



Oversight and Governance

Chief Executive's Department
Plymouth City Council
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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

- 1. Council Actions following Motions on Notice (Pages 3 - 10)**

Members Questions

- 2. Plymouth Road Junction Improvements (Pages 11 - 12)**
- 3. Safety of Cyclists (Pages 13 - 16)**

COUNCIL ACTIONS

2018 / 19 AND 2019 / 20



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 in relation to Motions on Notice on the last Friday of every month.

Meeting Date	COUNCIL MOTIONS	LEAD OFFICER	PROGRESS
17/09/18	<u>ADOPTION OF MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE CHARTER</u>	Strategic Director for People	Complete Charter adopted on 17 September 2018
17/09/18	<u>MODERN DAY SLAVERY</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>DEVON & CORNWALL AND DORSET POLICE MERGER</u>	Assistant Chief Executive	Complete <u>Letter sent to Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner 10.09.2018</u> <u>Letter sent to Chief Constable Devon and Cornwall 10.09.2018</u> <u>Letter sent to Chief Constable Dorset Police 10.09.2018</u> <u>Letter sent to Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner 10.09.2018</u>
17/09/18	<u>CUTS TO YOUTH SERVICES</u>	Director of Children's Services	Complete <u>Letter sent 14.11.2018</u>
17/09/18	<u>SUPPORT FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF SAFE STANDING IN FOOTBALL GROUNDS</u>	Strategic Director for Place	Complete <u>Letter sent to Secretary of state for Department of Culture, Media and Sport 28.09.2018</u> <u>Letter sent to Chief Executive of Plymouth Argyle 28.09.2018</u>

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

25/02/19	<p>MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES</p> <p><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></p>	Assistant Chief Executive	Complete Independent Remuneration Panel met on 30 May 2019
18/03/19	<p><u>CLIMATE EMERGENCY</u></p> <p>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</p>	Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Head of Environmental Planning	<p>Letter to Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth 30.04.19</p> <p>Letter to Secretary of State at the Department of BEIS 30.04.19</p> <p>Letter to Chancellor of the Exchequer 30.04.19</p> <p>Letter to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 30.04.19</p>
18/03/19	<p><u>FAIR FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS</u></p>	Assistant Chief Executive (re scrutiny work programme) Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills	Complete 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	<p><u>OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY IN PLANNING APPLICATION VIABILITY ASSESSMENTS</u></p>	Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Head of Planning	Complete Resolution fully implemented
18/03/19	<p><u>FREEDOM FROM FEAR</u></p>	Assistant Chief Executive	Complete 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.
2019/20 Council Actions from Motions on Notice			
24/09/19_1	<p><u>Veterans</u></p> <p><i>This motion was amended and below is the approved substantive amended motion for action.</i></p> <p>The City Council therefore resolves that the Leader of the Council should write to our MPs calling on them to continue their efforts to ensure that Armed Forces veterans are supported fully in respect of their needs post-service. Additionally, in order that the government can further consider the extension of additional protections to include service in Northern Ireland, to ask our MPs to ensure that a clear understanding is established in Parliament of the need for robust new evidence to be the principal precursor for any re-opening of previous investigations.</p>	Assistant Chief Executive	In progress
24/09/19_2	<p><u>Opposition to the Scrapping of TV Licenses for Over 75s</u></p> <p>The City Council resolves to:</p> <p>(1) Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Government to ask them to reaffirm their commitment to their own manifesto promise to protect free TV licences for over 75s until 2022.</p> <p>(2) Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the three Plymouth MPs to ask them to confirm their commitment to this important measure in tackling loneliness amongst older citizens in Plymouth.</p>	Assistant Chief Executive	In progress
24/09/19_3	<p><u>Food Justice</u></p> <p>The Council resolves to:</p> <p>1) Commit to food justice in Plymouth by nominating a Cabinet Member with responsibility of delivering food justice;</p> <p>2) Request the Leader to write to the relevant minister (following the appointment of a new Prime Minister and any related Cabinet</p>	Assistant Chief Executive	In progress

	<p>reshuffle) to ask the government to enshrine its existing commitment to U Sustainable Development Goal 2 into domestic legislation;</p> <p>3) Ask the Scrutiny Management Board to establish a Select Committee to investigate the extent and causes of hunger in Plymouth and make recommendations about what can be done to tackle it; and</p> <p>4) Work with existing partnerships in Plymouth to develop and implement a Food Justice Action Plan to eliminate hunger in Plymouth.</p>		
26/09/19_4	<p><u>Inclusive Education and Schools</u></p> <p><i>This motion was amended and below is the approved substantive amended motion for action.</i></p> <p>We request the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation to commit to supporting Plymouth schools which undertake this necessary part of preparing young people for the world around them and which don't give in to bigotry of any kind by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • issuing advice formulated in accordance with DfE¹ and OFSTED guidance to schools to empower them to teach an inclusive curriculum and develop a whole school approach to embed equality; • promoting school Diversity Week (1-5th July) and encouraging Plymouth schools to participate; • work with schools and other stakeholders to support and share good practice in promoting and delivering inclusive equality education in all schools; • support all those who work with children and young people to carry out their work free from discrimination and harassment. 	Service Director for Education and Skills	Letter sent to schools on 26 June 2019 from Service Director and Cabinet Member encouraging engagement in School Diversity Week; drawing attention to key guidance; and inviting schools to share best practice.
24/06/19_5	<p><u>South West Forensics</u></p> <p>Full Council notes that:</p> <p>On 28 January 2019, Plymouth City Council resolved to oppose the transfer of Devon and Cornwall Police forensic staff to Dorset Police as part of the South West Forensics collaboration with Dorset,</p>	Service Director for Community Connections	In progress

¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781150/Draft_guidance_Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education2.pdf

	<p>Avon and Somerset and Wiltshire Police. We note the “Business Improvement Review” however is continuing and we restate our desire to see the strongest front line forensic provision in Devon and Cornwall.</p> <p>Plymouth City Council therefore resolves to ask our representatives on the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel to review the situation and ensure this topic is scrutinised, with the results reported back.</p>		<p>The next Police and Crime Panel meeting is on 13 September 2019.</p>
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Education, Participation and Skills

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To the Headteacher/Principal of all
Plymouth Schools/Colleges

Please ask for: Judith Harwood

Date 26 June 2019

My Ref JAH/KB

Your Ref

Dear Colleagues

RE: School Diversity Week: 1-5 July 2019

School Diversity week is a week in which schools and colleges across the UK celebrate Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans' equality in education. Plymouth is recognised as a city that puts Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the vanguard. The contribution that Plymouth schools and academies make is essential, if we are to ensure that all children and young people feel safe, included and are able to reach their full potential.

This is a week of celebration and acknowledgement. It provides an opportunity for schools and academies to showcase the activities and learning opportunities that pupils have engaged with and to develop a better understanding of the value that diversity and inclusion can bring to all of our communities.

We would like to invite you to tell us how your school or academy is celebrating Diversity Week. This will help us to build up a picture for the city and showcase the talents of our children and young people.

Plymouth City Council – Equality and Inclusion Policy. We recognise that the diversity of our city is one of our greatest strengths and assets. Our aim is to be excellent in everything we do and to make sure that equality and diversity is at the core of our work to make Plymouth a vibrant waterfront city with an outstanding quality of life for everyone. Equality and community cohesion are vital factors in helping us to successfully delivering our ambitions for growth and we recognise that our schools and academies have a vital role to play in achieving our aims.

Legislative framework for Equality, Diversity and Equality:

The Equality Act 2010 is a crucial piece of legislation that sets out to tackle discrimination and inequality. The Act specifies particular areas of protection e.g. in employment and within education and sets out general and specific duties which schools must meet.

Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) The General Duty has three aims that requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to:

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- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not.

Ofsted: Ofsted inspections will look for evidence of adhering to statutory requirements and how effective schools are at promoting equality of opportunity and tackling discrimination. In particular they will look for evidence of how:

- Equality and diversity is promoted among staff, learners, employers, parents and other partners.
- The impact of a school's equality and diversity work how it is assessed and the action taken in response to findings.
- The effectiveness of any training provided is judged so that at all levels people are able to understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to equality and diversity
- All learners are protected from harassment, bullying and discrimination, including those based with employers.
- A school manages incidents and complaints related to equality and diversity.
- Targets are set and data is used to monitor, analyse and improve performance by different groups of learners.
- Action is taken to reduce significant variation between different groups of learners.

What support is available for Schools and academies?

- **Specialist advisers within the Education Participation and Skills department** are available to support schools and academies at the planning stage and during Diversity Week.
- **Preparation for Statutory Relationships, Sex and Health education.** Health, Wellbeing and Citizenship Education Hub – 4th July at Windsor House from 16.00 until 18.00. To correspond with School Diversity Week, the Education, Participation and Skills department will be providing a training package for schools and academies to prepare for when relationships and sex education becomes statutory in September 2020. In this session, schools and academies will have access to specialist advisers and partners to help plan for an inclusive RSE curriculum that can meet the needs of all learners, including LGBT+ pupils and families. Only a few places remain on this course. For further details, please contact: jono.madeley@plymouth.gov.uk
- **'Just like us'** is a national charity that is at the forefront of school diversity week and is a recognised and valued resource. The **Just like us - tool kit** can aid schools and academies to plan their activities and events.
- **Stonewall** is a national charity that provides a range of resources to enable schools and academies to produce resources to tackle homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in schools and colleges.

Yours sincerely



Judith Harwood
Service Director
(Education, Participation and Skills)



Councillor Jon Taylor
Cabinet Member
Education Skills and Transformation

MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION

Chief Executive's Department



Name of Member submitting the question: Councillor Mrs Terri Beer

Date received by Democratic Support Team

22 May 2019

To Councillor Coker

Question

Please can you tell me when Plymouth Road Junction improvements are going to start because we were promise Spring 2018 then Spring 2019 then after Cot Hill roundabout was done and still nothing is happening.

Answer

The improvements to the traffic signal controlled junctions on Plymouth Road in Plympton are part of the Eastern Corridor Junction Improvements Programme and were started in February this year with a mini roundabout installed at the junction of Cot Hill and Merafield Road. This was followed by the changes to the junction of Plymouth Road and Longbridge Road where the traffic signals were removed and a priority junction installed instead. The works to the rest of the Plymouth Road junctions are planned to start later this summer with the road widening to extend the length of the right turn lane for Cot Hill traffic to be carried out from autumn 2019 to spring 2020.

Signed

Date 22 May 2019

Note

- Written questions must be submitted to the Monitoring Officer via the Democratic Support Team.
- Written questions will be replied to within 10 working days.
- Written questions and answers will be published on the last Friday of each month.

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MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION

Chief Executive's Department



Name of Member submitting the question: Councillor Lynda Bowyer

Date received by Democratic Support Team

17 June 2019

To Councillor Mark Coker

Question

I'm concerned over the content of an email received from one of my residents querying the Council's approach to road safety for cyclists

The resident writes:-

"I was cycling at the junction of Peverell Park Road and Outland Road within one of the cities many cycle lanes, painted red, which are dual use! These cycle lanes appear to give cyclists somewhere safe to ride but because I've been knocked off whilst cycling in them twice I would argue that they fail to meet their main purpose."

What is the council doing to keeps cyclists safe at this junction in particular and generally within the City? The Council's cycling champion has recently expressed warm support for increasing cycle lane safety indicating that major improvements are being planned. Can you please give details of any proposals planned at this junction in particular and how are these improvements are to be funded?"



Mark Coker

Signed

Date: 28 June 2019

Note

- Written questions must be submitted to the Monitoring Officer via the Democratic Support Team.
- Written questions will be replied to within 10 working days.
- Written questions and answers will be published on the last Friday of each month.

Answer

Thank you for raising with me your concerns about the resident who reports having been knocked off cycling in cycle lanes at the junction of Peverell Park Road and Outland Road. Firstly, I am very sorry to hear about this and I do hope that the resident makes a full recovery.

As you may be aware, improvements were made to this junction (as well as to the Ham Drive and Torr Lane junctions) as part of the recent Outland Road Junction Improvements Scheme. The primary aim of the scheme was to replace the ageing traffic signal equipment, as well as changing junction layouts to improve traffic flow. Where possible, and where it would not significantly impact on traffic capacity, improvements were also made for pedestrians and cyclists. Throughout the scheme new sections of on-road cycle lanes (around 0.6km) were put in as part of the scheme, with new advanced cycle stop lines at junctions. At the Peverell Park Road junction, due to constraints of the site, the layout of the junction was not changed, however new or improved advanced cycle stop lines were installed on all approaches to the junction, which we would expect has improved the safety of cyclists. We have had some positive feedback from other cyclists that they feel safer cycling along Outland Road since the scheme was delivered. In addition, the recent Mannamead Road Junction Improvement scheme has delivered safety improvements for cyclists, including a new off-road shared use section from Torr Lane to Manadon, and new Toucan Crossing facilities at the Torr Lane junction.

In terms of this particular scheme, it has been through the Road Safety Audit process. We recently had the final Road Safety Audit done, and in the 1-year post construction period there were no Personal Injury Collisions recorded at this location. We would very much encourage the resident, and road users more generally, to report all collisions involving an injury to the police so that we are able to have as complete a picture as possible.

In terms of the more general point about on road cycle lanes, we recognise that these only provide limited protection from vehicles, and on busier roads such as the A386, where this is achievable we aim to provide routes for cyclists that are separated from traffic.

In terms of future plans for the junction in question, unfortunately there is a limit to what can be achieved here without affecting general traffic capacity, but as is explained below, it is our intention to improve alternative routes along the corridor, and it is hoped that the reduced speed limit further north on the A386 will deliver some safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclists in particular.

We are clear that improving actual and perceived safety for cyclists, and other vulnerable road users, is key to the sustainable development of the city. Delivering an integrated network suitable for all users requires long-term planning and our approach is articulated through the Strategic Cycle Network (SCN). This aspirational network helps inform funding bids; our delivery of wider infrastructure; and our partnership work with developers. The SCN and details of the walking and cycling programme can be viewed at www.plymouth.gov.uk/cyclerouteimprovements

Major investment in our walking and cycling facilities, at present, is focused around the key strategic growth areas in the following cycling investment programmes:

Northern Corridor Strategic Cycle Network:

This scheme will deliver 4.5 kilometres of our planned SCN. The programme will cost around £3.51 million; of which £2.46 million is from the Department for Transport, £0.883 million is our local contribution and £0.167 million is from local development.

As part of this programme, improvements on Tavistock Road have been delivered as part of the Derriford Transport Scheme and major improvements between Southway and Plymbridge are expected to start construction later this year www.plymouth.gov.uk/southwaytoplymbridge

Eastern Corridor and City Centre Strategic Cycle Network:

This will create over 5 kilometres of the planned SCN. The scheme will cost around £4.91 million of which £3.42 million is from the Heart-of-the-South-West Local Enterprise Partnership and £1.49 million from the Sherford and Saltram Meadow developments.

As part of this programme, we have made several improvements including an extension of the walking and cycling route along the railway alignment to the east of Laira Rail Bridge, with further extensions to come in the coming months. We have also just completed improvements through Neptune Park in Cattedown.

Transforming Cities Fund

I am also pleased to be able to advise that a further £7.6 million of Department for Transport funding has been secured from the Transforming Cities Fund of which the overwhelming majority will be spent on walking and cycling improvements.

We are currently developing a funding bid for the next phase of the Transforming Cities Fund (tranche 2) it is hoped that through this we will be able to secure funding to make further improvements for pedestrians and cyclists travelling between the city centre and the North of the city.

This major programme of walking and cycling infrastructure investment is supported by further investment of £2 million in our successful Plymotion Green travel programme, £1.5 million of this funding has been provided by the Department for Transport thanks to a successful funding bid to the Department's Sustainable Travel Access Fund, for local projects that support access to employment, education and training by bike and on foot. Department for Transport funding for this programme will end in March 2020, but we are actively seeking opportunities to secure funding to continue this programme.

This programme includes free cycle training for adults of all abilities, bike safety checks and bike maintenance courses, along with advice on cycle delivery services, driver safety training, group cycling and walking events and personalised travel planning. Plymotion also includes a schools engagement programme which, in previous phases of Plymotion, has delivered very impressive mode shift from car to walking and cycling helping to reduce pollution, congestion and improve road safety particularly around schools. To find out more about this programme please visit www.plymouth.gov.uk/plymotion

Our efforts to encourage and enable active travel, and those of our partners are undoubtedly bearing fruit, as cycling has increased significantly in Plymouth, Department for Transport figures indicate a 56% increase in the last seven years. Thanks to existing and future programs, we have no doubt that this growth will continue, in accordance with the commitment to encourage and enable sustainable transport as set out in the Joint Local Plan.

I hope that the explanation above is helpful, but please do get in touch if you have any further queries.

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