

City Council

Monday 16 September 2024

PRESENT:

Councillor Tuohy, in the Chair.

Councillor Murphy, Vice Chair.

Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Mrs Beer, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Coker, Cuddihee, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Hendy, Holloway, Laing, Lawson, Loveridge, Lowry, Lugger, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Ney, Noble, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Ricketts, Simpson, M. Smith, R. Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Tippetts, Tofan, Ms Watkin and Wood.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Dann, Finn, Haydon, P. Nicholson, S. Nicholson and Taylor.

Absent: Councillor Krizanac.

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 5.50 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.

14. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 29 January 2024, 8 March 2024, 18 March 2024, 17 May 2024 and the two meetings held on 24 June 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

15. **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	Item Number	Reason	Interest
Councillor Bill Stevens	16a	Employer referenced throughout.	Private

(A general dispensation was offered to all members in respect to item 15- Independent Remuneration Panel)

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

The Council agreed to note the changes to committees and outside bodies for September 2024.

17. **Questions by the Public**

There were 17 questions from the public.

18. **Announcements**

The Lord Mayor made the following announcements:

- a) Plymouth City Council had been shortlisted for several Public Service Excellence Awards including: Council of the Year, Best Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship Initiative, Best Community and Neighbourhood Initiative, Best Climate Action Initiative, Best Service Team: Parks, Grounds and Horticultural Service.

Councillor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) made the following announcements:

- b) Welcomed to Plymouth City Council Karime Hassan (Interim Strategic Director for Growth), Temilola Salimon (Service Director for Children, Young People and Families) and Gary Wallbridge (Strategic Director Adults, Health and Communities, Adult Social Care Retained Functions);
- c) Wished a happy retirement and bid farewell to Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place) and Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive);
- d) Plymouth had been recognised as the most liveable city in the UK according to a recent study published in the Daily Telegraph;
- e) The £25 million Community Diagnostic centre at Colin Campbell Court had now started development and construction;
- f) The Derriford District Centre initiated a “hand-over” of units to respective businesses including Aldi and Costa Coffee;
- g) £750,000 of Shared Prosperity Projects had been completed across the City;
- h) The largest ever contract granted in the city for Beaumont Way as part of the Freeport development had been granted;
- i) 2,000 free knowledge sessions had been offered and the Mount Batton Centre had been selected to support the National Marine Park;
- j) The Brickfields Investment Case would be initiated at Christmas providing a £25 million investment into sports facilities in the City;
- k) Enhancements at Tinside Lido were underway;
- l) The Innovation Centre at Oceans Gate and hotel work on Embankment Road would commence shortly;
- m) Demolition work around Tavistock place would start, in order to facilitate development work during the forthcoming year;

- n) Centre-city housing discussions would start taking place regarding the low quantity and density of residential use of the area.

Councillor Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change) made the following announcements:

- o) A new delivery approach for major heat networks had been signed off, this long term project was expected to attract £350 million of external green funding, 400 green jobs and save 30,000 tons of carbon annually;

Councillor Aspinall (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care) made the following announcements:

- p) The International Day of Older People would take place on 01 October 2024, which would provide opportunities for older people to meet new friends and acquaintances through way of various sports and activities;
- q) Caring Plymouth, the skills based project launched in the previous municipal year, would be having a relaunch and open days on 19 September and 04 October 2024.

Councillor Cresswell (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships) made the following announcement:

- r) Launchpad Live was to host a two-day careers event showcasing a range of opportunities on the 26th and 27th of September;
- s) The launch of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library had taken place;
- t) A grant of £1.246 million over a three year period to deliver the Early Years Expansion Programme culminated in its launch on 12 September 2024 and subsequent visit from the Department for Education's Early Years Expansion Road Show which included Steven Morgan (The Minister for Early Years).

Councillor Laing (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Culture and Communications) made the following announcements:

- u) The "You Can Do It Awards" had taken place on 13 September 2024. an annual celebration event where members of the Corporate Parenting Board and officers come together to recognize and celebrate the achievements of care experienced children and young people;
- v) There were 45,000 visits to the Box during Summer 2024;
- w) An exhibition launching 18 October at the Box would include Turner paintings from both the Tate, Local and PCC collections;
- x) Funding had been secured from Arts Council England for an event between 18 and 20 October to showcase independent artists and professionals in the City.

19. **Provisional Capital and Revenue Outturn Report 2023/24**

The report was introduced by Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) and seconded by Councillor Stephens (Chair of Scrutiny Management Board).

The Council agreed to note the report.

20. **Treasury Management Annual Report 2023/24**

The report was introduced by Councillor Lowry (Cabinet member for Finance) and seconded by Councillor Allen (Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee).

The Council agreed to:

- I. Approve the Treasury Management Annual Report 2023/2024.

For (47)

Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Mrs Beer, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Coker, Cuddihee, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Hendy, Holloway, Laing, Lawson, Loveridge, Lowry, Lugger, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Ney, Noble, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Ricketts, Simpson, M. Smith, R. Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Tippetts, Ms Watkin and Wood.

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Absent/ Did Not Vote (2)

Councillors Tofan and Tuohy.

(Councillor Tofan left the meeting 3.00pm returning at 4.00pm)

21. **Capital Monitoring report Q1**

The report was introduced by Councillor Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) and seconded by Councillor Mark Coker (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport).

The Council agreed to:

1. Approve the revision to Capital Budget 2024-2029 to £360.488m, noting the removal of projects totalling £6.171m from the capital programme.
2. Note Prudential Indicators Q1.

For (46)

Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Coker, Cuddihee, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Hendy, Holloway, Laing,

Lawson, Loveridge, Lowry, Lugger, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Ney, Noble, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Simpson, M. Smith, R. Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Tippetts, Ms Watkin and Wood.

Against (0)

Abstain (2)

Councillors Mrs Beer and Ricketts.

Absent/Did Not Vote (2)

Councillors Tofan and Tuohy.

22. **Electoral Review Update 2024**

The report was introduced by Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) and seconded by Councillor Allen (Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee).

After contributions from Councillor Lugger (Leader of the Opposition), the Council agreed to note the report.

23. **Polling Districts, Place and Stations Review**

The report was introduced by Councillor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) and Seconded by Councillor Allen (Chair of Scrutiny Management Board).

After contributions from Councillor Wood, the Council agreed to note the report.

24. **Constitutional Update**

The motion was introduced by Councillor Allen (Chair of Audit and Governance Committee) and seconded by Councillor Stevens.

For (42)

Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Blight, Briars-Delve, Coker, Cuddihee, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Hendy, Holloway, Laing, Lawson, Lowry, Lugger, McCarty, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Ney, Noble, Penberthy, Penrose, Raynsford, Reilly, Simpson, M. Smith, R. Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Tippetts, Ms Watkin and Wood.

Against (0)

Abstain (5)

Councillors Mrs Bridgeman, Loveridge, McLay, Poyser and Ricketts.

Absent/ Did Note Vote (3)

Councillors Mrs Beer, Tofan and Tuohy.

(Councillor Mrs Beer left the room at 15:21 and returned 15:25)

25. **Audit and Governance Chair's Report**

The report was introduced by Councillor Allen (Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee) and seconded by Councillor Stevens.

The Council agreed to note the report.

26. **Scrutiny Annual Report**

The report was introduced by Councillor Stephens (Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board) and seconded by Councillor Darcy (Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board).

The Council agreed to note the report.

27. **Independent Remuneration Panel**

The item was introduced by Councillor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) and seconded by Councillor Luggar (Leader of the Opposition).

After contributions from Councillor Mrs Beer the council agreed the following changes recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel:

1. The Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board should receive a Special Responsibility Allowance equal to that of the current Scrutiny Panel Chairs. This allowance will be backdated to May 2024, when the current Chair took on the role;
2. No further changes to the Special Responsibility Allowance for Vice Chairs at this time;
3. The Panel was to be convened to review allowances for scrutiny again in 12 months to gather more information on how the new structure is working;
4. The Panel noted the cross-party approach to the review of the parental leave policy and observed that such a policy is already in place in many councils across the country. The Panel recommends that the council adopts the model scheme;
5. That a provision to enable Councillors to forgo their allowances is added to the Members' allowance scheme.

For (43)

Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Coker, Cuddihee, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Hendy, Holloway, Laing, Lawson, Lowry, Luggar, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Ney, Noble, Penberthy, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Simpson, M. Smith, R. Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Tippetts and Wood.

Against (0)

Abstain (3)

Councillors Mrs Beer, Loveridge and Ricketts.

Absent/ Did Not Vote (4)

Councillors Penrose, Tofan, Tuohy and Ms Watkin.

28. **Motions on notice**

29. **Motion on Notice - Community Cohesion**

The motion was introduced by Councillor Steel and seconded by Councillor Blight.

Following contributions from Councillors Reilly, Lawson, Stevens and Penberthy, the Council agreed that:

1. The Leader writes to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP, to call for a more robust counter-extremism strategy to identify and address the drivers of violence. This should encompass digital literacy, social cohesion and resilience building and also ensure that local authorities have dedicated resourcing to drive more localised responses to extremism and viral mis- and disinformation.
2. The Chief Executive writes to the Home Office requesting direct annual funding for Plymouth's Community Safety Partnership from their Prevent Fund. This would enable the Partnership to have dedicated resources to roll out the annual recommendations set out in the Counter Terrorism Local Profile. It would also enable them to work within targeted communities to identify those susceptible to radicalisation and provide early interventions to identify vulnerable groups.
3. The Leader and Chief Executive continue their proactive engagement with the government to request support for the Council and our partners through the ongoing recovery work needed as a result of the events of the 5th August 2024 and to make clear to government that this is done with the full backing of the Council.
4. The Democratic Support Team ensures that all members are provided with a link to the online LGA Equalities and Diversity Training module. Further to this, that Group Leaders/Whips provide the Democratic Support Team with a list of members who have undertaken this training in order that the Chief Executive can report back on members undertaking this training to the next meeting of the Council.
5. The Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships writes to all Plymouth schools stressing the importance of the new Plymouth Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education being used in all local schools as a foundation to promote knowledge and understanding of different communities and encourage the values of respect, tolerance, and the willingness to learn from others.

For (49)

Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Mrs Beer, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Coker, Cuddihee, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Hendy,

Holloway, Laing, Lawson, Loveridge, Lowry, Lugger, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Ney, Noble, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Ricketts, Simpson, M. Smith, R. Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Tippetts, Tofan, Ms Watkin and Wood.

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Absent/ Did Not Vote (1)
Councillor Tuohy.

30. **Motion on Notice - Plymouth Pensioners**

The motion was introduced by Councillor Lugger (Leader of the Opposition) and seconded by Councillor Darcy.

Councillor Penberthy proposed an amendment to the motion, seconded by Councillor Evans OBE.

After contributions speaking to the amendment from Councillors Lugger, Mrs Beer, Wood and R. Smith, the amendment was passed.

For (43)

Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Blight, Briars-Delve, Coker, Cuddihee, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Hendy, Holloway, Laing, Lawson, Lowry, Lugger, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Ney, Noble, Penberthy, Penrose, Raynsford, Reilly, Simpson, M. Smith, R. Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Tippetts, Tofan, Ms Watkin and Wood.

Against (3)

Councillors Mrs Beer, McLay, Poyser.

Abstain (3)

Councillors Mrs Bridgeman, Loveridge, Ricketts.

Absent/Did Not Vote (1)
Councillors Tuohy.

Following contributions from Councillors Smith, Darcy, Evans OBE and Loveridge, the Council agreed that-

1. The Cabinet Member for Housing, Co-operative Development and Communities was to consider the impact of changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance when designing the recently announced Household Support Fund October 2024-March 2025.
2. The Cabinet Member for Housing Co-operative Development and Communities was to consider the issue of pensioner poverty as he develops the detail of Building Bridges to Opportunity.

3. The Chief Executive would write to the Department of Work and Pensions to investigate alternative ways of alleviating fuel poverty for those Plymouth pensioners so affected.

For (48)

Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Mrs Beer, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Coker, Cuddihee, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Hendy, Holloway, Laing, Lawson, Loveridge, Lowry, Lugger, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Murphy, Ney, Noble, Penberthy, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Ricketts, Simpson, M. Smith, R. Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Tippetts, Tofan, Ms Watkin and Wood.

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

Absent/ Did Not Vote (2)

Councillors Penrose and Tuohy.

31. Questions by Councillors

#	From (Cllr)	To (Cllr)	Subject
1	Blight	Coker	A petition had been received requesting a review of half-hourly provision of Bus Number 28. Was this going to be looked into?
			Response: Councillor Sproston (bus champion) had been tasked with facilitating a meeting with the Public Transport team and with City Bus.
2	Ricketts	Coker	A wall and pathway on Central park Avenue remained in a dangerous state of disrepair and a resident had been injured in the area.
			Response: There had been movement on this, and it would appear the repair should commence on the week commencing 23 September 2024.
			Supplementary: Would correspondence be made directly to the complainant and resident?
			Response: Yes.
3	Mrs Beer	Briars-Delve	It had been reported that the hedges in and around Plympton were at least a metre thick in parts and encroaching on the public highway. Would this be looked into?
			Response: As the cutback for hedges is in the fast-approaching Autumn, the hedges would be cut back shortly.
4	M. Smith	Coker	The crossing in which Mutley Plain meets North Hill remained without a sequence of traffic lights and emails had been received to Ward Councillors indicating the danger of the crossing. What was being done in order to rectify this?
			Response: The Highways Team had previously been tasked to find a solution to the issue, looking into funding options which could be

	sourced externally.	
5	Raynsford Evans OBE	Concerning the recent myriad of events operated on the Hoe- what benefit did these bring to the City?
	Response: Tens of thousands of people had attended events on the Hoe in 2024, which had included some of the most popular musical acts in the world. The facilitation of the event included hundreds of Plymouth residents, providing jobs for the local economy. During the National Fireworks championship, Foster for Plymouth was advertised to the over 100,000 people in the audience and across social media engagement was reached with 548,000 people. 41,500 people tuned into the livestream. It has been estimated that this event was worth over £9 million to the local economy.	
6	Allison Laing	When was it that work was due to begin on the Frederick Street Youth Centre in Stonehouse as amongst others?
	Response: Both Frederick Street Youth Centre and Honicknowle Youth and Community Centre had been awarded £4 million; £2.4 million from the Youth Investment Fund, £600,000 from the Capital fund and an additional £1 million from the Emergency Climate Investment fund. In August, the contract was awarded and the date of 23 September 2024 has been scheduled for the commencement of works.	
7	Ricketts Penberthy	The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP had recently said that “every town and city in this country will take their fair share of illegal immigrants” what was Plymouth’s fair share?
	Response: Plymouth had always “stepped up to the plate” in reference to taking a fair share of refugees and asylum seekers. The numbers are small and are issued by central government.	
	Supplementary: ‘Small Boats’ arrivals had been in the news recently, how was provision for these being built into the homelessness strategy for Plymouth?	
	Response: There were government definitions for refugee and asylum seeker, if after 28 days these people had not found housing, they could approach us for homelessness duties, however not all would be entitled.	
8	Ms Watkin Penberthy	Landing stage at Mount Batten had been ‘out-of-action’ for a considerable period of time. When would provision for the larger ferry return and the landing stage be fixed?
	Response: The Council were combining two facilities between the water sports centre and National Marine Park. This would increase the capacity of vessels which could approach. The aim was to install this over the winter season.	
	Supplementary: How could it be ensured that residents would receive proper shelter on this pier during the winter?	
	Response: The water sports facilities would remain open and contained a particularly good café.	

9	Loveridge	Coker	When were the double yellow lines to be installed in the requested lanes in Plympton?
	Response: These were agreed and to be initiated two weeks ago, a meeting would be placed with the team to ascertain a date.		
10	Wood	Coker	It had been reported by school leaders and ward councillors a lack of road safety near St Edwards School, mainly Fort Austin Avenue and St Peter's Road. Would a meeting be possible to discuss these issues?
	Response: Yes.		
11	Poyser	Briars-Delve	Plymouth has some of the least energy and fuel efficient homes in the Country. What action has taken place to promote home insulation and other options?
	Response: Retrofitting was at the heart of action within the current plan and the council had been working closely with Plymouth Energy Community and national government departments. There were a number of schemes available. Money has been received from social housing decarbonisation fund from central government and door-to-door grant funding has taken place.		
12	Beer	Penberthy	It had been observed that the state of Charles Church, in the City Centre, had deteriorated with weeds and foliage present.
	Response: The area was one of "Minimal Mow" - edge trimmed and priority works were checked.		
	Supplementary: The State of the roundabout was also unacceptable		
	Response: There were differing opinions on this, many preferred the "wild meadow" that was evident.		

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