

City Council

Monday 27 March 2023

PRESENT:

Councillor Dann, in the Chair.

Councillor Penberthy, Vice Chair.

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

Apologies for absence: Councillors Mrs Beer, Bingley, Mrs Bowyer, Kelly and Vincent.

Absent: Councillors Deacon and Tofan.

The meeting started at 2.07 pm and finished at 9.12 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.

60. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

For (48)

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

Abstain (0)

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (2)

Councillors Allen and Darcy.

61. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Allen joined the meeting during this item.

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 Sally Haydon	65	She was a Board Member for Plymouth Community Homes.	Personal
Councillor Chris Penberthy	66	He was on the board of a number of Plymouth Energy Community Boards.	Personal
Councillor James Stoneman	66	He was on the board of Plymouth Energy Community Trust.	Personal
Councillor Dr John Mahony	67	Owner of a second home.	Personal
Councillor Ms Kathy Watkin	67	Owner of a second home.	Personal
Councillor Sarah Allen	67	Owner of a second home.	Personal
Councillor Andy Lugger	67	Owner of a second home.	Personal
Councillor Mrs Andrea Loveridge	67	Owner of a second home.	Personal
Councillor Stephen Hulme	67	Owner of second homes.	Personal
Councillor Nigel Churchill	67	Owner of rental properties.	Personal
Councillor Natalie Harrison	67	Name on deeds of house.	Personal
Councillor Lee Finn	67	Owner of a second property.	Personal

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

Councillor James Stoneman (Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Governance) introduced the report and highlighted:-

- a) The report asked for the appointment of 2 independent persons to be employed in light of the increasing numbers of complaints that were being received by the Monitoring Officer, as detailed in the report.

Following a contribution from Councillor Evans OBE the Council agreed to:-

- I. Approve the appointment of Rob Jeanes and Ian Brooking as Independent Persons.

For (49)

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

Abstain (0)

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (1)
Councillor Darcy.

63. **Suspension of Standing Orders to Allow for Nominations to be made for the Appointment of a New Leader**

The Lord Mayor explained:-

- a) Councillor Richard Bingley had resigned as Leader of the Council on 27 March 2023;
- b) The Constitution required that the Council appoint a new leader at the next ordinary meeting of the Council, which was 27 March 2023;
- c) Standing Orders would need to be suspended to allow for nominations to be made for the appointment of a new leader and for a vote to take place.

This was not passed.

For (8)

Councillors Churchill, Finn, Hulme, McLay, Poyser, Salmon, Singh and Wheeler,

Abstain (0)

Against (36)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Carlyle, Coker, Dr Cree, Cresswell, Drear, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Laing, Mrs Loveridge, Lowry, Lugger, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Patel, Pengelly, Reilly, Rennie, Riley, Shayer, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham and Ms Watkin.

Absent/Did Not Vote (6)

Councillor Mrs Bridgeman, Dann, Darcy, Harrison, Partridge and Penberthy.

Following the vote, Councillor Mark Shayer (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Economy), became Acting Leader until the Annual General Meeting in May 2023.

64. **Questions by the Public**

The Lord Mayor explained:-

- a) There had been a significant number of Public Questions received for the meeting and in order for all of those members of public in attendance at the meeting to get the chance to ask their question there would need to be a vote to suspend standing orders to extend the amount of time for the item.

The Council agreed to suspend standing orders to allow for a longer time for this item.

For (48)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Bridgeman, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Dr Cree, Cresswell, Dann, Drear, Finn, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Hulme, Laing, Loveridge, Lowry, Luggar, Dr Mahony, McDonald, McLay, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Pengelly, Poyser, Reilly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Abstain (0)

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (2)

Councillors Evans OBE and Darcy.

Councillor Darcy joined the meeting during this item.

The following questions were asked by Members of the Public.

The following question was asked by Jon Hill.	
When will the Council fully repair Firestone Bay Pool and create a sea-based diving board pontoon?	A repairs programme has been developed to repair and ensure the longevity of Firestone Bay Pool, otherwise known as Devil's Point Pool. Subject to funding agreement, the repairs will take place in the next season of 2024 with interim works undertaken this current spring to ensure it is available for users until this time.
The following question was asked by Mr Christopher Wood	
Many residents are concerned about the road surfaces in the Compton Ward, they are frustrated that when they report potholes their submissions	Highways inspectors follow up on all reported defects and work within the council approved guidelines to determine if an intervention is justified.

are often rejected and that when a pothole is repaired, others nearby are left untreated. What measures are the council taking to improve our highway network?	These guidelines reflect national standards and are in place to enable the service to meet statutory (legal) obligations. We are currently trialling an alternative treatment process that would enable emerging and classified potholes to be treated concurrently. If successful, we intend to bring into use in 2023/24. Last year we have introduced a variety of remedial processes, which include: 1) Traditional resurfacing 2) Micro Asphalt – thin coat treatment 3) Surface dressing These prolong service life expectancy of affected section of Highway, offer a cost effective process and increase volume of repair across the City.
The following question was asked by Mrs Lois Lloyd BSc (Hons)	
Plymouth's reputation has been irreparably damaged worldwide by shocking Armada Way tree mismanagement, which inexplicably avoided formal Planning Application scrutiny, transparent equitable consultation accessibility and clear public information site signage. Are urgent governance improvements planned to prevent a repetition of exposing councillors and uninvolved planning officers to public outrage?	Thank you for your question. I read this on behalf of Councillor Bingley. It is clear that the national coverage of the Armada Way scheme has been skewed by a lack of appreciation of the wider sustainability and regeneration benefits of this project. However, I must emphasise again that improvements to the tired public realm of the city centre has been a longstanding policy commitment of this Council under both Labour and Conservative Administrations. Consultations have taken place in 2018, 2022 and 2023 and as Leader, I inherited a design approach and the fact that it had already been confirmed that planning permission was not required for the scheme. I remain of the view that this was the right thing to do and that the final scheme I agreed will result in a wonderful tree-lined zone whereby businesses and cafes and people feel safe. In time I am sure it will be appreciated as a vibrant piece of city centre regeneration. As required by the resolution of the City Council on 30th January 2023, we have conducted a thorough review of the consultation and engagement on the Armada Way project, which has been published on

	our web site and we will be working with key partners to implement the recommendations of that review.
The following question was asked by Kate Prettyjohns	
The Devon Carbon Plan, section 12.2 puts the costs of net-zero primarily onto private companies and individuals. How much is this going to cost each individual in Plymouth on a yearly basis? When annually it's likely to cost £50 Billion nationwide. How do you plan to impose these costs?	Thank you for your question. The Devon Carbon Plan has been produced by the Devon Net Zero Task Force, and not by the City Council, although we do endorse its principles. The Plan states that: 'Achieving net-zero by 2050 at the latest will require a major nationwide investment programme, led by national government, but largely funded and delivered by private companies and individuals.' This is in recognition that net zero can only be achieved through the actions of the whole of society. The Devon Carbon Plan is a partnership plan that invites - but doesn't impose - participation from local authorities, businesses and residents.
The following question was asked by Colin Joce	
n the growth and infrastructure overview and scrutiny committee on March 1st, James Stoneman stated "they (the people of Plymouth) want to see the council leading the way in the net zero action on the net zero action policy ".(1:10-1:11). I ask for unequivocal proof that supports this statement.	Thank you for your question. In the 2021 Plymouth Residents survey 85% of respondents were very, or fairly, concerned about the impact of climate change. In addition, the survey also highlighted that 85% of respondents said they were very, or fairly, active in reducing their impact on the environment. It remains my view that most people in Plymouth would wish to see the council responding to the existential issues we face as a society in relation to climate change. Not that I do - but if I needed any further proof on this point – over and above the unequivocal latest science from the IPCC report published last week – it would come from listening to young people and other Climate Advisors who I meet regularly to discuss these issues. As a City Council, we need to be exercising leadership in relation to climate change and certainly not denying its existence. We need to be

	working with businesses, partners and local people to make meaningful reductions in carbon emissions across all sectors to reflect the ambitious and unanimous decision of this City Council on 18th March 2019 to declare a climate emergency.
The following question was asked by Gary Wood	
Has the portfolio holder had any enquiries from Cllr Goslin about parking restrictions on match days, as outlined in his election manifesto a year ago? Does the portfolio holder think that it was ever a feasible scheme?	The Portfolio Holder has not received any requests from Cllr Goslin in relation to parking restrictions on match days. Any request would be considered in accordance with relevant policy and alongside any other requests made to the Portfolio Holder.
The following question was asked by Ann Lannin	
As part of the Devon Carbon Plan Plymouth is proposing to adopt Quiet Neighbourhoods. These proposals indicate that there will be changes and restrictions to movement around our city. Could you tell me when and where public consultations will take place?	Thank you for your question. I read this on behalf of Councillor Bingley. The Devon Carbon Plan is not a Plymouth City Council plan. It does not contain our own proposals, which were developed by Councillor Coker and the previous Labour Administration, for 'Quiet Neighbourhoods: Connected Communities'. In any case, the guiding principles for the creation of 'Quiet Neighbourhoods: Connected Communities' is about healthier and safer communities not actions to unduly restrict movement around our city.
The following question was asked by Wayne Crow	
There is an increased number of devices, which are varied in appearance, on public structures (eg, lampposts). What is their purpose/function? Who is paying the support/management of them? What data is being stored and how it is being used and how do I request access to that data?	'Devices' mounted upon our Street Lighting Columns are kept to a minimum due to our commitment in reducing street clutter and their impact on maintenance of the asset. We do have a number of ANPR and Bus Lane enforcement cameras that supports enforcement of Bus Lane restrictions, There are cameras that enable enforcement of speed restrictions and periodically, the police and PCC mount CCTVs on columns for surveillance activity. If you are able to identify particular locations we would be please to clarify their function and data capture

	arrangements.
The following question was asked by Lisa Jeffery	
Were plans ever considered to include the existing trees & if so why the decision was made, which has been overwhelmingly opposed, to fell healthy trees at great expense just to replace them with trees which will take 20+ years to mature to anything like the ones that were felled?	Thank you for your question. Yes, we did look at including as many of the existing trees in Armada Way as possible. This is why I announced the pause to the project in November 2022.
The following question was asked by Peter McCorry	
How much has Plymouth City Council spent on barristers and other legal costs challenging the interim injunction granted in order to prevent further tree felling and couldn't these costs have been avoided if this administration had taken on board the overwhelming opposition to the proposed scheme incorporating widespread tree felling?	Thank you for your question. As the High Court hearing only took place last Friday, these costs have not yet been finalised.
The following question was asked by Carole Joce	
Has a cost benefit analysis been conducted for the climate emergency action plan, the corporate carbon reduction plan as well as for the proposed net zero action plan 2023-2026, and if so, what are the detailed results?	Thank you for your question. No, these plans have not had a formal cost-benefit analysis, but this would not be expected for plans of this nature. However, the actions delivered and proposed not only realise climate-related benefits in reducing carbon emissions; many also bring co-benefits such as improving the efficiency of council services, helping with the cost-of-living crisis, improving biodiversity, and improving public health outcomes.
The following question was asked by Fi Smart	
Considering the amount of heavy machinery and workforce needed to both fell the trees and implement security measures as well as time needed to mobilise such a large police presence during the tree felling process, how long before the felling had planning for this "urgent decision" been in place for?	Thank you for your question. I read this on behalf of Councillor Bingley. The Armada Way scheme has been a longstanding commitment of this Council. It has transcended various political administrations and the designs and project business cases have been developed for over 6 years, again under both Labour and Conservative Cabinet Members and Leaders under both Labour and Conservative

	<p>Administrations. There have also been extensive consultations on our ambitions and vision for the city centre going back to 2003 through to the scheme consultations in 2018, 2022 and 2023. When the City Council met on 30th January 2023, the resolution was quite clear. Full Council asked us to undertake a community engagement process during February, which we did. It also resolved that once that engagement process was completed, and the results and final design published, Full Council wanted us to implement the scheme quickly to avoid on-going disruption to city centre businesses from the construction works. That is what we have done through the Executive Decision, which was prepared by officers during March and published at 17:54 on Tuesday 14th March 2023.</p>
The following question was asked by Dr Kayla Parker	
<p>Prior to the current works on Armada Way, there were two carved lions' heads in the Sensory Garden area adjacent to the Copthorne Hotel. What has been done to preserve these historic artefacts? Will the lion gargoyles be re-sited; and if so, where will they be located?</p>	<p>The Lion Heads have been preserved and reconditioned by local stonemasons. They are currently in place on display outside Ballard House.</p>
The following question was asked by Suzanne Baronin Von Engelhardt	
<p>Will the Council be investigating the multiple incidences of reckless endangerment of Plymouth residents through the repeated breaches of minimum tree felling distances being ignored which was widely documented throughout the barbaric tree felling operation that took place on the evening of Tuesday 14th March?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. The area of the Armada Way works is a Construction Design, Management (CDM) regulated site, and therefore all matters of public safety are the responsibility of the contractor. If there were, as suggested, 'multiple incidences of reckless endangerment of Plymouth residents' then evidence should be provided to the City Council immediately for investigation of such serious health and safety allegations.</p>
The following question was asked by Alex Sampson	
<p>You used an executive order to ignore</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. I respond</p>

<p>public consultation results and bypass scrutiny of elected Councillors. Executive orders concentrate power in your hands alone. Do you believe that executive orders are a democratic and appropriate process for decisions of such consequence as the removal of trees on Armada Way?</p>	<p>on behalf of Councillor Bingley. I did not use an Executive Decision to ignore public consultation on Armada Way. The detailed report I considered set out all previous consultations including those supporting the scheme and those against it with a detailed consideration of all the issues with the project. There have been consultations in 2018, 2022 and 2023. It is a simple fact that whilst some object to the loss of the existing trees many local people, businesses and national and local agencies strongly support the scheme. I sought to balance all of these views in coming to a decision about the future of the project. The Armada Way project has been a longstanding commitment of both Labour and Conservative administrations, and is a specific commitment in our Joint Local Plan, a point strongly acknowledged by the Judge in the High Court last week. The Better Places Programme which includes Armada Way has transcended various political administrations and the designs and project business cases have been developed for over 6 years, again under both Labour and Conservative Cabinet Members and Leaders. The overall design approach and philosophy was set out well before I became Leader and in considering all the issues in the Executive Decision I had to decide whether we should proceed with a final design which made Page 35 further changes, including planting even more trees - not just in Armada Way, but throughout the City Centre and the St. Peter and Waterfront ward. It is also the case that the decision that this scheme did not require planning permission and was permitted development also preceded me becoming Leader. Executive Decisions are a normal part of the democratic decision-making process in local government. In some cases, Executive Decisions need to be urgently made. Where that is the case, the reasons for</p>
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	<p>urgency have to be agreed by the Chair of the relevant scrutiny panel to ensure independent oversight of the executive. Again, this is the normal part of democratic decision-making process. In the case of my Armada Way Executive Decision published on 14th March 2023, the 6 reasons for urgency were approved by the Chair of the Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Panel after very careful consideration at 11.01 on 14th March 2023. I also understand he discussed the process for urgency with Councillor Penberthy. Last week, the High Court Judge said that there were points of public law that needed to be argued regarding the grounds of urgency in the report. We will be presenting our case on those reasons for urgency at a forthcoming court hearing.</p>
The following question was asked by Paul MacNamarra	
<p>Drake residents liked the Conservative promise to “stop further intensification of HMOs in the streets around Plymouth University and go further by buying up properties and converting these back to single family homes”. How many Drake HMOs have been given planning permission since May 2021? How many have been purchased?</p>	<p>Since May 2021, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) granted planning permission for one new HMO within Drake Ward (planning reference: 22/01870/FUL). During the same timeframe, the LPA approved one planning application to remove a student-only restriction on an existing HMO (planning reference: 22/01162/FUL), approved one planning application for a single storey extension to an existing HMO (planning reference: 22/02069/FUL) and authorised 43 lawful use certificates for existing HMOs within Drake Ward. Plymouth City Council has not purchased any HMO’s to convert back into single-family dwellings in this period.</p>
The following question was asked by Penny Tarrant	
<p>Will you commit to saving the trees that you unsuccessfully managed to fell on Tuesday 14th March after the interim injunction came into effect?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. The position with the remaining 19 trees must be considered in light of the decision of the High Court on the injunction and any subsequent judicial review.</p>

The following question was asked by Lynn Sears	
Explain how alternative public seating to all those in the fenced compound areas and under piles of felled logs will be provided for all shoppers, but especially the elderly and disabled residents and visitors.	Thank you for your question. Following the court hearing on 24 March 2023, the Council will be making arrangements to clear the site in accordance with the terms ordered by the Court.
The following question was asked by Mike Sheaff	
The “Better Places: Armada Way Scheme” report describes decision-making. Cabinet Members’ consultation (23 February); Corporate Management Team consultation (1st March); Equality Impact Assessment (2 March); and your determination that it constituted an “urgent” decision (14 March). When did you first see this report, and how did you involve OSC members?	I first saw the draft report and the reasons for urgency when the Monitoring Officer emailed it to me at 10:57 on 8th March 2023. I spoke to Councillor Penberthy in his role as Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board to discuss the process for any urgent decision, this was a theoretical discussion as he had not seen the decision paperwork. I gave detailed consideration of the reasons for urgency, including considering the City Council’s rules and guidance as well as that of the Local Government Association for Members. On 14th March 2023 at 11.01 I confirmed in writing, via email, to the Monitoring Officer that I was content to remove call in relation to the proposed decision.
The following question was asked by Ryan Aldred	
Why have the Council gone ahead with tree felling without fully taking into consideration results of the so-called meaningful; engagement process which “demonstrate an overwhelming majority of respondents are opposed to the scheme” and are you not alarmed by the precedent for democratic deficit your administration has now set?	Thank you for your question. I read this on behalf of Councillor Bingley. I can confirm that I fully took into account the results of the Armada Way Engagement Programme 2023, both those for the scheme and those who opposed the scheme. The factual Armada Way Engagement Report was published on 14th March 2023. I also fully took into account the results of the 2018 and 2022 consultation and engagement debates as well as the letters of support for the scheme from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Environment Agency - South West Water - Sustrans - Historic England

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Twentieth Century Society - Devon Gardens Trust - Homes England - the City Centre Company - the Devon and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce - PADAN - Destination Plymouth - Visit Plymouth - Plymouth Against Retail Crime - High Streets Task Force <p>I also considered carefully the case for change and the policy context including the fact that improvements to city centre public realm has been a longstanding commitment of both Labour and Conservative Administrations. I also considered the resolution of the City Council on 30th January 2023. Finally, I considered the various suggestions to change the design, considered alternative designs, and in agreeing the final scheme recommended by officers issues of climate change and environmental resilience. On this basis, balancing everything in the round, I decided the right thing to do was to press on with the scheme with some further improvements including significant more tree planting and the retention of the one existing Category 'A' tree.</p>
The following question was asked by Mark Thomas	
Revising a new plan for Armada Way was rejected because funding COULD have been clawed back. We can assume then that Cllr Dreaan did not contact the DfT for a funding extension despite a recommendation by a scrutiny committee. We recorded Cllr Dreaan saying he would, why did he not?	First of all, if a recording was made at a meeting I held with 'STRAW' on 23rd February 2023 - specifically at their request - this was done covertly and without my knowledge or agreement. Secondly, the City Council has already told 'STRAW' in other correspondence following the meeting of the Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 22nd February, which recommended that I write to the Department for Transport, that I was still considering this matter - and I

	continue to do so. This is because there is already an Assurance Review process being undertaken by the Department of Transport, which will consider the future timescales for the delivery of all TCF projects across the whole country.

65. **Announcements**

The Lord Mayor made the following announcements:-

- a) Congratulated the Plymouth Green Estate Management Solutions Team (Gems) for winning the 'Best Workforce Initiative Award' at the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Annual Charity Awards;
- b) Congratulated Plymouth Grid, a Kickstart Apprentice Scheme the Council is in partnership with RIO and The National Trust on, which won the 'Promoting Diversity Inclusion Award' at the Kickstart Awards;
- c) Both would be recognised at the Staff Star Awards;

Councillor Mark Shayer (Acting Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Economy) made the following announcements:-

- d) Highlighted the achievements of this administration in the municipal year 2022/23, which were significant achievements and improvements for the city:-
 - i. £21 million inward investment in sport, the biggest investment in sport since the Life Centre;
 - ii. Timeout had rated Plymouth as one of the 14 most underrated destinations on the globe with a focus on The Box, food and The Lido with articles in the Telegraph, Daily Mirror and Daily Mail;
 - iii. The Box had received national coverage for its Spring Arts program;
 - iv. Designation of the UK's first Freeport and securing the first tenant;
 - v. The opening of the Smart Sound control room and 5G Network in The Sound;
 - vi. Added Manufacturing facilities in Plymouth Science Park;
 - vii. The launch of Plymouth Charter, promoting fairer and greener businesses;
 - viii. Urban Splash start work at the previous Civic Centre;
 - ix. Completion of the Melville building at Royal William Yard;

- x. Major land deals including a new M&S Food Hall at Derriford, Hilton Hotel on the Hoe and the appointment of the UK's CEO of the first National Marine Park;
- xi. Engagement with 2.3 million people in the National Marine Park;
- xii. Production of the master plan for Mill Bay;
- xiii. Completion of the direct development at Barrack Courts;

Councillor Pat Patel (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure & Sport) made the following announcements:-

- e) The King's coronation in May 2023 would see people across the UK and Commonwealth come together to celebrate and Plymouth residents would be able to celebrate over the weekend by hosting street parties, community events in parks (fees for which will be waived) and opportunities to volunteer and special services at St Andrew's Church. There would also be free public screening of the coronation and the Windsor concert on the Barbican thanks to funding from DCMS and the UK Government, Plymouth was one of only 35 cities to receive funding and Eurovision would be broadcast from the same funding;
- f) There had been a £21 million investment in Brickfields in partnership with Argyle Community Trust and Devonport communities;

Councillor Charlotte Carlyle (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Children and Young People):-

- g) 15 high-calibre, experienced social workers had been recruited with four having arrived in March and the other 11 due to arrive in April as part of overseas recruitment who will be supported through an induction plan to help make Plymouth their home;
- h) The Care Leavers Covenant had been launched, designed to ensure the Council, and the wider city, offer a wide range of experiences and opportunities to care experienced young people, and was gathering momentum with support from employers such as CityBus and Princess Yachts;
- i) Procurement was about to commence for additional special needs school places;
- j) Ofsted inspections had taken place across the city during the year and the overall quality of education was improving with 77% of schools in the city now ranked good or outstanding;
- k) The number of internships for young people with EHCP's was due to have tripled by April 2023 to support young people as they move into adulthood;

Councillor Jonathan Drear (Cabinet Member for Transport) made the following announcements:-

- l) An additional £516,000 have been received from the Department of Trade for pothole remedial work;
- m) Further trials of the velocity pothole technology would possibly happen in the Spring and Summer, as previous trials had been affected by bad weather;
- n) Beryl Bikes had launched the previous week and 900 journeys had been taken over 2800km cycled which averaged at 2.2. rides per bike and 500 new users;
- o) Following public consultation on introducing charges at various car parks around the city, plans had been altered until more information was received;

Councillor Rebecca Smith (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Homes and Communities) gave the following announcements:-

- p) Plymouth City Council had been successful in its bid for a Government Grant of almost £7.1million to make significant energy improvements to social housing in Plymouth with additional funds added in partnership with LiveWest and Plymouth Community Homes;
- q) There were over 70 warm spaces over Winter 2022/23 and a number are continuing as community places as some residents attended due to loneliness;
- r) Plymouth City Council had committed £688,000 of grant funding from the Plan For Homes Program towards the cost of acquiring 86 three-bedroom homes at Hillcrest Close in Plymouth which will be acquired by Plymouth Community Homes from the current owners meaning they will be able to be refurbished and offered back to the community in a mixture of affordable homes to rent and some shared ownership properties. The project will also enable families living there to continue;

Councillor Bill Wakeham (Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene) gave the following announcements:-

- s) £50,000 had been secured for fly tipping intervention from DEFRA, which would be used to target rear lane offences, which made up the majority of fly tipping incidents in Plymouth;

Councillor Dr John Mahony (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care) made the following announcements:-

- t) Whilst the position remained pressured at Derriford Hospital, the number of individuals who were ready to leave hospital, but awaiting social care within the Plymouth City Council area, were consistently meeting the nationally agreed targets;
- u) Domiciliary Care waiting lists had seen increases since the COVID19 pandemic, and although the numbers remain high, they have been steadily reducing and are close to pre COVID19 pandemic levels;
- v) Work on the replacement of the services for respite and day services for people with learning disabilities that had been provided by Colwell Lodge and The Vines

through a new care facilities on the edge of Central Park, had begun;

Councillor Mrs Mary Aspinall (Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee) made the following announcement:-

- w) A motion on notice was passed at City Council in January 2023 on defibrillators that went to a meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee soon after, and the Committee had discussed the matter but wanted to seek more information and it was due to be looked at again by the Committee at its first meeting in the municipal year 2023/24.

66. **Plymouth City Council Net Zero Action Plan 2023 - 2026**

Councillor James Stoneman (Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Governance) introduced the Plymouth City Council Net Zero Action Plan 2023-2026, which was seconded by Councillor Tom Briars-Delve.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors Singh, Poyser, Nicholson, Mrs Bridgeman, Tippetts, Cresswell, Smith and Coker, The Council agreed to:-

- I. Support and endorse the Plymouth City Council Net Zero Action Plan 2023-2026.

For (50)

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

Abstain (0)

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (0)

The meeting was adjourned for a break from 3.50pm to 4.10pm.

67. **Council Tax Discounts and Premiums**

Councillor Mark Shayer (Acting Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Economy) introduced the Council Tax Discounts and Premiums report, which was seconded by Councillor James Stoneman (Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy).

The Council agreed to:-

- I. Subject to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill receiving Royal Assent, from 1 April 2024 the current 100% premium for dwellings which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished will be levied after a period of one year.

2. Subject to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill receiving Royal Assent from 1 April 2024 a premium of 100% will be levied on all dwellings which are unoccupied and substantially furnished (second homes).

For (44)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Carlyle, Coker, Dr Cree, Cresswell, Dann, Darcy, Drear, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Hulme, Laing, Mrs Loveridge, Lowry, Lugger, McDonald, McLay, Murphy, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Pengelly, Poyser, Reilly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham and Wheeler.

Abstain (0)

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (6)

Councillors Churchill, Finn, Harrison, Dr Mahony, Noble and Ms Watkin.

68. **Scrutiny Annual Report (To Follow)**

Councillor Chris Penberthy (Deputy Lord Mayor and Chair of Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee) introduced the Scrutiny Annual Report, which was seconded by Councillor Jemima Laing (Chair of Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

Following a contribution from Councillor Mrs Aspinall, The Council agreed to note the report.

69. **Lord Mayoralty 2023/24**

Councillor Rebecca Smith (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Homes and Communities) introduce the report the Lord Mayoralty 2023/23, which was seconded by Councillor Mrs Mary Aspinall.

Following a contribution from Councillor Stoneman, The Council agreed to:-

- I. Approve the recommendation from the Lord Mayor Selection Committee to appoint Councillor Jonathan Drear as Lord Mayor for 2023/24.

For (42)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Dr Cree, Cresswell, Dann, Darcy, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Laing, Mrs Loveridge, Lowry, Lugger, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Pengelly, Reilly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham and Ms Watkin.

Abstain (0)

Against (5)

Councillors Mrs Bridgeman, Hulme, McLay, Poyser and Wheeler.

Absent/Did Not Vote (3)

Councillors Drean, Finn and Harrison.

Councillor Jonathan Drean thanked Council for his appointment as Lord Mayor for 2023/23.

70. **Audit and Governance Chair Annual Report (To Follow)**

Councillor Andy Lugg (Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee) introduced the Audit and Governance Chair Annual Report, which was seconded by Councillor Mark Lowry.

Council agreed to note the report.

71. **Senior Management Structure and Organisational Design**

The Lord Mayor proposed suspending standing orders in order to allow Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) to speak on this item, which was seconded by Councillor Chris Penberthy (Deputy Lord Mayor).

For (49)

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

Abstain (0)

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (1)

Councillor Finn.

Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) provided a background to the Senior Management Structure and Organisational Design report. Councillor Mark Shayer (Acting Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Economy) introduced the report, which was seconded by Councillor Pat Patel (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure & Sport).

For (50)

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

Abstain (0)

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (0)

72. **Motions on Notice**

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE announced his intention to move a procedural motion. Following advice from the Lord Mayor, Councillor Evans asked for an adjournment word the motion.

The meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes.

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE asked to move a procedural motion to vary the order of business by hearing the motions in the following order before returning to the agenda as set out, which was seconded by Councillor Jemima Laing:

- I3a
- I3e
- I3f
- I3g
- I3h
- I3i
- I3b
- I3c
- I3d

This was passed.

For (41)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Dr Cree, Cresswell, Darcy, Drean, Evans OBE, Finn, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Laing, Mrs Loveridge, Lowry, Luggar, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Murphy, Noble, Partridge, Patel, Pengelly, Reilly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham and Ms Watkin.

Abstain (3)

Councillors Mrs Bridgeman, Dann and Penberthy.

Against (6)

Councillors Hulme, McLay, Nicholson, Poyser, Singh and Wheeler.

Absent/Did Not Vote (0)

73. **Plymouth City Council To Treat Care Experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic**

Councillor Jemima Laing introduced the motion for Plymouth City Council to treat Care Experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic, which was seconded by Councillor Dylan Tippetts.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors Carlyle, Cresswell, Harrison, Finn, Patel, Reilly and Smith, The Council agreed to:-

1. Recognise-

- i. Every elected member and employee of the Council was a corporate parent to the children and care leavers in their care;
- ii. Councillors were all responsible for providing the best possible care, safeguarding and outcomes for the children who are looked after by them;
- iii. That Councils had a duty to put the needs of vulnerable people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration;

2. Note

- i. A UCL study which showed 70% of care experienced people die early, over 50% of people who are in custody up to the age of 21 have been in care (Become Charity) and a quarter of the homeless population is care experienced (The Independent Review of Children's Social Care);
- ii. That the Government commissioned an independent national review of children's social care, chaired by Josh MacAlister, and one recommendation was to look at making care experience an additional protected characteristic; another was that all public bodies become corporate parents;
- iii. That the Government had not responded to the independent review.

3. Believe

- i. Their children in care and those who have left care have the right to expect everything from a corporate parent that would be expected from a good and responsible parent. This includes how families continue their support, care, and ambition for their children after they leave home and gain independence including through employment opportunities;
- ii. That the authority had already taken important steps to support care experienced children and care leavers better such as the work on the Care Leavers' Covenant but they can always do more;
- iii. That they could not wait until the government decided which recommendations to implement and therefore, here in Plymouth, they should act to be the best corporate parents they could be;
- iv. That when making any decisions in relation to policies or formulating the Corporate Plan that they should recognise care experienced people as a

vulnerable group who face discrimination;

- v. That whilst they could not change national legislation, they could use their powers to ensure that the Council consider care experienced people as part of its decision making in order to seek to prevent discrimination and improve life chances, in doing this. This will mean that they'd treat people with care experience the same as those with a protected characteristic.

4. And therefore resolved:

- i. That the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer ensure that all council making decision documentation had in it appropriate sections to allow for the impact upon 'care experienced people' to be considered in decision making, where relevant and that:
 - a. Officers considered how information might be captured and reported upon in a similar way to that of the Public Sector Equality Duty Annual report;
 - b. Any publication of information relating to people who share a Protected Characteristic also included 'care experienced people';
- ii. To proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people of all ages when developing new Council policies and plans and, where possible, those where the Council produces them in partnership with others;
- iii. To request that the Chief Executive, as Head of Paid Service, explore with the Director of HR how the Council could seek to guarantee all care experienced persons an interview where they meet the essential criteria of the post applied for;
- iv. That the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills, Children and Young People writes to all public bodies represented in the City, the Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses in Plymouth to make them aware of this motion and, where possible and within available resources, offer training on corporate parenting and issues facing care experienced people and to work with partners and care experienced population to understand what corporate parenting means for them;
- v. That the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Homes and Communities writes to Plymouth's MPs making them aware of this motion and asks them to press government to amend the law to include Care Experienced persons as a Protected Characteristic and for the extension of Corporate Parenting to all public bodies, following the recommendations of the MacAlister Report;
- vi. That the Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer attend the first Corporate Parenting Committee meeting in the next municipal year to report on the actions taken as a result of this motion on notice.

For (49)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Dr Cree, Cresswell, Dann, Darcy, Drear, Evans OBE, Finn, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Hulme, Laing, Mrs Loveridge, Lowry, Lugger, Dr Mahony, McDonald, McLay, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Pengelly, Poyser, Reilly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Abstain (0)

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (1)

Councillor Nicholson.

74. **Full Independent Review of the Armada Way Project and Establishment of a Tree Panel**

Councillor Lauren McLay introduced the motion on a Full Independent Review of the Armada Way Project and Establishment of a Tree Panel. This was seconded by Councillor Ian Poyser.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors Singh, Nicholson and Dr Mahony, The Council agreed to:-

I. Note

- i. The recent controversy surrounding the Armada Way Project, which had caused significant concerns;
- ii. The importance of transparency and accountability in local government decision-making;
- iii. The need for lessons to be learned from the situation, to ensure that the issues that had arisen were avoided in the future;
- iv. That the people of Plymouth deserve transparency and accountability from their elected representatives, and that the Armada Way Project had highlighted significant shortcomings in the planning process and urged all councillors to support the motion, so that the Council could learn from the issues surrounding Armada Way and ensure that it does better in the future.

2. The Council therefore resolved:-

- i. To recommend to Cabinet that they establish an Independent Review, with an independent Chair supported by a panel of experts and stakeholders, including representatives from the local community, businesses and environmental groups;

- ii. That the review will examine the following issues, amongst others:-
 - a. The decision making process followed including, but not limited to, full Council, cabinet and use of delegated powers;
 - b. The extent to which the council engaged with local communities, businesses and environmental groups throughout the process and how their feedback on the plans were incorporated;
 - c. The impact of the Armada Way Project on the local environment, including impact on local ecosystems, wildlife and biodiversity;
 - d. The financial implications of the Armada Way Project, including the cost to the council and to local taxpayers;
 - e. That the council will be provided regular updates on the progress of the review;
 - f. That the review will produce a comprehensive report to be considered by Cabinet and referred to Council;
- iii. To recommend to Cabinet the establishment of a multi-stakeholder Tree Panel as a cross party working group of Cabinet and include co-optees with expertise in the field, to act as a consultative forum on matters impacting trees in the City.

For (50)

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

Abstain (0)

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (0)

75. **An assessment of the impact of the UK Government's Election Act 2022 on voting rights and voter suppression in Plymouth**

Councillor Lauren McLay introduced the motion on notice of the impact of the UK Government's Election Act 2022 on voting rights and voter suppression in Plymouth. This was seconded by Councillor George Wheeler.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors Evans OBE, Stoneman, Goslin, Singh and Churchill, the Council agreed to:-

I. Note:-

- i. The requirement of the Elections Act 2022 for voters to provide accurate and specific types of photo identification at polling stations was a well-known cause of concern. It could disproportionately impact certain groups of voters, including young people, the elderly, those on low incomes, and those from ethnic minority backgrounds;
- ii. It was essential that this Council assessed the impact of this legislation following the May 2023 election and took all possible measures to ensure that no Plymouth resident was disenfranchised from voting in the future as a result of this legislation;
- iii. The Council believed that it was essential to ensure that all Plymouth residents were able to exercise their right to vote and that no one was disenfranchised as a result of the Election Act 2022 and call on the Government to reconsider the provisions of this legislation and to take steps to encourage engagement with democracy.

2. The Council therefore resolved:

- i. The Council to call for officers to prepare a report for considerations at the Audit and Governance Committee concerning the impact of the Election Act 2022 on Plymouth's elections in May 2023. This report should set out:-
 - a. An assessment of the impact of the Election Act 2022 on Plymouth residents and its election officials;
 - b. All actions being taken by the Council, the Returning Officer and the elections team to support people at future elections, including measures to provide information and support to those who may have struggled to meet new identification requirements;
 - c. Any additional resources and costs thereof that may be required to ensure that all Plymouth residents were able to exercise their right to vote in future local elections;
 - d. This report should be presented at the September 2023 meeting of Audit and Governance Committee, to allow sufficient time for the Council to take any necessary actions ahead of the May 2024 elections.

For (49)

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

Abstain (0)

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (1)
Councillor Riley.

76. **Urging the UK Government to Provide Additional Funds and Support to Help Plymouth Achieve Its Net Zero 2030 Target**

Councillor Ian Poyser introduced the motion on urging the UK Government to provide additional funds and support to help Plymouth achieve its Net Zero 2030 target. This was seconded by Councillor McLay.

Councillor Tom Briars-Delve put forward an amendment to change the recipient of the letter to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero as it was understood this would be more appropriate given the responsibilities of the role. This was seconded by Councillor Mark Coker.

For (39)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Churchill, Coker, Dr Cree, Cresswell, Dann, Darcy, Drear, Finn, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Laing, Mrs Loveridge, Luggar, McDonald, McLay, Murphy, Noble, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Pengelly, Poyser, Reilly, Salmon, Singh, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Abstain (1)
Councillor Nicholson.

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (10)
Councillors Mrs Bridgeman, Carlyle, Evans OBE, Hulme, Lowry, Dr Mahony, Rennie, Riley, Shayer and Smith.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors Stoneman and Briars-Delve, The Council agreed to:-

I. Note:-

- i. Plymouth has set an ambitious but necessary target to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030, which is faster than the UK Government's 2050 target. This demonstrates our city's strong commitment to tackle the climate emergency and to be a leader in the transition to a low carbon economy;
- ii. However, achieving this target will require significant and consistent investment and support from the UK Government. One of the main obstacles is the availability of funding to insulate homes, improve heating systems, and promote sustainable transport, to name a few example;

- iii. The council further notes that achieving the net zero target will bring many benefits to Plymouth, including cleaner air, reduced energy bills, and job creation in the green economy;

2. The Council therefore resolved:

- i. To call on the relevant Cabinet member, following the May 2023 election, to write to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, urging them to provide additional funds and support to help Plymouth reach its net zero 2030 target. The letter should note that:-
 - a. Plymouth's target is ambitious but achievable, if given appropriate investment and support from the UK Government;
 - b. One of the main obstacles to achieving this target is the availability of funding to insulate homes, improve heating systems, and promote sustainable transport, for example, and calls for the UK Government to provide additional funds and support to help address these obstacles;
 - c. The council also notes the importance of engaging with local communities and businesses in the transition to a low carbon economy and urges the UK Government to provide support for community-led initiatives and local businesses to help them transition to more sustainable practices.

For (47)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Dr Cree, Cresswell, Dann, Darcy, Drean, Evans OBE, Finn, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Laing, Lowry, Mrs Loveridge, Luggier, Dr Mahony, McDonald, McLay, Murphy, Noble, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Pengelly, Poyser, Reilly, Rennie, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Abstain (0)

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (3)

Councillors Mrs Bridgeman, Hulme and Riley.

77. **Reconsideration of proposed Car Parking Charges**

Councillor Patrick Nicholson introduced the motion for reconsideration of proposed car parking charges. This was seconded by Councillor Chaz Singh.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors Wheeler, Coker, Shayer, Poyser, Smith and Evans OBE, The Council agreed to:-

- I. Request the Cabinet Member for Transport to delay implementing further increases or the introduction of new car parking charges to raise an additional £423,000.00 of revenue in 2023/24.

For (26)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Laing, Lowry, McLay, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Penberthy, Poyser, Reilly, Rennie, Singh, Stevens, Tippetts, Tuffin, Tuohy and Wheeler.

Abstain (1)

Councillor Dann.

Against (17)

Councillors Carlyle, Churchill, Darcy, Drean, Finn, Harrison, Lugger, Dr Mahony, Partridge, Patel, Pengelly, Salmon Shayer, Smith, Stoneman, Wakeham and Ms Watkin.

Absent/Did Not Vote (6)

Councillors Mrs Bridgeman, Dr Cree, Hulme, Mrs Loveridge, McDonald and Riley.

Please note that the voting record shows Councillor Salmon voting 'For' on this motion, but he signified during the meeting to Democratic Support that he had selected the incorrect button during the vote.

The Council agreed to suspend standing orders in order to complete the business of the meeting on that day.

For (44)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Darcy, Drean, Evans OBE, Finn, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Laing, Lowry, Lugger, Dr Mahony, McLay, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Pengelly, Poyser, Reilly, Rennie, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Abstain (0)

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not vote (6)

Councillors Mrs Bridgeman, Dr Cree, Hulme, Loveridge, McDonald and Riley.

78. **Addressing impacts of rising Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) numbers in Plymouth**

Councillor Charlotte Holloway introduced the motion on addressing impacts of rising Homes in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) numbers in Plymouth. This was seconded by Councillor Ian Tuffin.

Following a contribution from Councillors Smith, The Council agreed to:-

I. Note:-

- i. That certain parts of Plymouth had experienced a significant increase in the number of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in recent years, placing additional burdens on parking, waste collection, street cleanliness, and other local infrastructure, which was felt particularly acutely in parts of Drake, Compton and St Peter & The Waterfront Wards;
- ii. The Council wanted to see rented housing supply which met the needs of residents of Plymouth – with high quality housing which was properly regulated with enforced standards;
- iii. The challenges many families had in finding good and affordable homes, particularly given the hike in mortgage costs and interest rates following the disastrous decisions of former Conservative Prime Minister Liz Truss;

2. The Council resolved to request that Cabinet:-

- i. Outline a clear policy on how areas with high HMO rates approaching the 10% limit set by the Joint Local Plan will be supported and what guardrails are in place to ensure that areas do not exceed 10%;
- ii. Remind all property owners with an HMO licence of the standards required and their responsibilities towards their tenants and to their local area;
- iii. Addresses landlords with bad practices and publicise the penalties for not following the rules;
- iv. Direct the waste and refuse team undertake additional efforts on meeting additional refuse collection needs on streets which have seen an increased number of HMOs in recent years;
- v. Review whether the level of resourcing for enforcement of HMO standards is sufficient to meet the increase in HMO numbers across the city;
- vi. Through the Leader, write to the Housing Secretary to ask for new legislation which mandates platforms like Airbnb share their data on lets with local authorities and that medium and long term Airbnb lets are brought in scope of current HMO legislation (and do not serve as a potential loophole for landlords seeking to avoid HMO rules) as well as Bed and Breakfast legislation, noting the additional impact that unregulated Airbnb's were having on Plymouth's hospitality industry;
- vii. Support community-led initiatives like "Love Greenbank" which seek to bring diverse communities together in areas with high HMO rates to help with community cohesion and tackling anti-social behaviour.

For (44)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Cresswell, Dann, Darcy, Drean, Evans OBE, Finn, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Laing, Lowry,

Lugger, Dr Mahony, McLay, Murphy, Nicholson, Noble, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Pengelly, Poyser, Reilly, Rennie, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Tippetts, Tuffin, Tuohy, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Abstain (0)

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not vote (6)

Councillors Mrs Bridgeman, Dr Cree, Hulme, Mrs Loveridge, McDonald and Riley.

79. **Motion of No confidence in Leader and Cabinet**

The Lord Mayor advised Council that:-

- a) Following Councillor Richard Bingley's resignation as Leader of the Council, part of the motion was no longer relevant and with other motions that have needed to be altered in the past, amendments had needed to be submitted.

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE sought clarification on:-

- b) The interpretation of the Constitution on how a motion could be heard in part;
- c) Whether the Cabinet had been appointed by the previous Leader, Councillor Richard Bingley, or by the Deputy Leader, then acting Leader, Councillor Mark Shayer;

The Lord Mayor further advised:-

- d) The Constitution was not clear on this issue and she would be taking an adjournment to consider advice from officers.

The meeting was adjourned from 7.30pm to 8.08pm.

Councillors Allen, Hendy, Noble and Tuffin did not return to the meeting following the adjournment.

The Lord Mayor advised:-

- e) The Lord Mayor could not remove items from the agenda;
- f) Any amendments from Councillor Nicholson on the motion would need to be submitted to the Lord Mayor in writing as soon as possible;
- g) Councillor Richard Bingley had resigned at midday on the day of the meeting and therefore an amendment should have been submitted by Councillor Nicholson prior to the meeting;

After further consideration, and having reviewed the Constitution Part B Paragraph 4.17, The Lord Mayor put to Council a vote to remove the item from the agenda, this was seconded by Councillor Chris Penberthy (Deputy Lord Mayor).

The Council agreed to remove the item from the agenda.

For (19)

Councillors Carlyle, Churchill, Dann, Darcy, Drean, Harrison, Mrs Loveridge, Luggar, Dr Mahony, McLay, Patel, Penberthy, Poyser, Salmon, Shayer, Smith, Stoneman, Wakeham and Ms Watkin.

Abstain (16)

Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Briars-Delve, Coker, Cresswell, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Holloway, Laing, Lowry. Murphy, Reilly, Rennie, Stevens, Tuohy and Wheeler.

Against (2)

Councillors Nicholson and Singh.

Absent/Did Not vote (13)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Bridgeman, Dr Cree, Finn, Hendy, Hulme, Loveridge, McDonald, Noble, Partridge, Riley, Tippetts and Tuffin.

80. **Preservation of Local Democracy and Maintaining the impartiality of the Lord Mayor**

As the matter of the motion concerned The Lord Mayor, they left the Chamber for this part of the meeting.

Councillor Chris Penberthy, Deputy Lord Mayor, assumed the position of the Chair for this item and explained:-

- a) Councillor Nick Kelly had given apologies for the meeting and the Constitution was silent on the matter of a proposer not being present, and therefore it became a matter for the Lord Mayor;
- b) In Councillor Chris Penberthy's capacity as Deputy Lord Mayor, and Chair for this item, he removed the item from the agenda as, following legal advice, it was not in order given legal correspondence that it was defamatory.

The meeting was adjourned from 8.17pm to 8.30pm.

Councillors Mrs Loveridge, Partridge and Tuohy did not return to the meeting following the adjournment.

81. **Motion of no confidence in the Leader and Election of New Leader**

Councillor Wheeler withdrew this motion from the agenda.

82. **Urgent Decisions to be reported (To Follow)**

The Council agreed to note the report.

83. **Questions by Councillors**

	From	To	Subject
1	Councillor Chaz Singh	Councillor Bill Wakeham	TPOs for the remaining trees on Armada Way
	<p>Response: It could not be confirmed as there was an ongoing legal case.</p> <p>Supplementary: Could Councillor Wakeham share the documents and legislation to Councillors with regards to making a decision on putting TPOs on the remaining trees on Armada Way?</p> <p>Response: The legal case would need to conclude before any decisions could be made.</p>		
2	Councillor Patrick Nicholson	Councillor Mark Shayer	Works being undertaken on toilets at Harewood House
	<p>Response: Councillor Shayer would look into the issue in more detail and respond with confirmation on what future plans for the toilets were and that the works should not be held up.</p> <p>Supplementary: Monetary considerations were the cited reasons for the stall in works, however the toilets were in a worse state than before the works. At the very least, could the toilets be restored to the state they were in before works commenced?</p> <p>Response: Councillor Shayer would get back to Councillor Nicholson with the best information he could with regards to fixing the toilets and resolving the issues.</p>		
3	Councillor Ms Kathy Watkin	Councillor Jonathan Drean	New Parking Machines to be powered by sustainable energy such as solar power
	<p>Response: Some were already and all new machines would be. Councillor Drean agreed to find out the number of machines and inform Councillor Watkin.</p> <p>Supplementary: When would the new machines go live?</p> <p>Response: Councillor Drean would check with the relevant team but believed some had already gone live. There had been an issue with some of the equipment at first, but Councillor Drean believed this had been resolved.</p>		
4	Councillor Lee Finn	Councillor Bill Wakeham	Litter on the A38
	Response: Work was taking place that week to remove the litter.		
5	Councillor Jeremy Goslin	Councillor Jonathan Drean	Value of funds that had been made available to local communities to create additional car parking spaces by reconfiguring areas to allow diagonal or perpendicular parking and where in the city were they located
	Response: No, but the team were looking to increase the number of parking spaces across the city. He would obtain the information and contact Councillor Goslin.		

	<p>Supplementary: It had been a manifest pledge in 2021 so could Councillor Drean update on progress made since then?</p> <p>Response: It was looked at in the North of the city but there were budgetary issues. The parking team were looking at identifying some areas and Councillor Drean was waiting for the team to get back to him on this.</p>		
6	Councillor Natalie Harrison	Councillor Jonathan Drean	Locations of e-bikes and mobility hubs
	<p>Response: All Councillors should have been contacted by the project team for this for the best locations within their wards for e-bike/mobility hub locations.</p> <p>Supplementary: When would the next phase of e-bikes be put in across the city?</p> <p>Response: When it was launched in the previous week there had been 80, it had increased to 120 at the time of the meeting and was due to rise further to 500 by the end of summer 2023.</p>		
7	Councillor George Wheeler	Councillor Bill Wakeham	The Council's preparedness to introduce the Governments plans of 6 standardised recycling waste streams
	<p>Response: Government advice was due in 2023 and the Council would act when it was received.</p> <p>Supplementary: Households would find it difficult to find space for containers for 6 waste streams, how would this be overcome?</p> <p>Response: Councillor Wakeham would look into this issue and contact Councillor Wheeler.</p>		
8	Councillor Zoe Reilly	Councillor Bill Wakeham	Tree Champion
	<p>Response: The commitment for a tree champion was from the 2021 manifesto, before Councillor Wakeham became part of the Cabinet. Councillor Wakeham would look into it and get back to Councillor Reilly.</p>		
9	Councillor Jemima Laing	Councillor Jonathan Drean	Impact of triple in cost of electric car charges in Council car parks on useage
	<p>Response: The charges had been increased by the company providing the service, not the Council. Councillor Drean expected a decrease in useage as a result and had asked for information from the relevant team on any changes since the charge increases.</p> <p>Supplementary: What does the Council pay the provider per kw/h?</p> <p>Response: Councillor Drean would provide the figure outside of the meeting.</p>		
10	Councillor Andy Luggar	Councillor Mark Shayer	Update on works for Guildhall and Elliot Terrace and reassurance that there was a maintenance programme in place to ensure the future of the buildings
	<p>Response: The programmes were fully funded and would be revenue generating in</p>		

	the near future. There would be improved disabled access, sound system and bar upgrade to the Guildhall.		
11	Councillor Bill Stevens	Councillor James Stoneman	Improvement of consultation with local communities and devolution of power to local people
	<p>Response: This was part of the manifesto of 2021 was written by another Cabinet, one Councillor James Stoneman was not a part of.</p> <p>Supplementary: Several members of the Cabinet were elected under the 2021 manifesto, was it now worthless?</p> <p>Response (Answered by Councillor Mark Shayer): The 2021 manifesto was the programme undertaken by the administration in 2021/22, and so it had been concluded.</p>		
12	Councillor Chaz Singh	Councillor Mark Shayer	Apology for the hurt caused by the removal of trees on Armada Way
	<p>Response: The Cabinet would be looking forward at the future and sharing their successes.</p> <p>Supplementary: Was that a no?</p> <p>Response: Councillor Shayer referred Councillor Singh to what he said in response to the original question.</p>		
13	Councillor Natalie Harrison	Councillor Bill Wakeham	Permit stickers for Garden Waste Bins
	Response: The stickers had already started to be sent out and would be with residents shortly. Collections would start from 3 April 2023.		
14	Councillor Ms Kathy Watkin	Councillor Bill Wakeham	Grass Cutting
	<p>Response: Grass cutting had already begun and Councillors had been sent a digital map of the cutting areas. 60% would be cut and 40% would be wilded.</p> <p>Supplementary: How often would the grass be cut?</p> <p>Response: Sports pitches on a regular basis and outside edges of banks would be cut but the centres left to create insect highways.</p>		
14	Councillor Briars-Delve	Councillor Mark Shayer	Futuristic Park located in the waterfront area
	<p>Response: Unsure. Councillor Shayer agreed to look into its location and get back to Councillor Briars-Delve.</p> <p>Supplementary: Conservative Manifesto 2021 promised a futuristic park located in the waterfront area. What was meant by 'futuristic' and what progress had been made?</p>		

	Response: When Councillor Shayer found more information he would report back to Councillor Briars-Delve.		
15	Councillor Mrs Mary Aspinall	Councillor Pat Patel	Booking System for events at Guildhall not disability friendly
	<p>Response: There were significant changes being made to the Guildhall to improve disabled access and Councillor Pat Patel committed to speaking to the team at the Guildhall about disability access to booking for the venue.</p> <p>Councillor Mrs Aspinall would invite the Cabinet Member responsible for Customer Services to the next PADAN meeting to speak about the issues experienced by members.</p>		
16	Councillor Eddie Rennie	Councillor Jonathan Drean	Defects following site visit in 2022
	<p>Response: Councillor Drean had asked for a list to be sent to Ward Councillors and would chase for it.</p> <p>Supplementary: Assurances had been made over 6-8 months but it had not been completed. Hope the detail would be provided.</p> <p>Response: The velocity machine that was being trialled and was due to go to the Sutton and Mount Gould Ward, but the work had been curtailed due to bad weather conditions. Councillor Drean would look into the detail of the situation.</p>		
17	Councillor Charlotte Holloway	Councillor Jonathan Drean	Future plans to extend lighting in Central Park
	Response: Councillor Drean would speak to the relevant team about any future plans, particularly for the entrance from the Drake area.		
18	Councillor Sally Haydon	Councillor Bill Wakeham	Dog Fouling enforcement officers
	<p>Response: At the time of the meeting the Council had two enforcement officers. These roles had proved hard to recruit to and to retain staff in due to the abuse experienced in the role.</p> <p>Supplementary: Councillor Haydon believed there were none on the ground. How long had there only been two? What were the intentions moving forward as people of Plymouth are fed up of stepping in dog fouling?</p> <p>Response: There were 3 vacancies in a team of 5 with advertisements for the roles out.</p>		
19	Councillor Mark Coker	Councillor Bill Wakeham	Plymouth Garden Waste Collection
	<p>Response: The target was 28,000. The total at the time was just over 28,000.</p> <p>Supplementary: The breakeven point was 28,000. If numbers do not reach this, will services be cut before they have started?</p>		

	Response: If sign up numbers exceeded 28,000, more agency staff would be employed to manage this.		
20	Councillor Chaz Singh	Councillor Pat Patel	Screening of Plymouth Argyle Wembley Game
	<p>Response: The screening of the Council meeting at the Guildhall on 27 March 2023 had been arranged outside of the pre-election period and a screening of the King's Coronation had been arranged and was being externally funded.</p> <p>Supplementary: A screen could be provided for democracy and the coronation but not for Argyle?</p> <p>Response: The screen at the Guildhall had been arranged due to the large number of members of the public expected and due to safety concerns and had been made outside of the pre-election period and paid out of licensing funding.</p>		

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