

City Council

Monday 16 September 2019

PRESENT:

Councillor Ball, in the Chair.

Councillor Mrs Beer, Vice Chair.

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman, Buchan, Carson, Churchill, Coker, Cook, Dann, Darcy, Davey, Deacon, Derrick, Downie, Drear, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Michael Leaves, Samantha Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, Mavin, McDonald, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, Pete Smith, Rebecca Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler, Wiggins and Winter.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Morris.

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 7.55 pm.

Note: The full discussion can be viewed on the webcast of the City Council meeting at 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.

23. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 24 June 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

24. Declarations of Interest

The following declaration of interest was made by a councillor in accordance with the code of conduct in respect of items under consideration at the meeting -

Name	Minute Number	Reason	Interest
Councillor Drear	9.2 Motions on Notice – Delivering an Airport for Plymouth	Former employee of the airline until 1990.	Personal

25. Appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies etc

The following changes to the appointments to Committees or Outside Bodies were noted:

- Councillor Allen replaces Councillor Davey on the Planning Committee;
- Councillor Tuffin replaces Councillor Singh on the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority;

Council agreed the appointment of Mr Ian Shipperley as an independent member to the Audit and Governance Committee on recommendation of the Appointment Panel; this was proposed by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Ball, and seconded by Councillor Derrick.

26. **Announcements**

The Lord Mayor made the following announcements:

- congratulations were offered to all nominees and winners of the Council's Star Awards which took place on Saturday 14 September 2019; the event celebrated the achievements of staff and partners;
- Safer Plymouth (Community Safety Partnership) were successful in their application for Purple Flag status for the City. The Purple Flag was given to cities and towns that meet or surpass the standards of excellence in managing its evening and night time economy. The assessors commented that the application was one of the best they have received and as a result we were nominated for three awards which was unusual for a new applicant. Plymouth were pleased to win the Wellbeing Award and were runners up for two other awards. Rachael Hind, Licensing Service Manager, Chief Inspector Rob Mooney and Cat Macdonald from Best Bar None attended the meeting to accept the awards;

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Tudor Evans OBE made the following announcements:

- Plymouth had a busy weekend on 14 and 15 September 2019 hosting a variety of events including the Respect Festival, the Seafood Festival, Marine Park celebrations, the Topper Sailing Nationals, the Star Awards and the launch of the Music Fightback series of concerts;
- reference was made to Brexit planning however details would be provided at Cabinet on 17 September 2019.

Councillor Sue Dann, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene made the following announcements:

- Plymouth City Council declared a climate change emergency in March 2019 and had since signed up to Devon-wide emergency declaration recognising that a collaborative approach was essential. There were plans for the Council to deliver 54 pop-up electric vehicle charging points across the city, to change 61 vehicles in the Council's existing fleet to electric vehicles resulting in a saving of 1000 tonnes of CO₂ over an eight year period as well as plans to build a solar car port at Milehouse Park and Ride;
- the Council had developed a Climate Emergency Action Plan – which had seven key themes including, engagement and responsibility, corporate emissions, city wide approach, mobility, biodiversity, homes, business and new green power generation. The Action Plan would be submitted to Full Council in November 2019;

- Plymouth declared that it was to develop the first Marine Park in the country; it was hoped that this would be a legacy for Plymouth and a great opportunity for the city, in terms of sustainability, economically and health and wellbeing;

Councillor Sally Haydon, Cabinet Member for Customer Focus and Community Safety made the following announcement:

- the customer services team were congratulated for their work in achieving improved efficiency, savings and continuing to improve housing benefit and council tax benefit support processing times. The team had also achieved the top quantile performance compared with all local authorities across the country for the DWP to reduce fraud, through data matching verified pensions and earning schemes;

Councillor Kate Taylor, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care made the following announcement:

- in the recent government spending review, the Chancellor announced an additional £1 billion of funding for both Adults Social Care and Children's Social Care; it was estimated that Plymouth would be allocated approximately £5.3m however confirmation was expected in December 2019. Government was consulting on an additional adult social care precept which would enable councils to access a further £0.5b. It was considered that the funding announcement, whilst welcome, wasn't sufficient to address the level of demand experienced in adult and children social care in Plymouth or across the rest of the Country. Council Officers were thanked for their hard work despite the pressures placed upon them;

Councillor Jon Taylor, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation made the following announcement:

- the Plymouth School Swimming Programme had been very successful; 74 schools had attended swimming lessons, 21,000 students had been through the programme since 2012 and over 3,600 students took part in 2019. Over the course of the programme, 92% had improved by at least one level, and 71% had achieved national curriculum targets;

Councillor McDonald, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board made the following announcement:

- the recent announcement of the comprehensive spending review detailed that public health funding to the critical services commissioned by the Local Authority would receive a real terms increase; this was welcomed as Plymouth had historically been underfunded by 22% and life expectancy of the most deprived women was decreasing and infant mortality increasing;

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Pete Smith made the following announcements:

- the Fit and Fed Summer Project was a success for the city. The sports development unit coordinated 54 holiday clubs across the city providing 24,438 free places for children aged 4-18. They worked in partnership with 35 different delivery partners including Argyle Community Trust, Plymouth Raiders, Everyone Active, Mount Batten Water Sports Centre, Routeways, Libraries and local schools. In total 1,618 disadvantaged children enjoyed a healthy happy holiday thanks to the grant received from the Department for Education. A variety of activities were undertaken including forestry skills, science and STEM workshops, street dance and water sports. 23,867 healthy meals were provided with the thanks to CaterEd. Over 1200 hours of additional support was provided to allow children with additional needs to take part in the activities. A full impact of the citywide project was being evaluated;
- by using reusable bottles, over 36,500 single use bottles were prevented from being purchased and going into landfill;
- on 16 September 2020 the Mayflower 400 celebrations will be taking place.

Councillor Mrs Aspinall, Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee made the following announcement:

- a mental health scrutiny select review assessing services from the cradle to the grave was due to commence shortly; the Chair and Vice Chair of the Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be invited to sit however all backbench Councillors who wanted to be a part of the review were encouraged to respond to the request for attendance.

27. **Questions by the Public**

There were no questions from members of the public.

28. **Polling District and Polling Stations Review**

Councillor Pete Smith introduced the report on the Polling District and Polling Stations Review. This was seconded by Councillor Davey.

Following a debate Council agreed:

1. to approve the proposed changes (PDI to PD30) to polling districts set out in the Polling Districts and Polling Places Review Recommendations Report, starting at page 4 of that report for the reasons set out in that report;
2. to note the proposed changes to polling stations (PS1 to PS35) set out in the Polling Districts and Polling Places Review Recommendations Report, starting at page 4 of that report.

For (55)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman, Buchan, Carson, Churchill, Coker, Cook, Corvid, Dann, Darcy, Sam Davey, Deacon, Derrick, Downie, Drear, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Michael Leaves, Samantha Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, Mavin, McDonald, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, Pete Smith, Rebecca Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler, Wiggins and Winter

Absent/Did Not Vote (2)

Councillors Ball (Lord Mayor) and Morris.

29. **Treasury Management 2018/19 Annual Report**

Councillor Lowry introduced the Treasury Management 2018/19 Annual Report. Councillor Parker-Delaz-Ajete seconded the report.

Council agreed, per Part H, Financial Regulations, Section 19.1 of the Constitution, to note the Treasury Management Annual Report 2018/19.

30. **Motions on notice**

31. **Forder Valley Link Road**

Councillor Ian Bowyer introduced the Motion on the Forder Valley Link Road. This was seconded by Councillor Drear.

Following a debate, the motion was lost.

For the motion (25)

Councillors Mrs Beer, Mrs Bowyer, Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman, Carson, Churchill, Cook, Darcy, Deacon, Downie, Drear, Mrs Johnson, James, Jordan, Kelly, Goslin, Leaves, Mrs Leaves, Mrs Loveridge, Nicholson, Pengelly, Riley, Singh, Rebecca Smith and Ms Watkin.

Against (30)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Buchan, Coker, Corvid, Dann, Davey, Derrick, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Laing, Lowry, Mavin, McDonald, Murphy, Neil, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Rennie, Pete Smith, Stevens, J Taylor, K Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Wheeler and Winter.

Absent/Did Not Vote (2)

Councillors Ball (Lord Mayor) and Morris.

32. **Congratulating Greta Thunberg**

Councillor Corvid introduced the Motion on Congratulating Greta Thunberg. This was seconded by Councillor Buchan.

Following a debate, Council resolved:

Plymouth City Council congratulates Greta Thunberg and the crew of the Malizia for their successful journey and salutes Thunberg for her world changing campaign, in which children demand radical, immediate and effective action from world leaders to combat climate change. The Leader of the Council will write a letter to the Malizia crew and to Thunberg conveying this.

For the motion (55)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman, Buchan, Carson, Churchill, Coker, Cook, Corvid, Dann, Darcy, Sam Davey, Deacon, Derrick, Downie, Drear, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Michael Leaves, Samantha Leaves, Loveridge, Lowry, Mavin, McDonald, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, Pete Smith, Rebecca Smith, Stevens, Jon Taylor, Kate Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wheeler, Wiggins and Winter

Absent/Did Not Vote (2)

Councillors Ball (Lord Mayor) and Morris.

33. **Delivering an Airport for Plymouth**

Councillor Nicholson moved the Motion on Notice in relation to Delivering an Airport for Plymouth. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs Bridgeman.

An amendment to the Motion was moved by Councillor Evans OBE and this was seconded by Councillor Coker.

The amendment proposed was as follows:

Council notes that on 23 August 2011 the Conservative administration accepted the Notice of Non viability dated 24 December 2010 that PCA Limited/Sutton Harbour Holdings Limited wished to close Plymouth City Airport for its principal use of providing public commercial air services.

Council further notes that alternative options to keep it open were considered and rejected at that time.

Following the very successful public consultation, examination and adoption by West Devon Borough Council, South Hams District Council and Plymouth City Council in March 2019 of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan 2014 - 2034, Plymouth City Council now needs to address delivery of the Plan to ensure the strategic growth of Plymouth and South West Devon that the Council unanimously agreed in adopting the Plan.

Plymouth's poor connectivity has been recognised for some time with only limited road, rail and sea connections. As the largest City south of Bristol, it is acknowledged by key decision makers and a large number of the public who signed a petition to safeguard the airport, that Plymouth still has potential to have its own airport.

With the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan Examiners' decision to safeguard the Plymouth Airport site for aviation uses until the next review of the Plan, it is important for the City Council to prioritise the implementation of this policy if Plymouth is ever to see an airport re-instated in the City.

The City Council resolves to:

1. Request the Leader of the Council to bring a report to the Cabinet setting out the next steps in progressing the policy of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan insofar as it relates to ~~Plymouth Airport and re-instating aviation at Plymouth Airport.~~

2. ~~Request the Leader of~~ Note that the Council ~~to instruct the Strategic Director for Place to~~ has negotiated ~~negotiate terms for~~ the surrender of the current Plymouth Airport lease held by Sutton Harbour Holdings which is yet to be completed.

3. Request the Chief Executive to provide ~~monthly~~ updates on progress to all Members of the Council in line with the current JLP monitoring arrangements.

4. Request Plymouth's MPs to campaign for government financial support for aviation in Plymouth.

The meeting was briefly adjourned to consider the amendment.

Following a debate, the amendment to the motion was agreed.

For (30)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Buchan, Coker, Corvid, Dann, Derrick, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Laing, Lowry, Mavin, McDonald, Murphy, Neil, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Rennie, Singh, Pete Smith, Stevens, J Taylor, K Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent and Winter

Against (24)

Councillors Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Carson, Churchill, Cook, Darcy, Deacon, Downie, Drear, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Leaves, Mrs Leaves, Loveridge, Nicholson, Mrs Pengelly, Riley, Rebecca Smith, Watkin and Wigens

Absent/Did Not Vote (3)

Councillors Ball (Lord Mayor), Morris and Wheeler.

Following a debate, Council voted on the motion as amended as follows:

For (54)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman, Buchan, Carson, Churchill, Coker, Cook, Corvid, Dann, Darcy, Davey, Deacon, Derrick, Downie, Drean, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Mrs Johnson, James, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Michael Leaves, Mrs Leaves, Mrs Loveridge, Lowry, Mavin, McDonald, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, Pete Smith, Rebecca Smith, Stevens, J Taylor, K Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wiggins and Winter.

Absent/Did Not Vote (3)

Councillors Ball (Lord Mayor), Morris and Wheeler.

34. **Weeds in Plymouth**

Councillor Carson moved the Motion on Notice in relation to Weeds in Plymouth. This was seconded by Councillor Sam Leaves.

An amendment to the Motion was moved by Councillor Dann and this was seconded by Councillor Coker.

The amendment proposed was as follows:

~~Plymouth residents have been badly let down by the Labour run Council by their serious failure to deliver a proper weed control programme since May 2018. This has resulted in our City looking untidy, unkempt, and uncared for.~~

~~Continual reports in the local media, social media, and in Councillors' mailboxes have failed to stir the Administration into concerted action aimed at improving performance in delivering this basic service to our residents. This undermines public confidence in the Council's ability to provide local services in this area of the Council's operations.~~

~~Plymouth residents are feeling like they live in a city divided — on one side the basic services in the tourist and The most visual areas of the city are looking reasonably good, and tidy however in some parts of ~~step over the ramparts and the some residential areas~~ more can be done are looking dirty, dismal and depressing.~~

~~The Council's winter works programme of 2017/18 was very successful reaching into certain parts of neighbourhoods as was the 2018/2019 winter gully clearance works and the spring cleaning that took place in the district shopping centres. On behalf of local residents, we call on the Leader of the Council to produce and publish a business plan to deliver an immediate improvement in performance, including Further delivery of an autumn works programme to shall include an:~~

~~Increase in the weeding programming to reach into ~~Weeding the remainder of all residential areas~~~~

~~Expanded ~~on~~ the number of gully clearances~~

~~Targeted street sweeps ready for the winter storms.~~

The City Council resolves to:

Ask the Council Leader and Cabinet Member for the Environment to ~~bring forward and publish urgent plans to restore the City's image, and indicate, within 3 weeks,~~ how the ongoing problem of weeds will be dealt with throughout Plymouth.

The meeting was briefly adjourned to consider the amendment.

Following a debate, the amendment to the motion was agreed.

For (28)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Buchan, Coker, Corvid, Dann, Derrick, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Laing, Lowry, Mavin, McDonald, Murphy, Neil, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Rennie, Pete Smith, Stevens, J Taylor, K Taylor, Tuffin, Tuohy, Vincent and Winter.

Against (25)

Councillors Mrs Beer, Mrs Bridgeman, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Carson, Churchill, Cook, Darcy, Deacon, Downie, Drear, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Leaves, Mrs Leaves, Loveridge, Nicholson, Mrs Pengelly, Riley, Singh, Rebecca Smith, Watkin and Wigens

Absent/Did Not Vote (3)

Councillors Ball (Lord Mayor), Morris and Wheeler.

Following a debate, Council voted on the motion as amended as follows:

For (53)

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Mrs Beer, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Mrs Bridgeman, Buchan, Carson, Churchill, Coker, Cook, Corvid, Dann, Darcy, Davey, Deacon, Derrick, Downie, Drear, Evans OBE, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Mrs Johnson, James, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Michael Leaves, Mrs Leaves, Mrs Loveridge, Lowry, Mavin, McDonald, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Singh, Pete Smith, Rebecca Smith, Stevens, J Taylor, K Taylor, Tuffin, Vincent, Ms Watkin, Wigens and Winter.

Absent/Did Not Vote (4)

Councillors Ball (Lord Mayor), Morris, Tuohy and Wheeler.

35. Urgent Decisions to be Reported

Councillor Evans OBE gave a brief update on two urgent key decisions taken since the last meeting. The update was seconded by Councillor Lowry.

- The Plymouth Railway Station (Brunel Plaza Project) was a long term project however this was supported by both sides of the Council.

- Bereavement Infrastructure Project – this would provide the Council with modern facilities.

Council noted the urgent key decisions taken by the Leader in line with due process and published on 19 June 2019 and 27 June 2019.

36. Questions by Councillors

	From	To	Subject
1	Councillor Rennie	Councillor Haydon	Vaping
	Response: It was considered that vaping was a safer alternative to smoking. It was recommended that vaping liquid was purchased from a trusted seller.		
2	Councillor Parker-Delaz-Ajete	Councillor Coker	Casework figures relating to highways since May 2019
	Response: Councillor Coker confirmed that Councillors casework relating to his area of responsibility were provided to him for oversight and were broken down into different departments for clarity. There were 100 enquiries relating to transport every month with three cases currently outstanding – there were assurances that these cases would be rectified as soon as possible.		
3	Councillor Ian Bowyer	Councillor Pete Smith	EGM procedure – withdrawal of motion
	Response: Councillor Smith gave assurances that the issue regarding withdrawal of a motion would be considered by the Audit and Governance Committee and confirmed that legal advice was sought and it was stated that the EGM was required to go ahead.		
4	Councillor James	Councillor Coker	Notte Street to Exeter Street traffic issues
	Response: The works on the Barbican were taking place in preparation for the Mayflower 2020 celebrations – both businesses and residents were consulted. Roadworks linked to Charles Cross was also affecting traffic in this part of the city however traffic was regularly monitored. All planned roadworks and diversions would be loaded onto the Council's website.		
5	Councillor Drean	Councillor Dann	Council Fleet - Electric Vehicles
	Response: Three business cases for the replacement of the Council's fleet (domestic refuse, general fleet and hire vehicles) were being developed with an aim to move over to electric vehicles – it was highlighted that this was not possible for all vehicles. The Council was to use some Transforming City Fund monies to install more electric charging points across the Council's estate.		
6	Councillor Rebecca Smith	Councillor Pete Smith	100 Year Anniversary of Lady Astor's election as Plymouth MP's for Sutton
	Response: Alexis Bowater was leading on the unveiling of the Lady Astor Statue; the Council would be involved in the celebrations.		

7	Councillor Mrs Johnson	Councillor Evans OBE	Thanks to Councillor Churchill – Brexit, Infrastructure and Legislative Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee
	Response: Councillor Evans OBE thanked Councillor Churchill for chairing the Brexit, Infrastructure and Legislative Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the absence of the Chair, Councillor Morris.		
8	Councillor Churchill	Councillor Coker	Cycle Path Provision in Dawes Lane, Plymstock
	Response: Councillor Coker confirmed that he had contacted Devon County Council regarding the installation of the cycle path in Dawes Lane; a coordinated approach was required however there was a commitment to get the cycle path completed.		
9	Councillor Kelly	Councillor Coker	Pavement Markings Charles Cross and Mannamead Road
	Response: Councillor Coker advised that the spray paint markings on pavements were required to ensure utilities were correctly logged; once this had taken place on the Charles Cross works the pavements would be opened in pristine condition. Councillor Coker confirmed that a response would be provided outside of the meeting with regards to Councillor Kelly's query as to why spray paint markings were still visible on pavements on Mannamead Road approximately 12 months after the completion of works.		
11	Councillor Evans OBE	Councillor Pete Smith	Mayflower 400 Celebration Update
	Response: Smeaton's Tower would be closing shortly for the winter months and would be freshly painted in preparation for the celebrations; this was in addition to the improvements works to the Barbican.		
12	Lord Mayor	Councillor Pete Smith	Colour of Smeaton's Tower
	Response: Smeaton's Tower would be painted red and white.		
13	Councillor Nicholson	Councillor Coker	Living Streets – 2019-20 Budget
	Response: Councillor Coker provided assurance that sufficient resources would be in place in relation to the Living Streets budget.		
14	Councillor Singh	Councillor Pete Smith	Rules to Trigger a Bye-election
	Response: It was confirmed that a bye-election would be triggered if a Councillor resigned, died or if there was a vacancy on the Council; an MP was not able to trigger a bye-election.		
15	Councillor Jordan	Councillor Haydon	Discussion with taxi trade to put electric charging points in for the new fleet of taxis
	Response: Councillor Haydon confirmed that someone was due to visit the city to demonstrate some electric cars to the Council. The Council was continuing to work with the taxi trade with regards to developments.		
16	Councillor Kelly	Councillor Haydon	Dog-fouling Enforcement
	Response: Plain clothed officers had been out patrolling the city; as yet no one had been caught however several people had been spotted walking their dogs whilst not on a lead. The success of the campaign was praised.		

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