



Oversight and Governance

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MEMBERS' WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND COUNCIL ACTIONS

Members written questions and actions following Motions on Notice at Council Meetings are usually 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 1 - 12)

MEMBERS QUESTIONS

There are no Members Questions to be published this month.

COUNCIL ACTIONS 2020/21

The table below summarises actions taken in regards Motions on Notice (MoNs) passed at Council meetings.

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.

Date	COUNCIL MOTIONS	LEAD OFFICER	PROGRESS
Council Actions from Motions on Notice			
25/01/21	<p><u>Marine Environment & Fishing</u> Amended to –</p> <p>Fishing and the Marine Environment are vitally important to the City of Plymouth and its economy.</p> <p>To specifically support our local fishing community and to protect our internationally important marine environment we call on the Leader of Plymouth City Council:</p> <p>To write on behalf of the Council, congratulating the Prime Minister on bringing the UK in line with the EU ban on pulse fishing introduced in 2018, supporting the regulation of vessel types to protect our marine environment and sustainable fisheries, and to ask for the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With respect to the £23m compensation fund designed to help those negatively impacted by new UK red tape and UK systems designed to comply with our new third country status, to ensure that Plymouth and the South West fishing boats, exporters and supply chain who have been greatly affected are prioritised. 2. With respect to the £100m fund announced for infrastructure and fishing vessel renewal, to ensure that in particular Plymouth and the South West vessels and English fishing supply chain businesses and harbours who have done particularly and disproportionately badly out of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement will see increased support, to remain competitive and in business. 3. The urgent publication of the Government's consultation responses on 	Strategic Director for Place	ONGOING

	<p>i) Quota allocations and management in 2021 and beyond: England and the Crown dependencies</p> <p>ii) Fisheries: strengthening the economic link licence condition in England</p> <p>lii) Fisheries: apportioning additional quota between the UK administrations: UK and the Crown dependencies.</p>		
25/01/21	<p><u>Tampon Tax</u></p> <p>Amended to -</p> <p>Council joins with the Chancellor in congratulating Paula Sherriff, the former Labour MP for Dewsbury, in her campaign to abolish the Tampon Tax. Further the Council welcomes the change in government policy which now means that VAT on women's sanitary products has been removed from 1st January 2021.</p> <p>Council welcomes the work that Red Box and Trevi House have done in Plymouth over a number of years to raise concerns about the Tampon Tax and in the practical steps they have taken to mitigate its impact on local women. It further welcomes the leadership taken by the Council's current Labour administration over the past two years in raising these issues and thanks Lindsey Hall for the support she is giving in working with schools to raise awareness of period poverty.</p> <p>Council recognises that there is more to do to tackle period poverty and therefore instructs the Leader of Plymouth City Council to write to the Chancellor Rishi Sunak to congratulate him on backing Paula Sherriff's calls by abolishing VAT on women's sanitary products and to ask the Chancellor to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make it clear that that manufacturers and retailers should match this commitment by providing a price reduction for the public • maintain the current ring-fenced funding for projects that help disadvantaged and vulnerable women across the UK. 	Assistant Chief Executive	COMPLETE
25/01/21	<p><u>Supporting Student Renters and Student Landlords</u></p> <p>Amended to -</p> <p>Plymouth City Council notes that many students had arranged accommodation with Plymouth student landlords to attend university, but are unable to live in this accommodation due to most courses having</p>	Director for Children's Services	

	<p>switched to online learning and due to travel restrictions barring travel to Plymouth.</p> <p>The council further notes that these restrictions, as part of a national lockdown, are necessary to slow the spread of coronavirus and protect the capacity of the NHS.</p> <p>Noting that students, like many other people, have suffered profound economic consequences due to the necessity of these public restrictions, the Council will ask the Cabinet member for Education, Skills and Transformation to write to the UK Government, asking relevant departments to work with student landlords, both university-owned and private, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce student rent by forty percent for the rest of the academic year, • enable students who cannot occupy their accommodation to exit their contracts without penalty, • reimburse students who have paid in advance and cannot occupy their accommodation, • reimburse lost income for student landlords whose tenants cannot occupy their accommodation • consider allowing students who cannot work due to lockdown to claim Universal Credit • respond to the Higher Education sector's request for government financial support for enhanced student hardship funds allowing students to receive direct financial support across the full range of financial hardships caused by the pandemic <p>The council notes with gratitude that Marjon University has waived rent for students that have been unable to travel to the university due to lockdown, heartily thanks Marjon for this action, and supports the University of Plymouth in addressing the same issue through its enhanced student hardship fund.</p> <p>The council also asks the Cabinet member for Education, Skills and Transformation to write to universities throughout the UK which host students from Plymouth, calling on them to adopt similar measures to support those, and all, students.</p>		<p>COMPLETE</p>
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The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
The Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

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

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19 February 2021

Dear Chancellor

As the Leader of Plymouth City Council, I very much welcome your decision to follow through with your commitment made in your March 2020 Budget announcement, to remove VAT on sanitary products from 1 January 2021. I would also pay tribute to the massive work undertaken by people like Paula Sherriff, the former Labour MP for Dewsbury, and her many colleagues who campaigned tirelessly for years to raise the profile of this matter, and to end this unjust tax.

The Council's current administration has also been particularly active over the past two years in raising the issues created by the Tampon Tax, and is grateful to partners like Lindsey Hall at RIO for the support she is providing through her work with schools in the city to raise awareness of period poverty. In addition, the work Plymouth City Council has done with local organisations like Red Box and Trevi House that have put in place practical steps to mitigate the impact of period poverty for local women.

However, we recognise there is more to do. I am asking you as Chancellor to support further action that will tackle period poverty. Specifically that you will:

- make it clear that manufacturers and retailers should match this commitment (removing VAT) by providing a price reduction for the public; and that you
- maintain the current ring-fenced funding for projects that help disadvantaged and vulnerable women across the UK.

In doing so we can build a fairer society, where women and girls feel valued and supported, and where they have access to essential, affordable, tax-free sanitary products.

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

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The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State
Department for Education

Councillor Jon Taylor

Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation

Plymouth City Council
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16 February 2021

Dear Secretary of State

Private Landlords, Purpose Built Student Accommodation Providers (PBSAs) and Letting Agencies

We are writing to you about the uncertain financial pressures students are currently facing.

Many students have arranged accommodation with Private Landlords, Purpose Build Student Accommodation Providers (PBSAs) and Letting Agencies to attend university. However, they currently unable to live in the accommodation due to Covid-19 travel restrictions.

We recognise these are challenging times and how vital it is, more than ever, that we act to ensure the safety of everyone. Covid-19 has had a significant impact on so many lives across the UK, through damage to health, changes to life circumstances or financial difficulty. It has also had a devastating impact on the wider economy with many businesses closed or financially struggling. This in turn has had an impact on student's ability to secure part-time and holiday work and many now face financial hardship, where student loans do not fully cover all expenses.

With all this in mind, and in order to protect our students during the pandemic we have a number of asks from government, requesting that the relevant departments work with Private Landlords, PBSAs and Letting Agencies to

- Reduce student rent by forty percent for the rest of the academic year.
- Enable students who cannot occupy their accommodation to exit their contracts without penalty.
- Reimburse students who have paid in advance and cannot occupy their accommodation.
- Reimburse lost income for student landlords whose tenants cannot occupy their accommodation.
- Consider allowing students who cannot work due to lockdown to claim Universal Credit.
- Respond to the Higher Education sector's request for government financial support for enhanced student hardship funds allowing students to receive direct financial support across the full range of financial hardships caused by the pandemic.

- Request that all Universities, Private Landlords, PBSAs and Letting Agencies stay updated with implemented best practice public health guidance, communicate with tenants and provide the maximum support possible.
- End all evictions for all renters, for the duration of the crisis, and particularly for those who do not have another home.
- Suspend all student rent increases.

We realise this is a large financial ask, however we believe the government has a duty to act and support students who may be struggling financially, or cannot access their accommodation due to lockdown legislation.

Finally, we would like to share with you steps we have already taken in Plymouth.

- Plymouth Marjon University has waived rent for students that have been unable to travel to the university due to lockdown.
- University of Plymouth has taken similar action through its enhanced student hardship fund.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Jon Taylor
Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation



The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP
Secretary of State
Department for Business, Energy and
Industrial Strategy

Councillor Jon Taylor

Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and
Transformation

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Yours sincerely



Councillor Jon Taylor
Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation



**Open letter to Universities and
Purpose Built Student
Accommodation Providers (PBSAs)**

Councillor Jon Taylor

Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and
Transformation

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16 February 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to you about the uncertain financial pressures students are currently facing.

We recognise these are challenging times and how vital it is, more than ever, that we act to ensure the safety of everyone. Covid-19 has had a significant impact on so many lives across the UK, through damage to health, changes to life circumstances or financial difficulty. It has also had a devastating impact on the wider economy with many businesses closed or financially struggling. Which in turn has had an impact on student's ability to secure part-time and holiday work and many now face financial hardship.

With all this in mind, in order to protect our students during the pandemic we have a number of voluntary asks:

- Requesting that all Universities and PBSAs stay updated with implemented best practice public health guidance, communicate with tenants and provide the maximum support possible.
- Accommodation providers end all evictions, for all renters, for the duration of the crisis, and particularly for those who do not have another home. To prevent them from being made homeless in the cases where agreements continues past tenancy dates.
- Suspend all rent increases.
- Enable students who cannot occupy their accommodation to exit their contracts without penalty,

We realise this is a large financial ask, and this has had far reaching consequences for everyone. However, we are asking for your understanding and leniency towards students who may be struggling financially, or who cannot access their accommodation due to lockdown legislation. By showing flexibility in their accommodation contracts.

We are aware that many of you have already taken steps to provide support and we wanted to share with you steps we have already taken in Plymouth.

- Plymouth Marjon University has waived rent for students that have been unable to travel to the university due to lockdown.
- University of Plymouth has taken similar action through its enhanced student hardship fund.

We know that many universities and PBSAs across the UK are also introducing measures and we hope that we can all adopt similar measures to support all students.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Taylor', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Jon Taylor
Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation