

City Council

Monday 27 January 2020

PRESENT:

Councillor Ball, in the Chair.

Councillor Mrs Beer, Vice Chair.

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

Apologies for absence: Councillors Sam Davey and Samantha Leaves

The meeting started at 2pm and finished at 3.52pm.

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.

16. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 09 September and 16 December 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

17. Declarations of Interest

A general dispensation was granted in respect of item 7 on the agenda, Council Tax Base Setting.

There were no other declarations of interest.

18. Appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies etc

The following appointments were noted:

- Councillor McDonald replaces Councillor Corvid on Planning Committee;
- Councillor Tuffin replaces Councillor Corvid on Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Councillor Lowry replaces Councillor Corvid on Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Councillor Nicholson fills the vacancy on the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee;

- Councillor Derrick replaces Councillor Corvid as Vice-Chair of Taxi Licensing Committee.

19. **Announcements**

The Lord Mayor led a one minute silence to mark the Holocaust Memorial Day.

The Lord Mayor made the following announcements:

Operation Encompass

- Devon and Cornwall Police in Partnership with Operation Encompass charity were the overall winner at the World Class Policing Awards, held in London on 14 November;
- The awards celebrate and acknowledge the best in all aspects of 21st century policing and reflect that effective modern day policing requires partnership and collaboration. A total of 54 finalists attended the Awards Ceremony with six winners chosen, including Operation Encompass as the overall winner;
- Operation Encompass is a police and education early information sharing partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support for children and young people experiencing domestic abuse;
- Congratulations were extended to Devon and Cornwall Police and Operation Encompass

Queen's New Year's Honours

- The New Year's Honours List 2020, published on Saturday 28 December, recognises the outstanding achievements of people across the United Kingdom;
 - Foster Carer Verna Pollard was been awarded an MBE for services to children. Verna has cared for dozens of children aged between four and eighteen over many years.
 - Plymouth City Council's Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure was also awarded an MBE - Paul Barnard has been recognised for his outstanding contribution to housing and town planning.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Evans OBE made the following announcements:

- The public opening of The Box has been confirmed for 16 May 2020;
- Free admission for Plymouth residents has been agreed;
- At the end of February a public ballot will be announced for the public to apply to attend a 'sneak preview' of The Box, this will take place on 02 May 2020;
- A commemorative £2 coin is to be launched, recognising the importance of the Mayflower 400 anniversary;

- Highlighted several recent accolades bestowed on the city as being a top destination to visit in 2020, including in the New York Times and CNN;
- An update on the UK's exit from the European Union on Friday 31 January and the potential impact on the fishing industry, the agricultural industry, port infrastructure and investment.
- The latest proposals from the Government on Fairer Funding for Adult Social Care, which the Local Government Association have stated could result in a loss of £8.3m of funding for Plymouth. This is an 11.58% reduction in funding, compared to areas such as Hampshire which will see an increase of £35m, £25m for Surrey and £4.7m for Gloucestershire. This is a formula funding change and the concern is that this could be applied to other areas of funding.

Councillor Smith, Deputy Leader, made the following announcements:

- The opening of the St Budeaux Library and the launch of the new Library Charter – this details the commitment to users to provide a first class library service;
- In August this year we will supporting the Lonely Yacht Race which will follow the original Fast Net course and will focus on amateur sailors;
- Plymouth Hoe has been chosen to host the Tom Jones concert as part of a program of events in the City to commemorate Mayflower 400. Tickets are on sale on January 31 2020.
- Congratulations were extended to Matthew Dixon for his Gold medal at the British Diving Championships.

Councillor Kate Taylor, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care made the following announcement:

- Plymouth City Council has launched a memorandum of understanding for unpaid carers in the City, of which it is estimated there are around 30,000;
- The opening of the latest Health and Wellbeing Hub in St Budeaux to offer the first hub within a GP surgery in the city. Thanks were expressed to the team at the Council for pushing on with the Health Hub program.

Councillor Mrs. Aspinall, Chair of Scrutiny Management Board made the following announcements;

- The Electoral Registration Committee will meet later this week;
- A Scrutiny committee is being established in February to look at oral health in the city;

Councillor Penberthy, Cabinet Member for Housing and Co-operative Development made the following announcement;

- Thanks were expressed for the successful event earlier today to mark Holocaust Memorial Day

Councillor Haydon, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Customer Focus made the following announcement:

- The fire at Efford Crematorium and subsequent actions of staff to offer more services at Weston Mill, in total 59 services were re-arranged and thanks were extended to the families and funeral directors for their understanding. Works are underway to get the crematorium and chapel up and running as soon as possible. Staff were thanked for their swift action.

20. **Questions by the Public**

There was one question from the public.

Mr Ramage asked the following question:

Insects are the bedrock of our relationship with nature but are in serious decline. The South-West Wildlife Trusts' campaign literature calls for a major reduction in the amount, type, and frequency of pesticides used to manage gardens, parks, and urban areas, etc. Will PCC endorse and enact this?

Councillor Dann, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene gave the following response:

We are aware of the concerns around chemical treatment of weeds, particularly Glyphosate and other herbicides. We have already reduced the use of chemicals in parks and playgrounds and do not use any pesticides when treating weeds. We have trialled a number of methods to remove unsightly weeds from roads, lanes and footpaths, but have found chemicals to be the most cost-effective method of control. Nevertheless, we continue to trial a more targeted application by staff on foot rather than in vehicles to achieve optimum results. This more manual (targeted) approach means that we do not spray weeds that are not growing, which has shown clear benefits, especially where residents are actively helping us by removing weeds outside their properties. The down side of this slower method is that it does mean the rapid life cycle of weeds can get ahead of our teams, especially at a time when climate change is extending the growing season. We continue to balance efficient and effective control versus reducing chemical use and will continue to monitor the evidence and advice from DEFRA and other reputable bodies.

21. **Council Tax Base Setting 2020/21**

Councillor Lowry, Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the item on Council Tax Base Setting 2020/21.

This was seconded by Councillor Penberthy, Cabinet Member for Housing and Co-Operative Development.

Following a discussion, Council agreed to:

1. Approve the Council Tax Base for 2020/21 of 74,603 as set out in the report;
2. Implement fully the provisions of the Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018 which amends Section 11B of Local Government Finance Act 1992 (higher amount for long-term empty dwellings: England), as follows:
 - a. 1 April 2020 charge the maximum additional premium of:
 - 100% of council tax charge for any dwelling empty between 2 and 5 years;
 - 200% of council tax charge for any dwelling empty for 5 years or more.
 - b. From 1 April 2021 charge the maximum additional premium of:
 - 100% council tax charge for any dwelling empty between 2 and 5 years;
 - 200% council tax charge for any dwelling empty between 5 and 10 years;
 - 300% council tax charge for any dwelling empty for 10 years or more.

For (53)

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

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

22. **Council Tax Support Scheme 2020/21**

Councillor Penberthy, Cabinet Member for Housing and Co-operative Development introduced the item on Council Tax Support Scheme 2020/21. This was seconded by Councillor Lowry, Cabinet Member for Finance.

Following a discussion, Council agreed to:

1. Approve the ten proposed changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2020/21 as described in the report;

2. Approve the council tax exceptional hardship policy to support customers in the event that they are no longer entitled to council tax support under the new scheme.

For (54)

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

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

23. **Tamar Bridge & Torpoint Ferry 2020/21 Revenue Estimates and Capital Programme**

Councillor Coker, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure introduced the item on Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry 2020/21 Revenue Estimates and Capital Programme. This was seconded by Councillor Wheeler.

Following a discussion, Council:

- I. Approved the TBTFJC's 2020/21 Revenue Estimates and Capital Programme.

For (54)

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

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

24. **Pay Policy Statement 2020/21**

Councillor Smith, Deputy Leader introduced the item on Pay Policy Statement. This was seconded by Councillor Evans, OBE, Leader of the Council.

Following a discussion, Council agreed to:

- I. Approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2020/21 in line with the statutory requirement.

For (54)

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

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

25. **Calendar of Committee Meetings 2020- 2021 (to follow)**

Councillor Smith, Deputy Leader, introduced the Calendar of Meetings 2020/21. This was seconded by Councillor Haydon.

Following a discussion, Council agreed that should the dates of meetings need to be changed, members of the opposition would be consulted as far as possible.

Council agreed to approve the proposed calendar of meetings for 2020/21 in order for scheduling of meetings to progress.

For (54)

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

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

26. **Motions on notice**

There were no Motions on Notice.

27. **Questions by Councillors**

	From	To	Subject
1	Councillor Ian Bowyer	Councillor Evans OBE	A request for Union Jack flags to be flown on Plymouth City Council buildings on 31 January 2020 (Brexit date)
	Response: The procedure for flying flags on Plymouth City Council buildings on 31 January 2020 to mark the United Kingdom leaving the European Union would be checked; instructions were normally received from Government with regards to flying flags on Council buildings for specific occasions.		
2	Councillor Jon Taylor	Councillor Dann	Green Minds Project
	Response: Plymouth was the only UK applicant to be successful in being accepted on the Green Minds Project; the council would be working in partnership with the University, the College of Art and the National Trust in order to enhance the many strands of work across the city linked to community stewardship.		
3	Councillor Nicholson	Councillor Coker	Road congestion due to utility companies working on the highway
	Response: Utility companies had an automatic right to work on the road network; recent traffic congestion on Tavistock Road was caused by a mains gas leak as well as a sewer leak. A consultation regarding a permit scheme, enabling the Council to control more vigorously the amount of roadworks was currently underway.		
4	Councillor Mrs Johnson	Councillor Dann	Garden Waste – sign-up
	Response: Approximately 22,190 local residents had signed up for the garden waste collections; this was welcomed as major campaigning to advertise the need to sign up had not yet started.		
5	Councillor Lynda Bowyer	Councillor Kate Taylor	Coronavirus update
	Response: A full update on the Coronavirus would be provided at the next scheduled meeting of Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny on Wednesday 29 January 2020.		
6	Councillor Mrs Aspinall	Councillor Pete Smith	Battle of Britain celebrations
	Response: A service in St Andrew's Church was currently being arranged to celebrate the Battle of Britain Anniversary in 2020; staff working in the Lord Mayor's Parlour were involved in the coordination of the event and could be contacted to ensure local squadrons were engaged in the planning.		
7	Councillor Kelly	Councillor Dann	Plans to improve access issues to the Nancy Astor statue and aesthetics on the Hoe now and in preparation for Mayflower 400 celebrations.

	Response: There was an expectation that the Mayflower 400 celebrations would attract several visitors to Plymouth, specifically the Hoe. A maintenance schedule was being discussed at readiness groups – it was acknowledged that due to bad weather, grassed areas were very muddy. It was not known if there were plans to improve access issues to the Nancy Astor statue.		
8	Councillor Jordan	Councillor Haydon	Hackney Carriage Licence plates – high rate of returns
	Response: Councillor Haydon welcomed meeting with Councillor Jordan and a Council Officer to discuss why several Hackney Carriage licence plates had been handed back to the Council.		
9	Councillor Rennie	Councillor Haydon	Martin's Law
	Response: The Council would work closely with Manchester Council with regards to the introduction of Martin's Law (a law designed to make secure venues more secure) in terms of licensing policy.		
10	Councillor Dreaan	Councillor Dann	Rubbish on the A38
	Response: Work to clear up rubbish littered on the A38 was scheduled to take place with the Highways Agency in February/ March 2020.		
11	Councillor Rebecca Smith	Councillor Pete Smith	Play equipment consultation
	Response: Councillor Pete Smith would take on board comments regarding the earlier consultation with ward Councillors regarding plans for play equipment remodelling – it was confirmed that ward Councillors currently received emails informing them of future plans however these were final plans.		
12	Councillor Mrs Pengelly	Councillor Dann	Plan for Trees and Community Fund
	Response: Councillor Dann welcomed Councillor Mrs Pengelly's idea of all Councillors donating £100 from their community grant scheme fund and pledging to plant 100 trees in their ward however confirmed that this should be done via the Plan for Trees to ensure coordination and that trees were planted where they were best suited.		
13	Councillor Mrs Bridgeman	Councillor Coker	Update on effect to road network – The George Park and Ride to Tesco (Woolwell)
	Response: Councillor Coker agreed to provide regular updates when available regarding the George Park and Ride to Tesco (Woolwell) planning application for housing, specifically regarding the effect on the road network.		
	Councillor Carson	Councillor Dann	Sewer spill
14	Response: It was South West Water's responsibility to clear up the sewage spill in Central Park – tests had been carried out as well as camera surveys to assess the full length of the pipe to be fixed.		

15	Councillor Laing	Councillor J Taylor	Progress on the Education system
	Response: Ofsted acknowledged the determination to improve outcomes for children in Plymouth schools and progress was recognised by the Regional Director. The scale of the work ahead was not to be underestimated however officers had met with Ofsted Leads and the Plymouth Education Board was becoming more established.		
16	Councillor Darcy	Councillor Evans OBE	Local resident correspondence with the Leader
	Response: Councillor Evans OBE requested that Councillor Darcy forward him the correspondence he had received from a local Plympton resident regarding council tax (from March 2019) and that a response would be sent the following day.		
17	Councillor Ms Watkin	Councillor Lowry	Jennycliff Beach funding
	Response: The complexity of the engineering behind remedial works for Jennycliff Beach was responsible for the delays; further surveys were required. It was expected that the fix could cost a substantial amount of money; members of the public were advised to stay off the beach.		
18	Councillor I Bowyer	Councillor P Smith	Ward Councillor votes – Plan for Libraries
	Response: Councillor Pete Smith highlighted that a brand new library had been opened in St Budeaux and it was considered first class.		
19	Councillor Kelly	Councillor Coker	Spray paint marking to new paving slabs
	Response: The new paving slabs installed near Charles Cross roundabout had spray paint markings on them from utility companies; they would eventually wear away. Supplementary question from Councillor Nicholson regarding replacing like for like materials: When repairs were undertaken on the road network there was a condition that utility companies should use similar materials; Councillor Coker offered to meet with Councillor Nicholson and officers to assess remedial works to Charles Cross roundabout.		
20	Councillor Drean	Councillor Coker	Permit scheme for highways - date
	Response: The permit scheme for highways was currently out for final		

	consultation with statutory authorities – the consultation was due to end in March 2020 with the scheme expected to be introduced in April/ May 2020.		
21	Councillor Stevens	Councillor Evans OBE	Good practice for dealing with queries from local residents
	Response: Councillor Evans OBE did not comment on the question.		

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