.
	Response: Highways telephones are in CCTV room with one operator, and Councillor Drean was looking at increasing the staffing.		
	Supplementary: What action will be taken to review the issues that people are experiencing when using the Council's phone lines?		
	Response: Would investigate and report back to the Councillor.		
7	Councillor Charlotte Holloway	Councillor Jonathan Drean	Bus Service No 31 had been cut.
	Response: Speaking to community transport providers and others with negotiations ongoing to try and find a solution. There was a meeting scheduled with transport operators in the coming week and Councillor Drean agreed to share any information in due course.		
	Supplementary: Was there confidence that the EIA (Equality Impact Assessment) that stated Access Plymouth as an alternative for residents, was to the required standard as Access Plymouth was at risk with proposed budget cuts,		
	Response: Confident in the EIA but aware of the issues now facing residents and possible solutions were being investigated.		
8	Councillor Sally Haydon	Councillor Bill Wakeham	Approval 3 weeks for brown bin, then 10 weeks to receive it.
	Response: 10 weeks is not acceptable. Any detail sent over would be looked into.		

	<p>Supplementary: Cases about issues like this should be logged via Councillor Casework so it can be looked into. Personal emails cannot be the solution either. Standard of service is not high enough.</p> <p>Response: If an issue persists for several weeks, contact Councillor Wakeham about the issue to be looked into. He could not do anything if he did not know about it.</p>		
9	Councillor Eddie Rennie	Councillor Rebecca Smith	Violence Against Women and Girls Commission
	<p>Response: The Commission had finished and other avenues are available to get involved with the work that is going on. The last meeting of the Commission was in 2022.</p> <p>Supplementary: If the Commission or something similar sits again, could members of the Labour group be invited to attend?</p> <p>Response: If it, or anything similar was to sit again, it was cross-party before and would continue to be. Hope that it would be the same the other way, if there was a change in administration in the future.</p>		
10	Councillor Chaz Singh	The Leader	Registers of Interest
	<p>Response: Regularly communicates with officers and the monitoring officer on register of interests and is always honest and fair and has acted with 100% faith and integrity with his register of interests.</p>		
11	Councillor Nick Kelly	Councillor Pat Patel	Taxi Licence Applications under the policy
	<p>Response: The information would be provided to Councillor Kelly.</p> <p>Supplementary: Would Councillor Patel reconsider the current policy to ensure the taxi trade was as robust as could be?</p> <p>Response: The current policy was voted in not long ago and could not be reviewed until it was up for review again.</p>		
12	Councillor Patrick Nicholson	Councillor Mark Shayer	Measures to safeguard vital local services
	<p>Response: No challenge to the facilities mentioned.</p> <p>Supp: What measures are being taken to ensure Plympton Swimming Pool, Plympton Library, Harewood House are protected from limited opening hours or potential closure?</p> <p>Response: If the challenges were sent via email, Councillor Shayer would respond.</p>		
13	Councillor Tudor Evans	The Leader	Incident at previous Council Meeting

	OBE		
	Response: Was not the words that were alleged or offensive to anyone.		
14	Councillor Mark Coker	Councillor Bill Wakeham	Pottery Quay Lane Issues and System in Place to look at SLA failures
	Response: Not aware of particular issue and will be looked into.		
	Supplementary: Was casework that had not been completed, and was outside of its SLA, being chased?		
	Response: It is checked once a week.		
15	Councillor Nick Kelly	Councillor Bill Wakeham	Policy on Garden Waste being placed in Brown Bins.
	Response: It should not be done and if it is being done, a warning label would be placed on bins and fines would be looked into if it became prominent issue.		
16	Councillor Eddie Rennie	Councillor Jonathan Drean	Repairs in area in Sutton and Mount Gould Ward.
	Response: 150 repairs were carried out and the others are on the list to be done. If the details were resent, Councillor Drean would look into it.		
	Supplementary: Why has it not been done?		
	Response: Not acceptable that repairs had not been carried out. Would be looked into.		
17	Councillor Nick Kelly	Councillor Jonathan Drean	New trees for Armada Way Project
	Response: The new trees will be 6-8 metres tall and had been ordered.		
18	Councillor Chaz Singh	Councillor Jonathan Drean	Fatal accident on Embankment Road
	Response: The team had been liaising with the police on the accident and once finished the officers and Councillor Drean would be happy to attend site visit.		

Please note that questions, answers, supplementary questions and supplementary answers have been summarised.

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QUESTION BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC



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Question to be submitted no later than 5 clear working days before the meeting.

<p>Question submitted by: Ryan John Aldred</p>
<p>To the Cabinet Member or Chair for: Transport Councillor Jonathan Drear</p>
<p>To be asked at the next Full Council Meeting: Monday 30th January</p>
<p>Question (to be no longer than 50 words):</p> <p>Considering over 11,000 signatories expressing opposition to felling the Armada Way trees and calls from the Woodland Trust and Devon Wildlife Trust for more public engagement, why has there been no public consultation opened during the pause in the redevelopment plan? Will there be public consultation of the revised plan?</p>
<p>Will you be attending the meeting in person to ask your question? Yes</p>
<p>Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members / Chairs)</p> <p>Thank you for the question. The petition was validated by the City Council's Democratic Services on 19th January 2023 at considerably less than 11,000 signatures. There were circa 5,500 signatures who reported to be from the PL post codes within the city. Moreover, I have had questions raised directly with me by the public questioning the authenticity of the petition as they were, without challenge, able to make multiple entries under the same name on the petition. Democratic support had to discount around 1,400 duplicates, signatures without</p>

postcodes and those being outside of the south west and therefore outside the travel to work area to meet with the requirements of the City Council constitution.

The announcement that I made at the City Council meeting on 21st November 2022 was quite clear. I said that I would agree to a short pause on the Armada Way project so that the concerns that had recently been raised by the campaigners could be considered before the final design was completed. Those concerns related to the retention of the existing trees so it was obvious from the outset what we were being asked to consider which did not necessitate or indeed require another consultation exercise. I said a multi-disciplinary design team would explore if some of the existing trees could be incorporated within the project, or relocated elsewhere, whilst maintaining the overall integrity of the scheme and its wider benefits. I went on to say that whilst this work happens there would be no further trees removed although I made the point that some further enabling works would continue. I concluded by saying that I expected the pause to be for a few weeks and my intention was to publish a final proposal very shortly on the City Council web site after the concerns that have been expressed had been considered by the design team.

That is exactly what has happened. We have done what we said we would do. Although I personally spoke to some of the campaigners on 21st November 2022, I have made it clear all along that I was more than happy to meet with them. But there was no point meeting them when the design work was on-going and the position regarding which of the existing trees could be accommodated within any modified design had been properly considered. If I had met the campaigners before this design work had been completed, I would have simply been unable to answer their many detailed questions. The design work with the Christmas break was not completed and presented to me until 10th January 2023. I asked officers to then arrange a meeting with the campaigners and the Plymouth Tree Partnership who had also directly asked for a meeting which was arranged for 19th January 2023 but they were unable to attend. It should be noted that since the November 2022 City Council meeting, there have been multiple emails, Freedom of Information Requests, Environmental Information Regulation requests and other communications from the campaigners with many members of this council and numerous officers. To suggest, as some have sought to do, that we have not engaged at all with the campaigners is nonsense. Members and officers, specialist advisors and the contractor did in fact previously meet with the campaigners on 3rd November 2022 to present the scheme and discuss their concerns.

I published a modified plan on the City Council's web site on 19th January 2023, in accordance with the commitment I made to the City Council on 21st November 2022. As to whether that should be the subject of further public consultation, this is currently under consideration.

QUESTION BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

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Question to be submitted no later than 5 clear working days before the meeting.

Question submitted by:
Contact details: Dr. Daniel Felmlee
To the Cabinet Member or Chair for: Climate Change and Governance, Councillor James Stoneman
To be asked at the next Full Council Meeting: Monday 30th January
<p>Question (to be no longer than 50 words):</p> <p>Given the Council's commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030, how will the revised plans for Armada Way which includes felling 129 trees contribute to achieving that aim?</p>
<p>Will you be attending the meeting in person to ask your question?</p> <p>No</p>
<p>Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members / Chairs)</p> <p>As the question acknowledges, the scheme for Armada Way is more than just felling 129 trees, and as with all of public realm projects, they are about delivering wider environmental benefits as well.</p> <p>The wider benefits of this scheme can be summarised as follows:</p>

1. Creation of sustainable walking and cycling improvements, within the city centre and connecting routes to and from the city centre.
2. Delivery of a Sustainable Urban Drainage System, covering all of the central section of Armada Way, by removing surface water from the combined sewer system into a new surface water drainage system allowing capacity for the city centre to grow in the future, as well as using that water in surface drainage features as surface exceedance routes, achieving irrigation for the new green infrastructure. This new system will connect into the new sustainable urban drainage systems being constructed as part of the wider comprehensive network across the city centre.
3. Creation of a gravity and solar powered electrical pumping system, water storage, and a smart controlled system that creates a sense of wonder, and is naturally filtered by reed beds and UV light and is therefore as sustainable as possible through natural filtration of the water providing further green elements to add interest to the scheme. As a result there will be lower energy and carbon implications arising from reduced water flows, and less energy and chemicals used at water treatment plants.
4. Greening of the city centre using semi-mature advanced stock trees to give instant impact and understorey planting which is floriferous and which provides food and habitat potential for increased biodiversity.
5. The provision of playful and sculptural landscapes for everyone that provides the opportunity for naturalistic, dynamic and imaginative play with natural elements and water.
6. Opportunities for key social infrastructure, providing areas of various shapes and sizes where people feel comfortable for formal or informal interaction and engagement in a civilised space.
7. The provision of new low energy LED lighting with GOBO projectors for ornamental lighting to illuminate the watercourse and projection lighting to animate key spaces.
8. The enhancement of existing historic assets with large scale floor scape patterning using high quality granite paving including the re-use of a large volume of existing materials including granite kerbs and setts.
9. The provision of ducting for future district heating networks, ducts for future 5G systems and other innovations to future proof necessary infrastructure to meet emerging and climate-related standards.
10. Improvements to the city centre CCTV system to respond to issues associated with public safety, especially for women and young girls.

On 18th March 2019 the City Council declared a Climate Emergency and produced a number of Action Plans to move towards Plymouth becoming net zero by 2030. Armada Way is being re-imagined to create new green infrastructure with new trees having excellent in- ground rooting environments within which they can grow and become large, long lived trees for future generations.. They will have an irrigation system to ensure they have sufficient water from the planned Sustainable Urban Drainage System so the chances of them establishing and thriving is very good. The City Council has an excellent track record of establishing semi-mature trees in the city centre. In the past 6 years 60 semi-mature trees of similar scale to those proposed in Armada Way, have been planted

and nurtured on completed projects such as the Plymouth Coach Station, Market Way, and Millbay Boulevard. Only one tree has been lost from those schemes since being planted.

The additional 150 new semi-mature trees coupled with the existing 24 retained specimens will contribute to capturing carbon from the urban atmosphere typically locking between 3.8 and 6.2 metric tonnes of CO₂ per year. These trees will also moderate the urban microclimate by reducing localised temperature, offer usable areas of shade, and take up and store rainwater helping to moderate high rainfall events.

Annually, the transport sector accounts for 35% of the CO₂ in the city, according to the city's decarbonisation report undertaken by Regen SW in November 2022. For Plymouth to achieve its reduction target by 2030 it needs to act three times faster than envisaged by current government policies. Whilst the City Council is committing additional resources to tackle the climate emergency, it also recognises the need to maximise the funding from other sources such as developers and central government. Armada Way is contributing to this by promoting safe walking and cycling routes and bringing in funding from the Transforming Cities Fund – itself a programme of sustainable transport projects that is helping to address climate change.

Metrological Office data shows that the South West England is experiencing almost 10% more rainfall over the year now than it did in 1961. Seasonal rainfall is highly variable, but since 1961 it has decreased by 9% in summer and increased in autumn by 28% and in winter by 16%. The Sustainable Urban Drainage System in the Armada Way scheme creates an entirely new storm water drainage system that removes rainwater from the existing dated combined sewer system then uses that water wisely for the new environment. It uses that rainwater to feed the proposed watercourse, to irrigate the new green infrastructure at times of drought and at times of exceedance, captures volumes and stores it for reuse and release when any potential flooding event is over. Both South West Water and the Environment Agency support the wider sustainability credentials of the project.

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QUESTION BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

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Question to be submitted no later than 5 clear working days before the meeting.

Question submitted by: Mark Thomas
To the Cabinet Member or Chair for: Cabinet Member for Transport, Councillor Jonathan Drean
To be asked at the next Full Council Meeting: Monday 30th January
<p>Question (to be no longer than 50 words):</p> <p>Considering a representative of STRAW Plymouth and the Chair of the Plymouth Tree Partnership were invited to a meeting with council representatives 5 hours prior to the revised redevelopment plans being released, is it fair to say the council had no intention of seriously taking on board concerns and criticisms?</p>
Will you be attending the meeting in person to ask your question? Yes
<p>Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members / Chairs)</p> <p>On the contrary to the suggestion in the question, once all the information was available from the design team in early January as Cabinet Member for Transport I gave an instruction to officers to immediately invite representatives of 'STRAW' and the Plymouth Tree Partnership to a meeting with me to discuss the modified designs for Armada Way. This invitation was sent on 16th January 2023 at 13:59. At 16:31 on 16th January 2023 there was a reply from the Plymouth Tree Partnership indicating that a representative from 'STRAW' was unable to make the meeting which had been</p>

arranged for 11:30 on 19th January 2023. A reply in response to that indicating that the meeting would be re-arranged was sent at 16:43 on 19th January 2023.

Since the pause I announced at the City Council meeting on 21st November 2022, detailed design work to address the concerns set out in the petition has been on-going. We have also had the Christmas break in between. There would have been little point meeting with the campaigners until the design work looking at how many of the existing trees could be retained had been properly and thoroughly completed. I also wanted to make sure that any technical questions that arose could also be answered and that was not possible until the design work had been completed.

I published a modified plan on the City Council's web site on 19th January 2023, in accordance with the commitment I made to the City Council on 21st November 2022.

I have said all along that I would meet with the campaigners and I re-iterate that commitment again.

It is therefore not at all fair to say the council had no intention of seriously taking on board concerns and criticisms made of the Armada Way scheme because that is exactly what we have done by completing the design work as quickly as we could during the pause I announced last year.

QUESTION BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

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Question to be submitted no later than 5 clear working days before the meeting.

Question submitted by: Mr Gregg Black

To the Cabinet Member or Chair for: Highways Portfolio Holder

To be asked at the next Cabinet Meeting: Cabinet

Question (to be no longer than 50 words): Lipson Vale often floods due to many issues, one of them due to Trefusis Park. Recently there were plans to alter the park which will help the flooding, are these plans still going ahead and is there anything that can be done about the flooding in the short term?

Will you be attending the meeting in person to ask your question?

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members / Chairs)

It is still intended to take forward the proposed Trefusis Park Flood Relief Scheme and commence works in the park in late Spring 2023.

There has been a delay to the confirmation of the Environment Agency funding required for the project. The project business case is still with the national Environment Agency approval team for consideration. The approval process has been complicated and delayed because of significant capital inflationary pressures, which have had to be explored in the project business case. Nevertheless, it is anticipated that final approval from the Environment Agency will be confirmed in early February 2023.

Alongside this project, the City Council has been working with South West Water to develop a programme of surface water separation works upstream of the park in the Compton Vale area. This work will further reduce the risk of flooding in Lipson Vale.

Through the Building Resilience in Communities (BRIC) project, the City Council has also been engaging and consulting with the local Lipson Vale and Bernice Terrace communities in order to raise the awareness of flooding issues. This has also resulted in the establishment of a Community Flood Action Group to help reduce the impact of flooding in the community.

In addition, new flood warning equipment is being installed at the Lipson Co-operative Academy to provide an early warning of heavy rainfall which will allow both the community and emergency services to better prepare for flooding events.

QUESTION BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

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Question to be submitted no later than 5 clear working days before the meeting.

Question submitted by: John Williams
To the Cabinet Member or Chair for: Finance and Economy
To be asked at the next City Council Meeting: 30th January 20, 2023
<p>Question (to be no longer than 50 words):</p> <p>According to the think tank <i>Policy in Practice</i>, the Department for Work and Pensions notifies local authorities when a citizen claims <i>Universal Credit</i>. Of course, not all such people are householders, but will the Authority contact <i>Universal Credit</i> claimants to encourage relevant citizens to claim Council Tax Reduction? (48 words)</p>
<p>Will you be attending the meeting in person to ask your question?</p> <p>Yes</p>

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members / Chairs)

Plymouth City Council staff do adopt a proactive approach to both existing and new claimants for support. In the case of a new claimant, we will ensure their circumstances are understood and then direct them to the relevant channels to give them the advice and support as required. If they are an existing claimant and their circumstances change, as a result of a Universal Credit claim for example, we will be notified by the DWP and work through the revised support entitlement.

QUESTION BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

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Question to be submitted no later than 5 clear working days before the meeting.

Question submitted by: Christopher Bligh

To the Cabinet Member or Chair for: Finance and Economy, Mark Shayer

To be asked at the next Full Council Meeting: Monday 30th January

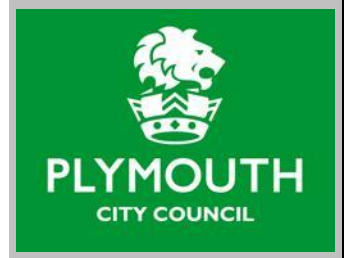
Question (to be no longer than 50 words):

How many Plymouth citizens received Council Tax Liability Orders for the financial year 2012-2013, (being the last year of Council Tax Benefit operation) and how many received Liability Orders for 2022-2023, with Plymouth's own Council Tax Reduction scheme in place?

Will you be attending the meeting in person to ask your question? No

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members / Chairs)

In response I can advise for the financial year 2012/13 there were 7,756 Liability Orders; to date for this current year 2022/23 the number currently stands at 9,684

QUESTION BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

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Question to be submitted no later than 5 clear working days before the meeting.

Question submitted by: Alex Sampson

To the Cabinet Member or Chair for: Finance and Economy, Mark Shayer

To be asked at the next Full Council Meeting: Monday 30th January

Question (to be no longer than 50 words):

In 2015, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation produced a report titled 'Council Tax Best Practice'. Is the Authority aware of this report and will the Council bring its Council Tax Reduction scheme in line with its recommendations?

Will you be attending the meeting in person to ask your question?

No.

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members / Chairs)

Yes Plymouth City Council is aware of this report. There is a statutory requirement to undertake an annual review of our Council tax Support Scheme, which we include as part of our budget setting process. Any amendments would require a consultation period. Please be assured, we do follow national guidance and build a scheme that is both affordable and benchmarked.

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QUESTION BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

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Question to be submitted no later than 5 clear working days before the meeting.

Question submitted by: Nigel Buckley

To the Cabinet Member or Chair for: Deputy Leader / Finance

To be asked at the next City Council Meeting:

Question (to be no longer than 50 words): Conservative led South Hams Council allows up to 85% relief on Council Tax under its Council Tax redirection scheme whereas Plymouth City Council only allows up to 80% and yet Plymouth has a lower average income. Why is Plymouth's scheme less generous than that in the wealthy South Hams?

Will you be attending the meeting in person to ask your question? Did not indicate

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members / Chairs)

The Local Council tax Support Scheme was introduced in 2013 and was fully funded by central government. In that first year, the authority's discount was 75% requiring a 25% contribution from the council tax payer. The following year this was reviewed and moved to an 80% subsidy and 20% contribution. Each year this is reviewed in line with government initiatives, and presented as part of the budget setting discussions. Plymouth City Council implements a scheme which is within statutory requirements, affordable and benchmarked.