

## City Council

Monday 21 March 2022

### PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs Beer in the Chair.

Councillor Mrs Bridgeman, Vice Chair.

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bingley, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman, Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Cree, Dann, Deacon, Derrick, Downie, Drear, Evans OBE, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Hulme, Mrs Johnson, Kelly, Laing, Loveridge, Lowry, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, R Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Vincent, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Cresswell, James, Jordan and Tuffin

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 8.37 pm.

*Note: The full discussion can be viewed on the webcast of the City Council meeting at [www.plymouth.gov.uk](http://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.*

### Procedural Motion

The Lord Mayor proposed a procedural motion to vary the order of business to move the motion on notice 12.b to the beginning of the agenda, this will come after declarations of interest / announcements before returning to the agenda as set out.

The Deputy Lord Mayor seconded the motion.

Following a vote Council agreed to vary the order of business.

For (50)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bingley, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Dr Cree, Dann, Deacon, Derrick, Downie, Drear, Evans OBE, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Hulme, Mrs Johnson, Laing, Loveridge, Lowry, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Vincent, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Against (1)

Councillor Nicholson

Abstain (1)

Councillor Kelly

Absent/Did not vote

Councillor Neil, Jordan, Tuffin, James and Cresswell

43. **Minutes**

The Council agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2022 are confirmed as a correct record.

44. **Declarations of Interest**

Ross Jago (Head of Governance, Performance and Risk) advised that the Monitoring Officer had issued a dispensation for all Councillors, in relation to the Motion on Notice 12b.

There were no declarations of interest made by Councillors, in accordance with the code of conduct.

Councillor Patrick Nicholson raised a point of order to seek clarification as to the rationale behind issuing a dispensation for a Councillor to occupy a Council position.

Ross Jago (Head of Governance, Performance and Risk) advised that given the unusual nature of the motion before Council, the Monitoring Officer had considered that to ensure clarity for all Councillors on this issue, a dispensation would be issued so there would be no requirement to declare an interest.

Councillor Patrick Nicholson raised a point of order that this dispensation would set a precedent that whenever Councillors were nominated to Council positions, a dispensation would need to be given by the Monitoring Officer on each occasion.

Ross Jago (Head of Governance, Performance and Risk) advised that this matter had been discussed with the Monitoring Officer and it was the intention in the future to look to provide a standing dispensation for appointments to committees, cabinet and Leader. The blanket dispensation would apply which would be published at the beginning of the new municipal year, prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Councillor Nicholson raised a further point of order that given the Council had numerous Monitoring Officers over the years, this was the first time that this issue had arisen and asked the Lord Mayor and the Chief Executive to seek a second legal opinion on this process.

The Lord Mayor sought clarification as to whether information from the Monitoring Officer was required at this meeting, and if so, the meeting would be adjourned to facilitate this request.

Councillor Patrick Nicholson advised that he did not wish to delay this meeting. However, he did not accept the need for a dispensation, as he considered that it was important not to set a precedent that would mean more council tax payers money being wasted on similar actions in the future.

Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) advised that this was a very unusual situation. She was confident that she could speak on behalf of the Monitoring Officer, that a discussion on this issue would be held with the Audit and Governance Sub Committee. The Monitoring Officer had been very clear that for the purpose of this meeting a dispensation was required. Whilst this course of action had not previously been undertaken, the Council did have a new Monitoring Officer, who would be happy to discuss any concerns Councillors may have.

45. **Motion of No Confidence in the Leader and Election of New Leader**

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE introduced the motion on notice on no confidence in the Leader and election of a new Leader. This was seconded by Councillor Sue Dann.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors Patrick Nicholson, Mrs Vivienne Pengelly, Mark Deacon, John Riley, Bill Steven, Dave Downie, Chaz Singh, Kevin Neil, Jemima Laing, Nick Kelly and George Wheeler.

Council agreed –

1. to remove Councillor Nick Kelly from the position of Leader;
2. to elect a new leader at this meeting (21/03/22), subject to this motion being agreed, nominations to be proposed and seconded from the floor.

For (29)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Dr Buchan, Churchill, Coker, Corvid, Dr Cree, Dann, Derrick, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Hulme, Mrs Johnson, Laing, Lowry, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Penberthy, Rennie, Stevens, Vincent, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Against (23)

Councillors Mrs Beer, Bingley, Mrs Bridgeman, Carlyle, Deacon, Downie, Drean, Harrison, Kelly, Loveridge, Dr Mahony, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Mrs Pengelly, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stoneman, Wakeham and Wheeler.

Abstain (1) Councillor Shannon Burden

Councillor Patrick Nicholson raised a point of order that he had emailed the Monitoring Officer this morning, following the receipt of the advice circulated on the process for seeking nominations for the Leader but had not received a response. This was in relation to where did the guidance set out in the email conform to the constitution. He had not experienced multi nominations simultaneously rather than taking nominations sequentially and why the Monitoring Officer had sought not to respond to this email.

Ross Jago (Head of Governance, Performance and Risk) stated that officers had been advised that it was likely that there would be more than one nomination. With that understanding 4.18.4 of the constitution was being used 'voting on appointments - if there are three or more candidates for a position and none has more than half of the votes, the candidate with the fewest votes will be eliminated and a new vote taken, this will continue until one candidate has more than half the votes'. That was in respect of three or more candidates, if

there were less candidates voting process would be different, as set out by the Monitoring Officer.

Councillor Patrick Nicholson advised that in relation to the constitution, councillors did not have a view, as outlined, of knowing whether there would be more than one or two nominations and therefore the Council should determine how to decide to proceed. He queried why nominations were not being taken as they were nominated, as why the Council should be precluded to three if none of them were successful.

Ross Jago (Head of Governance, Performance and Risk) advised that this situation had not arisen before in the Council and that officers had been a pragmatic as they could be.

Councillor Patrick Nicholson raised a point of order, that the recommendation was from officers and was not necessarily how the Council should determine how it moved forward, as again a precedent was being set on how to seek nominations in the future. Nominations should be taken one at a time, until one candidate had the confidence of the majority of the Council Chamber.

Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) advised that the constitution was very clear, if there were three or more candidates. At this stage it was unknown how many candidates there would be, therefore running an election where the first candidate got past the post would not comply with the constitution. The advice from the Monitoring Officer was that if there were three or more candidates the constitution set out how the election would be run, if there were less candidates, clearly the process would be to ask each Councillor which candidate they wished to vote for. The advice through the Lord Mayor would be to seek candidates and then it would become clear which process would be required.

The Lord Mayor proposed and Councillor Mrs Maddi Bridgeman seconded the proposal to suspend standing orders for motion on notice (12b) election of new Leader.

For (53)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bingley, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman, Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Dr Cree, Dann, Deacon, Derrick, Downie, Drean, Evans OBE, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Hulme, Mrs Johnson, Kelly, Laing, Loveridge, Lowry, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Vincent, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Against (0)

Abstain (0)

The Lord Mayor sought nominations for the new Leader of the Council.

Councillor Mrs Maddi Bridgeman proposed the nomination of Councillor Mrs Vivienne Pengelly and was seconded by Councillor David Salmon.

Councillor Mark Shayer proposed the nomination of Councillor Richard Bingley and was seconded by Councillor Dr John Mahony.

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE queried why the process had changed since the meetings that had taken place last week.

The Lord mayor noted Councillor Tudor Evans, OBE query and advised that it had been considered that a poll vote would be open and transparent and would be the best way forward.

Vote for Councillor Mrs Vivienne Pengelly

For (12)

Councillors Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Deacon, Downie, Drean, Harrison, Kelly, Nicholson, Loveridge, Pengelly, Salmon and Singh.

Vote for Councillor Richard Bingley

For (26)

Councillors Bingley, Ian Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Collins, Corvid, Evans OBE, Haydon, Hulme, Mrs Johnson, Lowry, Dr Mahony, Morris, Neil, Partridge, Patel, Rennie, Shayer, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Abstain (15)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Coker, Dr Cree, Dann, Derrick, Goslin, Hendy, Laing, McDonald, Murphy, Penberthy, Riley, Vincent and Wakeham.

The Lord Mayor announced that Councillor Richard Bingley had been elected as the Leader of the Council.

Councillors Mrs Vivienne Pengelly wished to congratulate Councillor Richard Bingley and wished him well.

46. **Appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies etc**

Councillor Mrs Terri Beer (Lord Mayor) introduced the political proportionality report. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs Maddi Bridgeman (Deputy Lord Mayor).

The Council approved the changes to committee membership, set out at Appendix A of the report, following changes in the political proportionality of the Council.

For (49)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Bingley, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman, Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Dann, Derrick, Drean, Evans OBE, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Hulme, Mrs Johnson, Kelly, Laing, Lowry, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Vincent, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Against (0)

Abstain/not present (4) Councillors Dr Cree, Deacon, Downie and Loveridge.

47. **Announcements**

The Lord Mayor made the following announcements to Members –

- (a) she took this opportunity to wish the best of luck for those councillors standing in the forthcoming Elections and would also like to recognise those Councillors who were retiring from service –

Councillors Dr Pam Buchan, Margaret Corvid, Derrick and James;

- (b) she extended her personal thanks and thanks on behalf of the Council for the many years of service they had all given; in that time they had made a vast contribution to the Council, communities and the City of Plymouth.

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE wished to pay tribute to –

- (c) the following Councillors who were retiring from the Council, Councillors Margaret Covid, Dr Pam Buchan, Gareth Derrick and Jonny Morris and thanked them for their service to the city and the Labour Party;
- (d) Councillor Ian Bowyer; when he first came onto the Council he had been quite disruptive and had led a change movement but now he had become more of an elder states person; he wished to thank him for his cross party working, as well as his leadership of the Council in tough times and under difficult circumstances; they managed to work together on the important issues for the city which they felt strongly about such as co-designing The Box; that was the depth of trust they had in each other and their determination for Plymouth; there were also many other achievements;
- (e) Councillor Kevin Neil who had been through some challenging health issues and thanked him for his service to the Stoke Ward and also the City Council; he also thanked Councillor Mrs Johnson for her services to the Compton Ward.

Councillor Patrick Nicholson took this opportunity to pay tribute to Councillor David James who had served this authority for 25 years. Councillor David James had indeed worked hard for the authority and tirelessly for the people of Plymouth and in his role as chief

scrutineer. He thanked him for his service as a Councillor, Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor and wished him a happy retirement.

Councillor Bingley (Leader of the Council) made the following announcements to Council –

- (f) wished to record his thanks for all those Councillors that took part in the earlier debate, whilst it had been turbulent it was also cathartic;
- (g) it was a privilege to be the Leader of this Council and serving this wonderful city sandwiched between Dartmoor and the ocean; when he first came down to study, he definitely left his heart in Plymouth;
- (h) he considered that Councillor Nick Kelly's passion as Council Leader over the past 10 months had demonstrated how much all Councillors cared about the city and how they wished to drive it forward;
- (i) he emphasised stability over the next few weeks; the line of business that had been planned before the pre-election period which had already been debated and agreed by Council, would absolutely take place; moving forward, he would lead the Council based on the Nolan seven principles of public life selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership; the buck stopped with him; he would hold himself to those standards and he expected that other Councillors to do the same; his door was always open and he hoped that Councillors were now all able to move forward professionally;
- (j) in the short time he had known Councillor David James, he had become a mentor to him on scrutiny; he wished him and his wife Diane a happy retirement; with regard to the scrutiny function he would considered that this could be resourced better and the process 'beefed up', in order to be able to ask more far reaching questions; he was also looking forward to working with both sides of the Council.

Councillor Mrs Maddi Bridgeman (Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene) made the following announcements to Council -

- (k) grass Cutting -
  - the grass cutting season was now commencing with a new digitised system taking into account the agreed operational policy and optimisation of cuts; digital scheduling would enable

improved compliance to ensure areas were not missed, help to become more efficient and look for further opportunities to improve; all Councillors were given the opportunity to feedback on the Council's planned approach for the 2022 season and how it planned to provide the right balance for the needs of both people and nature;

(l) tree planting -

- Plymouth City Council teams and Street Services, together with community members and partners Plymouth Tree Partnership, Plymouth Open Space Network, Woodland Trust, National Trust, South Hams and West Devon Councils had planted 2978 trees so far this year;

(m) storm -

- following Storm Eunice and the following weather events, the Council had received over 220 reports of trees and branches down which had caused disruption around the city blocking roads, footpaths and driveways and in one case trapping a disabled resident in their property;

the tree team with the aid of private contractors, Plymouth City Council Highways and South West Highways co-ordinated an immediate response to keep the city moving and to help residents; intense work continued over the weekend following the Friday storms to co-ordinate the different sites with the focus being to clear obstructions leaving all other remaining material on site in a safe condition;

the clean-up was expected to last several weeks but there had been no reports of personal injury and although there was damage to sheds, cars, fences etc; it is worth noting that the authority manages and cares for 10,000s of trees within its estates;

(n) A38 cleansing -

- the Council was working closely with the National Highways to identify planned lane and road closures to enable its cleansing teams to collect litter and fly-tipped items; the cost of commission of the Council's closures could run into tens of thousands of pounds;
- over the past couple of weeks cleansing had taken place in the following areas -

◇ Manadon – Leigham east bound (2 and 3 March 2022)

- ◇ Camels Head up to the A38 west bound (7 March 2022) collected 130kg of rubbish;
  - ◇ St Budeaux to Camals Head bypass east bound (7 March 2022) collected 260kg of rubbish; Councillor Jonathan Drean had helped with the clean for a few hours;
  - a full litter pick of the A38 (east and west bound, slips roads and central reservations) had been pencilled in for 24 – 29 April 2022;
- (o) playgrounds -
- the playground improvement at Lancaster Gardens in Whitleigh was not completed and awaiting sign off; this included a new climbing frame;
  - contractors were now starting work at Staples Close, Beliver; this was part of the 2021/22 improvement of 10 parks in total.

Councillor Patrick Nicholson (Deputy Leader) made the following announcements to Council –

- (p) with Covid prevalence increasing throughout the city, the Council continued to support the whole health care market; it had managed 380 outbreaks working closely with all facilities to ensure business continuity and the impact on the quality of care residents received was minimised; where staffing challenges had been identified commissioned services were provided to ensure resilience; Covid cases in residential homes had significantly increased over the last few weeks and there was the need to be careful that this did not spread;
- (q) the Council had opened 60 dementia step-down beds to support University Hospitals Plymouth in discharging patients; there was also a care facility at Future Inns to support the local hospital; the impact of Covid on staff availability continued to be under pressure;
- (r) as part of the continued drive to support access to meaningful work for the city's neurodiverse community, the Council had been working with Pluss and had recruited an activity co-ordinator at the Council's in-house facility at the Vines;
- (s) the contract had been awarded for the provision of two respite bungalows at Douglass House which would provide additional provision in the city.

Councillor Nick Kelly (Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation) made the following announcements to Council –

- (t) the Council had hosted Sail GB which had been a truly spectacular event showing off Plymouth's beautiful waterfront to a global audience of millions; against all the odds the Council had won a bid again to host the event this year; the event had also won the Gold Award at this year's Devon Tourism Awards; the event would be even bigger this year with a programme of live music events along the foreshore and the waterfront and would include Tinside Pool;
- (u) Plymouth had become the only city to have won the Heritage Lottery national funding twice with £10m for the National Marine Park; the Council had launched the largest ocean based public engagement which was taking place at the National Marine Aquarium at the beginning of April 2022; the tickets had sold out in five minutes so a further chance to win special golden tickets 'money can't buy experiences' had been launched;
- (v) the Council had also won Freeport status for the region and was working hard on the submission of the full business case in April; from June 2022 the Freeport would start to unlock £10m worth of investment in the first two years alone working with Babcock and Princess Yachts;
- (w) the Council had handed out over £100m in grants which had supported nearly 8,000 businesses; the team had worked incredibly hard in getting grants out as quickly as possible and had received high praise from the business sector;
- (x) the Council had continued with its industrial developments at Belliver and Plymouth Medical and Technology Park and had also secured Marks and Spencer and Aldi as tenants for the city's newest district shopping centre on the former Seaton Barracks site at Derriford; the Council was also working hard with a new purchaser for the former Debenhams building;
- (y) the Council had secured an opportunity for a county deal for levelling up, as part of the devolution paper, in the first wave which could provide councils across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay with additional powers and influence to improve social and economic conditions for all communities; the Government had also recognised and highlighted Plymouth's excellent scientific research capability and its internationally recognised expertise in marine and micro-electronics and its ambitious initiatives;
- (z) the Council had also secured one of the world's leading hotel brands for a prominent and historic location overlooking Plymouth Hoe; whilst delivering this outcome had been challenging, it was brilliant news for Plymouth and the tourism industry;
- (aa) steady progress was being made on the Brunel Plaza project, as set out in the administration's manifesto; work would be commencing on

the station's car park, as part of the plans to completely transform and ensure those traveling to city received a vibrant and fitting welcome;

- (bb) work would be starting on the Civic Centre and Guildhall redevelopment, working with Urban Splash; refreshing and reviving work had commenced on Old Town Street and New George Street, as part of the multi-million pound investment in the city centre;
- (cc) as part of the expansion of the regeneration of the West End, Colin Campbell House would be renovated to bring in new tenants; people had wondered about the building's future and the Council was now making sure of its future;
- (dd) there would be a new lease of life for the empty community centre; the Council was working with the charity Shekiah to swap its current location in Bath Street; it had been part of the city for 30 years had had made a massive difference to so many people's lives and the Council looked forward to them taking up their new base and transforming more lives;
- (ee) he was delighted to announce that the former Reel Cinema and Gala Bingo building would be developed into a new entertainment and live music venue; he had been keen to unlock this middle sized venue as it had been the missing link in Plymouth's music scene; it was hoped that the new venue would draw some class acts to the city.

Councillor Smith (Chair of the Planning Committee) made the following announcement to Council -

- (ff) the Council had been successful in its joint bid, together with South Hams and West Devon Councils, to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and had been awarded £285,000 from the PropTech Engagement Fund to develop an interactive mapping tool to explore how community infrastructure was being used by residents;
  - over £3.25m from the PropTech Engagement Fund would be spent on 28 projects across England trailing cutting edge digital tools to make the planning system more open, engaging and accessible;
  - modernising the planning system and using digital technology would help increase community participation in local decision making; by empowering communities and giving local people a greater say in shaping their neighbourhoods, towns and cities in this way supported the Government's efforts to level up across the country.

48. **Questions by the Public**

There were three questions submitted by members of the public.

The following question was submitted by Mr M Surtees and answered by Councillor Richard Bingley (Leader of the Council) -

Question: Can you please tell us what happened to the money that was allocated to St Budeaux for their public toilets and can you please explain why this money has gone? Can you then explain how there now is money for Mutley Plain to get a face-lift?

Answer: The Community Grant Funding of £10,800 from three ward councillors has not been lost, the money has been held in Council reserves ready for drawdown once the additional funding can be secured.

Building new public toilets is expensive and the councillor contributions did not cover the full cost of the works.

Unfortunately the contributions were made before a business case had been agreed and without the administration then in control allocating funding in the capital programme to cover the additional costs.

A subsequent business case showed the fees needed to cover the additional costs would have been 40 pence per use. This was rejected on the grounds that it would be unfair to charge residents in St Budeaux double the cost of using other public conveniences in the city.

Alternative options are being developed now the 2022/23 budget has been approved. In the meantime, the councillor contributions from their community grants remain available for this use.

Mutley Plain has been funded from the Government's ERDF Welcome Back Fund. This fund has been given to councils across England to support the safe return to high streets and help build back better from the pandemic.

the following question was submitted by Ms Karen Hagerty and answered by Councillor Richard Bingley (Leader of the Council) -

<p>Question: We looked at the PCC website section 'How my council tax is spent'. The information there and on our council tax bills is insufficiently clear.</p> <p>Where it states 'Plymouth City Council' could you detail what Plymouth City Council is spending that portion of our council tax on please?</p>	<p>Response: please refer to the response below.</p>
--	--

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
<b>Plymouth City Council Bands</b>	<b>£1,113.25</b>	<b>£1,298.80</b>	<b>£1,484.34</b>	<b>£1,669.88</b>	<b>£2,040.96</b>	<b>£2,412.05</b>	<b>£2,783.13</b>	<b>£3,339.76</b>
Caring For Adults	£467.56	£545.49	£623.43	£701.34	£857.19	£1,013.08	£1,168.92	£1,402.69
Helping Children & Young People	£289.45	£337.69	£385.93	£434.17	£530.65	£627.13	£723.61	£868.34
Planning and Building New homes	£11.13	£12.99	£14.84	£16.70	£20.41	£24.12	£27.83	£33.40
Collecting Rubbish and Recycling, Looking after our green spaces	£77.93	£90.92	£103.90	£116.89	£142.87	£168.84	£194.82	£233.78
Fixing and Maintaining roads, street lighting and on public transport	£44.53	£51.95	£59.37	£66.80	£81.64	£96.48	£111.33	£133.59
Culture, Leisure and Economic Development	£22.27	£25.98	£29.69	£33.40	£40.82	£48.24	£55.66	£66.80
Running the council and holding elections	£100.19	£116.89	£133.59	£150.29	£183.69	£217.08	£250.48	£300.58
Helping people keep well and stay healthy	£89.06	£103.90	£118.75	£133.59	£163.28	£192.96	£222.65	£267.18
To run libraries, registration services and maintaining trading standards	£11.13	£12.99	£14.84	£16.70	£20.41	£24.12	£27.83	£33.40

the following question was submitted by Ms Ann Marie Lannin and answered by Councillor Richard Bingley (Leader of the Council) -

<p>Question: We note that central government funding of over £128 million was spent on Covid, including 'Covid enforcement measures'. How does PCC justify this spending given that in March 2020 Covid</p>	<p>Response: There is a specific definition of a High Consequence Infectious Disease, which includes for example that the disease is difficult to identify and diagnose, and has a very high case fatality rate. It is correct to</p>
---	---

was downgraded from a High Consequence Disease?	say that Covid-19 was declassified as a HCID, however this does not imply that it did not have the potential to spread easily and to cause significant morbidity and mortality and therefore mitigations were required.
---	---

#### 49. **Public Consultation regarding the Council's Electoral Cycle**

Councillor John Riley (Cabinet Member for Governance, HR, IT and Community Safety) introduced the Public Consultation regarding the Council's Electoral Cycle. This was seconded by Councillor Nick Kelly.

Councillor Sue Dann advised that under the rules of debate she would like to move that this report was referred to the Audit and Governance Committee to enable for a full cross party discussion with any resulting proposals reported back to Council in the new municipal year.

Councillor Sue Dann proposed and Councillor Bill Stevens seconded the proposal.

Following a discussion, with contribution from Councillors Tudor Evans, OBE, Patrick Nicholson, Chaz Singh, George Wheeler, Richard Bingley, Chris Penberthy, Nigel Churchill, Kevin Neil and Dr John Mahony.

#### Vote on the amendment

For (45)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bingley, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman, Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Dr Cree, Dann, Derrick, Dreaan, Evans OBE, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Hulme, Mrs Johnson, Laing, Lowry, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Vincent, Wakeham and Ms Watkin.

Against (3) Councillors Kelly, Nicholson and Wheeler.

Abstain/not present (4) Lord Mayor, Councillors Deacon, Downie and Loveridge.

The amendment was carried.

Following a discussion the Council agreed that –

- (1) ~~Council resolves to undertake a public engagement consultation using its powers under Section 116 of the Local Government Act 2003 between June and August 2022 on the issue of moving from the current electoral cycle of elections to 'whole council' elections once every four years;~~

- (2) ~~Council delegates to the Audit and Governance Committee approval of the planned implementation of the consultation, in particular who will be consulted/engaged with and how.~~

this report was referred to the Audit and Governance Committee to enable for a full cross party discussion with any resulting proposals reported back to Council in the new municipal year.

Vote on substantive

For (49)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bingley, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman, Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Dr Cree, Dann, Derrick, Drea, Evans OBE, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Hulme, Mrs Johnson, Kelly, Laing, Lowry, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Vincent, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Against (0)

Abstain/not present (4) Lord Mayor, Councillors Deacon, Downie and Loveridge.

50. **Taxi Licensing Policy**

Councillor John Riley (Cabinet Member for Governance, HR, IT and Community Safety) introduced the Public Consultation regarding the Council's Electoral Cycle. This was seconded by Councillor Richard Bingley.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors Eddie Rennie, Chris Penberthy and Mrs Mary Aspinall, the Council agreed to –

- (1) adopt the new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy attached as Appendix D of this report with effect from 1 May 2022;
- (2) adopt the updated conditions and guidance documents attached at Appendix E of this report with effect from 1 May 2022.

For (49)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bingley, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman, Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Dr Cree, Dann, Derrick, Drea, Evans OBE, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Hulme, Mrs Johnson, Kelly, Laing, Lowry, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Vincent, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Against (0)

Abstain/not present Councillors Mrs Beer, Deacon, Downie and Loveridge.

51. **Scrutiny Annual Report**

Councillor Chris Penberthy introduced the Scrutiny Annual Report. This was seconded by Councillor Richard Bingley.

Councillor Chris Penberthy took this opportunity to thank Councillor David James for his invaluable contribution to the scrutiny process over many years for the benefit of the City Council.

Councillor Chris Penberthy also took this opportunity to thank all those involved in the scrutiny process during the municipal year 2021/22.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors Mrs Mary Aspinall and Jemima Laing, the City Council noted the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/2022.

52. **Lord Mayoralty 2022/23**

Councillor Mrs Aspinall (Chair of the Lord Mayor Selection Committee) introduced the Lord Mayoralty 2022/23 report. This was seconded by Councillor John Riley.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors John Riley and Brian Vincent, the Council agreed to approve the recommendation from the Lord Mayor Selection Committee to appoint Councillor Sue Dann as Lord Mayor for 2022/23.

For (48)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Bingley, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman, Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Dr Cree, Dann, Derrick, Drean, Evans OBE, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Hulme, Mrs Johnson, Laing, Lowry, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Vincent, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Against (0)

Abstain/not present (5) Councillors Deacon, Downie, Kelly, Loveridge and Nicholson.

53. **Revisions to the Members' Code of Conduct**

Councillor Dr John Mahony (Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee) introduced the revisions to the Members' Code of Conduct. This was seconded by Councillor Mark Lowry.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors James Stoneman and Chaz Singh, the Council agreed to approve the appended Code of Conduct.

For (47)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bingley, Mrs Bridgeman, Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Dr Cree, Dann, Derrick, Drean, Evans OBE, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Hulme, Mrs Johnson, Kelly, Laing, Lowry, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Vincent, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Against (0)

Abstain/not present (6) Councillors Mrs Beer, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Deacon, Downie and Loveridge.

## **MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

### 54. **Long Covid**

Councillor Dr Charlotte Cree introduced the motion on notice on Long Covid. This was seconded by Councillor Dr Pam Buchan.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors Patrick Nicholson, Dann Collins, Rebecca Smith, Dr John Mahony, Richard Bingley and Mrs Mary Aspinall.

This Council agrees:

The Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to ask them to:

- Invest in research to find treatments for long COVID
- Ensure access to long COVID clinics and services after routine COVID testing ceases  
The Leader to write to Dr Sarah Wollaston, Chair of the Integrated Care Partnership, asking her to ensure that the forthcoming Primary Care Strategy includes an action plan for long COVID and long-term conditions
- To examine the local long COVID provision via the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

For (48)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Bingley, Mrs Bridgeman, Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Dr Cree, Dann, Derrick, Drean, Evans OBE, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Hulme, Mrs Johnson, Kelly, Laing, Lowry, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Vincent, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Against (0)

Abstain/not present (5) Councillors Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Deacon, Downie and Loveridge.

### 55. **Ukraine**

Councillor Margaret Corvid introduced the cross party motion on notice on Ukraine. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs Vivienne Pengelly.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors James Stoneman, Chris Penberthy, Mark Coker, Chaz Singh, Richard Bingley, Gareth Derrick and Tudor Evans OBE.

Council agrees to -

1. suspend all twinning activities with our long-standing twin city of Novorossiysk, until such time as the Russian army has completely withdrawn from Ukraine.
2. use the front page of the Council's website to promote the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Appeal and provide a list of local collection points for those wishing to give items needed in the relief effort.
3. begin the process of identifying an appropriate city in Ukraine to build a twinning relationship with.

For (46)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bingley, Mrs Bridgeman, Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Dann, Derrick, Drear, Evans OBE, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Hulme, Mrs Johnson, Kelly, Laing, Lowry, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Vincent, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Against (0)

Abstain/not present (7) Councillors Mrs Beer, Dr Cree, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Deacon, Downie and Loveridge.

56. **Women's Life Expectancy**

Councillor Mrs Mary Aspinall introduced the motion on notice on women's life expectancy. This was seconded by Councillor Sue McDonald.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors McDonald and Patrick Nicholson, Council agreed to ask the Director of Public Health to oversee an investigation of links between deprivation, long term conditions and women's reduced life expectancy in Plymouth as compared with England and within 6 months make a report on their findings in the first instance to the Adult Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

For (45)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bingley, Mrs Bridgeman, Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Dann, Derrick, Drear, Evans OBE, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Hulme, Kelly, Laing, Lowry, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Vincent, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Against (0)

Abstain/not present (8) Councillor Mrs Beer, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Dr Cree, Deacon, Downie, Mrs Johnson and Loveridge.

57. **£150 Government Council Tax Rebate**

Councillor Chris Penberthy introduced the motion on notice on £150 Council Tax rebate. This was seconded by Councillor Tudor Evans OBE.

Following a discussion with contributions from Councillors Nick Kelly, Rebecca Smith, George Wheeler and Richard Bingley.

Council agreed that the Leader writes to the Chancellor and the Minister for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities requesting that the Government:

- provide information about the level of funding that will be made available to administer this work
- provide further guidance on the discretionary element in order for there to be some consistency in approach and not a postcode lottery
- request that energy companies provide information to councils about customers using key meters, PayPoint or who are regularly in arrears as these are likely to be more vulnerable residents who should be prioritised

For (45)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bingley, Mrs Bridgeman, Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Dann, Derrick, Drean, Evans OBE, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Hulme, Kelly, Laing, Lowry, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Vincent, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Against (0)

Abstain/not present (8) Councillors Mrs Beer, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Dr Cree, Deacon, Downie, Mrs Johnson and Loveridge.

58. **Questions by Councillors**

	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Subject</b>
1	Cllr Chaz Singh	Cllr Richard Bingley	Street naming and numbering. Will Sir John Hawkins Square signs be replaced?
	<b>Response:</b> A consultation was agreed to take place on Sir John Hawkins Square. It is not the intention to change that position.		
2	Cllr Jemima Laing	Cllr Richard Bingley	Should Councillor Singh be removed as Chair of the Equalities working group following twitter activity?

	<b>Response:</b> If the allegation was true, this would be looked at in light of the code of conduct and Nolan principles.		
3	Cllr Mary Aspinall	Cllr Richard Bingley	Access to life centre facilities for disabled people, concerns over the lift being available for pool access.
	<b>Response:</b> This issue would be raised with the portfolio holder.		
4	Cllr Sally Haydon	Cllr Richard Bingley	Funding for toilets in St Budeaux. Ward Councillors have not been briefed. Whilst the money has not been lost there could be other projects in the ward which could have been funded.
	<b>Response:</b> Very sympathetic to the issues in St Budeaux, there is an ongoing programme and the relevant portfolio holder will come back to you. Leader would meet with the relevant ward councillors if required.		
5	Cllr Jeremy Goslin	Cllr Richard Bingley	Would it be possible to receive a report to refurbishment of Pounds House?
	<b>Response:</b> Aware of the strong feeling in the ward concerning Pounds House. I will provide a written response.		
6	Cllr Chris Penberthy	Cllr Mrs Pengelly	Do you agree with me that families should not live in bed and breakfast
	<b>Response:</b> Briefings received by the portfolio holder would be shared. The numbers of Children in bed and breakfast were coming down.		
7	Cllr Eddie Rennie	Cllr Richard Bingley	Would you apologise on behalf of the Council if Cllr Singh has been found to offend particular communities?
	<b>Response:</b> I believe that people should take responsibility for lapses in judgement. I would ask the individual to apologise should allegations prove to be true.		
8	Cllr Sue McDonald	Cllr Bridgeman	When will the Devils Point Pool would be refurbished?
	<b>Response:</b> A survey has been undertaken of the pool, this has identified the need for further ecological work and surveys.		
9	Cllr Dan Collins	Cllr Richard Bingley	Reflecting on the Falklands Veterans freedom of the city. Councillors who have served should also be recognised.
	<b>Response:</b> We need to make Plymouth the best place to live for veterans and thank all those involved in the conflict and subsequent peace. Councillors who		

	have served, such as Glen Jordan, should be recognised.
--	---

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

Councillor Evans rose to thank the Lord Mayor for her stewardship of the Council meeting over the last twelve months.