



**Oversight and Governance**

Chief Executive's Department  
Plymouth City Council  
Ballard House  
Plymouth PL1 3BJ

Please ask for Democratic Support

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Published 31 May 2019

## **MEMBERS' WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND COUNCIL ACTIONS**

Members written questions and actions following Motions on Notice at Council Meetings are published on the last working Friday of every month.

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

**Tracey Lee**  
Chief Executive

## **Members' Written Questions and Council Actions**

**This document is updated on the last Friday of every month**

**I. Council Actions following Motions on Notice**

**(Pages 3 - 16)**

**Members Questions**

**There are no members questions for publication this month**

# COUNCIL ACTIONS

2018 / 19



Items which are greyed out have been completed. Hyperlinks to the original motions and any letters already published are included below. Democratic Support publish an update to Council Actions on the last Friday of every month.

Action No.	Meeting Date	COUNCIL MOTIONS	LEAD OFFICER	PROGRESS
	17/09/18	<u><a href="#">ADOPTION OF MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE CHARTER</a></u>	Strategic Director for People	Complete Charter adopted on 17 September 2018
	17/09/18	<u><a href="#">MODERN DAY SLAVERY</a></u>	All Strategic and Service Directors	Complete Modern Slavery Charter adopted on 9 October 2018 Modern Day Slavery Statement to be included on corporate web pages
	17/09/18	<u><a href="#">DEVON &amp; CORNWALL AND DORSET POLICE MERGER</a></u>	Assistant Chief Executive	Complete <u><a href="#">Letter sent to Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner 10.09.2018</a></u> <u><a href="#">Letter sent to Chief Constable Devon and Cornwall 10.09.2018</a></u> <u><a href="#">Letter sent to Chief Constable Dorset Police 10.09.2018</a></u> <u><a href="#">Letter sent to Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner 10.09.2018</a></u>
	17/09/18	<u><a href="#">CUTS TO YOUTH SERVICES</a></u>	Director of Children's Services	Complete <u><a href="#">Letter sent 14.11.2018</a></u>
	17/09/18	<u><a href="#">SUPPORT FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF SAFE STANDING IN FOOTBALL GROUNDS</a></u>	Strategic Director for Place	Complete <u><a href="#">Letter sent to Secretary of state for Department of Culture, Media and Sport 28.09.2018</a></u> <u><a href="#">Letter sent to Chief Executive of Plymouth Argyle 28.09.2018</a></u>

	17/09/18	<b><u>CONSERVATIVE ATTEMPTS TO STOP PEOPLE VOTING</u></b>	Assistant Chief Executive	Complete Discussed at Audit and Governance Committee on 10 December 2018
	19/11/18	<b><u>POLICING FOR PLYMOUTH</u></b>	Assistant Chief Executive	Complete <a href="#">Letter sent to Secretary of State 05.12.2018</a> Letter sent to Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel Chair 30.11.2018
	19/11/18	<b><u>COMMIT TO THE ACCELERATED REDUCTION IN SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BY 2020</u></b>	Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure	Partially Complete Actions progressing internally to take forward the commitments by September 2019
	19/11/18	<b><u>SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) FUNDING CUTS</u></b>	Service Director for Education and Skills	Complete <a href="#">Letter sent to Secretary of State for Education 04.01.2019</a> <a href="#">Response received 24.01.2019</a>
	19/11/18	<b><u>PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING</u></b>	Director of Public Health	Complete <a href="#">Letter sent to Parliamentary Under Secretary DoH 30.11.2018</a> <a href="#">Response received 09.01.2019</a> <a href="#">Letter sent to Gary Streeter MP 28.11.2018</a> <a href="#">Letter sent to Luke Pollard MP 28.11.2018</a> <a href="#">Letter sent to Jonny Mercer MP 28.11.2018</a>
	19/11/18	<b><u>REDUCING ACCIDENTS INVOLVING IMMOVABLE OBJECTS ON OUR ROADS</u></b>	Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure	Complete <a href="#">Letter to Secretary of State for Transport 08.01.2019</a> <a href="#">Response received 23.01.2019</a>
	28/01/19	<b><u>POLICE FORENSIC SERVICES</u></b>	Assistant Chief Executive	Complete

25/02/19	<b>MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES</b> <i>Action from amendment to revenue budget recommendation from the Revenue and Capital Budget report to convene a meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel</i>	Assistant Chief Executive	Complete Independent Remuneration Panel met on 30 May 2019
18/03/19	<b><u>CLIMATE EMERGENCY</u></b> Request the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible; and commit to working with other councils with similar ambitions	Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure  Head of Environmental Planning	Letter to Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth 30.04.19  Letter to Secretary of State at the Department of BEIS 30.04.19  Letter to Chancellor of the Exchequer 30.04.19  Letter to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 30.04.19
18/03/19	<b><u>FAIR FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS</u></b>	Assistant Chief Executive (re scrutiny work programme)  Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills	In progress  Scrutiny of impact of school funding factored into Education and Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme.  Letter to SoS for Education sent 22.03.19
18/03/19	<b><u>OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY IN PLANNING APPLICATION VIABILITY ASSESSMENTS</u></b>	Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure  Head of Planning	Resolution fully implemented
18/03/19	<b><u>FREEDOM FROM FEAR</u></b>	Assistant Chief Executive	USDAW social media channels followed and recent posts shared using #USDAW  Statement of support being developed for the Council's website  Planning to support USDAW's 'Respect Shop Workers week in November using the campaign materials USDAW provide.

				Communication issued to councillors encouraging them to support shop workers, with easy links to find the USDAW account and the campaign pages.
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The Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP  
Secretary of State for Education  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
Westminster  
London SW1P 3BT

**Councillor Tudor Evans OBE**  
Leader of Plymouth City Council  
Labour Councillor for Ham Ward

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22 March 2019

Dear Secretary of State

We have written to you previously to highlight our concerns at the level of funding received by Plymouth schools. On the 18<sup>th</sup> March we debated again in our Council meeting the issue of the cap which is locking in historic funding levels and preventing the much needed rapid improvement.

We note that according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, spending per pupil in England's schools has fallen by 8% since 2010. We can see the impact of this reduction and remind you that the only increase has been a result of increased pupil numbers. In Plymouth, because of the historic unfairness and inequity in the way that education funding has been calculated, the situation is particularly serious and schools in the City are currently still receiving £338 less per pupil than an average school in England.

Plymouth schools are being forced to make damaging cuts and this is resulting in fewer teachers, Teaching Assistants and learning resources in the classroom. The Council believes that these cuts are making it harder for schools to improve their performance and deliver good outcomes for children in Plymouth. Some schools have even taken the step of closing early.

Whilst we acknowledge that the introduction of the National Funding Formula (NFF) is an attempt by Government to address the funding shortfall, we do not believe the NFF goes far enough, or fast enough, to reverse the cuts to school budgets in Plymouth.

Furthermore, the 3% gains cap, introduced alongside the NFF, is severely limiting the amount of money going to Plymouth schools in the NFF phased implementation period. The Council notes that under the NFF Plymouth should have gained £10.6 million in 2018-19. However, as a result of this gains cap, Plymouth schools only gained £5 million, leaving a significant hole in school budgets.

For some schools in Plymouth, particularly those with high need, the impact of this is massive. For example, in 18-19:

- Sir John Hunt (Budshead) lost £320,000
- Tor Bridge High (Moor View) lost £380,000
- Beechwood Primary (Southway) lost £86,000

We call on the Government to review the formula and remove the damaging gains cap which is punishing schools in Plymouth. The current situation is not satisfactory for our education system.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tudor Evans', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE  
**Leader, Plymouth City Council**



Rt. Hon. Claire Perry MP  
Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth  
Department for Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

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30 April 2019

Dear Ms Perry

### **Request for powers and resources to implement appropriate actions in response to the climate emergency**

On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Plymouth City Councillors from across the political spectrum unanimously voted in favour of a motion to publicly declare a climate emergency and bring Plymouth's carbon emissions target forward by 20 years. The motion pledges to make the city of Plymouth carbon neutral by 2030 and comes on the back of recent UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report that warned that humanity has 12 years to take emergency action in order to prevent global warming greater than 1.5°C.

I write to you now to highlight our concern about the likely detrimental impacts on both Plymouth's and the UK's economy and on the well-being of our citizens. We must act according to the threat that has been sounded to us loud and clear from the IPCC. As an ocean city, we stand to be on the UK's front line of urban areas impacted by extreme weather events exacerbated by climate breakdown.

### **We request that powers and resources urgently be made available to make carbon neutrality by 2030 possible.**

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1°C from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity;

In order to reduce the chance of runaway global warming and limit the effects of climate breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species reduce our CO<sub>2</sub>eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from our current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible.

Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm. Plymouth City Council has already shown foresight and leadership when it comes to addressing the issue of climate breakdown, it has already committed to making the city carbon neutral by 2050 with an interim target of reducing emissions by 50% by 2034, has an acclaimed programme of energy efficiency, renewable energy, low carbon transport and climate change mitigation projects.

Unfortunately, our current plans and actions are not enough.

The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050; The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told us that limiting global warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities.

We believe that:

1. All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of Plymouth, and the UK that cities commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;
2. Cities and city regions have a vital role to play in leading the low carbon transition. They consume over two-thirds of the world's energy and are responsible for as much as 70% of man-made greenhouse gas emissions.
3. The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority; and,
4. Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).

We have committed to work with other councils with similar ambitions. We will work with other governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C. We will continue to work with partners across the city and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans.

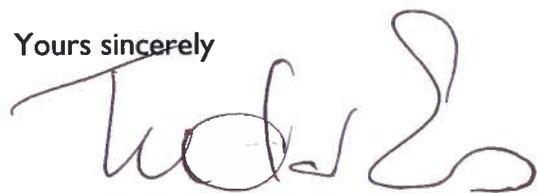
Our Officers will report to Full Council within six months with climate emergency action plan and new corporate carbon reduction plan. This action alone will be a budget pressure.

**We now call on Government to commit to the same level of urgent emergency response and allocate powers and resources accordingly.**

At the Prime Ministers questions on 20<sup>th</sup> March, the Prime Minister stated that 'We will be putting policies in place that will enable areas...to achieve their commitment in relation to climate change'.

**We call on you to work with all levels of Government to implement effective policies as soon as possible.**

Yours sincerely



Councillor Tudor Evans OBE  
**Leader, Plymouth City Council**



Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP  
Secretary of State at the Department for  
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

**Councillor Tudor Evans OBE**  
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Dear Mr Clark

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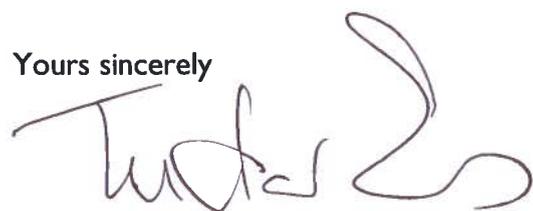
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**We call on you to work with all levels of Government to implement effective policies as soon as possible.**

Yours sincerely



Councillor Tudor Evans OBE  
**Leader, Plymouth City Council**



Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and  
Rural Affairs,  
DEFRA  
Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London

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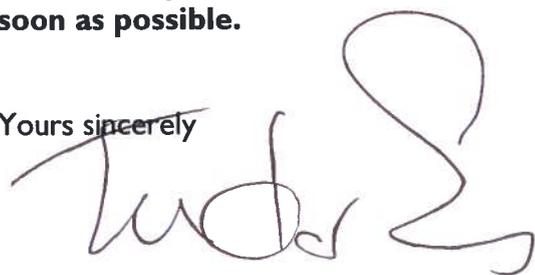
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**Leader, Plymouth City Council**



Rt. Hon. Philip Hammond MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horseguards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

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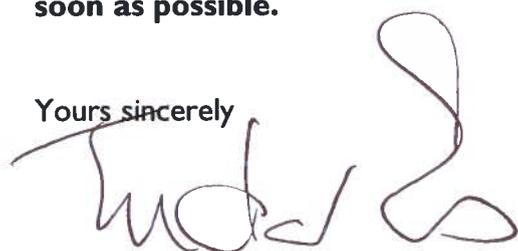
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**Leader, Plymouth City Council**