



Oversight and Governance

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

Please ask for Democratic Support
T 01752 305155

E

democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk

www.plymouth.gov.uk

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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 1 - 10)

Members Questions

2. Councillor Haydon - Customer Services: (Pages 11 - 12)

COUNCIL ACTIONS 2019/20

The table below summarises actions taken in regards Motions on Notice (MoNs) passed at Council meetings. Some MoNs passed by full Council in 2018/19 municipal year are also included where actions remain to be undertaken.

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.

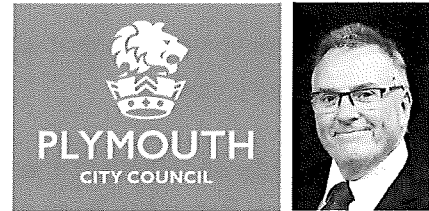
Meeting Date	COUNCIL MOTIONS	LEAD OFFICER	PROGRESS
2018/19 Council Actions from Motions on Notice			
19/11/18	<u>COMMIT TO THE ACCELERATED REDUCTION IN SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BY 2020</u>	Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure	Partially Complete Actions progressing internally to take forward the commitments by September 2019
18/03/19	<u>CLIMATE EMERGENCY</u>	Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Head of Environmental Planning	Partially Complete Actions plans pending for approval by full Council in autumn 2019 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
2019/20 Council Actions from Motions on Notice			
24/06/19_I	<u>Veterans</u> <i>This motion was amended and below is the approved substantive amended motion for action.</i> 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	Assistant Chief Executive	COMPLETE Letter to Johnny Mercer 23.07.2019 Letter to Luke Pollard 23.07.2019 Letter to Gary Streeter 23.07.2019

	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.		
24/06/19_2	<p><u>Opposition to the Scrapping of TV Licences 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	<p>COMPLETE</p> <p>Letter to Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport 29.07.2019</p> <p>Letter to Johnny Mercer 23.07.2019</p> <p>Letter to Luke Pollard 23.07.2019</p> <p>Letter to Gary Streeter 23.07.2019</p>
24/06/19_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 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>	Assistant Chief Executive	<p>In progress</p> <p>Cabinet Member with responsibility for Food Justice is Cllr Chris Penberthy, Cabinet Member for Housing and Co-operative Development</p> <p>Letter to Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 29.07.2019</p> <p>Scrutiny Select Committee in development – likely November 2019</p>
24/06/19_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</p>	Service Director for Education and Skills	<p>COMPLETE</p> <p>Letter sent to schools on 26 June 2019 from Service</p>

	<p>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. 		<p>Director and Cabinet Member encouraging engagement in School Diversity Week; drawing attention to key guidance; and inviting schools to share best practice.</p>
<p>24/06/19_5</p>	<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, 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>Service Director for Community Connections</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>

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

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The Rt. Hon Theresa Villiers
Secretary of State for Environment, Food
and Rural Affairs
DEFRA
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

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

Plymouth City Council
Civic Centre
Plymouth PL1 2AA

T 01752 304950
E tudor.evans@plymouth.gov.uk
www.plymouth.gov.uk

29 July 2019

I write to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The City of Plymouth welcomes you in your new role and I would personally like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit our city, to view first-hand the world class facilities, capabilities and expertise that the city has to offer.

I am hopeful that we will be able to develop a productive relationship with you and your ministerial team throughout your term of office, around issues of mutual concern such as fishing policy, extending our marine protection areas and the proposed independent statutory body, to hold Government to account for a comprehensive set of environmental principles.

Plymouth's fishing industry continues to grow, supporting more than 600 jobs locally. Our fish market has the highest landings of fish by volume in England, with a first sale value in excess of £18m attracting buyers from all over the world. We have secured the future of the fish quay, but it requires investment to ensure that it thrives and prospers in the future.

More than 50% of the fish landed in Plymouth is exported to Europe. If we leave the EU without a deal, it is expected that there will be disruption and delays at the ferry ports that will have a direct effect on the value of the fish. Exporters in Plymouth will no longer be able to send produce directly via ferry from Plymouth, as the port is not a recognised border inspection port (BIP) and additional layers of documentation will be required, including catch certificates and export health certificates.

The fishing industry will play a key role in future social and environmental projects, such as our proposed National Marine Park and Sustainable Food City programme.

As Britain's Ocean City, Plymouth's marine environment provides a link to our proud heritage as well as being integral to our future prosperity, well-being and culture. Plymouth Sound is a beautiful and

unique natural environment that is integral to what makes Plymouth special, it is a place where people and nature coexist.

Following a conference held at the National Marine Aquarium in June 2018 and attended by over 130 delegates, a Task Force has been established to support the development of Plymouth Sound as the UK's first National Marine Park.

A marine park is a specially recognised coastal or marine space important for its environment and community health and wellbeing. In New Zealand 44 marine reserves have been designated since 1975, resulting in hundreds of thousands of visitors with the associated socio-economic benefits. A National Marine Park could be even more socially inclusive than terrestrial National Parks. In many deprived communities there are children that have never visited the water. Research has demonstrated that engaging with the marine environment has major health and wellbeing benefits, particularly its restorative capacity to protect mental health.

Since 2008 the closure of Government structures and agencies at the regional level, and the associated loss of substantial devolved development funding to the centre have resulted in a net loss of circa £400-500m per year in the South West. We therefore support the case advanced by the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership for the proposed new Office for Environmental Protection to be based in the South West region.

We were among the first council's in the UK to declare a Climate Change Emergency and to set a target of becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030. It is because of this emergency that I believe that the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP), should be independent and accountable to parliament. It should have sufficient powers and resources, to hold government to account. Ideally it should be independently funded – with a three-year funding settlement.

Our natural environment has continued to be degraded with more than one in 10 of the UK's wildlife species threatened with extinction. Only a truly independent environmental watchdog can ensure that future governments are held to account for maintaining this commitment.

We also have our concerns regarding food justice. Our Grow, Share, Cook programme delivered free fruit and vegetables to 3,000 people from disadvantaged households and people at risk of developing diabetes last year. However the number of adults and families with children receiving a food parcel from our foodbank grew for the fourth year running reaching 8,509 in 2018/19. Over 26,000 meals were given out by the city's soup runs in 2018 and the number of people in Plymouth who have diet related type 2 diabetes continues to grow.

I have tried to set out for you some of the principle challenges, risks and opportunities we face over the next few years. Our ability to work with you to deliver our mutual; ambitions would be greatly enhanced if your department could agree to: -

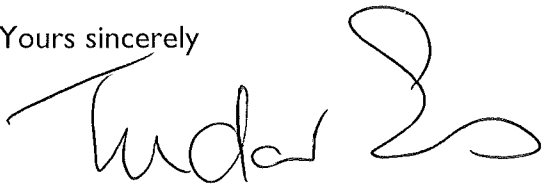
- Consider the feasibility of establishing a Border Inspection Point in Plymouth.
- Agree to meet in full our 2018/19 financial claim to the Food Standards Agency so that we are able to deal with an expected uplift of demand for catch and export health across Plymouth and Torbay.

- Open a dialogue with us about funding the port infrastructure we may need to enable our export goods trade to continue uninterrupted by Brexit and to enable the necessary redevelopment of our Fish Quay.
- Enshrine the UK's existing commitment to UN Sustainable Development Goal 2 to eliminate hunger by 2030 into domestic legislation.
- Designate and support Plymouth Sound as the country's first National Marine Park
- Consider home basing the UK's independent environmental watchdog, the Office for Environmental Protection in the Heart of the South West LEP area and ensure that it has the power to hold future governments to account.

I call on you to support wholeheartedly what we are trying to do in Plymouth and the citizens we support and collectively unite to meet the challenges we both face.

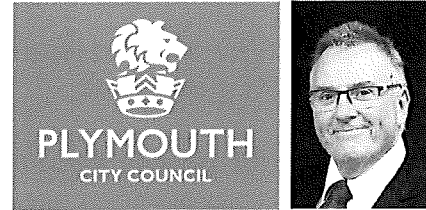
Congratulations once again on your appointment and we look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you to Plymouth.

Yours sincerely

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

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE
Leader, Plymouth City Council

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The Rt Hon. Nicky Morgan MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and
Sport
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

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

Plymouth City Council
Civic Centre
Plymouth PL1 2AA

T 01752 304950
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www.plymouth.gov.uk

29 July 2019

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. The City of Plymouth welcomes you in your new role and I would personally like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit our city, to view first-hand the world class facilities, capabilities and expertise that the city has to offer.

We frequently demonstrate to Government that Plymouth is united in working together to tackle our challenges, and to create confidence that we have the right structures and relationships in place to manage our own affairs. However we're also keen to establish an ongoing dialogue with Government where we work together on a set of clearly identified issues that will have benefits for the city; the wider South West Peninsula; and for the Government. I would particularly like to draw your attention to our Mayflower 400 commemorations and the scrapping of free TV licences for people aged 75 or over.

Mayflower 400 - with the support of funding from DCMS in the last financial years, the Mayflower national trail has been created, the national bookable tourism product has been developed, packaged, businesses trained, and the product has been taken to export intermediaries, the travel trade, through the major conferences, trade media and familiarisation visits. Tours of the Mayflower 400 national trail are now being carried out by tour and cruise operators and are being booked. Furthermore, with DCMS support engagement across related organisations such as the Arts Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the BBC, a wide and exciting cultural programme is now in place. The year-long programme from November 2019 to November 2020 will include art, music, theatre, exhibitions, digital innovation, literature, crafts, festivals, debates and more; exploring every aspect of the Mayflower story and the relevance of its dramatic themes to our lives now.

We have approached DCMS to ask for continuation of support through this financial year, to enable the project to realise all of the benefits and opportunities and to ensure trade and communications activity with established partners can continue. This would enable the project to capitalise on a key part of the commemoration planning: the immediate run up to and launch of the programme itself

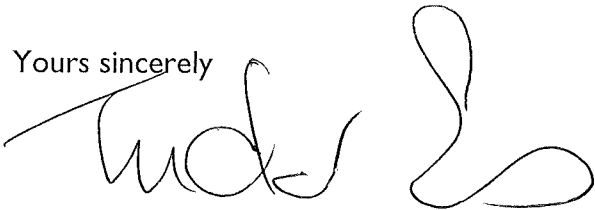
along with ensuring a longer-term legacy. We would really welcome your personal support in helping us to achieve these ambitions

TV Licences for people aged over 75 - you will know that the BBC plans to scrap free TV licences for millions of people aged over 75 with the exception of those on Pension Credit from June 2020. I note that the evidence shows that Pension Credit is hugely under claimed, which means that in the future many pensioners will now miss out on their free TV licence. We know that many over 75s are not able to afford this cost as they are on a fixed income, and already struggling to meet their bills. With rising prices in other areas like food, gas and electricity, having one less thing to have to afford can be a real help – a full TV licence costs £150.50 a year. I note also the research undertaken by The Campaign to End Loneliness, which found that 40% of older people say their television is their main source of company, and recognise that supporting the continuation of TV licences for over 75s supports this council's ambition to tackle loneliness for older people.

Analysis by the House of Commons library shows this will affect 11,000 households in Plymouth. This will include 4,800 households in Plymouth Moor View, 5,000 households in Plymouth Sutton and Devonport and 1,200 in South West Devon. I am deeply concerned about the impact this will have on our residents. The free TV licence was introduced by the Labour Government in 2000, in recognition of the fact that as people get older, the TV becomes an ever more important way of keeping in touch with the world. During the 2017 General Election campaign, the Conservatives promised in their manifesto to protect free TV licences for this age group until 2022. I am therefore writing to ask for your commitment to oppose the change to this scheme which is an important measure in tackling loneliness amongst the older citizens of Plymouth.

Congratulations once again on your appointment and we look forward to your response and welcoming you to Plymouth.

Yours sincerely

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

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE
Leader, Plymouth City Council

MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION

Chief Executive's Department

**Name of Member submitting the question:** Councillor Jordan

Date received by Democratic Support Team: 12 August 2019

To: Councillor Sally Haydon

Question

Could you please provide staffing numbers (expressed as FTE) for customer services dept, broken down by section i.e. Contact Centre, One Stop and Libraries for the period between May 2018 to July 2019 please.

Answer

Customer Services Team	Establishment (FTE)		
	May-18	Jul-19	Change
Libraries	75	76.29	1.29
Registration	19.97	20.08	0.11
Customer Services (Shop and Contact Centre)	110.8	101.34	-9.46
Service Centre (transaction centre and business support)	71.19	67.78	-3.41
Customer Liaison	2.49	2.49	0.00
Digital Team	21	15.81	-5.19

Signed:

Date: 20 August 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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